

OBITUARY.

THE LATE JOHN F. DAVIES, M.A., LIT. D., *Professor of Latin, Queen's College, Galway.*

THE name of John Fletcher Davies, who died at Galway, Jan. 3rd, 1889, will not soon be forgotten in Ireland, nor, I think, in England, where there is ever to be found the most generous appreciation of Irish scholarship, and where the most kindly feelings towards its exponents prevail. If he had lived a week or two longer, he would have been the recipient of a high and well-deserved honour. The Board of Trinity College, Dublin, had resolved to apply to the Senate for a Grace to confer on him the degree of LL.D. *honoris causa*, but alas! Death came first. He was aware, however, that the authorities of the College of which he was such a devoted son proposed to confer on him this mark of their esteem, and this, perhaps somewhat tardy, recognition of his services to learning gave him the greatest joy that the grasp of disease and approaching death allowed him to feel.

John Davies was elected to a scholarship in Trinity College, Dublin, in the year 1858, and graduated as one of the Senior Moderators in classics in 1859, the late Henry Tyrrell being first, and Prof. Mahaffy and Lord Justice Fitzgibbon being the other Senior Moderators. For some years he presided over a school in Kingstown, which under him easily surpassed all competing institutions in the excellence of its classical teaching. He afterwards came to live in College, and coached for a while; and subsequently he undertook the classical teaching in St. Gregory's College at Downside in Somersetshire. Here again his success was most marked, and much regret was mingled with the congratulations of the worthy Fathers when he was elected to the Chair of Latin in Galway in 1880, succeeding Dr. Maguire, who resigned the Professorship on becoming a Fellow of Trinity College.

I never knew a man who had so great a faculty for winning the respect, regard, and even affection of his pupils; and most certainly he did not achieve this end by concealing or excusing their shortcomings. I think the source of his influence was his absolutely sincere enthusiasm for learning, and his superiority to all pretence or simulation. His conversation was keenly stimulating, and his erudition was really remarkable. I believe he was quite as familiar

with the whole of the *Naturalis Historia* of Pliny as most scholars are with the *Annals* of Tacitus; yet he never pursued, as some do, the by-paths of literature to the neglect of the high roads. He could repeat hundreds of the most exquisite lines of the Greek Anthology by heart, but he was no less familiar with Homer and the Attic poets; and because he knew Dio Cassius better than most men he did not regard this as a reason why he should read Thucydides less.

His chief works are the *Choëphoroe*, 1862, the *Agamemnon*, 1868, and the *Eumenides*, 1885; but between the two last came many very valuable papers in *Hermathena* on Homer, Sophocles, and Cicero. He was a constant and brilliant contributor to *Kottabos*, and in *Dublin Translations* gave the editor invaluable aid. His last work was interrupted by death when about half completed. His design was to translate the Odes of Horace back into the Greek from which they were presumably taken. As the work advanced, I think he felt that he could hardly aim so high as this; but some of his versions afford striking proofs of the precise accuracy and immense range of his vocabulary—from Homer to Paulus Silentarius—and of his wonderful taste and feeling for poetry. I hope in the forthcoming *Hermathena* to attempt to make an estimate of his work, and to give specimens of his best contributions to classical learning. Here I think I cannot do better than conclude this notice with a few examples of the marvellous skill shown in the execution of the most interesting project which beguiled the long months of an illness which ended in his deeply lamented death. We can see how little power disease and approaching death had over the brightness and vigour of his intellect. I select the shorter pieces, each illustrating a different metre.

Hor. I. 38.—Persicos odi, puer, apparatus.

Περσικὸν, παιδίσκε, τρύφημα μισῶ.
οὐ στέφος πλεκτὸν φίλῳρα με τέρπει.
γῆς ὄπου δηρὸν ῥόδον ὑστέρησεν
λῆγε μεταλλῶν.
μυρσίνη λιτῆ σὺ προσεκπονήσης,
λίσσομαι, μηδέν' πρέπει οἰκῆτῃ σοῖ
μυρσίνη κάμοι πυκινῆς ὑπ' οἴνης
ζωροποτοῦντι.

III. 12.—Miserarum est neque amori dare ludum neque dulci.

τὸ ταλαινῶν ἄρα μηδὲν ποτ' ἔρωτι ξυναθύρειν
μελικράτῳ τ' ἀποκλύζειν ἀνιήρ', εἰ δ', ἀποδρᾶναι
φυλάκων κέντρα τὰ γλώσσης ;
καλάθου μὲν σ' ἀποσυλᾷ Κυθραίας πτερόεις
παῖς,
σέ τ' Ἀθηνᾶς μελετῆς, στημόνος ἔργου, Νεο-
βούλη,
Λιπαραίου σέλας Ἐβρου,
Τιβερινοῦς ὀπότη' ὤμους λιπαροῦς κύμασι λούει,
καλὸς ἱππεὺς παρὰ καὶ Βελλεροφόντην, ποσι
νωθροῖς
ὄγε πυγμαῖς τ' ἀπρόσικτος
ἴδρις αὐτὸς προφρυγούσας θορυβώδει δι' ἀπόπτω
ἀγέλη δορκάδας αἰρεῖν πυκνῇ δ' ὄζυς ἐν ὕλῃ
σὺ κρυπτῷ προὔπαντάν.

III. 26.—Vixi puellis nuper idoneus.

ἄρμολι συνέζων ἰσοπάλῃς κόρασι,
ὀδὲ στρατεῖαν ἤγον ἀνεκ κλέους,
νῦν ὄπλα κἀγῶνων λυθέντα
βάρβιτον οὗτος ὁ τοῖχος ἔξει
λαῖος φυλάσσων Κύπριδα ποντίας.
ὦδ' ὦδε λαμπρὰς δᾶδας ἀφίετε,
καὶ τόξα καὶ μόχλους θύραισιν
ἀντικαθισταμέναις ἀπειλάς.
ὦ πότνια, ναίεις ἢ Κύπρον ὀλβίαν
καὶ Μέμφιν εὖνιν Σιδονίου πάγου,
ῥάσασ', ἀπαξ ἄρδην μαράγγην
νύσσε Χλόην ὑπερηφανούσαν.

IV. 10.—O crudelis adhuc et Veneris mun-
neribus potens.

ὦ νήλης ἔτι καὶ νῦν, Κύπριδος δ' ὀλβιεῖς δωρεαῖς,
δυστερπῆς ἐπὶ σαῖς ἀγλαΐαις εἴτε μόλῃ χυῖος,
χῶς νῦν ἀμφιποτᾶται πλόκαμος νῶτα χάμαι πέση,
φοινικοῦ τε ῥόδου σὸν καλύκων ἄνθος ὑπέρτερον
μαυρωθὲν Λιγυρίνον ῥέθος ἐς τραχὺ μεταπλάση,
φθέγγει, φεῦ, σε κατόπτρῳ προσιδῶν πάνθ' ἕτερον
σέθεν,
τίφθ' δς σήμερόν ἐστ' οὐχὶ πάρος παιδὶ νόος
παρήν ;
εἰ δ' οὖν, τίπτε φρεσὶν ταῖσδ' ἀσυνεῖς οὐχὶ
παρηίδες :

I would gladly add here more of these specimens of Professor Davies' learning and skill. But I hope to have an opportunity of publishing all his translations of the Odes of Horace—they are fifty-four in number—in a little volume; or, if this should seem undesirable, I would offer them from time to time to the readers of the *Classical Review*, *Hermathena*, and *Kottabos*. Perhaps however the above extracts will be enough for an age which is gradually growing more and more indifferent to the more spiritual side of classics, if I may so speak; or perhaps I should rather say, to the less solid achievements of scholarship.

R. Y. TYRELL.

THE REV. CHURCHILL BABINGTON, D.D., F.L.S., &c.

BORN MARCH 11, 1821, DIED JANUARY 12, 1889.

IN Churchill Babington, as in F. A. Paley, Cambridge has lost a son in whom classical learning was combined with a great variety of other tastes and accomplishments. Born and bred in rural Leicestershire, where the Babington family had for more than 300 years owned the manor of Rothley, he imbibed a love of country sports and interests which remained with him through life. Besides fishing and shooting he delighted in making collections in natural history, and thus qualified himself to write the sections on botany and ornithology for Potter's well-known *History of Charnwood Forest* while he was still an undergraduate. In later years he contributed largely to Sir W. Hooker's *Journal of Botany*, and wrote the section on Lichens in Hooker's *Flora of New Zealand*. In 1886 he brought out a very complete work on the birds of Suffolk. He was also an excellent conchologist. His literary and antiquarian tastes were an inheritance from

his father, the Rector of Thringston, Leicestershire, by whom he was educated till the end of his seventeenth year, and who had himself made considerable preparations for an edition of Horace. In 1839 Churchill was entered at St. John's College, Cambridge, having been for the preceding year under the tuition of the distinguished orientalist and archaeologist, Charles Wycliffe Goodwin, the brother of the present Bishop of Carlisle. In the Tripos lists of 1843 he was Senior Optime in mathematics, and seventh in the first class of the Classical Tripos. Soon afterwards he was elected a Fellow of his College. In 1845 he won the Hulsean prize for an essay on 'The influence of Christianity in promoting the abolition of slavery in Europe.' In 1848 he brought out his criticism on 'Macaulay's character of the Clergy in the Seventeenth Century,' to which he subsequently made large MS. additions. In 1855 he edited the extremely scarce work