

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH."



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



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George Whitefield.

THE city of Gloucester, in England, can point to three celebrated men, born within her limits—Bishop Hooper, who suffered martyrdom in 1555; Robert Raikes, the founder of Sunday schools; and George Whitefield, the eminent preacher, whose portrait appears on this page. He was born on the 14th December, 1714. His father died when he was but two years old. At twelve years of age, George was sent to school, where he became a great favourite, and was generally chosen to "make the speech" when the mayor paid his annual visit to the school. When but a young lad he became impressed as to spiritual things, and at 18 he entered Oxford College to study for the ministry. Here he became acquainted with Charles and John Wesley, and was associated with them in religious meetings, for which they were called such names as Bible Moths, Holy Club, and lastly Methodists. In due course, Whitefield completed his studies, and was ordained to the ministry. From the first sermon he preached, his words were greatly blessed by God, and thousands were led through his preaching, during his lifetime, to become Christians. Now, dear children, if you would like to know the secret of his marvellous success in winning souls, let

me tell you that it lay in his great faith in God's Word, and his faithful obedience to all God's commands. He had an eye single to God's glory, and a godly fear of sinning against Him was much upon his mind. In a letter to a friend, he says, "I beg your prayers that I may be kept from robbing God of His glory,

or of any more of my precious time." Can you wonder that God blessed the work of such a man? and that in England, America and other places visited, such immense crowds gathered to listen to him.

It has been calculated that during his life he preached upwards of eighteen thousand sermons. But we must not think that Whitefield was liked by all. The fact is, he was hated by many; and even the church with which he was identified (the church of England) was not friendly to him, but denied him access to many of its pulpits. But this did not stop him from preaching, for he once wrote to the Bishop of Bristol:—"Being, as I think, without cause denied admission into the church, I am content to



GEORGE WHITEFIELD.

take the fields; and when the weather will permit, with a table for my pulpit, and the heavens for my sounding board, I desire to proclaim to all the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ."

On Saturday, September 29, 1770, he rode fifteen miles (to Exeter), and preached there that day to a