

Mr. Sowler, and the first editor, Mr. A. A. Watts. From the commencement of the "Courier" to his dying day Mr. Sowler neither changed his own principles nor the principles of his paper:—

"Unpractis'd he to fawn or seek for power
By doctrines fashion'd to the varying hour."

Whether the fortunes of his party were under cloud or sunshine, his adherence was equally firm, and it is truly gratifying to know that he had his reward in seeing his paper attain a position and acquire a degree of success far transcending any expectations he could originally have formed. To this success it is scarcely necessary to say how much, in the earlier part of its career, his sound judgment and constant attention to the various details which, taken in the aggregate, exercise such influence upon the destiny of a newspaper, must be admitted to have contributed. For some years past he did not take any active part in the management of the "Courier" in any of its departments. But it was not by the establishment of the "Courier" alone that Mr. Sowler promoted the interests of the Conservative party. His personal efforts and labours might always be relied upon; and those who remember the South Lanchashire Conservative Association, and the various county and borough contests in which he took so active a share, cannot fail to appreciate his claims to the grateful respect of the party with which he was associated.

Within the last two or three years his health had evidently been declining, and the loss of a favourite daughter, under peculiarly painful circumstances, had inflicted a severe blow upon his nervous system, which accelerated the progress of disease. It became obvious to his friends a short time ago that he was gradually sinking, but the conclusion was nearer than had been anticipated. On the 18th of November, while a medical friend was making a call at his house, at Bowdon, Mr. Sowler was taken suddenly worse, and almost immediately, on being assisted up-stairs to his bedroom, expired, apparently without a struggle.

JAMES HENRY HURDIS, ESQ.

Nov. 30.—At his residence in Carlton-crescent, Southampton, aged 57, James Henry Hurdis, Esq., a gentleman well known to, and deeply regretted by, a large circle of friends in Lewes and its vicinity.

Mr. Hurdis was descended from an ancient and highly respectable family, who were seated in the early part of the seven-

teenth century at Atherston, near Stratford-upon-Avon, and in the church there several of his progenitors lie buried. The first ancestor who settled in Sussex was the Rev. Thomas Hurdis, of Oxford, and of the Middle Temple, who became Vicar of Ringmer, and died in 1733. That gentleman had, besides several other children, the Rev. Thomas Hurdis (Vicar of Seaford, Canon of Windsor and of Chichester, Sequestrator of Bishopston, Vicar of Amport, in Hampshire, and Private Secretary to the great Duke of Newcastle, of Bishopston and of Halland, Sussex, grandfather of Captain Hurdis, R.N., formerly of Uckfield and now of Brighton), and James Hurdis, Esq., collector of customs at Newhaven. The latter of these was father of the Rev. James Hurdis, D.D., Professor of Poetry in the University of Oxford Rector of Bishopston, author of "The Village Curate," and many other poems, and a friend and correspondent of the poet Cowper. Dr. Hurdis, by his marriage with Harriet Taylor, daughter of Hughes Minet, Esq., of Austin Friars, London, was father of three children, the eldest of whom was the subject of this notice. Dr. Hurdis, who is still remembered as a poet of the Cowper school, resembled his friend both in amiability of manner and in modes of thought and expression.

The amiable poet died in the prime of manhood, in 1801, and his widow, at no long interval, was re-married to Storer Ready, Esq., a medical practitioner, who, with his wife and three step-children, settled at Southampton, where Mr. Hurdis spent ten years of his boyish life at a boarding-school. In 1816 or 1817 he removed, with his mother and family, to France, residing principally at the Château of Bagatelle, near Abbeville, where the pencil, the gun, and the fishing-rod alternately furnished him with occupation. It was from this retreat in a foreign land, that, contrary to the wishes of some of his respectable relatives, but probably in accordance with those of the active-minded and energetic lad himself, he was apprenticed to Charles Heath, the eminent engraver, under whose able guidance he developed that strong feeling for the fine arts which distinguished his later life. It was at this period that he contracted the friendship of George Cruikshank, much of whose humour he imbibed, and whose friendship he subsequently enjoyed. Happily for Mr. Hurdis, there was no *res angustæ domi* to compel him to follow professionally the drudgery of the burin, and his talents, as exercised in after life, were simply those of an amateur of the first class. Many of his years of manhood were spent near

Lewes, particularly at Newick, where he was long resident. With the means and appliances of an "idle gentleman," he never knew what idleness meant. His pencil and etching-needle were constantly at work for the illustration of local personages and local scenes. To cite his multitudinous efforts with *aqua fortis* would be a long task, but it may be well to mention, as favourable specimens of his skill, the portraits of two well-known magistrates, the late Sir George Shiffner, Bart., and the late Mr. Partington, of Offham, as well as views of the *fête* in the Dripping-Pan at Lewes, at the coronation of Queen Victoria in 1838; of Beechland, now the seat of W. H. Blaaw, Esq., in Horsfield's Sussex; of the wreck of the "Nympha" at Beachy-head, (improved from a contemporary plate of more than a century ago); and last, but not least, of the burning of Richard Woodman and his fellow-martyrs in the High-street of Lewes, after the original design of Mr. F. Colvin, whom, with a friendly and fostering care, he had brought forward in the field of art. Several of the volumes of the Sussex Archæological Collections bear witness to the taste and zeal of Mr. Hurdis in the illustration of scenes in his native county, one of the latest labours of his etching-needle being the views of Newhaven and Yainville churches, in the recently published ninth volume of that series.

In private life Mr. Hurdis was greatly esteemed. His cordial spirit and quaint humour endeared him to everybody who had the pleasure of his friendship. Like his friend Cruikshank, his pencil and his needle always pointed in the direction of the comic and the ludicrous, and he seldom wrote a letter of business or friendship in which some accidental blot, or some peculiar twist of his pen, was not turned to account in producing a laughter-exciting *hit*. But while he was thus endowed with a taste for the comic and pleasing side of things, he was by no means wanting in sympathy for the sterner views of humanity. He was a thoroughly generous man; and the means with which Providence had blessed him were always well employed in acts of charity and benevolence. Many an eye that reads this simple record will grow dim with a tear of regret for the loss of one whose hand was ever prompt in the alleviation of suffering and the promotion of whatever was useful and excellent.

A few years since Mr. Hurdis removed from Newick to Southampton, the scene of his earlier days, where he passed his time in the exercise of many social virtues, and recreated himself sometimes in etch-

ing, sometimes in yachting, and more recently in photography, in which he was an adept. His constitution, never robust, gave way early in November. He found himself unable to pursue his usual engagements, and took to his sofa, where he spent many hours of weakness in perusing Dr. Livingstone's "Travels in Africa." On the 8th ult. he was confined to his bed, and his disease, pronounced by his medical attendants to be an inaction of the brain, and a breaking of the nervous system, gained ground up to the time of his decease. "Nothing," says a near relative, "could exceed his patience during his attack, or be more satisfactory than the frame of mind in which he died. He expressed a strong desire to quit this world; said that God had disarmed him of all fear as regarded himself, and prayed with the Rev. Mr. Jennings in a truly Christian spirit." Mr. Hurdis was twice married—first, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Wm. Hutton, Esq., of Gate Burton, co. Lincoln, who died without issue in 1841; and secondly to Charlotte, fifth daughter of Henry Jackson, Esq., of Lewes, who, with her daughter, Harriett Charlotte, Mr. Hurdis's only child, survives to deplore her irreparable loss. M. A. L.

THOMAS BEWES, ESQ.

Nov. 18. At Beaumont, Plymouth, aged 79, Thomas Bewes, Esq.

Mr. Bewes was formerly, in a generation that is past, an active supporter of liberal politics, and in the past struggle of the freeholders of Plymouth against the old corporation he took a lively interest, and contested for popular rights the representation of that borough in parliament. In those days Toryism was all-powerful, and it was his fate, as it was of other good men, to be beaten. Subsequently, on the passing of the Reform Bill, when the borough was thrown open to the choice of our townsmen, who then obtained the franchise, Mr. Bewes, along with the late Mr. Collier, was returned as one of the representatives for the borough, and continued to sit in parliament till Mr. Collier retired, when he resigned also. In 1832 both these gentlemen were returned in the first reformed parliament without opposition; in the second election, in 1835, Sir George Cockburn, a Conservative, tried hard to get in, but was beaten by a majority of 20,—Mr. Bewes having 687 votes, and Sir George 667. There was another election, when Mr. Collier and Mr. Bewes were opposed by Sir George Cockburn and the Hon. Price Blackwood,