

DCCCCXXIV.—*To the Editor of the Gentleman's Magazine.**

MR. URBAN,

CITY-ROAD, December 24th, 1785.

If you will insert the following in your Magazine, you will oblige your humble servant,

JOHN WESLEY.

THIS morning a friend sent me the Gentleman's Magazine for last May, wherein I find another letter concerning my eldest brother. I am obliged to Mr. Badcock for the candid manner wherein he writes, and wish to follow his pattern in considering the reasons which he urges in defence of what he wrote before. 1. Mr. B. says, "His brother cannot be ignorant that he always bore the character of a Jacobite; a title to which I really believe he had no dislike." Most of those who gave him this title did not distinguish between a Jacobite and a Tory; whereby I mean, "one that believes God, not the people, to be the origin of all civil power." In this sense he was a Tory; so was my father; so am I. But I am no more a Jacobite than I am a Turk; neither was my brother. I have heard him over and over disclaim that character. 2. "But his own daughter affirmed it." Very likely she might; and doubtless she thought him such. Nor is this any wonder, considering how young she was when her father died; especially if she did not know the difference between a Tory and a Jacobite; which may likewise have been the case with Mr. Badcock's friends, if not with Mr. Badcock himself.

3. Mr. W. says, "He never published anything political." This is strictly true. "He never wrote, much less published, one line against the King." He never published one. But I believe he did write those verses entitled "The Regency," and therein, "by obliquely exposing the Regents, exposed the King himself."

In this my brother and I differed in our judgments. I thought, exposing the King's Ministers was one way of exposing the King himself: My brother thought otherwise; and, therefore, without scruple, exposed Sir Robert Walpole, and all other evil Ministers. Of his writing to Sir Robert I never heard before, and cannot easily believe it now.

4. From the moment that my mother heard my brother

* The following Letter should have been inserted, Vol. XIII. p. 411.—EDIT.

and me answer for ourselves, she was ashamed of having paid any regard to the vile misrepresentations which had been made to her after our return from Georgia. She then fully approved both our principles and practice, and soon after removed to my house, and gladly attended all our ministrations, till her spirit returned to God.

DCCCCXXV.—*To Mr. John Cricket.*

MY DEAR BROTHER,

LONDON, *February 10th, 1783.*

MANY years ago, the society at Barnard-Castle, as large as that at Derry, was remarkably dead. When Samuel Meggot, now with God, came to them, he advised them to keep a day of fasting and prayer. A flame broke out, and spread through all the Circuit; nor is it extinguished to this day.

I advise you to do the same at Derry. On Sunday evening reprove strongly their unfaithfulness and unfruitfulness; and desire all that fear God to humble themselves with fasting on the Friday following. I am much inclined to hope, a flame will break out in Londonderry likewise.

But you must immediately resume the form at least of a Methodist society. I positively forbid you or any Preacher to be a Leader: Rather put the most insignificant person in each class to be the Leader of it. And try if you cannot persuade three men, if no more, and three women, to meet in band.

Hope to the end! You shall see better days!

I am

Yours affectionately.

P.S. The plainer you speak the more good you will do. Derry will bear plain dealing. I am just as well as I was forty years ago.

DCCCCXXVI.—*To Mr. John Man, Missionary in Nova-Scotia.*

MY DEAR BROTHER,

LONDON, *June 30th, 1788.*

I AM greatly concerned for the prosperity of the work of God in Nova-Scotia. It seems some way to lie nearer my

heart than even that in the United States: Many of our brethren there are, we may hope, strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might; but I look upon those in the northern provinces to be younger, and tender children, and consequently to stand in need of our most anxious care. I hope all of you that watch over them are exactly of one mind, and of one judgment; that you take care always to speak the same things, and to watch over one another in love.

Mr. Wrey is a workman that need not be ashamed. I am glad to hear of his safe arrival. Although he has not much learning, he has, what is far better, uprightness of heart, and devotedness to God. I doubt not but he and you will be one, and go on your way hand in hand. Whatever opposers you meet with, Calvinists, Papists, Antinomians, or any other, have a particular care that they do not take up too much either of your thoughts or time. You have better work: Keep to your one point, Christ dying for us, and living in us; so will you fulfil the joy of,

My dear brethren,

Your affectionate friend and brother.

TO

THE READER OF THE ARMINIAN MAGAZINE.*

It is usual, I am informed, for the compilers of Magazines to employ the outside covers in acquainting the courteous reader with the beauties and excellencies of what he will find within. I beg him to excuse me from this trouble; from writing a panegyric upon myself. Neither can I desire my friends to do it for me, in their recommendatory letters. I am content this Magazine should stand or fall by its own intrinsic value. If it is a compound of falsehood, ribaldry, and nonsense, let it sink into oblivion. If it contains only the words of truth and soberness, then let it meet with a favourable reception.

* This short Address was inserted on the cover of the first number of the Arminian Magazine, published in January, 1778.—EDIT.

It is usual, likewise, with Magazine writers, to speak of themselves in the plural number: "WE will do thus." And indeed it is the general custom of great men so to do. But I am a little one. Let me then be excused in this also, and permitted to speak as I am accustomed to do.

LEWISHAM,

JOHN WESLEY.

November 24, 1777.

It will easily be observed, that this Magazine contains fewer articles than any other. This is not by accident, but design. I have frequently been disgusted by the many bits and scraps of various kinds which make up a great part of most publications of this nature. Before one has well entered upon any subject, it is at an end, and referred to the next number: A mere trick to decoy the reader to buy another and another number. On the contrary, I shall endeavour to begin and conclude as many things as possible in each number: And with regard to taking the numbers that follow, let every reader use his own discretion.

AN ANSWER

TO

SEVERAL OBJECTIONS AGAINST "THE ARMINIAN MAGAZINE."

IN A LETTER TO A FRIEND.*

DEAR SIR,

LONDONDERRY, *June 5th, 1778.*

I HAVE a long letter from an anonymous correspondent respecting the Arminian Magazine. It appears to be wrote with a friendly design, and in an excellent spirit. The objections mentioned therein seem to be partly his own, partly repeated from others.

* This letter was printed in the form of a tract, and stitched up with the first volume of the Arminian Magazine.—EDIT.

The first is, "It is too short. Some other Magazines are almost as long again. It is true, there are as many pages as in others; but there are not so many lines in a page; not so many by ten or twelve as in the *Spiritual Magazine*."

I answer, by confessing the charge. It is undeniably true, that it does not contain so many lines, either in prose or verse, as the *Spiritual Magazine*. And

Tonson, who is himself a wit,
Weighs writers' merits by the sheet.

So do thousands besides; But I do not write for these. I write for those who judge of books, not by the quantity, but by the quality, of them; who do not ask how long, but how good, they are. I spare both the reader's time and my own, by couching the sense in as few words as I can. Those who prefer the dealers in many words may find them on every side: And from these they may have, not only as much more, but ten times as much, for their money.

A second objection is, "Here is not variety enough." I answer, Here is all the variety I promised: I promised, the bulk of the Magazine (as the very title implies) should treat of universal redemption. And hence you had reason to expect that the greatest part of every number would turn on that single point. Do you blame me for keeping close to my point? for not rambling from my subject? It is not my manner. I do not aim at it. Whether in speaking or writing, I endeavour to avoid this kind of variety, and to keep one thing always in view.

"But there is not variety in the historical part." But what do you mean? Would you have me insert bits and scraps of history? or give in each number part of the Life of one man, and part of that of another? I never proposed this. I think it far better to select a few of the best Lives I know, and to go entirely through one before I enter upon another.

In the letters there is certainly as much variety as any reasonable man can expect. Indeed they are all serious; and they all relate to one thing,—the work of God in the heart. But this also was what I promised at first; what I proposed from the beginning.

"But would it not be advisable to procure and print letters from various correspondents?" Yes; if I could hope for

better than I have already: But I have no hope of this. I believe, very many of those that now lie by me will not easily be excelled, either in point of sentiment or expression, by any other I can receive.

"But would not many of your correspondents propose objections, and thereby occasion more variety?" They would: But that is a kind of variety which I peculiarly dislike. I have studiously avoided it from the beginning, and shall do to the end, of the work. I design going straight on in proving my point, without turning aside to the right hand or the left.

"But you have no pictures or other decorations or embellishments, which other Magazines have." It is true. But I will tell you what I have,—if you cannot find it out without telling,—such paper as no Magazine in England was ever printed upon before. Consider! this one single article costs more than all their fine embellishments put together.

Permit me to say, once for all: To men of taste, men of sense, and men of piety, I am in hopes this Magazine will recommend itself, without any but its own intrinsic ornaments. But if any of these will inform me how it may be improved, consistently with my first design, the favour will be thankfully acknowledged by,

Dear Sir,

Your affectionate servant,

JOHN WESLEY.