

the energy of a youth, he would be found in various parts of the premises; while still later, when all the rest were gone, and the Row deserted, his solitary lamp might be seen shining upon the plane-tree in the garden opposite. Business, however, did *not* wholly occupy his mind; there was room for better and brighter things,—care for the fatherless and distressed found a place there; his charity was liberal but unostentatious, and his sound and valuable advice was always ready for those who sought it.

In 1822 he married his cousin Sarah, daughter of Mr. Crosby, and by her had two sons, who survive. He was buried Nov. 28, in the cemetery at Highgate.

FRANCIS DOWNING, ESQ.

Nov. 18. At Winson Green, near Birmingham, aged 80, Francis Downing, Esq., the descendant of a long line of clergymen.

He was a younger son of the Rev. Harry Downing, Vicar of Wiveliscombe, Somersetshire, and perpetual curate of Kinver, Staffordshire. His family held, likewise, for several generations, the advowson of the living of Enville, in the same county.

The deceased gentleman, one of a large and once wealthy family, at the age of 19 was engaged in the service of Viscount Dudley and Ward. He afterwards occupied the responsible situation of Mine Agent for the Viscount, and for his son, the Earl of Dudley, by whom he was highly esteemed, and treated with much friendship. The post of agent he occupied for upwards of forty years, and, as a proof of an organ to express the opinions of the Conservative party in Manchester, induced him to try what might well appear a bold experiment. The "Manchester Guardian," which had then been five years in progress, and was acquiring great influence, and a very extensive circulation from the support given to it, originally by the Radical and afterwards by the Whig party, and the ability and power with which it was edited, seemed to render necessary some more able and vigorous exponent of constitutional principles in Church and State than could be met with in the Manchester Tory journals of the day, conducted altogether upon the old system, and with little regard to the increasing requirements of the times, and those caused by the formidable local competitor which had appeared in the arena. Accordingly, on the first of January, 1825, the first number of the "Manchester Courier" appeared, the proprietor being

For many years he had retired from all active employment. In the neighbourhood in which he lived Mr. Downing's memory is much esteemed,—by the rich, as an example of high-minded integrity, by the poor for his benevolence and unflinching sympathy.

THOMAS SOWLER, ESQ.

Nov. 18. At his residence, Bowdon, near Manchester, aged 68, Thos. Sowler, Esq., projector of the "Manchester Courier" newspaper.

His father, Mr. Thomas Sowler, carried on business as a printer, in Manchester, in partnership with Mr. Samuel Russel, under

the firm of "Sowler and Russel," and many publications issued from their press, some of the more ephemeral, and others of a more important nature; amongst the latter of which may be numbered a large Bible, and a rather voluminous "History of the Late War." Thomas Sowler, the son, whose mother's maiden name was Mary Ainsworth, was born in Deansgate, Manchester, on the 2nd of July, 1789. He was sent in due time to the Grammar-School, over which Mr. Lawson then presided, and he ever afterwards entertained a sincere respect for that distinguished preceptor and the time-honoured institution of which he was the governing spirit. From thence he was removed to a school kept by Mr. Stolterfurth, at Chester, and whilst he remained there he attracted the notice of Dr. Majendie, who was then Bishop of Chester. On leaving school he was placed in the very extensive establishment founded by Mr. James Lackington, in Finsbury-square, then carried on under the appropriate name of "The Temple of the Muses," by Messrs. Lackington, Allen, and Co. In 1814, Mr. Sowler came down to establish himself in his native town. On St. Thomas's-day, in the same year, he married Helen, the daughter of Mr. John Slack, of Manchester, historical engraver, to whom he was most sincerely attached, and in memory of whom he put up a very handsome memorial compartment in the east window of St. Andrew's Church. His industry, perseverance, and systematic habits, ensured him success, and for many years he devoted himself to the various branches of his business with an increasing measure of prosperity. In 1825, the great want of an organ to express the opinions of the Conservative party in Manchester, induced him to try what might well appear a bold experiment. The "Manchester Guardian," which had then been five years in progress, and was acquiring great influence, and a very extensive circulation from the support given to it, originally by the Radical and afterwards by the Whig party, and the ability and power with which it was edited, seemed to render necessary some more able and vigorous exponent of constitutional principles in Church and State than could be met with in the Manchester Tory journals of the day, conducted altogether upon the old system, and with little regard to the increasing requirements of the times, and those caused by the formidable local competitor which had appeared in the arena. Accordingly, on the first of January, 1825, the first number of the "Manchester Courier" appeared, the proprietor being

Mr. Sowler, and the first editor, Mr. A. A. Watts. From the commencement of the "Courier" to his dying day Mr. Sowler neither changed his own principles nor the principles of his paper:—

"Unpractis'd he to fawn or seek for power
By doctrines fashion'd to the varying hour."

Whether the fortunes of his party were under cloud or sunshine, his adherence was equally firm, and it is truly gratifying to know that he had his reward in seeing his paper attain a position and acquire a degree of success far transcending any expectations he could originally have formed. To this success it is scarcely necessary to say how much, in the earlier part of its career, his sound judgment and constant attention to the various details which, taken in the aggregate, exercise such influence upon the destiny of a newspaper, must be admitted to have contributed. For some years past he did not take any active part in the management of the "Courier" in any of its departments. But it was not by the establishment of the "Courier" alone that Mr. Sowler promoted the interests of the Conservative party. His personal efforts and labours might always be relied upon; and those who remember the South Lanchashire Conservative Association, and the various county and borough contests in which he took so active a share, cannot fail to appreciate his claims to the grateful respect of the party with which he was associated.

Within the last two or three years his health had evidently been declining, and the loss of a favourite daughter, under peculiarly painful circumstances, had inflicted a severe blow upon his nervous system, which accelerated the progress of disease. It became obvious to his friends a short time ago that he was gradually sinking, but the conclusion was nearer than had been anticipated. On the 18th of November, while a medical friend was making a call at his house, at Bowdon, Mr. Sowler was taken suddenly worse, and almost immediately, on being assisted up-stairs to his bedroom, expired, apparently without a struggle.

JAMES HENRY HURDIS, ESQ.

Nov. 30.—At his residence in Carlton-crescent, Southampton, aged 57, James Henry Hurdis, Esq., a gentleman well known to, and deeply regretted by, a large circle of friends in Lewes and its vicinity.

Mr. Hurdis was descended from an ancient and highly respectable family, who were seated in the early part of the seven-

teenth century at Atherston, near Stratford-upon-Avon, and in the church there several of his progenitors lie buried. The first ancestor who settled in Sussex was the Rev. Thomas Hurdis, of Oxford, and of the Middle Temple, who became Vicar of Kingmer, and died in 1733. That gentleman had, besides several other children, the Rev. Thomas Hurdis (Vicar of Seaford, Canon of Windsor and of Chichester, Sequestrator of Bishopston, Vicar of Amport, in Hampshire, and Private Secretary to the great Duke of Newcastle, of Bishopston and of Halland, Sussex, grandfather of Captain Hurdis, R.N., formerly of Uckfield and now of Brighton), and James Hurdis, Esq., collector of customs at Newhaven. The latter of these was father of the Rev. James Hurdis, D.D., Professor of Poetry in the University of Oxford Rector of Bishopston, author of "The Village Curate," and many other poems, and a friend and correspondent of the poet Cowper. Dr. Hurdis, by his marriage with Harriet Taylor, daughter of Hughes Minet, Esq., of Austin Friars, London, was father of three children, the eldest of whom was the subject of this notice. Dr. Hurdis, who is still remembered as a poet of the Cowper school, resembled his friend both in amiability of manner and in modes of thought and expression.

The amiable poet died in the prime of manhood, in 1801, and his widow, at no long interval, was re-married to Storer Ready, Esq., a medical practitioner, who, with his wife and three step-children, settled at Southampton, where Mr. Hurdis spent ten years of his boyish life at a boarding-school. In 1816 or 1817 he removed, with his mother and family, to France, residing principally at the Château of Bagatelle, near Abbeville, where the pencil, the gun, and the fishing-rod alternately furnished him with occupation. It was from this retreat in a foreign land, that, contrary to the wishes of some of his respectable relatives, but probably in accordance with those of the active-minded and energetic lad himself, he was apprenticed to Charles Heath, the eminent engraver, under whose able guidance he developed that strong feeling for the fine arts which distinguished his later life. It was at this period that he contracted the friendship of George Cruikshank, much of whose humour he imbibed, and whose friendship he subsequently enjoyed. Happily for Mr. Hurdis, there was no *res angustæ domi* to compel him to follow professionally the drudgery of the burin, and his talents, as exercised in after life, were simply those of an amateur of the first class. Many of his years of manhood were spent near