



RIOT IN WEDNESBURY.

honour the King." "The rioters resolved to pull down the preaching house, and set to their work," he writes, "while we were preaching and praising God. It was a glorious time with us. Every word and exhortation sunk deep, every prayer was sealed. The rabble raged all night, and by morning had pulled down one end of the house, and soon not a stone remained upon another."

Next morning he was preaching, as usual, at five o'clock. The rioters smashed in the windows of his dwelling and threatened to tear it down, but the preacher fell asleep in five minutes in the dismantled room. "I fear no cold," he writes, "but dropped to sleep with that word, 'Scatter Thou the people that delight in war.'"

Charles Wesley, though constitutionally a timid man, was bold as a lion in the discharge of duty, and shared with unflinching courage the persecutions of the Methodist preachers. Having met with

an accident in Bristol, he was unable, for a time, to walk. He was, however, carried about from place to place, preaching daily on his knees. "The Word of God," he wrote, "is not bound if I am, but runs very swiftly."

At St. Ives, in Cornwall, the chapel was utterly demolished, and the worshippers were beaten and trampled on without mercy. At length "the ruffians fell to quarrelling among themselves, broke the head of the town clerk, and drove one another out of the room." Often the clergy and wardens of the Established Church headed the rabble. At Poole "the church record bears to this day an entry of expenses at the village inn for drink to the mob and its leader for driving out the Methodists." Yet nowhere were more glorious triumphs won for Methodism than in this county of Cornwall. Its bitterest persecutors became its most stalwart defenders.

At Wednesbury John Wesley