

**ENTIRE HOLINESS:
AN ESSAY**

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Entire Holiness: An Essay by John H. Wallace

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JOHN H. WALLACE

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AN ESSAY**

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AN ESSAY

BY

REV. JOHN H. WALLACE,

OF THE GENESSEE CONFERENCE OF THE M. E. CHURCH.

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."—ST. PAUL.

AUBURN:
WM. J. MOSES.
1853.

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Mr. Edward Brooke, Jr.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE following pages would not have been prepared but at the request of several in the ministry, whose age, talents, and position in the Church, qualified them to judge whether any thing of the kind was demanded by the peculiar phases which certain teachings on the subject of holiness had taken upon them in this eventful period of novel views. So many works had been already published on this subject, that the author felt a diffidence in presenting any thing further of the kind. But various articles, recently put forth, and strong agitations touching the method of obtaining the blessing, and the matter of professing it, had so confused and unsettled many, that it was deemed important something should be furnished, if possible, which would disentangle those who had been thrown into trouble, and encourage such as had become disheartened. How far these pages may go towards accomplishing this end, must be left for the future to declare. The writer simply avows sincerity and honesty of purpose, and faithfulness of effort. Perhaps an apology will be thought due for the non-appearance of quotations from Mr. Wesley, and other authors on the subject of holiness.

The sole reason for this is, that it would have extended the work beyond its contemplated size, and created the necessity of purchasing the same matter twice over, in all cases where a copy of each should be obtained. This increase of expense might hinder the present volume from finding its way into hands where it might otherwise go to accomplish its mission. If any desire to know whether the views here embodied are Wesleyan, they have only to compare them with what Mr. Wesley has written on this subject. If it should be thought that the chapter on Justice and the claims of the law, is discordant with his views, let his description of the character of a Methodist be consulted, in which he insists that the person he describes obeys the law, not in some points barely, but in all points; and that with all his might. Let it be distinctly marked that our argument maintains that the claims of Justice required that satisfaction should be made in the provisions of the atonement, for all the disabilities of our race which were the result of the first transgression, in order that the race might be propagated, and still continued under a law which only claimed the amount of ability remaining.

The admission sometimes made, that we are only able to keep the law of love, which falls short of the claims of the *moral* law, places us where it is impossible to escape the charge of admitting the necessary continuance of sin. For if a violation of the moral law is not sin, then there is no sin. But the course pursued in the argument alluded to, is deemed to be

clear of this charge, and at the same time it awards to the claims of Justice a complete satisfaction in the provisions of the atonement.

The paucity of argument on the doctrine of holiness as a separate article, seeks its apology in the several arguments on the same topic interspersed through other articles, and also in the abundant discussion that has been before the public for years past on that subject. A sufficient amount is here introduced to prove the doctrine rational and scriptural, without entering into the metaphysical subtilities, and answering the curious objections, which have been met and considered in other works.

The address to seekers of holiness is designed to fix a thorough conviction in the mind, not only of the necessity of the work, but also of the nature and extent of the blessing. No doubt can be entertained that a superficial experience, and hasty and unwarranted professions, have been productive of more or less evil, in many parts, for some years past. While the present work has been intended to correct these evils, there has been no design to discourage a rational, scriptural, and thorough work of holiness. On the contrary, an earnest effort has been made to promote a deep and genuine experience; one that might stop the mouths of gain-sayers, and prove salutary and healthful to the Church. To accomplish this, the appropriate evidences and fruits of such a state have been described and insisted on, and several directions have been given as to the time, place, and manner of declaring the work.

There are also added some advices to those who profess holiness. These are intended as faithful guards against any decline, and also as important helps to a perpetual growth in grace. In short, the work, as a whole, has been designed to meet the exigencies of the present times; to furnish clear and definite directions as to the manner of obtaining the blessing, as well as a protection against all defective experience, and all empty, heartless professions of the same.

The full, efficient, Bible measure, is defended and urged, and every spurious article is discarded. This said, the book is commended to the serious perusal of inquiring minds, with the prayer that it may accomplish the great ends proposed.

THE AUTHOR.

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