

**THE MISSION OF
METHODISM;
BEING THE TWENTIETH
FERNLEY LECTURE**

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The mission of Methodism; Being the twentieth fernley lecture by Richard Green

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RICHARD GREEN

**THE MISSION OF
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BEING THE TWENTIETH
FERNLEY LECTURE**

THE
MISSION OF METHODISM

BRING THE
TWENTIETH FERNLEY LECTURE

DELIVERED IN BRISTOL, AUGUST 4TH, 1890

BY
THE REVEREND RICHARD GREEN



LONDON
WESLEYAN METHODIST BOOK-ROOM
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1890

TO THE REVEREND
WILLIAM FIDDIAN MOULTON, M.A., D.D.
PRESIDENT
OF THE
WESLEYAN METHODIST CONFERENCE
THIS LECTURE
IS
AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED

SYNOPSIS OF LECTURE.



INTRODUCTION	PAGE vii
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CHAPTER I.

THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF METHODISM AS ILLUSTRATED IN WESLEY'S PERSONAL HISTORY.

FOUR ELEMENTS :—

1. Conversion—Justification by Faith—Assurance	1
2. Elevation of Idea of the Christian Life—Entire Sanctification	21
3. Evangelism	28
4. Fellowship — The Society — Care for the Individual Believer—Employment of Gifts of Entire Church	40

CHAPTER II.

THE MISSION OF METHODISM DEFINED.

1. Development of the Idea of Methodism in the Mind of Wesley	61
---	----

EPOCHS :—

(1) From 1738 to 1744.—Outburst of Evangelistic Spirit—No Plan—No Conference—Methodism Forming	62
(2) From 1744 to 1749.—First Conferences—Doctrinal and Disciplinary Minutes—Progress of Definition—Consolidation	69

	PAGE
(3) Subsequent Development—Fourteen Years' Continuous Labour—No Annual Printed Minutes—Expansion—"Large Minutes"—Wesley's Precise Definition of the Calling of Methodism	86
2. Further Historical Development	94
(1) Its Effective Vindication of the Truth—Mysticism—"Stillness"—Calvinism—Antinomianism	94
(2) The Revival of the Religious Spirit in Church and Dissent—Influence on National Manners and Morals—Testimonies	103
(3) Foreign Missions—English-Speaking Populations—Colonial Methodism	114

CHAPTER III.

HOW FAR HAS METHODISM HITHERTO BEEN FAITHFUL TO THE ESSENTIAL IDEA OF ITS MISSION ?

Wesley's Purpose Bold—Adaptation of Methods—Test of Fidelity—First Successors to Wesley—Second Period—Changed Conditions—Sections of Methodism—Attitude To-day	124
--	-----

CHAPTER IV.

RELATION OF METHODISM TO THE FUTURE.

Has Methodism still a Mission? If so, what?	164
CONCLUSION	215
APPENDIX	219

INTRODUCTION.



WHEN the Board of Management did me the honour to ask me to deliver the Fernley Lecture, a desire was expressed that this year it should have a direct relation to Methodism; and when "The Mission of Methodism" was suggested to me as an appropriate subject, I saw at least a fitness in such a topic being treated in the city where we are now assembled, in which so many of the distinctive features of Methodism had their origin. It was in this city that the first Methodist meeting-house was erected; it was here that the first idea of the Methodist class-meeting, "the Bristol plan," was conceived; here the great departure, the field-preaching, was first made, by one whose name is ever to be honoured amongst us—George Whitefield. I am moreover reminded that it is just a hundred years since Mr. Wesley in this city presided at the last Conference he was permitted to attend; that this is the first year of the fourth jubilee of the founding of Methodism, and that in the course of next year the second Ecumenical Methodist Conference will be held, and this time in the country where Methodism has attained its greatest magnitude and achieved some of its grandest triumphs. In view of this

important gathering, I feel that an additional interest attaches to my subject.

Methodism stands forth a fact in this age. Its history and its service are universally known. Its efficiency is neither dependent upon recognition being given, nor impaired by its being withheld. But we may ask ourselves, What is its place in the world to-day? What is its adaptation to the world's need? What is its calling—its mission? These questions we ask not with a view to justify the work of Methodism, but to illustrate it; we ask them partly for our satisfaction, partly for our guidance. It is permitted to us to stand and take our outlook over the world, the interest of whose history becomes daily more and more thrilling, and to endeavour to ascertain how far and in what way our appliances are capable of rendering service to it. We may not find much to amend, we may not find much to congratulate ourselves upon; but a glimpse of unfulfilled duty, of unoccupied ground, of greater possibilities, may stimulate to new and enlarged effort. Methodism needs no vindication at our hands: its history is its own best vindication. But if there be not a call for justification, there may be the highest advantage in trying; from an examination of its past history and of its adaptation to present requirements, to form a just judgment on its calling in the future. What Methodism is *able* to do may indicate what Methodism is *called* to do.