

sively by the present Marquis of Bristol, who has been spared to survive the eminent protego of his early life, and by the second Earl Spencer, to the livings of Queenington and Dunon, he was after five years preferred by the former to the rectory of Chesterford, in the diocese over which he was afterwards destined for so long a period to preside. The See of London was at that time filled by Dr. Howley, who, having in 1817, appointed Mr. Blomfield his domestic chaplain, and subsequently given him the living of St. Botolph, Bishopgate, and the archdeaconry of Colchester, he was within a short interval elevated to the bishopric of Chester, before he had reached the age of 38.

It was in that high office, and still more when, after another brief period of four years, he succeeded his patron, Dr. Howley, in the See of London, that he displayed the full maturity of those talents, which, during the last quarter of a century, made him the most conspicuous member of the English prelatry. As a debater in Parliament, whenever the interests of religion or the welfare of the clergy called him to share in its discussions, he was vigorous and lucid. As a preacher he combined the clearest statements of doctrinal truth with the most forcible and effective deductions from them of practical conduct, all clothed in a simplicity of language which made him equally acceptable to the most cultivated and the most ill educated of his hearers, while the admirable management of a voice naturally melodious, enabled him, without the least apparent effort, to command the attention of the largest congregations. There was an utter, and probably a studied absence of all action in his public elocution, whether in the Senate or in the pulpit; the effects of it could only be attributable to the genuine sincerity of his character and to the sterling weight of the statements which he enforced. As an over-looker of the curacy of this populous diocese, he evinced the most marvellous power of despatching business, whether it referred to the minutest or the gravest questions, and he was accessible at all times to every one who submitted them to his notice. The disposal of his ample preferment was never prostituted to the objects of nepotism, nor to the bias of political opinion. And if he retained the revenues of a most richly endowed See, long after more recently appointed prelates had acquiesced in the limitation of theirs, it was only that he might with an unsparing hand promote the erection of churches, the funds of schools, and the provision for the poorer clergy. It was this large and self-denying munificence that mainly tended to stimulate the same spirit in others, and which has stamped upon this age of the English Church, amid all its unhappy divisions, a character unknown to it in any other. There are two measures, however, which bear upon them pre-eminently the impress of Bishop Blomfield's energetic mind—the systematic perseverance of his efforts to secure the building of churches, and the extension of the colonial episcopate from five to thirty-one Sees, which originated in the appeal of his well-known letter to Archbishop Howley. The improved residence of the beneficed and the improved stipends of the unbeneficed clergy, the more effective examinations of candidates for the ministry, and greater frequency of communions and confirmations were all evidences of a more vigorous ecclesiastical administration which he might be thought to have shared with his episcopal contemporaries. But it would not probably be difficult to prove that even these were attributable in no ordinary degree to the impulse of his mixt, which encouraged and stimulated others in the path of their responsible duty. True it is, indeed, that the controversial spirit diffused over the latter period of Bishop Blomfield's life, rendered more difficult the course of one who, like

him, wished to think well of all without truckling to the mistaken opinions of any. But those will be the first to make allowance for his conduct in dealing with the difficulties which such a state of opinion had created, who estimate the delicate position of a prelate who is called upon to arbitrate at a moment when party spirit runs high among the clergy.

It would, however, be doing little justice to the character of so eminent a man if we were to drop the curtain over his memory without unfolding one portion of it to delineate the consistency with which he adorned all the relations of domestic life. The best friends of his school and college career were those of his ripest years. With a memory accurate and retentive, and with an elastic cheerfulness of disposition, which the severest trials of arduous engagements and often ill-requited kindness never ruffled, the serenity of his reading and the fund of his anecdotes diffused a charm over the society of every circle which he entered. The father of a numerous family, of which six sons and five daughters are now deploring his loss, he laboured unceasingly to train them in the principles of the faith which from his heart he loved, and of which his own conduct afforded them a constant example. We have heard upon an authority which cannot be questioned, that since his retirement into private life, there were no sentiments flowing more frequently from his lips than those which expressed the conviction of his own inadequate fulfilment of his public duties; while the enjoyment of his mental faculties was preserved to him nearly to the close of his existence, and his last act of consciousness was an act of prayer.

CONSECRATION OF THE BISHOP OF PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The Ven. Matthew Blagden Hale, D.D., of Trinity College, Cambridge, Archdeacon of Adelaide, was consecrated on Saturday, July 25 (St. James Day), in the Chapel of Lambeth Palace, to the newly-erected Bishopric of Perth, in Western Australia. The consecrating Prelates were the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and the Bishop of Ripon.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES BILL.—The following declaration on Marriage and Divorce has received the signatures of upwards of 8000 clergymen, and names may still be sent, to be added to it, to the Reverend Dr. Wordsworth, care of Messrs Nichols and Sons, King Street, Westminster, S.W.—“We the undersigned Clergy of the United Church of England and Ireland, being mindful of the vow made by us at our ordination, that we would ‘give faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine and Sacraments, and discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded, and as this Church and Realm hath received the same,’ hereby express our earnest desire that facilities unauthorised by Holy Scripture, and by the law and ritual of the United Church, of which we are ministers, may not be given to the dissolution of holy matrimony. Remembering, also, that it is declared in the Word of God that marriage with a divorced woman is adulterous, we earnestly pray, that the Clergy of this realm may never be reduced to the painful necessity of either withholding the obedience which they must always desire to pay to the law of the land, or else of sinning against their own consciences, and violating the Law of God, by solemnizing such marriages as are condemned as adulterous in His Holy ord.”

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