

....In a little book of about two hundred pages the Rev. Anthony Atwood discusses the *Causes of the Marvelous Success of Methodism*, (Philadelphia: National Publishing Association for the Promotion of Holiness.) He names four causes, the circuit system, experimental religion, revivals, camp-meetings and free-seats, free salvation and holiness. These are the subjects of four chapters, and a second part is added concerning the future of Methodism. We are not strongly impressed with the skill and ability of the presentation of the subject treated in the first half of the book. The order is not logical, the conception is inadequate, and the tone seems a little querulous. The author looks, as is natural to an aged man, with satisfaction to the past. He likes the type of piety of fifty years ago and believes the conversions then were more convincing than now. He describes a conversion of upward of fifty years ago, which was so convincing as to silence all objectors. A man who had long sought and earnestly for a change of heart, found it suddenly on entering the church where services were in progress. He "spread out his arms" and "hastened up the aisle, crying, with a full voice: 'I met my Saviour at that door. He saved me there and then. I know he did.'" The people rose to their feet and wept audibly, and the convert, "standing in the chancel," told "his story" and shouted "with all his might." He then inquired for Mr. Atwood, who had been instrumental in leading him to Christ, and both of them having ascended into the pulpit, "he threw his arm around me," says the author, "giving me a loving squeeze, lifting me from the floor." A great revival followed. Mr. Atwood has, we judge, been something of a controversialist in his day. He says some writers, of other Churches, affect to know little of Methodism, but in "most cases this is not true." The writer himself "has had many

conflicts with them on both doctrines and Christian experience."

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