

**THE LIFE AND LABORS OF REV.
THOMAS WALSH, THE
IRISH METHODIST PREACHER, A
CONVERTED ROMAN CATHOLIC**

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The life and labors of Rev. Thomas Walsh, the Irish methodist preacher, a converted Roman Catholic by Allan Moore

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ALLAN MOORE

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PREFACE.

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

PERHAPS there are none having read or heard anything of Thomas Walsh but who have felt a desire to learn more about this servant of God ; and the question is naturally asked, can I secure the life of that good man ?

With the majority of readers, the only references to his life are found in the writings, such as Works, Histories, Biographies, Memoirs, Journals, etc., of that branch of literature in connection with the body of people called Methodists. There was indeed an account of his life written shortly after his death, by James Morgan, a member of the Church of England, but that work, as a separate and distinct volume, is long out of print. This is now published in a series only, of, "Lives of Early Methodist Preachers Chiefly Written by Themselves." So that anyone desiring a full account of him must secure the entire

set of six volumes. This everyone is not able to do ; for although they are cheap, yet many who would be able to give a few pence for the desired information, could not well afford so many shillings. Hence one reason for a new volume.

Then again, the above series of "Lives" are to-day not generally known. Modern literature, now so much in demand, is pushed to the front, and as a natural consequence such reading as is contained in the series—for which we are sorry to say the majority of professing Christians have no relish—is "on the shelf." But since there is of late signs of an awakening and a turning to the "Old Paths," there is also a desire to obtain all the information and help possible from the "burning and shining lights."

The only desire in writing this book is to glorify Jesus in the stirring up of the hearts of His followers to seek for, and obtain a better acquaintance with God and divine things, a deeper sense of the utter sinfulness and helplessness of humanity, with the possibility of sinking deeper into that humility, and rising higher in those aspirations after the whole image of God which so characterized the life of the man before us.

Thomas Walsh's life (although while he lived, as Mr. Wesley says, turned more sinners from the error of their ways than any man he ever knew) was short, and seeing this was so, I desire that it should still

speak, and in this way his ministry be blessed to precious souls.

And now, little volume, I send you forth on your mission of mercy. May the blessing of Almighty God accompany you and make you a source of inspiration and comfort to thousands who may read between your covers. And may you be the means of guiding some poor wanderer from God, into the ways of everlasting happiness; that they which sow and they which reap may rejoice together. And when all on earth is over, and we gather at the feet of Jesus, our glorious Redeemer, we may, with Thomas Walsh, and all the blood-washed throng, fall on our faces and cry, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain; to receive honour, and glory and power and dominion for ever and ever." Amen and Amen.

A. M.

Belfast, July 1904.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.	
HIS BIRTH—EDUCATION—EARLY LIFE.....	11
CHAPTER II.	
HE LEAVES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH—DEEP CONVICTION OF SIN.....	23
CHAPTER III.	
HIS CONVERSION.....	51
CHAPTER IV.	
HE ENTERS THE MINISTRY.....	57
CHAPTER V.	
HIS APPOINTMENT TO LONDON—SEVERE ILL- NESS.....	68
CHAPTER VI.	
HIS SAINTLINESS—PRAYER—REDEEMING THE TIME—FREEDOM FROM THE WORLD.....	87
CHAPTER VII.	
RECOLLECTION OF SPIRIT—GOVERNMENT OF THOUGHTS.....	104
CHAPTER VIII.	
EXTRACTS FROM DIARY—LETTERS.....	116
CHAPTER IX.	
APPOINTED GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF IRELAND FROM DIARY—LETTERS ETC.....	132
CHAPTER X.	
HIS ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION — EXTRACTS FROM DIARY.....	163
CHAPTER XI.	
CLOSE OF MINISTRY—DEATH.....	182
CHAPTER XII.	
MANNER OF PREACHING—CAUSE OF DARK- NESS.....	197

CHAPTER I.

HIS BIRTH—EDUCATION—EARLY LIFE.

There is in every human heart,
Some not completely barren part,
Where seeds of love and truth might grow,
And flowers of generous virtue blow :
To plant, to watch, to water there,
This be our duty, this our care.

IRELAND has raised up many sons for the cause of religion. Down-trodden as she has been, some of the brightest and truest of the sons and daughters of the Church militant have risen within her borders.

Thomas Walsh was the son of Edmund and Helina Walsh. He was born in 1730, at Ballylinn, a country place eight or ten miles from Limerick, a city in the south-west of Ireland. His parents were rigid Roman Catholics and endeavored to teach and train their children in the same persuasion. From earliest childhood those principles of religion belonging to that body of people were implanted in their young minds.

At this time the Irish was the common language used in that part of Ireland, and Thomas was compelled to commit to memory the Lord's Prayer, the Ave Maria and the one hundred and thirty-third

Psalm in that tongue. When he was in his eighth year he was sent to school to learn English ; but was shortly removed and sent to the school of one of his brothers—a young man who had studied for the priesthood, but who on examining the Scriptures and comparing them with the doctrines of the Church of Rome, found these doctrines were not the doctrines of the Bible, and severed himself from their following. This young man started a school for the instruction of children, or any who might avail themselves of his assistance. While with him his brother Thomas learned the rudiments of Latin as well as English. When this attainment was made he was taken from school and sent to the County of Clare as an apprentice to a carpenter. At this work the boy's mind was not contented ; and as a higher and more important calling awaited him, Providence closed the way to his remaining at the intended occupation. He was delighted when he returned to school, where he gave most of his time to the study of Latin. He had a great liking for books and pursued his studies with greater diligence than ever.

Being still under his parents' they continued to instill into his mind those teachings of the Roman Catholic faith to which they so closely adhered and which now began to embitter his young heart against all dissenters, and those not members of that Church. In after years, speaking of himself, he says, "I now began to imbibe that uncharitable, antisciptural opinion that all dissenters from the Church of Rome were heretics and in a state of damnation. But now since the Lord has enlightened my understanding, I am fully convinced that therein I greatly erred, 'not knowing the Scriptures neither the power of God.'