

# NEW-BRUNSWICK

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"Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men."

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### BIOGRAPHY.

#### CHARACTER OF THE REV. JOHN WESLEY.

The following beautiful portrait of Mr. Wesley was drawn by a masterly hand. It appeared soon after his death, in a very respectable publication; and was afterwards inserted in Woodfall's Diary, June 17, 1791; from whence it is taken, with but one or two trifling alterations.

"His indefatigable zeal in the discharge of his duty has been long witnessed by the world; but as mankind are not always inclined to put a generous construction on the exertion of singular talents, his motives were imputed to the love of popularity, ambition, and lucre. It now appears that he was actuated by a disinterested regard to the immortal interest of mankind. He laboured, and studied, and preached, what he believed to be the Gospel of Christ. The intervals of these engagements were employed in governing and regulating the concerns of his numerous societies; assisting the necessities, solving the difficulties, and soothing the afflictions of his hearers. He observed so rigid a temperance, and allowed himself so little repose, that he seemed to be above the infirmities of nature, and to act independent of the earthly tenement he occupied.—The recital of the occurrences, of every day of his life would be the greatest encomium.

"Had he loved wealth, he might have accumulated without bounds. Had he been fond of power, his influence would have been worth courting by any party. I do not say he was without ambition; he had that which Christianity need not blush at. I do not mean, that which is gratified by splendour and large possessions; but that which commands the hearts and affections, the homage and gratitude of thousands. For him they felt sentiments of veneration, only inferior to those which they paid to heaven; to him they looked as their father, their benefactor, their guide to glory and immortality;—for him they fell prostrate before God, with prayers and tears, to spare his doom, and prolong his stay. Such a recompence as this, is sufficient to repay the toils of the longest life. Short of this, greatness is contemptible impotence. Before this, lofty prelates bow, and princes hude their diminished heads.

"His zeal was not a transient blaze, but a steady and constant flame. The ardour of his spirit was neither damped by difficulty nor subdued by age.—This was ascribed by himself to the power of Divine grace; by the world to enthusiasm. Be it what it will, it is what philosophers must envy, and infidels respect; it is that which gives energy to the soul, and without which there can be no greatness or heroism.

"Why should we condemn that in religion, which we applaud in every other profession or pursuit?—He had a vigour and elevation of mind, which nothing but the belief of the Divine favour and presence could inspire. This threw a lustre round his infirmities, changed his bed of sickness into a triumphal car and made his exit resemble an apotheosis rather than a dissolution.

"He was qualified to excel in every branch of literature: he was well versed in the learned tongues, in metaphysics, in oratory, in logic, in criticism, and every requisite of a christian minister. His style was nervous, clear, and manly; his preaching was pathetic and persuasive; his Journals are ardent and interesting; and his composition and compilations to promote knowledge and piety were almost innumerable.

"I do not say he was without faults, or above mistakes, but they were lost in the multitude of his excellencies and virtues.

"To gain the admiration of an ignorant and superstitious age, requires only a little artifice and address; to stand the test of these times, when all pretensions to sanctity are stigmatized as hypocrisy, is a proof of genuine piety, and real usefulness. His

great object was, to revive the obsolete doctrines, and extinguished spirit of the Church of England; and they who are its friends, cannot be his enemies. Yet for this he was treated as a fanatic and impostor, and exposed to every species of slander and persecution. Even bishops and dignitaries entered the lists against him; but he never declined the combat, and generally proved victorious. He appealed to the Homilies, the Articles, and the Scriptures, as vouchers for his doctrine; and they who could not decide upon the merits of the controversy, were witnesses of the effects of his labours; and they judged of the tree by its fruit. It is true, he did not succeed much in the higher walks of life; but that impeached his cause no more than it did the first planters of the gospel. However, if he had been capable of assuming vanity on that score, he might rank among his friends some persons of the first distinction, who would have done honour to any party. After surviving almost all his adversaries, and acquiring respect among those who were the most distant from his principles, he lived to see the plant he had reared, spreading its branches far and wide, and inviting not only these kingdoms, but the Western world, to repose under its shade. No sect, since the first ages of Christianity, could boast a founder of such extensive talents and endowments. If he had been a candidate for literary fame, he might have succeeded to his utmost wishes; but he sought not the praise of man; he regarded learning only as the instrument of usefulness. The great purpose of his life was doing good. For this he relinquished all honour and preferment; to this he dedicated all the powers of body and mind; at all times and in all places, in season and out of season, by gentleness, by terror, by argument, by persuasion, by reason, by interest, by every motive and every inducement, he strove with unwearied assiduity, to turn men from the error of their ways, and awaken them to virtue and religion. To the bed of sickness, or the couch of prosperity; to the prison, the hospital, the house of mourning, or the house of feasting, wherever there was a friend to serve, or a soul to save, he readily repaired; to administer assistance or advice, reproof or consolation. He thought no office too humiliating, no condescension too low, no undertaking too arduous, to reclaim the meanness of God's offspring. The souls of all men were equally precious in his sight, and the value of an immortal creature beyond all estimation. He penetrated the shades of wretchedness and ignorance, to rescue the profligate from ignorance; and he communicated the light of life to those who sat in darkness and the shadow of death. He changed the outcasts of society into useful members; civilized even savages, and filled those lips with prayer and praise, that had been accustomed only to oaths and imprecations. But as the strongest religious impressions are apt to become languid, without discipline and practice, he divided his people into classes and bands, according to their attainments. He appointed frequent meetings for prayer and conversation, where they gave an account of their experience, their hopes and fears, their joys and troubles: by which means they were united to each other, and to their common profession. They became sentinels upon each other's conduct, and securities for each other's character. Thus the seeds he sowed sprang up and flourished, bearing the rich fruits of every grace and virtue.—Thus he governed and preserved his numerous societies, watching their improvement with a paternal care, and encouraging them to be faithful to the end.

"But I will not attempt to draw his moral character, nor to estimate the extent of his labours and services. They will be best known when he shall deliver up his commission into the hand of his great Master."

A Tablet to Mr. Wesley's memory is placed on the left side of the communion-table of the New Chapel in the City-road, bearing the following inscription:—

Sacred to the Memory  
Of the Rev. JOHN WESLEY, M. A.  
Sometime Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford.  
A Man in Learning and sincere Piety,  
Scarcely inferior to any:  
In Zeal, Ministerial Labours, and extensive Usefulness,  
Superior (perhaps) to all Men  
Since the days of St. Paul.  
Regardless of Fatigue, personal Danger, and Disgrace,  
He went out into the highways and hedges,  
Calling Sinners to Repentance,  
And preaching the Gospel of Peace.  
He was the Founder of the Methodist Societies,  
The Patron and Friend of the Lay-Preachers:  
By whose aid he extended the Plan of Itinerant preaching,  
Through Great Britain and Ireland,  
The West Indies and America,  
With unexampled Success.  
He was born June 17th, 1703,  
And died March 2d, 1791,  
In sure and certain hope of Eternal Life  
Through the Atonement and Mediation of a Crucified Saviour.  
He was sixty-five years in the Ministry,  
And fifty-two an Itinerant Preacher.  
He lived to see in these Kingdoms only,  
About three hundred Itinerant  
And a thousand Local Preachers,  
Raised up from the midst of his own People,  
And eighty thousand Persons in the Societies under his care.  
His name will ever be had in grateful Remembrance  
By all who rejoice in the universal Spread  
Of the Gospel of Christ.  
*Soli Deo Gloria.*

### CATHOLIC QUESTION.

#### LETTER FROM LIVERPOOL CLERGYMEN, IN OPPOSITION TO THE CATHOLIC CLAIMS.

The following Circular Letter from several Clergymen of Liverpool and the neighbourhood has found its way into the papers. We have commented upon it elsewhere:

(CIRCULAR.)

Liverpool, Feb. 12, 1829.

MR LORD,—The question of Roman Catholic Emancipation, to which every reflecting mind in the land is directed, has necessarily produced an interest unequalled in its intensity by any former object of Legislative interference, because no former measure has ever been fraught with consequences so truly and so deeply momentous to the interest and security of the British nation.

Hitherto the subject has been viewed, chiefly with reference to its political expediency—a standard the most inadequate and unsatisfactory. The following view may possibly have escaped your lordship's notice, and it is therefore most respectfully submitted to your consideration.

If the Bible contain the true sayings of God, it is certain that "signs as the Governor among the nations—that he judgeth them in the present world, according to their works; exalting the righteous, and pouring the judgments of his wrath upon the apostate and the wicked. This solemn fact stands prominently forth in the sacred record. It is unveiled in the dealing of the Most High with the ancient nations of the world: and the history of modern kingdoms, even within the remembrance of this generation, lends to it an awful confirmation. If these things may not be contradicted, it follows, that the stability and welfare of an empire depend upon the conformity of its Legislature and administration to the will of God, revealed in scripture. And wherefore, as it happened, that, while other nations have been convulsed and revolutionized, this country has been preserved from the fury of the oppressor, and has been regarded as the refuge of a groaning world? Surely because our fathers, who trusted in God, framed the British Constitution upon the model of his word, and made all its functions breathe a spirit of dependence upon Him.