

**LIFE OF THE REV.  
GEORGE  
WHITEFIELD**

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Life of the Rev. George Whitefield by D. A. Harsha

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**D. A. HARSHA**

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GEORGE  
WHITEFIELD**



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LIFE  
OF THE  
REV. GEORGE WHITEFIELD.

1714-1770

EDITED BY  
D. AN HARSHA, M.A.

'O TO BE INSTRUMENTAL TO BRING ONLY ONE SOUL TO JESUS  
CHRIST.' — *Whitefield.*



Whitefield's Monument.

ALBANY:  
J. MUNSELL, 78 STATE STREET.  
1866.

VERMONT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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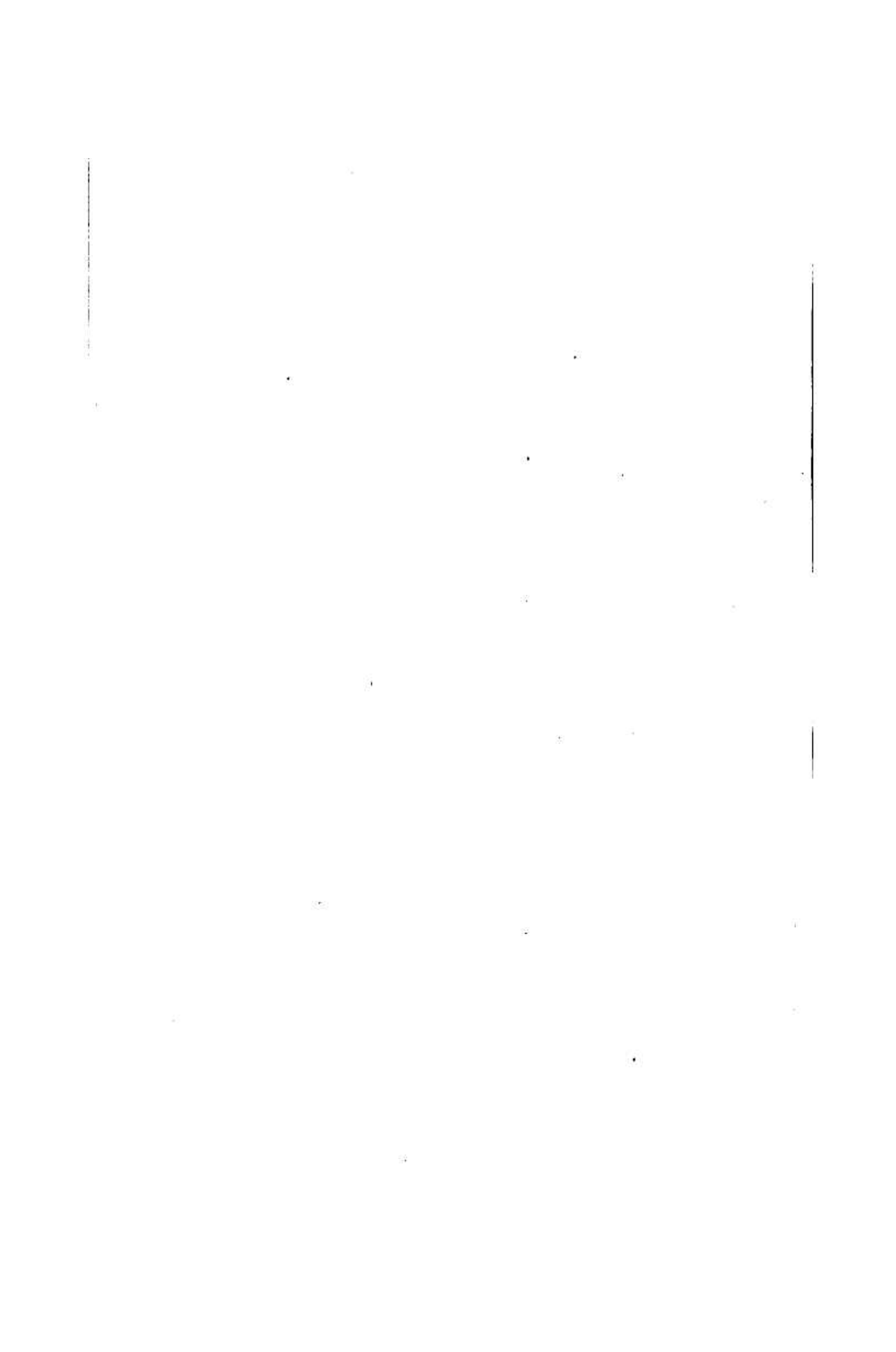
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'WHITEFIELD WAS A GREAT AND A HOLY MAN; AMONG THE FOREMOST OF THE HEROES OF PHILANTHROPY, AND AS A PREACHER WITHOUT A SUPERIOR OR A RIVAL.'—*Sir Jas. StepAgn.*

'A BRIGHT AND EXULTING VIEW OF THE ATONEMENT'S SUFFICIENCY WAS HIS THEOLOGY; DELIGHT IN GOD AND REJOICING IN CHRIST JESUS WAS HIS PIETY; AND A COMPASSIONATE SOLICITUDE FOR THE SOULS OF MEN WAS HIS RULING PASSION. \* \* HE WAS THE PRINCE OF ENGLISH PREACHERS. MANY HAVE SURPASSED HIM AS SERMON-MAKERS, BUT NONE HAVE APPROACHED HIM AS A PULPIT ORATOR. MANY HAVE OUTSHOWN HIM IN THE CLEARNESS OF THEIR LOGIC, THE GRANDEUR OF THEIR CONCEPTIONS, AND THE SPARKLING BEAUTY OF SINGLE SENTENCES; BUT IN THE POWER OF DARTING THE GOSPEL DIRECT INTO THE CONSCIENCE HE ECLIPSED THEM ALL.'—*Rev. Dr. Hamilton, of London.*

'PERHAPS NO MAN EVER POSSESSED, IN A HIGHER DEGREE THAN MR. WHITEFIELD, ABILITIES FOR EXEMPLIFYING THE RULES OF LONGINUS ON THE SUBLIME; AND, CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF THE SUBJECTS, AND THE MIXED ASSEMBLIES HE ADDRESSED, PERHAPS, NO ONE ACTUALLY EXEMPLIFIED THEM TO GREATER EFFECT.'—*Dr. E. Williams.*





## PREFACE.

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IN the following biographical memoir of one of the most celebrated pulpit orators the world has ever seen, it has been the aim to present only a summary of his very diversified and eventful career. With the outlines of WHITEFIELD'S life, a full description is given of his character as a preacher, interspersed with anecdotes and illustrations of the power of his eloquence. The biographical incidents are related in chronological order. The principal authorities on his life and times have been carefully consulted and compared. The author would acknowledge his obligations to the several Lives of Whitefield, by Dr. Gillies, Robert Philip, and Dr. Belcher, and to the Essays on his eloquence, in the *Christian Examiner*, *American Quarterly Register*, *Fraser's Magazine*, *North American Review*, *Christian Quarterly Spectator*, *Literary and Theological Review*, *Christian Review*, *New Englander*, and the *Eclectic Review*.

One of the ablest articles on this subject, that he has examined, is that by the Right Hon. Sir James Stephen, in the *Edinburgh Review*, republished by the Messrs. Appleton, New York, in an octavo volume, under the title of *Talford and Stephen's Essays*. It is well worthy of a careful perusal by those who wish to see both the excellencies and the faults of WHITEFIELD exhibited in a clear, forcible and philosophical light.

The study of WHITEFIELD'S life is interesting, especially to ministers of the gospel. O, that we had more of his spirit animating all branches of the Christian ministry at the present day!—a day of coldness and formality in religious matters. If such were the case, we might expect, with the blessing of God, such a revival of religion as the world has seldom seen. That such a happy result may yet be accomplished, let clergymen and Christian laymen everywhere pray more earnestly, and labor more faithfully, and become more zealous and valiant for the truth as it is in Jesus,—seeking the Lord till *He come and rain righteousness upon us*. Then may we look for another pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that will cause *even the wilderness and the solitary place to be glad, and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose*.

It should be the language of every faithful minister of the gospel, 'Now let me study and contrive, wherein I may best promote the interest of Christ and His gospel here on earth.'

It is the author's wish that the perusal of this memoir may stir up the minds of many of the servants of Christ, 'by way of remembrance,' so that, with renewed activity, zeal, benevolence and piety, relying on the God of all grace for assistance, they may be led to imitate more successfully the example of him of whom Cowper justly says :

'He lov'd the world that hated him; the tear  
That dropp'd upon his Bible was sincere :  
Assail'd by scandal and the tongue of strife;  
His only answer was—a blameless life;  
And he that forg'd and he that throw the daft,  
Had each a brother's interest in his heart.'

D. A. H.

ARGYLE, N. Y., Nov., 1865.

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REV. GEORGE WHITEFIELD.

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GEORGE WHITEFIELD was born in the ancient city of Gloucester, England, on the sixteenth of December, 1714, the year in which Queen Anne died, and George the First ascended the throne. He was nearly a year younger than his devout friend the Rev. James Hervey, whom he was the means of leading to the Cross, and of instructing in 'the way of God more perfectly.' In his native city, the parents of Whitefield kept the Bell Inn. His father dying when he was only two years old, his education devolved upon his mother, who treated him with peculiar tenderness, and gave him the best education within her power. His early youth was spent in the commission of sinful acts; he was then addicted to Sabbath-breaking, card-playing, lying, filthy talking, and several other vicious practices. He committed sins of which he says—*'their dismal effects I have felt and groaned under ever since.'* But like Bunyan,