

**THE EVANGELIST AND
PASTOR: BEING
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY
AND REMINISCENCES**

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The Evangelist and Pastor: Being the Autobiography and Reminiscences by Joseph Whitehead

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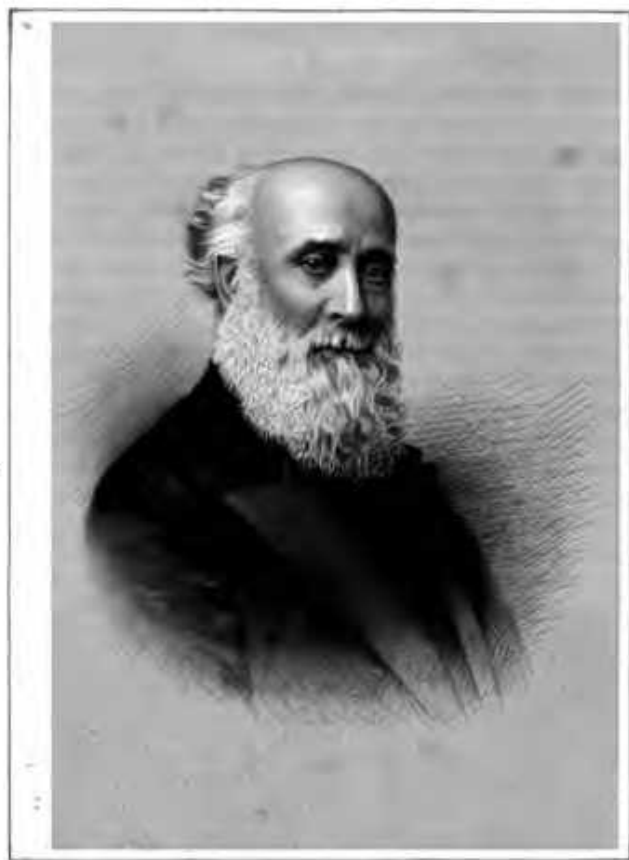
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JOSEPH WHITEHEAD

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From a Photograph by J. F. Newland Esq.

*Yours Affcty.,
Joseph Whitehead.*

THE
EVANGELIST AND PASTOR:

BEING THE

Autobiography and Reminiscences

OF THE

REV. JOSEPH WHITEHEAD,

Wesleyan Minister.

WITH PORTRAIT.

"These relations are commonly the most valuable in which the writer tells his own story."—Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

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AND OF ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1879.

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TO THE
WESLEYAN METHODIST MINISTERS
THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD,
THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED,
IN ADMIRATION OF THEIR SELF-DENYING
AND SUCCESSFUL LABOURS
IN THE EXTENSION OF THE REDEEMER'S KINGDOM,
BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

P R E F A C E.

It will, probably, be considered somewhat presumptuous in me to have ventured to write my Autobiography and Reminiscences, especially as I have only occupied the position of a hard-working Methodist minister—a minister who has laboured chiefly in what are called country circuits. But is there not a precedent for the course I have taken in writing my Autobiography? Were not the early Methodist ministers requested by the Rev. John Wesley to write an account of their conversion and call to the ministry, and to relate any special instances of spiritual good which they might have been the honoured instruments, in the hands of God, of effecting in the course of their ministry? Were not these accounts autobiographical? And have we not given to us, through the press, from time to time, what are called "Personal Narratives"? Are not these Autobiographies? It is true that these Personal Narratives relate principally to work done in foreign lands; but are not foreign missions and home missions analogous? And is not this recognized in the new publication called *At Home and Abroad*? The fact is this, we cannot but rejoice when any good is accomplished, whether at home or abroad. And although the work may have been prosecuted under different circumstances—in circumstances of greater danger and responsibility in distant lands,—the work is the same in its nature and blessed effects, and relates to the salvation of souls and to the edification of the Church, which Christ has purchased with His own blood.

But it will be said by some, "You have given to us certain accounts of a supernatural character; the present day will not be prepared for these." I reply, that the accounts re-

corded were received by me on the best authority, and in one case at least from a minister who had been converted to God by supernatural means. Are we to dictate to the Almighty what means He should employ in converting the souls of men, in regard to the kind of instrumentality to be used? There can be no doubt that one of the principal reasons why the founder of Methodism introduced so many instances of supernaturalism into the early numbers of the *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine* was that infidelity prevailed in his day. And is not infidelity showing itself in many forms at the present day? Is not infidelity finding its way into a vast amount of literature? Is it not seeking to undermine our faith? Is it not spreading its nets, and insinuating its influence, in all directions? Whatever, therefore, strengthens our faith in regard to the other, the eternal world, and produces a still stronger conviction of the truth and reality of "things not seen," is beneficial to the Church and the world, and specially necessary at the present time.

And lastly, in sending forth this little production, I have been influenced by a strong desire to glorify God, by giving illustrations of the "riches of His grace," and the "greatness of His power," in saving souls from death, and in making them partakers of the Divine nature, and thus bringing them into the enjoyment of holy and enlightened love. I have also been moved by an earnest wish to be the means of encouraging our young ministers to pray for, and to expect, immediate results in connection with their ministrations of Divine Truth. And if these ends be answered, I shall be abundantly satisfied, and shall ascribe all the praise to God, from whom proceedeth "every good and every perfect gift."

JOSEPH WHITEHEAD.

NEW WANDSWORTH,
February 3rd, 1879.