

THE REV. GEO. TOWNSEND, D.D.

Nov. 23. At the College, Durham, aged 70, the Rev. George Townsend, D.D.

The deceased was the son of a dissenting minister of some celebrity amongst the Independents, and was born at Ramsgate in the year 1788. He received his early education in that town, and attracted the attention of Mr. Richard Cumberland, the dramatic author, by whose influence and aid he was admitted a member of Trinity College, Cambridge, where, although he gained no academical honours, he devoted much time and attention to the study of theology, historical and biblical, and also published his first work, a poem, under the title of *Armageddon*. In the year 1812 he was ordained deacon and priest by the Bishop of Ely, and was appointed to the curacy of Littleport, Cambridge, whence he removed to Hackney, as curate to Arch-deacon Watson, where he remained until 1816, when he received an appointment as one of the professors of the newly established Military College of Sandhurst, and at the same time undertook the curacy of Farnborough, Hants. About this time, a work of Sir William Drummond's, the *Edipus Judaicus*, was making a considerable sensation in the learned world; for in that work, the author, combining considerable talent with a large and varied display of Oriental learning, endeavoured to prove that the twelve patriarchs were nothing but the twelve signs of the zodiac! Mr. Townsend met him on his own grounds in his *Edipus Romanus*, and by similar reasoning shewed that the signs of the zodiac were not the twelve patriarchs, but the twelve Cæsars! He next set to work upon the book with which his name is mostly associated, "The Chronological Arrangement of the Holy Bible." The first portion of this work appeared in 1821, and early obtained the notice of many men of eminence; amongst others, that of Bishop Barrington, of Durham, who expressed a desire for an interview with the author, and soon after requested Mr. Townsend to become his domestic chaplain, which office he assumed in the year 1822.

At this time the Roman Catholics were loudly asserting their claims to civil and religious equality, and one of their boldest champions was Mr. Charles Butler, who, with others, both laymen and clergy, put forth the celebrated "Roman Catholic Declaration." An answer was required to this, and as Bp. Barrington felt himself unequal to the task, he requested his young chaplain to write one. Accordingly, within six weeks he produced his "Accusations of History against the Church of

Rome." As a reward for this, the Bishop in 1825 presented him to a stall in the Cathedral of Durham, which he retained up to the time of his decease: he also obtained the Chapter living of Northallerton, which, in 1839, he exchanged for the perpetual curacy of St. Margaret's, Durham; but in 1842 he resigned that, and held nothing but the canonry. During this period he wielded his pen to some service in a pamphlet on "Church Reform, and the Abolition of Pluralities," in which he advocated the cause of the working clergy, and proposed that the value of all the poorer livings should be raised, and that residence should be made compulsory: and he was also one of the most earnest upholders of the Conservative cause in Durham. In 1830 he published a volume of "Sermons on some of the most interesting Subjects in Theology," and in 1842 a burlesque work, which we believe he was afterwards ashamed of, "A Life and Defence of the Principles of Bishop Bonner;" he also published a "Second Series of Sermons," under the title of "Spiritual Communion with God," an enlarged edition of his arrangement of the Bible, and in 1847, "Ecclesiastical and Civil History philosophically considered," 2 vols. 8vo.: he also wrote a series of "Sonnets" to accompany Stothard's illustrations to the "Pilgrim's Progress."

It was in 1847, we believe, that Dr. Townsend went to Italy for the purpose of converting the Pope, and in pursuit of this object obtained an interview with his Holiness, who received him very civilly, but Pio Nono does not appear to have profited much by the deceased's instruction. On his return he published an account of his journey, which appeared in 1849, but in that he does not express himself quite satisfied with the result of his labours. From this time his failing health made it necessary that he should take a less active part than heretofore in matters unconnected with the cathedral duties, and on the 23rd ult. he quietly breathed his last, having nearly reached the allotted term of man's existence.

The deceased was twice married, and by his first wife leaves a son, the Rev. George Fyler Townsend, Vicar of Leominster.—*Literary Churchman.*

REV. RICHARD WARNER.

IN our number for September, 1857, (p. 345.) we recorded the decease of this venerable clergyman; we now add a few particulars gathered from various sources.

Mr. Warner was born October 18, 1763, in the parish of Marylebone, London;