

A dictionary and grammar published by the Jesuits were the only works Mr. Ouseley found to guide him in his labours, and these, from the changes constantly occurring in the language, had lost much of their original value. On his return, however, he at once commenced his task, and before his death had, by the slow process of oral communication, collected a very copious Guarrani vocabulary.

Mr. Ouseley was about to leave Paraguay for the purpose of joining his father at Washington, when his death, at the early age of 27, was occasioned by his accidentally taking an over-dose of opium.

ROBERT STEPHEN RINTOUL.

April 22. Aged 70, Robert Stephen Rintoul, Esq., projector, editor, and proprietor of the "Spectator" newspaper.

Born in 1787, Mr. Rintoul attained the age at which the mind first begins to take an interest in public affairs at a time when Scotland was literally paralyzed by a reign of terror. The harshness and indeterminateness of the penal law of Scotland with reference to political offences, the truculence of the judges, and the subservience of jurors, had crushed the Reformers in 1794. The spirit awakened in the Scotch people by threats of invasion had rendered popular the party which had confirmed itself in power by a scandalous abuse of antiquated and defective laws. To be regarded as a democrat, to be even an avowed partisan of Charles James Fox, was enough to blight any man's prospects in life, and in some districts even to exclude him from society. But elements were at work which were destined to dissipate this darkness.

Mr. Rintoul was destined to be not a mere recipient of social influences; he was to play an active part in developing them to important issues. Our information respecting his early fortunes is meagre. He does not appear to have enjoyed a University education, but to have been well grounded at the grammar-school. The exact nature of his original connexion with the "Dundee Advertiser" is uncertain, but there is no doubt that before 1813, before he had completed his twenty-sixth year, he had become editor of that journal. The manner in which he set himself to the discharge of his editorial duties was characteristic;—the account we had from his own mouth. His first aim was to make his paper as complete a record of contemporary history as possible. In order that nothing of importance should be omitted, he sought to economize space; in order that none of the contents should be over-

looked by the readers, he sought to perfect their distribution and arrangement. Even at that early period of his career, he attempted to elevate the compilation of a newspaper into an art. The selection, condensation, and classification of news and discussions in each successive issue was carefully studied, with a view to make the paper complete and attractive as a whole. To attain this end he, at least on one occasion, actually re-wrote the whole contents of a number of his journal. Such conscientious efforts to excel were rewarded by the rapid extension of the circulation of the "Advertiser," and its growth in popularity.

The local influence obtained by the "Dundee Advertiser" attracted the attention of the Whig leaders in the district to the paper and its editor. A friendly intercourse had always been maintained between Mr. Ramsay Maule and the Reformers of the Forfarshire burghs. Rintoul's intelligence, and a certain racy originality in his conversation, rendered him an especial favourite at Panmure-house. There, in the year 1818, he first met with Joseph Hume. It was at a great dinner given for the purpose of introducing the future financial reformer to the notabilities of Dundee and the sister burghs. One remark which fell from Mr. Hume in the course of the evening left a deep impression upon Rintoul, for we have frequently heard him advert to it. Sir Francis Burdett was then at the zenith of his popularity, and some of the guests were loud in their praises of him. Hume listened at first with indifference, then with slight symptoms of impatience, and finally broke out with, "He talks well, but what has he done?" The rest of the company, it would appear, were rather startled by such an heretical doubt of the political value of their then idol; but Rintoul sympathized from the first with the declaration in favour of real work. The "do-something" creed, however, soon became the political creed of the district. Subsequent to 1818, events which were calculated to accelerate the diffusion of sentiments and opinions hostile to the then existing system of government, followed each other in rapid succession. The death of George the Third, the Manchester disturbances, the trial of the Queen—everything conspired to augment the numbers and increase the confidence of the Opposition. A series of annual dinners at Edinburgh, at which Macintosh and other distinguished members of the Whig party attended, were resorted to from all parts of Scotland. The Dundee Reformers were not absent, though they sympathized more with the advanced

opinions of the Westminster liberals than with the eclectic and cautious politics of the "Edinburgh Review." Douglas Kinnaird, the friend of Byron and Hobhouse, was connected with Forfarshire; and Joseph Hume already avowed the principles to disseminate which the "Westminster Review" was subsequently founded. A comparative lull in political excitement prevailed for some years after the death of Lord Castlereagh, but it was only the prelude to fiercer contests. The Cabinet had even before that event become conscious that concessions must be made to the advancing spirit of the age. A weekly newspaper, the "Guardian," was originally established by Government money in London, about 1820, for the purpose of writing up the principles of the Holland-house Whigs and the persons of the Liverpool Ministry. The object was to prepare the Tory party for acquiescence in liberal measures. This extraordinary stroke of *finesse* was desisted from soon after the Queen's arrival in England; the Government subvention was withdrawn from the paper; but it had already effected enough to render possible the subsequent coalition of the Canningite Tories and the Holland-house Whigs. During the administration of Mr. Canning, and the brief and feeble Cabinets which succeeded him, the "educated Radicals"—as it had now become the fashion to call the disciples of Bentham and James Mill—had not been idle. Though not numerous, they were an active party; their leaders were men of clear views and great energy; their head-quarters were in the back shop of Francis-place at Charing-cross, but the bookselling agency of the "Westminster Review" was a most efficient missionary organization throughout the kingdom. But before these diversified influences had been fully brought into play, Rintoul had been removed from a provincial to a metropolitan sphere of action.

About the year 1825 he terminated his connexion with "Dundee Advertiser." The reasons for his taking this step have no interest for the public. He first attempted to establish a newspaper at Leith; but that experiment was soon given up. He then accepted the editorship of the London "Atlas," which had recently been started. This engagement was brought about by the mediation of Douglas Kinnaird, who had had ample opportunities of observing the ability of Rintoul as an editor, and his skill and energy as a partisan. The recommendations of Kinnaird and Hume were excellent passports to the circles of independent liberal politicians in London; but Rintoul's first care was

to collect around him an efficient literary staff. The co-operation of Hazlitt, Fonblanque, Southern, and also of able critics in the departments of music and the fine arts, was secured; and everything promised a long and prosperous career for the "Atlas." But difficulties arose between the editor and the proprietors. The engagement was rescinded. A fund was raised for the establishment of a weekly newspaper by subscription of a few friends and connections of Rintoul. His literary coadjutors, for the most part, stood true to him. He was invested with absolute power as editor; and on the 5th of July, 1828, the first number of the "Spectator" was published. His history from that day to the day of his death was the history of this journal.

We have spoken only of Rintoul the journalist. There was nothing romantic in the incidents of his steady, regulated career. Thus much, however, we may be allowed to say,—never was a kinder heart concealed under a somewhat brusque and peremptory exterior. His charity was large, but he literally obeyed the injunction not to allow his left hand to know what his right was doing. His capacity for labour was unsurpassed; but when he allowed himself a rare holiday, an hour of leisure, he had a singular faculty of entirely throwing off for the time every trace of the cares of business. That his conversation was interesting and instructive will be believed from the fact that it was courted by men like Whately, Grote, Molesworth, and Buller. That he was a just, kind, and considerate master will be believed from the fact that none wept more bitterly over his closing tomb than the principal members of his publishing establishment, who have been with him throughout the whole thirty years of the "Spectator's" existence. Mr. Rintoul married some years before he quitted Scotland, and he leaves a wife, a son and daughter. We will not intrude on the sacred grief of a household into which Death has entered for the first time after thirty years' enjoyment of perfect confidence and affection.—*Abridged from the Spectator.*

THOMAS WILSON,

The author of "The Pitman's Pay."

"At Gateshead Low Fell, on Sunday, November 14, 1773, Margaret, wife of George Wilson, of a son."

"At Gateshead Low Fell, on Sunday, May 9, 1858, Thomas Wilson, Esq., Fellow-house, aged 84."

These two events, of birth and death,