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In Memoriam.

THOMAS GAMBIER PARRY, Esq., M.A.

It is our painful duty to recall to the memory of our members the great loss they and the country, for his loss was a national one, have sustained in the death, on the feast of St. Michael and All Angels last, of the late Mr. Thomas Gambier Parry. He had been in a very enfeebled condition for some two years previously, causing the utmost anxiety to his family and all his friends, but he was ever cheerful and active, and followed his life-loved pursuit, ART in all its branches, until, we may say, the hour of his death, for the last of the angelic figures, forming a composition which he was painting for Gloucester Cathedral was only completed on the day on which he was removed from all his labours of love and devotion on this earth.

We need scarcely say that Mr. Parry was not a native of Gloucestershire, nor born of a Gloucestershire family. He was the only son of Mr. Richard Parry, of Barnstead, Surrey, sometime Governor of Benevolen, by Mary Gambier, niece of the last Lord Gambier, and was born in 1816, and consequently at the time of his death was in the 73rd year of his age. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A. 1837, M.A. 1843. He purchased the Highnam estate of the late Sir John Wright Guise, of Rendcombe, Bart., grandfather of the present baronet, and settled there in 1838. In the following year he married, as his first wife, Annie Maria Isabella, second daughter of the late Mr. Henry Fynes-Clinton, of Welwyn, Herts, by whom he had two sons, the only survivor of whom is the talented musician, Dr. Charles Hastings Hubert Parry, the well-known composer of *Judith*. Mr. Parry married, secondly, in 1851, Ethelinda, daughter of the Very Rev. Francis Lear, Dean of Salisbury, by whom he leaves surviving issue two sons and four daughters to mourn his loss.

Soon after Mr. Parry's arrival in the County he was placed in the Commission of the Peace, and commenced that career of good-works by which his life was distinguished.

As might be expected a young gentleman of cultured mind and high social characteristics was a welcome acquisition to Gloucestershire Society, and he soon became prominent in his adopted county. He took his full share in the magisterial business, was a regular attendant at the Bench of the Local Petty Session, and at the Courts of Assize, and in 1850 he served the Office of Sheriff of the County. All the public duties which he performed with assiduity did not, however, divert him from his passionate love for Art, especially in painting and music. In the first he was a great proficient, and his earnest desire was to cultivate the taste for and extend the practice of it, believing it to be a great means to mental cultivation. As early as 1846 he was elected President of the Gloucester Literary and Scientific Society. He was also for many years, and up to the day of his death, President of the Gloucester Choral Society.

His greatest work, however, was his foundation of the beautiful church which he built on his own estate. It was commenced in 1848 and consecrated in 1851, being dedicated to the Holy Innocents in memory of his children who died in infancy. This building is truly a gem in architecture, and the interior is covered with mural paintings from Mr. Parry's own brush, in his own invented process of spirit instead of water-fresco, which is almost indestructible. Mr. Parry summed up its advantages as being: "all but imperishable, power to resist external damp and changes of temperature, luminous effect, a deal surface, and freedom from all chemical action on colours." We can only add, though it is scarcely necessary to do so, that the drawing is chaste, and in the loftiest character of high art. The entire

cost of this beautiful structure, together with the parsonage and school, with the endowment, was defrayed at his own charge.

We cannot detail all the excellent local institutions with which Mr. Parry was connected and supported by purse and voice. Whenever there was a work of christian charity to be carried out he was certain to be in the midst with untiring earnestness and zeal.

Mr. Parry was connected with the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society from its formation in 1876, when he was appointed a Vice-President for the Gloucester district, and he so continued until his death. In 1879 he was appointed President of the Society. His Inaugural Address, delivered at Cheltenham, was far from being of an ordinary character, and was listened to with intense interest by everyone present. It was eloquent and philosophical, and was characterised by that poetical feeling and graceful taste for which the speaker was so remarkable. He possessed an innate and ardent love for nature in all her wild and peaceful aspects. This was shewn on that occasion by his beautiful and vivid descriptive picture of the parish and church of Buckland. He said: "when I saw it twenty years ago, grand old elms swept across the road, and fine timber in the fields made a lovely fore-ground to the hills which swept down from the high-up parish of Campden. The cottages were all in the old fashioned condition; the moss-grown mill, and quiet old gothic parsonage with grisaille glass still in some of its mullioned windows; the stream left to wander across the road, and passed by stepping-stones; the old manor house of many gables, humbled in its age to the condition of a farm; the unkempt churchyard, of which a sacred reverence for its quietude was the best apology for its neglect; and, finally, the old church itself, with walls well worn by age and storms, and tinted with the yellow lichen and fresh moss, made a perfect picture of lovely and tranquil picturesqueness. But, alas! the scene is changed. Although the church retains its interest, the charm which surrounded it is no more. The old mill is modernized, the old timber is cut down, the stream wanders about no more,—the village is marred by ruthless incongruity. The breath of modernism is like the blast of a furnace; and the discomfited antiquary, in the full emotion of affectionate regret, sighs out the old words (with an English parenthesis) "Eheu fagaces,"—lost to me, lost to me—"Labunter anni." Few, perhaps, would view the scene in the hallowed light in which it appeared to him. Elsewhere he writes: "One of the most precious duties of Fine Art is so to present nature to men's eyes as to make them love that nature more." It is a subtle influence which few men possess, and no one which we have known in so high a degree as the late Mr. Parry.

In 1885 Mr. Parry accompanied the Society to Kempley Church and described the remarkable mural paintings with which the chancel of that church is so lavishly adorned. The mystical character of the subject just suited Mr. Parry's mental state and his address commanded the most reverent attention. Unfortunately it was delivered *extempore*, and although he kindly promised to put the matter in writing his other manifold occupations on subjects, to him, of higher interest and importance, together with the failure of his health prevented it.

Of Mr. Parry's private life and character it will not become us to say much. In his family he was all that could be desired in a husband and a father. He was a devoted son of the Church of England, and at all times took a paramount interest in her welfare, and his good-works will follow him. In social life he was the kind, hospitable, genial, courteous and polished gentleman beloved by his friends in life and lamented in his too early death.

In Memoriam.

FRANCIS DAY, C.L.E., LL.D., F.L.S., F.Z.S.,

Deputy Surgeon-General, in the Indian Army.

AFTER an illness of some duration death has removed from us one of the most eminent members of our Society in the person of Dr. FRANCIS DAY, who departed this life at Cheltenham, on Wednesday, the 10th July, 1889, in the 61st year of his age.

Dr. Day was the third son of William Day, of Hadlow House, Sussex, Esq., and was educated at Shrewsbury School under Dr. Kenedy. On leaving school he adopted the medical profession, and was attached to St. George's Hospital, London. Having qualified, he went to India as Assistant Surgeon in the Madras army, and in 1852 was promoted to the rank of Surgeon, and eventually attained to that of Deputy Surgeon-General.

As a boy at School he devoted all his spare time to the study of Natural History, especially to the habits of fishes, in which branch of science he afterwards greatly distinguished himself. In 1865 he published his first work on the subject in the *Fishes of Malabar*, compiled and illustrated from specimens he had himself collected on the coast. In the following year he directed his attention to the rivers of the Neilgherry Hills with the view of stocking them with trout ova and the cultivation of edible fish. The attempt proved successful, and in recognition of this service he was awarded by The Société d'Acclimatization of France their silver medal. In the next year an investigation was ordered by the English government into the condition of the Fisheries of India, and Mr. Day was ordered by the Governor-General in Council to undertake it. In the performance of this duty he suffered an accident which necessitated his return to Europe, but whilst in England he was not idle, for, as soon as he was able, he visited the various salmon rivers, breeding establishments, fisheries, and fish-ladders in this country. On his return to India he was appointed Inspector-General of Fisheries, and visited most of the large rivers in India; and during this service collected, at his own expense, specimens of every fish he could obtain, and, in order to meet the wishes of the Government of India, he offered to bring out an illustrated work on the fishes of India if he were permitted to go to England for the purpose. The Viceroy (Lord Northbrook) in Council approved of the proposal, and Mr. Day arrived in England in May, 1874, and by the end of 1878 he had completed his magnificent work, *The Fishes of India*, published in four vols., 4to., of 748 pages of text, with 193 plates, containing 1200 figures of fishes, most accurately and splendidly finished.

Whilst this work was in progress, Mr. Day published in 1877 a book on the fishes which the Yarkand Mission brought from India. As soon as he was relieved from these labours he was engaged upon the preparation of an illustrated work on the fresh water and marine fishes of the British Isles, which he published under the title of *The Fishes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*, in two volumes, with 180 plates. At the time of

his death a second work by him on *The Fishes of India* was passing through the press, the revision of the proofs which he was able to complete before the end.

Besides these standard works, Mr. Day was, we believe, a frequent contributor to periodical publications treating of subjects connected with his own special course of study. His industry was untiring, his faculty of observation peculiarly keen, and his systematic arrangement of material remarkable. He was *thorough* in everything he undertook, hence his great success.

The value of Mr. Day's distinguished services were not overlooked. Many prizes have been awarded to him. He was Commissioner for the India Department at the "Fisheries Exhibition," and for his own exhibits he was awarded three gold medals and the first prize of £100 for a *Treatise on Commercial Sea Fish*, and the Prince of Wales, as President of the Exhibition, writing of him to the Secretary of State for India, mentioned "the great benefits which have generally been derived throughout the operations of the Exhibition by the experience and learned advice which has been so freely and generously afforded to us by so learned and competent an authority on all matters relating to fisheries; and we trust your Lordship may deem it expedient to convey to Dr. Day the sense which we entertain of his assistance." Soon after this he was gazetted a Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, and, as lately as February last, the University of Edinburgh conferred upon him the Honorary Degree of LL.D.

Dr. Day was a member of this Society from its formation, and at the time of his death was a member of the Council for Cheltenham. He took much interest in the work of the Society, and was a regular attendant at the Meetings, but he took no part in its management. He was essentially a *Specialist*, and, as we have seen, his time and thoughts were closely occupied in those studies to which he had so profitably devoted his life, and upon which he was engaged to his death; so that, unfortunately, our Transactions have not been enriched by any communication from him.