

man was dispersed during the past month, and we may say that there was hardly a volume which did not bear abundant marks of its having been attentively perused, and in most cases annotated, by its diligent and indefatigable possessor.

G. G.

THE REV. C. VAL. LE GRICE.

ON Christmas-eve, at his seat, Trereife, near Penzance, in Cornwall, within a few weeks of the completion of his 86th year, the Rev. Charles Valentine Le Grice, M.A.

He was the eldest son of the Rev. Charles Le Grice, Incumbent of St. James's, Bury St. Edmunds, who afterwards became Rector of Wickhampton, Norfolk, and of Thwaite, Suffolk, and was born at Bury on the 14th of Feb. 1773.

The family of Le Grice had been long settled in Norfolk, where their names may be traced back for three centuries.

He was the eldest of eight children, and was named Valentine from the accident of his birth on that day, but he was known by, and delighted in, the contraction Val. Of his brothers, Samuel obtained a commission in the 60th Foot and died at Jamaica. Henry entered the law, and died at Wisbeach about 1845. Perry died young: five sisters, all deceased, completed the family.

Estimable as he was in all the relations of life, possessed of brilliant talents, and for more than sixty years a contributor to the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, a memoir of him would be sought in our columns, had he not also been the last surviving friend in boyhood of two men who gained for themselves a leading place in English literature.

At the very early age of eight he was placed in Christ's Hospital, being a relation of one of its benefactors, the munificent founder of Guy's Hospital. Here for nine years he was class-fellow of Coleridge. Together they removed from form to form, and sat side by side; using, as was then the wont of the school, the same Dictionary, until Coleridge, as Senior Grecian, went to Cambridge in 1791. Le Grice's friendship with Charles Lamb was still more intimate; and in their school-boy rambles about London he always found a home in Lamb's family. Throughout life he always spoke with the warmest affection of these early associates, but especially of the younger; an interesting biographical notice of whom, from his pen, forms a portion of Mr. Justice Talford's edition of Lamb's Life and Letters; and that the regard was mutual appears from Lamb's

kind references to his friend Le Grice in his essays and correspondence. Bishop Middleton and Dr. Trollope were also contemporaries of Mr. Le Grice at school.

One anecdote, which Mr. Le Grice used to mention of his school-days, assures us that with him has passed away almost the last of those who had seen Johnson. The Doctor occasionally visited at the school a boy who was either a relative or a *protégé*. Mr. Le Grice well remembered the respect and reverence which was paid to the great English moralist, and the sensation throughout the school when one day a boy came in and said, "Doctor Johnson is dead!"

Lamb, it is well known, did not go to the University, whither Mr. Le Grice proceeded in 1792; but their intimacy was kept up by Lamb's occasional and welcome visits to his early friend; who was in little more than a year separated from Coleridge by the sudden flight of the latter.

In 1792 Mr. Le Grice entered at Trinity College, Cambridge, which he had chosen in preference to Pembroke, although an exhibition awaited him there. At the end of his freshman's year he was placed in the first class with eight others, amongst whom were Dr. Dealtry, Incumbent of Clapham and Archdeacon of Winchester, and Dr. Wordsworth, afterwards Master of Trinity. Retaining their friendship, he survived them all; as he has indeed, we believe, all his College contemporaries, except the venerable Lord Lyndhurst, still older than himself, with whom he appears to have occasionally corresponded until the last year of his life. He took his B.A. degree in 1796, "Kempthorne's year."

He soon became a Scholar of Trinity, and won the chief declamation prize, a silver cup, in the same year that Wordsworth gained the second prize, having also in consequence to deliver a second declamation at the Commemoration. It is some evidence of the favour with which these youthful exertions were regarded, that they were printed at the request of his College superiors.

We are not aware that any other prizes were obtained by him during his residence at the University. His talents and tastes, which were solely literary, and his universal acceptance as the favourite of society, will serve to explain this; when it is also recollected that very few indeed were, at that period, the avenues to academic distinction which were open to any who had not gained mathematical honours. It must not, however, be supposed that the especial friend of Middleton, afterwards first Bishop of Calcutta, of Dealtry, and of Legh

Richmond, was a mere trifler. Many years after this (in 1831) the writer had the pleasure of passing some time in the company of the late Dr. Dealtry, who, as soon as he found his younger companion knew Mr. Le Grice, could talk on no other subject; his heart seemed so full of the recollection of happy college days, and he again and again requested his most affectionate remembrances.

If Mr. Le Grice turned aside from the pursuit of academic honours, his pen was not idle; and many a sportive effusion circulated throughout the University; some of them may still linger in Trinity. A few were printed, of these we have only seen a humorous "General Theorem for a *** * * * College Declaration (in verse), with copious Notes. By Gronovius." The incidents arising out of one song have been described by the late Mr. Gunning in his own peculiar way. The real story, however, has placed the Vice-Chancellor in a more amiable light than suited Mr. Gunning's purpose.

A slight effort of a graver kind, "Analysis of Paley's Moral and Political Philosophy," which Mr. Le Grice drew up, probably to assist his own studies, was printed during his College career. Repeated editions of it serve to shew that it was found useful by several succeeding generations of undergraduates.

Although not printed until some time after his quitting Cambridge, we may perhaps refer to this period "Daphnis and Chloe, a Pastoral Novel, now first selectly translated from the original Greek of Longus." Its title and motto,—

"Nil dictu fœdum visque hæc limina tangat."—Juv.

sufficiently indicate the care with which it has been adapted to the perusal of the English reader. It may be added that its execution shewed much poetic feeling; and whilst removing the blemishes of Longus, the translation preserved the grace and simplicity of the original.

A few months after taking his B.A. degree in 1796, Mr. Le Grice visited Cornwall, which thenceforward became his home. Here he became the tutor of Mr. Nicholls, of Trereife, the only son of a widow lady of good property. In 1798 he received Holy Orders, and in the same year he married Mrs. Nicholls, who died in 1820, from which time he remained a widower. Mr. Nicholls, his former pupil, died in 1812, at the age of 27, when the late estates became his entire property.

A sermon which he was called upon to preach on St. Matthew's Day, 1805, before the Lord Mayor and the Governors of the Royal Hospitals, was printed by the

desire and at the request of the Governors of Christ's Hospital. Shortly after was published an "Address to the Veteran Seamen," from a Sermon preached by him in the chapel of Greenwich Hospital on the day of the thanksgiving for the victory of Trafalgar.

In 1806 he was elected by the Corporation of Penzance Incumbent of St. Mary's Chapel in that town, the duties of which he had for many years undertaken gratuitously for the benefit of his predecessor. He resigned this preferment in 1831, and never held any other.

But until incapacitated by failing strength, he was ever ready to give his assistance to any sick or absent clerical neighbour, and by his effective preaching to advocate the cause of local charities. He was a magistrate of the county for about forty years.

His attachment to his Alma Mater was a passion. To be a Cambridge, and, above all, a Trinity man, was a sufficient introduction to him. His contemporaries had gradually passed away; but his name long remained a household word at Trinity, where his visits were always welcome; and it was the highest gratification to him to receive from time to time, under his own hospitable roof, those distinguished ornaments of the University whom scientific pursuits or summer rambles brought into Cornwall.

Through his friendship with the Master of Trinity he had known his poet brother; and in one of the last journeys made by Southey he renewed at Trereife the acquaintance which had commenced in early life.

From youth to age there was a charm around Mr. Le Grice which delighted all who casually met him, and riveted the affectionate regards of those who had the happiness to know him intimately. His kind and gentle manners, the genuine expression of an open-hearted sympathy, his tenderness towards little children, and his anxious care for the comfort and relief of the unfortunate, as well as the zeal and ability with which he maintained their cause in speeches, letters, and pamphlets, secured him universal respect, and especially endeared him to the poor. His genial conversation, enriched by various reading, abounding in anecdote, and overflowing with wit ever sparkling, but always playful, rendered him the most fascinating of companions. The wit which, according to Charles Lamb, distinguished his boyhood, and which was so attractive at the University, never forsook him; for, although it was chastened and restrained by the graver occupations of after-life and

advancing age, he failed not to remember the maxim of the wise man, "There is a time to laugh."

Many a humorous composition, in print and in manuscript, circulates in the neighbourhood once gladdened by his presence, and many a graceful sonnet has found a place in our pages. But those who know only thus much, will have but a faint image of what he has been. His rich fancy poured forth its treasures in careless and lavish profusion, and the delighted hearers forgot that the fountain was not perennial.

An only son, Day Perry Le Grice, Esq., a magistrate for the county of Cornwall, succeeds to the estates.

WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT.

Jan. 28. At Boston, United States, aged 62, William Hickling Prescott, the eminent historian.

About two years since he had a slight stroke of paralysis, which, however, soon yielded to medical treatment, and for many months past he has seemed in excellent health and spirits; his friends confidently predicting for him many more years of active literary exertion. But it was otherwise ordered by the All-Disposer. At twelve o'clock yesterday he was in his usual health; at half-past twelve he was stricken with apoplexy, and at two o'clock he had breathed his last.

Mr. Prescott belonged to a New England family of high honour. His grandfather, Colonel William Prescott, as is well known, commanded the American forces at the battle of Bunker's Hill. His father, William Prescott, generally known and addressed in this community, during the later years of his life, as Judge Prescott, was one of the best and wisest men who have ever lived and died among us. He was a lawyer, in a very large practice for a great many years, and a very acute, successful, and learned jurist. But his mind was never subdued to what it worked in; there was nothing in it narrow, limited, or technical. On the contrary, he was a man of large sagacity, of comprehensive wisdom, who looked at all things from a high point of view, and although his life was passed in a private walk—though he never held any other than a judicial office and for a short period, yet in the judgment of all who knew him, there was no civil function or trust which he was not competent to discharge with signal ability. His mother was a daughter of Thomas Hickling, who for a great many years was United States Consul at the Azores. He was born in Salem, Mass.,

May 4, 1796, and resided there until his father's removal to Boston, when he himself was twelve years old. He entered Harvard College in 1811, and was graduated in 1814. While at college, he was deprived by accident of the use of one eye, and the sight of the other was so impaired as to prevent him from engaging in any occupation in which the constant use of that organ should be necessary. Happily, his father's circumstances were such as to preclude the necessity of his toiling for bread. He early determined to devote himself to a life of literature. Soon after leaving college, being advised to travel, he went to Europe and spent two years in an extended journey through England, France, and Italy, and at the end of it returned home in excellent general health, but with no great improvement in the state of his eyes.

His marriage soon after took place; and from this period his days flowed on in diligent and uneventful devotion to literary pursuits. He was never enabled to use his own eyes but for a short time in the day, but was constantly obliged to use the eyes of others for his studies and researches, as well as to record the results of them. His quiet perseverance and continuous industry enabled him to triumph over this difficulty, and to achieve an amount of literary production which is not merely most honourable to his intellectual powers, but conveys a noble moral lesson to all who may be burdened with similar trials. His earliest literary efforts were contributions to the "North American Review," upon subjects drawn from Spanish, English, American, and especially Italian literature. Indeed, at one time he contemplated an extended work upon Italian literature. He also contributed to Sparks's "American Biography" a beautiful notice of Charles Brockden Brown. Most of these earliest productions were published in 1845, in a volume entitled "Biographical and Critical Miscellanies."

After some deliberation and hesitation, he selected the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella as the subject of an extended historical work; and to this the assiduous labour of many years was cheerfully and patiently given. He drew his materials not merely from all printed sources, but he was enabled to procure many manuscript authorities which no writer before him, at least in English, had been able to gain access to. The work was published in 1838, in three volumes, under the title of the "History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Catholic." As we are giving only a rapid sketch of Mr. Pres-