

burgh was for a period of five years, during a considerable portion of which he officiated at the episcopal chapel in that city. At this time and place his career as an author may be said to have commenced; and amongst the earliest of his literary acquaintances were Lords Brougham, Jeffrey, and Murray. It was from a suggestion of Mr. Smith that the great *Scotch Review*, of which he was the first editor, was started. Very soon after the commencement of the *Edinburgh Review*, Mr. Smith ceased to be the editor, for he removed to London, where he settled in the year 1803, and in the 35th year of his age married the daughter of Mr. Pybus, the banker. That such a man as Mr. Smith should become an extremely popular preacher will readily be imagined; accordingly, we find him about this time in the full enjoyment of fashionable notoriety, preaching at the Foundling Hospital, the Berkely and the Fitzroy Chapels. One of the publications of that period describes him as having been "engaged" to preach at those places of resort; just as one might speak of a theatrical "star" being "engaged" to perform at Covent-garden or Drury-lane. He was soon engaged as a lecturer on *belles lettres* at the Royal Institution, and, of course, his prolusions were attended, according to the theatrical phrase, by "overflowing and fashionable audiences." In everything which he attempted he appears to have been eminently successful. At college he graduated with honor and obtained a fellowship. He projected and contributed to a review which has enjoyed the highest degree of prosperity: he attempted an ambitious style of preaching, with a vigor of talent which distances all rivalry; he became a public lecturer, and the whole world of Mayfair flocked to Albermarle-street to enjoy his humour and become enlightened by his researches; he published political works that have gone through editions so numerous, that as many as 20,000 copies of some have been sold; he lived long enough to enjoy his reputation, and to attain to a greater age than falls to the lot of ordinary mortals; and yet those who appreciate wit, who can admire learning, and who honored the man that used both for the good of his species, will be disposed to think that, old as Sydney Smith was, he died too soon. The late Lord Holland, nephew of Fox, warmly patronised Mr. Smith; and when Lord Erskine held the great seal, Lord Holland prevailed on that noble and learned person to bestow on Mr. Smith the living of Frostonin, in Yorkshire, where he resided for some years. It was about this time, or shortly before it, that he attacked the system of education pursued at Oxford with so much ardor as to draw from him a severe reply from the Provost of Oriel. In the latter days of his life it has been remarked, rather uncharitably perhaps, that nothing less exci-

ting than private interests and personal feelings induced him to take up his pen; and some color is given to this complaint by the fact that the most remarkable occasions on which he has recently appeared in print were those when he considered himself injured by Lord John Russell's bill, and when he was really robbed by the repudiating republicans of Pennsylvania. The losses which he sustained by the American bonds are not believed to have been very considerable; while, to those who love agreeable reading, they proved to be a great gain, for nothing can be more ludicrous than the indignation, nothing more amusing than the invectives which he poured forth in the public journals against the drab-colored swindlers who have disgraced the country of Win. Penn. They supply the most varied illustrations of knavery, the drollest sarcasms on fraud, the most instructive satire on Republicanism, and at the same time furnish no imperfect specimens of the genius and character of that very facetious person from whose pen they proceeded, and of whose mirthful lucubrations we may now expect no continuance—no fresh cargo of those flashes of merriment that set the world "in a roar." The conversational witticisms of Sydney Smith would fill a jest-book; but his character will be estimated by posterity on far higher grounds. When his "quips and cranks" are lost and forgotten, it will be remembered that he supported Roman Catholic claims, and that they were conceded; that he strenuously assailed the game laws, and that they underwent great modification; that he compelled a large portion of the public to acknowledge the mischief of our penal settlements; that he became the advocate of the wretched chimney-sweepers, and their miseries were alleviated; that he contended against many of the unjust provisions of the Church Reform Bill, and they were amended; that whereas, before his time, a man accused at the bar of a criminal court might be hanged before he had been half heard, now every prisoner has the benefit of a defence by counsel. It will further be freely acknowledged, that no public writer was more successful than he in denouncing a political humbug, or demolishing a literary pretender; that he was, on the whole, an upright and a benevolent man; and, as the world goes, a disinterested politician; that he had opportunities of improving his fortune, which he nobly rejected; and that, having lived with unostentatious respectability, he died without accumulating wealth."

General Intelligence.

PAISLEY.

The conversion of Miss Brewster, the daughter of the Presbyterian Minister here, to the Catholic faith, has made a great noise; the father has endeavoured to convince his daughter, and she, for