

oppressed disposed many to become his friends, who were very kind to him and his numerous family. In May, 1663, some benevolent gentleman, whose name the writer would gladly recover and hand to posterity, but cannot, the proprietor of a very good house at Preston, three miles north-east from Weymouth, gave Mr. Westley liberty to make it his abode, without the payment of any rent. To this village he immediately retired; there as far as Dr. Calamy, Wood, and Hutchins are worthy of credit, Samuel, afterwards of Epworth, was born; and in this retreat the father and family found a refuge.

The thankfulness with which Mr. Westley retired to this village, as his earthly rest, is thus recorded in his diary:—"1. That he who had forfeited all the mercies of life should have any habitation at all; and that 2. When other precious saints were utterly destitute; and 3. That he should have such an house of abode, while others had only poor mean cottages." While thus adoringly thankful to the God of his mercies, he had much perplexity as to what was his direct duty in return, whether, as he was silenced at home, he should not go to either Surinam or Maryland, and make known the Gospel of his merciful God there:—he at length resolved to remain at home, and take his lot in the land of his birth. The next question that perplexed him was, whether it was his duty to worship in that Establishment by which he had been ejected: this he also thought it his duty to do, that he might honour the word of God, and public worship as the ordinance of God; and so far have communion with those who held the Head, and whose lives were unblamable. Though he resolved to remain at home, yet he could not think that he who is Head in all things to his church, and from whom he had received the ministry, required him to be entirely silent. Mr. Westley therefore preached occasionally to a few good people at Preston; at Weymouth, also, as he had opportunity; and he was at length called by a number of serious Christians at Poole to become their Pastor, to whom he sustained this relation, preached and administered the ordinances, as circumstances would allow him to the day of his death. Some of the Nonconformist brethren in Dorset did this openly, and at all hazards; but Mr. Westley thought it his duty to beware of men: that prudently he should preserve his liberty and his opportunity to minister in holy things as long as he could; and not by the openness of one meeting to hazard the liberty of all meetings. Yet he was often disturbed, several times apprehended, and had to endure imprisonment, and many straits and difficulties; yet Dr. Calamy adds, he was wonderfully supported and comforted, and many times very seasonably and surprisingly relieved and delivered. But at length, the removal of many eminent Christians to another world, who had been his intimate acquaintance and kind friends, the great decay of serious religion, and the increasing rage of his enemies, manifestly seized and sunk his spirits; and he was taken out of this vale of tears into the invisible world, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest," when he

had not been much longer an inhabitant here below, than his blessed Master, whom he served with his whole heart, according to the best of his light. "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever."

John Westley, whether regarded as a son; a pious, studious, and exemplary young man; the friend of men whose piety and learning have commanded the respect of the Christian world, and never more than at present; as a Christian minister, parent, and one who, in the spirit of his blessed Master, suffered contumely and wrong; is deserving of a lasting memorial in whatever is Wesleyan. True, he held his own opinions on church government. They were those of education. He embraced them at Oxford. Whether we think them the best or not; at least it was no crime in young Westley to hold what Goodwin, Owen, and John Howe approved.

As to his fidelity to the then national government; he had, in common with the best men of the land, sworn allegiance thereunto; and very likely, all things considered, it might appear to him as the best that could be established. But he revered the word of God more than any other opinion. By this he had learned that submission, on Christian principles, to government, is the duty of all Christians, and especially of all Christian Ministers. He was no anarchist.

His religious opinions were fixed; yet he was neither a violent sectarian, nor a furious zealot. That he might honour the worship of God, and hold communion with the good, from whom only in minor matters he differed, he, like his fellow-collegian, John Howe, was an occasional Conformist. His principles were firm, they were tested by sufferings; but on matters of opinion, his charity was greater. His mind was not of that caste, which differs from others, for the mere sake of doing so; much less for the mere vaunt of liberty. In reference to this, a learned, pious, and conscientious Episcopalian sufferer writes: "For pleasure, I profess my sense so far from doting on that popular libel, liberty, that I hardly think it possible for any kind of obedience to be more painful than an unrestrained liberty: where there are not some bounds of Moderates, of laws, of piety, of reason in the heart, every man would have a fool, they say—I add, a mad tyrant—to his master, that would multiply him more sorrow than the briars and thorns did Adam, when he was forced from the Eden, at once, and the restraint of paradise, and was, sure, greater slave in the wilderness, than in the enclosure."

The late division of the Weymouth Circuit has led the name of Wesley to be again heard in that part of Dorset, where John Westley was best known, and greatly beloved. In the village of Whitechurch from which the Vicar was driven, the Wesleyans have a place of worship, and a small society. But who will arise and suitably befriend the county town, Dorchester?—the town of "Mr. White, sometime Assessor of the Assembly of Divines;" the birth-place of his daughter, the late John Wesley's great-grandmother; where his grandfather probably, his father certainly,

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