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Professor Balfour

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people, who, notwithstanding their native apathy, still appreciate the benefits of civilization."

(Signed) "E. BOURGEOU."

I may state, in conclusion, that the views here expressed by M. Bourgeau accord on the whole with the opinion I myself have formed of the fertile portion of the Saskatchewan country, and which I believe is also that of the other members of the Expedition.

II. *Biographical Sketch of the late Professor Henslow.*

By Professor BALFOUR.

I have this evening to record the death of one of the early Fellows of the Botanical Society, who was enrolled on the 12th of January 1837. The Rev. John Stevens Henslow, Professor of Botany in the University of Cambridge, was born at Rochester on the 6th of February 1796, where his father was a solicitor. He was the eldest of eleven children, of whom four sisters only survive him. His grandfather was Sir John Henslow, surveyor of the navy. He was educated first at the Free Commercial School at Rochester, and afterwards at Camberwell, in Surrey, under the late Rev. W. Jephson, D.D. At the latter institution he acquired a taste for collecting, arranging, and illustrating objects of natural history. This became a ruling passion through life, and placed him in a high position as a benefactor of mankind. He entered St John's College, Cambridge, in October 1814. He graduated B.A. (16th Wrangler) in 1818, and in the same year he was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society. During his college career he devoted himself assiduously to science, which in those days did not occupy a prominent position in the University of Cambridge. He studied chemistry under Professor Cumming, and mineralogy under Dr Clarke. He also prosecuted geology with vigour, and in 1819 became a Fellow of the Geological Society. In 1821 he passed on to M.A., and during that year he communicated to the Geological Society "Observations on Dr Roger's account of the Isle of Man," and to the Cambridge Philosophical Transactions an account of the Geology of the Isle of Anglesea. In 1822 he was elected

Professor of Mineralogy, succeeding Dr Clarke, the celebrated Russian traveller. He held this office for three years.

In July 1825 he succeeded Martyn as Professor of Botany in the University of Cambridge, and resigned the Mineralogical Chair. He now made botany the chief object of study and prelection, and in the elucidation of the subject he applied his chemical, physiological, and mathematical knowledge with the highest success. He diffused a taste for botanical science among the undergraduates, as well as among other members of the University, not merely by his lectures, but by his excursions into the country. His herborisations were well attended, and much practical information in field-work was conveyed. He contributed botanical papers to the Cambridge Philosophical Society, and wrote the volume on botany in Lardner's Cyclopædia. This little work is an excellent introduction to the structure and physiology of plants.

In 1823 Henslow married a daughter of the Rev. George Jenyns, of Bottisham Hall, in Cambridgeshire. He was ordained in 1824, and became perpetual curate of Little St Mary's, Cambridge. In 1833 he was presented by Lord Brougham, then Chancellor, to the vicarage of Cholsey-cum-Moulsford, Berks, and in 1837 he received from the Crown the rectory of Hitcham, in Suffolk, which he held till his death. During sixteen years of his professorship he resided at Cambridge, and subsequently at the rectory, going to Cambridge for five or six weeks in the Easter term to deliver his lectures on botany. He was an able and successful lecturer, and was distinguished for the clear, popular manner in which he illustrated science. He took an especial interest in bringing botany and horticulture under the notice of the young, and in this way he did much good to the children of his parish. His method of teaching botany to the village children has long been a model of scientific instruction, and the horticultural *fêtes* at the rectory of Hitcham have been celebrated for years. The knowledge of botany displayed by the Hitcham children was truly wonderful, and those who had the pleasure of being present at the rectory gatherings speak in the highest terms of the beneficial effects produced by the introduction of natural history among the juvenile popula-

tion of the parish. Henslow also originated great improvements in the farming of Suffolk. He introduced ploughing-matches with much success, and elevated the character of agricultural labourers. This was not accomplished, however, without a struggle. The rector had to encounter deep-rooted prejudices, which it required no small amount of prudence, perseverance, and conciliation to overcome. The allotment system, which he introduced, has now been carried out fully, and the produce of the land has been highly improved and augmented. He published letters to the farmers of Suffolk, which did much to diffuse correct views as to farming operations; and he called attention to the phosphatic nodules, which have been of great use in adding to the fertility of the soil. Henslow also paid much attention to the health and recreations of the people, and organised excursions of various kinds for their benefit. He thus aided in remedying many social evils. He lectured not only in Hitcham, but also in the neighbouring towns, and endeavoured to diffuse knowledge among all classes of the community. He gave a short course of lectures, at Buckingham Palace, to the junior members of the royal family, on the invitation of H.R.H. the Prince Consort. Henslow was one of the founders of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, and he sent large donations to the Ipswich Museum, which was planned and arranged by him. He founded a botanical museum at Cambridge, and assisted materially in the arrangement of the Kew Museum. He also made valuable contributions to the Great Exhibition of 1851, and to the South Kensington Museum. The rooms at the rectory of Hitcham were filled with specimens in all departments of natural history and antiquities. He prepared a catalogue of British plants, and published a flora of Suffolk. His plates of natural orders, published by the Department of Science and Arts, are of great value, and deserve a place in every school where botany is taught. At the time of his death he was employed revising the third edition of his "*Principles of Botany*," and in preparing a popular volume on the subject. He strongly advocated the importance of botany in an educational point of view. In a letter written in February last, he says:—"In my opinion botany is the best adapted of all the classificatory sciences for strictly *educational* purposes. It offers

greater facilities to both pupils and examiners for avoiding mere *cram*. My promised little volume on 'Practical Lessons in Botany for all Classes' is at length in a forward state, I hope and trust I shall be able to convince people of the value of this science in training the mental faculties when it is properly pursued and insisted on, and not made a mere plaything." In the same letter he writes :—"I am intending next week to deliver a lecture at Ipswich on the Pre-Celtic Celts, which are confounding all our geological notions and turning the world upside down in regard to received chronologies. I strenuously advise *caution*, and repudiate some of the inferences which have been deduced from these remarkable discoveries. We shall hear of more of them. A new locality has just been turned up at Herne Bay."

Henslow was one of the founders of the British Association, and he was a regular attendant at its meetings. He was an examiner in the University of London, and a member of its council. In political matters he took a deep interest at one time, and was a decided Liberal. He was strongly opposed to bribery, and involved himself in much trouble by his unflinching exposure of corrupt proceedings in the town of Cambridge. He was the chief promoter of science in Cambridge, and his efforts to establish the scientific tripos and degrees in science were crowned with success. He has also done much to adapt natural history in all its departments to the wants of the common people, and to induce the working classes to enter upon the study of common things.

During the latter years of his life, Professor Henslow's health became impaired by incessant mental and manual labours, and he suffered from symptoms of disease of the heart, accompanied with dyspepsia. During the spring of the present year these were aggravated by an attack of bronchitis caught during a visit to the south of England, and after protracted suffering he expired at the rectory at Hitcham on the 16th May last, in the sixty-fifth year of his age. A biographer in the "Gardener's Chronicle" says of him :—"There are few men whose loss will be more generally deplored. To give even a sketch of the varied attainments and personal qualifications that were so blended in Professor Henslow as to render him at once the most popular and useful man of science of his day, is quite impossible here, for they depended on a

combination of rare qualities of head and heart, each natural, but all well trained and conscientiously cultivated by their possessor during a long period of his life. These were a sense of truth and fair play, so instinctive that deception or even reticence, when the cause of truth was at stake, were things almost unintelligible to him ; a geniality of disposition that rendered him an attractive companion from his childhood upwards ; a temper of which he was never known to lose command, even by his most intimate friends ; an organisation of brain that rendered all subjects of study equally easy of acquirement ; a keen love of nature and of natural knowledge, an ardour in communicating it, a quick perception, excellent powers of generalisation, the largest charity, a total absence of vanity or pride, a winning countenance, and a robust frame. Few men, indeed, were more gifted by nature to take a commanding position in the many spheres of life, in one or other of which he was always busy." This name will descend to posterity associated with great and successful efforts to diffuse the knowledge of the natural sciences among all classes of the community, and to illustrate in the productions of nature the wisdom and goodness of God.

James Bryson, Esq., exhibited by means of the oxy-hydrogen light photographic delineations taken from ideal views of the primitive world in its geological and palæontological phases, by Dr Unger of Vienna.

Dr Cleghorn exhibited coloured drawings of several rare or little known plants which had flowered in the garden of the Horticultural Society at Madras in 1860 :—

1. *Adenia obesa*, received from Captain L. Playfair, acting Resident at Aden. This singular Apocynaceous plant flowered after being two years in Madras—not watered.

2. *Bignonia (Spathodea) campanulata*, received from Mauritius. This very handsome tree attains a height of thirty feet, its gorgeous orange blossoms attract universal attention. The tree has been propagated by root-cuttings.

3. *Solanum* (an arborescent form), raised from Ceylon seed, received by G. S. Hooper, Esq.

4. *Leea macrophylla*, raised from a tuber transmitted by Walter Elliot, Esq. of Wolfelee, from the Northern Circars.