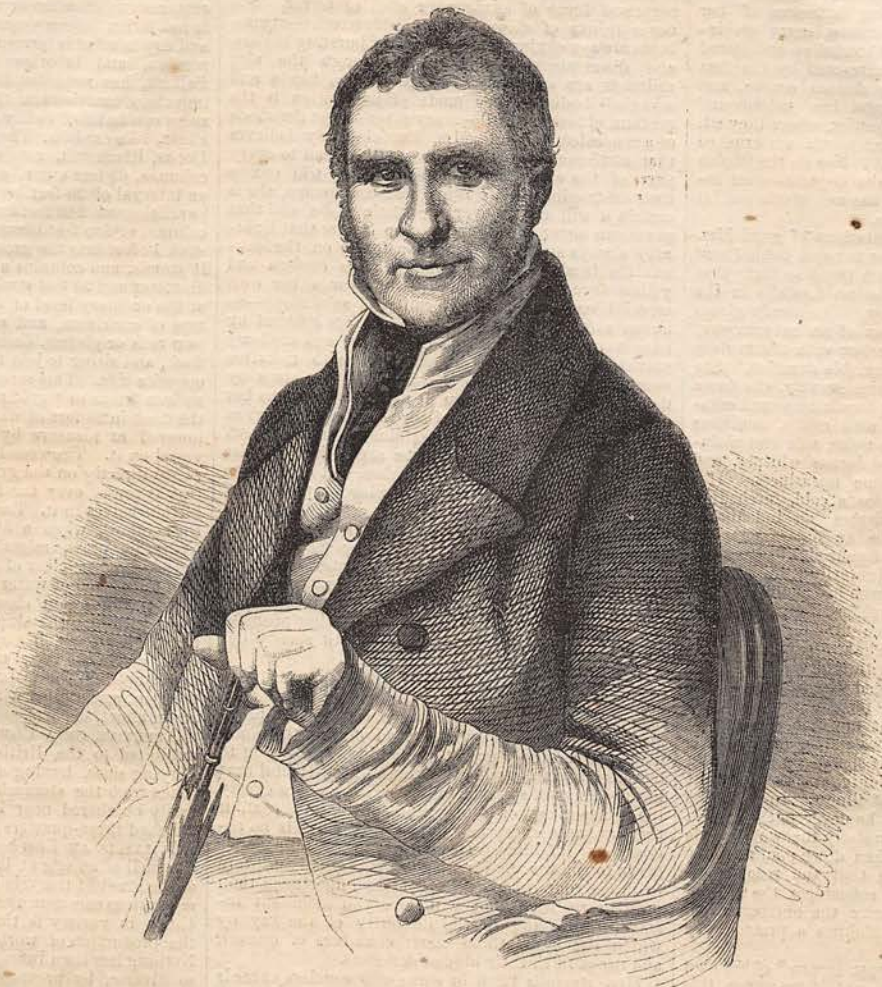


LIVING CELEBRITIES.



THE RIGHT HON. J. W. HENLEY, M.P. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.

degree of strength that may enable it to provide for itself. Some fish which have many enemies, and must be of a certain size when they first make their appearance, that they may contend for existence, have eggs much larger than those of larger fish.

DRILLING APPARATUS.—A patent has been taken out in the United States for a machine whereby the drilling of rocks is rendered less laborious. By turning a crank connected with the drill, it receives a rapid percussive and return action, one rotation producing three direct blows, while at the same time the drill is turned and advanced. Drills of two inches' bore and less can be made by hand; but when exceeding that dimension, horse or steam-power must be applied to the apparatus.

NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC DISCOVERY.—M. Berchtold has, by the action of light, produced in relief, upon a zinc plate, a copy of a bust of the Emperor Napoleon III., from which impressions have been taken, as from an ordinary engraving, produced by a long and laborious process. This is an invaluable advance.

SOLUBLE GLASS.—By order of the Admiralty, some important experiments have lately been made to ascertain the power of soluble glass to render timber fire-proof. The process was as follows:—The timber first received two or three slight coats of the solution—*i. e.*, one volume of a thick solution of silicate of soda, to three volumes of water—which readily penetrated the fibre of the wood; a coating of cream of lime was then given, and, when nearly dry, this was fixed by a stronger solution of glass—*i. e.*, two volumes of the silicate to three volumes of water. The timber which had undergone this process resisted violent heat and flame for hours—the coating did not peel off; when the heat was such as to char the wood, it did not burst into flame, and flame playing around it produced little effect. Rain did not affect

the composition, nor did a stream of water playing continuously on it from an engine; nor, except where the lime was too thick, did violent blows cause it to scale off from the timber. It took two pounds of the soluble glass to coat seven square superficial feet.

RIGHT HON. J. W. HENLEY, M.P.

THE subject of our sketch—who, for the last eighteen years, has distinguished himself as a consistent supporter of Conservative policy in Parliament—is the only son of the late Joseph Henley, Esq., by Ann, daughter of Charles Rooke, Esq. He was born at Waterperry Park, near Wheatley, Oxfordshire, in the year 1793. After receiving the rudiments of education at a grammar-school, in the neighbourhood of the paternal residence, he was removed to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he graduated as B.A. in 1815, subsequently receiving the more important degree of M.A.; and, at a still later period, the honorary degree of D.C.L.

During his collegiate course, Mr. Henley exhibited ability of no common kind; and, by his amiable manners, literary accomplishments, and studious habits, formed many valuable and lasting friendships. On leaving the University, he adopted the ordinary life of a country gentleman—farming, hunting, and acting as a magistrate. In this capacity he was favourably known in the county, and was remarkable for his good sense and sound judgment. Beyond the exercise of his magisterial duties, he took no very important part in public life. He did not seek the honours of St. Stephen's until he felt called upon to do so, in conformity with the wishes of his numerous friends, and in support of the cause with which he was identified.

When Lord Melbourne, in 1841, had recourse, for the strengthening of his party, to a general election, the Conservatives exerted themselves strenuously to return a majority in the house, defeat the Whig ministry, and bring in Sir Robert Peel. Amongst the gentlemen of the Conservative cause elected on that occasion was Mr. Henley. He was returned for Oxfordshire, and contributed his vote and influence towards the overthrow of the Whig Government. When Peel became Prime Minister, Mr. Henley warmly supported him, until that great statesman's altered views, with respect to the corn-laws, produced discord and division in his own camp; and he then voted in the minority, with Bentinck, Disraeli, and other staunch adherents to the protection policy.

In 1852 Mr. Henley accepted office, under the Earl of Derby, as President of the Board of Trade. He held this appointment, and discharged its duties with commendable zeal, throughout the short term during which the Conservative ministry remained in office. On the return of the Earl of Derby to power, in 1858, he resumed his former position, but resigned in the early part of the present year, on account of his being unable to agree with certain clauses of the proposed Reform Bill. As a member of the House of Commons, Mr. Henley has always been distinguished for sincerity. He has never turned aside from the principles which he has held, but has consistently maintained in the House what he has promised on the hustings. In accepting office under the Derby Government, in 1858, he acted under certain reservations; and disapproving of proposed alterations in the suffrage, he immediately resigned. In the personal explanation which he offered on the occasion of his resignation, he said:—"I come now to the question of my own resignation. In the middle of December, as my right hon. friend has told you, we got a pretty clear inkling of the question we should have to decide.