

**THE MAKING OF
METHODISM:
STUDIES IN THE
GENESIS OF INSTITUTIONS**

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The making of Methodism: studies in the genesis of institutions by Jno. J. Tigert

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GENESIS OF INSTITUTIONS.

BY
JNO. J. TIGERT, D.D., LL.D.,
EDITOR OF THE METHODIST REVIEW.

"First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear."—Mark iv. 28.

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To My father,

John James Tigert, Sr.,

WHO, FOR HALF A CENTURY, HAS WISELY AND TENDERLY DISCHARGED
THE DUTIES OF CLASS LEADER AND STEWARD;

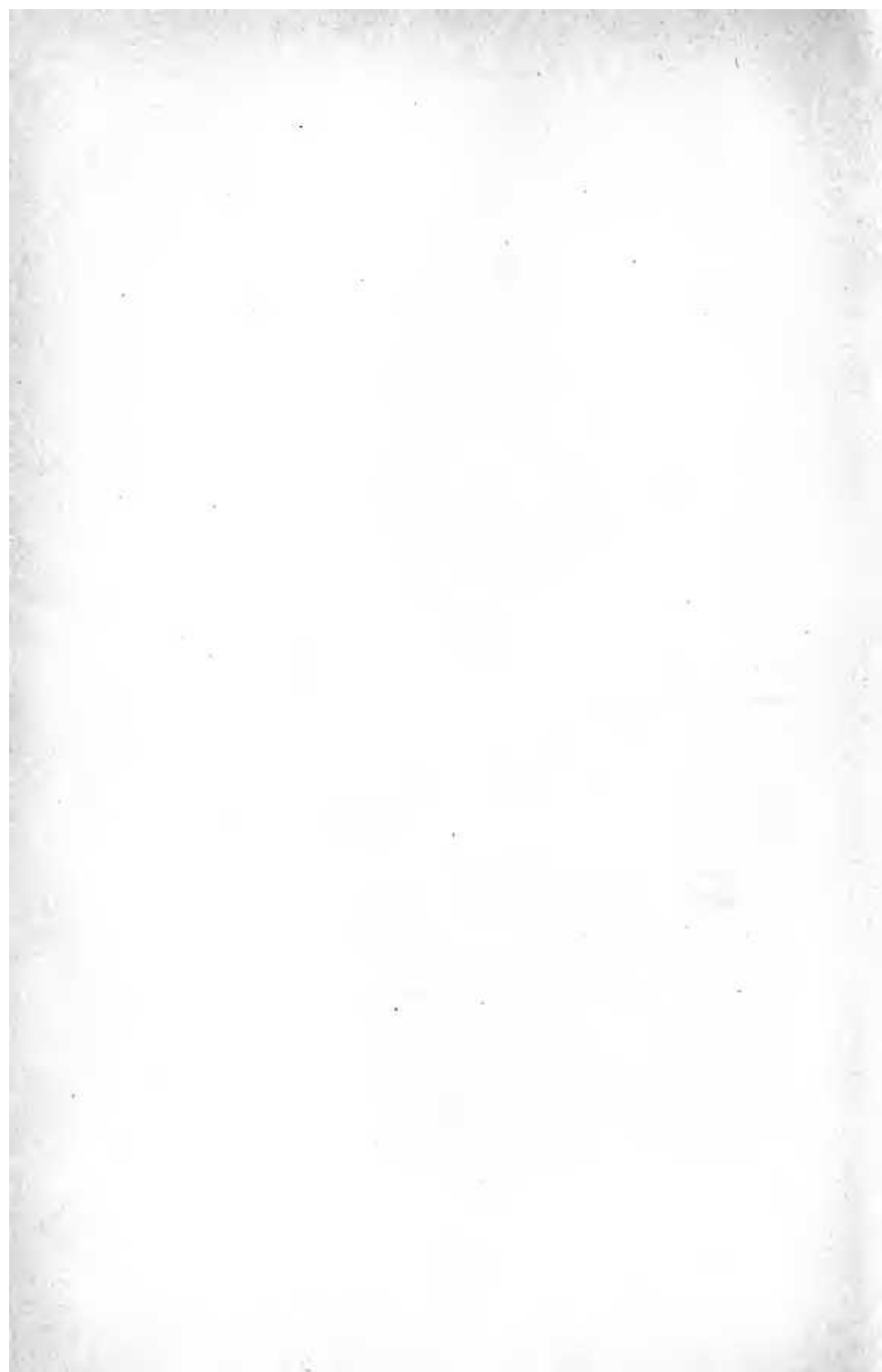
WHO, FOR A SCORE OF YEARS, HAS BEEN THE CONSIDERATE AND
AFFECTIONATE PARENT OF MY HOUSEHOLD; AND

WHO, IN AGE AND FEEBLENESS EXTREME, ABIDES
WITH US AT FOURSORE YEARS;

THIS VOLUME IS

GRATEFULLY AND LOVINGLY DEDICATED.

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PREFACE.

THE last quarter of the seventeenth, and the first decade of the eighteenth, century were needed for building the cathedral church of the metropolis of the world. Though thus a church of two centuries, it is a building of but one generation; for throughout the period of its erection there were but one master-builder, one architect, and one bishop of the diocese. While St. Paul's was in building there was born in England the architect, master-builder, and bishop of another London ecclesiastical edifice—a building of God, a spiritual house not made with hands, whose materials were living stones—who, though he lived nearly across the eighteenth century, did not live long enough to finish the work he began. The Making of Methodism is a work of the generations for the generations; and, since to-day it probably occupies the position of the first Protestantism of the world, it is beginning to look as if it might prove the Church of the Centuries.

To students it is becoming increasingly evident that the history of Methodism in America, especially in its beginnings, must sooner or later be critically reconstructed and rewritten. It is not that Abel Stevens does not richly deserve recognition as the Macaulay of Methodism, or Bishop McTyeire as its Tacitus. It is not that writers earlier than Stevens—I refer particularly to Jesse Lee—did not collect and preserve invaluable materials and render other useful service. It is not that some later writers have not made careful studies and embodied them in more or less trustworthy monographs and general works. But it is that there have been slowly collecting the materials for a more comprehensive and exhaustive presentation of the history according to the philosophical and causal principles of its development; for the correction of errors and

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misconceptions, some of them grown hoary and stubborn by long unchallenged acceptance; for freeing the narrative from one-sided controversial elements; for more accurately and minutely tracing the genesis of the government of the Church, and the unfolding of the organic principles of fundamental law, purely in the light of the abundant contemporary sources; for filling in details in the biographies of the itinerant heroes who planted Methodism in the wilderness and made it bloom as the garden of the Lord; and, in fine, for occupying a new and higher historical standpoint from which a better outlook over the whole field can be secured, putting all the objects of the vast panorama in something like their true proportion and perspective.

As a contribution to the correct construction of our governmental history this volume is intended. The chapters which follow have occupied me at intervals through a period of three years, receiving from time to time the best attention I could give them. Though some of them were written under the pressure of various and somewhat exacting editorial duties, there has been in every case opportunity for review of the positions taken and of the foundations upon which they rest. I have endeavored to imitate the example of the workman who, in the pause at the railway station, taps the car-wheel with his hammer. While my readers may discern abundant traces of infirmity and fallibility in these pages, I cannot tax myself with haste or carelessness in their composition and publication. I prefer, nevertheless, to have these papers looked upon as historical studies; though the conclusions reached are deliberate and, I think, not unworthy of attention.

Some new ground has been broken. Some features in the development of the presiding eldership have perhaps been more distinctly traced, if not placed in a new light: taken in connection with what I have tried to present elsewhere, the materials now exist for an orderly and complete history of this