

a "man of action," and he deliberately sacrificed the niceties of literary taste to the greater task of making Englishmen on both sides of the Atlantic real Christians. Even so, the style of some of his more literary productions is a model of lucidity and grace.

But my main point here is to echo Mr. Birrell's final statement, that "we can learn better from Wesley's 'Journal' than from anywhere else what manner of man Wesley was, and the character of the times during which he lived and moved and had his being." My co-religionists and all who love the most characteristic qualities of modern English life are under a deep debt of obligation to my friend Mr. Parker and his publishers for giving them an opportunity of studying the eventful eighteenth century of English history at its centre and fountain-head.

The fact that this edition of the work has been condensed is no drawback. The "Journal," as originally published, was itself condensed by Wesley. The Book Room has in its possession large unpublished portions of the manuscript, much of which will be included in the standard edition which the Methodist Editor has now in hand; but for popular purposes Mr. Parker's edition will answer all important ends, and will give English readers for the first time an opportunity of reading in a handy form one of the most important, instructive, and entertaining books ever published in the English language.

Of course Mr. Parker alone is responsible for the selection of the portions of the "Journal" which appear in this volume.

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