

**LIVES THAT SPEAK.  
JOHN WESLEY**

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Lives that speak. John Wesley by James J. Ellis

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**JAMES J. ELLIS**

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*John Wesley*

LIVES THAT SPEAK.

# JOHN WESLEY.

BY

REV. JAMES J. ELLIS,

AUTHOR OF

"TAKE FAST HOLD," "MARKED FOR DEATH," ETC. ETC.

"A friend, sincere and true,  
Kind looks foetold as kind a heart within ;  
Words as they sounded meant ; and promises  
Were made to be performed."—POLLOCK.

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## P R E F A C E.



JOHN WESLEY has long since been admitted to the first rank of Christian heroism and service. His self-sacrifice, patience, courage, talents for administration, and, above all, the concentration of his powers upon what he considered the chief business of life, all mark him out as entitled to be placed in the van of the Christian host.

The denomination that he founded is still the largest section of Protestant Dissenters, and not the least in self-sacrifice and devotion to the service of God and man.

Those who are outside this community are the most ready to acknowledge their many obligations to the Methodists, to admire their fervour, and to thank God for them.

This year commemorates the centenary of Wesley's entrance into heaven ; it therefore furnishes a sufficient reason for re-studying his character and life.

For John Wesley is still a living force working

amidst us; such a life as his will never be without interest and value to all who admire worth and love their kind. And for our inspiration and comfort God has rewarded his service by making his name fragrant to all lovers of evangelical truth.

But after all, the most suitable form of honouring Wesley is to cleave to the Saviour whom he loved with fervent faith, and to continue his service among the outcasts of our land.

The Wesleyans are wise in their resolve to make the centenary as far as possible a beginning of new enterprises. The debt that all the churches acknowledge will be best discharged by a strenuous attempt to deal with the vast multitude of heathen who perish at our very doors.

Wesley heard their cry, and although they resented his preaching and ill-used him, he continued to evangelise until he had disarmed opposition, and, by Divine grace, won many of them to new thoughts, purposes, and hopes.

In some respects the religious and social outlook is not encouraging; but, as Sir Charles Napier said that difficulties only made his feet go deeper into the soil, so should it be with us; there are difficulties in our path, but they should only deepen our resolve to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

This is to honour Wesley and to glorify God.