

**A brief biographical memoir of the late Mr. Christopher Turner Johnson, surgeon and lecturer on anatomy, oculist of the West of England Eye Infirmary.**

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A  
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL  
MEMOIR

OF THE LATE

Mr. CHRISTOPHER TURNER JOHNSON,

SURGEON AND LECTURER ON ANATOMY,

OCULIST OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND EYE INFIRMARY,

AND

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

IN LONDON,

AND OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

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— cui Pudor, et Justitiæ soror  
Incorrupta Fides, nudaque Veritas  
Quando ullum inveniet parem ?  
Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit.

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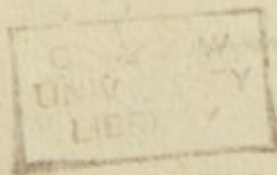
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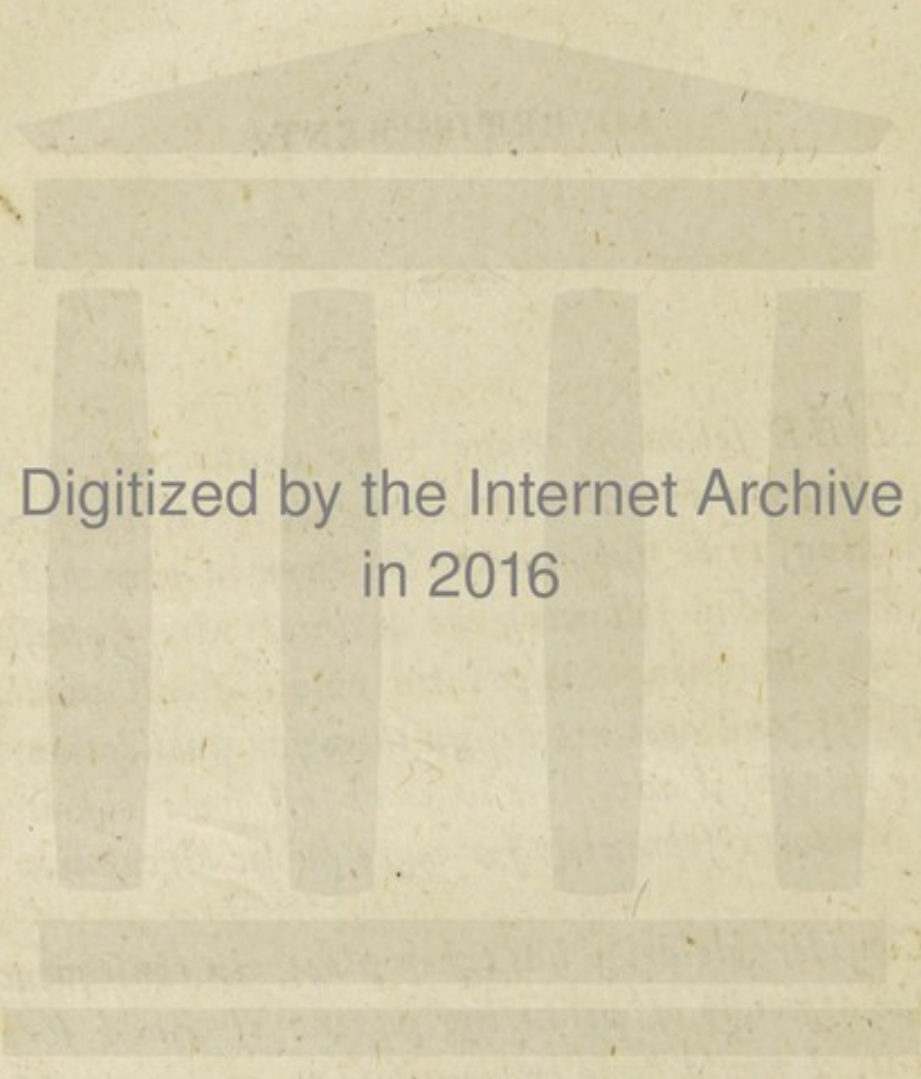
## ADVERTISEMENT.

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*THE following pages were drawn up, at the request of my Friend and Colleague, the Rev. James Manning, to be subjoined to his Sermon preached on the Lord's day following the death of Mr. Johnson. As Mr. Manning has printed only a small number of copies, and does not design them for publication, I have thought it advisable to work off some copies of the Memoirs separately for more public circulation.*

*Considerable delay has taken place, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring paper: if I had foreseen it, I would have endeavoured to render the Memoir more complete; as it is, I leave it to the candour of the Reader.*

LANT CARPENTER,



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## BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR.

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CHRISTOPHER TURNER JOHNSON was born at Knaresborough, in Yorkshire, April 29, 1786.—His parents are not in affluent circumstances; but those who know them, speak of them as possessed of a much higher respectability than that which arises from wealth.—He received the first part of his education in the grammar-school at Knaresborough, where he continued till the middle of 1796, during the last three years attending at Mrs. Withinshaw's school, to acquire the rudiments of the French language.

In July 1796, he went to the commercial academy at Nottingham, under the direction of the Rev. J. Blanchard, with whom the celebrated Henry Kyrke White received his early education. While with Mr. Blanchard, he always manifested great assiduity and attention, and peculiar docility of disposition. He was remarkable at that early age, for an unusual degree of principle, and steady regard to his then duties; and he obtained from his teacher the highest commendations for his diligence and good conduct. "It was not, however, with me," says Mr. Blanchard, "that he displayed those



marks of genius which afterwards burst forth with such lustre ;" and as he was designed for his father's business, (that of watch-making,) it was thought unnecessary to direct his attention to the classics.

After he left Nottingham, (Midsummer 1798,) he was taught his father's business, in which he continued to be principally employed for some years. It was not very long, however, before he formed a strong dislike to his occupation, and began to direct his thoughts and wishes to the medical profession. What first gave him a bias to this object, I have not learnt ; but from several incidents which have come to my knowledge, I feel justified in asserting that one leading motive, if not the chief one, of his steady determination to pursue it, was the high opinion he had formed of the profession, as affording means for extensive usefulness. His disposition was always peculiarly humane and benevolent ; and in a letter which he wrote at the time, he stated this as his motive, and (I believe) as his chief plea with his friends to be allowed to follow the bent of his inclinations.

This object led him to the active pursuit of the collateral and preparatory branches of knowledge ; but it appears that it was not till he was nearly sixteen years of age, that he began regularly to attend to the Latin and Greek languages. His progress, however, was so rapid, that in two years he was able to read the best Latin and Greek writers with correctness and fluency ; and the gentlemen



who assisted him in his classical pursuits, concur in representing his attainments as surpassing every thing they had ever witnessed. Mr. Simpson, surgeon of Knareborough, one of his early friends, as an instance of his persevering application, says, "He one day told me, that he had been puzzled for several hours with two lines in Justin; and added, the labour he thought had done him good."—"The rapidity, and avidity, if I may so call it," says Mr. Blanchard, "with which he devoured the classics, quite astonished me, who had been all my life time in the habit of marking the dawnings of genius." During the time which he spent at home, he also directed his attention to the Italian and French languages, and to natural philosophy, chemistry, and botany; and in these branches of knowledge, particularly the latter, he made considerable acquirements,—"so much so," again to use the words of his very valuable friend and tutor, "that in my occasional visits to Harrowgate, I his master did not think it beneath me to receive lessons in botany from my former pupil." The last year of his residence at home, he devoted himself very closely to the study of chemistry.

He had considerable difficulties to struggle with in the pursuit of his favorite object. The very heavy expenses attendant upon a thorough education for his profession, added to other objections



which his father felt against his engaging in it, threw a bar in his way, which was almost insurmountable. Always impressed with the strictest sense of filial duty, and with the warmest feelings of filial respect, nothing but the most decided bent of his mind to the object of his choice, the difficulty which is usually felt in relinquishing a plan of life to which the pursuits and wishes have long been directed, and the concurrence of his other relations, with the promise from one of them of pecuniary aid, could have induced him so long and steadily to have gone on in the acquisition of the preparatory knowledge, without that encouragement which he endeavoured to obtain from his father. His consent, however, he at last received ; and he went to Edinburgh in October 1805.

Every thing now was in his favour. He possessed a cast of mind peculiarly calculated to enable him to set a correct value upon his advantages, and to direct him in the arrangement of his pursuits. He had the most earnest desire to qualify himself thoroughly for a profession, whose responsibilities and importance he rated high and justly ; and he had a warm interest in the acquisition of the requisite knowledge, which of itself, independently of a sense of duty, would have made him adhere closely to the track which he had chalked out. His pursuits at Edinburgh were therefore entirely professional ; and it appears that he was there distinguished, among those to whom he could be known, for that



assiduous and unwearied disposition to exertion, that soundness and comprehensiveness of judgment, and that humane attention to the distressed, which always formed prominent features in his character. The last was particularly observed in his attendance at the Infirmary, and similar institutions. He attended all the professional courses in the College, and some of those out of it ; and his full abstracts show that it was not in his case for nothing : but I have no means of knowing whether he were at all noticed by the Professors, except in the following instance. "From the account which he gave me," says our mutual friend Mr. De Lys, "of his acquaintance with Dr. Thompson, (the Professor of Military Surgery,) I have reason to believe that that gentleman treated him with marked attention, and that he owed this treatment to the Professor's opinion of his merit ; for he had not been introduced to him, and their first acquaintance was accidental."—During the first winter he spent in Edinburgh, he acquired a decided taste for surgery ; and afterwards made that his principal object.

While attending the summer courses of 1806, he met with the accident which eventually rendered amputation necessary. At the beginning of August, while engaged in a botanical excursion, about four miles from Edinburgh, he hurt the bottom of his foot with a sharp stone. The walk back, and his continued attendance on the lectures, soon made the injury assume a serious appearance ; and Mr.



Ruffel, who attended him, advised him to return to Knareborough, with a view to rest, and to the care of his friends. This, however, he could not prevail upon him to do, until the conclusion of the courses which he was attending; and he did not reach home till early in September. It will readily be supposed that he met with every possible domestic attention: he was with those whom he loved, and who were willing to make every sacrifice and exertion for him. But he soon perceived, what indeed *he* was the first to perceive, that though a cure of the wound might eventually be effected, his constitution, which was very delicate, would sink under it; and that hectic symptoms were actually coming on. He determined therefore to undergo amputation; and himself wrote to York to obtain the assistance of the chief surgeons of the place. His thoughtful precautions respecting the feelings of others, his firmness and even cheerfulness in the prospect, and his peculiar fortitude and presence of mind during the operation, will never be forgotten by his friends. Before it began, he gave minute directions as to the manner in which he wished it to be conducted; and during the whole of the operation, under which he lay nearly two hours, scarcely an expression of his intense pain escaped him, but he observed the progress of it, and was aware when the surgeon came to the last artery. This gentleman has often said, that he never before saw such a degree of manly fortitude, in a long course of extensive practice.



Mr. Johnson underwent the operation in December 1806; but his leg was not perfectly healed till the latter end of the following September. In the interval he procured from the patentee, Mr. Mann, (of Bradford, Yorkshire,) an artificial leg, which was excellently calculated to lessen the inconvenience he must otherwise have experienced. During his long convalescence, he was unable to make much progress in his professional studies; but he appears to have employed himself a good deal in botanical pursuits; and his herbarium, which was then (I believe) principally formed, would generally be considered as an extensive one. It is now bound in four folio volumes.—In October 1807, he returned to Edinburgh, and finally left it at the end of the winter courses. While there, and probably at this time, he became a member of the Royal Medical Society; and it was, I imagine, to that Society that he gave in an Essay on the following queries: “What are the effects of the Warm Bath upon the organization and functions of the human body in a state of health? and to what cases of disease is its use more particularly applicable?” In the course of his preparatory enquiries, he instituted several interesting experiments, the detail of which he has given in the Essay, and from which he infers, though with that caution which was one of his intellectual characteristics, “that the warm bath acts as a gentle stimulus to the irritability of the system,” but that there does



not appear to be "equal reason for believing that the general sensibility is increased."

In the autumn of 1808 he went to London, to obtain that knowledge which perhaps can be thoroughly acquired only in the schools of surgery there. In accomplishing this, he was materially assisted by a gentleman who has been already spoken of as his friend, and who has now the melancholy satisfaction of having done every thing in his power to further the laudable pursuits of this excellent young man.— From that period he had no opportunity of visiting his relatives and early friends; and I may here state the information which I have learnt as to his previous character. Those who knew him while here, may be said to know what he was in childhood and youth; for there was a degree of uniformity in his character throughout, which is very seldom observed. The same simplicity, uprightness, and truth, which we so much admired, were his constant characteristics from a child; and that humanity, disinterestedness, and equanimity, which so rapidly gained our affections, in like manner made him beloved by all the friends and companions of his early years. His amusements when a child, though perfectly innocent, were often varied; but he never was accustomed to associate with the neighbouring children, and he spent his leisure time at home or at his uncle's in the neighbourhood. From an early age he was remarkable for his assiduity in the acquisition of knowledge; and he was



feldom without some book with him : indeed he appears from the first to have neglected no opportunity for the cultivation of his understanding.— His domestic attachments were very strong and permanent. It was only a most decided bent to medical pursuits, he often said, which made him give up the comforts and interesting pleasures of home. He was regarded as a most dutiful Son, and a kind and affectionate Brother ;—his Parents and his two Sisters (with whom he kept up a regular and confidential correspondence) can bear a too feeling testimony to the truth of this. As to his love of truth, his Parents say, that they *never* discovered him in a falsehood ; and it is a trait worth recording, that even when very young he was uniformly accustomed, when any of the family had done any thing which he knew would displease his Mother, to urge them to acquaint her with it at once ; offering, if they felt reluctant, to go with them ; but always declaring, that if they did not, he must. He had indeed, in every respect, the rudiments of moral worth : no one possessed more self controul ; and he had from an early age a just sense of religion. In addition to this testimony which I received from his family, I am happy to add the following from Mr. Blanchard ; “ His principles of religion were pure and unsophisticated ; partaking of that simplicity, humility, and benevolence, which characterized that of his Master and Saviour.”—He went into the



world uncontaminated ; and he passed through its pollutions without being injured by them.

While in Edinburgh, he had availed himself of every opportunity of dissecting ; and he had in London ample means of cultivating that intimate acquaintance with the structure of the human body, which is so essential to the surgical profession, and which he possessed in a very superior degree.— I believe I am correct in stating, that during part of the time, he discharged the duties of demonstrator both at St. Thomas's, and at Guy's hospital.— “ He studied anatomy,” says Mr. De Lys, “ with great ardour, and chiefly with a view to its application to surgery. Minute anatomy, as being chiefly useful in affording materials for physiological speculation, and in gratifying curiosity, did not seem to be an object of interest with him.” He always estimated the importance of any study to himself, by its utility in a professional view ; and he measured the attention which he bestowed upon it, by this estimation. Not that he felt no interest in physiological enquiries ; for I am persuaded that if his life had been prolonged, he would have given great attention to them, and with his habits of accurate observation and correct judgment, would have laboured successfully in that interesting field : but he had that self command in his studies which he seems to have possessed in every department of conduct ; and he had imposed it upon himself as a sacred duty, to qualify himself to the utmost for his profession.



“ While in London,” again to employ the words of Mr. De Lys, “ he attended only the anatomical and surgical lectures, and the practice of the surgeons in the two hospitals in the Borough ; but while in Edinburgh he had diligently attended to the study of medicine ; and he was well aware of the necessity of the most complete medical education to the surgeon. He had read more books on the subject of his profession, than any man of his standing with whom I am acquainted. His application while he was in London, was as great as his health would allow, or rather beyond it ; for he injured himself by too much study, and by too close an attendance upon the dissecting room, and was laid up for several weeks, so that I was apprehensive he must have removed into the country. He was very much respected by his teachers, and by his fellow-students ; and that respect was obtained by his exemplary conduct as well as by his professional character. For the attention which he received from Mr. Astley Cooper, he was indebted solely to his own merit and to the pains which Mr. Cooper takes to discover and countenance young men who are likely to distinguish themselves ; at least they were not courted in any way, for he was not introduced to Mr. Cooper, and far from intruding himself on his teachers, he seemed rather to shun their notice.” Those who knew our friend in this city, will readily perceive how this little trait corresponds with his later character. Though



he manifested that interesting familiarity, where he was known, which generally arises from an upright, unsuspecting, candid mind, yet his manners were always as unobtrusive as his character was unassuming.—Mr. Cooper's conduct towards him, indicated a very high opinion of his worth and talents. He often took him with him, I understood, in his private professional visits; and he has ever since employed every suitable opportunity of expressing his opinion,—an opinion as important to Mr. Johnson as it was honourable. Our friend, I have heard, (not, of course, directly or indirectly from himself,) had once a peculiar opportunity of knowing Mr. Cooper's ideas respecting him. That gentleman one day in the lecture-room, supposing that Mr. Johnson was absent, took occasion to hold up to the class his assiduous attention and unwearied exertion to qualify himself for his profession.

“ He lived while in London,” says Mr. De Lys, “ in a very economical manner; but no one ever heard him suspected of the slightest act of meanness. I have the highest opinion of the moral character of our friend; and I do not believe that a man of more strict integrity and sound delicacy ever lived.” I feel peculiar pleasure in thus employing Mr. De Lys's words; because they contain an independent opinion, formed by one who knew Mr. Johnson very intimately, and whose own moral and intellectual character give his judgment great value,—and formed of him at a part of the professional education,



when there is perhaps most to fully the worth and purity of the mind. Mr. De Lys adds, that while in London he does not know that Mr. Johnson had any other pleasure than the pursuit of his profession, or read any book but what related to it; and that he was enough with him to make it improbable that he should not have known, if it had been otherwise.

Before Mr. Johnson left London, he was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons; and what is probably more honourable to him, he gained their prize by his Essay on Cancer. Respecting the merits of this Essay, which was published in 1810, I am of course an incompetent judge: the only public critique which I have seen, bears evident marks of having been written under the influence of envy and disappointment. I hope I shall have Mr. Cooper's excuse, in quoting one or two passages respecting the Essay from his letters to my friend. In one (Jan. 8th, 1810) after expressing his opinion, (too late however to be employed), that some alterations were requisite in the style, Mr. Cooper says, "The marrow of the work is very sound sense, and will do you credit; but you know that a diamond in its native rough coating, will be lost on nine-tenths of mankind." (In the same letter he says, "I rejoice at the prospect of your success; and if you can find any mode in which I can improve it, inform me, and I will do all that lies in my power.") After the receipt of a printed copy of the Essay, Mr. Cooper says (Aug.



17th,) "Your description is in the highest degree accurate, and cannot be excelled; but it is your theory of the disease which marks the most reflection, and which will do you the most credit as being the original part of your work. It gives me infinite satisfaction to hear of your success, which I ever shall endeavour to promote, as far as is in my power without injury to others." I am persuaded that it will give Mr. Cooper satisfaction to know that his kind endeavours to promote Mr. Johnson's success, were duly appreciated both by himself and by his friends.

Mr. Johnson came to Exeter in April 1809, when he was only twenty-three years of age. His introductions were few, but they were calculated to serve him. Mr. Astley Cooper gave him a most honourable introduction to his uncle, Mr. Cooper, of Heavitree, and another, equally so, to Mr. Russell. Mr. Saunders introduced him to Mr. Adams (his former pupil, then Oculist to the West of England Eye Infirmary,) by a letter, in which he spoke in the highest possible terms of his talents and acquisitions, declaring that he would stake his own reputation on Mr. Johnson's character, and desiring Mr. Adams to render him every service in his power, and, particularly, to introduce him to Mr. S. F. Milford, which he would otherwise himself have done. As might be expected, Mr. Adams was happy to take by the hand a young man of such promise and respectability; and the recommenda-



tion which he had it in his power to give from Mr. Saunders, and which he appears to have employed on every opportunity, contributed materially to hasten the progress of Mr. Johnson's reputation. Mr. Goulet, "a very deserving young surgeon of Wellington," who was well acquainted with him while in London, introduced him I believe to his relatives here; but I do not recollect that he had any other introductions, except indeed that which our mutual friend De Lys gave him to me, which laid the foundation of an intimacy, in which I have reason to hope that he took an interest similar to my own, and on which I shall always look back with great though melancholy satisfaction. It gave me frequent opportunities of attentively observing those delicate yet decided traits in his character, which even a slight acquaintance brought into view, and which many saw expressed in his manly, noble, interesting countenance; and memory now retraces numerous little artless indications of genuine worth and goodness, which others also must have noticed, and which won the attachment and confidence of all who shared his intimacy, to a degree and with a rapidity which is seldom equalled. Though we did not then know that he had always been remarkable for truth, and integrity, and delicacy, and self-control, yet there was something about him which impressed his friends with the conviction, that his heart was as pure as it was sincere, and which made the most delicate mind feel at ease in



his society. And I must be permitted to mention here, that during those wanderings of imagination and intellect which usually accompany the disorder which removed him from life, (and which, in his case, manifested, in a striking degree, the strength and vigour of his mind,) I never heard any expression which would have given the nicest modesty a momentary uneasiness.

In the beginning of 1810, he commenced a course of lectures on anatomy and physiology. In this he was partly influenced by the representations and wishes of his friends, both here and in London; but in no small degree also by his desire of diffusing an acquaintance with our frame, and of increasing the opportunities of acquiring professional knowledge. From his purpose to render his lectures interesting and beneficial to a general audience, he could not commonly extend his observations to those minutiae which are of importance solely to professional men; but the view which he gave of his subjects though general, was not superficial; and his statements and demonstrations were so luminous and correct, that his instructions furnished an excellent introduction to the London lectures. He was repeating his course, upon a more extensive scale, when he was interrupted by the illness, the mournful event of which is well known. The lectures barely paid their own expenses; for he did every thing in his power, to render them serviceable, especially to those young professional gentlemen



his bed only one day that week; and on Sunday and Monday he rose as usual. This last day (Feb. 10th,) with the assistance of Mr. Strachan, he extracted a bit of iron from the cornea of a man who came to him from Tiverton; and this was, I believe, the last operation which he performed. During this and the last two days, there were some typhoid symptoms, and "he had wandering deliriums in the night; but his judgment was as perfect and his mind as firm as ever, and his perceptions were perhaps morbidly acute."\* About Wednesday, the disorder appeared to have decidedly assumed a typhous appearance. After this time, he more than once told me that he was convinced he understood his case; and though he expressed himself sensible of the attentions which the professional gentlemen of the city had shown him, he continued to decline their assistance. In this, I have reason to believe, he was principally influenced by the apprehension of hurting the feelings of a medical friend, if he should decline, as he felt he must, what did not accord with his own ideas of the case. On Saturday Feb. 23d, however, Messrs. Cooper and

\* I hope Mr. Strachan will excuse my here using his own words; they give a most correct idea of our friend's mental state during the first twelve days of his illness. I perceived no symptoms of delirium till Friday Feb. 22d: even then they were so slight and fleeting that he was at once sensible of them; and on the preceding days that I saw him, his mind appeared to be as healthy as ever.



Brock came to see him, with the express view of prevailing upon him to change his plan. After combating their arguments in a perfectly collected manner, he agreed to see Dr. Luke. The same day I obtained his consent to my writing to his parents; and was obliged to inform them, in addition to what was written under his own inspection, that Dr. Luke's opinion was more unfavourable than we had hoped. It was indeed alarming. The same night he thought it desirable to call a consultation, at which Drs. Daniell and Millar were present; and within two or three days all the physicians in the city regularly saw him. I am persuaded that no exertion was spared by his medical friends. Their consultations were very frequent; and they often called in at other times. To secure attention to their directions, Mr. Dymoke and two other gentlemen of the army, Messrs. Parsons and M'Andrew, sat up with him alternately; and Messrs. Strachan and Bailey were very frequently with him at other times. There were at times some glimmerings of hope; but I believe scarcely any variations in the symptoms were noticed. The pulse fluctuated between 144 and 112; but in the early part of the week he was often perfectly collected, and kindly noticed the little attentions which were shown him by those around him. About Saturday, March 2d, there were fewer complete intermissions from delirium; and his mind was obviously losing that vigour which it had before manifested. On Sunday, however, which was the first day on which a letter



could come from his parents, he enquired very collectedly if I had heard from them. I told him that I had, and that his sister would immediately come down if he wished it: he said it was not at all necessary, and desired me to say that he was better. He knew those friends who were with him, till about four on Monday morning; from which time the powers of nature very rapidly sunk, and he expired at half past eight.—I cannot help stating, as a fact which may be interesting to some, that for a short time before dissolution, all appearance of pain vanished, and the countenance assumed an indescribably tranquil and benign expression, which it continued afterwards to retain, and which can never be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

On the succeeding Thursday, the following brief delineation of his character, was inserted (with a notice of his death) in the Exeter papers; and I make no apology for introducing it here, as it has been pronounced by competent judges to possess the merit of accuracy.

“ It is less than two years since he came to reside among us; but in that short period, he gradually acquired a degree of reputation for accurate and extensive anatomical knowledge and surgical skill,—for clearness, penetration, comprehensiveness, and coolness of judgment,—and for temperate yet decisive firmness,—which is rare at a much more advanced period of life. He spared no expense or



exertion in gaining or in communicating knowledge. If it had pleased providence to spare his life, there is no reasonable ground for doubt, that he would have ranked among the very first of his profession in this kingdom.

“ He had a high sense of the utility of his profession; and his unostentatious goodness prompted him to employ his surgical talents among the poor, to an extent that is known but to few; but those know, that there are many in that class of society who weep for him as a kind benefactor.—His professional conduct was peculiarly calculated to conciliate the goodwill of his professional brethren. There was no assumption of superiority to disgust,—no mean arts to injure: he carefully studied the proprieties of his profession, and as carefully observed them.

“ And in all this he had nothing to do but to follow the habitual promptings of his own upright benevolent heart. He had no obliquity of mind, no sinister views, no ends which required secrecy,—all was fair and open. Those who have the mournful satisfaction of having shared his friendly intimacy, never saw in him any thing that appeared unsuitable to what they expected from his character; and in proportion as this was known, the more it interested and delighted. His cultivated understanding, excellent sense, well-regulated feelings, and sterling worth, made that intimacy regarded as a treasure; and his delicacy of mind, his disinterestedness and



generosity, his candour, kindness, simplicity, and sincerity, obtained the affectionate confidence of his patients, and of all his friends.

“ It is no common loss which we deplore ; and in thus expressing our sentiments, we feel possessed of the public sympathy. It has been truly said, that every one who speaks of him seems to have lost a friend. He was respected and beloved in life ; and his early summons to the grave is affecting to all,—to many distressing beyond expression.”

Some of those who mourned for the loss of one so excellent, met on Thursday morning, to pay him the last mark of attachment and respect. The five physicians, and the five army-surgeons whose names I have already mentioned, and about twenty other gentlemen were present : several others (and among them the commanding officer and the surgeon of the 9th dragoons, who came a short time too late,) wished to have been present. The solemn scene was affecting to all ; indeed he must have been without sensibility who did not feel it. The respectful silence and sorrow of many in the humbler walks of life, was not the least honourable circumstance to the worthy being whose loss they deplored. “ I only wish to see his funeral, Sir ; I am as sorry for him as if he had been my own father,”—were, on the preceding evening, the simple expressions of one who looked on him as a benefactor. And when his poor mother first learnt the loss of her son, the waiter who communicated it to



her, with marks of genuine sympathy, told her that the first tears he ever shed in his life, were shed over his grave.

If it had pleased the Supreme Disposer of all events, to preserve a life so valuable, the peculiar maturity and uniformity of his character give reason to believe, that his worth would have had great influence on the characters of others. I feel a hope that this effort to make it more known and understood, may have its effect, in aiding the moral efficacy which the remembrance of his excellencies must have, where they were properly felt and appreciated. A similar hope led to the following reflections, which I delivered at George's Meeting, on the succeeding Sunday; and I hope I shall find excuse for subjoining them to this little narrative.

While we indulge an honest, yet mournful, satisfaction, that that which we so much valued was so much valued by others,—while we allow our admiration at the rare combination of talents, which placed our friend so high in the rank of professional and intellectual eminence,—let us not forget what it was that gave those talents their brightest lustre, and commanded our esteem, our respectful affection, as well as our admiration. Yes, he had rapidly acquired, among strangers, the esteem and respectful affection of many who were far beyond him in the journey of life; and it was by qualities in which we may all partake. Our circle of usefulness may be very much more limited than his



own, but, in that circle, we may exercise the same qualities of heart; and they will seldom be without a similar result. It was his firm principle, his disinterested, I may say his tender, kindness and humanity, his sincerity and openness, his correctness of conduct and purity of heart, which made him so estimable and so much esteemed,—which made so many regard him as a friend, and so many as a benefactor,—which obtained our most cordial attachment and confidence, and which now forces from us the tear of sorrow. The tears of Jesus sanctified the sorrows of nature, where they are not mixed with the murmurings of distrust; and ours have hope to soothe them; for I feel a lively conviction that he whose loss we mourn, in no common degree kept himself unspotted from the world;—that in simplicity, and even godly sincerity, he had his conversation in it. As he was not a member of our religious communion,\* we had less opportunity of knowing his character in that point of view; but various little traits and circumstances which memory delights to retrace, satisfy my mind, that though religious principle was not in him obtrusive, he lived under its influence.—The point to which I wish to direct the attention of my young friends is, that genuine goodness will obtain all that is valuable in human regard; that it will meet, in its circle of influence, with its reward: but I feel it a

\* Mr. Johnson was a member of the established church; and I believe regularly attended its services.



duty though a painful one to direct their attention to another consideration. When we remember that four weeks have not elapsed since our friend was employed in communicating knowledge respecting the wonderful structure of our frame with which he was so intimately acquainted, and that if his mind had not been prepared for the event, his disorder in the later periods of it would have precluded the possibility of any greater preparation, we not only more sensibly feel the important truth, that our lives are in the hands of God, that we are constantly dependant upon him for the continuance of life, and of all which renders it a source of good to ourselves or others, that it is a talent which we ought most faithfully to improve, and that the improvement of it is a debt of gratitude which we owe to our bountiful preserver and benefactor, as well as essentially necessary to our future happiness,—but we cannot but be impressed with the conviction, that soon and suddenly we also may be called to give up our account: and that wisdom and duty alike call upon us, not to delay that preparation for which we may have no opportunity, and for which we certainly shall not have a more convenient season than the present.

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