

## THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW

shipped by his hearers. A convention of working men was to be held in Manchester, and he was selected as a delegate. The country was seething with excitement. A wave of unreason swept over the artisans of the old land, and wherever a match was applied a conflagration followed. On his way to Lancashire, Cooper addressed a crowd of citizens at Hanley, in the Staffordshire Potteries, and his oration was followed by the destruction of the residences of the parish parson and of the two other local magnates. He was not actually present at the riot, but was arrested and committed on a charge of inciting to arson, and although he conducted his own defence, was acquitted. He was shortly afterwards tried for sedition and convicted. His trial lasted several days, and his defence was vigorous and brilliant, if not effective. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment in Stafford Jail, and manfully served his term for what he could not have regarded as a crime. It was a time of trials and convictions and punishment of men who asked for a measure of liberty which has long been accorded to Canadians, and has been largely extended to Englishmen. During the term that he was immured in Stafford Jail, he was afforded facilities for literary work, and wrote a poem in the Spenserian stanza, which is of remarkable power, and called forth high praise from even grudging critics. His jail poem, "The Purgatory of Suicides," evinced vast literary erudition and depth of thought, and was speedily followed by other work, in prose and verse. He made the acquaintance of Jerrold, Thomas Carlyle, Bulwer, Dickens, D.Israeli, and others whose names are "Household Words." But in political and religious belief, although a Methodist in early life, he was a heretic, and for years derived

a precarious existence from Lectures on subjects which he viewed from the extreme Radical standpoint. As life sped on, his ultra views were softened, and although he remained a Liberal in politics, he spent many of the later years of his life in the enunciation of "The Evidences of Christianity," using arguments made stronger by his own experience. He died but a short time ago, at a ripe old age, respected and beloved by all who knew him. Probably his life would have been more happy, and his services to mankind more valuable, had he played throughout his earthly career the part of Dominic for which he was so eminently fitted.

GRANDFATHER.  
(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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### The Rockwood Review

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