

MEMORANDA ON THE ART OF SHYING.

BY J. SCOTT.

WESLEY is a name of history, and you cannot expunge it. WESLEYAN METHODISM is a national reality, and you cannot put it out of being. By Wesley, I do not mean a selfish speculator, a charlatan, an impostor, but a man worthy to be placed with Luther, Wickliffe, Knox, John Howe, Robert Hall, and D'Aubigne,—and not the last of them either. By Wesleyan Methodism, I do not mean an imposing adroitness, or an empiricism, with catch cries of “Warren’s Jet Blacking,” or “Morrison’s Pills;” but a specially providential system of Scriptural truth, and transforming Power, which, in the century and a quarter of its existence, has produced greater religious permanent effects than any other system.

I have read Dr. Johnson on the tax which eminence must pay; but when the eminence is not that of a cruel despot, but of a wise liberal; not that of a foe, but of a friend, what tax of jealousy or of heartlessness ought it to have to pay? Wesley’s chief eminence was not that of a learned man, which he was; not that of a christian legislator, which he was; not even that of a distinguished, God-sent agent, which he unquestionably was; but this, baptized with the spirit of holiness and charity, he, as he was able, and mad mobs allowed, preached the Gospel everywhere to the poor; distributed the blessings of social, regenerated, sober, happy life; made every Church in Great Britain his debtor for a hallowed impetus; and his descendants have made the world their debtor for a wide and ever-widening evangelization. Are these reasons for shyness? Not with men who are well taught—not with men who *are* men.

The world we live in has an extended range, and I shall, without specifying localities or persons, go through it for my general observations on SHYING.

There are modern Historians who profess to give the past and present state of Churches, and by them very eloquent chapters are devoted to corrupt Churches, and Churches likely soon to be effete. There are pages set apart to religionists, whose vagaries and practices are too heretical for the credence of common sense,—too infidel for this epoch of purity and enlightenment. But a penurious mention is all you will find of Wesleyan Methodism, which now has its unselfish and energetic organization flourishing in all the countries of the globe. This is the shying of authorship.