

Apostate Will

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The underwritten Lines were composed by Chatterton when he was
 little more than 11 years old, as appears from the following
 MSS, extracted from his Father's MS in a blank leaf of a Se-
 mily Bible Vg. Thomas the Son of Tho. & Sarah
 Chatterton, was born Nov^r 20. 1752, on a Monday Night be-
 tween 6 & 7 O'Clock, & was baptiz'd at Saint Mary Redcliff
 Church the 1 Day of January following. Full Moon 22^d
 at 8 in the Afternoon
 N.B. He died August 24. 1770 in London.
 The original still remains in his Mother's possession, from
 whence I copied it in 1777. And is supposed to be his first
 Poetical Composition. J. Catcott. In MSS. Page 49.

Apostate Will

In Days of yore when Wesley's power
 Gathered men strength by every hour,
 Apostate Will just sunk in Trade
 Resolv'd his bargain should be made,
 Then wait to Wesley he repairs,
 And puts on grave & solemn airs,
 Then thus the pious Man address'd
 Good Sir, I think your Doctrine best
 Your Servant will a Wesley be,
 Therefore the Principles teach me.
 The Preacher then Instruction gave,
 How he in this World should behave
 He hears, assents, and give a nod,
 Says every words the words of God.

Then lifting his dissembling eyes,
 How blessed is this Sect he cries
 Nor Bingham, Young, nor Stillingfleet
 Shall make me from this Sect retreat,
 He then his Circumstances declar'd
 How hardly matters with him fair'd;
 Begg'd him next meeting for to make
 A small Collection for his sake,
 The Preacher said do not repine
 The whole Collection shall be thine,
 With looks demure, & cringing bows,
 About his business strait he goes,
 His outward Acts were grave and sober,
 The Methodist appear'd in him,
 But to his outward what it will,
 His Heart was an Apostate's still.
 He'd oft profess on hallow'd Flame,
 And ev'ry where, preach'd Wesley's Name.
 He was a Treacher and not not,
 As long as Money could be got;
 He'd oft profess with holy fire
 The Labourer's worthy of his hire.
 It happen'd once upon a time
 When all his works were in its prime
 A noble Place appear'd in view
 Then to the Methodists adieu.

A Methodist no more he'll be
 The Protestants arms he'd for he;
 Then to the Curate strait he ran
 And thus address'd the reverend Man
 I was a Methodist too true,
 With penitence I turn to you;
 O that it were your bounteous will
 That I the vacant place might fill
 With Justice I'd myself acquit,
 Do ev'ry thing that's right and fit;
 The Curate straightway gave consent,
 To take the place he quickly went
 Accordingly he took the place
 And keeps it with dissembled grace.
 Tho. Chatterton April 14. 1764

Mrs. Chatterton entered M^r. Colston's School 3 August 1760.
 And left it July 1st 1767. Via Mrs. Bingham's Book Box. Esq.