

bar, died prematurely about ten years' ago. He leaves two other sons, Edmund, a bookseller in America, and George, a solicitor in London, and four daughters. Two of the latter have for many years conducted a ladies' school with great success, first at Leamington, and now at Vernon House, near London.

LADY BOOTHBY, MRS. NISBETT.

Jan. 16. At St. Leonard's-on-Sea, aged 45, Lady Boothby, relict of Sir William Boothby, Bart., of Ashbourne-hall, Derbyshire, but better known under the name of Mrs. Nisbett.

This lady was the daughter of Frederick Hayes Macnamara, who held a commission in the 52nd Regiment during the Peninsular war, and was in the disastrous retreat to Corunna. Soon afterwards he returned to England, married a Miss Williams, left the army and took to the stage. His personal habits were fatal to his success there, and the early life of Louisa Mordaunt, that being Mrs. Nisbett's first theatrical name, was not passed under the most favourable auspices, in so far as the paternal example was concerned. Her histrionic talents were precociously developed and early put to profit; and for a time she flourished as a juvenile theatrical wonder. Unlike such generally, she matured into a handsome woman and an agreeable actress, and maintained a good position in the large metropolitan theatres down to January, 1831, when she quitted the stage for a time to become the wife of John Alexander Nisbett, Esq., of the First Life-Guards, and of Brettenham-hall, in the county of Suffolk. Within seven months Mrs. Nisbett was widowed by an accident, in which her husband was killed. That the marriage was one of unbroken happiness would appear from an anecdote, which we remember to have heard, of Mrs. Nisbett's reply to a friend who was condoling with her on the loss of her husband. "Husband!" she replied; "he never was a husband!" "How?" exclaimed the friend, in some surprise. "No! From the day of our marriage he was, as he had always been, my lover!" Left without fortune, Mrs. Nisbett had no alternative but to return to the stage, which she did in October, 1832, when she re-appeared at Drury-lane. Her greatest dramatic success was made at the Haymarket, in "The Love Chase," which was produced on the 9th of October, 1837, and ran for nearly one hundred successive nights. Her success as *Constance* in this piece established her as one of the greatest favourites of the public, and she retained

her hold upon their favour until she again retired from the stage, to become the wife of Sir William Boothby. In this marriage she, in all probability, did not find the consolations which had made her former union, brief as it was, all one pleasing remembrance. The family of Sir William Boothby, we believe, looked unfavourably upon her, and Sir William's attractions were not such as to compensate for the disquiet to which her position was subject. He also died about two years after their marriage, leaving his widow very scantily provided for. Again she returned to the stage, but much of the charm of her acting was gone. Beauty had lost something of its "lustrous eyes," and the ring of her laugh was not so clear and musical as before. Her powers were frequently not under her control, and those who admired her most are willing to forget her latest appearances on the stage. For some years she had resided at Rose Mount, St. Leonard's-on-the-Sea, where she died on Saturday last, as the necrologist of the "Times" informs us, after a short illness, brought on by anxiety and domestic affliction, having lost within the last eighteen months her mother, her brother, and sister. Mrs. Nisbett was a genial and kind-hearted woman, and a favourite with all who knew her. The public owes her much, for she contributed much to the "heart-easing mirth" which is invaluable in these days of overwork to body and brain, and she will live pleasantly and affectionately in their memory.—*Literary Gazette*.

SIGNOR LABLACHE.

Jan. 23. At Naples (his birthplace) aged 66, Signor Louis Lablache, the eminent lyric comedian.

He came to England for the first time in 1830, and made his *début* at the Italian Opera (then the King's Theatre), in the character of Geronimo in Cimarosa's comic opera, *Il Matrimonio Segreto*.

"The mould in which nature had cast Lablache was colossal. His head was the head of Jupiter, his figure the figure of Milo, his voice that of Boanerges. One might have excused one of so vast and so grandiose a presence, with an organ so overpowering as Lablache's, had he been heavy and untameable, if correct as a singer. But the fire and the life of a true artist were in him, and though not Neapolitan by blood, the spirit of Naples ran in his veins, and the old science of the schools of Naples was shewn in his training. Thus, in his day, Lablache was equal to the most brilliant music of Signor Rossini. He had made an organ, the mighty sonority of