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## BIOGRAPHY.

## MEMOIR OF THE REV. JOHN WESLEY, A. M.

BIOGRAPHY is a species of literary composition which seldom fails to excite interest and to promote instruction. Its subject is man exhibited in the various relations, and passing through the routine of life, enduring often times mental anxieties, and coporeal sufferings, induced by circumstances, over which he can exercise no control, and which, with the ordinary occurrences and associations of human existence, and the interpositions of a too frequently unrecognised Providence tend, more or less, to the formation of character, and confer an ability for useful, or mischievous agency. Its records are the records of mind as developed in the various situations, adverse or prosperous, in which man may be placed-as developed in the first germs of thought, awakened into being by apparent accident, or by passing events, or by the influence of education, proceeding onward in their growth, through a vigilant, a fostering culture until presented to view in the ripened fruit of useful knowledge, they offer mental nutriment, and pleasure, to the attentive student of human nature.

The utmost care should however be taken in selection, as to the character of those persons, who, to excite public admiration, and to encourage the emulation of youth, should be held up to public view; otherwise

"What better far to oblivion were consigned"

would be

"Hung on high to poison half mankind."

To Statesmen and Philosophers,—to men of letters, and to the sons of science, a niche is awarded in the temple of fame as a reward for their talent and effort:—homage is done to their memory which, so far as virtue influenced them, should be cherished in the grateful feelings of the Vol. I.