

PROFESSOR PEPPER, F.C.S.

LATE OF THE ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, LONDON, ENG.

John Henry Pepper, the popular chemical lecturer, was born in London, where his father was well known and respected as a contractor for public works, and was elected Chief Burgess of the City of Westminster. Several relations of Mr. Pepper's had already made their mark in the literary world, and especially his uncle, John Tarte, Esq., proprietor and editor of the *Morning Herald*, led the van in diffusing liberal information to the public on scientific matters, and encouraged the young aspirants for scientific honours. Young Pepper received an early and liberal education, and, like "little Dombey," had a "grinding up" at Brighton, with fortunately a more beneficial result; and after a course at a well-known "Academy," in the neighbourhood of Brixton, he entered King's College with an intention to study for the church. Here he acquired a preponderating taste for chemistry, and was placed under the care of Prof. John Thos. Cooper, one of the most accomplished practical chemists of his day, and for a period of five years the young man had excellent opportunities of gaining experience, and formed acquaintance with the leading chemists of the day. At the early age of nineteen he was suddenly called upon, in consequence of the serious illness of Prof. Cooper, to accept his duties as "locum tenens," which duties he performed with extraordinary ability. After his recovery Prof. Cooper gave the first course of lectures on chemistry at the Royal Polytechnic Institution, and was assisted by Mr. Pepper, who shortly afterwards was placed in charge of the very complete laboratory of that institution, and ultimately had for many years entire control and management as Director of this most popular institution.

Here he established classes in practical chemistry and mineralogy,



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FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN.

French, German, and mathematics, at very low fees, and gave Monday Evening Lectures to working-men at half-price. These movements to popularize Science were under the special patronage of H.R.H. the late Prince Consort, and he has had the honour repeatedly of lecturing before several members of the Royal family. He also established a popular School of Photography, and for the last twenty years has been known throughout England as an accomplished and acceptable lecturer and experimentalist—bridging the gulf which lies between the abstrusities of Science and the popular mind, and seasoning all his discourses and writings with a quiet humour, which is the special delight of boys. Not only has the Professor thus appeared to generation after generation of schoolboys—boys in town for the Christmas holidays, and boys brought in by special trips from the country, and boys specially favoured by a visit to their academy, but to crowded audiences at Mechanics' Institutes and Athenaeums all through the United Kingdom. Probably no living man has lectured to so large a number of persons, or with so much appreciation as Professor Pepper—and perhaps his readers have been almost as numerous as his hearers, for who has not read with delight "The Boy's Playbook of Science," and the "Boy's Playbook of Metals," both of them "Boys' Own" Books, whilst few lecturers and professors of science are not indebted to his larger work, the "Encyclopedia of Science," for suggestive and instructive experimental hints. Having resigned for the present his position at the Polytechnic Institution, Professor Pepper has set out upon a grand lecture tour, and proposes to visit all the large cities on this continent, and to gather information as to American and Canadian manufactures and industries, as well as the mining capabilities and natural resources of this country, on which he proposes to publish a work



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