

EDWARD JAMES STANLEY, M.P. 1882-1906.

President of the Somersetshire Archæological Society, 1897 and 1898.

*From a Photograph by H. St. George Gray, of a Photogravure of a Painting by the Hon. John Collier, 1906.*

## Edward James Stanley, M.P. 1882-1906.

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BY THE REV. W. H. P. GRESWELL, M.A., F.R.G.S.

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WE much regret to announce the death of Mr. Edward James Stanley, M.P. 1882-1906, which took place on September 28th, 1907. Mr. Stanley was for many years one of the Trustees of our Society, and a member from 1874. During the years 1897-1898, he presided over the Annual Meetings at Bridgwater and Taunton respectively, the latter meeting being on the occasion of the Society's Jubilee. In these years he frequently attended the monthly committee meetings; and he was a generous contributor to the funds of the Society.

Born in 1826, the son of Edward Stanley (1789-1870), of Crosshill, Lancashire, Mr. Stanley claimed a collateral descent from the Earls of Derby, through Peter Stanley, uncle of the eleventh Earl. Originally the Stanleys were a branch of the Audley family. His mother was Lady Mary Maitland, daughter of the eighth Earl of Lauderdale. Although not a Somerset man by birth, Mr. Stanley used to say that he could trace a descent from Lady Strange, of Knockyn, daughter of John Mohun, and one of the coheir-esses of the Dunster Barony of Mohun.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. E. J. Stanley was educated at Eton, and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he took his M.A. degree in 1852. In 1872, he married the Honorable Mary Dorothy Labouchere,

1. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, vol. xliii, pt. i, p. 14. See also "The Barony of Smith-Stanley," Lodge's *Peerage*, 1832, and Debrett's *Peerage*.

eldest daughter, and heiress as far as the Quantock Manors were concerned, of Henry Labouchere, the first and last Lord Taunton, who was President of the Board of Trade in the Russell Administration (1846-1852), and Secretary for the Colonies under Lord Palmerston (1855-1858) for a short time. In this latter post he succeeded Sir William Molesworth, and, together with him and J. A. Roebuck, M.P. for Bath, J. Temple Leader, M.P. for Bridgwater, J. S. Mill and Charles Buller, was known as a Colonial Reformer, with advanced views. At an early date in his career, H. Labouchere, who represented Taunton (1830-1859), was a strong advocate in the Imperial Parliament of Canadian Constitutional Reform. It is worth noting how the members for Bath, Bridgwater and Taunton, all took similar views on this important point of Colonial development, the fruits of which are manifest to-day. Mr. Labouchere's connection with the County of Somerset as a landlord, began with the purchase of a large portion of the Egmont Estate, which was advertised in 1829 as containing 7,160 acres of meadow, pasture, or arable woodland and orchard, and included the Manors of Enmore, Spaxton, Currypool, Tuxwell, Aley, Over Stowey, Plainsfield, Weekfitzpayne, and the Borough and Honour of Stoke-Courcy. Both by the traditions of his own family, and also by his marriage, Mr. Stanley was destined to be a politician.

Mr. Stanley sat as member for West Somerset in the Conservative interest during 1882-5. At the outset of his political career he might have been classed as a follower of Whig rather than of Tory traditions, a tendency which would not have been lessened by the Labouchere Liberal connection. But as time went on, and the much-debated policy of Mr. Gladstone with regard to Ireland showed itself, Mr. Stanley found himself leaning more and more towards the Conservative and Unionist party. He was accustomed to say that he placed the utmost confidence in such leaders as the late Lord Salisbury.

When, under the Re-distribution Act (1885) the Parliamen-

tary Constituencies were re-arranged, and the Bridgwater Division was formed, Mr. Stanley was naturally asked to stand for it by the Conservatives. A strong opponent was found in Mr. E. Cely Trevilian, of Curry Rivel, but after a hard fought contest, Mr. Stanley was elected by the somewhat narrow majority of 100, the numbers being Stanley, 3,935, Trevilian, 3,835. In 1892, Mr. Stanley was again opposed by a Liberal candidate, in the person of Mr. Douglas Walker, but this time he won by the very substantial majority of 1193, the numbers being, Stanley, 4,555, Walker, 3,362. After this decisive victory, there was no further opposition to Mr. Stanley, and he continued to sit for Bridgwater until 1906, when, owing to his advanced age, he determined to resign, and give place to Mr. R. A. Sanders, who was chosen to fight the constituency in his stead.

Amongst his constituents and large *clientèle* Mr. Stanley was a man of great personal kindness, and was seldom deaf to appeals for help in all works of public charity and beneficence, and, upon the occasion of his retirement, his numerous friends presented him with an admirable portrait of himself, painted by the Hon. John Collier, the well-known artist, and son of Lord Monkswell. This portrait, together with a large framed oil painting by Mr. Ricks, son of a former townsman of Bridgwater, are to be seen at Quantock Lodge, and are highly valued by the family.

In his works of kindness and hospitality, Mr. Stanley was ably helped and seconded by the Honorable Mrs. Stanley. Such institutions as the District Nursing Association owe a great deal to her continual and most energetic advocacy. A cordial acknowledgement of this was made in a recent public presentation and address, signed by numerous friends and well-wishers, all of whom desired to express their deep sympathy with Mrs. Stanley's efforts to help the poor.

As a member for an agricultural constituency, Mr. Stanley took a great interest in farming and stock-raising, being three



times President of the Somerset Agricultural Society, viz., in 1885, at Taunton, in 1894, at Bridgwater, and also in 1895, when no show was held. His home farm, at Plainsfield, recruited from the famous Nether Stowey herd, and managed by Mr. Culverwell, turned out some fine specimens of the very shapely Red Devon cattle, admired all over the kingdom, and the particular pride of the West-country farmer. Altogether, Mr. Stanley won more than 120 prizes (first, second and third) in public shows for these cattle. He began by winning prizes in 1887 at Bridgwater, Newton Abbot, Dunster and Dorchester. His last prize was won at Cardiff in 1901. In 1889, 1890, and 1891, perhaps his most successful years, he took prizes at Islington. But his fine strain were known at York and Manchester, no less than at Totnes and Taunton. He was also an exhibitor of Exmoor horned sheep, and took many prizes at the Bath and West of England Shows, the Royal Counties Shows, and the Somerset and Devon County Shows.

Mr. Stanley was High Sheriff for the County of Somerset in 1880, and was for many years County Councillor for the Cannington Division. By virtue of his North-country connection, he was one of the Deputy-Lieutenants for Lancashire.

But no account of Mr. E. J. Stanley would be complete without some sympathetic reference to the irreparable loss he sustained in the death of his eldest son, Henry Thomas, who was killed at Hekpoort, in South Africa, during the Boer War (Sept. 16, 1900). England loses many young and noble officers in her numerous wars for the up-keep of Empire, but she has seldom lost a more promising and more noble officer than Lieutenant Stanley. Courteous and affable to all, a keen cricketer for his county, and an ardent lover of his West Country home, he could ill be spared from the neighbourhood. But duty seemed to call him to South Africa as an officer in the West Somerset Yeomanry. "*Qui ante diem periit, sed*

miles, sed pro patriâ ” is the notice of the young life, inscribed on the memorial brass which his brother officers and comrades placed in the chancel of Over Stowey Church. The chancel itself was altered and extended “in memoriam,” and in the churchyard itself stands a commemorative monolith of Cornish granite.

## Frederick Thomas Elworthy, F.S.A.

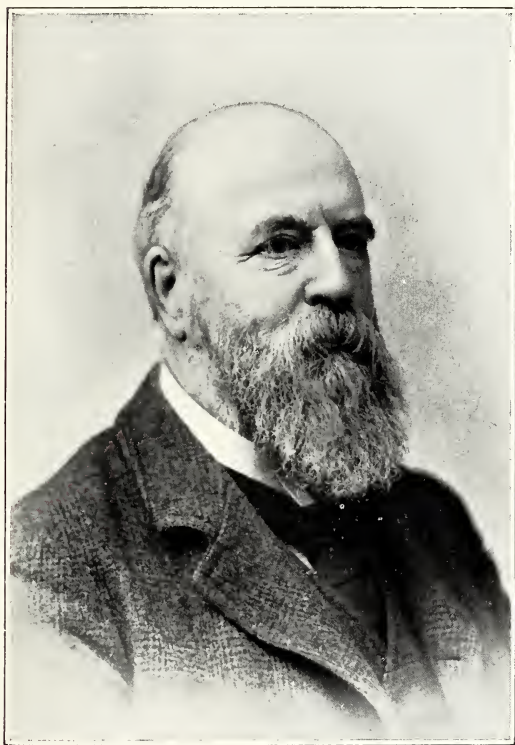
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BY CHARLES TITE.

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MR. F. T. Elworthy, of Foxdown, Wellington, passed away on December 13th, 1907, after a long illness, aged nearly 78 years. He became a member of our Society in 1873, and was for many years a regular attendant at the annual meetings. He was one of the General Secretaries from 1891 to 1895, during which time he also edited the volume of Proceedings. When he gave up that work he was elected a member of the Committee, and so remained to the time of his death.

Mr. Elworthy was a zealous student of local history, archæology, and folk-lore, and was a most delightful companion for those who had the pleasure of his friendship on the occasions of our annual meetings, when he was ever ready to discuss a host of interesting topics, upon most of which he was able to throw considerable light. Moreover, he contributed several able papers to our annual volumes. His "Notes on the History of Wellington" were the result of long and careful research, and formed a considerable book when reprinted. His paper on "Witham Friary" was also another good example of the kind of work he was able to do. Moreover, he prepared a valuable general index to the Society's Proceedings, extending over twenty years, dealing with volumes XXI to XL inclusive, a work involving no small sacrifice of time, and much patient labour.



FREDERICK THOMAS ELWORTHY, F.S.A.  
Hon. Secretary and Editor of the Society's "Proceedings,"  
1891-6.



But his most important work was done in connection with the dialects of West Somerset and East Devon, which he had made a matter of scientific study for many years. In 1876, he read a paper at the Bath meeting "On West Somerset Patois," in the course of which he called attention to "the rich treasures embedded in our western dialect," and assured his hearers that it would "very amply repay all the labour that can be bestowed upon it." About the same time, Mr. Elworthy read a paper before the Philological Society, on "The Dialect of West Somerset," to which he added an appendix, giving classified lists of words to illustrate West Somerset pronunciation, with introductory remarks, and an explanation of the glossic system of spelling used. This was followed by "An Outline of the Grammar of the Dialect of West Somerset," which was illustrated by examples of the common phrases and modes of speech in use among the people. Referring to this work, one of the greatest living philologists says: "It was the first grammar of an English dialect of any scientific value." Then he took in hand "The Exmoor Scolding and Courtship," two dialogues illustrating local speech at the beginning of the eighteenth century; and "The Somersetshire Man's Complaint," a poem of a full century earlier. The original texts were edited, collated, and arranged, with a complete transcript in glossic—a phonetic alphabet devised for the scientific expression of speech sounds. The vocabulary was enlarged, and the whole illustrated with copious notes. But Mr. Elworthy's great work, the preparation of which occupied many years, was "The West Somerset Word-Book," of nearly 900 pages, a glossary of the dialectal and archaic words and phrases used in the West of Somerset and East Devon. This stands pre-eminent amongst works of the kind issued in England, and will probably continue to be the standard book of reference in the years to come, when local dialects have ceased to be spoken. Dr. J. A. H. Murray, editor of the *Oxford Dictionary*, referring to Mr. Elworthy, says: "His con-

tributions to dialect philology, especially to that of West Somerset, have attained a renown far beyond his native county, and even beyond the confines of England: they are known to all philologists in Europe and America."

Mr. Elworthy was also a most active and zealous member of the Council of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature, and Art, and frequently contributed papers to their *Transactions*. He was elected President of the Association for 1906-7; and for many years edited the reports of the Committee on Devonshire Verbal Provincialisms.

But his work for the local societies did not exhaust the stores of his well-stocked mind. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, for which he wrote valuable papers; as he did also for the British Association and the Folk-lore Society. Moreover, Dr. Murray tells us that when he undertook to edit the *Oxford Dictionary*, "Mr. Elworthy became one of his most zealous volunteer lieutenants, reading, with members of his family, numerous important books, and collecting from them more than 15,000 quotations for the use of the Dictionary, as well as assisting in the arrangement and primary sub-editing of the materials. His contributions to the Dictionary never ceased down to the period of his last illness, and his help will be greatly missed in some departments of the work."

During the latter years of his life, Mr. Elworthy was deeply interested in studies connected with the wide-spread belief in "The Evil Eye," on which subject he published an important work in 1895. In this he brought together a vast amount of information, gathered from various parts of the world, and relating to many ages of its history. Five years later, Mr. Elworthy published another and kindred volume, entitled "Horns of Honour, and other Studies in the By-ways of Archæology." The object of the latter work is made clear by a single sentence in the Introduction, where the author tell us:

“It is assumed that all attempts at decoration, whether of the person, in the way of dress or of pattern, shown by curved lines or other evidence of design, however crude, upon inanimate objects, had in their origin some definite idea or fact which it was intended to illustrate.” In connection with these volumes, Mr. Elworthy formed a large and valuable collection of charms, amulets, etc., many of which were illustrated in the books from his own drawings. These works had a large circulation, and added considerably to Mr. Elworthy’s literary reputation.

This is not the place to give details of the helpful work Mr. Elworthy did in many departments of local and of county life : of his zeal and liberality as a Churchman, his eminence as a Freemason, his accomplishments as a linguist and as an artist, or his experiences as a traveller. The newspapers of West Somerset have devoted much space to these matters. On all hands his friends and neighbours feel that they have lost a most able and earnest colleague ; and the members of our own Society who knew him intimately will sincerely share that feeling.

## Charles Trask.

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MR. Charles Trask, of Courtfield, Norton-sub-Hamdon, who was Chairman of the Directors of the Ham Hill and Doultong Stone Co., died on Monday, December 30th, 1907. He had entered on his 78th year, and had spent practically all his life in his native village, which he loved dearly, for he had studied its history thoroughly, and found it an ever-increasing source of interest and of pleasure. The results of his researches in this direction were given to the public about ten years ago, when Mr. Trask published a volume entitled : "Norton-sub-Hamdon in the County of Somerset ; Notes on the Parish and the Manor, and on Ham Hill." In a pleasant and chatty style he tells how : "The discovery of hut-circles on Ham Hill, many years ago, led my thoughts, in the first instance, to the possible history of the hill, and afterwards to that of the parish of Norton." Then he unfolds the gradual development of his researches, and incidently points out what many others may do, if only their love of home and of local institutions is strong enough to enable them to overcome many difficulties. The work is, in many respects, a model parish history, and is the result of long years of careful study and diligent research. When the members of our Society visited Ham Hill in 1886, Mr. Trask ably described the quarries, and gave many interesting details of his own archæological discoveries in the neighbourhood. A couple of years previous he also described the Doultong quarries to our members, when the Society visited Shepton Mallet. Mr. Trask brought his love of archæology to bear upon local buildings in the most

practical manner. In dealing with the parish church, the Church House, and such fine old private residences as came under his own immediate care, he most zealously retained all ancient and interesting work, even when this had to be done at considerable cost.

Mr. Trask had been a member of our Society more than forty years, having joined in 1866. He was a most able and useful man, and had done splendid public service for many years, and in many ways, in the district in which he lived.

C. T.

### W. J. Braikenridge.

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ONE of our oldest members, Mr. William Jerdone Braikenridge, of Claremont, Clevedon, and of 16, Royal Crescent, Bath, passed away at his first-named residence on Wednesday, December 11th, 1907, in his 91st year. Mr. Braikenridge joined our Society in 1860, but had never taken an active part in its work. He was a zealous and most liberal churchman, and a generous supporter of local and philanthropic institutions. He was much interested in literature and in some branches of art, an interest he had inherited from his father, Mr. George Weare Braikenridge, of Brislington, who had formed a splendid library and some valuable collections of artistic treasures, which passed on to his son.

C. T.