

and the whole city was moved. Multitudes flocked to hear him. At Bristol and other places he preached and catechised, with similar results. On week-days the churches were crowded at five o'clock in the morning. By his earnestness, and eloquence, and pathos, he seldom failed to thrill his hearers, and to melt the multitude to tears. This marvellous work was going on while Wesley was on the Atlantic, returning from America. At Wesley's earnest solicitation he set out for America; and, after labouring zealously for four months, returned to England.

In the beginning of 1739, Whitefield and the Wesleys were all at work in England. Their earnestness, and the excitement which attended their meetings, caused many of the churches to be closed against them. Thus God in His good providence was opening up a path to more extended usefulness. If they cannot preach in the churches, they can do as Jesus did, and as the Scottish Covenanters had done in the previous century, proclaim the glad tidings of salvation on the hillsides and in the fields. Whitefield was the first to propose this course, and the first to carry it out in practice. At Kingswood, where there was no church, he took his stand upon a mound and preached the Gospel to about two hundred colliers. The next day, two thousand eager listeners hung upon his words. And, in a short time, his audience increased to ten and even twenty thousand. He next tried his new methods at Bristol, his native city, and preached to thousands on a large bowling-green. The work was so successful, that he invited Wesley to come to his assistance. Wesley had some scruples about