

THE LATE MR. JOHN HEWITT.

ALTHOUGH the name of Mr. Hewitt may not be familiar to many of those who read these "Records," his eminence as an Antiquary seems to justify us in paying a tribute to his memory. Mr. Hewitt was a native of Lichfield; but his connection with the War Office brought him in early life to Woolwich, where he resided for thirty years. Although he was not a scholar in the classical sense of that term, his acquirements were nevertheless considerable. Latin he could read with ease; he was also a perfect master of French, and familiar with German. But it was Archæology, in all its branches, which was his favourite pursuit; and in that his knowledge was both accurate and profound. Archæology was his special study; and with that instinct which urges men to overcome any difficulties which may meet them in the pursuit of objects to which their genius guides them, so Mr. Hewitt seems to have mastered everything which stood in the way of his attaining distinction as an antiquarian.

In the year 1860, Mr. Hewitt published a work in three volumes, 8vo, on "Ancient Armour and Weapons in Europe," with copious illustrations from contemporary monuments. The subject is treated exhaustively; and this work, which abounds with illustrations, is generally regarded as a standard authority. He also published, about two years before his death, a revised edition of Stothard's great work on "Monumental Effigies." He was, moreover, a frequent and much valued contributor to the pages of the Journal of the Royal Archæological Institute, of which Society he had been a member from its beginning.

In his religion he was a sincere Churchman and a devout Christian; and he was frequently accustomed to say that his examination of creation, and especially of the wonders of geology, and of the anatomy of nature in its most minute developments, as seen through the microscope (an instrument which he frequently used),

impressed him more and more with the sense of the infinite goodness and wisdom of the Creator.

Mr. Hewitt retired to Lichfield in 1873, where he devoted his last years to a continual study of its far-famed Cathedral; and he has left behind him a most valuable legacy to the neighbourhood in his simple, but comprehensive and most trustworthy little manual, entitled "A Guide to Lichfield Cathedral."

He died at Lichfield, on January 10, 1878, in the 71st year of his age.

The Dean of Lichfield (Dr. Bickersteth), with a high appreciation of his character and attainments, permitted the funeral to take place in the Cathedral Close; and he has recently, at the request of a near relative of Mr. Hewitt, written upon his tombstone an inscription, a copy of which we append to this notice of a highly gifted and most estimable man.

H. S.

JOHANNES HEWITT,

VIR ACIE INGENII ET INTEGRITATE VITÆ INSIGNIS;

RERUM ANTIQUARUM INDAGATOR FIDELIS,

EARUM PRÆCIPUE QUÆ AD HANC ECCLESIAM

CATHEDRALEM LICHFELDENSEM ATTINENT

INTERPRES FELIX.

OBIIT IV ID. JAN., A.S. MDCCCLXXVIII.

"DOMINE, DILEXI DECOREM DOMUS TUÆ, ET LOCUM
HABITATIONIS GLORIÆ TUÆ.

OBSERVANTIÆ AT AMORIS CAUSA

PONI CURAVIT MARIA GREEN.

LICHFIELD, MDCCCLXXIX.

Translation.

HERE LIES BURIED
JOHN HEWITT,
EMINENT FOR THE QUICKNESS OF HIS UNDERSTANDING
AND THE INTEGRITY OF HIS LIFE,
HE WAS A CONSCIENTIOUS ARCHÆOLOGIST, AND
MORE ESPECIALLY A SUCCESSFUL INTERPRETER
OF THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF THIS
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF LICHFIELD.
HE DIED JANUARY 10TH, 1878.

“LORD, I HAVE LOVED THE HABITATION OF THY HOUSE,
AND THE PLACE WHERE THINE HONOUR DWELLETH.”

MARY GREEN CAUSED THIS SLAB TO
BE PLACED OVER HIS REMAINS,
IN TOKEN OF HER RESPECT AND
AFFECTION.

LICHFIELD, 1879.