

Wesley wasn't much before anyway, and when the revolution began Wesley himself wrote a little article which he sent to his followers in America which he entitled something like this: "Calm Advice to our American Friends", in which he advised them to not get excited about political conditions and to be loyal to the King of England, be loyal to George III, but most of his people in America did not follow his, Wesley's attitude on this point, of loyalty to the King of England. Now there was no longer any Church of England in America. There were about fifteen thousand people in America, in the Methodist group, including eighteen itinerant preachers and several hundred local preachers. They were not ordained, they couldn't baptize, they couldn't officiate at marriage ceremonies, they couldn't administer the communion. For all that they were supposed to go to the Church of England. Now the Church of England is ended in America and it took them a few years to get the Episcopal church started. So Wesley realized when the war was over what was the situation of the people in America of his followers. It couldn't be loyal to the Church of England. It couldn't exist in America any more, and so he asked the Bishop of the Church of England to ordain Methodist preachers for America and when they wouldn't do that he, then, as he had been convinced for fifty years that presbyters and bishops are the same order, that there is no difference between them, that it is perfectly all right, he felt, permissible to follow the government of the Church of England which had presbyters and then bishops over them, but it is not required in Scripture, that according to Scripture the two are of equal value. In other words his ideas of church government were Presbyterian; his idea of church government but Wesley didn't found a church. He founded a movement for enriching the spiritual life, and in that movement he reigned as absolute monarch, putting people into positions or removing them from them, holding all the property entirely in his own hands and in his own name.

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