

**EMINENT
METHODIST
WOMEN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649573271

Eminent Methodist Women by Annie E. Keeling

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ANNIE E. KEELING

**EMINENT
METHODIST
WOMEN**



H. Kneller del.

J. Kneller sculp.

Mrs. Susanna Wesley.

EMINENT METHODIST
WOMEN.

BY

ANNIE E. KEELING,

AUTHOR OF

"GENERAL GORDON, HERO AND SAINT," "THE NINE FAMOUS
CRUSADES OF THE MIDDLE AGES," ETC. ETC.

LONDON:

CHARLES H. KELLY, 2, CASTLE STREET, CITY ROAD, E.C.;
AND 66, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1889.

15264

P R E F A C E.



IN compiling the lives of holy women that appear in the following pages, the writer has found material as abundant in some cases as deficient in others. So much attention and research have been devoted to the elucidating of almost every point relating to the noble Susanna Wesley, that the lack of any contemporary record is hardly felt; Dr. Adam Clarke in his *Wesley Family*, the Rev. John Kirk in his *Mother of the Wesleys*, and Mrs. Eliza Clarke in her exhaustive little volume contributed to the "Eminent Women Series," having supplied almost all that can now be hoped in illustration of Mrs. Wesley's life and character.

The well-known writings of Mrs. Fletcher and Mrs. Rogers are also sufficiently full of incident and of autobiographic information.

On the other hand, a story so striking and pathetic as that of Lady Mary Fitzgerald can only be told in outline, and the imagination must fill in the details

which no trustworthy eye-witness of her life has recorded for us; the annals of Agnes Bulmer's shy and retired existence have to be gleaned from her own *Letters* and *Poems*, and from two or three graceful sketches written by admiring friends, by Mrs. Rowley, Mrs. Collinson, and the late Rev. W. M. Bunting; while the writer of the ample volume recording Lady Maxwell's career, aiming entirely at spiritual edification and finding abundant material for it, has indicated few of those trivial details that add life-likeness to a picture.

Later biographers have better understood the importance of little things, witness the finished picture given in the recently-published life of Anne Lutton,¹ of a character attractive and beautiful at every point; witness also in their degree the deeply interesting *Memoirs of Mrs. Tucker*² and *Mrs. Walker*.³

However diverse the sources of our information, and however different in natural character and outward circumstances the various heroines of our volume, one story is always unfolded, one characteristic is stamped on all. Whether lofty or lowly in birth and station,

¹ *Memorials of a Consecrated Life. Compiled from the Autobiography, Letters, and Diaries of Anne Lutton.* London: T. Woolmer, 1883.

² *Memoir of Mrs. Jane Tucker.* By Mrs. G. F. White. London: Wesleyan Conference Office, 1877.

³ *Led by the Spirit. Memoirs of Mrs. Caroline Eliza Walker.* By Edward Jewitt Robinson. London: T. Woolmer, 1882.

whether greatly gifted in mind or not excelling beyond the average of womanly intellect, these saints all bowed in humble penitence before the Cross of Christ, sought and found conscious forgiveness of sin; and all, in righteousness and true holiness, in lives of unblameable but most humble purity, exemplified the possibility, and therefore the imperative duty, of obedience to the command,—

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE MOTHER OF METHODISM— Susanna Wesley—Born, 1669; Died, 1742 . . .	11
II. A SISTER OF THE POOR— Mrs. Fletcher (Mary Bosanquet)—Born, 1739; Died, 1815 . . .	56
III. TWO FRIENDS OF MRS. FLETCHER— Lady Mary Fitzgerald—Born, 1725; Died, 1815 . . . Elizabeth Mortimer—Born, 1754; Died, 1835 . . .	85 92
IV. A LIFE HIDDEN WITH GOD— Hester Ann Rogers—Born, 1756; Died, 1794 . . .	103
V. A SCOTTISH METHODIST OF THE FIRST DAYS— Darcy, Lady Maxwell—Born, 1742; Died, 1810 . . .	118
VI. THE FOUNDRESS OF AMERICAN METHODISM— Barbara Heck—Born, 1734; Died, 1804 . . .	133
VII. A CHRISTIAN POETESS— Agnes Bulmer—Born, 1775; Died, 1836 . . .	148
VIII. ONE "LED BY THE SPIRIT"— Caroline Eliza Walker—Born, 1795; Died, 1881 . . .	161
IX. A TEACHER OF THE HEATHEN— Jane Tucker—Born, 1806; Died, 1875 . . .	188
X. A CONSECRATED LIFE OF JOY— Anne Lutton—Born, 1791; Died, 1881 . . .	220