

### Obituary.

THE Committee regret that they have to record the loss by death, of the following members, since the publication of the last number of the RECORDS. The Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, K.G. (Vice-President), Acton Tindal, Esq., John Parker, Esq.

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### In Memoriam.

THE RIGHT HON. BENJAMIN DISRAELI,  
EARL OF BEACONSFIELD, K.G.

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EARLY in the morning of Easter Tuesday last, April 19, 1881, there passed away, after about a month's illness, amidst the profound sympathy and regret of thousands, the illustrious Statesman whose name stands at the head of this notice. Benjamin Disraeli was the eldest son of Isaac D'Israeli, Esq., the well known author of the "Curiosities of Literature," and other works. Mr. Isaac D'Israeli was the only son of Benjamin D'Israeli, a Venetian merchant, and was born at Enfield in 1767. Destined originally for his father's occupation, he soon showed such an antipathy to commerce, and such a strong inclination to literary pursuits, that the ledger was soon thrown aside, and his life was thenceforth devoted to those studies to which his tastes and genius directed him; and thus his celebrated son, the subject of this notice, was from his early years thrown into the literary and cultivated society which his father had gathered round him.

Lord Beaconsfield was born in London, December 21, 1804. He was originally destined for the legal profession; but, like his eminent father, he soon betook himself to literature. Before he attained his majority he surprised and delighted the novel-reading world with his "Vivian Grey," said to have been written at Hyde Hall, in Buckinghamshire. But it was some years after this that he produced his "Coningsby," and "Sybil;" and there can be no doubt that these, and other publications of his which follow them, had a powerful effect in consolidating the ranks and directing the policy of that great party of which he became ultimately the undisputed chief. He made his first appearance in Parliament as member for Maidstone in 1837, having been previously defeated by a small

majority in a contest for High Wycombe in 1831. In 1841 he became member for Shrewsbury. In 1847 he was returned for the County of Buckingham, and continued to represent this county until August, 1876, when he was elevated to the Peerage.

Upon the resignation of Lord Derby in February, 1868, he became Prime Minister of England; but the balance of parties was at that time so even, that he resigned in about six months. Five years afterwards (in March, 1873) Mr. Gladstone's Government was defeated by a very narrow majority on the "Irish University Bill;" and Mr. Disraeli was again sent for by the Queen. But his time was not yet come; and after consultation with his political supporters, he declined to take office. In the following year, however, when Mr. Gladstone appealed to the country, the General Election, completed in February, 1874, placed the Conservatives in a substantial majority of at least fifty; and Mr. Gladstone having at once resigned, Mr. Disraeli succeeded him as Prime Minister, and remained in power for six years, that is, until the General Election in April, 1880, when the power was transferred by a very large majority to the Liberals, and Mr. Gladstone again became Premier.

During those six years, from 1874 to 1880, Mr. Disraeli's Government had gained increasing majorities in Parliament. On August 16, 1876, Mr. Disraeli was advanced to the Peerage, though still retaining the Premiership, while Sir Stafford Northcote led in the House of Commons.

One of the most important events connected with Lord Beaconsfield's Premiership was the assembling of the Congress of Berlin, at which he and the Marquis of Salisbury took part as the plenipotentiaries of Great Britain. The Congress was concluded and the Treaty of Berlin was signed July 13, 1878. The British plenipotentiaries received quite an ovation upon their return; and on the 22nd of July Lord Beaconsfield was invested by the Queen with the Order of the Garter. In the following month, August 2, 1878, Lord Beaconsfield's Foreign policy was sustained in the House of Commons, after a long and exhaustive debate, by the enormous majority of one hundred and forty-three. Lord Beaconsfield married in 1839, Mary Ann, only daughter of the late John Evans, Esq., of Branceford Park, Devon, and widow of his former colleague, Wyndham Lewis, Esq., late M.P. for Maidstone.

The circumstances of Lord Beaconsfield's last illness are well known. It had been observed that his health had for some time been gradually failing. He had been subject to periodical attacks of gout and bronchial asthma, which as his years advanced gradually undermined his naturally healthy

and vigorous constitution. It was not until the end of March last, that it became generally known that he was not in his usual health; but from that time the interest which gathered round his residence in Curzon-street was intense and unflagging, until the last fatal bulletin, written by Lord Barrington, and posted outside the house at half-past six, on Tuesday morning, April 19th, 1881, announced that all was over. The bulletin was as follows, "The debility, which was "evidently increasing yesterday, progressed during the night, "and Lord Beaconsfield died at half-past four this morning, "calmly, as if in sleep."

As the owner and occupier of Hughenden Manor, in Buckinghamshire, and as a representative of the County in Parliament for nearly thirty years, Lord Beaconsfield would naturally claim a place in the obituary records of this Society, of which for many years past he has been a Vice-President. But it need hardly be said that his name has long been famous far beyond his own County; and before his death he was recognized throughout the civilized world as one of the most powerful and popular Ministers that have ever influenced the destinies of the British Empire. He gained his great position in the State by none of those adventitious circumstances, which have helped to elevate others to rank and power, but by the force of his own brilliant genius, united to a powerful will and an indomitable perseverance; conscious of his own powers, he proposed to himself great objects, and he resolved to win. And having so determined, he kept these objects steadfastly in view. The long-continued successes of his political opponents, which would have discouraged many a man of less force of will, served only to stimulate him to renewed endeavour. Frequent reverses seemed to brace him for fresh efforts. He never lost his self control. He was seldom, if ever, thrown off his guard. Quick as lightning to take advantage of a slip on the part of an opponent, he rarely betrayed any excitement when he had made a successful thrust, or given his adversary a fall. He was always the same self-contained, impassive man, whether he was receiving the prolonged applauses of enthusiastic spirits in the Sheldonian Theatre, or whether he was assailed by the hisses of an electioneering mob on the hustings—whether he was greeted with the homage always rendered to some flight of genius, or triumph of oratory at St. Stephen's, or whether he was for the time the victim of some well organized political attack.

He had great faith in his own destiny. It is said of him on one occasion that when Lord Melbourne, then Prime Minister, recognizing his great talents, and thinking to turn

them to good account for his own political party, asked him if he could be of any service to him, the aspiring young politician answered, "I want to be Prime Minister." And this was said not in joke, but in thorough earnestness of purpose. Some years after this he was conversing with a friend and neighbour in this county, who happened to be finding fault with some part of the policy of the Government of the day, upon which Mr. Disraeli said quickly, "Ah! when I am Prime Minister, I shall take a very different line from that." And all this was quite consistent with those well-known prophetic words of his, spoken at the close of his first speech in Parliament in 1837, and when the House of Commons had refused to hear him;—"The time will come when you will hear me."

Lord Beaconsfield has sometimes been taunted with political inconsistency. But anyone who has read his novels, particularly his political novels, such as *Coningsby*, *Sybil*, *Tancred* and *Lothair*, will see that he had all along definite principles; and as he ascended step after step on the ladder to political power, it was more and more evident that the principles which dominated him were those which are seen to flash and sparkle in his writings. To make the social and intellectual progress of the Realm consistent with loyalty to the Constitution and the Throne of England, these were the principles which he ever kept in view. There is no man who made greater sacrifices for his party than Mr. Disraeli. Had he chosen, he might have placed himself at the head of a revolutionary party in the State. But with such principles he had no sympathy. His great policy was to preserve the integrity of the Empire, and to make the maintenance of order consistent with the progress of liberty. In order to do this he had to show the great aristocratic party how to meet the wave of democracy which this far-seeing statesman perceived to be advancing over Europe, so that its force might be weakened as it approached our shores, and it might break harmlessly upon the firm and yet elastic constitution of this Realm. He felt, moreover, that if England was to retain her ancient greatness, and if her trade and commerce were to be maintained throughout the world, it was necessary that the Empire should be regarded as one, and that no danger ought to threaten any part of it, and the whole Realm not sympathize. And so his policy was no contracted, no merely insular policy. It was comprehensive, it was Imperial.

Of his relations to his Sovereign it is almost needless to speak. His loyalty to the Queen seemed to animate him like a passion; and the Queen knew well how to appreciate her talented and devoted Minister. An approving Nation observed



with gratitude and admiration how she felt for him—how she would gladly have ministered to him in his last sickness—how she visited his grave—how, with her own Royal hands, she laid a wreath on his coffin. The Nation knows well how deeply she mourns over so wise a counsellor—so far-seeing a Statesman—so faithful and powerful a supporter of her Throne and her Empire. It is the fate of men of great and surpassing abilities that they often find themselves very much alone on the earth. They who tower up above their fellow-men, and so take a wider and more comprehensive view than others of the world and its concerns, are often almost of necessity shut out from intercourse with ordinary men. And hence they are often misunderstood, and not seldom disliked. But no one who had the privilege of acquaintance with Lord Beaconsfield could doubt that, behind a somewhat reserved and apparently cold exterior, there beat a heart full of sympathy and kindness. The more he was known the more he was liked. In his own neighbourhood, and in his own County, he was very popular. His tenantry were proud of him. His personal friends were devoted to him. His attachment to his wife is well known; it was as constant and true as that of his wife to him. He felt her loss intensely. For a time it almost crushed him. But he found, as many others have done under similar afflictions, that next to those higher consolations which are the special privilege of Christian men, the best relief is active employment. But to show how great was his sorrow at that time, the writer of this notice ventures to quote the following words of a letter which he received from Mr. Disraeli not long after her death:—

“I am grateful to you for your sympathy in the supreme sorrow of my life. She whom I mourn was my inseparable and ever-interesting companion for a moiety of my existence. I must ever regard those who remember her with tenderness and respect.—With sincere esteem, your's,

“*Hughenden Manor,*

“B. DISRAELI.”

“*Feb. 2, 1873.*

The character of Lord Beaconsfield is one which may be studied with advantage by all those who desire to serve their country faithfully, and who wish to see what great things may be accomplished by high principle, a strong will, and patient industry. And the country will look with anxious but hopeful interest to all those whom Lord Beaconsfield's example may have influenced, and his genius may have inspired.

*The Deanery, Lichfield.*

E. B.

*May, 31, 1881.*

**MR. ACTON TINDAL.**—Mr. Tindal, of the Manor House, Aylesbury, died on the 26th October, 1880, in the seventieth year of his age. He was the eldest son of the late Thomas Tindal, Esq., of the Prebendal House, Aylesbury, Clerk of the Peace, and Treasurer of the County of Buckingham, who died in 1850; his mother being the daughter of Acton Chaplin, Esq., of Aylesbury, also Clerk of the Peace and Treasurer of the County. His grandfather was Robert Tindal, of Coval Hall, Chelmsford, who died in 1835, and who married the only daughter of John Pocock, Esq., of Greenwich, leaving issue (*inter alia*) Nicolas Conyngham Tindal, Kt., D.C.L., sometime His Majesty's Solicitor-General, and afterwards Chief Justice of the Common Pleas; and Thomas Tindal, Esq., o. Aylesbury. Mr. A. Tindal married Henrietta Euphemia, only surviving child of the late Rev. J. Harrison, Vicar of Dinton, and has left issue Nicolas, Acton Giffard, Charles Harrison, and Margaret Sabina. Mr. Tindal has been associated with the County and with the town of Aylesbury for a very long period; as early as the year 1834, as Clerk to the Magistrates at Aylesbury, and afterwards, on the resignation of his father, Clerk of the Peace for the County of Buckingham, which office he held forty-two years. He also held the office of Registrar of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham. At the formation of the Aylesbury Poor Law Union, in 1835, Mr. Tindal was appointed Clerk, an office he held for three years, but resigned in the year 1838. Notwithstanding the various public labours incumbent on him, Mr. Tindal did not shrink from his share of duties as a parishioner. As a member of the Aylesbury Board of Guardians, Chairman of the Local Board of Health, the Burial Board, as Churchwarden, as a Trustee of Bedford's Charity, Trustee of the Savings' Bank, and in other local public offices, he always rendered his ready assistance, and uniformly gave the greatest satisfaction in the performance of any duties he had undertaken. In the year 1849, he became Lord of the Manor of Aylesbury, with its appurtenances. The Manor came into the public market, amongst the other estates of the late Duke of Buckingham, and was purchased by Mr. Tindal. On the purchase of the Manor, the new Lord made a present of the public clock to the town of Aylesbury, which for some years was the well-known authentic time keeper, erected on the turret of the late Market House, and which now performs a like useful duty in the present clock tower, the foundation stone of which building was laid by the late Mrs. Tindal in 1876. On the occasion of Mr. Tindal becoming Lord of the Manor, and his presentation of the town clock, a public complimentary dinner was given to him, which was largely attended by the residents of the town and neighbourhood.

**MR. JOHN PARKER.**—Mr. Parker died on the 22nd December, 1880, at his residence, High Wycombe, in the 80th year of his age. He was the second son of the late Mr. William Parker, who filled the highest municipal office in that borough. Mr. Parker was an Antiquary of great local reputation. His chief work was his "Early History and Antiquities of Wycombe," which was published in 1878 by subscription (the Prince of Wales and Lord Beaconsfield being among the subscribers). The preparations for this book, which displays great learning and research, occupied the greater part of Mr. Parker's latter years. The subject was congenial to his tastes, and from the antiquity and many historical associations of the borough of Wycombe, is more interesting to the outside public than the books of antiquaries are wont to be. Mr. Parker also published a "Life of the late Miss Hannah Ball," and the "History of the old Nonconformist Church of Crendon Lane, Wycombe," with which he had been long and honourably connected. He was by profession a

Solicitor, having been admitted an Attorney at the Michaelmas term, 1823. He filled many important offices with great efficiency. He was Town Clerk of Wycombe for many years, holding that office in connection with the office of the Clerk to the Borough Bench. On his resignation of the Town Clerkship he retained the office of Clerk to the Magistrates, and continued to be the trusted adviser of the Bench till advancing age led him to resign it into the hands of his son and successor. He was also Clerk to the Charity Trustees, Registrar to the County Court, Clerk to the Commissioners of Taxes—all of which he resigned only when he retired from the more active duties of his profession. He was a decided and consistent Nonconformist, and very liberal in supporting public movements for the good of his native town, where his loss will be much felt.

R. G.