



THE LATE SIR DAVID BREWSTER.—FROM "THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

Sir David Brewster was born at Jedburgh, on Dec. 11, 1781. His father, who was Rector of the grammar school there, destined him, with his three brothers, for the ministry; he was accordingly sent to the University of Edinburgh, and maintained there several sessions. He passed through the theological classes and took a license as a preacher of the Church of Scotland; but he soon resolved to turn completely to the pursuit of science as his aim in life. He devoted himself principally to the science of optics, in which he was destined to attain the highest reputation. In 1807 scientific honours poured in upon him. He was made LL.D. of Aberdeen University; Oxford

conferred on him the degree of D.C.L.; and Cambridge that of A.M. Next year Dr. Brewster was elected a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, of which he subsequently filled the offices of Secretary, Vice-President, and President—holding the latter office at his death. In the same year, 1807, he took in hand the task of editing the *Edinburgh Encyclopædia*, to which he made a number of important scientific contributions till 1830. Sir D. Brewster invented several ingenious instruments in connection with his favourite science of optics. That most popular toy, the kaleidoscope, we owe to his inventive genius.