

lington was born in Dublin, in 1763. He received his education successively at Eton, Brighton, and in the Military Seminary of Angers in France. He obtained his first commission in 1787, being then in his 18th year, his captivity four years afterwards; and his majority in 1798. In 1790, when just come of age, he sat for the family borough of Trim in the Irish Parliament. In 1794, when he was in his twenty-sixth year, he was entrusted with his first command, and commenced active service under the Duke of York, in the war then waged by England against France. In 1797 he arrived in India, where he first distinguished himself in the maintenance and extension of our possessions in that country.—From Asia he was recalled at the period when the Continental Powers were struck down by the conquering sword of Napoleon, and began in the Peninsula that career of military glory which culminated in the crowning triumph of Waterloo.—It is not our purpose to attempt either an account of the life or an analysis of the character of the great Duke. The distinctive feature of the Duke's public life was a paramount sense of his duty to the State. To this he was ready at all times to sacrifice alike his convictions and his convenience. Hence expediency became his guiding principle as a statesman; and our admiration of the fidelity and firmness, the disinterestedness and patriotism which shone so conspicuously in his character, must not be allowed to blind us to such a fatal defect in his public policy. "If the world," he said on one occasion, "were governed by principles, nothing would be more easy than to conduct even the greatest affairs; but in all circumstances, the duty of a wise man is to choose the lesser of any two difficulties which beset him." It was in accordance with this view that the Duke's Administration passed the Act of 1829, admitting Roman Catholics into Parliament, which we rather think he had reason ultimately to regret.—But in this the time of public sorrow and lamentation for a nation's loss, we have no inclination to dwell upon these specks of character which shade even the most brilliant renown. We desire only to remember the great Duke as the instrument employed by a gracious Providence to give peace to Europe and the world, and security and independence to our native land—as the most eminent military commander of this or any other age, who from Assaye to Waterloo covered his country with the glory of a insured victories—who, during the thirty-seven years of peace which have followed his latest triumph, has adorned the Senate by his wisdom and by his virtues—who was the confidential councillor of our beloved Sovereign—the mediator between adverse factions in the State,—and the idol of every class and rank of the community, which mourns his loss with a depth of real sorrow, such as only could be called forth by the recollection of services so inestimable, of patriotism so unselfish, and of a character so noble and elevated, as those of the great and good Duke of Wellington.

The Duke was the thirty-second in direct descent from ALFRED THE GREAT, and twenty-fifth from WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR. He was a descendant in an unbroken line of the Royal House of Plantagenet, and consequently akin, though remotely, to the Queen.

From the number of the *Guardian*, for October 1st, we copy the following interesting extract of a letter, addressed by the Duke of Wellington to Lord Aberdeen, which shows conclusively that he was in favour of granting what was demanded in the "claim of rights," of the Church of Scotland. Had his advice been taken, the disruption would have been prevented:—

"If these were the times in which moderate council would be attended to, I should say that it would not be difficult to settle this question.

But what I would recommend to the Kirk to consider is, that their utility, as an Establishment, depends in a great measure upon their intimate connection with the State. They cannot be an Establishment without such an union—every care being taken to preserve their exclusive spiritual power and to secure it to them. But in the exercise of this exclusive power, it is very desirable, and not inconsistent with former practice, that the Kirk should state clearly the rule which it is proposed to adopt, that that rule should be made the subject of an Act of Parliament, and should regulate all questions in future." With reference to these pregnant sentences, Dr Buchanan well remarks, "His proposal is the very ideal of the way in which, according to the system of Church and State in Scotland, legislation in regard to matters ecclesiastical, ought to proceed. The singular and unhappy circumstance, however, connected with the incident, is this—that Lord Aberdeen himself took a course the very opposite of that which the Duke recommended. Disregarding the 'rule' proposed by the Church, his Lordship framed, without consulting the Church at all, a rule of his own, and endeavoured to force it down the Church's throat. No wonder that the effect was to widen instead of closing the breach, and that the whole attempt ended in producing among both parties increased irritation and disgust."

THE BIBLE IN FRANCE.

Extract, letter from Mr. de Pressense Paris, July 1, 1852.

"As for you, you are men of the Bible: you never speak of aught else. You certainly are not men of this world. Whether Louis Napoleon or Louis Philippe sits upon the throne, it matters very little to you. You are comical fellows; you seem as if you belonged neither to the Republic, to the Empire, or to any thing else; and to look at you, and to listen to you, one might almost say that God is always before you, and that it is He who governs. How comes this? Explain yourselves."

I say that these observations have caused me pleasure, since they apply without distinction to all our agents; and because they prove that they keep themselves aloof from political discussions, which might be calculated to compromise their work. But they occasion me peculiar pleasure from the fact that they also apply, as this has but quite recently been the case, to five or six of our new Colporteurs, with whose advanced political opinions I was acquainted; and you know that by this term I advanced we here understand Socialist opinions, in however slight a degree. You are well aware that our Colporteurs, with a very few exceptions, belong to the labouring classes, among whom these opinions are most prevalent. I will add, that their conversion from Catholicism to Protestantism is a proof that they are men of a decided independence of character, who, from their want of education, are, more than others, exposed to fall into extremes. It is always this that excites my greatest solicitude, when setting a fresh candidate to the work, and this has already often prevented my engaging young men full of zeal, and endowed with undeniable qualities, for the work of colportage. The necessity of sustaining a controversy to the last, and especially with priests, is another danger which I greatly dread for those but recently converted. I have ever been strongly opposed to that low species of controversy which always results in exciting the worst passions, and never in convincing, or affecting the consciences; but now, more than ever, do I discountenance controversy, and I entreat, our friends to abstain from it altogether. You will, I am sure, learn this with satisfaction; and, I may add, that in the journals of Colporteurs I am constantly meeting with fresh proofs that they have avoided the kind of controversy I am reproaching with a remarkable degree of tact

and skill. Thus, when the efficacy of the intercession of the Virgin Mary is prominently brought forward, instead of speaking, as is frequently done, with a certain kind of levity of this holy woman, they set forth the power of the intercession of Jesus Christ as the only intercession of any avail. When people speak to them of the corruption of the priests, and in a manner which shows that these detractors are imbued with such satanic feelings, under which they, in a certain sense, rejoice in iniquity, the Colporteurs, instead of joining chorus with these detractors of the Curés, at once proceed to speak of the corruption of the hearts of all men, and show, by the Gospel, what must be done to be delivered therefrom. Oh! I assure you that the power of the Holy Spirit's operation shows itself in marvellous manners in the facts which I am now mentioning. Did you but know, as I do, the antecedents of the devoted men whom your Society employs in France; if you could witness, as I do, their utter distaste of all that the world admires, and their devotedness to all that the angels in heaven rejoice over; yes, I repeat, could you witness these things, you would more decidedly share with me the conviction, that you are here accomplishing a work, which will, sooner or later, produce a great, a glorious reward. You know that it is always in a Christian sense that I make use of this word.—*Bible Society Reporter.*

The Record.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1852.

KNOX'S COLLEGE—OPENING OF THE SESSION, 1852-53.

On Wednesday, the 14th October, the Ninth Session of the Institution was opened. In the absence of the Rev. Dr. Willis, who had not returned from Britain, the Rev. Professor Esson addressed the assembled students and others who were present.

Professor Esson noticed particularly, the reason for devout thankfulness to God, for the auspicious circumstances in which they were permitted to re-assemble after a pleasant recess—marked by no painful casualty. The Rev. Professor referred to the importance of diligence on the part of the students, in the acquisition of that knowledge which is requisite for the right discharge of their important duties; and urged that, while availing themselves of every facility for improving their minds, they should never forget that learning is really valuable, only in so far as it is pervaded by the religious element, and tends to elevate the thoughts to God; and also stated the importance of consecrating all their powers to His service and glory.

Some valuable directions were given to the students, in reference to their deportment and habits, as well as the prosecution of their studies, in regard to which they were counselled and exhorted to pay especial attention to thorough grounding in the more elementary studies, and to pay particular attention to the study of our own noble language.

Professor Esson referred, with much satisfaction, to the fact, that a student of Knox's College, well qualified to take part in the work of the institution, would, this session, take charge of the classical and mathematical departments. The happy and complimentary reference which