

**EDUCATION, THE OLD RUT AND THE NEW
ROAD: BEING A CRITICAL REVIEW OF
THE DEBATE WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE
LATE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE: ON THE
DENOMINATIONAL AND UNSECTARIAN
SYSTEMS OF EDUCATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649515042

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

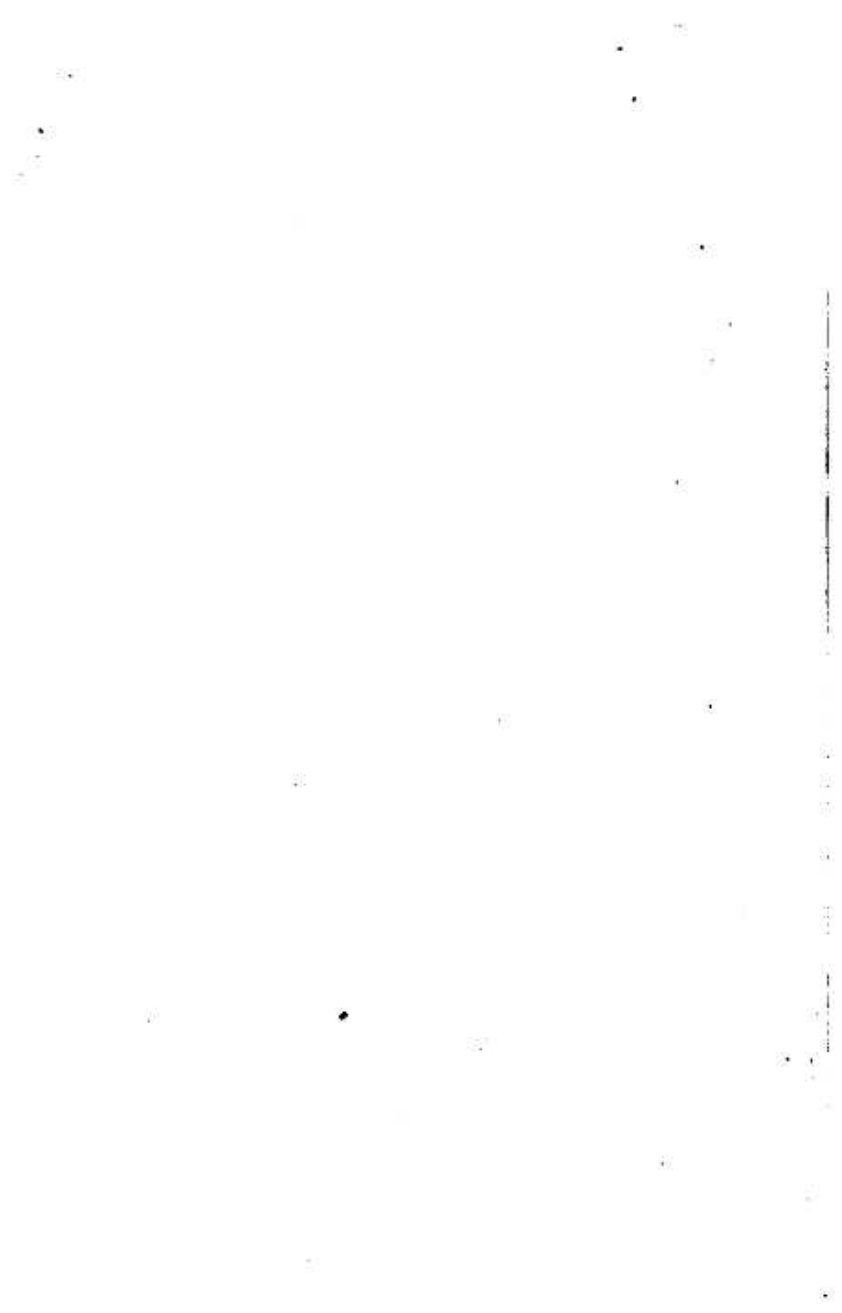
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WESLEYAN MINISTER

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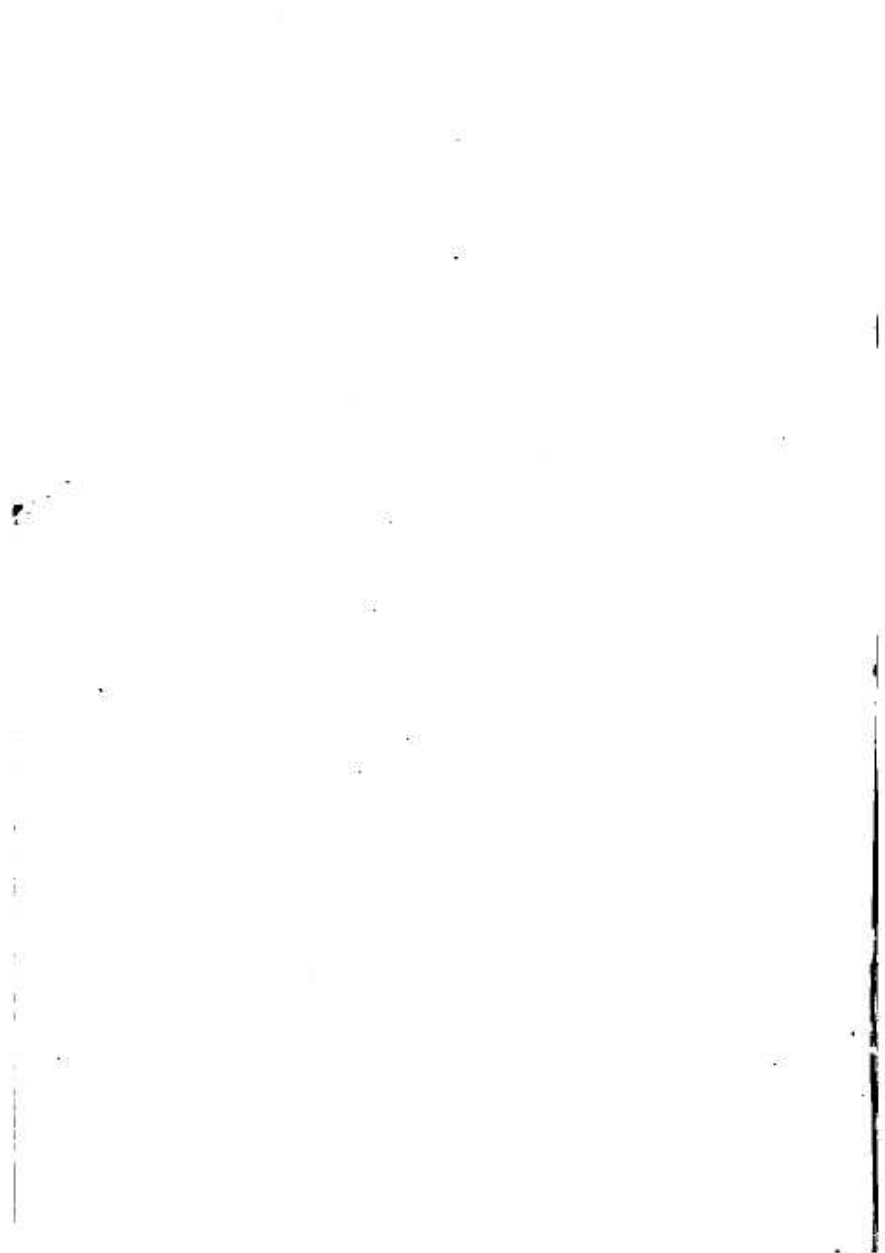
**DENOMINATIONAL AND UNSECTARIAN
SYSTEMS OF EDUCATION.**

By A WESLEYAN MINISTER.

*Amicus Plato, amicus Socrates,
Sed magis amicus Veritas.*

"While learning to read and write is a distinction, the few who have that distinction may be less inclined to work; but when everybody learns to read and write it is no longer a distinction."—DR. JOHNSON.

LONDON:
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1872.



P R E F A C E.

SHOULD the Author be expected to assign some reason for giving this volume to the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion in particular, and to the reading public generally, his reasons are briefly these—

That in his own judgment, and in the judgment of wiser men, the important debate conducted in the late Wesleyan Conference, on the great stirring and all absorbing question of National Education—*ought not* to be allowed to perish with the copies of ephemeral newspapers which professed to report the speeches delivered on the occasion.

That on the contrary, as the *fact* of the debate having taken place, will inevitably become matter of Methodist history, so the substance and character of the speeches delivered by the men who took part in that debate, ought likewise to be handed down in some portable and durable form, for the perusal and study of not only the present, but also future generations of Methodists, who, in the clearer light of their own age, shall be able to read **WHO**, in the year 1872, were the real friends and

benefactors of the Connexion and the Country, and who the well-meaning but mistaken foes of the best interests of both. Hence the present volume !

The fact that the great questions at issue in this debate are the very questions upon which the *Country* as well as Methodism is at this hour divided, cannot fail to invest the present volume with an interest and importance to the generality of readers, far beyond the pale of Methodism.

The Author confesses to another reason, which, perhaps more than any of those already given, has powerfully weighed with his mind, and constrained him to give this little book to the world. It is this :—Being at first struck with, and upon closer examination, intelligently convinced of the fact, that notwithstanding on the Denominational side of this debate were arrayed men of great powers, of high mental culture, of considerable tact and skill, and of large practice as disciplined debaters, they utterly failed to defend their system by either Scripture, sound reason, or solid argument ; failed signally, moreover, to bring into the field against the opposite side, anything which, when calmly and impartially considered, is felt to possess either strength or weight, and while thus displaying an unwonted weakness, which, in itself, is peculiarly significant, have, on the other hand, laid down principles, and given utterance to sentiments, which even the

allowances to be made for the heat of controversy utterly fail to justify, and which the highest interests of Christian truth and this Protestant Nation *demand should be exposed and refuted*. This is a sacred duty, the discharge of which, however uninviting and painful, has been laid upon the Author's conscience, and has been rendered, if possible, even more imperative by the disclosures and results of the debate, just now closed, of the Special Educational Committee, appointed by the last Conference to meet and discuss the entire question. So flagrantly anti-Protestant and pro-Romish have been most of the utterances of the Wesleyan Denominationalists, that the Ultramontane journals of Ireland have spoken of them with rapture, as more ably advocating their cause, than could be risked by their own emissaries who have lived on the continent.

THE AUTHOR.