

THOMAS TOOKE, ESQ., F.R.S.

Feb. 26. At his residence in Spring-gardens, aged 84, Thomas Tooke, Esq., F.R.S., author of "A History of Prices," &c.

Of Mr. Tooke the "Athenæum" of March 6 gives us the following account:—

"By the death of Mr. Tooke there has been removed from us another of the few remaining eminent men who connect the public questions of the present time with the great topics of the earlier part of the century. For nearly forty years the name of Mr. Tooke has been prominent as that of a guide and teacher in some of the more important of those controversies which relate to the application of the higher economical laws and principles to purposes of practical legislation. He was the elder son of the Rev. William Tooke, author of the 'History of Russia,' the 'Life of Catherine II.,' and many other works, and brother to Mr. William Tooke, the editor of 'Churchill.' Mr. Thomas Tooke was born in 1774, in St. Petersburg, where his father resided eighteen years as Chaplain to the British Factory, having been during the three previous years Minister of the English Church at Cronstadt. The father's studies in Russian literature and history, and his long residence in Russia, had gained him considerable reputation and extensive connexions in that country; and it was for this reason, no doubt, that his son Thomas Tooke was destined for a merchant, and embarked in the Russian trade, from which he retired about twenty-five years ago. Mr. Tooke was eminently a man of business; and was not known as an author until he had passed his fiftieth year, when he may be supposed to have honourably secured the leisure necessary for literary pursuits. Entering early in life into active mercantile pursuits as partner in one of the largest houses engaged in the Russia trade, Mr. Tooke laid the foundation of that accurate and surprising knowledge of detail which afterwards became so useful and so conspicuous when, at a mature age, he was led to apply himself to the investigation of general causes.

"When the war was at an end, and the necessity arose for resuming cash payments, it was the prevalent and easy fashion to explain all anomalies of currency and commerce by praising or blaming the circulation of inconvertible banknotes. It was at that period that Mr. Tooke's name became first conspicuous. In his evidence before Parliament in 1819 and 1821, there was given almost for the first time an example of how much may

be accomplished by the patient efforts of a sagacious and trained mind in the elucidation of economical phenomena of the most complex character. The views which had been orally expressed in these examinations were reduced into greater system in the 'Thoughts and Details on High and Low Prices,' the first edition of which appeared in 1823, and the second edition in the summer of 1824. This work was the foundation of the subsequent and greater work, which, under the title of the 'History of Prices,' from 1792 downwards, secured for Mr. Tooke a place in the first rank of living economists. The first two volumes of the 'History of Prices' appeared in 1838, the third and fourth in 1840 and 1847,—and the two closing volumes, the joint labour of Mr. Tooke and of his friend and pupil Mr. Newmarch, were published so recently as March in last year.

"It is well known that the famous document quoted as the Merchants' Petition, of 1820, in favour of Free Trade, was written by Mr. Tooke, and was brought before the Legislature almost wholly by his influence and exertions; and it is certain that from the time of the presentation of that petition may be dated the origin of those practical discussions and reforms which have at length rendered this country the greatest warehouse and market of the world, because here Free Trade has become a principle in our laws and sentiments.

"Mr. Tooke was an active participator in the inquiries and legislation connected with the social reforms of the last five-and-twenty years. He took a leading part in the Factory Workers' Commission, and he was the chief of the Commission for investigating the difficult subject of the Employment of Children.

"In 1831 he projected and founded a select society for the advancement of his favourite science, and the Political Economy Club still exists, vigorous and flourishing. But forty years ago the science of Adam Smith stood but in poor estimation; and it may serve, perhaps, to mark a sensible advancement, to point out that in 1821 it was not without difficulty that a small society could be formed for the promotion of a branch of inquiry so heterodox and exceptional as political economy was then considered to be.

"Mr. Tooke has at length passed away, full of years and honours. The Royal Society admitted him a Fellow on the evidence of his first work. The French Academy more recently elected him a Corresponding Member. For a long period he presided as Governor over the oldest and

largest of our insurance offices—the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation,—and for a period almost as long over the St. Katharine's Dock Company. On the day of Mr. Tooke's funeral the shutters of the Royal Exchange Assurance Office were closed, and all the ships in the St. Katharine's Docks lowered their flags to half-mast, in token of respect for the memory of the deceased.

“He leaves behind him only one son; and it was the death, in December last, of his second son, Mr. Thomas Tooke, jun., after a few days' illness, which hastened his own end.

“Eminently endowed by nature with an intellect observant, sagacious, and patient, aided by a judgment remarkable for clearness and solidity, and pursuing truth with a fervent singleness of purpose, he was enabled to extend the boundaries of positive knowledge in directions where success was a public good of no mean order; and working with materials apparently so common as the ordinary experience of a merchant, he drew from them profound economical laws for the guidance of philosophers and legislators.”

Most of the London papers contained a notice of the deceased, in which it was erroneously alleged that he had been a contributor to the proceedings of the Royal Society, and was one of the founders of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge; whereas he never wrote a single paper for the Royal Society, nor was he ever a Member of the Useful Knowledge Society, of which Mr. William Tooke was one of the founders and Treasurer.

THOMAS EDWARD DICEY, Esq., M.A.,

Feb. 20. At Prince's-terrace, Hyde-park, aged 69, Thomas Edward Dicey, Esq., M.A., of Claybrook-hall, Leicestershire, and who for fifty years had been the proprietor of the “Northampton Mercury,” son of Mr. Thomas Dicey, the former proprietor.

He was born at his father's residence, Claybrook-hall, Leicestershire, in the year 1789, and was educated at Dr. Fowell's, of Dunham, Norfolk. He matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, and after residing there for a short period, migrated to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree in 1811; obtaining the highest University distinction,—being Senior Wrangler and Smith's Prizeman for the year. In 1814 Mr. Dicey married Miss Stephen, the daughter of Mr. Stephen, one of the Masters in Chancery, and

well known for his active co-operation in the abolition of West Indian slavery. After his marriage, he resided principally at Claybrook, where he took an active part in local and county business. He was chairman for some years of the old Midland Counties Railway, until its amalgamation with the Midland Railway, under Mr. Hudson's management, when he resigned his connection with the undertaking. He was also a director of the North Staffordshire Railway, from its formation till the time of his death. Throughout the whole of his life he took an active part in the management of the “Mercury,” and felt much interest in the welfare of Northampton, though carefully abstaining, on principle, from any participation in local politics. For the last ten years of his life he lived in London, where he died, after a protracted illness.

THOMAS LISTER PARKER, Esq., F.S.A., F.R.S.

March 2. At the Star Inn, Manchester, (where he had located himself for the last three years,) Thomas Lister Parker, Esq., formerly of Browsholme-hall, and hereditary Bowbearer of the Forest of Bowland, in the county of York.

He was descended from an ancient and well-connected family on the borders of Lancashire, being the eldest son and heir of John Parker, Esq., M.P., by his wife Beatrice, sister of the first Lord Riddesdale, of Gisburn-park, and grandson of Edward Parker, Esq., and of his wife Barbara, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Wm. Fleming, of Rydall, in the county of Westmoreland, Baronet.

Mr. Parker was born at Browsholme, September 17, 1779, and having received the early part of his education at Clitheroe, as a pupil of the Rev. Thomas Wilson, B.D. the learned and distinguished master of the Royal Grammar-School there, he was entered as a fellow-commoner of Christ College, Cambridge, where his father had formerly been in the same capacity. Inheriting, immediately on attaining his majority, a large estate, and enjoying the advantages of the highest society, he had the honour of being noticed by the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV.), the Duke of Clarence (afterwards William IV.), and other members of the royal family.

His historical and antiquarian tastes led him at an early period to cultivate an intimate acquaintance with Chas. Towneley, of Towneley, the zealous and liberal founder of the Towneleian Gallery of Marbles in