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## BIOGRAPHY.

### MEMOIR OF THE REV. JOHN WESLEY, A. M.

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MR. JOHN WESLEY having called his brother Charles to supply his place in Ireland, returned to the work in Britain, and his journals exhibit the manner in which the foundations of the Methodist connexion were carried out, and firmly laid. Nor were the preachers under his direction, though labouring in more limited districts of country, scarcely less laboriously employed. At this period one of them writes from Lancashire to Mr. Wesley:—"Many doors are opened for preaching in these parts, but cannot be supplied for want of preachers. I think some one should be sent to assist me, otherwise we shall lose ground. My circuit requires me to travel *one hundred and fifty miles in two weeks; during which time I preach publicly thirty-four times, besides meeting the societies, visiting the sick, and transacting other affairs.*"

Of the preachers, some were engaged in business, and preached at their leisure in their own neighbourhood; but still, zealous for the salvation of men, they often took considerable journies. Others gave themselves up, for a time to more extended labours, and then settled: but the third class, who had become the regular "assistants" and "helpers" of Mr. Wesley, were devoted wholly to the work of the ministry; and after a period of probation, and a scrutiny into their character and talents at the annual Conferences, were admitted, by solemn prayer, into what is called "full connexion," which was their ordination. No provision was however, made at this early period for their maintenance. They took neither "purse nor scrip;" they cast themselves upon the providence of God, and the hospitality and kindness of the societies, and were by them, like the primitive preachers, "helped forward after a godly sort," on their journies, to open new places, and to instruct those for whose souls