

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* Lyrae), 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

thermometrical, other observations (also with photographic registration), to measure the amount of rain, of the velocity and direction of the wind, and, since the beginning of this year, the amount of electricity in the atmosphere. Meteorology was latterly a favourite with Mr. Johnson, and the volumes of the Observations since 1854 contain many laborious computations in this department.

To these scientific pursuits, which officially devolved upon him, and to which his main attention was given, Mr. Johnson added an extraordinary love of art. The fine collection of prints which filled his portfolios and covered the walls of his rooms—many of which went to the Manchester Exhibition—shewed his excellent judgment and taste, and it was one of his greatest pleasures to go over either his own or any other collection with a brother in art with whom he could interchange criticism, or a learner whose taste he could direct and inform. In a wide social circle, both in and out of the University, his loss will be deeply felt. He had large tastes and many lines of thought, and took a genuine interest in many subjects—literature, politics (foreign and domestic), trade, the currency, academical questions. His knowledge of the world, a wide acquaintance with distinguished men—all true workers on their respective grounds—had given him a general interest in the struggle, wherever honest and hearty, of human life; and a true appreciation of the good points of an aristocracy still left his sympathy mainly given to the middle and professional classes of the country. Liberal, and averse to dogmatism in religion, no one well acquainted with him could fail to see in him a mind thoroughly and deeply formed upon the genuine Christian type. His independent, high, and fearless bearing on all public questions, joined to his strong sense and experience, gave him a high position in the University; his animation and spirit as a converser made him an important member of any social circle in which he happened to be. His own hearty kindness to and feeling for others won in return an ample and rich stock of friends, which was a constant source of the purest kind of pleasure. Cut off in a moment, in the midst of his work, when, in spite of temporary ill-health, he appeared to have a long useful life before him, he makes a sudden void in many hearts in which he would have been surprised to think he had a place. Reversing the old proverb, which says that we have all more enemies than we think of, he had more true friends than he knew of; and the

large and deep feeling which his death excites is another instance that society does justice to those who do justice to it, and that it will care for those who care for it.

SIR A. OLIPHANT.

March 9. In London, aged 65, Sir Anthony Oliphant, C.B., formerly Chief Justice of Ceylon. He was the third son of the late Ebenezer Cliphant, Esq., of Condie, near Bridge of Earn, Perth, and brother of Lawrence Oliphant, Esq., who some time represented in Parliament the city of Perth. His mother was Mary, the third dau. of the late Sir William Stirling, Bart., of Ardoch, N.B. He was born at Condie in 1793, and educated at Hyde Abbey School, near Winchester. He was called to the bar first at Edinburgh, and subsequently to the English bar at Lincoln's-Inn in 1821. In 1826 he was appointed Attorney-General at the Cape of Good Hope, from which post he was promoted in 1838 to the Chief Justiceship of Ceylon. He held that appointment down to the year 1855, when he retired on the usual pension. He received the honour of knighthood in 1839, and was created a Companion of the Order of the Bath, civil division, in 1848. The deceased judge was married at the Cape of Good Hope in 1828, to Maria, dau. of Gen. Campbell, by whom he has left issue an only son, Mr. Lawrence Oliphant, the well-known author of "Minnesota," "The Shores of the Black Sea," &c., who is at present acting as private secretary to the special mission of the Earl of Elgin to China and Japan.

COL. TAIT, C.B.

March 8. At the residence of his brother, the Lord Bishop of London, in St. James's-sq.

Colonel Tait was well known in India as the commander for many years of the 3rd Bengal Irregular Cavalry, which, as "Tait's Horse," was much distinguished, and did good service in General Pollock's expedition to Cabul, and in the Sutlej and Punjab campaigns. Colonel Tait commanded his Irregulars at the battles of Tiseen and Mammoo Kale under Pollock; at Ferozepore, under Littler, when besieged by the whole Sikh army; and under Hardinge and Gough at the battles of Ferozeshah, Rannugger, Chillianwallah, and Goojerat. He entered the service as an infantry cadet in 1825, but before long he received a staff appointment in the Irregular Cavalry, and after some