

was adopted by Wesley as a means ready to his hand for the transmission or extension of his own superintendence. It is not the Wesleyan system, but Wesley that calls for our admiration. Almost any organization may be efficient, if you have a powerful man to administer it. His plan once formed, Wesley was as steadfast as the sun and as sure as the seasons. He was never discouraged, never impatient at the slowness of results. There was no vacillation or reversal in his purpose, nothing spasmodic or fitful in his activity; but for fifty years, with fixed, unswerving will, he wrought out his mission. He met every exigency as it arose, adapted old means to new ends, or, when convinced that it was necessary, with quick decision, though reluctantly, cut whatever tie of tradition thwarted or fettered the work he felt called to do. Where else can there be found a religious movement with results so widespread and permanent, directed so entirely by one man, without influential friends and in spite of formidable opposition, and bearing the impress of his personality in all its doctrines, its methods, and its spirit? To Wesley's keen, practical sagacity, driven by such quiet energy of will, nothing was impossible. He had the gift to achieve.

But it is the peculiar glory of Wesley that this dominating will was joined with an almost absolutely unselfish benevolence. The combination is by no means usual. For no temptations are so subtle or so strong as those that accompany the consciousness of superior power. The great general or statesman is always liable to have a little contempt for the masses whose wills are so pliant to his own. The masters of men are seldom the lovers of men. But it would be