

the city such as has seldom been experienced. His death will be felt not only as the departure of a man universally beloved and esteemed as a munificent public benefactor, as the honoured head of many schemes of usefulness, as the patron of every worthy charity, and the warm supporter of all improvement, but as the last of that highly distinguished band who throughout the first 30 or 40 years of the century reflected more lustre on Edinburgh than did even the great intellectual lights of an elder day, and which included such names as Jeffrey, Playfair, Sidney Smith, Francis Horner, Thomas Brown, Henry Cockburn, and the still surviving Brougham. Our generation can have no such loss again to deplore—no such man is left among us. Lord Murray was in his 81st year. He was raised to the bench in 1839, having previously received the honour of knighthood. He was the second son of Alexander Murray, of Henderland, Lord of Session and Justiciary, by the daughter of Sir Alexander Lindsay, Bart., of Evelick, and niece of the first Earl of Mansfield. Born in Mid-Lothian; he married 1826, Mary, eldest daughter of the late Mr. William Rigby, of Oldfield-hall, Cheshire; was called to the Scottish bar in 1799; succeeded the Right Hon. Francis (afterwards Lord) Jeffrey as Lord Advocate in 1834, but resigned in the November of the same year; was again appointed Lord Advocate in April, 1835; was Recorder of the Great Roll, or Clerk of the Pipe, in the Exchequer Court, Scotland, but resigned that office (a sinecure) some time before his appointment as Lord Advocate; represented the Leith district of burghs in Parliament from 1832 till 1838."

DR. PEACOCK, DEAN OF ELY.

Nov. 8, 1858. At Ely, aged 67, the Very Rev. George Peacock, D.D., Dean of Ely.

George Peacock was fifth and youngest son of the Rev. Thomas Peacock, Perpetual Curate during fifty years of Denton, in the parish of Gainford, near Darlington, Durham, fourteen miles from Richmond in Yorkshire.

He was born on the 9th of April, 1791, at Thornton-hall, Denton, where his father resided and kept a school. In his early boyhood he was rather remarkable as a lad of bold spirit and active habits of body, fond of daring feats of climbing, than for any special love of study. One of these hazardous feats, though it alarmed his father at the time, was significant of his future zeal for architecture—he was found sitting astride

on one of the gargoyles of the ancient hall, with one of his brothers on another.

His reading during this period was desultory, voyages and travels being his favourite study; and it was not till he was sent, in his 17th year, to Mr. Tate's School at Richmond, that his great powers of mind began to appear. Here he applied himself with great diligence to the studies of the school, and with such success, that at the July examination (probably the first examination on the Cambridge model in any provincial school) he was placed alone, by a decided superiority, at the head of his class, in which were two who afterwards became Fellows, and two who became Scholars, of Trinity College.

One of his fellow-scholars, Archdeacon Musgrave, bears witness that George Peacock made himself a sound scholar in Greek and Latin, and in this branch of study, as well as in mathematics, was looked up to as an authority by his fellow-students. From the same witness we learn that during his whole time at Richmond, "though a severe student, he was a joyous, sociable, and genial spirit; always ready for good companionship, for any pleasurable excursion, for manly exercise, and for all innocent mirth and playfulness." He was wont to speak in after life, in terms of affectionate gratitude, of the benefit he had derived from the teaching and conversation of Dr. Tate, and also of Mr. Brass, a native and scholar of Richmond, with whom he read mathematics during the summer of 1809, just before his removal to Trinity College, Cambridge, in October.

Among many whose names are distinguished in the annals of the University, George Peacock was soon known as the first mathematician of his year at Trinity; and on taking the degree of B.A. in 1823, he appeared as Second Wrangler, but second only to Herschel. He was often heard to say that he had rather have been second in that year than first in any other. He also gained the second Smith's Prize for mathematical knowledge.

At the earliest time of sitting for Fellowships (1814), there were only two vacancies, and the two elected were Peacock and Mill. These two, after many years of separation (Mill became Principal of Bishop's College, Calcutta), were again associated in the Chapter of Ely.

In 1815 he was appointed Assistant Tutor and College Lecturer; in 1823 Full Tutor, conjointly with Robert Wilson Evans; and in 1835, Sole Tutor on one "side" of the College. In 1837 he was appointed Laudian Professor of Mathematics.

During twenty-five years passed at Cambridge, in the offices of Tutor and Professor, his efforts were strenuously devoted to the care of his pupils, the promotion of mathematical learning, and the advancement of University reform.

While the ability and clearness of his lectures commanded the attention and admiration of his hearers, he won their hearts by the kindness of his temper and disposition, and by the reasonable advice and warnings administered at critical times. The affectionate gratitude of his pupils was expressed, at his leaving the tutorship in 1839, by the presentation of a beautiful and costly candelabrum, having on its pedestal the figures of Bacon, Barrow, and Newton.

At the time of his entering on the work of tuition, the state of mathematical learning at Cambridge was unfavourably contrasted with the progress of Continental research. Peacock, in conjunction with Herschel, Babbage, and other Cambridge men of his time, devoted his earnest efforts to remedy this defect. He assisted in the translation of the smaller work of Lacroix on Differential and Integral Calculus, published in 1816, and followed by Examples in 1820, which had a rapid sale. In his office of Moderator in 1827, he was the first to employ *officially* the differential notation of the Continental analysts; and his influence as lecturer was strenuously exerted in the same direction. In 1825-6, he contributed to the "Encyclopædia Metropolitana" the article on Arithmetic, truly styled "the most learned work on the history of that subject which exists." This was followed in 1830 by his Treatise on Algebra, an elementary work, based on sound philosophical principles, and well fitted to form the mind of the student to clear logical habits of thought. This book was afterwards, in 1842 and 1845, expanded into two volumes, together forming a more complete treatise. Another work of this period was a Report to the British Association in 1834, "On the recent Progress of certain Branches of Analysis."

In his office of Laudian Professor, he delivered lectures on practical and theoretical astronomy, and afterwards on geometry; and for three successive years attempted to form a class for a course on the principles of analysis, and their application.

Professor Peacock was a member of both the committees, appointed in 1838 and 1843, for the restoration of the Standards of Weight and Measure, destroyed by the burning of the Houses of Parliament.

In 1839 he was promoted, on the recommendation of Lord Melbourne, to the Deanery of Ely, vacant by the death of Dr. Wood, Master of St. John's, a post which afforded scope for the exercise of his powers in the government of his cathedral church, and the management of its property; in the administration of justice; in the regulation of important charitable trusts; in the promotion of education, and of sanitary measures. To these duties a large portion of the closing years of his life was devoted; and the improved health of the city of Ely, as testified by the Reports of the Registrar-General, is the result of works carried on under his presiding care.

Another great work, which occupied his time and thoughts during the nineteen years of his deanery, was the restoration of the cathedral church. He found the fabric in a state requiring very extensive substantial repairs, in parts amounting almost to rebuilding; the result of his labours is known to all England as one of the most judicious and effective restorations of ancient architecture.

His leisure was devoted to literary pursuits. In 1840-1 he published his "Observations on the Constitution and Studies of the University," evincing a deep knowledge of the subject. This led to his appointment, in 1850, as one of the Commission of Inquiry, and of the second Commission in 1855, for carrying out the Act of Parliament, an office in which he took a deep interest, but which was too laborious for his declining strength.

In 1855 he published the *Life*, and, in conjunction with Mr. Leitch, an edition of the works of Dr. Young, a task which had been taken up at intervals for twenty years, and which called forth his great and varied powers.

In 1841 he was elected Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury, and again in 1852; on this occasion he delivered a Latin oration, now published, expressing his strong conviction of the necessity of the Synod to the safety and welfare of the Church. He continued in this office till 1857, exerting his great powers of mind with diligence and judgment to preclude unprofitable discussions, and to direct the debates of his assembly to purposes of practical ability.

His health and strength declined under repeated attacks of bronchitis, aggravated latterly by other complaints. On the 28th of Oct. 1858, he attended a meeting of the University Commission, from a zealous sense of duty, and returned from the meeting to his deathbed.

The Dean married in 1847 Frances Elizabeth, second daughter of William Selwyn, Esq., Q.C., of Richmond, Surrey, who survives him.

His remains were interred, after the choral service for burial in the cathedral, in the cemetery at Ely, in the presence of a large number of friends from Cambridge and from distant parts. Few men have been attended through life by more affectionate regard, and left behind them a memory more cherished, than George Peacock.

THE RADCLIFFE OBSERVER.

Feb. 28. At his residence, the Observatory, Oxford, aged 54, Manuel John Johnson, Esq., M.A., Radcliffe Observer, one of the most eminent astronomers of the day.

Mr. Johnson was educated at Addiscombe, and in 1821 entered the Artillery. The leisure of a ten years' military residence at St. Helena seems to have guided him naturally to the choice of that department of science which he adopted, by discovering to him his own scientific tastes and the line in which his power lay. A superfluity of vacant time was relieved by the amusement of observing the stars. The result of this discovered taste was the erection of the St. Helena Observatory, which was completed in 1829, after four years of preparation, in course of which Mr. Johnson twice visited the Observatory at the Cape, then under the direction of Mr. Fallows. The work had all along received the warm patronage and encouragement of General Alexander Walker, then Governor of St. Helena, whose almost paternal kindness to his young aide-de-camp Mr. Johnson always remembered with great affection. Working here with meridian instruments — for he had no equatorially mounted telescope — he devoted his whole attention to the Southern Hemisphere, and the result of his labours, which appeared in 1835 in the shape of a "Catalogue of 606 Principal Fixed Stars of the Southern Hemisphere," attests his fidelity and industry as director of the Observatory of which he was the founder. This important catalogue is, besides the Madras catalogues, the only source for exact places of the fixed stars situated beyond the reach of the observatories of Europe.

Upon the disbanding of the Artillery corps in St. Helena Mr. Johnson returned to England, and after some months of European travelling, entered at Magdalene-hall, Oxford, where he went through the academical course. He had no sooner

taken his degree than the Radcliffe Observatory became vacant by the death of Mr. Rigaud, and he received the appointment from the trustees. He now recommenced in earnest his astronomical labours, and selected as the region of his observations the circumpolar heavens. Taking the Groombridge Catalogue as his foundation, he re-observed all the stars, more than 4,000, included in that catalogue, and added 1,500 other stars not found in Groombridge. The meridian instruments of the Radcliffe Observatory were for several years almost wholly employed for this work, and volumes 40—53 of the Radcliffe Observatory are filled with observations and special catalogues, all designed for ultimate collection into one large catalogue of circumpolar stars. The extreme value of this work, of which some sheets have already passed through the press, is attested by the letters which Mr. Johnson received from all the observatories of Europe, in which the constant enquiry was when the new work was to appear.

In 1849 the magnificent heliometer was mounted; a splendid instrument, the work of Repsold, of Hamburg, the erection of which Sir Robert Peel had intended to come to Oxford to inaugurate, being only prevented by his own sudden death in 1850. This is undoubtedly the finest instrument for exact differential measures in the world—superior to the only other working one in the world at Königsberg, and far superior to the two smaller ones at Bonn and Pulkowa, which are not worked. The observations with this instrument began very soon after its erection. They include a great number of double stars and other objects for which this instrument is particularly appropriate. The object of these observations was to determine the parallaxes of several fixed stars. In 1853 the first series of heliometer observations was published, together with an investigation of the parallaxes of 61 Cygni, and of the star 1830 Groombridge. Another series came out in 1857, together with an investigation of the parallaxes of Castor (*a* Geminorum), Arcturus (*a* Bootis), Vega (*a* Lyre), and of two other stars called in the volume a and b, which were of importance as means of establishing the parallax of 1830 Groombridge.

The meteorological observations, which started upon a very limited scale at the Radcliffe Observatory, received latterly a great expansion. In the autumn of 1854 the photographic process for registering meteorological observations was introduced, and it has been carried on every year since on an increasing scale. There are now going on, besides barometrical and