

man medicine, saying, 'If it does you no good, it will do you no harm.' What was the result? He took it two or three days. His cough was cured, and has not returned to this day.'

The cure was, of course, reported among the poor, who came in crowds to get the benefit of "Doctor" Wesley's skill.

Rebuked by the Pictures.

One cold winter's day a young girl whom the Methodists were keeping at school, called upon John Wesley. She looked nearly frozen.

"Have you nothing to wear," said Wesley, "but that linen gown?"

"Sir, this is all I have," said the girl. Wesley put his hand in his pocket and found it empty. Then he looked at the pictures on his walls. "It struck me," he says, "will thy Master say, 'well done good and faithful steward?' Thou hast adorned thy walls with the money which might have screened this poor creature from the cold. O justice! O mercy! Are not these pictures the blood of this poor maid?"

One of the pictures was soon turned into money to relieve the case of distress.

Trusting God for a Sermon.

During the early part of his career Mr. Wesley was to preach in a London church, and to his dismay found himself without a sermon when the time came to enter the pulpit. Half way up the pulpit stairs he hesitated and returned to the vestry under much confusion and agitation. A woman who stood by noticed his concern and said, "Pray, sir, what is the matter?" Mr. Wesley replied, "I have not brought a sermon with me."

Putting her hand on his shoulder she said, "Is that all? Cannot you trust God for a sermon?"

This question had such an effect upon him that he ascended the pulpit, preached extempore, with great freedom to himself and acceptance to the people.

Ever after he preached without a manuscript or even notes.

Wesley went Barefoot.

During his residence in Georgia John Wesley taught a school for sometime, as did also his friend, Delamotte, and like all schoolmasters, they had their difficulties. A part of the boys in Delamotte's school wore stockings and shoes, and the others not. The former ridiculed the latter. Delamotte tried to put a stop to this banter, but told Wesley he had failed. Wesley replied, "I think I can cure it. If you will take charge of my school next week, I will take charge of yours, and will try." The exchange was made, and on Monday morning Wesley went into the school barefoot. The children seemed surprised, but without any reference to past jeerings, Wesley kept them to their work. Before the week was ended the shoeless ones began to copy his example, and some of the others, seeing their minister and master come without shoes and stockings, began to copy his example, and thus the evil was effectually cured.

Is James Watson Here?

Mr. Wesley was usually exceedingly direct and plain in his preaching. Sometimes he was quite personal in his appeals. At Sunderland, as he was concluding his sermon, a prominent backslider came strongly into his mind, and he broke out abruptly, "Lord, is James Watson here? If he be, show thy power!" Down dropped James Watson like a stone, and began crying for mercy.

Something to be Thankful for.

Wesley and Nelson travelled much together. While on a preaching tour through Cornwall they slept every night on the floor. Mr. Wesley used Nelson's greatcoat for a pillow and Nelson himself rested his head upon Burkitt's "Notes on the New Testament." One morning about three o'clock Mr. Wesley turned over and finding Nelson awake, clapped him on the side, saying: "Brother Nelson, let us be of good cheer; I have one whole side yet, for the skin is off but one side."

Reproving an Army Officer.

On one occasion, when John Wesley was travelling, he had for a fellow passenger in the coach an officer who was intelligent and very agreeable in conversation, but he was very profane. When they changed coaches Mr. Wesley took the officer aside and, after expressing the pleasure he had enjoyed in his company, said he had a great favor to ask of him. The young officer said: "I will take a great pleasure

stillness and astonishment pervaded the conference. Mr. Wesley, collecting himself, replied, "Brother Allen, have you any charge to prefer against me?" Mr. Allen said, "I have." "Then," said Mr. Wesley, "I will begin at the beginning," and instantly called his own name.

All eyes were now turned toward Mr. Allen, who rose and said, "I have something in the form of a charge to prefer against you, sir, namely, though you have promised again and again to visit my circuit, to the great grief of many in that part, you have not done it." Mr. Allen had scarcely uttered these words when the clock announced the arrival of the breakfast hour, and after a moment's intercession the conference was broken up, and they retired. On his return to conference, after singing and prayer, Wesley requested Mr. Allen to stand up, and said, "Brother Allen, I beg your pardon, the pardon of God, and the pardon of my brethren for the improper warmth into which I have been betrayed." He then acknowledged he was accountable to his brethren, and after stating that the disappointment in question arose from circumstances over which he had no control, he then desired the conference to join with him in prayer to God, in which he humbly confessed his faults, and earnestly implored forgiveness for every sin both of omission and commission. Every individual in the conference was affected to tears.

Answers to Prayer.

John Wesley was a strong believer in the power of prayer, and was accustomed to make all the ordinary, everyday perplexities of life the subject of special petitions.

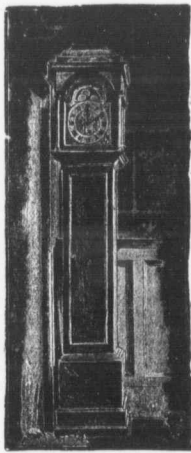
Upon one occasion, when preaching in the open air, the sun shone out exceedingly hot on the side of his head, and he found that if it continued he would have to cut the sermon short. He began at once to pray that the sun might be shaded. "In a minute or two," he adds, in telling the incident, "the sky was covered with clouds, which continued till the service was over."

One night a fire broke out near his dwelling and, as the wind was in that direction, there was great danger of their being burned out. Mr. Wesley at once awakened all in the house and "called them to prayer." While they were asking God to deliver them the wind changed and blew the flames in the other direction, so that the Wesley home was unharmed.

Whatever others might think of these incidents, Mr. Wesley regarded them as direct answers to prayer.

A Curious Experiment.

In his sermon on "Redeeming the Time" Mr. Wesley tells us how he discovered that four o'clock in the morning was the right time for him to rise. He says: "I waked every night about twelve or one, and lay awake for some time. I readily concluded that this arose from my lying longer in bed than nature required. To be satisfied, I procured an alarm which waked me the next morning at seven (near an hour earlier than I rose the day before); yet I lay awake again at night. The second morning I rose at six; but, notwithstanding this, I lay awake the second night. The third morning I rose at five; but, nevertheless, I lay awake the third night. The fourth morning I rose at four; as by the grace of God I have done ever since, and I lay awake no more. And do not now lie awake, taking the year round, a quarter of an hour together in a morning. By the same experiment, rising earlier and earlier every morning, may anyone find how much sleep he really wants."



JOHN WESLEY'S CLOCK.

in obliging you, for I am sure you will not make an unreasonable request." "Then," said Mr. Wesley, "as we have to travel together some distance, I beg, if I should so far forget myself as to swear, you will kindly reprove me." The officer appreciated the gentle rebuke and, smiling, said: "None but Mr. Wesley could have conceived a reproof in such a manner."

Humble Confession.

On one occasion Wesley opened the conference by asking the usual questions as to whether there were any objections to the moral and religious characters of the preachers, or any charge against them for neglect of duty or talents for the work. In reading the names he omitted his own and that of his brother Charles. John Allen, a highly respected preacher, rose and said that he objected to the course pursued by the president. This was the first time Mr. Wesley's conduct had been called in question in conference, and he replied with great warmth that he should not submit to be examined by his preachers. Mr. Allen said, "Then, sir, I have done," and sat down. Profound