

First Lord of Trade and Secretary of State—the Earl of Dartmouth—stood by their side among the graves, and opened his hospitable mansion for their reception. That night Whitefield administered the sacrament in his house, and the next day, standing on a table beside the door, preached to the multitude that filled the rooms within and thronged the grounds without. Charles Wesley and many zealous Methodists from Bristol and the neighbouring towns hastened to take part in the good work and to share the blessings of those Pentecostal showers.

It was this Lord Dartmouth to whom Cowper refers in the lines,—

“ We boast some rich ones whom the Gospel sways,
And one who wears a coronet and prays.”

His name is commemorated in America by Dartmouth College, of which institution he was a zealous patron. “ They call my Lord Dartmouth an enthusiast,” said George III., who always had a profound respect for religion ; “ but surely he says nothing but what any Christian may and ought to say.”

Through the influence of Lady Huntingdon, the friendship of the Wesleys and Whitefield became firmly cemented. These once estranged but now reconciled friends, unable to coincide in doctrinal opinion, wisely agreed to differ, but kept up to the close of their lives a kindly interchange of Christian courtesies. They formed with each other and with the Countess, their common friend and the peacemaker between them, a sort of formal “ quadruple alliance,” as Charles Wesley called it, whereby they agreed to co-operate in their common work, and to knit more firmly the bonds of Christian fellowship between them.

For John Wesley’s genius for organization, Lady Huntingdon had a profound regard. In this respect, he was much superior to his more eloquent colleague Whitefield. Indeed, the greatest historian of modern times has bestowed on him the eulogy of having had “ a genius for government not inferior to that of Richelieu.” * The permanent and wide-spread organization of Arminian Methodism, as contrasted with the comparatively evanescent results of Whitefield’s labours, is largely the result of Wesley’s superior gifts of ecclesiastical legislation.

* Macaulay—*Review of Southey’s Colloquies.*