



"HE ORGANIZED THE FIRST DISPENSARIES AND FIRST BENEVOLENT LOAN SOCIETIES FOR THE POOR."

entreat him to escape disguised as a woman. He declined this doubtful method. More than a thousand men joined in the assault. "Such threatenings, curses, blasphemies," writes Wesley, "I have never heard."

The persecuted Methodists knelt down in prayer to await the assault. A lot of ruffians were over their heads removing the tiles from the roof. A constable appeared and demanded a pledge that the preachers should return no more. This was refused, when they were conducted out of the town and went on their way rejoicing. Amid these tumultuous scenes John Wesley declares that "ten thousand cares were of no more inconvenience to him than so many hairs on his head." His countenance, as well as conversation, expressed an habitual gaiety of heart. He in a remarkable degree anticipated many of the philanthropic institutions of later times. He was the pioneer in supplying cheap literature for the people. He organized the first dispensaries and first benevolent loan societies for the poor.

The Wesley brothers had hitherto been too busy in the service of

God, and too unsettled in their mode of life, to marry. At length, in his forty-first year, Charles Wesley married the daughter of a Welsh squire, a lady of culture, refinement, and piety. John Wesley entertained a sincere affection for a pious Methodist matron, Mrs. Grace Murray. She, however, became the wife of one of his lay helpers, and Wesley, in his forty-ninth year, married a Mrs. Vézelle, a widow lady of wealth and intelligence, but of intolerably jealous disposition. Her ample property was secured to herself, and she was made to understand that the great evangelist was not to abate a jot of his constant labour and travel. She soon grew tired of his wandering life. For twenty years she persecuted him with unfounded suspicions and intolerable annoyances. His letters were full of patience and tenderness. When she finally left him, with the assurance that she would never return, he wrote in his journal: "*Non eam reliqui, non dimissi, non revocabo*"—(I did not forsake her, I did not dismiss her, I will not recall her).

John Wesley made many visits to Ireland, and showed much sym-