

**EARLY METHODISTS  
UNDER  
PERSECUTION**

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Early Methodists under Persecution by Josiah Henry Barr

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**JOSIAH HENRY BARR**

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LHC

# EARLY METHODISTS UNDER PERSECUTION

BY  
JOSIAH HENRY BARR



THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN  
NEW YORK CINCINNATI

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NEW YORK  
CINCINNATI  
LONDON

TO MY WIFE, BERTHA MAXSON BARR, M.A.,  
WHO HAS BEEN A CONSTANT INSPIRATION, AND WHO HAS  
RENDERED ME MUCH ASSISTANCE IN PRODUCING THE WORK.  
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED.

26 X 4 67



## CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE .....	7
CHAPTER I	
THE COST OF A NEW CAUSE .....	9
CHAPTER II	
JOHN WESLEY .....	16
CHAPTER III	
CHARLES WESLEY .....	38
CHAPTER IV	
GEORGE WHITEFIELD .....	51
CHAPTER V	
THE LAY PREACHERS AND THE PERSECUTORS .....	61
CHAPTER VI	
THE METHODIST PEOPLE AND THE MORE .....	87
CHAPTER VII	
PERILS OF THE LAY PREACHERS IN IRELAND .....	107
CHAPTER VIII	
VIOLENCE IN IRELAND .....	118
CHAPTER IX	
THE PRESS GANGS .....	135
CHAPTER X	
THE CLERGY AND THE MAGISTRATES .....	158
CHAPTER XI	
THE UNIVERSITY AND THE METHODISTS .....	169
CHAPTER XII	
THE METHODISTS VILIFIED .....	200
CHAPTER XIII	
PERSECUTION CHECKED .....	223
CHAPTER XIV	
SUMMARY—AN ESTIMATE .....	232
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	244
INDEX .....	251





## PREFACE

THIS work was undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining, so far as possible, the actual extent of the suffering of the early Methodists, and of their struggle against persecution. It deals only with events in the British Isles and covers the life of the Rev. John Wesley. There was persecution after his death, but by that time the crisis had passed and Methodism had become so thoroughly established that there was no longer any possibility of crushing it. Therefore what followed, though extremely trying, was more incidental.

At the beginning of the task the hope was entertained of making this a source book of facts, but the abundance of material soon made this plan impracticable. Were all the material to be used which is at hand, it would make a volume of twice this size. Therefore this does not purport to be a complete account. For the sake of brevity some material has been omitted entirely, and wherever possible, nearly all has been abridged. In some instances narratives have been broken for this purpose. However, it is believed that enough is given, both to show the extent of the sufferings of the Methodists, and to portray the spirit of their persecutors.

In the search for material nothing has been found anywhere that would suggest an outline for the work, or that would direct the student to the sources. It seems to be almost entirely an unexplored field. It has been necessary, therefore, to handle volume after volume wherever material seemed likely to be found. Between two and three thousand volumes have thus been reviewed. Also such English periodicals as refer to the subject and could be found have been consulted. Of the three collections of pamphlets relating to the early Methodists, and found in this country, all have been carefully examined.

Secondary sources have been used sparingly, as in almost

all instances the primary sources from which these writers took the facts were readily found. The chief exception to this is the scholarly work of L. Tyerman, whose writings to some extent have been a guide to certain sources and have furnished some excellent material.

The work was suggested by Professor James T. Shotwell, of Columbia University, in connection with regular university work. Moreover, I am indebted to him for his sympathetic interest and encouragement; for suggestions in regard to the arrangement of the work, and for helpful criticism of the manuscript. President Charles J. Little, of Garrett Biblical Institute, gave me some helpful suggestions, both as to the nature of the work and in the search for sources. Had he lived, doubtless with his wide knowledge of Methodist Church history he would have been a valued adviser, but his death occurred shortly after the work was begun.

I am especially indebted to Professor John Alfred Faulkner, of Drew Theological Seminary, whose great scholarship has been a constant inspiration, and who has been a counselor throughout the entire construction of the book. I had the privilege of consulting him freely and frequently, and always found him interested, sympathetic, and helpful.

I recall with pleasure the courtesies shown me while in search for material. I found the librarian of Columbia University always glad to render any possible assistance. I am also obliged to the libraries of Union Theological Seminary, the General Theological Seminary, Wesleyan University, and especially Drew Theological Seminary. At all times at Drew I had free access to its shelves, and to its rare and valuable collections. Were it not for the books, pamphlets, and periodicals relating to early Methodist history in this great library this book could not have been written.

JOSIAH HENRY BARR.