

DEATH OF LORD MACAULAY.

The decease of the eminent English historian and essayist, which is announced this morning among our European advices, will call forth an emotion of profound regret in the intelligent classes of this country, no less than in the wide social circle, of which he was such a brilliant ornament, in his native land. He had not yet attained the fullness of years, which would have caused his departure to be anticipated, as of speedy occurrence; his health, though certainly not of the most robust character, promised no immediate interruption of his active and fruitful career; and the great historical work, to which his recent labors had been devoted, was still far from completion, as to excite the most poignant sorrow, that henceforth it must remain an imperfect fragment, mental monument to his fame. Lord Macaulay had for several years been suffering from an affection of the heart; but his regular habits and vigorous constitution had kept at bay his most formidable symptoms; when about three weeks before his death, the disease assumed a threatening aspect; he soon rallied, however, and no alarm was experienced among his friends; on Monday, Dec. 26, he went to bed, to entertain his family at a Christmas party, when the only circumstance about him that attracted attention was a less exuberant flow of conversation than usual; but on the evening of the next Wednesday about 8 o'clock, he expired in a fainting fit without a struggle or any appearance of pain.

Thomas Babington Macaulay was born Oct. 25, 1800, at Rothley, in Leicestershire, and had consequently but little more than entered upon his 60th year at the time of his death. His father was Zachary Macaulay, a prominent member of the Evangelical party in the Church of England, who, in connection with Thomas Babington, Isaac Milner, Henry Thornton, John Venn, William Wilberforce, and others, of the Clapham sect, so called from the residence of Mr. Venn, was equally distinguished for attachment to the doctrines of Calvinism, and a zealous application of religious principle to practical affairs. It was in this austere school, that young Macaulay received his earliest impressions. The traces of this are often visible in the curious familiarity with the phrases of Scripture, and the formulas of theology, which is betrayed in his critical and historical writings. His education began in his father's house. He entered Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1818, and at once arose to the highest distinction. In his first year he received the Chancellor's medal for a poem on "Pompeii"; in his second year he gained the same prize for a poem on "Evening," both of which have been published; and on taking his Bachelor's degree in 1822, was elected a fellow of his college. While at the university, he devoted much time to a Debating Society, where he gave the first indications of the affluence of language, ingenuity of argument, and splendor of illustration, which were to become the leading characteristics of his style. In 1826 he was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, having previously gained a "flattering reputation as a writer by his contributions to Knight's Quarterly Magazine. These consisted of poetry, essays, imaginary conversations, criticisms, in short, of almost every form of literary composition. It was at this time, that he produced his ballads of the Spanish Armada, the Battle of the League, and Irvy. His name had now become known as a popular writer of great promise, and he was engaged to write an article on Milton for the Edinburgh Review. The resentment against him was so lively, that he failed of reelection in 1847, but in 1852, his constituents made the best preparation in their power, by re-electing him by acclamation, without asking him to issue an address, to attend a meeting, or to bear a farthing of the expense. He thus sat once more for a short time in Parliament, although an attack of disease of the heart compelled him to avoid the excitement of public speaking. After a few sessions, he retired from the House of Commons, and was raised to the peerage in 1857. He was never married, and the title dies with him.

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It has been alleged by hostile pens that Lord Macaulay was destitute of heart—that his life was mainly intellectual, brilliant, and stimulating, but cold and barren as regards the highest part of human nature. Those, however, to whom he was better known, aver that his faculties were as nobly employed as they were lavishly given. Certain it is that no coldness or apathy is betrayed in the composition of his history. If he sometimes permits his prejudices to blunt his sense of justice, as in the case of William Penn, if he can see no beauty in the single exception of Lord Derby, then Mr. Stanley. Croker, with his heart overflowing with venom and malice towards his youthful antagonist, made repeated attempts to demolish him, but in vain. His style of speaking, however, was not adapted to success in debate. He was rarely impassioned, and never spontaneous. He did not trust to his ample stores of information, and admirable command of language; but never ventured on a speech without elaborate preparation. This gave an air of constraint and formality to his happiest efforts. His audience could not be kindled into enthusiasm, of which he gave no evidence himself. His presence was not imposing. His voice was neither musical nor grand. He carried his head erect, with no appearance of mobility; he stood firm and square upon the floor; one hand fixed behind his back; and with only a slight gesture of the right hand, he poured forth the gorgeous sentences, which as written, compose the very perfection of rhetoric.

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1832 as the representative of the county of Devon, and was appointed Secretary of the Board of Control; but in 1834, he resigned his seat, and his office to proceed to the East as a member of the Supreme Council of Calcutta. His acceptance of this position has been regarded as a proof, that he was willing to surrender the highest prizes of political ambition; that he felt conscious of being more a historian than a statesman; was more at home among his books, than in office and debate. But in addition to the large emoluments of the post, Mr. Macaulay had an object, in the highest degree worthy of his abilities and aspirations. He was appointed legal adviser to the Supreme Council, and in this capacity, undertook the task of preparing a new code of law for the government of India. In the discharge of this trust, he was exempted from all merely administrative duties, and with the aid of four assistants, produced a penal code, the chief portion of which may justly be ascribed to his intelligence and assiduity. This code contains 26 chapters, divided into nearly 500 clauses; its ability has been generally acknowledged; but it was found not to be suited to practical working. The friends of Mr. Macaulay maintained that its want of success was caused by its excellence; that it was too good to be available, that mankind was not fit for it; and that the variety of races and customs to which it was applied, was itself sufficient to prevent its being put in practice. Others, on the contrary, assert, that in spite of the great sum of money expended in its preparation, the code is utterly worthless, containing scarcely a definition or provision that will stand the test of an intelligent examination.

Mr. Macaulay returned to England in 1838. He had gained a familiar knowledge of Indian affairs, and of Oriental manners and scenery. The fruits of his experience were displayed to the public in his splendid essays on Lord Clive and Warren Hastings, which for masterly delineation of character, vivid picturesqueness of description, and sagacious political discussion, have certainly not been surpassed by any of his literary productions.

Entering once more upon a political career, Mr. Macaulay was elected a member of the House of Commons for Edinburgh in 1839, and became Secretary of War in the same year. He did not long remain in office, the Whigs having been defeated by Sir Robert Peel. He took an active part in the Opposition, and was a strenuous advocate of the liberal measures, of which his party was the representative. In 1842, he published the striking collection of poems entitled "Lays of Ancient Rome," in which the legendary narrations of Livy are reproduced with remarkable brilliancy of illustration, and descriptive power. In the following year, his essays which had been previously published in this country, were collected in an English edition, and in 1844, he contributed the second part of his essay on Lord Chatham to the Edinburgh Review, and thus brought to a close the magnificent series of his papers in that periodical. In 1846, on the restoration of the Whigs to power, under Lord John Russell, Mr. Macaulay was appointed Paymaster of the Forces, with a seat in the Cabinet, and for a short time exercised the functions of this office. On the subject of the Maynooth endowment, he gave deep offense to his constituents by speaking in favor of the grant to the Roman Catholics, on which occasion he even ventured to allude to the "bray of Exeter Hall." The resentment against him was so lively, that he failed of reelection in 1847, but in 1852, his constituents made the best preparation in their power, by re-electing him by acclamation, without asking him to issue an address, to attend a meeting, or to bear a farthing of the expense. He thus sat once more for a short time in Parliament, although an attack of disease of the heart compelled him to avoid the excitement of public speaking. After a few sessions, he retired from the House of Commons, and was raised to the peerage in 1857. He was never married, and the title dies with him.

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preme Court to reply her, and had by bonds duly prepared and approved, and was ready to have them served before 10 o'clock this morning. This matter of reply not having been kept as any secret by me, Capt. Viandente and his friends heard of it, and at 10 o'clock I understood that the ship was towed into the harbor, and sailed for Cuba, under the gallant officers placed on board by the Marshal Ruyters. Thus the affair of the ship, JOHN GRAHAM, AFFIDAVIT OF WITNESSES TO THE SURRENDER OF THE STEAMSHIP TO CAPT. GRAHAM.

United States District Court—Southern District of New York—Gavin Hoeg et al. vs. The Steamship Ocean Bird, et al. The same; Isaac J. Hanson et al. vs. The same; Keaton Reed et al. vs. The same; Charles F. Hamilton vs. Henry Bolton, Theophilus A. Fowler, and William H. 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