

human life. 'Stead of "three score years and ten," he had been spared to his friends and family for a much longer period, and had he lived till the 24th of June next, he would have completed the patriarchal age of ninety years. The venerable deceased was born in Chester, in the June of 1767, and early evinced a studious tendency. He was a student in the Dissenting College, Hackney, in which Drs. Price, Rees and Kippis were tutors. He passed through his collegiate course with great credit, and settled as minister in the Protestant Dissenting congregation of Princes'-street, Cork. Zealous, earnest and indefatigable in his sacred calling, he directed his attention to the mental culture of all around him, especially the young; he founded the Royal Cork Institution, of which he was secretary, and for several successive years he gave courses of lectures on various branches of natural science. His labours, at this early period of his long and useful career, are still affectionately remembered in "the beautiful citie;" and not many months since his last days were gladdened with a highly complimentary address from the Cork Institution. From Cork the reverend deceased removed to Fermoy, where he opened a school which soon attained distinction. After some time he removed, about the year 1821, to the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, in which he became classical head-master and professor of Hebrew. These important offices Dr. Hincks held for many years with the highest credit; and, after having given up the classical head mastership, he still continued to be the Hebrew professor till not very long since. We do not exactly know at what period of his career the reverend and learned gentleman became LL. D., and was enrolled member of the Royal Irish Academy; but few who ever bore these distinctions was more entitled to them than he was. Dr. Hincks was also member of the Belfast Literary Society for many years, and early became associated with the Belfast Natural History Society, of which eminent body he was more than once president. His papers read at the meetings of the latter association were remarkable for their clearness and precision of detail; and, on botanical subjects, he was looked up to as an authority. Notwithstanding the numerous calls upon his attention, the gifted deceased found time for the production of many works of great merit. He published several books, which were among the best of their day, although most of them are now superseded. But his School Greek Lexicon is still regarded as the best of its kind; and it is to be regretted that a more extensive work, on the same subject, for which he made preparations on a large scale, was never completed, owing to want of proper encouragement. The ability which marked, in so eminent a degree, the reverend deceased, descended also to his children. His sons have all made themselves eminent in their several walks in life. The Rev. Dr. Hincks, F.T.C.D., Rector of Killileagh, is known to the learned world by his works on the Sanscrit language. The Rev. W. Hincks is Professor of Natural History in the University of Upper Canada; the Rev. Thomas Hincks is Rector of Derrykeighan; the Rev. John Hincks, deceased, was minister of the Unitarian congregation, Renshaw-street, Liverpool; and the Hon. Francis Hincks, after a no less useful than brilliant career, in connexion with the government of Canada, is now Governor of Barbadoes. Notwithstanding his great age, the reverend and learned deceased enjoyed all his faculties, as well mental as physical, in an astonishing degree of perfection. A few months ago only his bodily powers seemed to fail, and he was occasionally confined to his bed. But his eyesight was remarkably clear, and he never ceased till the approach of his latest moments to manifest an interest in the doings of everyday life. He breathed his last on Tuesday at his residence, Murray's-terrace, in the bosom of an attached family—children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren—beloved, revered, and regretted.—*Belfast Mercury*.

#### DR. KANE, THE ARCTIC NAVIGATOR.

At a recent meeting of the American Geographical Society, the Rev. Dr. Hawks thus referred to the memory of the lamented Dr. Kane:

In my observation of human nature it has seldom fallen to my lot to meet a fellow-being possessed of more striking excellences, or in whom there was a combination more rare of seemingly opposite qualities; in him, however, they were all harmoniously blended, and it was precisely this fact which made him to me an object of deep and affectionate interest.

To a fine mind, inquiring and analytical, he added great industry; and what he deemed worthy of study at all he studied thoroughly. The range of attainments, too, was varied, and he had roamed largely over the wide spread field of physical science. Both varied and accurate as were his attainments, there was a beautiful simplicity and modesty so blended with them that no one ever could suspect him of feeling his superiority in learning over those with whom he mingled. He had not studied for ostentatious display, but for usefulness in

his station. The strong trait in his character was his indomitable energy. In his small and feeble frame there was combined an iron will, a giant power of resolute purpose. Impulsive, ardent as he was by nature, one might have expected that his would be just the disposition to leap prematurely to conclusions; but a very slight acquaintance soon proved that such was not his habit of mind.

Rarely have I seen so much impulsive warmth blended with the soberness of patient, laborious inquiry, and sound practical judgment, as in him.—Thus, for instance, the strong conviction he had of the open Polar sea, which he lived long enough to discover, was founded on no hasty or happy guess.—In conversations which he held with me on the probabilities of its existence, when our discussion turned entirely on scientific considerations, I found that he had reasoned out his conclusions by a chain of induction almost as strictly severe as mathematical demonstration; indeed, part of his process was mathematical. Before he sailed, he told me he was sure there was open water around the pole, and that if he lived to return he hoped to be able to tell me he had seen it. He no more proceeded on conjecture merely than did Columbus in his assertion of the existence of our hemisphere. But with these intellectual traits, and with great personal intrepidity, he had a gentleness of heart as tender as a woman's.

There was an overflowing kindness in his soul which stirred up his benevolence to its lowest depths when he encountered human misery, whether of body or mind. He spared not time, nor toil, nor money, to relieve it. I may not violate the sacred confidence of private friendship under any circumstances, and least of all when the grave has for a time sundered the ties which bound us as earthly friends together; but were it lawful to speak all I know on this point, both as his almoner and adviser, I could move your generous sensibilities even to tears, by stories of as pure, disinterested, liberal, self-sacrificing efforts for others as any it has been my lot to meet with in the records of human benevolence. Alas! my countrymen, what is his early grave but a noble testimonial to his humanity? He is dead himself, because he would snatch others from death.

Another remarkable trait in his character was the power he had of commanding and exercising an irresistible influence over men. You, sir (Mr. H. Grinnell), can bear witness with me to this. You have seen him when, with gentle firmness, when love and resolution were both unmistakeably present, and both marvellously blended—you have seen him encounter the unequivocal purpose of insubordination and rebellion in the person of the enraged, reckless and desperate seamen who refuses obedience, and who possessed a physical power that could have killed him with a blow.

You have seen that light, frail frame, that, alas, now sleeps in death, approach with quick, firm step, and with no weapons but such as nature gives, he but fixes his keen eye on the offender, and the clear sound of his voice rings upon the ears, in no tone of passion or anger. He but talks, and there is some strange magic in his manner and his words; for presently the tears begin to roll down the rugged, sunburnt cheeks of the hardy seaman; he has humanized him by some mysterious power made up of love and reason mixed. Rebellion dies, and in its place is born a reverence and affection so deep, so devoted, that to the end of our dead friend's life, none loved him better than the vanquished rebel.

These were some of his qualities as a man. Of what he has done in the cause of science, and of our chosen department in particular, there is but little need that I should speak. In a short career of but 35 years, he has left upon the times in which he lived his impress so indelibly stamped that science numbers him with her martyrs, and will not let his memory die. He has told, too, so beautifully and modestly the story of his last suffering pilgrimage in her cause, and that of benevolence, that his remembrance will be kept green in the land of our fathers as well as in our own; for the English language is our common property, and that which is registered in the literature of that tongue, I love to think, is destined to a long existence and wide diffusion on our globe. Had he done less in science England would not forget him, for his benevolent heart led him to seek the relief of Englishmen, undismayed by the horrors and perils of an Arctic voyage; but what he accomplished in science secured to him the generous tribute of acknowledgement and admiration from England's scientific men. He received there the medal of our sister institution, the Royal Geographical Society, her highest tribute to eminent service and geographical discovery.

And as for ourselves, there is little danger that we shall forget him. He was a noble specimen of man, and he was our countryman. Letters may yield a graceful tribute to his worth in language fitted to her mournful theme; science may rear his monument, and tell the world she weeps over one of her most gifted sons, and this is all right; but there is a more touching tribute to his memory than either of these:

"Affection shall tenderly cherish his worth,  
And memory deeply engrave it,  
Not upon tablets of brass or stone,  
But in those fond hearts where best 'twas known."