

**THE HISTORY OF JOHN WESLEY'S
COAT: SHOWING BY
WHOM IT HAS BEEN WORN,
AND HOW IT HAS BEEN TRIMMED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649306879

The history of John Wesley's coat: showing by whom it has been worn, and how it has been trimmed by Richard Keene

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

RICHARD KEENE

**THE HISTORY OF JOHN WESLEY'S
COAT: SHOWING BY
WHOM IT HAS BEEN WORN,
AND HOW IT HAS BEEN TRIMMED**

THE
HISTORY
OF
JOHN WESLEY'S
COAT:

SHOWING BY WHOM IT HAS BEEN WORN, AND HOW
IT HAS BEEN TRIMMED.

B
Y



DERBY:

RICHARD KERNE, IRON GATE;
RICHARDSON AND SON, LONDON, DUBLIN, AND DERRY.

1851.

110. d. 456.

PREFACE.

The plan of the following history is found in Dean Swift's "Tale of a Tub;" his language has been used as much as possible, because of its truly English style. Many plans were previously suggested to the mind relative to the position assumed by Methodism; the daring front with which it appeared, and the features it put on. On looking at the subject, it was found, the countenance of John Wesley was changed for a huge mask. After a closer view, instead of the little unassuming Reformer of the 18th century, there was a stuffed Guy, after the fashion of the Guildhall Gog and Magog. The dress of this figure was anything but the dress of the original. Upon examination, a close resemblance was seen between it and the costume of modern Italy. The Dean's "Tale" at once came into the mind. Being somewhat acquainted with it, the following history was soon made out.

Before this narrative was written, it was determined to present to the public—not gratis—an historical, philosophical, metaphorical discourse, on the town and country houses of the heroes of the following story. How the town residence was decorated with architectural skill, to keep up appearances with the world; how the most was made of a little space, for plantations to hide the family mansion from the public view, and the way this house became mortgaged to a certain lord. How tickets were sold at the porter's gates, and admirers of the grounds admitted on the walks. How foxes increased on the country estates; the methods adopted to preserve the game, and get the best sent up to town. How poachers frequented the grounds, worried the foxes, got into the preserves, killed the game, and carried all they shot clean off.

But such a work would be too deep for modern intelligence. It could only be read fasting. Such a tax would be too great for ordinary constitutions. Importations of intellectualisms must be many and frequent first, with Germanised English, cut and shaped to English lips, mouths

and throats. Popular Educations, Tracts and Essays for the Times, Letter and Early Day Pamphlets, church decorations, with lighted candles, wooden crosses, singing boys, and surplices. Popes' bulls, or briefs, Cardinals' red stockings, foreign bishops' pastorals, winking images, limbs of saints, never known or enquired after, and such like specimens of high and low art, must become far more general before such a production would be received with any benefit to the reader or writer, printer or publisher.

Such being the case, I determined to creep into a nook of Dean Swift's skull, and with the aid of his preservers, as the reader will perceive, look out through his eyes, and speak through his mouth, except at times, to give the Dean a little breathing time, I speak through my own. In this way we stand related to each other, by taking turn and turn about.

A great similarity will be seen in ecclesiastical systems presided over by one man. The one man system ever has been, and in the present state of human nature, can only continue by a process of tyranny. Elevate a man above his fellows, and as soon as he can get the chance he will use big words, and back them with his authority, little or great as the case may be, whether Pope or Patriarch, Cardinal or Archbishop, Bishop or President. The one man system, in ecclesiastical matters, has had its time; the longest day is past, and each succeeding will get less, until the shortest comes.

The characters introduced into the following narrative, must not be taken, even by the sour and ill-natured, as referring to private individuals, but to embodied representations connected with a public body in the commonwealth. If persons come before the world with certain names, and occupy places which command public attention, their names and actions are their own, not the historian of their deeds. Such individuals cannot but be pleased when called by their right names, and satisfied when their exploits are described.

Events are recorded as they took place, if a different history be desired, the case is clear, the parties concerned have only to change their hand, and alter their movements for the future.

The best of men are often badly represented in their descendants. The purest systems, after a time, become the

most corrupted. These corruptions begin at the worst part of the body, * get to the weakest, † and in the end reach to the extremities ‡ The entire body becomes diseased To effect a remedy, in this case, requires the most powerful physic, § provided the constitution can bear it; if not, then death is the only relief. The sick man wracked with pain, not knowing how soon his breath may leave him, does not waste time in looking at the physician, or stop to ask a number of questions about the contents of the mixture in his hand. He has no time nor will for such things; in the hope of relief he swallows the dose, and composes himself, with the hope of speedy recovery. Desperate cases are to be treated as such. Hercules, to purge the stables of Angias, changed the course of a river. The skill of Æsculapius restored many persons to life. Hippocrates delivered Athens from a dreadful pestilence, for which he received a golden crown. Many said Galen performed his cures by magic, and derived his knowledge from enchantments. Celsus' book of medicine is in every medical school in Europe. Abernethy once recommended a gentleman, who by some mistake had, when drinking in the dark, swallowed a mouse, to go home and swallow the cat, since puss is such a mouser. It is said a doctor prescribed hot beef steaks for a lady troubled with worms. She had fasted many days; the steaks were not to be eaten but to be smelt, and accordingly the worms followed the scent. Physic has done the world much service. Doctors practice their own method on their patients, and mix for them the medicine to be taken. The physician called in to practise on the desperate case before the reader, is *allegory*, and the physic prescribed is *satire*. For the mixture to operate, it must be taken and taken according to direction, otherwise the skill of the doctor will be defeated, and death will assuredly come.

* Heart.

† Head.

‡ Hands and feet. The hands which do the work and make provision for the constitution.

§ For a thing to take, or be taken, it should be well timed; hence we have Wesley's Pills and Purgations. See the motto on the title-page of the Conference pamphlet of 1849.

INTRODUCTION.

The books which have come down to us, from remote and more recent times, have striking thoughts, and pointed remarks, on men and manners. A point may not be a very inviting subject on which to write. Now a point may be one of two kinds, strong or weak. The weak points, in the books referred to, are seldom noticed; the strong ones are alone able to pierce through and carry off the mind.—A plain proof that the heaps of books which were written at the time of those which have reached us, had no points strong enough to resist the sharp edge and point of the scythe of old Father Time; but having found their proper level were borne off by worms, and buried in the graves of their own dust. A *grave lesson* to all writers without good points. As a good *end* is the aim of every writer for fame, these pages have been well-tempered to the very tip.

Subjects concerning men and manners have always called forth the best writings of the best men. To help on the study of these great subjects, a new college has been projected, where, those only, will be admitted, who have ascertained correctly the length, breadth, and thickness, of their skulls, together with the exact weight of the brains. As the number likely to pass the examination room will be small; the fees to the professors, if any such can be found, are expected to be large. The dress of each department will be very exact, no unnecessary appendages will be allowed; spectacles to be strictly prohibited, especially coloured ones, for these last-mentioned have been known to give more false views, of men and things, than any other means.

Since the subject of dress has been mentioned, it may be worth while to consider its force; and how the persons of one age differ from those of another, merely by dress. Fashions vary according to country and climate, times, taste, and age. Every variety is seen, from the soft silks of Persia, to the warm furs of Greenland. The rich embroidered flowing robe of the east, and the sombre suit of the gentlemen of the west. The farthingale of the days of

Miss Queen Bess, the brocade petticoat, in the time of Queen Anne, and the dress, with long body, close sleeves, high neck, and graceful skirt, now worn by all who can get it. The long robes of the infant; and the *shorts* of three score years and ten. The wooer, primed with scent and starch, and the surly old bachelor, who never condescends to brush his hat.

Such is the force of fashion, that it becomes necessary to use a delicate hand in making an attempt to touch it. There is a dress for the mind as well as the body. It has its gay as well as its sombre suit. A winter and summer dress. Bearskins in the hottest summer in the torrid zone, would be as much out of place, as a light flowing garment, if worn by an Esquimaux in the middle of a winter in the north. From the wardrobe of fashion the mind should select its proper dress. An unsuitable *suit* makes the wearer look ridiculous. The mind dressed in unseemly costume breaks down beneath the weight. This projected college has to determine the fashions for the mental regions. These parts of the world have to be reduced to order; there has been strange work in these districts of late. The candidates when found and brought together will have to begin to work.

In the following history it will be seen how fashion holds the rule. How men, to keep up appearances, may take up with dress not in keeping with their order; but when the evil has been found out, with patience and good temper, how the wrong may be corrected, and the young gentlemen's coats brought back to the *first style*.

A fashion just out sets all the world a spinning. Gentle reader, have you never felt the wrong inflicted on you by fashion, in handing you over to the iron hand of destiny, and condemning you through life to wear upon your head that piece of dress commonly called a hat? Have you not felt it to be too hot in summer, and too cold in winter? Have you not been afraid of losing your ears when the wind has been very keen? Has not your hat made you the laughing-stock of children, and every passer-by, when a gust of wind has taken you round some sharp corner, and blown it far away, and which you have not been able to get again until the fur from the edges has been blown still farther off? It is proposed to remedy this evil by the invention of a new hat—not a chimney-top—but a hat for all the