

halt, and ate some of our provisions with a good appetite. We listened attentively, but could hear no sound, so we agreed to push on directly the moon got up. As we did not speak above a whisper, a very soporiferous proceeding, I was not surprised that both Toby and William fell asleep. It was more necessary, therefore, that I should keep my eyes and ears open. At last I saw what looked like the illuminated dome of some vast cathedral slowly emerge from the dark line of the horizon; up it rose, till it assumed a globe-like form, and appeared to decrease in size, while it cast a bright silvery light over the hitherto obscured landscape. I roused up the two midshipmen, who were sleeping as soundly as if they had been in their hammocks. We worked our way onward among tangled underwood, not without sundry scratches and inconvenient rents in our clothing, till we reached a hill, up which we climbed. From the top we looked down, as we had expected to do, on the harbour. Below us lay the *Mignonne*, or a ship very like her; her sails were loose and bulging out with the land breeze, while from the sounds which reached us, it was evident that her crew were heaving up the anchor preparatory to sailing; boats were moving backwards and forwards over the surface of the calm water of the harbour, on which the moon shone with a refulgence which enabled us to see all that was taking place. The anchor was away, the sails were sheeted home, and the privateer slowly glided out of the harbour on her errand of mischief; two, if not more, boats returned to the shore fully manned. Farther up the harbour lay three large hulks, with their lower masts only standing; they were high out of the water, showing that they had no cargoes in them. There were also several smaller craft, but all were dismantled, and looked as if they had been there for some time. The French, then, had a settlement on the island. The inhabitants were sure to be armed, and probably were as numerous as our party. If so, it would be unwise to attempt gaining anything by force, though of course we might surprise them. We waited till the people in the boats had had time to turn in and go to sleep, and then descended to reconnoitre the place more nearly. We crept cautiously on till we reached several scattered cottages, or huts rather, built, without any regularity, as the nature of the ground seemed most suitable. There were also two or three store-houses close to the water; indeed, we saw enough to show us that there was a regular settlement made by the French for the purpose of refitting their ships. The barking of several poodles in the cottages made us afraid of moving about much, lest their inmates should look out and discover us. We therefore retraced our steps to the hill.

"A magnificent idea," exclaimed Trundle, as soon as we called a halt. "We'll surprise and capture the place and hold it for the King of England. You'll be made governor, Braithwaite, to a certainty."

"To be turned out by the first French privateer which enters the harbour—to be thrown into prison and perhaps shot. Thank you," said I, "I would rather not."

"This establishment solves a mystery," observed William. "We have often been puzzled to know what has become of vessels which have disappeared, and which, from the fineness of the weather, and for other reasons, we did not suppose had been lost. We should do good service if we could get away without being discovered, and send some of our cruisers to watch in the neighbourhood."

I agreed with William; at the same time the idea of capturing the place was very attractive. If we should

make the attempt and succeed, however, we should find liquor there, and the seamen would certainly get drunk and mutinous. No object would be gained, also, unless we could immediately send a vessel to sea, to give notice at the Mauritius of our success and obtain assistance. Discussions on these points occupied us till daylight, when we recommenced our journey to the tents. The news we brought was so far satisfactory to our companions, that we were not likely to be starved to death, and as peace would come some day or other, we might then hope to make our escape. No one, however, seemed at all desirous of attacking the French settlement: the risk was considerable, the gain problematical. It was finally agreed that we should remain quiet where we were, and only in case of extremity make ourselves known to our foreign neighbours. The more energetic of the party became, as may be supposed, very impatient of the inactive life we were compelled to lead. We could do little else than fish all day, and make expeditions in search of water. In this we were at last successful. The spring was more than a mile away, and it became a question whether we should move our camp there, the objection to our so doing being that it was so much nearer the French settlement. The next morning, on going near the spot where the captain and his companions had erected their tent, I saw no one moving. I called to them. There was no reply. I went to the tent. It was empty! It was supposed that they had gone to the newly-discovered spring, but those who had gone to bring water from it told us that they were not there. While we were wondering what had become of the men, as William happened to be sweeping the horizon with his telescope, he cried out that he saw a sail in the offing. In a short time afterwards another was descried, her topsails gradually rising out of the water. She was pronounced to be larger than the first which had appeared.

"It is that scoundrel La Roche again," exclaimed O'Carroll, after eyeing the nearest stranger for some time. "I knew that it would not be long before he would be back again, and there he comes with a big prize, depend on it."

"But suppose, instead of the big ship being his prize, he has been captured by one of our cruisers, and has been sent in first to show the way," I suggested.

"No, no, the headmost craft is the *Mignonne*, and the big one is an Indiaman, her prize, depend on that," said O'Carroll.

There seemed every probability that he was right, but this did not increase our satisfaction. The only thing that could be said was that we should now have companions in our misfortune. As may be supposed, however, we watched the approach of the two ships with the greatest interest, feeling assured that in some way or other they would have a considerable influence on our fate.

#### NORWICH SCIENTIFIC CELEBRITIES.

On the eve of the meeting of the British Association at Norwich, our readers may not deem it inappropriate that we should invite them to a rapid glance at some of the celebrities whose names are associated with the East Anglian capital, and whose scientific career have reflected a lustre upon the city of their birth or residence. In the transactions of the Linnæan Society there is an interesting account of several Norwich botanists, in the form of a letter addressed to the secretary of that society, by the late Sir James Edward Smith, himself a distinguished botanist and a native of

Norwich. "There was," says Sir James, "a school of botanists in Norwich, among whom the writings and merits of Linnæus were perhaps more early, or at least more philosophically, studied and appreciated, than in any other part of Britain. Norwich had long, indeed, been conspicuous for the love of plants. A play is extant, called 'Rhodon and Iris,' which was presented at the florists' feast in Norwich, and printed in 1637. The taste for the cultivation of flowers was probably imported from Flanders, along with our worsted manufacture, during the equally unchristian and unwise persecutions of the bloody Philip II. Such an innocent luxury and so pure a taste, were not unworthy of minds which had turned with disgust from the tyranny and foul corruption of their native country. Truth, virtuous liberty, and disinterested science, are congenial, and flourish under the influence of similar circumstances." During last century, botany began to be systematically studied. And here we may notice, before turning to other and greater names, several of those early and humble cultivators of the science connected with the city of Norwich. A portion of the Herbarium of Mr. Wilson, a tailor, fell into Sir James Smith's hands, which he found to be very scientifically named. Wilson appears to have made frequent journeys to London, and to have collected and dried many plants from the Physic-garden at Chelsea, and Gray's nursery at Fulham. Among his pupils were Mr. Christopher Smart, of the same trade; Mr. Christopher Newman, of a more elevated station in life; and Mr. William Humfrey. Sir James acknowledges his obligations to Humfrey—he was the discoverer of several plants not known out of the neighbourhood of Norwich. Mr. Joseph Fox, a weaver, was the first person who raised a *Lycopodium* from seed, and who, without much help from books, attained to a discriminative knowledge of British wild flowers, and was the original discoverer of many rare plants in the county of Norfolk.

The Rev. Henry Bryant, one of the ministers of Norwich, about the year 1764, took up the study of botany as a diversion to his mind after severe domestic affliction. In this pursuit he was associated with Mr. Hugh Rose, an apothecary of the city. Mr. Rose in 1775 published his "Elements of Botany," being a translation and epitome of many of the most useful introductory and theoretical writings of Linnæus. Sir James Smith in early life derived from Rose, books and instruction in botany. To the help thus afforded he makes the following interesting allusion: "I can never forget the kind assistance I received from this worthy man, when, having always had a passion for plants, I became desirous, at the age of eighteen, of studying botany as a science. The only book I could then procure was 'Berkenhout,' Hudson's 'Flora' having become extremely scarce. I received 'Berkenhout' on the 9th of January, 1778, and on the 11th began, with infinite delight, to examine the *ulex europæus*, the only plant then in flower. I then first comprehended the nature of systematic arrangement and the Linnæan principles, little aware that at that instant the world was losing the great genius who was to be my future guide, for Linnæus died in the night of January 11th, 1778. With 'Berkenhout' and a parcel of wild flowers in my hands, I had often recourse to Mr. Rose during the ensuing summer. But, alas! in the following year a gutta serena deprived him of sight."

Mr. John Pitchford, a name known to all conversant with the history of English botany, settled in Norwich in 1769, and died there in 1803. He was the last of the original Linnæan school of Norwich botanists. He had,

says Sir James, a frequent correspondence with the authors of "Flora Anglica" and "Flora Scotica." But though an admirer of Linnæus, he was always particularly partial to Ray; and though ever so well acquainted with a plant by its Linnæan name, he could never rest while it was involved in any obscurity in the works of Ray.

The celebrated Sir Thomas Browne, who had settled as a physician in Norwich in 1636, amid other learned and scientific pursuits also cultivated a knowledge of plants. He first observed the *salsola fruticosa* on the Norfolk coast. Evelyn went to Norwich, as we find it stated in his diary, during the year in which Charles II had visited the city and had conferred the honour of knighthood on the famous doctor. A great desire to meet with the author of "Religio Medici" and "Vulgar Errors," led him the morning after his arrival to seek out Sir Thomas. His house and garden Evelyn describes as "a paradise and cabinet of rarities, and that of the best collection, especially medals, books, plants, and natural things. Among other curiosities, Sir Thomas had a collection of the eggs of all the fowl and birds he could procure, that country, especially the promontory of Norfolk, being frequented, as he said, by several kinds which seldom or never go farther into the land, as cranes, storks, eagles, and a variety of waterfowl. He led me to see all the remarkable places of that ancient city, being one of the largest and certainly, after London, one of the noblest of England for its venerable cathedral, number of stately churches, cleanness of the streets, and buildings of flint so exquisitely headed and squared as I was much astonished at; but he told me they had lost the art of squaring the flints in which they so much excelled, and of which the churches, best houses, and walls were built." In Sir Thomas Browne's works we have several papers of a strictly scientific kind. One is entitled, "An Account of Birds found in Norfolk," and another is descriptive of the fishes found in Norfolk and on the coast. His "Repertorium," one of the very last of his productions, was drawn up with the view of preserving from oblivion, as far as possible, the monuments of the cathedral of Norwich, many of which had been sadly defaced during the civil wars. The "Religio Medici"—the religion of a physician—it is inferred was written before he came to Norwich, and was printed surreptitiously in 1642. In the following year, however, an authorised edition was issued. "The Religio Medici," says Dr. Johnson, in his life of the author, "was no sooner published than it excited the attention of the public, by the novelty of paradoxes, the dignity of sentiment, the quick succession of images, the multitude of abstruse allusions, the subtlety of disquisition, and the strength of language." In 1658 the discovery of some ancient urns led Sir Thomas to write a discourse on "Sepulchral Urns," in which, with his usual learning, he treats of the funeral rites of the ancient nations, exhibits their various treatment of the dead, and examines the substances found in these Norfolk urns. This learned and famous man died at Norwich, October 19th, 1682, in his seventy-sixth year. His last words were expressions of submission to the will of God. His tomb may be seen in the church of St. Peter's Mancroft, with a Latin inscription on a mural monument.

The son of Sir Thomas, Edward Browne, was born and educated at Norwich, travelled widely on the continent, and afterwards became first physician to Charles II. Botany, pharmacy, and chemistry, he knew and cultivated. King Charles said of him, "he was as learned as any of the college, and as well bred as any of

the Court." The published account of his travels is interesting to naturalists from the information it contains. His son, the second Dr. Thomas Browne, was a fellow of the Royal Society and of the Royal College of Physicians, and died in July, 1710.

One of the scientific celebrities born at Norwich in 1510, to whom some notice is due, is Dr. John Kaye, better known by his Latinized name of Caius. He was educated at Gonville Hall, Cambridge, which was subsequently, by his liberality, endowed and erected into a college under the name of Gonville and Caius College. He travelled, studied, and wrote books abroad, and formed an intimate acquaintance with the famous naturalist Conrad Gesner. Returning to England he practised his art as a physician at Norwich with great reputation. On the outbreak of the disease called the sweating sickness, which ravaged the whole kingdom, having discovered a mode of cure, Dr. Kaye generously published it to the world. In the common room of Caius College there is a portrait of Kaye. One of his principal works is a treatise on the University of Cambridge. He produced also a work entitled "De Canibus, or an Account of British Dogs." This book was undertaken at the request of his friend Gesner, and is a masterly treatise for the time in which it was written. In a visit of King James I to Cambridge, as he passed through Caius College, the master, as a compliment to the monarch's learning, presented him with a copy of "Kaye's History of the University," on which the king observed, "Give me rather 'Caius de Canibus.'" Dr. Kaye, in addition to his treatise on dogs, furnished also brief accounts of rare animals and plants for a work by Gesner, which were published separately, with corrections and additions, in 1670. He was distinguished, not only as a physician and a naturalist, but as a linguist, a critic, and an antiquary. On a variety of scientific subjects he exercised his pen. He died in 1573, and was buried in the College Chapel of Caius. In "Fuller's Worthies" will be found a further account of this learned and accomplished Norwich physician.

Passing over a number of names, among others that of Edward King, born at Norwich in 1734, who in an account of his life is styled "the most erudite antiquary of modern times," we come to that of Sir James Edward Smith, already referred to. We have seen how the taste for botany of this eminent man, one of the founders of the Linnæan Society and its first president, was first encouraged and developed at Norwich, by the aid of the botanist Rose. After having received instruction in the city school, Smith, in the year 1780, repaired to the University of Edinburgh, where he distinguished himself by obtaining the gold medal given to the best proficient in botany. Becoming acquainted in London with Sir Joseph Banks, an acquaintance which helped to confirm his attachment to botanical pursuits, Smith, through Sir Joseph's advice, became the purchaser of the library and collections of Linnæus. The ship which conveyed these precious scientific treasures to England had just sailed from Sweden, when Gustavus III, who had been absent in France, returned, and, hearing the story of the sale, sent a vessel in pursuit, but happily it was too late. This splendid acquisition decided the bent of Dr. Smith's studies. In co-operation with other naturalists, he formed the Linnæan Society, which held its first meeting on the 8th April, 1788, when, as first president, he delivered a discourse "On the Rise and Progress of Natural History." The greatest works of Dr. Smith are his "English Botany," which he brought to a successful termination in 1814, and which extends to

thirty-six volumes, and contains 2,592 figures of British plants, and his "English Flora," consisting of four volumes octavo. Dr. Smith had the honour of giving instruction in botany to Queen Charlotte and the princesses at Frogmore. On the 28th of July, 1814, he presented to the Prince Regent a set of the transactions of the Linnæan Society, and received, on the recommendation of Lord Sidmouth, the honour of knighthood. Sir James Smith's contributions to the Linnæan Society have been very numerous. To that body he presented the library and collections of the celebrated Swedish naturalist. "He was," we are told, "a man of deep religious convictions: regularly he might have been seen in his place in the Octagon Chapel in Norwich. In 1796 he had returned to his native city full of information, rich in fame, and loaded with honorary titles. Yet he came, unspoiled by honours, and uncorrupted by travel, to sit down among the friends of his youth, willing to give and to receive pleasure from the most simple and attainable objects." This eminent man died on the 15th March, 1828. A memoir of his life was published by Lady Smith in 1833, in two volumes.

Towards the close of 1865, and within a few weeks of each other, died two very distinguished natives of Norwich, Sir William Jackson Hooker, the Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, and Dr. John Lindley, Professor of Botany at University College, London. Of Lindley we shall first speak. The son of a nurseryman settled at Catton, near Norwich, he was educated at the Norwich Grammar School, under Dr. Valpy. Appointed in 1822 Garden Assistant Secretary to the Horticultural Society, he became sole Assistant Secretary in 1826, and in one form or another, throughout the whole of his working life, he remained connected with that society, and devoted himself with all his energy to the formation and development of the gardens at Chiswick. In 1829 he was made Professor of Botany in University College, an appointment he held for upwards of thirty years. Exact, clear, and impressive, as a lecturer he excelled in the lucid exposition of his subject, aided as he was by a faculty of copious illustration. Dr. Lindley was one of the most prominent advocates of the new or natural as opposed to the Linnæan system of botany. His Introduction to the Natural System appeared in 1830, it passed through a second edition in 1836, and subsequently took the form of "The Vegetable Kingdom," a third edition of which was published in 1853. In the preface to this work, dated 1845, the author says, "Fifteen years have sufficed to render the once popular but superficial and useless system of Linnæus a mere matter of history."

It was with special reference to his "Vegetable Kingdom," and other valuable writings on botany and horticulture, that the Royal Medal of the Royal Society was awarded to Dr. Lindley in 1857, of which learned body he had been since 1828 a distinguished member. He discharged the arduous duties of a juror of the Great Exhibition in 1851, and in that of 1862, much against the wish of his family, he undertook the charge of the Colonial Department; but the effort was too great, and from the effects of his exertions he never afterwards recovered. On the 1st of November, 1865, Dr. Lindley was carried off by apoplexy, in his sixty-seventh year.

William J. Hooker early showed a love for natural history, becoming the discoverer of a rare moss, which he took to Sir James E. Smith; he received from that botanist the bias which determined the direction of his studies. Hooker was the earliest scientific friend of Lindley. He introduced the unknown Norwich

youth to Sir Joseph Banks in 1819, and so commenced Lindley's successful scientific career.

In the spring of 1809, Sir Joseph Banks proposed to Hooker that he should spend the summer in Iceland. This he did, and to Banks, then president of the Royal Society, the "Journal of a Tour in Iceland" is dedicated by the author. In a sojourn for nine months on the continent, Hooker made the acquaintance of the principal botanists of Europe, with whom he maintained scientific intercourse and correspondence until the day of his death.

Possessed of independent means, having married and settled at Halesworth in Suffolk, his house became the rendezvous of British and foreign botanists. There he commenced the formation of that great Herbarium, now located at Kew, and the finest in the world. Professor of Botany at Glasgow from 1820 to 1841, in the latter year Sir William Hooker (who had been knighted by William IV in 1836) was appointed director of the Royal Gardens at Kew. For making these gardens the head-quarters of botanical science for England, and, indeed, for the empire, for raising them to their present high position, and for throwing them open to the public, the nation is mainly indebted to the administrative and scientific capacity of Sir William Hooker. The history of the Kew Gardens furnishes, indeed, the best tribute to his rare personal qualities and scientific merits. Here, however, we cannot enter upon this inviting subject, nor upon any notice of Sir William's botanical writings and varied labours. Let it suffice to transfer to our pages the following description of the appearance and habits of the late director at Kew. "Sir William was in person tall, athletic, and active, in features remarkably good-looking, animated, and cheerful; his conversation had the charm of intellectual cultivation and refinement, and he had a ready power of conveying clear information. As a scientific correspondent he was unrivalled, promptly answering every letter with his own hand, encouraging those who first addressed him, and stimulating those who flagged. Indeed, he was wont to attribute his success in the creation of the National Gardens and the accompanying museums, to his habit of thanking every contributor at once, answering all their questions at whatever trouble, naming the plants they sent, and applying personally to residents in every part of the world for such plants or their products as he desired to have in the gardens."

A name which requires a passing notice in connection with the meeting of the British Association at Norwich, is that of John Taylor, born there in 1779. This gentleman devoted his attention to the operations and processes followed in mining. His aim was to elevate the art, and to place it on a scientific basis. To his earnest and judicious representations, although he had no active share in the matter, the establishment of the present school of mines may be traced. Of the various societies to which Mr. Taylor belonged, the British Association has been the most indebted to his useful co-operation, both scientific and administrative. He was present at its birth, and the first meeting of its Council was held in his house; he was its first treasurer, and held office till September, 1861, when the infirmities of age constrained him to retire; on which occasion the Council joined in a cordial expression of respect for his character, and gratitude for his long and valued services to the cause of science. Mr. Taylor died in London in April, 1863.

Edward Stanley, before rector of Alderley, Cheshire, was Bishop of Norwich from 1837 till 1849. That he deserves a place in our enumeration of the scientific

celebrities of the city, will be evident from the following extract from a biographical memoir by his son, Dean Stanley:—

"Of all the branches of science, natural history was that to which he was most inclined. His quick eye enabled him readily to observe, and his methodical habits accurately to register, the phenomena of the animal creation, and thus to acquire, without interfering with graver pursuits, a very considerable knowledge of ornithology, entomology, and mineralogy. Ornithology in particular became his favourite study, and it was a constant source of amusement and interest to him, in his parish walks and rides, to notice the flight and habits of birds, to collect remarkable specimens of their organisation, and to gather from his parishioners stories of any peculiarities which they had themselves noticed. The result of these observations he embodied in 1836 in two small volumes, published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and entitled "A Familiar History of Birds, their Nature, Habits, and Instincts."

Bishop Stanley's work has gone through several editions. It is written in a most interesting style. We do not know any book so well suited to create on the part of the young a taste for the study of birds, and an observant eye for their peculiarities and habits.

Some notice in our sketch is due to the late Samuel Woodward, the author of "The History and Antiquities of Norwich Castle," a work published in 1847, and edited by his son, Mr. Bernard B. Woodward, librarian to Her Majesty the Queen. Another member of this talented family, who attained the highest position as a conchologist, was the late Samuel P. Woodward, an officer of the British Museum, author of a treatise on recent and fossil shells, published under the title of a "Manual of Mollusca." This gentleman, on account of his scientific merits, twice received the proceeds of the Wollaston Fund from the Geological Society of London.

#### A GLANCE AT THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

WITH the exceptions of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Devonshire, Norfolk is the largest county in England, comprising an area of more than two thousand square miles. In an agricultural point of view it has long been foremost among English counties; and it owes its pre-eminence in this respect in part to improved systems of cultivation, said to have been borrowed originally from the Flemings, but still more to the practice of granting long leases to farmers, a practice in which Mr. Coke (the late Lord Leicester) led the way, and which, while it proved highly conducive to his own interests, gained for him the title of a benefactor to his country.

The history of Norfolk, on which we can here but barely touch, is replete with interest. Anciently it formed a part of the dominions of the Iceni, who were allies of the Romans in the time of Claudius, but rose in arms against Ostorius, who subdued them. A more terrible rising followed under Boadicea, whose calamitous defeat led to their entire submission. The relics of Roman rule throughout the county, such as the sites of towns, castles, stations, and fortifications, are abundant, and are the chief sources of interest to the antiquary. There are also many traces of Roman and other ancient roads, as the Jedder, or Pedder's Way, Stone Street, the Ikarild Street, and others which figure in the maps of the old Itineraries. There is good reason to believe that the Saxons obtained a