

immediately after preaching, and reached Old Meldrum about ten. A servant of Lady Banff's was waiting for us there, who desired I would take post-horses to Forglen. In two hours we reached an inn, which, the servant told us, was four little miles from her house. So we made the best of our way, and got thither in exactly three hours. All the family received us with the most cordial affection. At seven I preached to a small congregation, all of whom were seriously attentive, and some, I believe, deeply affected.

Forglen House, a fifteenth-century house rebuilt in 1842, standing on the bank of the Deveron, is the seat of the Abercrombie family, a seventeenth-century baronetcy. The widowed Lady Banff was the mother of Sir George's wife.

14th May 1784. About two I read prayers and preached in the Episcopal Chapel at Banff, one of the neatest towns in the kingdom. About ten I preached in Lady Banff's dining-room at Forglen, to a very serious though genteel congregation; and afterwards spent a most agreeable evening in the lovely family.

It seems probable that Lady Banff and Wesley had met some years previously when in May 1776 he was invited to supper, at Banff, by Mrs. Gordon, the Admiral's widow. "There I found five or six as agreeable women as I have seen in the kingdom; and I know not when I have spent two or three hours with greater satisfaction."

In the *Life of the Countess of Huntingdon*, I, 101, we read of "pious females of rank and influence" who established a meeting for prayer and reading the Scriptures, to be held alternately at each other's houses, which continued to be well attended, and singularly useful for many years. It was strictly confined to a very select circle of women in high life. Lady Banff is mentioned as a valuable member at one time of this select band. F.F.B.

WESLEY AND JOHN KING: THREE LITTLE-KNOWN LETTERS.

In his search for material for *The Letters of John Wesley: Standard Edition* the Rev. John Telford searched far and wide. Many of the letters there printed are only known from their previous publication in some scarce book or *Methodist Magazine*. It was inevitable, perhaps, that some already published letters should be missed in this attempt to collect them all. Even the portion of one in the *Arminian Magazine* for 1779 has been missed. We are able to add three letters to the standard collection from the appendix to the *Memorials of the Rev. William Toase*, published by the Wesleyan Conference Office in 1874. Toase

was the nephew of John King, and wrote his biography for the *Methodist Magazine* in 1824. King was born at Guisborough, on June 11th, 1752, and was a Local Preacher for about twelve years before he entered the itinerant ministry in 1783. He died Dec. 9th, 1822. Wesley appears to have found him a little difficult to deal with, for most of his letters to King are rather short and sharp, except when he expands a little over the welfare of his beloved Adam Clarke.

So far there have been printed in the *Standard Letters* five to John King, three in 1787 (dated Feb. 16, April 21, and Oct. 31), and two in 1790 (dated July 3, and July 31). Parts of these are given in Toase's biography of King. We can now add the following three:—

I.

Alnwick, June 1st, 1786.

My Dear Brother,

I could easily contrive one of these two things: either that you should be stationed near your home, or that Ad. Clarke and you should be in the same Circuit. But I do not know how I can contrive both. He and you do well to 'redeem the time'—to improve every hour. Life is short, and a long eternity is at hand.

I am, your affectionate Brother.

(King had been stationed as junior minister to Adam Clarke, the superintendent being John Mason, in the Plymouth Circuit. In the final event he got neither of his wishes. He was stationed by the 1786 Conference at Bradford-on-Avon, very little nearer to his Yorkshire home, and he was separated from Adam Clarke, who went to Jersey.)

II.

London, June 18th, 1788.

My Dear Brother,

My illnesses are seldom long; they rarely last above two or three days.

Wherever the preachers are truly devoted to God, His Word will surely have free course, and sinners will be converted to Him. But what was the matter with J.P., and upon what cause or pretence did he and his Class leave the Society? Should not you strive to bring them back?

I am, your affectionate Friend and Brother,
J. Wesley

(King was now in the Thirsk Circuit, and Wesley had previously written to him, on Oct. 31st, 1787, "If any of the Class-Leaders teaches strange doctrine, he can have no more place among us. Only lovingly admonish him first." Who "J.P." was we cannot say. Ward's history of Thirsk Methodism does not help.)

III.

London, February 27th, 1790.

My Dear Brother,

'They could object nothing.' Yes, do not you remember what is written in Ecclesiasticus, 'Who will trust a man who is not married?' Yet, I should not be at all sorry if all our preachers lay open to the same objection; for, certainly every preacher should be as free as possible from all worldly cares . . .

I do not know but you may be in a larger Circuit; but where there is most labour, there is need of most patience. Beware of valuing yourself too highly. 'He that humbleth himself shall be exalted.' In June I hope to be in your Circuit, and to find you swiftly growing, in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ',

I am, your affectionate,

(It seems obvious that King was contemplating matrimony, and was obeying the Methodist rule in communicating his intentions to Wesley. Possibly Wesley's hint had some effect, for King did not marry until he became a supernumerary, and was thus enabled to have the time and attention to devote himself to a wife!)

In addition to the above letters by John Wesley, the appendix to the *Memorial of William Toase* contains other interesting letters: one from John Pawson to King, four from Henry Moore to William Toase, two from Joseph Sutcliffe to King, three from Mr. Griffith to Toase, and ten letters from Adam Clarke to King. The first six of these letters cover the same period as those when Wesley was writing about Adam Clarke, the years 1786 and 1787.

FRANK BAKER.

JOHN RUSSELL. R.A.

* John Russell was born at Guildford on March 29, 1745. His father was a book and print seller in that town, whose son at an early age showed signs of great artistic gifts, and became one of the most famous painters of the eighteenth century. Lord Ronald Gower, in his preface to the *Life of John Russell, R.A.*, written by Dr. Williamson, says of him that "his portraits have a charm and an individuality that place them on a but slighter artistic level than the far famed portraits of that great trio of artists—Reynolds, Gainsborough, and Romney." His portraits are in many of the great British Galleries, and one of his most charming pictures finds a place