

wards to Cambridge. 'A better man, a more zealous and faithful public servant,' says General Williams (in a letter of condolence to surviving friends), 'never lived.'

ROBERT JEFFERYS BROWN, ESQ.

March 3. At Cirencester, after a short illness, aged 65, Robert Jefferys Brown, Esq., a much respected inhabitant of the town, and founder of the Royal Agricultural College.

Mr. Brown had for many years taken a leading part in all matters concerning the welfare and prosperity of the town. He was a man of enlarged and cultivated mind, of extensive acquirements, and of generous and philanthropic sympathies. His benevolence and kindness of heart were exemplary, and his exertions for the well-being and moral and social advancement of his less fortunate brethren were unceasing. But, passing from the numerous local claims which he possessed to our regard, to Robert Jefferys Brown belongs the praise of having been the founder of that great national institution, the Royal Agricultural College. At a meeting of the Fairford and Cirencester Farmers' Club, held on the 14th of November, 1842, Mr. Brown delivered an address on "The Advantages of a Specific Education for Agricultural Pursuits." In this address, Mr. Brown traced the first outline of a scheme for the establishment of a Public School of Agriculture for England, the necessity for which he eloquently and practically enforced. The views then enunciated were cordially adopted by his hearers, and at a subsequent meeting, held on the 29th of December, 1842, Mr. Edw. Bowly in the chair, a resolution embodying Mr. Brown's scheme was unanimously agreed to, and an address to the public was issued. Earl Bathurst at once gave the sanction of his name to the undertaking, which rapidly gained ground in public favour, and at an influential public meeting held at the King's Head Hotel, on the 22nd of April, 1844, his Lordship in the chair, the institution was established. A royal charter was obtained, a farm was taken, an admirable collegiate edifice was erected, and, though not without undergoing many vicissitudes and trials, an institution has been founded of which England may well boast, and which has and will confer inestimable advantages on the agriculture of this country and the world. We are aware that others may justly claim the merit of having assisted largely in this good work, but it is to our honoured fellow-townsmen, now, unhappily, deceased, that we are pri-

marily indebted. We could extend our remarks—we could recapitulate numerous other acts which will long be gratefully remembered by his neighbours and friends—but it is good to say of a Cirencester worthy, that, as the founder of the Royal Agricultural College alone, Robert Jefferys Brown has earned a nation's gratitude. A vacancy in the directorship of the Great Western Railway occurs by Mr. Brown's death.—*Cirencester Express*.

MR. WILLIAM WILSON.

Feb. 28. At Goodwood, aged 43, Mr. William Wilson, factor to the Duke of Richmond.

Mr. Wilson was a native of Peeblesshire, and was the son of a farmer near Broughton. He received an education suitable for the profession he was to follow, with a knowledge of surveying and architectural drawing, and began his career about 1844, at Stapleton, in Dumfriesshire, by taking charge of that comparatively small property. From that he went to Stobo as farm manager to Sir Graham Montgomery, bart.; thence to Windsor to superintend the Home farms of his Royal Highness Prince Albert; and only a few months ago to Goodwood, to be factor to his Grace the Duke of Richmond. Mr. Wilson was an enthusiast in his profession, and entered into all its details in every department with keen interest. Mr. Wilson was intrusted with several important commissions by the Emperor of the French, for the purchase of breeding-stock, shorthorns, Southdown sheep, &c. These commissions he executed with discrimination, and to the entire satisfaction of his Majesty. At an interview with the Emperor at St. Cloud, the Empress being present, his Majesty presented him with his portrait as a mark of his esteem. By his death the cause of agriculture has lost one who, in an unobtrusive way, was doing much for the promotion of its interests.—*N. B. Agriculturist*.

THE KING OF DAHOMEY.

The "Daily News" reports the demise of Gezo, the slave King of Dahomey. The exact date when the event occurred is not given in the letters before us, but the news is brought with such particulars that no doubt can be entertained that Gezo is gathered to his fathers, and that his son reigns in his stead. Gezo deserved the odium and detestation which he so abundantly obtained; all the more that he was both able and sagacious. For upwards of

five-and-twenty years he supplied all the demands of the Spanish and Portuguese slave-dealers who infested the Bight of Benin, ravaging and devastating the interior far and wide by his slave hunts to obtain victims for his European customers. His horrible cruelties arrested the progress of Africa, fed the wretchedness and mortality of the Middle Passage, and by depopulating Negroland, promoted the immense material prosperity of Cuba and Brazil. His policy, and the wealth he derived from it, excited the cupidity of his neighbours, and from Whydah to Lagos the slave trade became the business of the whole population. When Gezo succeeded to his patrimonial throne, the adjacent country was inhabited by independent communities of the Egbas, and it was on them he perpetrated his earlier atrocities. He attacked them, burned their towns, carried off their choicest people, and when his own violence was unsuccessful, his intrigue introduced civil war, which completed their ruin. The American missionary Bower states that "at one town, called Oke-Oddan, the Dahomey army killed or captured 20,000 people, on which occasion the King presented Domingo the slaver with 600 slaves. The whole number of people destroyed in this section of country within the last fifty years cannot be less than 500,000." While, however, the interior within the limits of Dahomey suffered by these slave wars, disorganisation, and anarchy, the towns on the coast for a season flourished. But their ill-gotten riches and fictitious prosperity brought about their own ruin; they were nests and dens of robbers, thieves, and pirates; scenes of tumult, disorder, and violence were of constant occurrence; Badagry, which boasted of 10,000 inhabitants, was burned down in a cut-throat affair amongst its own lawless population; the whole Bight was closely blockaded by English cruisers; and Lagos was destroyed by a British bombardment. The liberated Africans of Sierra Leone founded the town of Abeokuta, established in the interior an anti-slave trade interest, were encouraged by English missionaries, and supported by English assistance. This brought on Abeokuta the wrath of Gezo; again and again he attacked the new community; as often his assaults and sieges were repulsed; until at last, in 1851, the slave King was completely routed under its mud walls, and from that time his power declined. Gezo was, however, never converted or reconciled to legitimate commerce; he complained that we had deprived him of his revenues, and was ever on the alert to

revive the traffic. Thus disposed, he at once responded to the French scheme of emigration, and gladly received at Abomi a French mission. But the French prices for negroes were too low to yield him profit, and although the slave trade was partially revived, to the serious injury of lawful commerce, he had no large operations with the French. His obsequies were performed at Abomi; all the slave traders of Whydah attended and assisted at them; each carried thither his contribution of slaves, 800 of whom were sacrificed to his memory. The mournful and terrible ceremonies over, the new King proclaimed his policy to be that of his father. Report adds that he at once left Abomi at the head of a large army on a slave-hunting expedition.

#### CLERGY DECEASED.

Jan. 31. At Aboo Simbel, on the Nile, aged 32, the Rev. *Charles Richard Payne*, B.A. 1850, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, youngest son of the late Rev. Edward René Payne, R. of Hephworth, Suffolk.

Feb. 16. Aged 65, the Rev. *John Smith*, B.A. 1815, M.A. 1818, B.D. 1826, formerly Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, R. of Acton (1853), Middlesex, and Prebendary of St. Paul's (1830), and brother-in-law to the late Bishop of London.

Feb. 18. The Rev. *John Addison*, LL.B. 1805, Trinity College, Cambridge, Rural-Dean, and R. of Ikenham (1815), Middlesex.

Feb. 20. At Weston-super-Mare, aged 42, the Rev. *William Willes Lovell*, B.A. 1838, Trinity College, Oxford.

Feb. 21. Aged 85, the Rev. *Richard Roberts*, B.A. 1805, M.A. 1815, Merton College, Oxford, V. of Stewkley (1830), Bucks.

Feb. 23. At Dartington, Devon, aged 90, the Ven. *Robert Hurrell Froude*, B.A. 1792, M.A. 1795, Oriel College, Oxford, Archdeacon of Totnes (1820), R. of Dartington (1799), and of Denbury (1798), Devon.

Feb. 25. At Dresden, aged 59, the Rev. *William Chamier*, late Minister of the Episcopal Church, Rue d'Aguesseau, Paris.

At the Rectory, aged 48, the Rev. *Henry Hopwood*, B.A. 1838, M.A. 1843, Queen's College, Cambridge, R. of Bothal (1845), Northumberland. (By his own hand), the Rev. *John Woodcock*, B.A. 1817, M.A. 1818, New College, Oxford, V. of Littlebourn (1824), Kent.

Feb. 28. At the Rectory, aged 74, the Rev. *George Pierce Richards*, B.A. 1809, M.A. 1812, late Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, R. of Sampford-Courtenay (1829), Devon.

In Cambridge-terr., aged 75, the Rev. *William Lucas*, B.A. 1805, M.A. 1808, formerly Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, R. of Burgh St. Margaret (1816), and Billockby (1835), Norfolk, and Prebendary of Wells (1815).

In Woburn-pl., aged 56, the Rev. *Edmund Russell*, B.A. 1827, M.A. 1831, St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, P.C. of All Saints, Pontefract (1837), Yorkshire.

The Rev. *W. Lambert*, P.C. of Christ Church, Ealing, Middlesex.

Lately, the Rev. *Abraham M. Evanson*, M.A., R. of Anaghmeadle, dio. Kildare.

March 1. At the Rectory, Chelsea, the Rev. *Richard Lediard*, B.A. 1846, Trinity College, Cambridge, C. of St. Luke, Chelsea.

March 3. At Brighton, the Rev. *Walter Baker Atkins*, M.A., P.C. of St. Mary Magdalene (1856), Harlow, Essex.