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978-1-108-06420-0 - *Memoirs of the Late Rev. John Wesley: With a Review of his Life and Writings, and a History of Methodism, from its Commencement in 1729, to the Present Time: Volume 3*

John Hampson

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This three-volume account of the life of John Wesley (1703–91) was published in the year of his death. Written by John Hampson (c.1753–1819), a Church of England clergyman and former Methodist preacher, the work also contains a thorough review of Wesley's writings and a history of Methodism. Hampson's excellent overview of contemporary assessments of the preacher is more balanced than John Whitehead's two-volume *Life of the Rev. John Wesley* (1793–6), which has also been reissued in this series. Volume 3 gives an account of Wesley's death, but is predominantly concerned with a critique of Methodist theology, activity and mode of preaching. It gives a measured assessment of Wesley's character and reflects on the opposition to the work's previous volumes displayed by Wesley's executors, highlighting the struggle over his legacy – a matter of great importance in the history of Methodism.

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WITH A REVIEW OF HIS

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By JOHN HAMPSON, A. B.

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THE Executors of Mr Wesley having taken much pains, by notices and advertisements, to prevent the circulation of these Memoirs, or any other account of Mr Wesley, than that which they are now preparing, and which is to be signed by their names, the Public are respectfully informed, that the Rev. Dr. PRIESTLEY, in a letter to a near relation of the Author, has authenticated the correspondence between the Wesleys, which is so frequently alluded to, in these pages: which authentication is gratefully acknowledged, and would have been inserted before the preface, had it not come too late for publication. This correspondence was not in Mr Wesley's possession; consequently is not to be found among his papers.— Whether the account the Executors shall publish, will be found “spurious and hasty” or not, it is too soon to determine. It is hoped, however, nothing of this sort will strike the judicious reader in the present work. Should their account be an impartial one, it is more than the world expects: and in this case, we shall certainly be not a little disappointed.

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