

the Rev. John Wesley very prominently before the world. "The Centenary of Wesleyan Methodism," by our respected President, directs more especially the Wesleyan body to those names and labours in which they shall ever glorify God. But there were other Wesleys, in whom also God should be honoured; less distinguished, yet not to be forgotten. By the world they were dishonoured, but as men of learning and worth, as Christian Ministers, distinguished by piety, the most exemplary patience, and resignation in circumstances of great suffering, they are worthy of lasting remembrance. The writer is favoured by being called to put together some fragments of the elder Wesleys which he has carefully gleaned; that of these good men a permanent record may be found in the Wesleyan Magazine.

The Wesleys, it is stated by Dr. Clarke, believed their progenitors came from Saxony. Whether the Wesalia, and Wesselus of Groningen, will give any countenance to this opinion is a question freely left to the judgment of the reader. That the etymon of the family name is found in the Saxon language, has more of certainty. *Leigh*, *Legh*, *Lea*, and *Ley*, have their common origin in the Saxon *Leag*; which implies "the extensive unploughed field," the untilled pasture;" where

the lowing herds wind slowly o'er the lea.

This, when the property of Ecclesiastics, was known as Bishops' or Abbots' Leigh. When found in an elevated situation, High-Leigh is the designation. If the direction was west, when compared with some other place, the Westleigh, Westlea, or Westley is the name. In the rural history of our country, places of these or similar names may frequently be found; especially in the west of England, the residence of the Westleys.

By the history of Dorset it is found, that persons by the name of Westleigh, Westeley, and Westley, had long resided in that county. Among the nuns, once found at Shaftsbury, is the name of Isabel Westleigh. In 1435 John Westeley, a Prebendary, was Vicar of Sturminster-Newton. John Westley was Rector of Langton-Matravers, 1491. The borough records of Weymouth state, that, in 1655, Jasper, the son of Ephraim Westley, Gent., resided in the town. In the list of Bailiffs for Bridgport, in 1691, James Westley is found. And the index of the Gentleman's Magazine seems to point to members of the same family in more modern times. The name of the last mentioned, from the Rector of Langton-Matravers, to that of the Rector of Charmouth, is to a letter the same.

Dorset was the undoubted residence of Bartholomew Westley, the Rector of Charmouth; and of John Westley, his son, the Vicar of Winterbourne-Whitchurch: the former, the great-grandfather, the latter, the grandfather of the late John and Charles Wesley. Official documents, and contemporaneous history attest, that Westley was the family name. Bartholomew Westley was born about the year 1600. No record is known, by which inquiries as to his parents, the place of his birth, or the circumstances of

his early life can be met. But his being sent to one of the Universities, and educated there, may be taken as some proof, that his parents valued learning, and were able to give their son the best means for acquiring this treasure. Dr. Calamy states, that while at the University, he applied himself to the study of physic, as well as divinity; a fact which is indirectly confirmed by Jennings, who, in his *Miraculum Basilicon*, says, that, in 1664, he practised physic at Charmouth. Bartholomew Westley appears to have been a studious, diligent young man; who, in addition to his appointed and direct work, acquired knowledge, which in after-life, greatly rewarded the labours of his youth. By his knowledge of medicine Bartholomew Westley supported himself and family in those dark days, when he and they were cast on the world.

In the most trying period of most perilous times, from 1640 to 1650, Bartholomew Westley was called, as a Christian Minister, to public life. It has been long reported, that he held the living of Allington, in Dorsetshire, and that from this he was ejected. Allington, or Arlington, was a chapel-ry; a little village, a short distance from the then western extremity of Bridgport; but now an increased population has caused it to be united to that town. More likely, John Eaton, the Minister of Bridgport, from 1650 to the Restoration, supplied the chapel at Allington, as he is said, by Hutchins, to have received £30 annually from that village. The mistake as to Bartholomew Westley, and Allington, arose from a report made to Dr. Calamy, and which he thus gives:—"I have been informed that Mr. Bartholomew Westley was ejected from Arlington, and Mr. Bird from Charmouth." In the first edition of the Nonconformists' Memorial, the editor copied this statement, but placed an asterisk before it as an indication of doubtfulness. In the second edition of the last-mentioned work, the error is corrected. Yet by some biographers of the Wesleys, who quoted from the first edition, the mistake has been long continued. Very likely something was reported to Dr. Calamy, that referred to Mr. Westley and Allington. Did he reside, or close his days there? But as to his ejection, it should have been that this was from Catherston, and that he was there succeeded by Mr. Bird.

Names, places, and dates are important matters in history. To those who value accuracy it will be matter of satisfaction to find, that copies of official documents yet remain, by which we are led with certainty to the rectories and home of Bartholomew Westley. In 1649 Whitelock, Keeble, and Lisle were Commissioners of the Great Seal. In the same year they were ordered to inquire into the yearly value of all ecclesiastical livings, to which any cure of souls was annexed; to certify to the Court of Chancery the names of the Incumbents who supplied the cure, and their respective salaries. Hapily, returns to this Commission have been preserved; and by these documents, as well as by other quotations, given below, as well as the family name, and the village where Bartholomew Westley resided, are report-