

Craven, was originally one of your local preachers. The great revival which originated Methodism, restored life, vigour, courage, fervour to the Congregational Churches of England." Dr. Stoughton's father and mother, grandfather and grandmother, were all Methodists. Dr. Parker gained experience as a Methodist local preacher. Mr. Spurgeon was led to Christ by a Primitive Methodist lay-preacher. Dan Taylor, the Yorkshire miner, who founded the New Connexion of General Baptists in 1770, was converted under Wesley's preaching. Nor does the Church of England owe less to Methodism. Dr. Thomson, the Archbishop of York, once expressed the opinion that if it had not been for John Wesley there would have been no Church of England to-day. Mr. J. R. Green says: "The Methodists themselves were the least result of the Methodist Revival. Its action upon the Church broke the lethargy of the clergy." Mr. Lecky bears this testimony to the movement: "The creation of a large, powerful, and active sect, extending over both hemispheres and numbering many millions of souls, was but one of its consequences. It also exercised a profound and lasting influence upon the spirit of the Established Church, and upon the amount and distribution of the moral forces of the nation, and even upon the course of its political history."

**Position of Methodism.** — Methodism is now the largest Protestant Church in the world, with something like twenty-eight million adherents and Sunday scholars in all parts of the globe. The Connexion has been true to its Founder's boast: "The Methodists are the friends of all, the enemies of none." It has steadily cultivated sympathy with all Christian people, and with all true work for Christ. It has recognised that some of its own best fruit has been gained through that quickening of religious life and zeal, which it has brought about outside its own borders. From the beginning it has sought to keep aloof from party politics, and quietly to fulfil its mission of spreading scriptural holiness throughout the land. Methodism is to-day one of the greatest forces of the world, and if its preachers and people are loyal to Wesley's principles—personal religion and personal service—there is a glorious future for our Church. No other Church gives its laity such influence in its councils, or opens to them such doors of usefulness. There is ample room for development and adaptation to the various needs of the time, as the Wesley Guild movement bears witness. In that respect Methodism is true to Wesley's spirit, for his whole system was a series of adaptations to the religious wants of his age. Unceasing prayer and unceasing work will make Methodism bear still nobler fruit for God and for the world.