

## A NOTABLE CATHOLIC LAYMAN.



HERE passed away recently at his home in Scotland a Catholic nobleman whose name has long been held in respect by the learned world, and whose conversion to the true faith some thirty years ago caused no little surprise in the higher circles of society in Great Britain. Himself a learned man and a generous patron of university learning in his native land, John Patrick Crichton Stuart, Marquis of Bute, K.T., LL.D., deserves more than a passing notice in the pages of a university REVIEW. Born in 1847 the Marquis received his early education at Harrow School, whence he proceeded to Christ Church College, Oxford. Memories of the Tractarian Movement still hovered around the great university and the young Scottish nobleman found himself wrestling with the questions which Newman and Manning and Ward and Faber had faced. In his twenty-second year he was received into the Catholic Church. His conversion was the subject of universal comment throughout Great Britain, and is said to have inspired Disraeli to write his novel *Lothair*, wherein the character of the Marquis is strangely distorted and the motives of churchmen are assumed to be avarice and greed. The sordid soul of the Jewish novelist could not appreciate anything above pounds, shillings and pence. From the day of his conversion the Marquis was an earnest and devout Catholic; he practised his faith in the face of much personal obloquy; and he practised it, in no half-hearted way, daily and continuously up to the end. Some have said that the Marquis's conversion and life-long adherence to Catholicism were largely a matter of antiquarian and ecclesiological taste. An antiquarian and a universal delver into ecclesiastical black-letter lore, the Marquis certainly was; but, supernatural causes aside, it was not taste but conviction that led him into the Church and kept him there. He was profoundly convinced that there was only one true Church, and that that Church was the Church of the Sacraments, of the Real Presence, and of the Roman Primacy. The Marquis's sincerity of purpose and his noble qualities of mind and heart gradually won recognition, and honors came thick and fast upon