HISTORY OF METHODISM.

THE HISTORY

OF THE

Religious Movement of the Eighteenth Century,

CALLED

METHODISM.

BY

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VOLUME II.

From Death of Whitefield to Death of Wesley.

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PREFACE.

THE present volume concludes the most important part of my task—The Life and Times of Wesley. It was promised in the preface to the first volume that this work should be "the fullest Life and Times" of the great Methodist Founder yet published; the reader must judge of the spirit and style with which the promise has been fulfilled; but I have hope that he will acquit it of presumption, so far as the extent of research and of details is concerned.

As I have proposed to write a complete History of Methodism, that is to say, exhaustive of all facts essential to its history, details of its statistics and Conference proceedings are given from year to year, except such as could be referred, for better classification, to the concluding book of this volume, which will be found to contain not so much general remarks or dissertation as important historical facts reserved from the course of the narrative for more summary treatment. No adequate estimate of Wesley or his cause can be formed without the materials of the last five chapters. I must particularly bespeak the attention of the reader to the last chapter. I have laboured to make the work a standard for reference, in respect to all important dates, proceedings of Methodist ecclesiastical bodies, decisions of theological questions, numerical returns, and other similar details, and trust that it will be found in these respects a convenient library book for Methodist clergymen and historical students.

The hope is also indulged that the catholic spirit which has been acknowledged to characterize the first volume, will be found equally in this. Severe polemical strifes are narrated, but I have

attempted to record them as an historian and a Christian, not as a polemic. I have not written for Methodists alone, but to meet, so far as I have been able, an acknowledged want of the literary and religious commonwealths at large.

I am gratefully obliged to Rev. President M'Clintock, of Troy University, Rev. Dr. Holdich, of the American Bible Society, R. A. West, Esq., of the Commercial Advertiser, and S. B. Wickens, Esq., of the Methodist Book Concern, for thorough revisions of the proofs, and for important suggestions.

CONTENTS.

BOOK V.

FROM THE DEATH OF WHITEFIELD TO THE DEATH OF WESLEY, 1770–1791.