

His Father, Wm. Forster, a land agent, born in 1784, settled at Broadpole, in Dorsetshire, and married Anna, sister of the first Sir Thos. Buxton. His only son, William Edward, was born at that place on the eleventh of Seventh month, 1818. The father was a member of the Society of Friends, "a fervent preacher, and an ardent opponent of slavery, who travelled on errands of mercy all over the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe and America, and died in Tennessee while on an emancipation mission. His mother was a beautiful and brilliant woman, of strong character, and in full sympathy with her husband."

William was educated at the Friends' School in Tottenham. In 1846-7 he accompanied his father on a visit to Ireland, in the winter of the dreadful Irish famine, to distribute the relief provided by the Society of Friends.

He was educated in business, and became a partner of William Fisson, and finally owner of a great worsted and alpaca factory at Burley.

He married in 1850, Jane Martha, sister of Matthew Arnold, and daughter of Rev. Dr. Arnold, the famous Head Master of Rugby. By this marriage he became connected with the established Church. He was a man of deep religious feeling and principle, and it is said cherished a warm spot in his heart for his earlier associations, nor did he ever lose the sympathy of the Friends.

From 1861 to his death he was member for Bradford. In 1865 he was made Under Secretary for the Colonies; in 1868, Vice-President of the Council, with charge of the Educational Department. In 1870 he succeeded in passing an Act by which Public Schools and School Boards were created; in 1871, the Ballot Act. In 1880 he was created a Cabinet Minister, and chosen to the Chief Secretaryship in Ireland, which he resigned in 1882, having followed out during those terrible years the dictation of his convictions fearlessly, though not receiving the support he considered himself entitled to.

He had no children of his own, but adopted the two sons and the two daughters of W. D. Arnold, his wife's brother, Director of Public Instruction in the Punjab, who died in 1859. One son is H. O. Arnold Forster,

The above reminds us of the quiet unobtrusive influence of our Society, and the large

share it has borne in the education, the justice and the liberties of the world. It comes out in statesmanship, philanthropy, and good citizenship. The effect upon the nations, of those qualities of honesty, sincerity, simplicity, mercy justice and courage, which the Society has in some way instilled into its youth, there to remain and bear fruit in men and women who have adorned the earth, cannot be estimated. It becomes us to make ourselves worthy of a noble ancestry. Not satisfied with the contemplation of past achievements; not consoled by the thought that our principles shall live at all events, let us foster what is good and true, rather than indolently leave to others to promote. Let us build upon the past; and while we may regret that men so distinguished as he in ability and goodness, should in a measure become separated from the Society, may it never be said that it is for the good of the world that the Society should lose such a man.

On visiting Ireland with his father, he wrote:—"The result of our social system is that vast numbers of our fellow-countrymen—the peasantry of one of the noblest nations the world ever knew—have not leave to live. No one of us can have a right to enjoy either riches or repose until, to the utmost of his ability he strives to wash himself clean of all share in the guilt of such inequality." This coming to us now is almost prophetic.

George Washburn, D. D., President of Robert College, Constantinople, says:—"He came of the best and noblest Quaker stock in England." \* \* \* "Mr. Foster's death is a loss not only to England, but to all the world; not least to America. He was as faithful a friend of ours as Mr. Bright, and he knew America better than he. He was a representative of a type of statesmanship which is too rare both in England and America, which is inspired by the highest Christian principle, governed by practical common sense, and devoted to party interests only so far as the party is true to the highest interests of the state and the world." W. G. B.

The noblest spirits are those which turn to heaven, not in the hour of sorrow, but in that of joy; like the lark, they wait for the clouds to disperse, to soar up into their native element.