

but something at every time. It was the same with particular souls. I saw few in that extatic joy which had been common at other places. But many went on calm and steady, increasing more and more in the knowledge of God.

XXII. In this year many societies were formed in Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Nottinghamshire, as well as the southern parts of Yorkshire. And those in London, Bristol, and Kingswood, were much increased.

XXIII. In the beginning* of January, 1743, after my Brother had spent a few days among them, I went to the poor colliers, in and about Wednesbury in Sraffordshire, and preached both in the Town-hall morning and evening, and in the open air. Many appeared to be exceedingly affected, and about a hundred desired to join together. In two or three months these were encreased to between three and four hundred. But in the summer following there was an entire change. The minister of Wednesbury, Mr. Eggington, with several neighbouring justices, Mr. Lane of Bentley-hall, Mr. Perlehouse of Walsal in particular, stirring up the basest of the people, such outrages followed, as were a scandal to the Christian name. Riotous mobs were summoned together by sound of horn; men, women, and children abused in the most shocking manner; being beaten, stoned, covered with mud; some, even pregnant women, treated in a manner that cannot be mentioned. Mean time their houses were broke open, by any that pleased, and their goods spoiled or carried away, at Wednesbury, Darlaston, West-Bromwich, &c. some of the owners standing by, but not daring to gainsay, as it would have been at the peril of their lives.

XXIV. Nevertheless, I believed it my duty to call once more on this poor, harast, persecuted people. So on October 20,† I rode over from Birmingham to Wednesbury, and preached at noon in a ground near the middle of the town, to a far larger congregation than was expected, on *Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever*. And no creature offered to molest us, either