

**THE DUKE OF  
WELLINGTON  
AND THE WHIGS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649354672

The duke of Wellington and the Whigs by Arthur Wellesley Wellington

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Cover @ 2017

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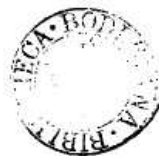
**ARTHUR WELLESLEY WELLINGTON**

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AND THE WHIGS**



**Second Edition,**  
**WITH ADDITIONS AND A POSTSCRIPT.**

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**DUKE OF WELLINGTON**  
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[2s. 6d.]

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DUKE OF WELLINGTON

AND

THE WHIGS.

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LONDON:

J. HATCHARD AND SON, PICCADILLY.

1830.

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LONDON:  
PRINTED BY J. L. COOKE, GREAT QUEEN STREET.



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It has been said, and the observation has also been made in the House of Commons, that the public good is often more advanced by a weak, than by a strong, government. Than this there cannot be a greater error. No government, whatever be its strength, can long resist the force of public opinion in such a country as Great Britain; and a strong administration, whilst it cannot, therefore, be successfully used against the public, is enabled to act vigorously on its behalf. On the other hand, a weak administration, however well-intentioned, has not the means of effecting much that is good, or, what is equally important, of preventing that which is evil.

The schoolmaster is indeed abroad, and all enlightened men must rejoice in the diffusion of knowledge. But the evil spirit, as of old, is abroad also, seeking whom and what to destroy; and a desire has been manifested of

late to level all things to a new standard of imaginary perfection. It is the fashion of the day to innovate : this may too soon grow into a mere passion for change ; and innovation, which has hitherto been limited to the relaxation of restrictions upon civil rights and of fiscal regulations, will, if not guarded against and checked, attack ancient and venerable institutions, and may even at last assault the throne.

Important changes are frequently inevitable at the period when they are made : the stream when first it begins to flow, may without difficulty be diverted from its course ; but every advance that it is allowed to make swells its waters, until at length it becomes impossible to resist the sweeping torrent.

In the present circumstances of this country and of Europe, we require an administration wise enough and strong enough to steer between arbitrary power on the one hand, which sooner or later must inevitably lead to the disgrace and ruin of those who use it, and a tendency to democracy on the other, which, wherever it is permitted to raise its head, will in the end produce tyrannous, and in all likelihood military, despotism.

It appears to us that the Duke of Wellington has proved himself eminently qualified to guide the vessel of the state between these two ex-

tremes, and that the country at large is deeply interested in his continuance at the helm. We are indeed so strongly impressed with this sentiment, that we cannot resist the communication of it to our countrymen. It is the honest conviction of our mind that, whether considered in himself or by comparison with others, he is, in the present critical juncture, peculiarly fitted for the office of Prime Minister of this country.

The difficulty against which the Duke of Wellington has to contend is, not so much the hostility of a united body, as the opposition of several conflicting parties, who, having no view in common but that of self-interested objection to the Ministers, do not themselves furnish materials for the construction of an effective government. This state of things is deeply to be deplored. The opposition, though sufficiently combined to present a stumbling-block to the existing administration, is composed of such discordant elements, as to forbid all reasonable expectation that it could itself administer the affairs of the empire: success therefore in the common object of driving the Ministers from office, could have no other effect than that of creating *vacancies* without providing *successors*.

But surely the disease is not without a remedy. Many of the Whigs objected to the Duke of Wellington's Cabinet at its first formation,