

myself. I should rather Old Nick should be my enemy than my friend." We infer from this, that Samuel was not completely convinced; he asked repeatedly for more information, and though of course he spoke with caution to his parents who believed the story, and to his sisters who were in the house with them and under their care, he might still have remained as incredulous as we are. The noises continued nearly two months, and then finally ceased: they had been heard by the children for a fortnight, before Mr. Wesley was informed of them; the family was well acquainted with the manner in which goblins usually conduct themselves; and Mrs. Wesley having specially prayed that she might not be interrupted at her devotions, the request was granted. If Samuel Wesley was in possession of all these facts, he will be excused by our readers if not by Mr. Southey, for suspecting, that the agents were merely human.

Samuel was at this time an usher at Westminster; his rise in the world was prevented by his jacobitism; but he was distinguished for integrity, piety, learning, and wit. The third son, Charles, was placed under him at Westminster; John was educated at the Charter House, and became remarkable for his quietness, regularity, and application. He went to Christ Church at the age of seventeen; and it is supposed that both he and Charles were supported at the University by the kindness and liberality of their brother Samuel.

When John Wesley had passed through the ordinary course of study, and was of an age to take orders, he applied himself closely to theological studies, and two books which he read laid strong hold upon him; Kempis's *Imitatione Christi*, and Taylor's *Holy Living and Dying*. At first he thought the former too severe, and his mother, whom he consulted was of the same opinion. But Jeremy Taylor obtained complete possession of his mind; "he resolved to give up all his life, all his thoughts, words and action to God, being thoroughly convinced that there was no medium, but that every part of his life, not some only, must either be a sacrifice to God or to himself, that is in effect to the Devil." The *imitation* which had been found repulsive, appeared so no longer; on the contrary, it was perused with sensible comfort. His father perceived the change with joy, and said to him, "God fit you for your great work; fast, watch, and pray, believe, love, endure, and be hap-