

Rev. John Stevens Henslow +
with Dr. Hooker's life sketch

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
THE REV. JOHN STEVENS HENSILOW,
M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., M.C.P.S.,

Rector of Hitcham, and Professor of Botany in the University
of Cambridge.

[Reprinted from the "GARDENERS' CHRONICLE"]

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THE REV. J. S. HENSLow.

THERE are few men whose loss will be more generally deplored, whether as a clergyman or as a man of science, than the subject of this notice : nor are these his only claims as a benefactor of his race, for there are few whose personal influence for good on the social, moral, and religious characters of those with whom he associated or for whom he laboured, has been so deeply felt or so gratefully acknowledged.

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. Amongst them, however, should be mentioned some personal and other features, which, as being in a great measure due to temperament and mental endowment, were inherent and characteristic : these were a sense of truth and fair play, so instinctive, that deception or even reticence when the cause of

truth was at stake was a thing 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, and 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 ; few had more need of that balance of powers of mind which his university tutors recognised as something unusual, and the phrenologists accounted for by the form of his head, which they considered faultless. That this is no exaggerated estimate of the subject of our sketch, the following brief notice of his career will show.

John Stevens Henslow was born on the 6th February, 1796, at Rochester, where his father was in business as a solicitor ; he was the eldest of eleven children, of whom four sisters only survive him. His scientific powers and love of natural history, which were very early displayed, were inherited both from his father, who was a great reader of natural history books, and devoted to the observation and keeping of birds and other animals, and from his grandfather, Sir John Henslow, surveyor of the navy, who united to a scientific knowledge of naval architecture, great ingenuity and skill in designing. He

was educated first at a free school in Rochester, and afterwards at Dr. Jephson's of Camberwell; during the former period he delighted in making excursions on the Medway, and especially in hunting for insects, and in rearing them and observing their habits. It was during the latter period that he first learned how to arrange and systematise; and the delight of analysing, understanding, and illustrating, gradually equalled that of collecting; and these were thenceforward the ruling passions of his life.

In 1814 he was entered at St. John's College, Cambridge, and graduated as 16th Wrangler in 1818, in which year also he joined the Linnean Society. During his college career he continued an active naturalist; declining to compete for the much higher academic position which, with his mathematical powers, he might easily have attained, he preferred substantial knowledge, studied chemistry under Professor Cumming, mineralogy under Dr. Clark, laboured hard at geology as an original inquirer with but little aid, and was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1819.

In 1821, at the early age of 23, he became an author, communicating to the Geological Society his "Supplementary Observations on Dr. Berger's account of the Isle of Man," containing a map and sections, to the preparation of which he had devoted his spare time, whilst spending two long vacations on that island with pupils. At about the same period similar duties led him to the Isle of Anglesea, the geology of which he diligently explored, and embodied the results in a most elaborate paper, printed in the first volume of the Cambridge Phi-

losophical Transactions. This paper not only at once raised its author to a very high position, and caused such a demand for the volume in question that it was soon out of print, but it is to this day quoted by geologists as a model of truthful and sagacious scientific research. It possesses also rare merit, as combining with great power of co-ordinating physical features, skill and accuracy in the application of chemistry, mineralogy, mathematics, and drawing, to the illustration of a very complicated mountainous region.

At this period, too, his physical powers were equal to his mental, and during his geological excursion in Anglesea he once walked forty miles in the day, with his hammer and specimens on his back, and danced all the following night at a ball!

About the same year Professor Henslow took up botany with the same zeal and method which he had devoted to other branches of science, being, it is believed, first attracted to morphology and physiology. He soon, however, found that no satisfactory knowledge of these branches could be acquired without a previous acquaintance with systematic botany; and this, joined to his ardour for collecting, led him to the formation of a herbarium, in which he displayed not only the specimens but the structure of their organs, their relations, variations, and aberrations. In 1822 the Professorship of Mineralogy falling vacant he became the successful candidate; he held the appointment for three years, conscientiously devoting the whole of his time to the study, and especially to the chemical and crystallographical branches of it, for which his mathe-

mathematical powers and previous training eminently qualified him. He prepared and published an admirable syllabus of his course of lectures, followed by a systematic list and analytical tables, drawn up with the same scientific precision and clearness that characterise all his labours.

In 1825 the Professorship of Botany became vacant by the death of Professor Martyn, and for this Professor Henslow resigned the mineralogical chair ; applying all his energies and manifold acquirements to his new post (which had been wholly neglected for many years), and at once raising it from obscurity to renown. He immediately arranged a course of lectures at once scientific, practical, and popular, gave chemistry and physiology their legitimate places in botanical teaching, and by applying his mathematical powers to giving a prominent place to the geometrical problems involved in phyllotaxis, he awakened interest in a study to which some of the mathematicians of Cambridge had hitherto hardly accorded the dignity of a science. Nor did he neglect the more practical duties of a teacher ; no one knew so well as he did that to make botanists of students they must quickly be brought to believe that in some directions, at any rate, they can and ought to walk unaided : he therefore took them on excursions, taught them early how to name plants by an artificial use of the natural method, gave each confidence in his earliest efforts, and led them on by example, teaching and encouragement. Nor did botanists and undergraduates alone profit ; his lecture-room was attended by senior members of the University, and his excursions by entomologists, conchologists, and geologists ;

each deriving knowledge in his own speciality from him, and he from them : thus exciting amongst his pupils an admiration for his manifold acquirements, that was only equalled by their love of his personal character.

For fourteen years Professor Henslow resided at Cambridge as botanical professor, during which period the income attached to his chair was very small ; this was however no obstacle to his instituting weekly evening meetings at his own house for the reception of every one interested in science, including undergraduates ; to which all were invited to bring specimens of interest in all branches of science ; and at which there was free intercourse between young men and "dons" of every degree. This practice, previously unknown in the University, and we regret to say as yet unfollowed, was a step of immense importance in diffusing a taste for science, no less than for inciting the young men to intellectual pursuits.

During this period he contributed two papers to the Cambridge Philosophical Society on a hybrid *Digitalis* and the structure of the *Mignonette*, both of the highest merit as works of philosophical research, and which established his reputation amongst continental naturalists : he also wrote the volume on Botany for Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia, an admirable little work of which two editions have been sold, and a third was under revision at the time of his decease. It is a noticeable fact, that since Professor Henslow's departure from Cambridge, not a single Botanical paper, and very few on other branches of Natural History, have been contributed to its Philosophical Transactions, of which he was one of the founders.

In 1823 Professor Henslow married a daughter of the Rev. George Jenyns, of Bottisham Hall, in Cambridge-shire; and in 1825 he took orders as Curate of Little St. Mary's, in Cambridge. In 1833 he was presented by Lord Brougham, then Chancellor, to the Vicarage of Cholsey-cum-Moulsford, in Berkshire, where he resided during the summer months of three years, passing the rest of his time at Cambridge as before. In 1837 he was transferred by the Crown to the valuable Rectory of Hitcham in Suffolk, and there from 1839 until his death he resided throughout the year, with the exception of six weeks of the Easter term, when he lectured during the week in Cambridge; for many years returning to Hitcham for the Sunday services.

To the duties of his new position Professor Henslow brought the same energy, and the same love of bettering his fellow-creatures as had distinguished him at Cambridge, together with increased fervour for teaching, matured faculties, and a deep sense of his responsibility in ministering to the spiritual and temporal wants of a large and woefully neglected parish. His flock were notorious for witchcraft, drunkenness, poaching, sheepstealing, and immoral habits; they consisted of field-labourers living in wretched hovels, and of farmers who being intellectually little better than their servants, were doggedly opposed to any change in their moral or physical condition. Here was work requiring all Professor Henslow's indomitable energy and multifarious resources; no one knew better than he what is the result of throwing good seed on stony ground, and he consequently laid his plans for tilling and

fertilising with such sagacity and skill, and carried them out with such unflinching steadfastness of purpose, that within less than a quarter of a century he reaped his hundred-fold, and died with a harvest garnered. It is quite impossible to estimate the amount and kind of moral courage required for a clergyman to break down the sturdy opposition of the farmers of twenty years ago ; but these had to do with one who never determined on a plan of action without carrying it into successful effect, and whose downright honesty, frank bearing, and imperturbable temper, were weapons proof against the outbursts of prejudice, avarice, and malice with which he was assailed.

On Professor Henslow's arrival at Hitcham the parish consisted of upwards of 1000 persons, scattered over more than 4000 acres ; and the poor-rates amounted to 27s. per head, women and children of all ages included ! Moreover parish relief was not unfrequently levied by bands of 40 or 50 able-bodied labourers, who intimidated the previous rector into instant compliance with their demands. The church was all but empty, and baptism and the marriage ceremony were practically regarded as superfluities or luxuries ; whilst with regard to food, clothing, and the means of observing the decencies of life, the inhabitants were far below the average scale of the peasant class in England. His first step was to attach the labouring class to himself, and induce them to regard him as a friend. For this purpose, being a capital pyrotechnist, he occasionally invited them to the rectory lawn in the evening, and amused them with fire-

works, and then he gradually introduced to their notice many simple objects of domestic use hitherto unknown to them ; and having once gained their confidence he lost no time in setting to work on a plan that should tell at once both on the bodies and minds of the labourers ; knowing well that it would be necessary to raise their condition to that of rational beings, and secure some feeling of independence among them, before he could act with effect on the class which held them in bondage. To this end he caused a school-room to be built, and a mistress appointed—both on a very humble scale, for he had but slender support from his parishioners ; and indeed greatly as the building and the stipend of the mistress are now increased, it has been mainly through his liberality ; his subscriptions having often doubled those from all other persons. In the school he so arranged the method of teaching, that the sympathies as well as the faculties of the children were aroused by a combination of the religious and secular elements. The children were taught their duty to God, to one another, and to themselves ; the latter by means that were long thought Utopian, but are now recognised as efficacious beyond precedent : we allude to the introduction of Natural History as a means of sharpening the observing and reasoning faculties, and giving the children an increased reverence for their Creator's power, a knowledge of common objects, and a pursuit in which they can take equal interest in the fields or at home.

Professor Henslow's method of teaching village children Botany, and the success that has attended it as an educational measure, quite apart from the information given,

have often been alluded to in our columns ; it is now the theme of universal praise, it has been taken up by the Council of Education, and is being carried out in various parts of the country. We cannot here dwell on its manifold advantages to an agricultural people, how it influences their daily habits in after life, as well as advances their material interests as rearers of vegetable produce ; and we must refer to the numerous volumes of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in which accounts have appeared, some by Professor Henslow himself, of the working of these and other educational and social measures.*

In 1838 ploughing matches were introduced, and applauded by the labourers ; it might have been supposed by the farmers too ; but with characteristic obstructiveness they for many years continued to throw the apple of discord, and rendered fair play impossible. Upon this Professor Henslow took higher ground, and matured his plans for extending a system which would strike at the root of agricultural slavery, and for which he had been for ten years struggling with but very slender success : this was the allotment system, which from the time of his first proposing it, had met with the fiercest and best organised opposition. To provide the labourer with the means of improving his condition, and to secure to him as an irrefragable right what alone offered a prospect of keeping him from the workhouse when unemployed by the farmer, and from the beershop when disposed to be

* Consult under "Henslow" and "Hitcham" the Index for various articles in the years 1843, 1844, 1845, 1850, 1858, 1859, and 1860.

idle, was an object worth every effort on the part of the rector ; and in 1849, by dint of his indomitable moral courage and determination he succeeded in establishing no fewer than 50 quarter-acre allotments in the parish. For several years the battle raged, but with the aid of one or two staunch supporters—honourable exceptions to the mass—he overcame all difficulties, and finally almost tripled the number of allotments. Throughout the whole of this agitating period Professor Henslow preserved not only a calm, but a conciliating bearing : he announced himself from the first as a champion of the rights of the poor, sought no quarter himself, but gave it liberally to all the vanquished : he printed and circulated one sharp rebuke addressed to the farmers, which informed them of his intention of abiding by his own resolves, and declining their dictation. The success of the allotments is now complete, and the Hitcham allottees have on several occasions distanced all competitors in the excellence of their produce.

We cannot here do more than allude to the various well-organised methods by which Professor Henslow gradually raised the condition of the people committed to his charge, and which, without one exception, were flourishing at the period of his decease. Of these the "Recreation Fund" has naturally been the most popular ; it originated in his suppression of the annual tithe dinner given by the rector to the farmers in one of the public houses, and which was always a scene of disgraceful drunkenness. In 1849 he announced his determination to withhold the money for this purpose, and to employ it in giving an

excursion, in which the best-conducted of his parishioners should join : short excursions in the neighbourhood excited a desire for more distant ones, and by means of a small subscription amongst themselves, aided by larger ones from the rector's family and some well-wishers to his plans, journeys to Ipswich, Norwich, Cambridge, the Exhibition of 1851, Kew, Harwich, and Felixstow, were organised and carried out at the expense of a few shillings per head. On these occasions Professor Henslow often printed and circulated plans of the route, with illustrations that should serve for reminiscences of the chief objects worth seeing : he arranged with the railway directors for cheap trains, and with public and private individuals for admission to interesting places ; and most generously were his exertions everywhere seconded by all parties. The plans all arranged, time-tables opened, and with tickets in their hats, nearly two hundred villagers would assemble at dawn to enjoy throughout the day the simple and instructive discourse of one whose engaging voice never failed to draw a crowd of hearers of all ages. It is a well-authenticated fact, that though the rustics were on all such occasions unfettered in action throughout the day, and often thirsty and exposed to temptation, there never occurred an incident of which any could be ashamed ; at the termination of the day, or perhaps deep in the summer night, they would return orderly and happy to their homes without an absentee. After one of these trips (that to Cambridge) the farmers of the parish, unable to withhold any longer some expression of admiration, united in presenting him with a silver cup.

The village festivals and horticultural shows have been too often described in our columns to be repeated here, as have the prizes given for garden produce, honey, nosegays of wild flowers, and good cultivation, together with the simultaneous amusements provided for all ages, in tents on the rectory lawn, the addresses, *lectures*, parting counsels of wisdom, and chorus of "God Save the Queen." Nor is this the place to go into the details of the "Wife's Society," the "Coal Club," the "Medical Club," "Children's Clothing Club," "Loan Fund," and a number of other successful expedients to encourage the villagers in practices of mutual charity, and at the same time habits of self-dependence. All these and much more have been often detailed in the local papers, and in none better than the *Suffolk Chronicle*.

To the neighbouring towns of Bideston, Hadleigh, Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, and Sudbury, Professor Henslow most liberally extended his services in diffusing knowledge to all classes, and by every means in his power. In London he lectured but once, and then to the junior members of the Royal Family; all other invitations he refused, on the grounds that there was no excuse for scientific destitution in the metropolis, and that he must economise his resources for his own neighbourhood and university. When invited by H.R.H. the Prince Consort to give a short course of lectures at Buckingham Palace, he gladly did so; with characteristic modesty attributing the selection of himself to a desire on the part of the Prince to recognise his efforts in school teaching (which would be of the greatest service towards extending his usefulness), rather

than as marking his appreciation of Professor Henslow's position as a man of science. These lectures were delivered *in* *voce*; they were in all respects identical with those he was in the habit of giving to his little Hitcham scholars; and the same simple language and engaging demeanour that had proved irresistible in the village, won over his Royal audience to fixed attention and eager desire for instruction.

With the exception of Cambridge, no town owes so deep a debt of gratitude to Professor Henslow as Ipswich, whose unique museum was planned and arranged by him, and made the model of what a local museum should be in a scientific, educational, and popular point of view. He so grouped all natural objects that enough was exhibited to learn from, but not so much as to confuse; and the ingenuity, judgment, and science with which he has done this for all branches of knowledge, have never been even rivalled. To a certain extent the same services have been rendered to the Cambridge Botanical Museum, where however his efforts were frustrated for want of space; at the Royal Gardens, Kew, he has been more successful, and the museums there owe much of their admirable method of mounting, illustrating, and ticketing, together with many valuable objects, to his unequalled talents for such work. His practice throughout life was to give the best of everything to public museums, and to retain duplicates only for himself.

The Great Exhibition of 1851 deeply interested him, and there were few departments of it with the contents of which he was not perfectly familiar. To the succeed-

ing Exhibition at Paris he communicated a most beautiful series illustrating the structures of fruits and seeds, which excited the enthusiasm of the Paris botanists, and of which a duplicate set is now in the South Kensington Museum ; where also are sold his admirable botanical diagrams for schools, with a little guide to their use, and his method of teaching botany in schools.

For a considerable period of his life he worked with zeal at Romano-British antiquities, in which he became learned and expert, himself opening several tumuli, the contents of which he described in two tracts with illustrations. The fragments of glass, pottery, and Samian ware from these and other quarters, some of very large size, were all neatly and accurately restored by his own hands, and the best presented to the museum of Colchester.

Every room of his large rectory, from hall to attic, presented a marvellous assemblage of instructive objects of interest, beautifully mounted with descriptive labels, to attempt conveying any idea of which would be utterly hopeless ; besides botanical and zoological specimens, economic, physiological and structural, without end, there were series illustrating many important arts and manufactures of savage and civilised beings, ancient and modern :—linen, cotton, shoes, hats, candles, glass, pottery, silk, &c., all beautifully packed in boxes, and ready for use when needed. Fossils, antiquities, models of ships and machines, orreries, microscopes, weapons, crystallographical series, and philosophical apparatus of all kinds ; besides diagrams, drawings, and classified woodcuts, of which he had literally thousands, mounted

and instructively arranged in classes ; and all independent of his library and excellent British entomological, conchological, and tertiary fossil collections. Let it not be supposed that these were the miscellaneous hoardings of a mere collector ; there was not one specimen that had not attached to it its history, nor that was not obtained and mounted for a purpose, and that was not in use at one or other of his frequent lectures, or placed at the service of his scientific friends.

Tertiary geology and the recent changes of the earth's surface before and since man's appearance, had perhaps a more absorbing interest for Professor Henslow than any other subject. Few persons more deeply studied and more boldly preached the Bible, or more staunchly upheld the doctrines of the Church of England ; but he ever maintained the necessity of appealing to the spirit rather than to the letter of the written Word, in all cases where the established facts of science appeared to contradict the text of Scripture. In spiritual matters he avowed the total insufficiency of human reason unaided by Revelation ; but having witnessed many changes of theological opinion brought about by progressive discoveries in history and science, he was very averse to speculative reasoning where these were not in apparent harmony with Revelation.

His charity was nowhere more conspicuous than in his intercourse with those who differed widely, and often publicly, from himself in religious opinion. He never sought to gloss over these differences, nor did he allow of any misconceptions with regard to their true nature, but he

never permitted them to influence in the smallest degree his conduct, or to diminish his admiration for what was honest and good, wherever he found it. Hence he discussed such polemical questions as the age of the globe, the origin of species, &c., with such ingenuous forbearance, that inquirers of all denominations and professions turned to him for a calm and unprejudiced judgment.

As may be supposed, the flint implements in the drift deeply occupied his attention: on first hearing of them (their human origin he never doubted), he was disposed to be wholly incredulous as to their antiquity, and published his opinion on the subject: this was no wonder, considering how many man's nests of the kind he had seen exposed and himself aided in exposing. Nothing hampered by his avowed scepticism, he with characteristic devotion to truth earnestly took up the subject, twice visited Hoxne, where he had excavations made, which resulted in a modification of his first view; he then visited the pits at Amiens and Abbeville in the autumn of last year, studied the localities and country around, the museums and collections in the neighbourhood, and returned with his views still further modified, though not wholly altered. Up to the time of his last illness he was busy on this subject, comparing his observations with those of others, and studying the results which he was preparing to lay before the Cambridge Philosophical Society. Of what his final conclusion was, no record has been published; but we believe that he had convinced himself that the flint implements belong to a period long

antecedent to that usually attributed to man's existence on the earth, though by no means so distant as some geologists suppose.

But it would be difficult to point out any branch of science in which Professor Henslow did not take an active interest ; he attended the first meeting of the British Association, and was ever afterwards a staunch supporter, and frequently an officer of this body ; he was one of the first examiners in the University of London, and till his death a distinguished member of its council ; he actively aided the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, the Ray Club, and the Palæontographical Society, and was a most liberal contributor to the various charities and funds for the relief of the needy members of his own profession, and naturalists in general. To poor authors especially he was a most generous subscriber ; nor was he ever appealed to in vain in any cause, the justice and expediency of which were duly authenticated.

At several periods he took a most important part in public politics, being an active member of a party who pledged themselves to suppress that system of bribery for which the town of Cambridge was long so justly infamous ; and though few of his University and scientific friends sympathised with him on these occasions, his conduct was so typical of his singleness of purpose, firmness of character, and abhorrence of foul play, that this portion of his career cannot be overlooked even in a brief review of his life.

On one occasion in particular, when no one else of sufficient position and character would come forward, he had

the moral courage to brave not only the public odium (for which in a just cause he never cared much), but the disapprobation of many of his most intimate friends, and offer himself as the nominal prosecutor in a case of gross corruption. In doing this he was actuated by a feeling of duty to his country ; and beyond giving the sanction of his name he did not interfere ; neither attending the trials or committees, nor subscribing to any of the proceedings. The amount of abuse he received may be estimated by the fact that upwards of a quarter of a century afterwards he smilingly pointed out to a friend the words " Henslow, common informer," on the walls in Cambridge, where they are still legible. His services were, however, deeply appreciated at the time, for he received three handsome testimonials, one from the Town of Cambridge, another from the Town Committee for the Suppression of Corruption, and the third from a committee of noblemen and gentlemen : all alike testify to the perfect disinterestedness, moral courage, and consummate ability with which Professor Henslow conducted the duties he volunteered for. It has been erroneously stated that he received the living of Hitcham as a reward for these services. Such was far from the case ; he was made aware, indeed, that he was considered entitled to Government patronage, but with conscientious disinterestedness he declined to avail himself of the offer. On the death of the previous rector of Hitcham he was recommended by the Bishop of Ely (formerly tutor to Lord Melbourne) as being the man who, in that prelate's opinion, was best calculated by his ability, activity, and common sense to reform that populous, remote and wo-

fully neglected parish, where the duties of squire, magistrate and rector must all fall upon the latter.

Amongst the most remarkable instances of a direct benefit conferred upon agriculture through scientific knowledge, was his discovery of the use of the phosphatic nodules which abound in the tertiary formations of the Eastern counties. On the discovery of the nature and origin of those petrified animal remains, their value to the farmer was instantly apparent to Professor Henslow, who at once gave his discovery the widest circulation in the local papers, without reservation of any kind ; claiming no credit, no reward, no consideration even as the discoverer. This was indeed heaping coals of fire on the farmers' heads, to whom this discovery continues to be a source of incalculable wealth, large areas of Norfolk, Suffolk, and other counties, being now honeycombed with phosphate pits ; yet up to the day of Professor Henslow's death, no acknowledgment even was vouchsafed of his services. In the same liberal spirit he printed and circulated his volume of letters to the farmers of Suffolk, which pointed out and stimulated them to use methods which have largely increased the products of their holdings.

Though the professional career of Professor Henslow as the spiritual guide of his parishioners is a subject unsuited to our columns, yet it is right to state that his duties as pastor superseded all others in his estimation ; and though they were eclipsed in public opinion by his more conspicuous labours, and though he had the greatest aversion to a parade of religion, he was ever assiduous in

spiritual duties—so much so, that for fifteen years he was not absent from Hitcham for a single Sunday.

But want of space forbids our going further into the philanthropic or scientific career of this most amiable, learned, and excellent man ; a volume might be filled with the incidents of his ever busy and well-spent life, during which he was incessantly occupied for others rather than for himself, and with anecdotes of his noble qualities of head and heart. We can only allude to his efforts, not completely successful until near the close of his life, to establish in Cambridge the scientific tripos and degrees in science, and to develop the University Herbarium and Botanical Garden, with their Library and Museum, to which he for 30 years very largely contributed from his private means, and to which he gave all his own botanical collections. To the University his loss is as disastrous as it is irreparable ; whether as a member conspicuous for his varied accomplishments and genial nature, or as a teacher, and most especially as not only the best, but the only man altogether qualified to direct the scientific, educational, and practical arrangement of its new museum.

During the last few years of Professor Henslow's life his health had become seriously impaired ; incessant mental and manual labour, habitually protracted beyond midnight, and the want of proportionate daily exercise, gradually undermined his once robust constitution, though he was always abstemious and temperate in every respect. About five years ago he complained of considerable derangement of lungs or heart, which was attributed by his medical attendants to defective digestion. In March of

the present year, though feeling far from well, he left home to pay some visits in the south of England, where he caught a violent cold; this was followed by bronchitis and congestion of the lungs and liver, which alarmingly aggravated his heart symptoms. He returned to Hitcham on the 24th, when he rapidly grew worse, and was soon confined to a bed of protracted suffering, which he never quitted till his death on the 16th of May.

Professor Henslow desired to be interred in the church-yard at Hitcham, and that his funeral should be of the simplest description, and none but his parishioners employed; his wishes were strictly attended to, but a considerable concourse of strangers found their way to that remote village, and, together with a deputation from the town and corporation of Ipswich, paid their unobtrusive tribute to the memory of one whose rule of life was the motto of his family—"Quod videris esto."

THE END.



