



His Lordship has always been a friend to literature, and literary men. The most profound and pure of living poets—we need scarcely add the name of Wordsworth—has long been the cherished friend of the noble Earl, and is his constant guest at Lowther Castle. Wordsworth's principal poem, "The Excursion," is dedicated to the Earl, in the following fine sonnet:—

" Oft through thy fair domains, illustrious Peer!
In youth I roamed, on youthful pleasures bent;
And mured in rock, cell, or sylvan tent,
Beside swift-flowing Lowther's current clear.
—Now by thy care befriended I appear
Before thee, Lonsdale, and this work present,
A token (may it prove a monument!)
Of high respect, and gratitude sincere.
Gladly would I have waited till my task
Had reached its close; but Life is insecure,
And Hope full oft fallacious as a dream:
Therefore, for what is here produced I ask
Thy favour; trusting that thou wilt not deem
The offering though imperfect, premature."

Lowther
Earl of Lonsdale
1757-1802

William Wilberforce

1759-1833

A.D. 1833.

moments. "I am," says he, "in a very distressed state."—"Yes," was the reply, "but you have your feet on the rock." To which he rejoined, "I do not venture to speak so positively, but I hope I have."—(*Life by his Sons*, v. 373.) A career of virtue, like that of William Wilberforce, ought to have won for him a more firm and tranquil assurance. His life had been spent in doing good. Out of an income of 8000*l.* a-year, he disbursed upwards of 2000*l.* in acts of charity and beneficence. It shows how highly he was esteemed by his Yorkshire constituents, who subscribed 64,445*l.* to defray his expenses in the great election struggle for the county between Milton and Lascelles, in 1809.