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## WATSON'S LIFE OF WESLEY.

[FOR THE H. M. M.]

**BIOGRAPHY**—by which we are rendered intimate with the thoughts and acts of celebrated men—is a branch of literature of first rate interest and importance. It furnishes the most exciting particulars, and the noblest stimulants to honorable exertion; it preserves wisdom from dying with its possessor, and continues the warning contained in foolish courses to all generations; in a word, it helps to give immortality to its object; it preserves the lineaments of the departed, gives a true cast of his mind, and embalms his adventures in the most simple and powerful manner.

Among the many whose memories have been honored by those best monuments, John Wesley occupies a commanding position. The founder of a most respectable sect, who still call themselves by his name, and look upon him as their Apostle, his biography has engaged several able pens; of which, the last is that of the Rev. R. Watson; a celebrated divine of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. This last work—as its author says—has been prepared within moderate limits, to facilitate its circulation, while it gives a sufficiently comprehensive view of the life labours and opinions of Wesley; and has been compiled from the best and rarest authorities. From this picture of Wesley's life, we will endeavour to draw a brief outline; by which the leading traits may be seen in a connected form, unobscured and unenriched by the colouring of the artist.

John Wesley, was the son of the Rev. Samuel Wesley, rector of Epworth, in Lincolnshire; as a proof that the father of the father of Methodism was a man of literary notoriety, we are informed that he was presented to his rectorship, on account of a production of his, in favour of the English Revolution of 1688. John Wesley was born in 1703, and Charles, his eminent fellow labourer, in 1708; an elder brother, and less noted, Samuel, was born in 1692. The Mother of these brothers is represented as a woman of great piety, understanding and knowledge, and she was the instructress of the early years of her children; John, it seems, was an object of particular interest with her, which was partly occasioned by a singular escape of his from being burned to death, when but six years of age. In 1714 he was placed at an establishment for learning called the Charter House, and in his seventeenth year entered Christ Church Oxford. His atten-