

discussion on an eclipse of the sun beyond his wit to explain, or a virulent plague beyond his skill to diagnose. In conclusion, the work of the first Methodists at large, which was far more important than the first ebullition of religious emotion, receives even scantier recognition. John Wesley is not once referred to, though he visited Scotland twenty-four times; nor is Whitefield's activity followed up, though he crossed the border and aroused the church by his eloquence on fourteen several occasions. All this does much credit to the Scotsman's ancient instinct for maintaining the independence of his land, and perhaps history is, after all, a small sacrifice to lay on the altar of one's country.

However, in these latter times, the Rev. D. Butler, formerly parish minister of Abernethy, Perthshire, and now of Galashiels, has, I know not under what impulse, thrown a flood of light upon this interesting episode in his admirable volumes, "John Wesley and George Whitefield in Scotland," (1898), and "Henry Scougal and the Oxford Methodists," (1899), so that we are now enabled to form something like a discriminating judgement of the relations of the earliest Methodists with the Presbyterians in Scotland.

The first thing that is apparent is that Whitefield and Charles Wesley, and presumably also John Wesley, owed a very great deal to Scottish Presbyterianism; for from Scotland there made its way to Oxford and into the so-called, "Holy Club," founded by Charles Wesley, and into the hands of particular members of it who can be named, at dates which can be specified, a fountain of inspiration in the form of a little treatise entitled "The Life of God in the Soul of Man," the same being by one, Henry Scougal, born in the manse at Leuchars (1650), and educated at King's College, Aberdeen. His father afterwards accepted an appointment as Bishop of Aberdeen from Charles II; but the bishops created by the Stuarts did not prevent the Church of Scotland from remaining in heart and life Presbyterian. Henry Scougal was for a year parish minister of Auchterless, about twenty miles from Aberdeen, and then became Professor of Divinity in King's