

ous verses, and afterwards a series of songs set to Irish airs. When only 16 she had published two novels, which, although favourably spoken of at the time, produced no very important effects; but the "Wild Irish Girl," published in 1801, at once raised her to a conspicuous position in the world of letters. This book passed through seven editions, and introduced its authoress to the highest society. She first met Sir Charles Morgan, a physician of some note, at the house of the Marquis of Abercorn, and they were soon afterwards married. Her next work of importance was "France"—a critical review of the social state of that country, more than a book of travels.

It is not a little remarkable that her last work—the story of her life—should have been completed only a few months before that life was finally closed; and the circumstance will give an additional interest to the autobiography itself. The deceased lady has outlived her time, whilst the scenes in which she took part are matters of history, and the people with whom she associated those of bygone generations. In reading her life the allusions to public events long since past made it difficult to realize that she was still among us, while the freshness and vivacity with which she recounted her adventures vivified the events of which she spoke to a degree that made her work valuable as a contribution to history, independently of the interest that attached to it on account of the writer herself. To enumerate all her works would be somewhat tedious; the "Wild Irish Girl," "France," and "Florence Macarthy," together with the "Diary" just published, are the most important. Lady Morgan, although receiving large sums for her works, was not wealthy, and a well-bestowed pension of £300 a-year was conferred on her during the Ministry of Lord Grey. In the enjoyment of this she had lived to the age of nearly 76, retaining her full mental vigour to the last. The letters contained in the "Diary" have given us an insight into her character, which induced a warmer feeling than mere respect for her talents, and the regret which her immediate friends will feel at her loss will be sincerely shared by all who have read her life and appreciated her character.—*Globe.*

THE REV. CANON CHESHYRE.

Feb. 1. At Canterbury, aged 53, the Rev. William John Chesshyre, M.A., one of the Canons of Canterbury.

William John, the son of John Ches-

shyre, Esq., Captain (and afterwards Rear-Admiral) in the Royal Navy, was born at Laugharne, Caermarthenshire, on the 23rd of May, 1805. From Rugby School, then under the Head Mastership of Dr. Wooll, he passed to Balliol College, Oxford, where in 1828 he took the degree of B.A., with second-class honours in *Literis Humanioribus*. In 1829 he was ordained Deacon by the late Bishop Law, of Bath and Wells, and entered on the curacy of Dinder, in Somersetshire, to which he had been nominated by Dr. Jenkyns, Master of his College, and Rector of the parish. After leaving Dinder, Mr. Chesshyre was for some time tutor to the late Lord Broome, son of the Earl of Cornwallis, and on relinquishing this employment he became curate of St. Martin's, Worcester, from which he afterwards removed to St. John's Bedwardine, in the same city. To this period belongs Mr. Chesshyre's only publication—an earnest and practical ordination-sermon, preached in 1840, and printed at the special request of the late Bishop, under the title of "The Messenger of Christ." On the death of Dr. Forester, Incumbent of St. John's, in the end of 1841, the parishioners unsuccessfully petitioned that he might be appointed to the vacant benefice; but the Bishop of Rochester, who at that time held the Deanery of Worcester with his see, took occasion from the memorial of the parishioners to express his esteem for Mr. Chesshyre's character, and his desire to forward his interests; and it was through his lordship's recommendation that he was shortly after presented by Archbishop Howley to the united parishes of St. Martin and St. Paul, Canterbury—a preferment which was particularly acceptable to him, from the circumstance that his mother (who was then a widow, and resided at Swansea) had lately inherited from a relation the mansion and estate of Barton Court, adjoining Canterbury, and for the most part lying within the bounds of his cure.

On taking up his abode in Canterbury in 1842, Mr. Chesshyre found himself not only the pastor, but the chief resident proprietor of his parishes; and the manner in which he carried out the union of these characters was truly admirable; instead of merging the clergyman in the squire, he employed all the advantages of his secular position towards the purpose of more effectually discharging his clerical duties, and very soon the benefits of having such a man among us began to make themselves felt.

In truth, the ecclesiastical condition of Canterbury had not been satisfactory;

and the cause of this lay, not in the fault of individuals, but mainly (if not wholly) in the circumstances of the case—circumstances which we may speak of the more freely because they have now passed away. The higher clergy of the Cathedral, unconnected with the city by parochial ties, each residing in the precincts but a few weeks annually, and continually alternating in their residence, could not be reasonably expected to regard local affairs with the interest of settled inhabitants; the parochial clergy in general were not only prevented by the miserable insufficiency of their professional incomes from undertaking anything considerable, but any attempt on the part of a parochial clergyman to go beyond his immediate duties might even have been regarded as an act of presumption which reflected on his more dignified brethren. In this state of things, therefore, it will be seen that the influence of a person placed as Mr. Chesshyre was might be of very great value and efficiency. At once a parochial clergyman and a man not only of competent means, but deriving those means chiefly from local property, he was able to draw both classes of the clergy together, and to unite them in co-operating towards works which but for him might never have been undertaken; nor was his influence with the laity of all ranks less powerful. Among the benefits with which his name deserves to be especially connected may be mentioned the restoration of the venerable and interesting Church of St. Martin—a restoration of which he shares the chief credit with the Hon. Daniel Finch, by whose liberality and taste it was mainly carried out; the restoration and enlargement of St. Paul's Church, the formation of the ecclesiastical district of St. Gregory, the erection of its beautiful little church, and the provision of a general cemetery in connexion with the building; the National Schools in Broad-street; the foundation of the great schools in the parish of St. Mildred's, for the southern division of Canterbury; the Infant School of St. Paul's; and the establishment of the "Young Men's Association."

In 1846 Mr. Chesshyre was appointed Rural Dean of Canterbury, and one of the six preachers of the Cathedral. In 1852, and again in 1857, the clergy of the diocese paid him the well-deserved honour of electing him as one of their proctors in Convocation; and, finally, in March, 1858, he was presented by the Crown, on the recommendation of Lord Derby, to the stall in Canterbury Cathedral, which had been vacated by the removal of Professor Stanley to Oxford—an appointment which

was hailed with lively satisfaction by all to whom his character and merits were known. Unhappily his health had already begun to break, and, although something like an amendment appeared for a time, it soon passed away. A visit to the Continent, and a sojourn at the Baths of Kreuznach, were tried in vain; and on his return his appearance was such as to suggest to his friends the saddest forebodings. About the middle of January he became suddenly and decidedly worse; and on the morning of Feb. 1 he was released from the sufferings which he had long borne with calm and exemplary resignation.

In September, 1833, Mr. Chesshyre married Mary Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Jonathan Townley, then Vicar of Stradsett, in Norfolk, and afterwards of Steeple Bumpstead, in Essex.

THE REV. THOMAS SOCKETT.

March 17. At Petworth, aged 81, the Rev. Thomas Sockett, Exeter College, Oxford, Rector of Duncton and of Petworth, Sussex, and of North Searle, Lincolnshire.

He was born in one of the Midland Counties, on the 20th of November, 1777. His parents, although respectable, were in humble circumstances, and gave their son the best education that the means and resources of the neighbourhood afforded. When about sixteen years of age, he was introduced to the poet Hayley, who then resided at Earham, near Chichester, and was employed by him as an amanuensis to transcribe some of his works. Among them was "The Life and Correspondence of Cowper," which was prepared for publication by the hand of young Sockett. While thus employed, his diligence, intelligence, and good conduct won for him the regard of Mr. Hayley; and his residence with that gentleman afforded him access to a good library, by means of which, together with the conversation and assistance of his accomplished employer, the youth prosecuted his studies with such success, that he soon acquired the foundation of the Greek and Latin Classics, and in the course of two or three years he became a respectable scholar.

About this time a lucky chance befel, which exercised a most important influence upon the young man's prospects and fortunes. One morning Lord Egremont drove over from Petworth to call on Mr. Hayley. In the course of conversation Lord Egremont spoke of his two sons, who were then young boys, aged about nine and seven years, adding that he wished to find a respectable and competent young man as tutor for them. Mr.