

thousands a year. May the Lord of mercy prosper the cause ! South of Guinea are many different negro tribes, plunged into the greatest idolatry and savage rudeness. No doubt remains as to their being cannibals in the back-settlements.

We trust the British Government will do something to ameliorate the condition of the negroes of the Gambia, and institute a more liberal system of policy with respect to the aborigines. The British colonists of the south would be glad of their labours, and might treat them with humanity, whilst it seems to be the present endeavour to get rid of as many as possible by oppression and neglect. O, when shall humane feelings be exercised towards this despised race, whom all the world have conspired to ruin, and whose very tender mercies towards them are fraught with cruelty ? Arise, O Lord, maintain the cause of mercy, and let oppression come to an end. Bid the "kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy" reign over these distracted and benighted children of Ham !

R. W. MACBRAIR.

MISCELLANEOUS.

LAST ILLNESS AND DEATH OF WALTER SCOTT.

—The following particulars of the closing hours of this talented man are from the last volume of his biography, just published, from the pen of Mr. Lockhart:—

"After breakfast, on Tuesday, the 17th, he appeared revived somewhat, and was again wheeled about on the turf. Presently he fell asleep in his chair, and after dosing for perhaps half an hour, started awake, and shaking the plaids we had put about him from off his shoulders, said, 'This is sad idleness. I shall forget what I have been thinking of, if I don't set it down now. Take me into my room, and fetch the keys to my desk.' He repeated this so earnestly that we could not refuse. His daughters went into his study, opened his writing desk, and laid papers and pens in the usual order, I then moved him through the hall and in the spot where he had always been accustomed to work. When the chair was placed at the desk, and he found himself in his usual old position, he smiled and thanked us, and said, 'Now give me my pen, and leave me a little to myself.' Sophia put the pen into his hand, and he endeavoured to close his fingers upon it, but they refused their office—it dropped on the paper. He sank back among his pillows, silent tears rolling down his cheeks ; but composing himself by and by, motioned me to wheel him out of doors again. Laidlaw met us at the porch, and took his turn of the chair. Sir Walter after a little while again dropped into slumber. When he was awakening, Laidlaw said to me, 'Sir Walter has had a little repose.' 'No, Willie,' said he, 'No repose for Sir Walter but in the grave.' The tears again rushed from his eyes. 'Friends,' said he, 'don't let me expose myself—get me to the bed, that's the only place.'

"With this scene ended the glimpse of the daylight. Sir Walter, never, I think, left his room afterwards, and hardly his bed, except for an hour or two in the middle of the day ; and after another week he was unable even to do this."

"As I was dressing on the morning of Monday, the 17th of September, Nicolson came to my room and told me that his master had awoke in a state of composure and consciousness, and wished to see me immediately. I found him entirely himself, though in the last extreme of feebleness. His eyes were clear and calm—every trace of the wildfire of delirium extinguished. 'Lockhart,' said he, 'I may have but a moment to speak to you. My dear, be a good man ; be virtuous—be religious, nothing else will give you comfort when you come to lie here.' He paused and I said, 'Shall I send for Sophia and Anne ?' 'No,' said he, 'don't disturb them. Poor souls ! I know they were up all night. God bless you all !' With this he sank into a very tranquil sleep, and, indeed, he scarce-

ly afterwards gave any sign of consciousness, except for an instant on the arrival of his sons. They, on learning that the scene was about to close, obtained a new leave of absence from their posts, and both reached Abbotsford on the 19th. About half-past one P. M., on the 21st September, Sir Walter breathed his last in the presence of all his children. It was a beautiful day, so warm that every window was wide open, and so perfectly still, that the sound of all other most delicious to the ear—the gentle ripple of the Tweed over its pebbles—was plainly audible as we knelt round the bed, and his eldest son kissed and closed his eyes."

DISCOVERY OF A CROMLECH, OR ANCIENT TOMB IN THE PHENIX PARK, DUBLIN.

—A few days since, the workmen employed in the works now going on for the improvement of the Park, were removing the earth to the westward of the Royal Hibernian School, when they found four antique vases, filled with half-burnt bones and ashes. Lieutenant Larcam, riding by, saw these interesting remnants of antiquity, and secured them ; three were broken into pieces, the fourth is nearly perfect. One of them is a beautiful specimen of workmanship, for the early period to which its manufacture is attributed. It is, as all of them are, circular, but the mouldings are in relief, and elaborately wrought ; the others display not so much finish. In proceeding further with their work they found an ancient tomb—a large slab of limestone, as it was taken rough from the quarry, supported by six lesser stones forming a cromlech, or ancient tomb, and surrounded on all sides by a quantity of lesser stones, evidently taken from the bed of the Liffey. This discovery was communicated to the President of the Royal Irish Academy, Sir William Hamilton, who, with a deputation, visited the place on Wednesday, and witnessed the examination of this interesting piece of antiquity. When the earth was removed, so as to admit the contents of the tumulus to be examined, it was found to contain the skeletons of two human beings nearly perfect, with the tops of the finera of another, and a single bone of an animal, supposed to be that of a dog. The bones were in a high state of preservation ; the teeth nearly perfect, the molars of one skull were considerably more worn than the other, but both were the skulls of persons advanced in years. One of the most remarkable circumstances was, that under the head of each body was found a quantity of shells common to our sea coast, the *nerita littoralis*, rubbed down on the valve with a stone to make a second hole, with a view to their being strung as a necklace, and the root of some tree or shrub was found stringing them together. There was a single shell, a *Trochus*, also found, with the pearly covering on it as perfect as if it had been recently found on the sea-shore. The only remnant of art discovered, was what is supposed to be an arrow-head, composed of flint, and a fibula of bone, supposed to be the fastening of one of the necklaces. This tomb was buried under the apex of a mound of earth fifteen feet high, forming the segment of a sphere one hundred and twenty feet diameter. The head of the skeleton lay to the north, and the opening was to the south. The interior was six feet by five, of an irregular hexagon form ; the large stone on top six feet six by three feet six. The original structure of the mound is supposed to have been conical, but owing to the operations of nature, and the trampling of cattle, flattened down to the form it had assumed, that of a segment of a sphere. A substance, soft and white was found, which was at first supposed to be a dipocere, but on examination proved to be phosphate of lime, part of the bones which had been decomposed. This tumulus is somewhat similar to one lately found in the same locality. The probable date of this monument of antiquity is supposed to be at least two thousand years.