

sodical discourses, and each has had the singular facility of preserving a marked individuality. As a member of the Imperial Legislature, Mr. Haliburton's voice was always ready in the defence of the colonies of British North America, and he rarely spoke except upon colonial questions. His pen, too, was not idle in the same direction. Last year he paid his last visit to Nova Scotia, and was among those who were assembled at the village of Windsor in August to welcome the Canadian delegates to that Province, as they stepped off the little steamer which bore them from St. John. He died universally esteemed.—*The Reader.*

No. 59.—SIR WILLIAM R. HAMILTON.

By the steamer *City of Boston* we receive the news of the death of Sir William Rowan Hamilton, a celebrated British natural philosopher and astronomer. He was born in Dublin, August 4, 1805, and was at his death in his 61st year. At an early age he gave evidence of the highest intellectual power. At three years of age he was consigned to the care of his uncle, Rev. James Hamilton, and when thirteen years old, he was, in different degrees, acquainted with thirteen different languages. At the age of 14 he addressed a letter of greeting in the Persian language to the Persian ambassador in England. At the age of 18 he entered the Dublin University, where he at once gained the first place, and in 1828, while still an under-graduate, was appointed Professor of Astronomy in the University Royal of Ireland. In 1837, he was elected President of the Royal Irish Academy. In 1835 he was knighted by Lord Normandy, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, for his advancement in science. Sir W. Hamilton has been engaged in numerous investigations on scientific subjects, and has published a number of works containing his results. One of the most celebrated of these is an "Essay on the Theory of Rays," which was read to the Royal Academy, December, 1864, and his last and most elaborate work is his "Method of Calculus of Quaternions," which was accomplished in 1854, a mathematical work of great distinction.

No. 60.—SIR WILLIAM JACKSON HOOKER.

England mourns the loss of one of her greatest botanists, a man who by the labours of his life has made Kew one of the centres of the scientific study he loved so well, and the envy of all the capitals of Europe. It happens but rarely to one man to play such an important part in the encouragement of a branch of research as that undertaken by Sir William Hooker, and whether we look upon those eleven acres of garden, now expanded into 270, with museums, conservatories, libraries, herbaria, hothouses, fern-houses, and ten thousand of the most precious trees, we must acknowledge that it is rarer still that a man is found who does his work so well. But even this is not all. Kew under his care has become a central influence which has gradually shown itself in the formation of similar establishments in our colonies, a breathing of new life into others, and the dissemination and intercommunication of things botanical over the civilized world. William Jackson Hooker was born at Norwich on the 6th of July, 1785, and was educated at the High School in that town. A keen sportsman, he soon formed a fine collection of the birds of Norfolk, which was rendered more valuable by many close observations on their habits; and the friendship of Messrs. Kirby and Spence and Alexander Macleay, the then Secretary of the Linnæan Society, induced him to devote much time to entomology. The discovery of the *Buxbaumia aphylla*, one of the most curious and rare of British mosses, which he took to Sir James Smith, the most eminent botanist of the day, encouraged him to commence the study of that science, which afterwards became the main pursuit of his life. He early made extensive botanical tours in the wildest parts of Scotland (including the Orkneys, Hebrides, &c.) In 1809, encouraged by Sir Joseph Banks, he visited Iceland, which he extensively explored, making large collections in all branches of natural history. In 1810-11 he made extensive preparations for accompanying Sir Robert Brownrigg, the Governor of Ceylon. The zeal with which he carried on his preparations may be exemplified by the fact that he made pen and ink copies of the plates and descriptions of the entire MS. series of Roxburgh's Indian plants. In 1814 he explored parts of France, Switzerland, and the north of Italy. In 1820 he accepted the Regius Professorship of Botany in Glasgow, at which place the next twenty years of his life were passed. During his residence at Glasgow he published various botanical works. In 1826 he commenced the authorship of *The Botanical Magazine*, which he carried on for nearly forty years. In 1836 he was knighted by William the Fourth, in acknowledgement of his distinguished services to science; and in 1841 he received his appointment at Kew, where he died on the 12th August, having just completed his eightieth year.—*The Reader.*

IX. Miscellaneous.

1. INDIAN SUMMER.

Clothed in royal robes the woodland,
Scarlet-hued, and gold and green;
Green and golden carpets cover
All the brown earth thickly over—
Fairest that were ever seen.

And the Autumn's mystic seeming,
As a sweet prophetic dreaming,
With fond fancies overteeming,
Weaves around its magic spell
As its lullings, low and lazy,
And its gentle, soothing murmurs
Many a tale of wonder tell.

For a witchery is ringing
Over forest, field and hill,
And a music burden chorus
Softly, softly swelling o'er us,
Breaking in a thousand echoes,
Bears its music-burden still.

Dallying with dishevelled tresses,
Now the west wind gently presses
On a fever-heated brow,
And with soothing, sweet caresses,
Whispers lovingly and low.

O! the world is full of beauty,
In those dreamy days I sing;
All envailed in tender sadness
Sweeter than the summer's gladness,
Sweeter than the bud and blooming
Of the beautiful bright spring.

2. QUEEN VICTORIA IN COBURG.

On Saturday, the 26th August, Queen Victoria presided at the uncovering of the Albert statue in Coburg. It is understood that more than one royal personage who had desired to be present was informed, by Her Majesty's wish, that the occasion was one of a strictly domestic interest. The statue is erected in the town of Coburg, but the actual birth-place of Prince Albert was the Chateau of Rosenau, about three miles distant. The weather was favorable for the inauguration, and the town was crowded with visitors. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge wore uniforms as generals in the British army. The Crown Prince of Prussia, Prince Louis of Hesse, and the Duke of Wurtemberg, were attired in the military dress of their respective countries. Prince Alfred wore a Coburg uniform, and the princesses wore light summer costumes. The Duke and Duchess of Saxe Coburg arrived shortly before four o'clock, and were greeted cordially by their subjects. On the arrival of the Queen, the band played the English national anthem, and immediately afterwards the choir, accompanied by the band, sang a hymn, "Heil dir in Siegerkranz." After the hymn, the white cloth surrounding the statue was lot fall, and the figure of the Prince Consort stood revealed. The statue is of colossal size, and, in the left hand is a baton, whilst the right rests on a plan of the Great Exhibition, which rests on a stone at the side of the figure. It is gilt, and stands on a pedestal of black polished granite. Luther's hymn, "Ein feste Burg," was then sung, accompanied by the band, and the Queen was conducted by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg towards the statue. Her Majesty was followed by all the members of the Royal Family, and, on arriving at the foot of the colossal figure, the Queen first gazed for a second at the features of the Prince, and then handed to one of the young ladies of the city who had been admitted within the railings, the bouquet which had been lying in front of Her Majesty. The Queen's example was followed by all the princesses, and numerous bouquets were laid at the foot of the statue. The ceremony then closed, and the Queen left for Rosenau.

3. LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF COBURG.

Previous to leaving Rosenau, Queen Victoria desired the following letter of thanks to be addressed to the municipality of Coburg:—"The Queen has been both touched and rejoiced to see how the inhabitants of the town of Coburg have associated themselves with her endeavor to honor the memory of her never-to-be-forgotten consort. The recent proof of the affection borne towards the Prince, by his native town, has deeply moved the Queen. Coburg, the birthplace of her consort and her mother, will always