

Obituary Notice of the Late Reverend Frederick Brown.

BY R. A. KINGLAKE.

THE subject of this present memoir, Frederick Brown—a true type of a Somerset gentleman, was born at Winifred House, Bath, on July 30th, 1815, two years before his mother became a widow. His father was a Member of the Indian Civil Service, and was high in the esteem of Lord Wellesley; his mother was one of the Sneades of Shropshire, her father being Rector of Bedstone in that county. Mr. Brown, thus early left without his father, was brought up under the wise, energetic, and loving care of his mother, who devoted herself to her young family of five children. At the age of eight he went to a school near Bath, and after being two years there, and four years at two other schools—one at Aust, in Gloucestershire, and the other at High Wycombe—he went to a Tutor who had taken high honours at Oxford, where he was the only pupil, and with whom he lived on terms of great intimacy. He was highly conscientious as to duty from his early years, and he employed himself most carefully and diligently in his classical studies, and acquired besides a fund of useful learning. After spending two more years at another tutor's, he went to Exeter College, Oxford. Having thus for some years been brought into the society of older men, his character developed early, and he was more established in his views and modes of thought than young men usually are at his age. He had from the first formed the purpose of entering the Ministry of the Church, and from this he never for one moment flinched; on the contrary, his intention was streng-

thened, and he kept it before him during his college career, as the one great aim and object of his life. With this view he became a steadfast and diligent student of the Bible, and continued to be so all his life. It was this which gave such depth to his preaching, and enabled him to take his place with confidence in meetings of the clergy, and to superintend Bible classes. After his college life was closed, he occupied a part of his leisure time in foreign travel, and in the year 1838 he was ordained Deacon to the Curacy of Flax Bourton, about seven miles from Bristol; and after approving himself to the hearts of all in the village, and winning the affections of some friends for life, who resided there, he was ordained Priest, and entered on his work at Nailsea as Rector; and there for thirty years he laboured with the most unceasing care for the welfare and benefit of all classes of his parishioners. In a part of his parish, glass works were established, and also coal mines; and as the population was larger than the Church could in any way accommodate, he took in hand the work of building an additional Church. This was accomplished, the foundation-stone being laid in 1842. Parsonage house and schools were afterwards added, and the district of Christ Church was formed. The parish Church was also subsequently restored, and an organ provided; a lecture room built at a distant part of the parish, and cottage allotments were let to the people—being taken from a large field bought by Mr. Brown for the purpose. It was shortly after his entering on this Rectory, in the year 1841, that he married Caroline Harriet, the daughter of the Rev. Latham Coddington, and sister of the late Professor Coddington, Senior Wrangler. The Rectory was filled with a fine family of six children, one of whom died at the age of eight years. In 1856, he was so overwhelmed by the cares of his parish, that he was ordered complete rest for two years; so he and his family went to Lausanne, and lived there for that time. After their return to Nailsea, he laboured on for more than ten years; but the wear and tear of the parish

became too much for him, and he was obliged to give up the care of it in 1868, to his own great sorrow, and to the great regret of the people. His name has ever since been gratefully remembered amongst the parishioners; and many of his friends—including the late Sir Arthur Elton—whom he left behind, mourned his loss as one the like of whom they will not see again. For a year and a half he lived at Clifton, and then took up his abode at Beckenham, Kent, and for three or four years was Curate at the old Church, under the Rev. F. Chalmers, and he subsequently assisted at the new Church, St. Paul's; but he soon relinquished the regular parochial life, and for many years gave his services freely as a preacher, whenever he could help any one in need. His last parochial work in Somerset was at Trull, during the temporary absence of its Vicar. He often went to Wokingham, where his brother was Rector of St. Paul's; and the people never welcomed any other so gladly and heartily as their preacher. His sermons, and the texts he chose, will be long remembered by them. His health was never sufficiently strong, after leaving Nailsea, for him to take the care of a parish again, though several livings were offered to him. After preaching, he always suffered great pain in his spine, which was caused by over-work in his early years of parochial ministry. The last two years of his life were very lonely, as he lost his beloved wife in 1884 (his two sons were in India, and his three daughters married); but he bore his sorrows bravely, and was gentle and uncomplaining. He had much to occupy himself with—especially his genealogical studies—and he had many friends with whom he corresponded, and two of his daughters lived near him; so his life, on the whole, was a tranquil one. After a short illness, he passed away, without pain, and in peace, on April 1st, 1886, to the great sorrow of his family and friends, and was buried at St. Paul's, Beckenham. A stained glass window has been placed in the parish Church of Nailsea, by the family of the late Rev. F. Brown;

and a brass lectern to his memory has been given to St. Paul's, Beckenham, by the ladies who attended his Bible class.

The Members of the Society of Antiquaries, the Harleian Society, the Herald's College, Her Majesty's Court of Probate, the Somersetshire Archæological Society, and the British Museum, will mourn the loss of Mr. Brown, whose familiar form was ever welcome in those historic haunts. For some short time Mr. Brown acted as Secretary to our Archæological Society, and read on several occasions at its meetings papers on the Almshouses at Bruton, on the "Gorges of Wraxall," on the "Family of Fitzjames," one of whose members was Lord Chief Justice of England; the "Frys of Yarty" in Devon, and the "Bretts of Whites-taunton," which last paper he read before the Society, during their visit to the interesting Manor House of Mr. C. I. Elton, M.P., the then President of the Society.

In the Visitations of the County of Somerset, in the years 1531 and 1573, a work published by the Rev. Frederick Weaver, M.A., the services of Mr. Brown are freely acknowledged. His memory was wonderful, and (to use a common expression), he knew by heart the will of almost every Somerset person who possessed territorial wealth or literary fame. In the long ages of the past, all the historic incidents connected with the families of the Luttrells, Spekes, Tyntes, Trevilians, Malets, Gorges, Sydenham, Portman, Popham, Phelips of Montacute, the Waldegraves of Chewton Priory, the Egmonts of Enmore Castle, Pym and Admiral Blake, the Stawells of Cothelstone, Lethbridge, Somerville, Yea, Wadham, Wyndham, and Hungerford of Farley, with his hundred Manors, were fresh in his recollection. To rich and poor, strangers alike to him, he would not only answer questions submitted to him, but give them the fruit of his untiring industry, which not unfrequently was of essential benefit to the anxious enquirer. He left behind him a large collection of manuscripts, relating to the genealogy of Somerset

families, which it is not improbable may some day be added to the literary treasures of the Society. Like many good men, Mr. Brown possessed a keen sense of humour, and I can well imagine how heartily he would have laughed at the gentle and good natured satire of a well known critic, who in reviewing the life and labours of the late Colonel Chester, tells us that genealogy is, indeed, like its twin sister Heraldry, a fascinating study to those who are at once seized with a taste for it; but it is caviare to the general; and unless a man is pretty sure of the vista in his ancestry which opens up to him, it is likely to prove embarrassing. Sydney Smith always answered any queries regarding his pedigree, by declaring that he was sprung from honest people, who paid their debts, and sealed their letters with their thumbs; and that when he found how one of the links in the chain of his ancestry had suddenly disappeared about "assize time," he felt no further inclination to pursue the subject. It may be that no one can be held responsible for his ancestors. Doctor Johnson consoled Mrs. Porter, who was distressed at the thoughts of one of her uncles having been hanged, by politely confessing that he had several who ought to have been. Hence to those who are interested in searching out historical facts the oft unappreciated labours of such men as Colonel Chester and Mr. Brown deserve kindly recognition. Heraldry, indeed, may be, as a certain Lord Chancellor told a Garter King at Arms, "the silly old business of silly old men;" but so long as the desire to possess a grandfather remains one of the most touching traits of poor human nature, so long will the seal-engraver and the genealogist find work to do.

In concluding the above brief sketch, I desire to express my obligation to a gentleman who supplied me with nearly all the facts contained therein, and who was well acquainted with the daily life of my lamented friend.

Obituary Notice of the Late William Long, Esq.

BY REV. PREBENDARY SCARTH, M.A.

THE death of this well known and much venerated Member of the Society took place in London, in the month of April, 1886. In him the Society has lost an old and much-valued friend and supporter, and archæology and literature an earnest and able contributor. This will appear by his contributions to the Wiltshire and Somersetshire Societies, and to the Archæological Institute, the Bath Literary Club, and the English Archæological Society at Rome. The thorough way in which he fulfilled the work he undertook will be seen by referring to the papers contributed by him to the Wilts Society, on "Abury," with illustrations, vol. iv; and on "Stonehenge and its Barrows," to vol. xvi of their *Proceedings*; and on "Stanton Drew," in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xv. William Long, Esq., was the second son of Walter Long, Esq., of Preshaw House, Hants; a branch of the ancient family of that name, settled at Wraxall, Wilts, as early as the time of Henry VI. His mother was the daughter of the seventh Earl of Northesk. He was born in 1817, and when his school education was completed, entered at Baliol College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. in 1837, and his M.A. in 1843.

He married and settled in Bath, 1841, where he became forward in promoting the institutions of the city, and improving the social condition of the inhabitants. His name will be found connected with all the leading institutions—especially with the noble Mineral Water Hospital, the ex-

tension and enlargement of which he was the means of promoting, when he filled the office of President for three years. But his influence and ability were further shewn in the way he discharged his office as chief magistrate of the city, when elected to that honourable post, and the kindness and courtesy with which all his duties were performed. He was forward in promoting the restoration of the grand old Abbey Church, and aided in forwarding every Church work—acting for some time as churchwarden in the parish of Walcot, where he resided.

The older Members of the Somersetshire Archæological Society will remember the effectual aid he rendered to the Society at its meeting in Bath, in September, 1852, when he held the office of Mayor, and contributed much to the success of that meeting.

In the year 1869, he filled the office of President of this Society, and at the meeting at Axbridge delivered an address (the first formal Presidential one), which will be found in the volume of *Proceedings* for that year. In this he showed an extended acquaintance with all the leading objects of interest in the county, and his example has since been followed by all Presidents of the Society.

When in Bath, he formed extensive collections of maps, prints, and records, relating to the history of the city; and when he removed, in 1868, from Bath, to settle at Wrington, he employed his leisure in the same praiseworthy manner, and he purchased from Mr. Serel, of Wells, the collections made by him, which he afterwards, at a reduced cost, handed over to the county Society.

When in Rome, in like manner, he devoted himself to acquiring whatever tended to elucidate the history and antiquities of the city, and delivered two very interesting lectures to the Archæological Society there, "On the Ancient Sites of Antemnæ and Fidenæ;" and on his return to England gave to the Bath Literary Club the result of his researches

in the Catacombs at Rome. In these researches he had the company of the late John Henry Parker, by whom he was much aided, and who used to visit him at Westhay, and highly commended his library—saying he could find works there not to be found in the Bodleian Library.

During Mr. Long's residence at Wrington, the same lively interest was manifested by him in improving the condition of the people there, as he had done in Bath, and fostering every good work. He contributed handsomely to the repairs of the Church: re-leading, at his own cost, the south aisle; restoring all the decayed masonry of the lower part of the church and tower; and to the enlargement of the churchyard, and placing an eight-days clock and chiming apparatus in the tower. At his own cost he lighted the interior of the Church with gas, and gave suitable pendant chandeliers; and through the exertions of himself and his daughter, Mrs. Barnes, the organ was removed, placed in the chancel, and greatly improved by the addition of new stops. Mainly through his efforts, a handsome window was put up in the chancel, to the memory of Mrs. Hannah More and her sisters.

These are only some of the good works he effected both in Bath and at Wrington; neither are all his literary efforts here recorded, for he, together with two friends, was one of the literary editors of "The remains of the Rev. Francis Kilvert, of Bath." The decline of his health after the death of Mrs. Long, in 1874, caused him to retire from active literary effort, but he left behind him a noble library, consisting of well selected books, in theology, in history, in archæology, and the fine arts; besides drawings, maps, and other matters of literary interest, which have descended as heirlooms to his family.

Those who knew him intimately could fully appreciate his acquirements, his genial and kindly temper, his hospitality, and his readiness to aid all who entered into his tastes and pursuits. I cannot do better than conclude this brief sketch of his life, by making an extract from a notice which appeared

in the *Bath Chronicle* at the time of his death, which says :
“Mr. Long was an English gentleman of the highest type, one who had a cultivated mind, a generous disposition, ready to sacrifice his tastes and inclinations to be useful to those around him. ‘Reverencing his conscience as his king,’ he was ever true to his principles, spurning all that savoured of the mean or ignoble. Through life he continued the even tenor of his way; aiding, without ostentation, all good works that commended themselves to his judgment: and as he lived, so he died, in peace and charity with all men.”
