

The Marquis Wellesley had long been separated from his wife, and her Ladyship did not accompany him to India. He was married on the 1st of November, 1794, to Hyacinthe Gabrielle Roland, only daughter of Monsieur Pierre Roland. They had had several children, but separated very soon after marriage, without any further issue, and were not afterwards reconciled. Her Ladyship died in 1816, and Lord Wellesley, on the 29th of October, 1825, a second time contracted matrimony, being then at the advanced age of 65. On that occasion he was married to Mariane, daughter of Mr. Richard Caton, and widow of Mr. Robert Patterson. The present Marchioness, who had no family by the Marquis, is a lady of the Bedchamber to the Queen Dowager.

The Marquis, on his return from India, again took part in the proceedings of Parliament, and though he cordially supported the war against Bonaparte, he was by no means a strenuous partisan of all the measures of Mr. Perceval's or even of Lord Liverpool's Government, and gradually evinced that leaning towards what are called liberal politics, which at a later period of life, led to his connexion with the Ministry of Lord Grey, and probably prevented his having any share in the conduct of public affairs when his illustrious brother was at the head of the Government.

In the year 1807, the Duke of Portland being Minister, the King wished Lord Wellesley to be appointed one of the Secretaries of State; but he did not then accept office. In 1809 he took rather a prominent part in vindicating the expedition to Copenhagen, in which, as usual, he eminently distinguished himself. He was soon afterwards appointed Ambassador Extraordinary to the Court of Spain, but was prevented by the discordant opinions upon Spanish affairs in the State councils from embarking soon enough to excite the Spanish Junta to the requisite efforts for opening the campaign. It required but a short residence in Spain to convince him how much the success of any resistance to Bonaparte must depend upon British exertions; his Lordship accordingly insisted on the recall of Cuesta; advised the immediate appointment of a Regency, and a convocation of the Cortes, as the only means of giving the weight of nationality to their proceedings.

Dissensions in the British Cabinet, and the fact that on the Peninsula, military services were more required than diplomatic negotiations, caused the speedy return of the noble Marquis. On the death of the Duke of Portland, the Perceval Government was formed, and the Marquis Wellesley, after considerable negotiation, was prevailed upon to accept the office of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. This he held from the month of December, 1809, till January, 1812, but differing from his colleagues on the Roman Catholic claims, and on other material points, he withdrew from the Government.

On the assassination of Mr. Perceval, which took place in the month of May following, the Prince Regent was evidently anxious that Lord Wellesley should form a part of the new Government then about to be constructed. The noble Marquis was immediately commissioned to assist in forming an Administration, but did not succeed in accomplishing that object, and it was not until the 8th of June that Lord Liverpool could announce in Parliament the fact that he was himself the head of the Government. Shortly after the formation of the new Ministry, Mr. Canning carried in the House of Commons a motion favourable to Roman Catholic claims; a similar motion was made in the Upper House by the Marquis Wellesley on the 1st of July, which was lost by a majority of one, and that one a proxy. His Lordship then remained in opposition for about 10 years, in the early part of which period he repeatedly called the attention of Parliament to the situation in which his illustrious brother was placed in the Peninsula. For want of sufficient co-operation on the part of the Spanish Government, as well as on account of being frequently disappointed respecting the reinforcements which he was taught to look for from this country, the noble Duke struggled rather to maintain a glorious existence by a series of surprising victories than to effect the expulsion of the French. Lord Wellesley described the conduct of the Spanish Government as feeble, irregular, and ill-directed; while he depicted the system adopted by the British Ministers as "timid without prudence, and narrow without economy—profligate without the fruits of expenditure, and slow without the benefits of caution." Early in the spring of the ensuing year he demanded a Parliamentary committee to inquire into the circumstances and result of the last campaign in the Spanish Peninsula; the motion was, however, negatived by a majority of 96.

The next occasion upon which Lord Wellesley took an active part in the business of Parliament, was in the year 1815, when he condemned in unqualified terms the disregard to commercial interests that prevailed in the treaties by which the peace of Europe was then consolidated. The transition from war to peace, and the consequent want of employment, led to much discontent and tumult throughout the country; this was followed by the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, and other restrictive measures. On these occasions the Ministers of the day found in the Marquis an active and formidable opponent.

Lord Wellesley once more came into power as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in 1820, Sir Robert Peel being the Home Secretary. The known sentiments of his lordship upon the subject of Catholic claims made his appointment to the vice-regal government of Ireland extremely unpopular with the Protestant party in that country. The expectations of the Roman Catholics were proportionably raised, and his arrival was converted into a signal for the renewed jealousy and rancour of both parties. The noble Marquis pursued

what was called a conciliatory policy, but this did not protect him from very evident manifestations of public odium, and a daring personal attack was made upon him on his visit to the theatre in Dublin. This led to judicial proceedings, in which the Orange party considered that they obtained a signal triumph; and the reader need hardly be reminded that these events gave rise to several long discussions in Parliament, which were carried on with much heat and animosity.

His Lordship's Government of Ireland commenced with disturbances, insurrections, and conflagrations in the southern counties, which almost reached the suburbs of the capital itself, and these were necessarily followed by the operation of the Insurrection Act and other coercive measures. There never was a period of his life in which Lord Wellesley had greater difficulties to overcome than while governing his native country; and though his Irish Administration was not attended with the same brilliant success which marked his Indian career, yet it cannot be denied, that on most occasions during this period he evinced great wisdom, discretion, and impartiality.

The illness and consequent retirement from public life of the Earl of Liverpool, had no effect upon the position of the noble Marquis as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, for neither Mr. Canning nor Lord Goderich (now Earl of Ripon) were adverse to the claims of the Roman Catholics. The Duke of Wellington was the next Prime Minister. Whatever might be the hopes and intentions of his Grace, he certainly did not think it expedient to begin his administration by making an announcement which he knew must be unpalatable to the King, which he afterwards found the utmost difficulty in prevailing on his Majesty to adopt, and which at that moment he might have found it impossible to render acceptable to the country. The noble Marquis was then withdrawn from the vice-regal government, and continued out of office till the accession to power of Earl Grey, when a second time he became Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, having previously for a short period filled the office of Lord Steward. During the Administration of Sir Robert Peel, 1834-5, Lord Wellesley was of course out of office; but on the formation of the second Melbourne Ministry, in April, in 1835, he accepted the appointment of Lord Chamberlain. His Lordship, however, resigned it in the course of the same year, and never afterwards filled any public employment. He had at that period attained the very advanced age of 77; his health began to decline; with the exception of his brothers, the friends of his early years had withdrawn into retirement or sunk into the grave; and the venerable statesman, who had devoted half a century to the service of three successive Sovereigns—who had lived to see the wisdom of his Indian Government gratefully acknowledged not only by his early contemporaries, but confirmed by subsequent events, and ratified by a succeeding generation—thought the time had at length arrived for that season of repose which it is so desirable should intervene between the cessation of active pursuits and the close of human existence.

Although occasionally differing from his brother the Duke of Wellington on political matters, no interruption of fraternal affection ever took place between these distinguished members of a distinguished family, and his Grace is well known to have been a frequent visitor at Kingston House, where the noble Marquis resided for many years previous to his decease.

His Lordship is the author of *Substance of a Speech in the House of Commons on the Address, 1794*; *Notes relative to the Peace concluded with the Mahrattas*, in which he has given a succinct history of Indian affairs; *Letters to the Government of Fort St. George, relative to the new form of government established there*; *letters to the Directors of the East India Company on the Indian trade, &c.* As his policy led him to lay great stress on the influence of the public press, he is believed to be the author of many other publications of a temporary political character. A collection of his despatches has also been recently published.

Although the title and the surname of the deceased Marquis was Wellesley, yet the family from which he was paternally descended was the ancient house of Cowley or Colley, a member of which was Walter Cowley, Solicitor General for Ireland in 1537. The first Baron Mornington, on succeeding to the estates of his cousin, Garret Wellesley, Esq. assumed the name of that family, which has ever since been borne by his successors in the peerage. The Wellesleys, or, as it was formerly spelt, the Wesleys, were of Anglo-Saxon origin, but the Irish branch was founded by a gentleman who was standard bearer to Henry II., and who accompanied that monarch to Ireland in 1172. He there obtained for his military services large grants of land in the counties of Meath and Kildare, a considerable portion of which his descendants enjoyed up to a recent period.

With the Marquis all those titles which were conferred on himself become extinct, but the Earldom of Mornington, the Viscounty of Wellesley, and the Barony of Mornington, in the peerage of Ireland, descend to his next brother, Lord Maryborough, because these were honours which their father had enjoyed. Lord Maryborough, now Earl of Mornington, is in his 79th year. He assumed the name of Pole on inheriting the estates of his cousin, William Pole, of Ballyfin. His Lordship's eldest son, the Hon. William Pole Tynney Long Wellesley, married, as is well known, the daughter and heiress of Sir James Tynney Long, Bart.; this lady died in 1825, and Mr. Wellesley married in 1828 the third daughter of Colonel Paterson, and relict of Edward Bligh, Esq.