

A COLLECTION OF WESLEYAN TA-KINGS.

JOHN BURDELL:—Middle size, well-built, stout, agreeable features, florid, thin light hair. A kind of inquisitive look through his glasses; intelligent; well-read; having arrived at the truth of Lady M. W. Montague's observation, that "No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting." A large, well-selected library. Thoroughly orthodox; would make an excellent Theological Tutor.—Inclined to metaphysics and the mathematics. A clear, piping voice; strong without compass or flexibility: Loves a little sally of wit, and return the compliment in fine temper. Nice discrimination. Rather diffuse, and not impassioned; but still an instructive and impressive preacher.—Fond of the interrogatory style and a close catechiser of a Christian auditory.—Grapples nobly with the conscience. Language plain, perspicuous, and forcible.—In the field in 1796.—Would be equally ready with Paul to say to Timothy,—*Bring with thee the books, but especially the parchments.*

JOHN BARBER:—Herculean in constitution and make; round, sandy face, and regular features. Formed for toil.—As masculine in mind as in frame, and no less comprehensive. A ready, off-hand speaker. A sound, forcible, practical, experimental preacher. Good business habits. Powerful voice. Sterling integrity. A kind friend. To be dreaded as an opponent. Unflinching. Defective in education. Diffused a strong, broad light. Seemed, among those around him, like one of the pines of Lebanon: the whole, as one vast crowd, crowning the hill, and shaking from off their heads the uninjuring tempest; himself, apparently, capable of standing before the rushing whirlwind, single, and with naked trunk, which might threaten to uproot others, and hurl them into the valleys below. Began in 1781, and died 1816. As a workman, both as to manner and matter, it might be said to the Church, when he was given to it,—*Behold, I will make thee a new sharp thrashing instrument, having teeth.*

WILLIAM VEVEIS:—Strong, fleshy, round, sandy hair, and light complexion.—Cautious, date, solid, compact. No theorist: "Principles, not Men," being his motto. An excellent commentator on Wesleyan law and usage. Deals in good materials.—Wants animation. Somewhat like a person on a watch-tower, on the look-out, with his helmet on, his armour girded, and suspecting in every novelty a secret as dangerous as that of the Trojan horse. An improver of passing events. Sheds a sober, steady light. Set out in 1813.—*Let all things be done unto edifying.*

JOSEPH SUTCLIFFE:—Master of Arts. Set out in 1786. Middle size, flat chest, embrowned complexion, aquiline nose. An intelligent countenance. Creeps along the street, as if unnoticed and unnoticed; yet a close observer of men and things. Inoffensive, unassuming, quiet, unobtrusive. A kind nature. Good taste. An easy, chaste, and somewhat elegant style; considerable critical acumen. Sometimes lofty, sublime, with sparklings of genius; especially when descending on the visions of the Prophets. Defective in energy. Not the soundest judgment. Matter superior to manner. The voice wanting in fulness, and speaks as if the lips were partially closed, or himself were under cover.—Creditable literary attainments. An excellent grammarian, an admirable sermoniser,—a pious and intelligent commentator, a respectable geologist. The author of several useful works. Looks, in his old age, like the sun in the West, and near its setting; the memory tracing each fading form and lingering grace; but with the vision of the future clear, and calm, and bright; each joy becoming dearer as time recedes and each trouble is about to be veiled—heaven itself increasing in radiance as it comes streaming through the path of death to the borders of the grave. *Meditate upon these things.*

CHARLES ATMORE:—Middle size, robust, sandy hair, light complexion; round, fine face, with a slight expression of sternness, arising more from defective vision than inward feeling. Gentlemanly in his manners, neat and clerical in his appearance. A good voice, ardent, respectable style, useful matter; never exalted, nor yet grovelling. The dignity of the pulpit always maintained. Kind-hearted;—perhaps too indulgent. Popular in his day; especially in early life. Generally moved in the first circuits. Sensible apparently of the truth of Johnson's remark; "He that embarks on the voyage of life will al-

ways wish to advance, rather by the simple impulse of the wind than the strokes of the oar; and many founder in their passage, while they lie waiting for the gale." Began in 1781, died in 1826. He had—*All things that pertain unto life and godliness.*

THOMAS POWELL:—Chiefly known as the author of an "Essay on the Apostolic Succession." Sound in argument, patient in research, homely in diction, well supported by authorities. Sheds a brighter light from the press than the pulpit; in the latter, though good, a little more circuitous on his route to an object. Seems to know, in the language of Goldsmith, that "Titles and mottoes to books are like—scutcheons and dignities in the hands of a king;" that "the wisest sometimes condescend to accept of them;" "but that none but a fool would imagine them of any real importance;" take care, therefore, to "depend upon intrinsic merit, and not the slender helps of the title." No substitution of tinsel for solid gold;—no artificial flowers, fit only for decoration, but such as will refresh with their fragrance. Entered in 1823. *Not with enticing words of man's wisdom.*

GEORGE MARSDEN:—No great range of mind. Deeply devoted to God, and the interests of Wesleyan Methodism. Has, what may be denominated, a kind of celestial quaver about the throat, warbling and speaking at the same time. Full, good voice. Funeral in his manner. Vehement, not impassioned; declamatory, and occasionally vociferous. Matter rarely varied.—Inflexible. Will listen to a statement or request, turn away in silence, and pursue his own course. Close from nature rather than design.—Reads the Lessons and Prayers with fine effect. Highly-respected for his piety. Has filled with credit the Presidential chair. Neat, clean; particular to a fault. Reminds us of Mr. Wesley's remark on the demeanour of Miss Gayer, as he lay allicted in bed, herself on the one side, looking at her mother on the other, intimating that—

"She sat, like Patience on a monument,
Smiling at grief."

The smile, in the present instance, must be omitted, and placid substituted in its stead. Commencement in 1803. A practical exposition of—*Let all things be done decently and in order.*

ROBERT C. BRACKENBURY, ESQ.:—Proprietor of Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire. The friend of John Wesley. Possessed of a genuine Missionary spirit. An acceptable preacher. Extremely modest. Would never suffer his left hand to know what his right did. An eminent instance of a gentleman of fortune consecrating his talents, his influence, his time, and his substance to the spread of true religion, at home and abroad. Let it as a solemn request, that nothing should be said of him by way of eulogy, in any sermon, or written of him by way of memoir, after his death; in conformity with the spirit of which request, Montgomery, of Sheffield, wrote the following lines for his tablet:—

"Silent be human praise!
The solemn charge was thine,—
Which widow'd love obeys,
And o'er thy lowly shrine
Inscribes the monumental stone—
With 'Glory be to God alone!'"

Lines as creditable to the "Christian Poet," as they are complimentary to the modesty of the sainted dead; the latter being a man of peace,—condescending, with a soul richly imbued with the spirit of the gospel. Died 1818. *Well reported for good works.*

DAVID STONER:—A Life published of him by Messrs. Hannah and Dawson, which is a little too sombre in its character, though in keeping with the grave, thoughtful face of its subject. A fine character for delineation. A mute in social life; an Apollo in the pulpit. Employed his pen minutely and laboriously on every subject. Great transparency; powerful; impassioned; often irresistible. One continued tide of eloquence from beginning to end, bearing down all before it, yet fertilizing every district over which it passed. Unusually popular. Popularity based on solid native talent, genuine piety, and extensive usefulness. Substantial reading. Numerous seals to his ministry. Could say, with Steele, "It is a secret known but to a few, yet of no small use in the conduct of life, that when you fall into a man's conversation, the first thing you should consider is, whether he has a greater inclination to hear you, or that you

should hear him." Sat and listened to others. A brief, but brilliant career. Travelled twelve years: died in 1826. *And they were not able to resist the wisdom and spirit by which he spake—that is, in public.*

JOHN HECHAM:—One of the General Secretaries of the Missionary Society. Well rounded, still, short; a good, pleasing, and rather intelligent face. Clear, but not an easy speaker. A good understanding, but not much feeling. A man of close application to business. Has attended to mental cultivation. Every thing adjusted, chiselled, and measured by the square and rule. Set out in 1815. Attends to the injunction—*Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.*

FRANCIS ASHLEY:—Belonged originally to Leicestershire or Warwickshire. When young, had a voice like the roaring of a lion. Entered the itinerant work in 1767; became a bishop in America. Eminent in holiness, laborious, and useful. Highly honoured; but was taught by experience, agreeably to Sir P. Sidney, that "The path of high honour lies not in smooth ways." Died in 1816. *I will set in the desert the fig-tree, and the pine—that they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this.*

WILLIAM SHAW:—No believer in Voltaire, who says, "Bring together all the children of the universe, you will see nothing in them but innocence, gentleness and fear: were they born wicked, spiteful, and cruel, some signs of it would come from them: as little snakes strive to bite, and little tigers to tear. But nature having been as sparing of offensive weapons to men as to pigeons and rabbits, it cannot having given them an instinct to mischief and destruction." Such a creed would have saved Mr. Shaw much risk and toil in African deserts; but he knows human nature better than Voltaire. Strong sense, frank, generous, manly, noble, useful, daring, prudent, self-denying. A fine specimen of the Missionary spirit and character. Went out to South Africa in 1820, remained there till 1829, and returned in 1836. *None of these things move me; neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might fulfil my course with joy, and the ministry I have received of the Lord Jesus.*

ROBERT YOUNG:—A powerful voice; and, in general, well managed. Good address, stirring, impassioned, melting, awakening. Not profound, nor yet lofty; mostly substantial. Pastoral. Diligent; aware, in the language of Galen, that "Employment is Nature's physician." Seems to stand at the entrance of the way of life, beseeching, exhorting, importuning, and pressing the multitude to turn the face, the foot, and the heart in that direction. Exceedingly successful; but more popular on the side of piety than of reading, and extraordinary intellect. Went out to the West Indies in 1820, returned in 1820. *And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

From the Leeds Mercury.

LETTER FROM THE REV. DR. WOLFF, ON HIS MISSION TO LIBERATE COL. STODDART AND CAPT. CONOLLY.

The following highly interesting letter from this benevolent and remarkable man to his friends and late parishioners at Clayton West, near Huddersfield, will be read with much gratification:—

Teheran, Capital of the Kingdom of Persia,
Jan. 6. 1844.

To Messieurs Joseph and George Norton, Clayton West.

My dear Friends,—Though distant from you some thousands of miles, I have not forgotten you, and therefore I must drop you a few lines for your information, that of your family, Micklethwaite, all the people of Clayton West, High Hoyland, &c. I embarked at Southampton on the 14th of October, 1843, and arrived about the 21st at Gibraltar, where I was most kindly received by Sir Robt. Wilson, Governor of Gibraltar, and Rev. Dr. Borrow, Archdeacon of that place; stopt with them a few hours, and then continued my journey in the *Iberia* for Malta. Breakfasted with Admiral Sir E. Owen, who gave his carriage to my disposal to see my old friends at Malta. In the evening I dined with Sir P. Stuart, his family, and a large party of the Government there, and then embarked at twelve