

works, which are little known in England, have great reputation on the continent of Europe and in North and South America. Mr. Bentham was a benchet of Lincoln's-inn, and was the father of the bar. In conformity with the desire of his father, he practised for a short time in equity, and was immediately remarked for the ability he displayed; but the death of his father left him with a moderate fortune and the free choice of his course of life, when he at once abandoned all prospects of professional emoluments and honours, and devoted the whole of his subsequent life to those labours which he believed would produce the greatest happiness to his fellow-creatures. His extreme benevolence and cheerfulness of disposition are highly spoken of by all who had the honour to be admitted to his society, which was much sought after, and also by his domestics and by his neighbours who were acquainted with his habits. The news of the Reform Bill having been carried greatly cheered his last hours. He has, we are informed, bequeathed his body to his medical friend, Dr. Southwood Smith, with a charge that he shall use it in an anatomical school for dissection, in illustration of a course of lectures.

REV. C. C. COLTON.

THIS gentleman, the celebrated author of "*Lacon*," recently committed suicide at Fontainebleau, France, by shooting himself with a pistol. He took away his own life as it is stated, in order to avoid a horrible surgical operation which had become necessary to sustain his existence.

Perhaps no man ever possessed a better tact at writing than the Rev. Mr. Colton; and perhaps no man ever more abused his faculties, or departed more essentially in his practice from his preaching. His *Lacon* has been considered a master piece both in style and sentiment, and has been a model of imitation for more authors than perhaps any other work extant.

As the Rev. Mr. Colton has gone beyond the reach of either praise or detraction, an impartial sketch of the leading incidents of his life may not be uninteresting. He was a fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and afterwards minister at Kew. He wrote several small works of little note, but in 1820 he published his celebrated *Lacon*, which commanded universal admiration. Perhaps no book extant contains more moral truisms in fewer words. For a while he was quite successful in his ministry; but he soon took to gambling and other extravagancies and became involved in debt so that he was obliged to leave England. He came to the United States, where he continued some time and then went to France. He there soon became a well known frequenter of the gaming saloons of the Palais Royal, and at one time acquired an immense fortune. But the reverse which so frequently befalls gamblers, overtook him and he afterwards became miserably poor. He has been for about seven years living at Paris in the most pitiable circumstances, among what are denominated the hells, a living monument of the vice of gambling, and he has at last finished his unhappy career, and given verity in his dying moments to the following sentiment which we find in his *Lacon*—