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BIOGRAPHY.

MEMOIR OF THE REV. JOHN WESLEY, A. M.

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It does not appear that, on his arrival in London in September, 1738, Mr. Wesley's future course of life was at all shaped in his mind; no evidence of the fact can be discovered in any of his letters, or other communications: so little ground is there for the insinuation, which has been so often made, that he early formed the scheme of making himself the head of a sect. These, even those inconsistencies, considering him as a churchman, into which circumstances afterwards impelled him, sufficiently refute. That he was averse to settle as a parish minister is certain; and the man who regarded "the world as his parish," must have had large views of usefulness. That he kept in mind the opinion of the bishop who ordained him, that he was at liberty to decline settling as a parish priest, provided he thought that he could serve the church better in any other way, is very probable; and if he had any fixed purpose at all, at this time, beyond what circumstances daily opened to him, and from which he might infer the path of duty, it was to attempt to revive the spirit of religion in the church to which he belonged, and which he loved, by preaching "the gospel of the grace of God" in as many of her pulpits as he should be permitted to occupy. This course he pursued while he was permitted. Under date of October 13, however, he writes a friend in Germany "Though my brother* and I are not permit-

* Mr. Charles Wesley was some months before made a partaker of salvation through faith; and during his brother's visit to Germany, he was zealously employed in preaching that gospel, which he had proved to be "the power of God unto salvation," in the churches in London; and in holding meetings for prayer and exounding the scriptures. At an interview with the archbishop of Canterbury, in which his grace took no exception to his doctrine, but condemned the irregularity of his proceedings, and even hinted at proceeding to excommunication, he was thrown into great perplexity; but urged by Mr. Whitefield with his characteristic boldness, to preach "in the fields the next Sunday," he consented; and though he had to sustain the severity of several attacks on the subject, he pursued his way for many years with great usefulness.