

years, he was re-chosen for the borough, in which the interest of the Knox family is paramount, at the general election of July and August, 1837, but accepted the Chiltern Hundreds early in the following year in favour of his eldest son, who succeeded to the vacant seat. In 1840 his father's death transferred him to the Upper House; but in no part of his parliamentary career did he take a prominent part in politics, but contented himself with giving a silent vote in favour of the Conservative and Protectionist parties. The Knox family, which is one of the most influential in the north of Ireland, and has supplied more than one prelate to the established Church of that country, is originally of Scottish extraction, having held the lands of Knox and Ramphorlie, in the county of Renfrew, since the days of Alexander II. and James III. of Scotland. Two cadets of the family appear to have settled in the north of Ireland about the period of the Revolution; the elder, Thomas Knox, who settled at Dungannon, and founded the fortunes of the race, was one of the privy councillors of King George I. He declined a peerage during his lifetime; and dying without male issue, his fortune passed to the family of the younger brother, whose grandson was raised to the peerage as a Baron in 1781, and advanced to the Viscountcy in 1791. The second Viscount Northland, father of the nobleman recently deceased, was created an English peer in 1826, and advanced to the Irish earldom in 1831. By his Countess, who survives him, the late Earl had a family of five daughters, and also three sons, of whom the youngest is deceased; the second, the Hon. William Stuart Knox, formerly a Groom-in-Waiting to her Majesty, has represented Dungannon since February, 1851; while the eldest, Thomas, Viscount Northland, has now succeeded to the honours of the peerage as third Earl of Ranfurley. His Lordship was born in 1816, and married, in 1848, Harriet, eldest daughter of the late James Rimington, Esq., of Bromhead-hall, Yorkshire, by whom he has an infant family. He sat as M.P. for Dungannon from 1838 to 1851. It is not a little singular that this borough (one of the smallest electoral constituencies in the sister island) has been represented without intermission by one of the Knox family from the passing of the Reform Act in 1832. Of the late Earl's uncles, two became bishops in the Irish Church; Dr. William Knox having died Bishop of Derry in 1831, and Dr. Edmund Knox having held the see of Limerick from 1832 to 1849: his Lordship's cousin, Dr. Robert Bent Knox, is the present

Lord Bishop of Down and Connor. The longevity of the Knox family would also appear remarkable the first Viscount Northland having died in 1818, at the age of 89; his son, the second Viscount and first Earl, in 1840, aged 86; and his grandson, the second Earl, having now departed at the close of his 72d year; giving a total of nearly 250 years to three generations, or an average of 83 years to each.

#### VICE-ADMIRAL CROFTON.

Feb. 23. At Clifton, Vice-Admiral the Hon. George A. Crofton.

This officer entered the navy in March, 1798, as a volunteer on board the "Prince," 98, Captain Thomas Larcom, successively flag-ship in the Mediterranean and Channel of Sir Roger Curtis and Sir Charles Cotton. While next serving as midshipman in the "Triton" and "Medusa" frigates, both commanded by Captain John Gore, he took part, between May, 1801, and May, 1804, in an attack made by Lord Nelson on the Boulogne flotilla. Soon after his promotion to the rank of lieutenant, which took place October 10, 1804, Mr. Crofton was appointed to the "Cambrian," 40, Captain John Poo Beresford, on the Halifax station, in command of the barge belonging to which frigate he distinguished himself at the capture, June 13, 1805, of the Spanish privateer "Maria," of 14 guns and sixty men. He obtained, June 24, 1806, the acting command of the "Observateur" brig, in the West Indies, where, after witnessing the surrender, in the "Mulgrave" sloop, of the Danish islands, he was confirmed, February 9, 1808, to the "Demerara," another sloop, and appointed in the course of the same year to the "Fawn," 18, in which vessel we find him assisting at the reduction of Marie-galante and Martinique, and taking, October 11, 1810, "Le Temeraire," privateer, of 10 guns, 6 large swivels, and 35 men. Captain Crofton, whose post-commission bears date February 1, 1812, afterwards joined, August 11, 1813, the "Dictator" troopship, in which he participated in the attacks upon Baltimore and New Orleans, and in other operations on the coast of America; February 4, 1815, the "Narcissus," 32, employed on the same station, whence he returned in May, 1816; and July 24, 1826, the "Dryad," 42. He came home from the Mediterranean in 1829, and had not since been afloat. Captain Crofton, during the war, received several honorary rewards from the Patriotic Society.