

Obituary.

REV. HENRY ROUNDELL.

A brief notice, appended to the last number of the "Records," informed the members of the Bucks Archæological Society of their great loss, in the death of the Rev. Henry Roundell, M.A. The event took place at Walton Hall, near Bletchley, on December 26, 1864. It was very sudden. The last sheet of the last number had scarcely passed through the press, ere the hand which had assisted in preparing it was still in death.

A few words in affectionate remembrance of that good and gentle and accomplished man will be grateful to his friends, and may not be unacceptable to those who, though they may not have had the privilege of his acquaintance, have often derived instruction and pleasure from his literary labours.

HENRY ROUNDELL, son of the Rev. H. D. Roundell, was born at Fringford Rectory, Oxfordshire, August 31, 1824. Having received his education first at Charterhouse, London, and afterwards at Christ Church, Oxford, he was ordained at Exeter, March 4, 1849, his first pastoral charge being the curacy of St. Kerrian and St. Petrock, in that city. The writer of this notice well remembers the gratitude with which in after years Mr. Roundell used to speak of his first flock. Most clergymen know the peculiar and powerful impression which the scene of their first ministry produces. With this amiable and warm-hearted man it was both vivid and permanent, and he could scarcely recall it without tears. He married, June 12, 1851, Laura Frances, youngest daughter of Richard Cornish, Esq., of Heavitree, near Exeter, and has left her with three young children, Laura, Currer, and Mary, to mourn his loss. About this time he became Assistant Curate of Buckingham, the Rev. T. Silvester being then Vicar. Upon Mr. Silvester's death, in 1853, Mr. Roundell was instituted to the Vicarage of that parish; and in this position he remained till 1862, having also filled the office of Rural Dean during the last two or three years of his residence there, with great acceptance to the clergy and churchwardens of that district.

The continued labours and anxieties of this important charge soon began to tell upon a constitution which was never very robust; and at length in the early part of 1862 he was almost persuaded to accept a small living, that of Ivybridge, in Devonshire,—the inducements being the uncertain state of his health, the hope of benefit from a warmer climate, and the lighter labours of a small parish. But his parishioners at Buckingham knew his value, and an earnest memorial was at once set on foot and numerous signed, affectionately soliciting him to remain. This entreaty seems to have turned the scale; and in an answer to the memorialists, in which he announces his intention of yielding to their wishes, he says—"I felt I could nowhere else hope for the same support, friendship, and kindly interpretation of motive; and I could not, therefore, except for the paramount necessity of health, sever ties so strong." . . .

"But I must not forget that the future is uncertain. I must not conceal from myself the possibility either that my own health may fail to be re-established, or that the responsibility of so large a parish may become too oppressive." . . . "The time may come when a change may be desirable—a change, which, if it occurs at all, will only be made from a sense of duty, and with the deepest reluctance on my part."

These were his words in February, 1862. At the close of that same year the necessity arrived, and that "sense of duty" which was with him always his motive of action, constrained him to withdraw from a post which he loved, but which he felt that he could no longer fill with his accustomed assiduity and efficiency. He resigned the vicarage of Buckingham in October, 1862.

But an idle life would have been insupportable to him, and he still clung to the hope that after a short period of rest and relaxation, he might yet be able to do some service for God and His Church. With this in view, he retired for some months to a country residence in Yorkshire. But all the time his heart was in Buckinghamshire; and no sooner did he feel his health somewhat renewed than he began to inquire for a home in the neighbourhood where he had made so many friends, and where the greater part of his ministerial life had been spent. In the course of 1864 he became the occupier of Walton Hall, near Bletchley. Here he at once offered himself for active service in such labours as his bodily strength would permit; and to the great satisfaction of the Committee of this Society, he became one of its Secretaries, a position for which his varied acquirements and sound judgment and accurate habits eminently qualified him. But alas! the end was close at hand. He had returned to his home on the evening of December 22nd much exhausted, when the malady which had been for some years undermining his constitution, reappeared in an aggravated form, and he sank rapidly in three days.

His life was comparatively a brief one. But few men have enjoyed during a short existence on earth a wider or more hearty friendship. The qualities which endeared him to his little flock at Exeter were not less appreciated at Buckingham. A gentleman, no less in mind and feeling than by birth,—with ample means, and the will to employ them for the good of others,—combining with great energy and steadfastness of purpose, a never-failing tact and much courtesy—with a mind that was at home with the highest and most intellectual, and a heart that could stoop to the wants and sorrows of the humblest and most afflicted; and moreover, with great powers of administration,—it is no wonder that he accomplished much, and that he accomplished it by drawing to himself the sympathies of all classes of his parishioners. In his politics he was Conservative; but his was not a blind or unreasonable Conservatism; it was a Conservatism which was always subordinate to greater and higher interests—the cause of God, and the welfare of His Church. His faith in the church of Christ was ardent, and his allegiance to it most loyal; and he felt that this is, indeed, the divinely-appointed instrument by which men are to be drawn together and elevated, and purified. His love of literature has already been alluded to, and his industry in these pursuits is shown in the pages of these "Records," to which, notwithstanding the laborious duties of a large parish, he was a frequent and successful contributor. His acquaintance with natural history was considerable; and he was also an excellent numismatist. Indeed, Archæology in all its branches seemed to have a special charm for him. He would spare no pains in investigating subjects of this kind. He was patient, exact, and conscientious in his researches, and his information was, therefore, always trustworthy. Nor was he less generous in imparting his knowledge, than careful in procuring it. It seemed to afford him

special pleasure to invite other literary men to partake with him of the "fruit of his labours." In this, as in all the transactions of his life, there was a simplicity of character, an utter absence of selfishness, a true nobility of disposition by which, while living, he instructed, and being dead he yet speaks to us. The Rev. W. H. Kelke, in a letter to the writer of this notice, written not long after Mr. Roundell's death, says—"I have seldom if ever met with any literary man so ready to assist others engaged in pursuits similar to his own. He not only freely lent me rare books and pamphlets, but he placed his own private notes in my hands, with full permission to make any use of them I pleased. And these notes are exceedingly valuable as the results of laborious and careful research among masses of MSS. in the British Museum, and might save a literary man days of fruitless toil. He took to himself no credit for this liberality, which was the result of genuine kindness, and of an anxious desire to develope truth, and to throw light on obscure facts. At the sale of Mr. Nicholls's books, last summer, he purchased three large volumes of views illustrative of Bucks; and before even using them himself, he left them with me for three or four months, with permission to make copies from them." Mr. Kelke adds—"His extensive and accurate knowledge of antiquities, both early and mediæval, his excellent judgment, his refined taste, and the perspicuity of his style, were calculated in my opinion to raise the standard of our 'Records.'"

This testimony will show how much the Society has lost by the removal of Mr. Roundell. What his family have lost we will not venture to say. The sorrow within the circle of his own relatives is too sacred and too recent to be intruded upon. But it may soothe them to know that beyond those hallowed limits the name of HENRY ROUNDELL is enshrined in the memory of a multitude of grateful and affectionate friends. He has passed out of our sight for a while; but he will re-appear, we humbly hope, with all good and true-hearted men, in the joyful resurrection of the just.

E. B.

GEORGE GRENVILLE WANDESFORD PIGOTT, Esq.

GEORGE GRENVILLE WANDESFORD PIGOTT, Esq., of Doddershall Park, the eldest son of William Pigott, Esq., by Anne, daughter of the Rev. W. King, of Mallow, county of Cork, was born in 1796, and had completed his sixty-eighth year at the time of his decease. He was educated at Rugby, and entered upon military service in 1812. Having followed the profession of a soldier till 1823, he was then called to diplomatic service, in which he continued till 1830. In 1830 Mr. Pigott was elected Member of Parliament for St. Maw's, Cornwall, under the patronage of the Marquis of Buckingham, whose influence there was paramount; and he continued to represent that borough until the Reform Bill of 1832 cut the position from under his feet. In 1845, through the influence of the same noble family, he was appointed Poor-law Commissioner, the duties of which office he contrived to discharge with unwearied industry and integrity, until very nearly the close of his life.

Mr. Pigott added to these duties of a more public character several others more immediately connected with his own county and neighbourhood. He was a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Bucks, and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Bucks Militia. More recently he was appointed President of the County Infirmary, to which chair he was called by the unanimous and hearty suffrages of the governors, in 1863. This office he resigned at Midsummer last, when he was succeeded by the Rev. C. Erle.

Mr. Pigott was twice married. His first wife was Charlotte, daughter of Edward Long, Esq., of Hampton Lodge, Surrey. The marriage took place Oct. 26, 1822. It was but a short step, however, from the bridal chamber to the tomb. She died at Torquay, of a rapid consumption, in the following March; and an epitaph on a mural slab in the chancel of Quainton Church records in a few touching sentences the sorrow of the young officer upon his bereavement. Mr. Pigott married, secondly, Oct. 30th, 1838, Charlotte, youngest daughter of William Lloyd, Esq., of Aston, Shropshire. By this marriage he has left behind him a daughter and a son, who with their widowed mother, now weep over their loss. His son, William Harvey, the young heir of Doddershall, was born in 1848, and is now in the Royal Navy.

This brief record will show how wide an experience Mr. Pigott had of the honourable pursuits and occupations of men of birth and education; and it is but due to him to state that he acquitted himself in them all as a man of unimpeachable integrity, of thorough gentlemanly feeling, and of high Christian principle. His was a life of honourable industry; and even his leisure moments were not wasted; for he found time, in his intervals of relaxation from business, for literary pursuits, in which he took a special delight. His knowledge of foreign languages was considerable, and he availed himself of the opportunities presented to him during his residence abroad, for engaging in studies which were congenial to his refined and accomplished mind. Amongst the productions of his pen may be mentioned a little work, entitled "A Manual of Scandinavian Mythology," which shows extensive reading and research. Mr. Pigott's interest in this subject was probably quickened at the time when he was in the diplomatic service at Copenhagen.

As a public man, Mr. Pigott was remarkable for the manly freedom and vigour with which he delivered his opinions. He was a steady supporter of Conservative principles; but there was an absence of prejudice and an honesty of purpose about him which prevented him from ever becoming the mere slave of party. When he spoke in public he was listened to with deference, because the listeners knew that the man who addressed them loved the truth, and could be depended upon. If he looked with becoming pride upon his long pedigree, he seemed always to remember that the highest honour that can attach to an ancient family is the possession of moral worth, and that the true nobility of the landed gentry of England, of which race his line was one of the very oldest, is that character of generosity, independence, and integrity which, through the goodness of God, was so strongly impressed upon himself.

We will not presume to lift up the veil, or attempt to describe Mr. Pigott's character in the more private relations of life. They are best known to the bereaved widow and son and daughter, and other affectionate relatives who now mourn for him. May the sentiment recorded by him in one of the saddest moments of his life, "*Aspettiano il tempo felice*," sustain them in their hour of sorrow; and may his mantle descend upon the youthful heir, who has already shown so much promise, and who, we trust, will worthily hold and transmit the honoured name of the house of PIGOTT.

Mr. Pigott died at 4, Upper Grosvenor Street, London, Jan. 4th, 1865. He was on his way to the Continent, in the hope of recruiting his health, which had been failing for the last few years. He was buried at Quainton in the most simple and unostentatious manner. E. B.

THE REV. WILLIAM HASTINGS KELKE.

April 12th, 1865.—At the Limes, Little Missenden, the Rev. William Hastings Kelke, aged sixty-two years.

The deceased was born at Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire, on the 7th of February, 1803, and was descended from an old Saxon family in Yorkshire, Kelk, or Kelke (indiscriminately, as names went in olden days) from a place of that name in Yorkshire. Through his paternal grandmother, he and his brothers represented an extinct branch of the Hydes, subsequently created Earls of Clarendon. His mother was a daughter of the Rev. Robert Hastings, Vicar of Packington, in Leicestershire, the last male descendant of a branch of the old line of Hastings, earls of Huntingdon. He married Lucy Henrietta, eldest daughter of the late Rev. H. W. Champreys, Rector of Badsworth, Yorkshire, whom he leaves a widow. One child alone survives him—a son, in holy orders.

The subject of this memoir was educated at the old Grammar School of Ashby-de-la-Zouch (immortalized by its connection with the venerated name of Bishop Hall). He subsequently entered Jesus College, Cambridge, as a Rustat* scholar. In May, 1831, he was ordained deacon, by Dr. Kaye, Bishop of Lincoln, and priest in 1833. His title for orders was the curacy of Osgathorpe, in Leicestershire, to which was afterwards added that of Isly Walton, also in Leicestershire. On the death of the Rector of Osgathorpe, in 1836, the late Marquis of Hastings presented him to the living, which he held until the midsummer of 1840, when he exchanged it with the Rev. F. N. Bland for Drayton Beauchamp. There he remained exactly twenty years; and when he resigned this living his friends interested themselves to obtain some preferment for him from the Lord Chancellor, but without success. He then retired to the Limes, Little Missenden, where he spent the remainder of his days.

He was a ripe and accomplished scholar, and an indefatigable Archæologist. He was a man of simple, unaffected piety, specially charitable in his judgment of others, and esteemed by all who knew him. Although his charge was a small sequestered village, and his life one of comparative retirement, he obtained a well-earned reputation as an antiquary. The leisure which he enjoyed in his rural quietude enabled him to devote much of his energy to his favourite pursuit. But his was not the love of things antiquarian for their own sake; he took a wider grasp of the subject, and he valued and pursued archæology as throwing light upon the history of the past, and as being a mould in which to form the present. He did not merely satisfy his intelligent curiosity concerning its remains, but endeavoured to learn from it its especial lessons, feeling assured that the comparison of the present with the past was valuable and interesting, enabling the student to take forecasts of future storms, and to lay down the principles which should be the guide to each succeeding generation.

When the Architectural and Archæological Society of the County of Buckingham was established, he was one of those who took a large share in its foundation, and he was appointed an Honorary Secretary, and afterwards acted as Editor of the "Records of Buckinghamshire;" these two offices he held until the day of his death. He promoted the objects of the Society with peculiar zeal and cordiality, and with that strict accuracy and earnest painstaking which were the remarkable characteristics of his life.

The following is a list of his contributions to literature :—

* The Rustat scholarships are, with one exception, designed for the sons of deceased clergymen.

“Notices of Sepulchral Monuments in English Churches, from the Norman Conquest to the Nineteenth Century.”

“Churchyard Manual.”

“Account of two Monumental Effigies found at Chenies.”

He contributed several papers to the “Records of Buckinghamshire,” and among them an interesting series on the Desecrated Churches in the County. He was also the author of various papers which were published in the “Book of Days.”

This is not the place in which to enlarge on Mr. Kelke’s paramount interest in the Church of Christ, and more especially in the ecclesiastical institutions of our own country ; but in speaking of his writings, it may be mentioned that he was the author also of several tracts, among which may be specified “Britain’s Ancient Church,” “On the Observance of Christmas-day,” “On Garden Allotments,” and other contributions to the pages of the “Church of England Magazine.” But how silently and unobtrusively he ever sought to influence others for good, few were aware, except those who were privileged to know him in the intimacy of private life.

The death of the Rev. W. H. Kelke was sudden, caused by disease of the heart. On retiring to rest he was seized with spasm and difficulty of breathing ; acute pain was his portion for one half hour, when every trace of earthly suffering vanished, and he sank into a calm and peaceful repose,—to wake up, we humbly trust, with those who now “sleep in Jesus,” and whom God will bring with Him “in that day.”

This obituary memoir, together with those of the other officers of the Society—viz., G. G. W. Pigott, Esq., and the Rev. H. Roundell, are not the only monuments to their memory. The spirit of the men still breathes in the zeal, the labour, the unanimity which survives them. That spirit will appear again and again in future ages when other men, animated by their example, shall endeavour to follow in their steps.

C. L.