

Moreton Johnston, the father of the subject of this sketch,—seems to have had a true passion for that profession. The reader has been told of the bitter disappointment he felt when his eldest son,—Andrew,—declined to adopt it; he also knows that his second son, Lewis, was an M. D.; but what follows has hitherto not been known to the general public. I quote from a note before me, written by a lady, who vouches for the fact that, “his father intended him,—James William Johnston,—for the medical profession also; but as he could never overcome his repugnance to the sight of blood and surgical operations, on that account only was it abandoned for that of the law.” The same lady also states: “When in Edinburgh, “Mrs. Johnston,—the mother,—was recommended to engage the “services of the late lord Brougham, who was at that time a student “in straitened circumstances, as a tutor to her son; but having, on “enquiry, ascertained that his religious principles were not of an “orthodox character, she would not consent to the arrangement.” From this it would appear that her sense of the moral responsibility resting upon her in connection with her conduct toward her children, was very great; and it may be thought, by some, to have been unnecessarily so; but her instincts seem to have revolted at all forms of vice, whether relating to personal conduct, or to heterodoxy in religious belief, and may serve as an indication, perhaps as a key, to her inner character. One thing seems certain, that her children derived much of the intellectual ability and moral excellence for which they were distinguished from her who gave them birth.

A year before Mr. Johnston's decease he visited the south of France on account of the state of his health, which had become very much impaired. This course had been taken under medical advice, and it was hoped that a season of rest from laborious and exhaustive mental labor would so recuperate his physical system that the life of the “old man eloquent” would be spared to the public for a few years longer. But this was not to be.

The gentleman who for many years had been his great political antagonist,—Mr. Howe,—whose health was also in a shattered condition, was, shortly after, elevated to the gubernatorial chair of his