

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-

cott's life, without any extended literary criticism of his works, it is enough here to say that this admirable production was received with the utmost enthusiasm both in Europe and America. Scholars and philosophers admired its depth of research, while general readers were charmed by the limpid ease and natural grace of its style, his brilliant descriptions and animated pictures. It was soon translated into French, Spanish and German. Its author was immediately elected a member of the Royal Academy of Madrid. The popularity which it gained upon its first publication it has since steadily maintained. It has gone through several editions in England and America, and is one of the established classics in the language.

Mr. Prescott's literary industry was not checked by the success of his first work. He did not, for a moment, repose under his laurels. He immediately devoted himself to the investigation of another brilliant period in the history of Spain, the fruits of which appeared in 1843, in a work, in three volumes, called the "History of the Conquest of Mexico, with a Preliminary View of the Ancient Mexican Civilization, and the Life of the Conqueror Hernando Cortez." This work was received with favour not less than that which had greeted the History of Ferdinand and Isabella. The literary world recognised in it the same careful research, the same accuracy of statement, the same persuasive sweetness and magic beauty of style.

In 1847 was published, in two volumes, the "History of the Conquest of Peru, with a Preliminary View of the Civilization of the Incas," a work of kindred and commensurate excellence to that of the "History of the Conquest of Mexico."

Mr. Prescott now devoted himself with unabated ardour to the preparation of a work of wider range and broader scope—a work which, alas! he has not been permitted to finish—the "History of the Reign of Philip the Second." This was a theme requiring a larger and more comprehensive treatment than his previous works, and Mr. Prescott made his preparations for it with an extent and deliberation proportionate to its magnitude. He had now become one of the great literary names of the age, and found everywhere persons who were ready to give him assistance. Everywhere, both public collections and private archives were thrown open to him. It was while preparing for this work that he indulged himself with a brief excursion to England, where he was received with the utmost enthusiasm by persons of the highest distinction in litera-

ture and social life, and where the favourable impression created by his works was confirmed by his prepossessing appearance and delightful manners. He took ample time for the task, which he destined to be the crowning work of his life. In the latter part of 1855 appeared the first two volumes of this work, under the title of the "History of the Reign of Philip the Second, King of Spain." The highest expectations of the public were gratified by it. In dealing with this more comprehensive subject, it was admitted that he had shewn the same careful research, the same conscientious balancing of authorities, the same calm and judicial temper, and that it was commended to the general taste by the same picturesque narrative and the same fascination of style.

In 1856 Mr. Prescott published an edition of Robertson's "History of the Reign of Charles the Fifth," with notes, and a valuable supplement containing an account of the Emperor's life after his abdication.

This very last year, indeed but a few weeks since, the third volume of his "History of Philip the Second" appeared. The ink seems hardly dry upon the manuscript in which we recorded our honest and fervent admiration of this delightful volume.

The highest possible acknowledgments of literary distinction were liberally showered upon Mr. Prescott. The University of Oxford, in 1850, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. In 1845 he received the highest of all distinctions of its class, in being elected a corresponding member of the class of Moral and Political Philosophy in the French Institute, succeeding Navarete, the Spanish historian. Of most of the learned societies in Europe he was a member.

Mr. Prescott was as rich in the love of his friends as in the admiration of the literary world. His manners were most frank, simple, and engaging; his social nature was strong and active; and his sympathies were ever ready and easily moved. His countenance was extremely fine and prepossessing, and retained to the last a youthful glow and animation which were the faithful expression of a sunny temper and an ever young heart. No man was ever more warmly beloved; no man could shew a better title to the affections of his friends. His honours and distinctions never impaired the simplicity and sweetness of his nature, or changed his countenance towards any one whom he had ever known and loved. No man so eminent was ever pursued with less of

envy, detraction, or ill-will. No man's honours were ever a subject of more hearty delight to his friends.

Mr. Prescott leaves a widow and three children, two sons and a daughter.—*Boston Courier*.

MR. WM. FREELING JERDAN.

Feb. 6. Aged 41, Mr. William Freeling Jerdan, second son of Mr. William Jerdan.

By his birth connected with the literary world, he did not, however, devote himself to literature, and was only a casual contributor of lighter matter to the press. In office business he was very able and expert, and had realized a moderate competency, when the fearful railway crash (he being then secretary to the Great Northern of France) wrecked him in the gulph of extended ruin. He afterwards turned more assiduously to literary employment; became a principal shareholder in, and administrator of, the "Literary Gazette," out of which he retired to make room for Messrs. Benham and Reeve. For several years, and at the time of his premature death, he was a clerk in the General Post Office. Gifted with more than common talent, he was one of the kindest-hearted beings that ever existed, and his loss is not only sincerely lamented by his family and relatives, but by a numerous circle whom he had attached by his ever-obliging disposition and readiness to serve by any means that lay in his power.

MR. JOHN GRABHAM.

Aug. 9. Aged 57, Mr. John Grabham, late superintendent of the Reading-room of the British Museum. He had been for twenty-five years in the service of that Institution, and succeeded the late Mr. Cates as principal superintendent of the Reading-room in 1850. Mr. Grabham was in other respects a very useful literary labourer. He edited and added to Malby's "Greek Gradus;" compiled the Index to the "Cyclopaedia Metropolitana," forming the whole of the last volume of that great work; the index to the new edition of Foxe's "Acts and Monuments," (edited by Townsend and Cattle), those to several volumes of the Parker Society's works, and others. He has left five children, of whom the eldest, bearing his own name, also holds an appointment at the British Museum.

CLERGY DECEASED.

Jan. 14. At Cheltenham, the Rev. John Tucker, B. of Hawling (1846), and P.C. of Charlton Abbotts (1831), Gloucestershire.

Jan. 19. At Worthing, aged 56, the Rev. Randle Jackson Waters, B.A. 1824, M.A. 1827, D.D., 1844, Christ's College, Cambridge, Minor Canon of St. Peter's, and late Master of Emmanuel Hospital, Westminster.

Jan. 21. While on a visit at Over Vicarage, in consequence of a fall from his horse, aged 43, the Rev. John Louthian, P.C. of Wharton (1845), Cheshire.

Jan. 22. At Northgate-house, Winchester, aged 69, the Rev. Thomas Heathcote, Shaw-hill, Wiltshire.

At Dover, aged 77, the Rev. Thomas Sparkes Griffinhoofe, B.A. 1805, M.A. 1808, Pembroke College, Cambridge, V. of Arkesden and of Mayland (1805), Essex.

Jan. 23. At Giggleswick-in-Craven, aged 72, the Rev. John Howson, M.A., 45 years Second Master of Giggleswick Grammar School.

Jan. 24. At Trentishoe, North Devon, the Rev. Charles Griffiths, 35 years Rector of that parish.

At Leamington, the Rev. John Clementson, Vicar of Wolvey, (1839), Warwickshire.

Jan. 25. At the Rectory, Caldecote, aged 69, the Rev. John Darby, B.A. 1810, M.A. 1813, Christ Church, Oxford, Rector of Caldecote and of Denton, Hants.

At the Rectory, Haselbury Bryan, near Blandford, aged 73, the Rev. Henry Walter, B.D., and F.R.S., Rector of that parish. He was born in Lincolnshire, in 1785. His father was in Holy Orders. At the usual age, Henry was sent to Cambridge, and entered as a Pensioner at St. John's College. He must have read with great diligence and application, for in his examination for his degree, he was placed Second Wrangler, the first anniversary honour of the year (1806) having been carried off by his competitor, the present Lord Chief Baron Pollock, Senior Wrangler. Mr. Walter was shortly afterwards chosen Fellow of St. John's, and became tutor to his Grace the late Duke of Northumberland, who appointed him his domestic chaplain, and in the year 1821 presented him to the rectory of Haselbury Bryan, which he held to the day of his death: thus he was Rector over this large parish for nearly thirty-eight years. For some time Mr. Walter held the office of Professor of Natural Philosophy at Haileybury, which office he resigned on being appointed to his incumbency. He wrote and published a History of England, and at different times published smaller writings on different subjects. As a divine, he reverently brought all his sentiments in subjection to the authority of Holy Scripture.

Jan. 26. At Upper Holloway, aged 62, the Rev. David Rees, late of the Rectory, Scole, Norfolk, and formerly Vicar of Aberavon and Baglan.

At the Vicarage, aged 73, the Rev. John Harward, B.A. 1804, M.A. 1809, Trinity College, Oxford, V. of Whaplode (1831), Lincolnshire.

At Sibson Rectory, aged 91, the Rev. Thomas Neale, having held the living nearly 70 years.

Jan. 28. At Woodbury, Exeter, aged 86, the Rev. Francis Filmer, B.C.L. 1804, Alban Hall, Oxford, youngest son of the late Rev. Sir Edmund Filmer, of East Sutton, Kent.

Jan. 31. Aged 59, the Rev. Jacob Picton, B.A. 1828, M.A. 1831, Queen's College, Cambridge, C. of Bulmer with Belchamp, Essex.

Latelý. The Rev. George Ambrose Warde, B.A. 1826, Brasenose College, Oxford, Rector of Yalding (1857), Kent.

Feb. 1. At Barton-court, Canterbury, aged 53, the Rev. William John Chesshyre, Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, Rector of St. Martin's, and Rural Dean.

Feb. 2. At Twickenham, aged 88, the Rev. Charles Proby, B.A. 1792, M.A. 1795, St. John's College, Cambridge, Canon of Windsor (1814), V. of Twickenham (1818), Middlesex, and of Tachbrook (1804), Warwickshire.

At Wombwell, Barnsley, aged 36, the Rev.