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REMINISCENCES

OF

GENERAL SIR THOMAS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE, BART.







1804

Genl St. Barthelemy

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# REMINISCENCES

OF

## GENERAL SIR THOMAS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE

OF BRISBANE AND MAKERSTOUN, BART.

G.C.B., G.C.H. ; D.C.L. OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ; F.R.S. L. AND E. ; F.R.A.S. ; H.M.R.I.A. ;  
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## POSTHUMOUS NOTE.

HE whose "Reminiscences" this volume contains is no more. Henceforth the book assumes the character of a Memoir. General Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane breathed forth his spirit into the hand of his Father and his God on the morning of Friday, the 27th January 1860. From the same old mansion-house of Brisbane, even from the same bed in which he was born nearly eighty-seven years ago, he was taken to his heavenly home. During seven or eight preceding weeks he had been unable to take his wonted drive with his beloved lady, and for the few last weeks he was unable to leave his bed. Yet calmly and contentedly, in perfect peace, his heavenly Father enabled him to recline, free from all sickness and pain. Even his wonted attacks of rheumatic gout were all withdrawn. He enjoyed more than ever the Word of God, and the privilege of prayer. With all his faculties entire to the last, he spoke to the effect, that his life had been crowned with loving-kindness and tender mercy. His most affectionate partner was strengthened amid her feebleness and the frailty of her frame to tend him to the last, and to close his eyes in death. Thus the aged Christian soldier waited, and watched, and prayed. On the Tuesday before his death, his most dutiful servant, who attended him more as a son than a servant to the last, observed a change in his aspect, indicating sudden and increased weakness. He instantly sent for his medical attendant, Dr. Campbell of Largs, who was soon at his bedside. The doctor at once saw that his strength was quite exhausted. All hope of his rallying in Spring was now taken away. He gradually grew weaker, until, as stated, on Friday morning, at sixteen minutes past three o'clock, without a struggle or even a sigh, like an infant sweetly falling asleep, he passed away. He is gone to the land of purity and peace; to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense, where the day has broken and the shadows have fled for ever away. By the grace of his

covenant God, he has left behind him a world-wide fame, in what he was enabled to do in his country's battles, in the extension and consolidation of her magnificent colonial domains, and in the promotion of scientific discovery so far as to make his name and attainments familiar as household words to philosophers of all lands ; and now, we believe he is where earthly grandeur and courtly honours are of no glory, because of the glory that excelleth. He has left behind, as a legacy to his country and the Church of God, the heritage of a good name and a fair fame.

Into the secrecies and the sacredness of the solitary grief of his widowed lady, left alone, it would ill become any one to intrude ; only it may be said, that the Lord hath heard their united prayers. She tended him night and day to the last,—the companion that never left his side, in storm or sunshine, by land or by sea, at home or abroad. He that hath loved them will not leave or forsake her, and she knows that every Christian that loved her husband prays for her.

Friday, the 3d of February, was the day fixed for his funeral. Everything like a public display was carefully shunned by the directions of his loving partner, because she knew this to be in keeping with his own simple tastes, and what his desires would be ; yet the whole line of road from Brisbane House to the old burying-ground at Largs, extending to nearly two miles, presented on that day a sight at once solemn and imposing. The whole neighbourhood was mourning in deep grief, for it was prompted by heartfelt veneration, love, and gratitude. The precious remains of their best earthly benefactor were borne along from Brisbane House to the family mausoleum, the place wherein the ashes of his fathers and his children repose. After devotional exercises, conducted at Brisbane House, the funeral procession moved onward in its mournful way. The line of carriages extended to upwards of half a mile in length, and besides there were multitudes on foot. For more than a week intense frost had prevailed, accompanied with frequent falls of snow, yet on that day a thaw set in, and meanwhile drops of gentle rain descended as the solemn procession advanced ; as if the heavens, on which his clear beaming eye had often gazed, as he watched, with adoring wonder, the stars in their courses, determined to join in the universal grief, and to drop a tear also

on the grave of the far-famed astronomer. The banks and all the shops in Largs were shut, business was wholly suspended, and the bells of the town slowly and mournfully tolled. Even at this inclement season, gentlemen, naval and military, scientific and civilian, not only from his native county and neighbourhood, but also from Greenock and Glasgow, from Edinburgh and the farthest south of England,—all were there. He has fulfilled his prolonged and marvellously varied course without a stain on his good name and his fair fame. For he was a good man. He made many a friend; he has not left behind him one whom he made justly to be a foe. Therefore all, especially those in the parish and neighbourhood in which he was born, and in which he ended his days, who knew him best, and loved him most, bewail his departure—like children for a father taken from their head—to his eternal and blessed home. What an example of Christian usefulness he has left to all, especially to old Scotland's aristocracy! May they have grace to imitate, so that they also may live beloved, and die lamented!

It may be mentioned that, whereas Sir Thomas entered on military service in 1789, it appears from an old army list he was gazetted for his commission in 1782; he has therefore been SEVENTY-EIGHT YEARS A SOLDIER!

The compiler desires to add respecting the "Reminiscences," what may be interesting to those into whose hands this volume may find its way, that not only did the sheets, as they passed through the press, regularly undergo revision by the gallant General himself, but the book was finished, and copies in his hands, while he was yet able to appreciate and form a judgment of its appearance and execution; he was pleased to express his unqualified approval with his wonted good words and lambent loving-kindness, the memory of which is far more than reward for any small trouble and anxiety the writer has had in its preparation: and he only hopes that the many friends of Sir Thomas may find it not altogether unworthy of its subject, and that they may have somewhat of the pleasure he has had, in hearing the simple narrative from his lips, while honoured to be near him, for he knows he shall not here below soon see his like again.



# REMINISCENCES

OF

GENERAL SIR THOMAS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE, BART.

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## CHAPTER I.

ANTIQUITY OF THE HOUSE AND FAMILY OF BRISBANE—HIGH LEGAL, MILITARY, AND NAVAL  
STANDING OF MANY BRANCHES THEREOF—DEATH OF SIR THOMAS'S FATHER IN 1812—  
BIRTH OF SIR THOMAS IN 1773—HIS INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD—EARLY EDUCATION.

THE following brief sketch of the life and achievements of General Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, Baronet, of Brisbane and Makerstoun, is printed to gratify the desire of many friends and admirers of his character and career.

The narrative is given in the dignified simplicity and modest precision of his own language ; and when it is read, embracing, as it does, a period of nearly ninety years, and recording military services in all parts of the world, scientific observations and discoveries in both hemispheres, and the application of science to the amelioration, and often to the saving of human life ; it will be readily acknowledged that among the sons that have done Scotland honour, there are not many living of whom she may well be so proud. It is believed that the following statement could not be paralleled by any man :—

Sir Thomas entered the army in 1790, and fought in the first battle of the war in May 1793, and in the subsequent actions under His Royal Highness the Duke of York. He went to the West Indies in 1796, and

was present at the taking of all the islands under General Sir Ralph Abercromby. He went to the Peninsula in 1812, and commanded a brigade in six general actions, under his Grace the Duke of Wellington. He fought in fourteen general actions, twenty-three great affairs, and assisted in eight sieges.

He has crossed the Tropics twelve times, the Equinoctial twice, circumnavigated the globe, been in North America, South America, the north of Europe, and the Mediterranean.

In the winter of 1794 he slept for six nights in the snow, with nothing but his cloak and the canopy of heaven over him; he was frozen to the ground in the morning, and during one of these nights 800 soldiers were frozen to death.

Sir Thomas is the oldest officer in the army, as he has had sixty-nine years of military service.

The family of Brisbane not only can trace an unbroken line of antiquity, back to the fourteenth century; but even then, as noted by Lord Hailes, in his "Annals of Scotland," "W. Brisbane held the office of chancellor of the kingdom of Scotland," in 1332. The subject of this Memoir has in his possession, at Brisbane, the oak chair in which his illustrious ancestor sat as chancellor. The date 1357 is carved on the chair, though Hailes' "Annals" mention 1332 as the year on which he entered on his high office. Crawford, in his "Renfrewshire," mentions "Bishopton, the ancient inheritance of the Brisbanes, the chief of that name," and "Allanus de Brysbane," who obtained a grant of the lands of Machnach in Stirlingshire, to which Malcolm, Earl of Wigton (created in 1334) is witness. Besides, Thomas and Alexander Brisbane, brothers, are witnesses to a charter bearing date 9th September, in the thirty-second year of David II. (1361), and Thomas Brisbane, witness to a charter, dated 22d September 1409. The designations are not given, but witnesses to such instruments were generally the great officers of the Crown.

John Brisbane of Bishopton was succeeded by his son John, who obtained (1st September 1407), a charter for infefting him as heir to his father in the lands of Bishopton. He appears to have been succeeded by his son and heir, also John Brisbane. His son and heir, John Brisbane of

Bishopton, married Mary, daughter of Sir William Sempil of Eliotston by Agnes, daughter of Alexander, second Lord Montgomery. John was succeeded by his son Matthew Brisbane of Bishopton, who, falling at the Battle of Flodden, 9th September 1513, and leaving no issue, was succeeded by his brother, *John Brisbane*, whose return of service in the lands of Killingeraig, holding of the Crown, relates the circumstances of his brother's death at Flodden, and whose charter of the estate of Bishopton, dated 4th July 1514, is granted by John, Lord Erskine, son of Lord Robert, who also fell at Flodden-field.

This John Brisbane was also succeeded by his son John Brisbane of Bishopton, who, as heir of his father, obtained a charter, dated 12th August 1523, from John, third Earl of Lennox, of the lands of Ballinclairach, in the district of Campsie and county of Stirling. From a sasine, dated in 1523, it appears that his wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Lindsay of Dunrod. He fell at the battle of Pinkie, 10th September 1547. He was succeeded by his son John Brisbane of Bishopton, who was served heir to his father in the lands of Killingeraig, 20th May 1549. At his death he was succeeded by his eldest son Robert Brisbane, who married, in 1562, Janette Stewart, daughter of James Stewart of Ardgowan and Blackhall; the marriage-contract is dated 29th August 1562. James Stewart of Ardgowan and Blackhall, married Janette, daughter of George Maxwell of Newark, and had by her four sons and two daughters. Janette, one of the latter, became the wife of Robert Brisbane. Through this alliance the subsequent Bribanes descend from Robert III., who was great-grandson of *Robert the Bruce*. Having made large additions to his estate he died in 1610. He was succeeded by his son John Brisbane of Bishopton, who espoused, first (24th December 1595), Anna Blair, daughter of the Laird of Blair. By her he had two sons and four daughters, when she died 8th March 1608. He married, secondly (28th April 1612), Jane Sempil, daughter of Robert, fourth Lord Sempil, and had two more sons and two daughters; he died in 1635. He was succeeded by John Brisbane *of that Ilk*, his eldest son, who married, first, Mary, daughter of Sir John Hamilton of Orbiston, by whom he had one son and six daughters. He wedded, secondly, Jean,

daughter of James Chalmers of Gadgirth, but had no other issue. The death of his son without heirs-male, placing the estates at his disposal, he made the contract of marriage between his eldest daughter *Elizabeth*, and his nephew, *James Shaw*, by which the estate of Brisbane was to be settled on the heirs-male of that marriage, and James Shaw was himself to assume the name and arms of Brisbane. Complying with this covenant he became *James Brisbane of that Ilk*. An interesting letter exists, addressed to this James Brisbane by James VII., dated 26th February 1686, remitting certain fines imposed for certain *irregularities* of which his wife had been guilty in consequence of attending conventicles, doubtless Presbyterian meetings, so obnoxious to the Court in those days, and deemed the most *irregular* of all conduct. So the subject of the following Memoir inherits his firm and indomitable adherence to the cause of his Saviour and his Sovereign. This James and Elizabeth Brisbane had three sons and one daughter. They were succeeded by John, their eldest son, who espoused Margaret, daughter of Sir Archibald Stewart of Blackhall, October 1685, and had two sons and four daughters. His grandson, Sir Charles, was a distinguished naval officer. He fought under Nelson, and afterwards with such brilliant success, as to be advanced to the rank of Rear-Admiral in August 1819. Even in this brief sketch the following exploit of the gallant Admiral will be gladly received :—

Toward the end of the year 1806, Captain Brisbane was despatched from Jamaica with a squadron of frigates, consisting of the *Arethusa*, *Latona*, and *Anson*, to reconnoitre the island of Curaçoa, and to ascertain whether the inhabitants were disposed to an alliance with Great Britain. On the 1st January 1807 the little squadron, reinforced by the *Lizard* frigate, arrived off Curaçoa. No orders whatever had been given to attack the island, but having, by means of the pilots taken on board at Amba, perfectly ascertained the situation of the place, Captain Brisbane determined to capture it by a *coup-de-main*; and imparting his intention to the respective captains under him, and taking the sole responsibility on himself, he led his ships into the harbour. It is well deserving of remark, that previously to this, and unknown to their officer, the men, participating in the spirit of their gallant leader, had arranged themselves for attack,





Fr. Schenck del.

BRIBANE HOUSE, AYRSHIRE

50 Geo. Str. Edinburgh

and when called to quarters, they were found with the words "Victory or Death" chalked on their hats. Under cover of a severe and destructive cannonade, Captain Brisbane landed with his boat's crew, when Fort Amsterdam was instantly captured, the Commodore himself being the first to scale the walls; and by ten o'clock the same night, the British flag, hoisted on Fort Republic, announced the surrender of the entire island. For this gallant exploit Captain Brisbane was knighted, and received the gold medal.

The father of the subject of this Memoir was Thomas Brisbane of Brisbane, and his mother, Eleonora, daughter of Sir William Bruce, Baronet, of Stenhouse.

The father of Sir Thomas served under His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland at the ill-fated Culloden. His mother was a descendant in a direct line of King Robert de Bruce. There were issue, two sons and a daughter—Thomas the heir, Michael, and Mary.

General Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane succeeded his father on his decease in 1812. The following notice of the death of Sir Thomas's father appeared in a London Paper, 25th December 1812 :—

"Died lately, Thomas Brisbane, Esq., of Brisbane. That venerable character had arrived at the great age of ninety-two. In the early part of his life he entered the army, and served as a captain along with the late Duke of Argyle in the battle of Culloden. He was afterwards under the Earl of Home. He quitted the service in 1753, and settled on his paternal estate, which has been in the family since 1357. With an uncommon modesty, and sincerity of manners, he possessed a perfect knowledge of the Classics, carrying a Greek Testament in his pocket as his constant companion, and he was characterized by a quick discernment. He was altogether the Christian, the scholar, and the gentleman. He has been succeeded by his only son, Brigadier-General Thomas Brisbane."

In the Parish Register of Largs will be found an entry to the following effect :—

"Thomas Brisbane of Brisbane, and Eleonora, his spouse, had a first child born at Brisbane on 23d July, and baptized August 1773, named Thomas."

His infancy and childhood were characterized by that lambent loving-kindness that forms his prevailing trait,—a trait that has been intensified by all the trials that divine grace has enabled him to surmount, and the triumphs it has enabled him to attain. Several tutors, some of whom became in their day able and useful ministers of the Church of Scotland, superintended his home education. After attendance at the University of Edinburgh, he was boarded at an English academy at Kensington, where he gained distinguished honours. It is interesting to note how “the child is father of the man,” for Sir Thomas yet relates his successful pleadings to be allowed to attend lectures in London, given by men first in their various walks—lectures on all subjects, though even then Mathematics and Astronomy were his favourite studies. He became the object from his youth of the special Christian affection of his paternal aunt, D’Arcy, Lady Maxwell of Pollock, a name yet fragrant in the annals of Christian biography. Many a prayer this Christian lady offered up with him and for him, and he takes great delight in recording, that the thought of that lady’s prayers and counsels never departed from his memory in all the parts of the world in which he was called to serve, sustaining him in the right ways of the Lord, and stirring his spirit to deeds of lofty prowess and Christian philanthropy. Even long after she was gone, his journal in New South Wales records the hold on his heart and conscience the memory of this sainted person has never failed to maintain. Her ladyship, having been early bereaved of her husband and only child, had often expressed a wish, amounting to a prayer, that her nephew might, on her death, lay her head in the grave. In this also her desire was granted. Sir Thomas was with his regiment at Canterbury, on their way to join the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsula, in 1809. Having obtained leave, he ran down for a few weeks to Scotland to visit his paternal home and friends. He was in Edinburgh when his aunt, Lady Maxwell, was called home, and had the melancholy satisfaction of following her remains, and laying her honoured head, as she had long desired, in the grave.

## CHAPTER II.

RECEIVES HIS COMMISSION AS AN ENSIGN IN 1789—STATIONED IN IRELAND—BECOMES ACQUAINTED WITH HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON THERE, AT THAT TIME OF SIMILAR MILITARY RANK—MUTUAL ENJOYMENT OF FIELD SPORT—DUNDAS'S SYSTEM OF TACTICS—WAR WITH FRANCE IN 1793—SIR THOMAS RAISES AN INDEPENDENT COMPANY IN GLASGOW, AND BEING ELEVATED TO THE RANK OF CAPTAIN, JOINS WITH HIS COMPANY THE 53D AT EDINBURGH—RECEIVE ORDERS FOR HOLLAND TO FORM A PORTION OF THE ARMY UNDER THE COMMAND OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF YORK—FIRST ENGAGEMENT AT VALENCIENNES—WOUNDED, BUT REFUSES TO LEAVE THE FIELD TILL THE BATTLE IS GAINED—HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE A PRISONER OF WAR—RETREAT TO NIEUPORT FOR THE WINTER OF 1793-4.

THE parents and paternal aunt of Sir Thomas were of such a superior and Christian character and deportment, that it might well be expected that he should be distinguished by the fear of God from his youth. So he was. Distinguished by modesty and retiring manners, there is little to note, but that he was subject to his parents and in favour with all. Brave in spirit, he devoted himself to a military life, and in 1789, being in his seventeenth year, he was invested with His Majesty's commission as an ensign in the 38th Regiment, then serving in Ireland, principally at Cork and Dublin. Here Sir Thomas had occasion to meet for the first time the great Duke, then of similar rank in the service; and here the foundation in early youth was laid of that firm and fast friendship that subsisted between his Grace and Sir Thomas, ever deepening and never interrupted, till death removed the former in 1852.

But we hasten to let the subject of this Memoir now speak in his own narrative :—

“ In the year 1789 I entered the army, and was appointed to the 38th Regiment of Foot, which I joined the following year at Cork. The regiment, which was then under the command of Major Trench, marched the same year to Limerick, where it remained but for a short time, and from

thence proceeded to Galway, where it remained for twelve months. Here we passed our time very agreeably, being much noticed by the gentlemen of the neighbourhood. At this time I became acquainted with the Duke of Wellington, who was then a lieutenant in a regiment of cavalry. Galway is a fine sporting country, abounding in all kinds of game, and affording us a wide range for all such occupations. We used frequently to go out sporting together, and to kill our five-and-twenty couple of woodcocks between breakfast and dinner time. We hunted on the demesne of the Earl of Clancarty, also at Mr. Hancock's, now Lord Castlemaine, in the county of Westmeath. Both of these noblemen were frequently of our party. Never have I seen a keener sportsman in hunting and shooting than the Duke then was. The year following we marched to Dublin, where we remained for two years. During that period the young Lieutenant Wellesley was appointed aide-de-camp to Lord Westmoreland. At this time a new system of tactics, known by the name of Sir David Dundas's system, was first introduced into the army. The brother of the celebrated Charles Fox, Colonel Fox, a keen tactician and severe disciplinarian, soon introduced the system into the regiment. So expert did our corps soon become, according to the new system, that it was looked to as a model by the army in general, and was considered at that time one of the best-disciplined regiments in Ireland. Dundas wrote his *Tactics* in 1791. He went to Prussia to see them practised in the army of that country, whence they were introduced into the British army. My then regiment, the 38th, had been fifteen years in America, and their movements had been all those of light troops marching by files from the centre of companies, no wheeling or pivots, and different words of command for the same movement; so that if a commanding officer was sent from one regiment to another they would not have understood him.

“I have seen the Duke of Wellington wheel a whole division on the ground on which it stood, the left centre going to the right about, both moving round, wheeling till the front was changed, and that in five minutes. There was no uniformity in our army till Dundas's system was introduced. On the breaking out of the war in 1793, I proceeded to Glasgow to raise an independent company, which was attached to the 53d regiment,

then quartered in Edinburgh. On being ordered to Holland with the army under the command of the Duke of York, we passed through that country to Flanders, and joined the rest of the army under the command of that prince. The first action of the war took place in the wood of St. Amand, from which it became necessary to dislodge the enemy, who were there in large force, their object being to invest Valenciennes, and lay siege to it. The Prince of Cobourg commanded the Austrian army, which consisted of about 80,000 men, finely equipped and appointed, and in a high state of discipline. On the 23d May the enemy, who were strongly entrenched, for the purpose of covering Valenciennes, were attacked by the whole of the allied army at day-break, and after a severe action, were completely routed. Several of the enemy's regiments of cavalry made a full charge, but another part of them gave way before the allied army, and the enemy shortly afterwards fled.

“This engagement presented perhaps one of the grandest spectacles that ever was exhibited in war. The fog at three o'clock in the morning was so dense before the action began, that it was impossible to see from the right to the left of the regiment. All at once the fog cleared away, like the rising of the curtain of a theatre, and the armies were close in the presence of each other, when the action instantly began. The conflict did not terminate till nine o'clock at night, and although we gained possession of the enemy's works, the firing did not cease till the darkness of night descended. Field-Marshal Clairfait, who commanded that portion of the army which attacked the opposite side of Valenciennes, had a most severe action, and lost about 3000 men. The place being invested, a regular siege immediately commenced and continued for six weeks. This perhaps was one of the most regularly conducted sieges that has occurred during the last century, and the place was not taken until the breaches were made practicable, and it was only by springing three globes of compression into the enemy's covered way, beneath which they introduced them, that we were successful on our re-assaulting it. The next day the garrison surrendered themselves prisoners of war, and were marched through the lines of the allies. The garrison originally consisted of about 10,000, but by casualties had been reduced under 8000

men. Such was the effect of the bombardment on my ears, that after the capitulation of the town, and the cessation of the booming cannon, I could not sleep for several nights for want of the sound.

“ Conde was invested at the same time by the allies, and surrendered. The army afterwards marched towards Dunkirk, and attacked the enemy in a very strong position which they had taken up at the Camp of Cæsar. We afterwards attacked them at Lancellis, where the guards distinguished themselves in a particular manner. This gallant corps was relieved by the 53d regiment at night. We proceeded after that undisturbed to Dunkirk, where we had some severe fighting in forcing the enemy into the town, which, being entrenched by a canal and deep ditches, we found most difficult to approach. We immediately began to open a trench against it, but the enemy taking advantage of the absence of one of the ships of war belonging to our fleet, and also of the tide, severely annoyed us by their raking fire. This system was pursued, day after day, by the enemy, for about ten days, during which time we lost a vast number of men ; among the killed was the Austrian General Dalton. Finding it impossible to invest Dunkirk entirely in that quarter, a part of it being open to receive succours from the whole of France, the army fell back upon Furns.

“ In one of the actions near Dunkirk, the Duke of Cambridge was taken prisoner, but the enemy, not knowing who he was, allowed him to be exchanged.

“ The Austrian army finding the country near Valenciennes attacked, separated from the British, who, with the Hanoverians, Hessians, and Dutch, were left as a separate army under the Duke of York. The enemy attacked Furns, and this place being too far in advance to be supported, our army fell back upon Nieuport, where the 53d regiment and two Hessian battalions were left. The remainder of the army, under the command of the Duke of York, wintered in that neighbourhood, at Oudenarde.”

## CHAPTER III.

NIEUPOORT IN 1794—MOUVEAU—EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA—LANDRECI BESIEGED AND TAKEN—SEVERE LOSS NEAR LILLE—TRIUMPHANT REPULSE OF THE ENEMY BY THE LITTLE BRIGADE, OF WHICH THE 53D AND SIR THOMAS FORMED A PART—ANTWERP—BERGEN-OP-ZOOM, BREDA, AND NIMEGUEN—SEVERITIES OF THE WINTER OF 1794, NEAR THE RHINE AND THE WAAL—ORDERED TO HANOVER—THENCE TO ENGLAND IN THE SPRING OF 1795—ARRIVAL AT NORWICH.

“ THE enemy, following up the advantages they had gained, attacked us at Nieuport with an army of nearly 20,000 men, under the command of Marshal Vendam. General Moreau, who commanded the advance, regularly attacked us, and opened a tremendous fire. But, happily, we opened the sluices of the town, whereby we saved it, and inundated the whole country where the enemy’s army rested, by which stratagem they were obliged to betake themselves to the sandhills, whence they made a desperate effort to assault the town. Fortunately, however, their point of attack was very limited, and our forces being concentrated we were enabled to drive them off, though not till we had fired 113 rounds from each of the two six-pounders, by which the guns from excessive heating were destroyed. We remained during the rest of the winter in Nieuport. In the spring of 1794, the whole of the army assembled near Mouveau, where they were reviewed by the Emperor of Austria. From thence the allied army proceeded to attack the enemy’s works, from which we drove them, and followed them till within twenty-eight leagues of Paris. It was decided to besiege Landreci, which was soon carried. On the 22d April, the enemy came down in great force and attacked us, but they were speedily driven back with very considerable loss. It became necessary again to attack the enemy in the neighbourhood of Lille, where they were in great force. We drove them before us, but the following day they renewed the attack. and, owing to some of the columns not coming forward to our

support, our loss was severe, more especially as we had been surrounded by the enemy for a considerable period. I lost that day during the action no fewer than twenty-two men out of thirty-three! The column to which our brigade was attached was under the command of the Arch-Duke Charles, one of the most celebrated officers in the Austrian army, or perhaps in Europe. We were obliged to fall back on Tournay, whither, on the 26th of the same month, four days afterwards, the whole of the French army came down to attack the allies. At daylight in the morning, we were forced by the enemy to fall back on the walls of Tournay. About five o'clock in the afternoon, the same brigade of the line under the late General Fox, consisting of the 14th, 37th, and 53d Regiments, known by the name of the little brigade of the line, were ordered to attack the enemy. We marched through the Austrian troops and guards, and with the bayonet fairly dislodged the enemy, and decided the fate of the day,—an achievement which excited the admiration of the whole army. The enemy had at this time attacked Landreci. The Austrian army being obliged to separate from the British division under the Duke of York, and the enemy being in great force, we were obliged to fall back upon Holland. While there we were joined by the army under the Earl of Moira, consisting of about twelve regiments. The enemy followed us to Antwerp, and from thence to Bergen-Op-Zoom, Breda, and Nimeguen, which last place they besieged, and where we held out for a considerable period; but the enemy having sunk our bridge of boats, which was our only communication over the Waal, and which is here half an English mile broad, it was necessary in order to save the army to recross to the right bank of the river, where we remained the greater part of the winter. This was the severest winter I have ever seen in Europe. The troops were literally frozen to the ground every morning, and in one of those severe nights 800 men were frozen to death, and both the Rhine and the Waal were so completely ice-bound that the 24-pounders, each of which could not be less than three tons in weight, passed with the greatest facility. The former was covered with a layer of ice six feet deep. The British army was ordered to march from Holland into Hanover, where we embarked in the spring of 1795, on the Weser River, for England, at which we landed and marched to Norwich."

## CHAPTER IV.

FROM NORWICH TO SOUTHAMPTON DURING 1795—SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY—WEST INDIA ISLANDS—ARMY EMBARKED IN OCTOBER—DISASTROUS VOYAGE—DANGER OF THE VESSEL IN WHICH SIR THOMAS SAILED—OCCASION OF HIS PERFECTING HIMSELF IN THE SCIENCE AND ART OF NAVIGATION—BENEFITS OF THE ACQUISITION—BARBADOES—ST. LUCIA—SIR JOHN MOORE—ST. VINCENT'S—REMARKABLE MEDICAL POWER OF A MUSKET BALL—OTHER PROVIDENTIAL DELIVERANCES—TRINIDAD—SIR THOMAS PICTON—STRIKING INCIDENT—RETURN TO ST. LUCIA—THENCE SIR THOMAS SAILS FOR ENGLAND.

“ WE were not long at Norwich ere the 53d had its full complement of men, and in the autumn following we marched to Nurseling Camp, near Southampton, where a large army was forming under the command of Sir Ralph Abereromby, for the purpose of attacking the West India Islands. This army sailed in the month of October ; but we were driven back by severe gales, and remained in port for some time, and again sailed in the month of November. Many lives were lost by the violence of the gales.

“ Our ship, the *William and Mary*, a Newcastle collier, commanded by Captain Gordon, separated from the fleet ; and after our vessel had sailed alone for some weeks, the mate came to my cabin one morning at four o'clock, and awoke me, to say that they had made the land ; but he was afraid it was the main continent. I immediately got upon deck, and found the ship among the breakers ; and the captain on seeing the danger said, ‘ Lord, have mercy on us, for we are all gone ! ’ I said that is all very well, but let us do everything we can to save the ship. He ordered the helm to be put hard down ; but so completely were the seamen paralysed by their awful situation, that not one of them would touch a rope. With the assistance of the officers, I, with my own hands, eased off the main boom to allow the ship to pay off, and the sails to draw upon the other tack. Most providentially the wind came from the coast and filled the sails, and though we were from four till ten in the morning in this critical juncture, yet we found ourselves at length off the bank. Reflecting that I might

often, even in the course of my life and services, be exposed to similar errors, I was determined to make myself acquainted with navigation and nautical astronomy ; and for that purpose I got the best books and instruments, and, in time, became so well acquainted with these sciences that, when I was returning home, I was enabled to work the ship's way ; and having since crossed the tropics eleven times, and circumnavigated the globe, I have found the greatest possible advantage from my knowledge of lunar observation, and calculations of the longitude. In proof of which, in sailing from Port Jackson to Cape Horn in 1825, a distance of about 8000 miles, I predicted our making the land to within a few minutes. We steered our course to Cape Frio, on the Brazil coast, and when I expected it to be near on account of my observation and reckoning, I got upon deck at four o'clock in the morning to tell the captain to shorten sail, as we had not a run till day-light, upon which he replied, that by his reckoning he was not within 500 miles of it ; but when day-break appeared we were within one league of it, and anchored that evening in Rio de Janeiro !

“ In the course of our passage we touched at Madeira, and took in supplies. For in one of the severe gales the ship was struck by a sea which laid her on her beam-ends, carried away all her boats and bulwarks, and the whole of our stock, so that we were literally compelled to live on the salt provisions for six weeks. In three weeks we sailed from Madeira, and made the island of Barbadoes, but found that none of the fleet had arrived. We reached the island before any of them, and were there for nearly six weeks before the rest of the fleet arrived. From Barbadoes we proceeded to St. Lucia, to take the island which had been captured by the enemy. We landed there in the afternoon, and at night, when it became dark, we marched to take possession of Shabot, where the enemy were strongly entrenched. We were then commanded by the late Sir John Moore, and had a most severe affair, as the enemy received us, front rank kneeling, and the other two ranks fired over their heads. We lost eighty-two men of the two leading companies. I was ordered by Sir John Moore to follow the enemy, and soon picked up 500 stand of arms and prisoners, but to my great mortification at day-break I did not find one white man amongst them. The army next invested Mornefortuney, the siege of which lasted six weeks,

during which period we had some severe skirmishing with the enemy. In one of these nights I attacked the capital with a part of the regiment, and drove the enemy out of it, and set fire to the town. The enemy afterwards surrendered, and marched out nearly 3000 men, almost all blacks.

“After the fall of St. Lucia we proceeded to attack the island of St. Vincent’s, where the enemy were within musket-shot of the capital, Kingston. We marched out as far as Vigie, and invested the enemy by our columns, and after a severe attack defeated them.

“A most remarkable circumstance occurred in this attack, namely, one of our six-pounders, in firing at the enemy’s guns, discharged the shot so directly that it actually entered the muzzle of one of them, and completely destroyed it. The principal part of the forces were the Charibs, and soldiers who surrendered; but as a considerable number of the enemy had escaped, the country was infested by them for the following two years, during the whole of which period we had constant occupation in attacking and subduing them. I lived all that time in a large hut in the woods.

“The following remarkable occurrence took place about this time. Five Charibs, under the cloak of a flag of truce, came down to have a conversation with me, to ascertain what was to be done with them in the event of their surrendering. I ordered them something to eat and drink on an estate belonging to the late Dr. Glasgow: while they were busy partaking of their repast, one of Dr. Glasgow’s negroes came in and told me that the real object of these Charibs, who had come in as a flag of truce, was to try and buy provisions. On which I went out to them, and told them that I had discovered the real object of their visit, and that they must consider themselves prisoners of war. On hearing this they all made a rush at me to escape; but I seized hold of their chief, Taquin, and, grappling with him, threw him down with considerable violence. As I was unarmed, I seized hold of his knife, which he made an attempt to grasp, and told him that if he did not remain quiet I would instantly despatch him; as he was still determined to escape, I was obliged to carry my threat into execution. I collected without delay all the negroes on the estate, and pursued the remaining four, and took them prisoners. There was a small

island, named Balisare, which was allotted for the reception of the Indians, men and women, as they were taken ; and when they had augmented to nearly 800, a ship of war and transports were provided to carry them to the Bay of Honduras, where they were left, and thus ended the Carribean war.

“ A remarkable instance of providential interference occurred while I occupied this hut. On going round one very dark night to see that all was secure against any attack from the enemy, a sudden flash of lightning discovered a tremendous precipice which I was just about to step over. I immediately retraced my steps, and thus providentially my life was saved. Another instance of a similar nature occurred in my voyage home, in the brig *Venus*, from the island of Barbadoes. One night, about eleven o’clock, the captain called me out of bed and wished to consult me, as it was blowing a gale of wind, whether he should run out of the fleet or keep his course. Just as I reached the deck a bright and sudden flash of lightning discovered a ship running right down upon us, and so near to us that the captain hailed her without a speaking-trumpet, to port his helm or he would be on board of us. The vessel cleared us almost by a miracle, and as both ships were going at the rate of ten knots an hour through the water, any collision with that speed must have been attended with disastrous consequences to both vessels. So distinctly did I recognise the ship by the brilliancy of the lightning, that I pointed her out to the captain next morning after day-break.

“ We returned after that quietly into Port Charlotte to winter, where the mortality among the troops was extraordinarily great ; for in one month we buried no fewer of the 53d than seventy-seven men. Next year, being 1796, we proceeded to attack the island of Trinidad, with a fleet of men-of-war and troops. When we came off Port d’Espagne we found the enemy’s fleet, consisting of six sail of the line, anchored with springs in their cables, and their flanks secured by two islands and strong batteries, so that it would have been difficult to destroy them. As the sun was setting it was too late to attack them that night, but it was resolved to do so at day-light the following morning. About ten o’clock that night we discerned a fire among the enemy’s ships, which presented a most

awful appearance. As the fire extended to the guns they went off in succession, and on the flames reaching the magazines they exploded with a tremendous crash, while the burning fragments and spars were seen for a considerable period burning high in the air. Thus the enemy's fleet was completely destroyed. Next day we landed, and, after a very trifling resistance, got possession of the capital, taking 300 Indians prisoners, besides the Spanish troops. The former were armed with bows and arrows, all of which were strongly poisoned. After settling the government of the island, and leaving the garrison under the command of Sir Thomas Picton, the fleet and army returned to Martinique and St. Vincent's: at the latter our regiment landed. We proceeded thence to attack the island of Porto Rico, where the enemy were in considerable force, and the town strongly fortified. We landed on the beach about three in the afternoon, when the enemy made considerable resistance; but we drove them into the capital, after taking some guns from them. We then opened our trench on them as speedily as we could, and bombarded the place for a fortnight. Here we had the severest duty I ever experienced, as, independently of living entirely on salt provisions, we had no other covering but our cloaks, and the sand of the sea-beach for our couch.

“ A very remarkable occurrence took place here. On one of the officers being reported to me to have been killed on the battery, I went and examined him. I found him quite dead. His breast was quite black, although the cannon-shot which deprived him of life had not broken the skin in the slightest degree; the conclusion, therefore, to which I came, was, that he must have died from the concussion. Another singular circumstance occurred on the same battery, and I believe on the very same day. I was standing alongside of an artilleryman while he was laying on one of the 18-pounders, for the purpose of trying to dismount one of the enemy's guns, which annoyed us very much; and while I was looking along this gun, to see if it were properly pointed, I observed a large shell coming in the direction of the battery from the enemy. I called to the artilleryman, whom I was touching, to run as fast as he could and throw himself down, which I did myself. To my surprise I saw the man remain perfectly

motionless. The shell struck him about the middle of the right thigh, and went down through the platform of the battery on which we were standing. I saw the smoke ascending, and the poor fellow attempting, with his remaining leg and arm, to hustle himself a little away from it, when it exploded and covered us all over with sand and dirt, but did us no further injury. I did all I could for the poor fellow, by applying a silk handkerchief as a tourniquet, and had him conveyed to the hospital, and was in hopes that I had saved his life, but unfortunately he died about two o'clock the following morning. After this we returned to Martinique and St. Vincent's with the fleet and army. On finding that we could make no impression on the capital, our regiment landed at St. Lucia. I commanded on Pigeon Island, where I received the glad tidings that my friends, in order to get me out of the West Indies, had purchased for me a lieutenant-colonelcy in the 69th Regiment, which had recently returned from these islands, and was not likely soon to go back."

## CHAPTER V.

ARRIVED IN PORTSMOUTH IN 1799—HIS REGIMENT, THE 69TH, HAD SAILED THREE WEEKS BEFORE FOR JAMAICA—JOINS IT—LETTER FROM SIR GEORGE NUGENT—HE AND HIS REGIMENT CALLED HOME IN 1802—ARRIVED AT CHATHAM, AND PLACED UNDER SIR JOHN MOORE—PASSED THE WINTER AT COLCHESTER—IN 1803, MARCHED TO NOTTINGHAM, AFTERWARDS TO SILVERHILL BARRACKS IN SUSSEX, AFTERWARDS TO RYE—HIGH CHARACTER OF THE 69TH ON LEAVING IN 1804—REGIMENT THEN ORDERED TO INDIA, BUT THE HEALTH OF SIR THOMAS FORBADE HIS GOING WITH THEM—APPOINTED ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE STAFF AT CANTERBURY IN 1810—APPOINTED BRIGADIER-GENERAL IN THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S PENINSULAR ARMY IN 1812—ARRIVED THAT YEAR AT LISBON, THENCE TO COIMBRA AND FRENADA, WHERE HE RENEWS HIS PERSONAL INTERCOURSE AND INTIMACY WITH THE GREAT DUKE—IN JUNE 1813, SIR THOMAS AND HIS BRIGADE THREW THE FRENCH INTO A PANIC AT THE BRIDGE OF CADORA, SO THAT THEIR CAVALRY FLED, AND THE END WAS THAT THE WHOLE ARMY FLED TILL THEY WERE PRESSED UNDER THE WALLS OF VITTORIA, WITHOUT EVEN A SINGLE GUN.

“ I INSTANTLY embarked for England, and landed at Portsmouth in 1799, when I waited upon General Whitelock, to know where the 69th Regiment was stationed. He informed me that it had sailed three weeks before for Jamaica. Finding from a four years' residence and hard service in the West Indies that my health had suffered, I was recommended to go to Cheltenham, and in the following year, being 1800, I joined the 69th at Jamaica, and took the command of it, and continued with it until the regiment was ordered home. As soon as I arrived, I called the officers together and addressed them. I told them that they were well acquainted with the cause that had brought them to this colony, and that I expected the support of every officer in the corps. I warned them that if this was not frankly and fully afforded, I should report them to the commander-in-chief, to have them removed out of the regiment or out of the service. Fortunately I had no occasion for such a proceeding. On taking the command of the regiment, which was lying at Kingston, I found the men in a very demoralized and unhealthy state, from two causes, first, the want of proper discipline and arrangements for their comfort ; and second, the soldiers being allowed

to lay out nearly all their money on intoxicating drinks, in place of vegetables and other things needful for their health and comfort. By a little attention to discipline, and the messes of the men, I very soon effected a wonderful change in the health and character of the troops ; so much so, that two military hospitals which had previously been filled with sick, were both shut up, and when we embarked for England, only one man was unable to be removed. This circumstance drew from Sir George Nugent, the Governor of Jamaica, the following letter :—

“ ‘ PEN, 27th June 1802.

“ ‘ DEAR SIR,—When I made a very favourable report to his Royal Highness the Duke of York of the state of the 69th Regiment since you took the command of it, I merely did you justice, for I must beg leave to repeat that I never saw so rapid an improvement on any *corps* during so short a period. I really consider the 69th Regiment in every respect as good a *corps* as any in the service, and I did not think it possible they could become so from the very bad state they were in while under the command of the late lieutenant-colonel and senior captain. I am much flattered by the obliging sentiments which you express respecting me, and, at the same time, though I assure you how happy it will make me to serve with you on any future occasion, I must confess that it proceeds in some degree from a selfish motive, the certainty of being relieved from every anxiety about the state and conduct of any *corps* which might be placed under your immediate command. Accept Mrs. Nugent’s and my best wishes that you may enjoy better health than you possibly could in this climate, and believe me that it will ever give me sincere pleasure to meet you in any place more congenial to us both.—I am, my dear Sir, with sincere esteem, your faithful and obedient servant,

(Signed) ‘ GEORGE NUGENT.’

“ I reported to the Commander-in-Chief, some years ago, that the whole of the barracks in the West Indies were in the worst possible position ; well-selected as military points, but entirely opposed to the health of troops. They are all upon the leeward side of the islands in place of the

windward. I grieve to say that no change has taken place up to this day. The pestilential miasma comes from the windward side, and passes over the islands, accumulating on the leeward side. Hence Jamaica is more unhealthy than any other of the islands, because it is much the largest. Almost all the islands there that I visited had posts on the leeward side of Jamaica, where they died out every month. On the weather side of St. Vincent's we had posts for two years, during which we never lost either officer or man !”

A highly intelligent and scientific friend, hearing Sir Thomas' views respecting the situation of the barracks in Jamaica and the other islands, wrote, in 1856, as follows :—

“I quite concur in your sound views respecting the construction of the barracks on the windward instead of the leeward side of Jamaica. I noticed, when I was in that island in 1851, that Stronghill was the most healthy station, excepting New Castle, constructed by my friend Sir William Gomm, at an elevation of 3000 feet above the sea, but unfortunately, I think, on the leeward instead of the windward side of the Blue Mountain ridge. The unhealthiness of Hong-Kong in China, when I was there in 1844-45, was owing mainly to the town and troops being placed on the leeward side of a ridge 2000 feet in altitude. Your observations on the lesser West India Islands are good, but we must remember that sickness visits them at uncertain intervals.

“Sir George Nugent might well approve of the manner in which you organized your regiment and quitted Jamaica.”

“We landed, after a pleasant passage of six weeks, at Chatham, and were placed under the command of Sir John Moore. We then marched to Colchester, where we passed the winter. In the following year (1803) we went down to Nottingham to receive the army of reserve, where the regiment had a second battalion added to it, and each battalion was increased to 1000 men. We afterwards proceeded to Silverhill Barracks in Sussex, where we had ample employment in drilling and disciplining these men. It affords me no small pleasure to state that at Colchester, Silver-

hill, and Rye, we had addresses from the Mayor and the civic authorities expressive of their sense of the good conduct of the soldiers while quartered amongst them, and the Mayor of Colchester stated that the 69th Regiment was the only one which had left that place, for a long period, without even a single soldier having been brought before a civil magistrate for any irregularity. We continued at Rye until 1804, when the regiment was ordered to India, and embarked for that country from Portsmouth. Finding my health had suffered considerably from five years' constant residence in a tropical climate, I was recommended by my medical advisers not to return immediately to a similar clime. At the same time, being unable to effect an exchange either into the Guards or cavalry, I was obliged to retire for a short time on half-pay, but on all occasions offered my services wherever they could be useful in any quarter of the globe. In 1810, I was appointed to the Staff at Canterbury as Assistant-Adjutant-General; and, on the army going out to Portugal, I was most anxious to serve under the Duke of Wellington, and applied to Sir Thomas Picton and the Duke himself, when I was fortunate enough to receive an appointment as Brigadier-General in the year 1812. I proceeded immediately thereafter to Lisbon, and from thence to Coimbra and Frenada, the head-quarters of the Duke, who received me with the utmost kindness, and said he was glad to see me, as he had two brigades vacant for me, one in the third and the other in the seventh division; the former commanded by my old friend Sir Thomas Picton, under whom I had served in the West Indies, and the other under the Earl of Dalhousie. I selected accordingly the third division, which I joined at Leo Mill, and remained there till we passed the Douro in the spring through the Tras Montes, to attack the enemy at Vittoria, where they were in great force. When we got on the height over-looking the town and plain, I examined closely for the French army, but could see no foree, and therefore was under the impression that there was to be no action. In this, however, I was very soon undeceived by a heavy fire commencing by Lord Hill's division, in the wood on our right, on the morning of the 21st June 1813, and after a considerable period of hard fighting saw the enemy give way. I was then ordered to pass the bridge of Cadora with my brigade ;

and so completely did we take the enemy by surprise, that I passed a large body of French cavalry with the tails of the horses turned towards my brigade. We pursued and seized a strong position from which we drove the enemy, and opened our fire, and continued in pursuit of them through the village of Pontaslin, where the enemy were strongly posted with formidable artillery. The remainder of the division joined us in the attack, and we soon drove back the enemy, taking from them twenty-eight pieces of artillery, and pressing them under the walls of Vittoria, where they were attacked by the whole of the army, and completely routed. So signal was this defeat that King Joseph's carriages, plate, and wines, and everything belonging to him, fell into our hands, and that same evening I ate off his Majesty's plate and partook of his wine. Had I allowed my men to follow, and pick up the boxes of money which could have been gathered, they might have enriched themselves to a very great extent. As it was, I waylaid the stragglers and made them disgorge their plunder, and next morning I had three such piles of dollars as enabled me to divide five dollars to every soldier belonging to the brigade. This day's action cost the division severely, as we lost ninety officers and 1800 men. My aide-de-camp, Captain Hay, was severely wounded in the knee by a grape-shot, from which he has not yet recovered. The enemy were so completely routed that they fled to Bayonne, with the loss of their artillery, camp equipage, and equipments, and without even a single gun."

## CHAPTER VI.

1813—MARSHAL SOULT—SEIGE OF ST. SEBASTIAN—ITS FALL—NEXT GENERAL ACTION ON THE NIVE IN DECEMBER—A TREMENDOUS FIGHT AT ORTHES ON 27TH FEBRUARY 1814—TRIUMPHANT, THOUGH SIR THOMAS HAD SEVEN HUNDRED KILLED AND WOUNDED—RECEIVED THE THANKS OF PARLIAMENT SAME YEAR FOR THAT ACTION—VIGORI—TARBIS—TOULOUSE—A MEDICAL MUSKET-BALL—NAPOLEON'S ABDICATION—END OF THE WAR.

“NOTWITHSTANDING the extraordinary defeat which the French experienced at Vittoria on the 21st June 1813, they came down on the 22d August of the same year, and attacked our position at Roncevalles, under Marshal Soult, in very great force, and drove the division which occupied the pass of Roncevalles from it. The whole army was immediately put in motion to resist that attack, and our division was consequently ordered to march to Zubeira, where we joined the second. We were then warmly engaged with the enemy who took part in the action; but as a very large proportion of the army was with the Duke of Wellington at the siege of St. Sebastian, the division was quite unequal to cope with the whole body of the French army, and therefore after dark we fell back on Pampeluna. The enemy, following the advantage which they had gained, came up with us at Pampeluna, where Sir Thomas Picton had taken up an excellent position for the division. Here the enemy attacked us, but after a severe firing we repulsed and forced them back. The day following they made a general attack upon our lines, and their force was principally directed against the fourth division on the left, which occupied a position on the top of a steep hill. The enemy could not have less than 40,000 men in their attacking columns, and nearly 20,000 men supporting them. They made a most formidable attack on the fourth division, which most prudently kept back from the crest of the hill, and received them with the bayonet. The enemy were considerably

exhausted by ascending the mountain, and were so vigorously attacked by the fourth division, that they were completely routed with immense destruction. My brigade was so delighted with the gallant conduct of the fourth division that they gave them three cheers, which immediately brought down upon us eight battalions of the French whom we were keeping in check across the ravine, thinking that we were going to attack them ; but the action was merely partial. The French solicited a flag of truce, which was granted, and the following day was occupied in burying the dead. From the 22d to the 31st August there was a series of actions, during which we drove the enemy before us in all directions, following them back to the Pass of Roncevalles, which I occupied with my brigade at night. The fall of St. Sebastian liberated that part of the army employed in the siege, and we all re-united. Nothing particular occurred till the 10th November following, when the army occupied the Pyrenees, but on that day the army made a forward movement, and drove the enemy at day-light from all their positions, where they were most strongly entrenched.

“ This action presented one of the finest military spectacles that ever was witnessed. As we had a considerable extent of plain to pass after descending from the Pyrenees, and being near the centre of the army, I could see nearly the whole of it. Corps marching and forming into lines, columns, and echelons, such a scene was seldom presented in any action, which the fineness of the day contributed not a little to enhance. The object of the Duke of Wellington was to have cut off the whole of the French army, by our intersecting their line of march along the sea-coast ; but the extreme badness of the road, and night coming on, prevented his comprehensive plan of attack being carried into execution.

“ The next general action took place on the passage of the Nive, and from the 9th to the 13th December we had again another general action with the enemy. Many severe actions followed in the neighbourhood of Bayonne, when crossing the Garvedoleron, and when proceeding towards Orthes, where we again attacked the enemy on the 27th February 1814. This was one of the severest actions that we had with that army. I commanded two brigades of the army, and had an extremely hard fight to

dislodge the enemy from their different positions ; I triumphantly succeeded, but not without excessive loss, as I had 700 men killed and wounded out of the two brigades. I had the honour of having my name included in the vote of thanks from the British Parliament for that action.

“ After having driven the enemy from their last position, and looking out for some place where I could put the men under cover to resist an attack of the enemy, I suddenly perceived close to me a heavy column of 10,000 men, and was surprised at their not opening their fire ; but the mystery was very soon unravelled, by perceiving large bodies of cavalry coming up to attack the enemy, on which I spoke to Colonel Kenison, who commanded the 7th Light Dragoons, and said that my people were exceedingly tired and unequal to pursue the enemy ; but if he would follow in the direction which I pointed out, he might take a great number of them. I saw him later in the evening, when he had taken 700 of them prisoners.

“ Following up our advantage after the battle of Orthes, we immediately marched through the enemy’s country to Vigori, where we had a very severe fire with the enemy, in which our division lost 300 men without almost seeing a Frenchman, as they fought out of the vineyards, and it was not over till near dark at night. We then proceeded to Tarbes, when we had another smart fire, but constantly drove the enemy before us until we arrived at Toulouse, where we found them in a formidable position, with fortified heights, and the town itself strongly fortified. Nature had made this place extremely difficult of attack ; for, independently of the Garonne, which is a most rapid and large river, the canal of Languedoc empties itself into it at nearly right angles, and the depth of the canal was such that it was impossible to cross it except by bridges. Four divisions of the army were passed across the Garonne by a pontoon bridge, when by the violence of the current, and the enemy tumbling down trunks of trees, and boats filled with rubbish, the pontoon bridge was in part destroyed ; and thus the four divisions were left in presence of the enemy, nearly 8000 strong, with no communication, and being thus separated from the rest of the army, our astonishment was that the enemy had not proceeded to attack us in that unassisted position. The bridge was restored, and the

rest of the army passed over, when preparations were made for the attack of Toulouse and the enemy's position, which, as I have already stated, was strongly fortified by nature, and therefore extremely difficult of attack. The engagement, which took place on Easter Sunday, the 10th April, was most severe, and was attended with considerable loss, a great part of which arose out of the circumstance of the Spanish division under General Heron giving way. This unfortunate occurrence infused a degree of confidence into the enemy's troops which it was difficult to overcome. Victory ultimately crowned our efforts, and before dark the English colours were flying on all the forts of the enemy's entrenchments.

“ A very singular occurrence happened to myself in this engagement. While standing on the banks of the canal, exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy's artillery and musketry, a cannon-shot took off the cock of my hat, spun me round with irresistible force, and knocked me flat on the ground. I was so confused with the violence of the concussion, that I deemed it prudent to send for the officer next in command to be near me, and to take the command of the brigade in case of necessity. While in this state of confusion I was shot through the left arm by a musket-ball, when the blood, flowing profusely from the wound, immediately relieved my head, and restored me to my senses. This is perhaps a rare instance where a musket-ball has proved beneficial to an individual, and even rendered him medical assistance when absolutely requisite.

“ After the battle of Toulouse the enemy retreated to Castelnaudari, where they took up a strong position, and our army was in full march to attack them, when, on the 14th of the month, Lord Wellington received a despatch from Marshal Soult, intimating that Napoleon had abdicated ; and there was an end of the war.”

## CHAPTER VII.

APPOINTED TO COMMAND A BRIGADE IN THE AMERICAN WAR—ARRIVED IN THE END OF JULY SAME YEAR—ATROCITIES CHIEFLY ARISING FROM THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE INDIANS—SIR THOMAS SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING THEM DOWN—NAPOLEON'S ESCAPE FROM ELBA, MARCH 1, 1815—EMBARKED FOR ENGLAND, TO REJOIN THE GREAT DUKE—OFF THE COAST OF FRANCE, HEARD OF WATERLOO AND THE FATE OF NAPOLEON—ARRIVED IN PARIS—REMINISCENCES OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

“ THE Duke of Wellington kindly sent to Grenade, about ten miles from Toulouse, on the Garonne, to say that he wished to see me. Just as I was entering his Grace's tent, I met Sir Thomas Picton coming out, who informed me that he had had a most delightful interview with the Duke ; that he had received him most kindly, and that he had gone to ask to take his leave, and to be permitted to return through France ; and he concluded by saying that he had parted assuring the Duke that he should never serve again, except he had the honour to serve under his Grace. This affords an ample contradiction to the allegation of there having been a coolness between the Duke and Sir Thomas Picton, and this contradiction is further confirmed by the fact of his having given him the command of one of his most distinguished divisions at the battle of Waterloo, where he fell.

“ It having been resolved by the British Government to send four brigades to America, I was appointed to the command of one of them. Accordingly on June 14th we proceeded down the Garonne to Bordeaux, and embarked on board line-of-battle ships, and after a pleasant voyage, we reached Quebec about the end of July, and proceeded from thence to Montreal. On receiving my instructions from Sir George Prevost, the governor and commander-in-chief, I proceeded to take the command of the advance of the army close upon the enemy's frontier. The enemy had a strong position at Plattsburgh, and a considerable number of ships of war

on Lake Champignon. It was the object of the General that a combined attack should be made on this fleet and army at the same time, but unfortunately, owing to the want of proper co-operation, the fleet was captured before an impression had been made by the troops on the enemy. Sir George Prevost therefore resolved on a retreat, and directed me to cover that retreat, which I did without any loss, and destroyed the bridge of communication over the Dead Creek. Here I found an old English 24-pounder, which had fallen into the enemy's hands at the end of the American war, at the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, and which I tumbled over the bridge into the creek.

“On my assuming the command of the advance, I found every possible atrocity committed on both sides. The sentries were frequently attacked, and a number of isolated individuals murdered. This system was so opposite to what I had been accustomed to in the Duke of Wellington's army, that I immediately wrote to General M'Comb, to propose that we should carry on the warfare on the same system as was followed by the European armies. I received a very polite reply from the General, stating that if I would give the orders to my troops, he would undertake to see them enforced on the part of those of the United States. The American commander, General M'Comb, asked leave to carry away for burial the dead body of one of their officers at Plattsburgh. I at once granted leave, and continued standing beside the Americans, while at least 700 Indians stood behind me. They would otherwise have fallen on the enemy, and foully murdered them. From that date I am glad that I can freely state that the regulation was most faithfully observed on both sides. So satisfactory and honourable was the communication established between us, that though we never spoke together, yet on the peace being proclaimed, the General actually sent me various letters of introduction to general officers in the United States, and Governors of State. I regret that I never had an opportunity to avail myself of these advantages.

“Having learned the escape of Napoleon from Elba, and his return to France, we received orders to proceed to Quebec, where we immediately embarked for England. When off the coast of France, I heard of the fate

of Napoleon, and the celebrated Battle of Waterloo. On landing at Portsmouth, I found an order for me to take the command of twelve regiments and proceed to Paris, and place myself under the command of the Duke of Wellington. Shortly after my arrival in Paris, his Grace directed me to have these regiments drawn up in order, that he might review them. They were accordingly formed into two lines of nearly 5000 men each. And when his Grace looked down these lines, he exclaimed, 'Had I had these men at Waterloo, I should not have wanted the assistance of Prussians.' The regiments under my command consisted of his oldest and best troops. I continued with the army of occupation during the three years it remained in France. During that period we were frequently reviewed by the allied sovereigns. At the end of the year 1818, the army returned to England. In 1820, I was appointed to the command of the Southern District of Ireland, where I continued till the following year, when I was appointed Governor of New South Wales, and administered the government of that important colony for upwards of four years."

The following memoranda will be accepted as interesting reminiscences of Sir Thomas's personal intercourse with the great Duke, noted down at uncertain intervals, as memory served. They relate mostly to the period when both were with the army of occupation at Paris, after the treaty of Vienna, 1815.

"Here I may remark that no commander of ancient or modern times had such a power of instilling confidence into his troops as the Duke of Wellington. When we were marching into action, no individual, from the general down to the drummer, ever entertained any other impression than that we were marching to victory.

"I heard the Duke at his own table in Paris ask, 'What is the difference between Soult and me? A general pause ensued, when his Grace said, 'I will tell you the difference. I often bring my army into an infernal scrape, but it always gets me out of it. Soult often did the same for his army, and then he was left by it.'

"As a proof of the Duke's most excellent memory, while I was in his

Grace's house in Paris, a French lady wrote him a letter telling him that she was the widow of a celebrated astronomer, and that he had left a valuable clock which she wished the Duke to purchase. He put the letter into my hand, saying, 'You know I know nothing about clocks; if you go and look at it, and tell me it is a good one, I will buy it.' I did go, found it a first-rate clock, and recommended him to purchase it. He never told me whether he had done so or not, but at a review many years afterwards in Hyde Park, at which he commanded the troops under King William IV., I went up to his Grace before the review began, and one of the first things he said to me was, 'You must come to Strathfieldsaye and see my clock; it is going remarkably well.'

"On my arrival in Paris, in 1815, from America, I had the honour of dining with the Duke of Wellington the following day. He spoke in the most feeling manner of his old army, namely, the cavalry, the artillery, the infantry, and the commissariat; and he summed up with these remarkable expressions, that when he broke up on the Garonne, after the battle of Toulouse, he had commanded the most perfect army that ever was in existence. In confirmation of which, I may mention that my brigade in the march through Portugal and Spain to the south of France, never was without its rations but one day.

"I have every desire to see ample justice done to the brilliant career of the great Duke, as England may never see again such a warrior or such a statesman.

"It has been said, I understand, that when the Duke was aide-de-camp to Lord Westmoreland, and afterwards to Lord Camden, that he drank too freely, gambled, and became deeply involved in debt. Now I never in all my life, though night and day side by side with him, saw him unduly excited by wine, neither did I ever hear it alleged that he was given either to drinking or gambling. He always had his regiment (the 33d) in most excellent order. He was social in his habits in 1790, when I first became acquainted with him, but never given to excess. At this time his personal appearance and manners were extremely neat and elegant. Such he was from 1790 to 1795, while I had constant personal intercourse with him, and during the interval, till 1813, though

separated in service, I had continual occasion to know his habits, and they were never otherwise.

“As an example of the discipline which the Duke maintained in his army, I may relate the following incident which took place in 1813. During autumn we were near Bayonne, encamped upon a barren heath, where we could get no forage for our horses. My Brigade-Major came to me and said, ‘Sir, there are about 300 Frenchmen at our advanced post; are we to let them in?’ I replied, ‘We are not making war against the French inhabitants, only against the French army, therefore allow as many of them to come in as possible.’ They disposed of what they had brought with them, and were promptly paid. They went home and told their friends and countrymen how they had been received, and we never were in want afterwards all the time we were there,—they even brought butter for us from Biscay in Spain. I remarked to Sir Thomas Picton, that the moral effect we had produced here upon the people was more important to us than any battle we had gained. We paid for everything in the same manner as we do in England. I was wont to send for my landlord after dinner to take a glass of wine with me, that I might discover his opinion in general respecting affairs. He informed me that not only the French officers, but also the French soldiers had told the French inhabitants not to quit their houses, but to remain at home, as they had nothing to fear from the British army. As we approached and entered their towns we were received with the waving of handkerchiefs, and every demonstration of confidence and welcome. I never heard a complaint from any inhabitant against our soldiers.

“His Grace maintained the strictest integrity in every transaction, and he instilled into every officer in the army the same principle of honour. In illustration of which, the late Sir Colin Campbell told me that it cost the Duke in Paris £15 per day for fuel for his house. Yet though this charge was manifestly enormous, his Grace promptly paid it.

“In proof of the good understanding and courtesy that subsisted between the hostile armies in the Peninsula, when we were at Hasparren in Spain, we, of the third division, being driven from our position, the Duke immediately ordered up another division, which succeeded in driving back

the enemy from the ground which they had taken from us. Through this ground a small stream flowed, and a bridge across marked the position of the two armies. Their works being first finished, the enemy actually came over and helped us to throw up the works against themselves! This incident was well known to the division at the time.

“As the attempt on the Duke of Wellington’s life in Paris in 1815 is perhaps not much known at home, I can give a correct account of it. I dined with his Grace on the very day on which it happened. When Monsieur de Cas, Minister of Police in Paris, came to examine the Duke’s servants on the subject, it was discovered that the assassin had placed himself exactly where the sentry stood, and as the *porte cochère* was so narrow that the sentries were obliged to fall back, and the carriage arrived at that point late in the dark night, the coachman and footman could see the face of the miscreant from the flash of the pistol. They testified that he had large *favoris* and *moustaches*. The bullet had passed over the carriage. I went down next day to see where it had struck. It was obliquely across the street, nearly thirty yards’ distance. I distinctly saw the groove of the bullet on the wall.

“A few days after, I was walking down Duke Street, St. James’s, alone. I met the Duke of Wellington coming up. He was kind enough to take my arm and turn and walk back with me. In course of conversation I said, ‘I did not think a miscreant could have been found in this country, who would have raised his hand against your Grace, after all you have done for it.’ The Duke briefly replied: ‘Life was not worth possessing, if it was to be held on such terms.’

“While in Paris the Duke asked me, during the weary days of 1817, to make a calculation of the French weights and measures, compared with those of England; the army of occupation being supplied according to the French standard. At the same time I calculated and drew out a table of foreign linear measures comparative with those of Great Britain. These the Duke caused to be printed at the army press. A copy follows:—

## "COMPARATIVE TABLE OF LINEAR MEASURES.

Name of Country or Kingdom.	Distance and Denomination.	No. in a Degree.	No. of Geographical Miles.	No. of Statute Miles.	No. of Yards.	Time required to perform one of each at the rate of four British miles an hour.
Great Britain...	Mile .....	60	60	69.059	1760	0° 15' 00"
	Common League.	25	2.400	2.762	4861.1	0 41 24
France .....	Post League.....	24.79	2.420	2.786	4903.36	0 41 44
	Marine League...	20	3.000	3.453	6077.28	0 51 38
	Myriametre .....	10	6.213	6.906	12152.8	1 43 35
* Russia.....	Verst.....	104	0.577	0.664	1168.63	0 9 36
	Verst.....	88.89	0.675	0.777	1367.13	0 11 24
Holland.....	Mile .....	19	3.158	3.634	6395.84	0 54 36
Prussia.....	Mile .....	18.75	3.200	3.683	6482.1	0 55 12
Spain.....	League.....	17.5	3.429	3.946	6945.0	0 59 24
Portugal.....	League.....	18.75	3.200	3.683	6482.1	0 55 12
Germany.....	Mile .....	15	4.000	4.604	8103.04	1 9 00
Switzerland.....	Mile .....	12	5.000	5.755	10128.8	1 26 24
Sweden .....	League.....	10.8	5.555	6.393	11251.7	1 36 00
Denmark.....	League.....	14.75	4.066	4.682	8240.3	1 10 12
Poland.....	League.....	20	3.000	3.453	6077.28	0 51 38
Hungary.....	League.....	12.5	4.800	5.524	9722.2	1 22 48
Bohemia.....	League.....	12.5	4.800	5.524	9722.2	1 22 48
Switzerland.....	League.....	12.5	4.800	5.524	9722.2	1 22 48
Turkey.....	Mile .....	88.89	0.675	0.777	1367.13	0 11 24
Italy.....	Mile .....	60	60	69.059	1760	0 15 00
India.....	Coss .....	44.44	1.350	1.554	2735.0	0 18 36
China.....	Modern Li.....	3.25	18.46	21.246	37392.96	5 18 36
Persia.....	Parasange.....	22.22	2.700	3.107	5468.3	0 46 48
Egypt.....	Delta, Schene...	16.33	3.674	4.229	7443.0	1 03 36
	Thebaïde, do...	11.11	5.401	6.216	10939.0	1 33 00
	Heptanome, do...	5.55	10.8	12.45	21912.0	3 6 36
Olympie.....	Stadium .....	600	0.1	0.115	202.4	0 1 48
Roman.....	Milliarium .....	75	0.8	0.921	1620.96	0 13 48
Jewish.....	Milliarium .....	100	0.017	0.019	33.73	0 0 24
Jewish Sabbath	Day's Journey....	104.20	0.575	0.663	1013.37	0 8 38

\* The Verst of the Northern and Western Frontier is 104 to the Degree, but on the Turkish side it assimilates with its measures, viz. 88.89 to the Degree.

The Peak of Teneriffe, or Pico de Teyde, is a famous Volcanic Mountain on the south of the Island, Latitude 28° 16' 5" N., Longitude 16° 39' 0" W.; height above the Ocean, 12,182 feet.

"I may add that while with the army I always carried with me a pocket sextant chronometer and an artificial horizon, which I have had round the world. I took altitudes of the sun when a halt in the march

permitted, and obtained the true time. When we got to Toulouse, I went to the Observatory, and found the time agreed to within five seconds. In this way I kept the time of the army.

“On my return from America, the late Major-General Sir Manby Power and the late Lord Kean informed me that they had written to the Duke of Wellington at Brussels, offering themselves for employment in the army which he was forming for Waterloo. His Grace replied that he should be very happy to comply with their request, but he could hold out no promise to them until Sir Thomas Brisbane had received the Division which he preferred. This I learned from the above-named Generals, but the Duke never mentioned it to me himself.

“I was indebted to His Grace for many kindnesses of which I never heard till long after, and that not from himself. It was he that procured for me the appointment to the government of New South Wales from Lord Bathurst, then Colonial Minister, and spontaneously the Duke told him that he would be responsible for me.

“In respect to the religious character and habits of the Duke of Wellington, I may relate that while firmly attached to the Church of England, he had the most unsectarian regard for the religious convictions of others. From the beginning of our personal acquaintance, he remembered the Sabbath, and embraced every occasion of public worship both for himself and for the army. It is well known that while commander-in-chief he carried the regulation that while every soldier should on the Lord's day go to church, he was at perfect freedom to choose which. The following incident is worth recording. When in India, an officer, dining at the mess where Sir Arthur presided, was sporting his infidel sentiments. Wishing to change the conversation, he said, ‘S—, did you ever read Paley's Evidences?’ The reply was in the negative. ‘Well, then,’ said Sir Arthur, ‘you had better read that book before you talk in the way you are doing.’ The occurrence passed away, and the conversation was soon forgotten; but the reference to Paley's work led Colonel S— to inquire after it, and having obtained a copy, he read it with the most serious attention. He rose from its perusal with the fullest conviction of the falsehood of the system which he had formerly adopted, and of the Divine origin of

Christianity. But he did not stop here. He was determined to examine the book itself, which claims to be the Word of God, which he soon saw and felt to be a revelation from Him. The result was that he cordially received the Redeemer, having seen and felt his need of him; believing in Jesus, he became a Christian not in name only, but in deed and in truth. All his words and actions, in so far as I saw him, were in accordance with this incident.

“As for me, his Grace was kind to the last. I had applied for a commission for the son of an old friend; the application reached him at Walmer Castle on the 13th September 1852; the late Lord Raglan’s letter to me granting it was dated the 14th, the very day on which the illustrious warrior exchanged this world, I trust, for a glorious eternity.”





50 Geo Str Edinburgh

MAKERSTOUN HOUSE, ROXBURGHSHIRE

FRANCIS 1841

## CHAPTER VIII.

HIS MARRIAGE—BIRTH, LIFE, AND DEATH OF HIS TWO DAUGHTERS AND TWO SONS.

SIR THOMAS was favoured by Divine Providence, during the comparative leisure afforded him before setting out to the onerous and honourable post of Governor of New South Wales, to be united by marriage in November 1819, to a lady in every respect worthy of him, and qualified to be his helpmeet in all the arduous duties and undertakings in which he has borne the chief and distinguished part. This was ANNA MARIA, the eldest surviving daughter and heiress of Sir Henry Hay Makdougall, of Makerstoun, Baronet. Heartily the honourable Baronet delights to relate that this union, by the blessing of his covenant God, that sets the solitary in families, has been the source of exquisite gladness—gladness alone. Elegant in manners and appearance, possessed of refined taste and a vigorous intellect, ennobled by Christian principle and a benevolent disposition, Lady Brisbane has found her chief enjoyment in the retirement of home and the duties of domestic life. In Australia, elsewhere, everywhere, whatever of service the General has been called to perform, or of suffering to undergo, she has been at his side, doubling all his joys and more than halving all his sorrows. Such is the testimony which on every fit occasion he is forward to bear. Often the aged soldier declares that all the intercourse of their married life has been so free of “domestic jars and matrimonial strife,” that neither needs to care though it were published at the market-place.

The following extract, relating to this auspicious event, is from a letter from Sir Walter Scott to his son Walter, contained in vol. vi. p. 152 of Lockhart's *Life of Scott*:—

“ EDINBURGH, 13th November 1819.

“ DEAR WALTER,— . . . We had a visit from a very fine fellow indeed at Abbotsford, Sir Thomas Brisbane, who long commanded a brigade in the Peninsula. He is very scientific, but bores no one with it, being at the same time a well-informed man on all subjects, and particularly alert in his own profession, and willing to talk about what he has seen. Sir Harry Hay Makdougall, whose eldest daughter he is to marry, brought him to Abbotsford on a sort of wedding, as we are cousins according to the old fashion of country kin—Beardie, of whom Sir Harry has a beautiful picture, being a son of an Isabel Makdougall, who was, I fancy, grand-aunt to Sir Henry.—I remain, your affectionate father,

“ WALTER SCOTT.”

[*Beardie* was the name given by the child to one of the family portraits at Abbotsford.]

The prolonged years of Sir Thomas, after such a life of vicissitude and toil, under God, are to be ascribed to his lady's unobtrusive graces and ceaseless assiduities for his comfort ; while, in her success in cheering the evening of his days and ministering to him amid his infirmities, her own feeble health is promoted and even her life prolonged. Lovely they have been, lovely they are, in their lives—in their death may they not be divided ! Their daily life, their quiet works of well-doing in their peaceful and paternal seat at Brisbane, prove what a heaven upon earth Christianity in any rank can create. No person of a rightly constituted mind and heart, on viewing the scene, can fail to pray that the years of their lives here may yet be many.

The fruits of this auspicious union were two sons and two daughters, of whom the eldest, a daughter, was born at Cork, while Sir Thomas commanded the forces in the south-west of Ireland. The second daughter and the eldest son were born at Government House, New South Wales, while Sir Thomas administered the supreme government, both civil and military, in that colony. The youngest, a son, was born at sea. The dates of their births are here given :—

1. ISABELLA MARIA MAKDOUGALL, born 27th August 1821.
2. ELEANOR AUSTRALIA MAKDOUGALL, born 7th April 1823.
3. THOMAS AUSTRALIUS MAKDOUGALL, born 24th August 1824.
4. HENRY MAKDOUGALL, born at sea, off Rio de Janeiro, on the voyage home, 2d March, died 26th May 1826.

On the voyage homewards, which was very untoward, they were driven by the winds on the farthest coasts of South America. Here, Lady Makdougall Brisbane, wasted by sea-sickness, and weakened by the sudden alternation of temperature from the climate of Australia, and exposed to all the discomforts of a ship, gave birth to her youngest child, and second son, on the 2d March 1826. The vessel lay off Rio de Janeiro. On the sixth day, the chief English chaplain at that port came on board and baptized him, and he was named Henry Makdougall. The exercises of the parents, at such a time, before God, may be conceived from the extracts of the father's journal, given at page 48, on occasion of the baptism of the brother. The child, from the testimony of all on board, was so angelic in his beauty as to indicate that heaven rather than earth was the infant's destined home. Earnestly did the mother pray that the son of her sorrow, her Benoni, might become her Benjamin, the son of her right hand; but He, whose he was, had determined that he was soon to be with him, for notwithstanding every effort of skill and affection the child died on the 26th May, in less than three months from his birth. The afflicted and bereaved mother endured unutterable anguish, and continued a source of anxiety and solicitude to her tender-hearted and loving husband. Happily she was spared to him; but it is questionable if she has ever been so strong, after so many privations, and such a trial to her maternal heart.

The other members of this happy family all grew up to maturity, enlivening and enlightening the home of the gallant General and his Lady, whose delight it was to train up their children in the way in which they should go. Nor were their prayers and tender assiduities in vain. The graces and gifts that adorned them were the theme of admiration to all around Brisbane and Makerstoun. Like that Saviour whom they loved and trusted, and who became more and more to the end "all their salvation

and all their desire," they grew in grace as they grew in days and years, and in favour both with God and man. Often did the humble and grateful dependants around, the poor and the needy, the sick and the dying, declare that such Christ-like grace and large-hearted benevolence,—such continual works of well-doing, proved them less pertaining to this world than to a better, so that they did not seem destined to be long here. And so it was. The memories of the best families, both civil and military, in and around Cork, have proved how fresh and fragrant is the remembrance of the image of infant loveliness and attraction stamped upon their hearts by the beautiful form of the eldest born ; and perfectly corresponds with the testimony, spontaneously borne by the most refined and elevated in rank and Christian attainments, of the families around both Brisbane and Makerstoun, and who were on terms of intimacy with her to the close of her short, but bright and beautiful course. Isabella Maria died at Brisbane, 26th February 1849.

Thomas, the only surviving son, had early entered the army, holding a commission in the gallant 34th, of which the General is colonel. During the summer after his sister's death he withdrew that he might be at home with his bereaved and sorrowing parents. Towards autumn he joined his cousin, Sir George Scott Douglas, Bart. of Springwood Park, who had also held a commission in the same gallant corps, on a visit to the regiment, then stationed at Gibraltar. They sailed out in Sir George's own yacht. During the time of his sojourn, urgent efforts were being made, now happily successful, for the erection of a Presbyterian church on that far-famed rock of the sea, into which the young man entered for worship, after the manner of his father. He soon became the personal friend of the Rev. W. Tasker, the Presbyterian minister officiating there at that period, and sedulously waited on his ministry. Many were the walks and Christian conversations they enjoyed together. Mr. Tasker never can forget, that one calm summer evening, while seated together by the new-made grave of Sir John Home, a young naval officer, a branch of another of the oldest families in Ayrshire, and who had also suddenly died at Gibraltar—the young man deplored how little of good he had yet done—how unworthy of such parents and sisters and aunts he had been—how he ardently prayed and purposed on returning home that he might walk with God, and live so as

to insure the hope of being at length with his beautiful and sainted sister, and his lovely infant brother, and so as to be remembered when "life's fitful fever should be over." He had arranged to return with the minister in the first steamer passing the Rock from India for England in November. The day came. The minister hastened at early morn to his quarters to say that the steamer from the East was in the bay, that there were berths for them all, and that in the afternoon they should sail. Mr. Brisbane attempted to leave bed, and in the effort nearly fainted. His friend was glad to help him to lie down again. On lying down he complained of extreme pain in his back and throughout his frame. Both fondly hoped that it might only be a severe cold. After prayer together the minister ran for the medical officer of the regiment, who declared what they both feared, that, while he hoped it was but a passing illness, yet it was not safe for Mr. Brisbane to sail that day. They parted, Mr. Brisbane declaring that the first town in Scotland in which he should halt, if spared to come by the next steamer, would be Edinburgh, and the first house that minister's. And so they reluctantly but hopefully bade each other good-bye; little did either expect, that moment, that they were never to meet till at the judgment-seat. It was what is called Rock fever under which he suffered; and though everything that skill and friendship could do was done on the part of Sir George, Captain Roche, and other officers and friends, in nine days thereafter, on the 15th November 1849, Mr. Thomas Australius Makdougall Brisbane breathed his last. His remains were brought home, and deposited in the family burying-ground waiting the resurrection morn.

There remained now to the sorrowing and bereaved parents only one child, their younger daughter, Eleanor Australia, the beloved of her parents, and no less of her departed sister and brother, and all who had the privilege of her personal friendship. Alas! in the inscrutable purposes of our wise and gracious God, her health also declined. But while her outward person perished, "her inward man was renewed day by day." The presentiment of approaching departure to her home, not death, was upon her. Not long before the close of her earthly sojourn—so calm, so peacefully patient, and so manifestly heavenward—she said to the compiler of this, that "she desired rather to depart and be with

Christ." Her desires were all fulfilled. "Her Saviour," she said, "had loved, and so loved, the members of that family, of whom she was the only one remaining, as to take them to himself. He had answered her every prayer. He loved her, for she ardently loved him. She knew her beloved father and mother were resting in the Lord Jesus as their righteousness and strength, and would in due time follow; and she was ready to go home." No means were left untried by the loving and tender-hearted parents for her recovery and restoration. Change of air and scene was obtained, till at length they sojourned at Ventnor, Isle of Wight. Here the sainted young lady, ripe for "the better land," breathed the atmosphere of heaven, as it were, on the mountains of Beulah. Christian fellowship was here abundant and precious, and she particularly prized the ministrations of Dr. Blackwood, and other Christian friends—invalids there like herself—at that time. Waiting patiently till her change came, she calmly and in peace breathed her spirit into the hands of her Saviour and her God, on the 9th April 1852. The precious remains were also brought to Brisbane, and deposited in the family mausoleum, sleeping in Jesus. The sorrowing parents returned, from the side of the deathbed of their last surviving child, to their desolate home with still more desolate hearts. Nevertheless, though cast down, they were not utterly destroyed. By these things do men live, and in these things is the life of the spirit. Though sorrowing, yet always rejoicing, they were—they are. They open not their mouth, because the Lord hath done it. As a poor and plain Scotch Christian woman quaintly expressed it—one who had seen affliction, too, and who wept and prayed for them—"The Lord in mercy has taken home all their flitting ere he take themselves." But into the seerey of such sorrow we do not further intrude. The heart knoweth its own bitterness, and a stranger intermeddleth not with its joy. The Friend that sticketh closer than a brother knows them, and they know Him.

The inscriptions on the marble slabs, erected over the mortal forms of the departed family, peacefully resting in hope, being gathered to their fathers in the ancient burying-ground of Largs, will be found in the APPENDIX. Affection and truth have dictated the lines, for they are not more beautiful than true.

## CHAPTER IX.

SIR THOMAS, FROM 1821 TO 1825, IS GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF NEW SOUTH WALES—HIS RULE, REFORMATORY, PEACEFUL, AND ECONOMICAL—EXTRACTS—LETTER—ADDRESSES ON LEAVING.

THE gallant General relates with his characteristic raciness, that his Grace the Duke of Wellington and he were walking arm in arm one day in Paris, and conversing on the idleness to which many of them would be doomed on the reducing of the army to the peace establishment, when Sir Thomas remarked that he should gladly serve His Majesty in New South Wales, if no one were displaced to make way for him. Not many days after, the noble Duke, meeting him on the street, with a hearty and familiar laugh said, "Do you know, Sir Thomas, what Lord Bathurst"—then Secretary for the Colonies—"writes me this morning?—That he wants one that will govern not the heavens but the earth in New South Wales." Sir Thomas replied warmly, "Your Grace can testify, all the years during which I have had the honour to serve under you in the Peninsula, whether I have ever suffered my scientific predilections to interfere with my military duties?" "*Certainly not; certainly not!*" replied his Grace; "I shall write his Lordship that, on the contrary, you were never in one instance absent or late, morning, noon, or night, and that in addition you kept the time of the army;" a most important provision, it need scarcely be added, in military movements. Shortly afterwards Sir Thomas was appointed Governor of New South Wales. He entered on the arduous duties of this office in 1821, and continued to administer the government there for upwards of four years. In a new colony, and a penal settlement Sir Thomas found abundant employment for his active and benevolent spirit, and right heartily he entered on a career no less brilliant in the arts of peace than his course had been in the arts of war.

His earliest thoughts were for the good of the convicts, in connexion with the cultivation of the country, and the elevation and material progress of the colonists. He was the first to discontinue the profitless and harassing punishments then prevailing, which conferred advantage upon none, and which were effective only in irritating instead of reforming the criminal. In place of the treadmill, he set them to turn the millstone, and grind their own meal. As the great want of the colonists was labour, he hired out convicts with tickets of leave, according to character and skill. Delinquency forfeited the leave granted, and reduced the individual to his former degrading confinement; whereas success not only enriched the Colonial Treasury and the settler, but also the convict, who shared a fair portion of the fruit of his labour. When Sir Thomas entered on office only 25,000 acres of land had been cleared, while, under this process, in the course of five years, not only was the Government at home saved the expense of keeping the convicts, but, in addition, he left the colony with 54,000 acres cleared. In short, not only did the colony from the period of his administration, under the blessing of God, spring up into that ever-increasing prosperity that distinguishes it, but a lesson is here afforded to social reformers, and an answer furnished to the frequent question, What are we to do with our criminal population?

On his arrival, he found the breed of horses very inferior and sadly mixed. In consequence, he took measures, at his own expense, to import the finest and best bred horses, of the pure Arabian kind, both from Mocha and Calcutta. In a few years Australian horses would have borne comparison with those of Great Britain, and finer horses than those of the cavalry forces of New South Wales, at present, are nowhere to be found. Before he assumed the government, cavalry horses had been brought to the colony from India.

Besides, he introduced the cultivation of the vine plant, the sugar-cane, the cotton plant, tea, and tobacco. For all of these material improvements, he received the grateful acknowledgments of all ranks and conditions among the colonists at his departure, and a district of the colony not the least prosperous bears the name of BRISBANE.

In all his plans religion had its due, its supreme place. The most

perfect toleration was established. Encouragement was given to Bible, tract, and missionary societies, and as might be expected the Wesleyan missionaries were looked upon with peculiar regard, not only for their intrinsic merits, but also for the relation in which his sainted aunt stood to them—an aunt whom he loved so well, and whose memory and Christian example have ever been to him sweet and precious.

The following extracts from his journal, noted down at that time, will reveal his inner life, and the source of his wisdom and zeal, strength and success :—

*“ September 1823.*

“ Have had many difficulties and obstacles with which to contend, arising principally from the male population. In as far as Christianity prevails, I have recently received the highest approbation from all ranks and denominations, to all my measures, especially the scheme for the profitable employment of the convicts. But what is that compared to the “ Divine favour, which is life ?” I claim no merit to myself, but ascribe all success to that grace which is, I trust, the spring of all my actions ; and as far as I can feel assured that they are approved and accepted in Christ, I feel little concern about how man in his weakness may decide. I can avow before the Author of my being, whom I now call to witness on this occasion, that I have never done an act whilst here, which I considered displeasing to God or unjust to my fellow-man, and have never allowed myself, in any one instance, to be misled by representations or swayed by prejudice, but have on all occasions applied to the throne of grace that I might be directed by unerring wisdom. What reason have I to be thankful for innumerable mercies vouchsafed unto me, while exposed to thousands of dangers from without, and a constant warfare from within ! If I were not humbled into the dust, the very devils would exclaim against me for ingratitude. I am conscious that I have no selfish wish to gratify, and desire only to be an engine in the Divine hand for the temporal good and the eternal welfare of all in the colony, and that I may be refined as gold in order to be made perfect and complete in all the will of God, so that I may finish my course with joy, as I believe our God is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Sir Thomas takes pleasure in relating what seems a good fruit of the ordinances of Divine appointment, that on a certain Sabbath, while listening to the gospel preached by the excellent chaplain, he was instantaneously stirred to take steps for the profitable and pleasurable employment of the convicts. With his energetic spirit, to resolve was to act. The secret of his strength manifestly was a constant acknowledgment of the Lord in all his ways, while "all his expectation was from him." Next day he laid down his plans as follows :—He formed the 4000 convicts into gangs of 20 each, with an overseer or chief. He made proclamation to the colonists who had land to clear that these were at their service, on such terms as they mutually agreed on. No payment in money meantime was demanded. But it was stipulated that of the produce the colonists were to put into the Government stores so many bushels per acre, according to the difficulty of clearing the land, and the ultimate and permanent value of the soil. This was the commencement of the *ticket-of-leave system*, under which, for a given period, according to character, the convict was free within defined bounds in the colony to hire himself, and enjoy the fruits of his labour. Those who observe and deplore the routine and red-tapeism of human nature, and who know that everywhere there is a dislike to reform, will anticipate that his Excellency found many to oppose, at the outset, who should have helped ; though, when benefits and blessings accrued, all opposition died away, and all hailed the good fruits of the change.

To this, the following entry in the journal manifestly refers :—

"1823, *Sept.* 28.—Men's ways in this colony are certainly not as other men's. May I have ever the comfortable reflection that, when the actions of all men are weighed in the balance of eternal doom, mine will not be found altogether wanting ! Here, and now, may I have that peace of mind our Saviour promised—a peace which the world can neither give nor take away.

"*2d Oct.*—I have felt it profitable to have been in the house of God this day, and appreciated the privileges of intercession at the Throne of Grace.

"*9th Nov.*—Had inexpressible satisfaction in sparing the lives of twenty-six fellow-creatures condemned to death by the late criminal court ; more

particularly I pray on behalf of Duffy, sixty-two years of age, ordered for execution last Thursday, but whom I freely forgave. O Lord, as I freely forgive, may I, through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ, be as freely forgiven all the sins of my life. Grant that this lenity may be sanctified to the criminals, and if I may have been the instrument of saving *one soul* from death, that I may have that soul for my reward! This I shall consider a rich recompense. Oh, the unspeakable value of an immortal soul!

“28th Dec.—This day received the memorial of our Saviour’s dying love for us, and that I might be a worthy partaker, I renewed my covenant to be the Lord’s to all eternity ere I approached the Holy Table. Lamented much that my dear wife could not be with me from indisposition; but as man and wife are considered in Scripture one flesh, may He that atoned for me, and whose death I remember as the ground of my pardon, include her with me. Fill us with perfect brotherly love, and goodwill to all mankind, and with unbounded faith that Thou art able, in the twinkling of an eye, to free us of all sin, both of omission and commission, and to make us perfect as the driven snow.

“1824, 7th March.—This day had the comfortable reflection of a worthy partaking of the Holy Eucharist, along with my dear wife. My faith was in most lively exercise; the blessings obtained by the atoning death of my Lord, and thereby applied by the Holy Spirit to me, are too great for the mind of man to conceive, or his ungrateful heart to acknowledge. Indeed there are as few competent to estimate the blessings arising from this Divine institution, as there are few who can form an adequate idea of eternity. Oh, that I myself could sufficiently appreciate the wonderful love of our Saviour in dying to redeem lost sinners like me, and that I might receive fresh strength to glorify his name. I did not venture to receive these holy memorials till I had taken a review of my past life, and strictly examined myself. When I compare my thoughts, words, and actions, with God’s holy law, I have the sentence of death in myself, and gladly receive the Lord Jesus as my righteousness and strength. After the review I could discern no latent sin to which my heart cleaves, therefore I considered I had not received them unworthily; and taking hold

of the precious promises held out in Christ to all that in him approach his table, I do now feel in a fitter state to leave the world if called upon, as I daily care less for the world and all its vanities.

“ On a retrospect of the past year I am thankful to reflect that I have made progress in the Divine life, particularly towards the latter part of it. I have suffered many internal conflicts, and been exposed to many dangers from wicked men. I forget at times that these trials are sent by God to try my faith, and that it is quite as necessary to *suffer* as to *do* the will of God. My hope is, that in his mercy he will not lay on me more than I am able to bear.

“ *8th October.*—I have had great reason for gratitude to God for conferring on me the unspeakable privilege of admitting my only son, then named *Thomas Australius*, to a participation of the benefits belonging to the children of the disciples of Christ by baptism. May the Lord, of his infinite mercy, grant to him and me that justification in which ‘ He freely pardons all our sin, accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone ;’ and that we may enjoy that sanctification which may daily conform us more to his image. ‘ Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men ;’ for ‘ Great and marvellous are thy works, O Lord God Almighty ; how unsearchable are thy judgments, thy ways are past finding out.’ May one and all of my household, particularly my own family, be impressed with the Divine and saving Spirit into the image of Christ, that we may know that living and dying we are his ; that life is passed in his constant presence, and that death resigns us into his merciful disposal.

“ 1825, *April 23d.*—This day had the privilege of renewing my baptismal vows at the table of the Lord, and I am thankful in the progress which, I trust, I have made in the Divine life since my last approach,—my faith sensibly augmented, and saving grace, I trust, increased.”

Such will be accepted as sufficient evidences that Sir Thomas lived at this time in the fear of the Lord all the day long, while the careful discernor of distinctions, and the reader of the Memoir of D’Arcy, Lady

Maxwell of Poloc, will trace in the phraseology employed, how large a part she had had, by her life and her labours, in forming the Christian character during his infancy of her favourite nephew.

The arrival of Sir Thomas at New South Wales, as Governor, was specially providential and opportune to the Rev. Samuel Marsden, whose trials as senior chaplain at the formation of the colony, arising from causes similar to those of Sir Thomas, are narrated with great force in his Memoir, in which the compiler does not fail, as will appear from the following extracts, to do justice to the Christian principles that characterized the government of Sir Thomas :—

“On the arrival of Sir Thomas Brisbane, in 1821, to assume the government of New South Wales, Mr. Marsden immediately waited upon him, when he received the assurance of his countenance and support, not only as Colonial chaplain, but as the representative of the great missionary work going forward in New Zealand. Such encouragement was opportune : he thanked God and took courage.”—P. 157.

“His Excellency Sir Thomas Brisbane was not slow to perceive the worth of services such as those which Mr. Marsden had rendered to the colony, and gave him substantial tokens of his confidence and sympathy.”—P. 163, *Memoirs of Rev. S. Marsden*, 1858.

The following letter, from the Rev. William Bedford, at that period chief dignitary of the Church of England in New South Wales, will show in what manner Sir Thomas conducted himself towards the Bible and Tract Society in the infant colony. It appears, indeed, that Sir Thomas founded the latter :—

“PARSONAGE, HOBARTOWN, 25th February 1824.

“DEAR SIR THOMAS,—I beg leave gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency’s kind and benevolent letter, together with the sum of Twenty pounds,—Ten pounds as your Excellency’s annual subscription to our Branch Bible Society, and Ten pounds to the Tract Society, which your Excellency understood to have been founded at this place.

“The Tract Society has not yet begun its operations ; but your Excel-

lency's liberal subscription will be the foundation of it. A meeting will be held the ensuing month to form the Society.

"Will your Excellency permit me to present my most grateful thanks for your liberal support to both societies? I trust that the exceeding great and precious promises contained in that blessed book circulated by the Society, supported by your patronage and liberal subscriptions, will be the consolation of you and yours through time, and your reward in eternity.—I have the honour to be, &c.

"WILLIAM BEDFORD."

The next is an Address from the Wesleyan Missionaries, then labouring there—a branch of the Church of Christ never behind in carrying the Gospel into "the regions beyond:"—

"TO HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL SIR THOMAS BRISBANE, Knight Commander of the most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Territory of New South Wales and its Dependancies, &c.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Wesleyan Missionaries of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, beg leave to approach your Excellency on the eve of your retirement from the administration of this territory, with the assurances of our profound respect for your person and government, and with the acknowledgments of our gratitude for the numerous favours which, as a religious body, we have been so happy as to receive at your Excellency's hands. While others are paying a just tribute to the wisdom and fidelity with which your Excellency has presided at the helm of civil affairs, it is a duty more appropriate to the sacred office we sustain, to record how highly we appreciate your firmness in guarding from invasion the hallowed rights of conscience, and your assiduity in promoting those vital interests of the community which immeasurably transcend all the fleeting concerns of the present life.

"On your Excellency's assuming the functions of your exalted office, we ventured to express the confidence with which we anticipated from so

enlightened a ruler, the inviolate preservation of all our immunities as British subjects, and of all our privileges as a Christian society, and it is with unmingled gratification that we can now compare the images of our hope with the realities of our experience. The whole tenor of your administration has realized, and individual acts of your liberality have considerably surpassed, our most sanguine expectations. But our gratitude is not limited by the benefits conferred upon our own communion, we are but instruments in a work which comprehends in its vast design whatever can improve the condition of the family of man ; and our estimate of your Excellency's support is guided not by its subserviency to the narrow interests of a sect, but by its enlargement of our means for prosecuting the ulterior objects we propose. As subjects, we desire the prosperity of our country ; as Christians, we are anxious for the moral and eternal welfare of mankind ; and it is manifest that your Excellency, equally with ourselves, has been actuated by the conviction, that nothing is so eminently calculated to promote the prosperity of the State, as that religion which defines and enforces the reciprocal duties of rulers and the ruled ; and that nothing can so effectually raise our fellow-men in the scale of intelligence, usefulness, and felicity, as the sublime principles of our most holy faith.

“ Hence have your personal example and private liberalities, not less than your official influence, been cheerfully and most efficaciously applied to the encouragement of every pious and every benevolent institution. But there is yet another point of view in which we love to contemplate your Excellency's patronage, as a token of your approbation of our spirit and conduct in the discharge of our ministerial duties. There are not wanting at home or abroad, those who accidentally misunderstand, and those who wilfully misrepresent, the designs and operations of Wesleyan Missions, and in some of the colonies, opposition has raised not only its angry voice, but its ruthless arm. We have, however, abundant cause to rejoice, that of these adverse sentiments his Majesty's ministers have at no time partaken. With a generosity which merits our deepest gratitude, they have uniformly interposed their weighty influence to defend and to facilitate our various institutions, satisfied by the test of long experience and reiterated scrutiny, that we are a people characterized by fervent loyalty

to the throne, by conscientious respect for the national hierarchy, and by a disinterested activity in the propagation of the gospel. And from the benignity with which your Excellency has condescended to regard our proceedings under your own government, we venture to infer that they have won your approval, and that, on any future occasion, you will not be averse from adding your decisive testimony to the actual character of our missionary enterprises.

“ We again beg your Excellency’s acceptance of our public thanks for your liberal attentions to the Wesleyan Missions in this hemisphere—thanks in which we are persuaded the Executive Committee of our Society in London, together with all other members of our extensive communion, will most cordially participate.

“ For the safe arrival of your Excellency and family in your native land—for the preservation of your life through a long series of happy, useful, and honourable years—and for your eventual admission to the glories of another and a better world, we unite in offering our earnest supplications to that Power by whom kings reign and princes decree justice.

“ GEORGE ERSKINE.

SAMUEL LEIGH.

BENJAMIN CARNOSSO, *by proxy* G. E.

RALPH MANSFIELD.

WILLIAM HORTON.

JOHN HUTCHINSON, *by proxy* G. E.

JOHN THOMAS.

“ SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES,  
November 8, 1825.”

The next is from the Agricultural Society :—

“ TO HIS EXCELLENCY, &c., &c.

“ SIR,—On the departure of your Excellency from the colony, the members of the Agricultural Society request permission to approach your Excellency with their unfeigned expressions of duty and attachment.

“ The Society was established during your administration, has grown

up under your auspices, and from its commencement your Excellency has been not only its official but its real patron, therefore the members have great pleasure in expressing their warm feelings of gratitude for the obligations they lie under to your Excellency, for your liberality towards the establishment both in your public and in your private capacity.

“ During your Excellency’s administration, the agricultural prosperity of the colony has greatly improved, and although much of this improvement arose from the natural progress of a young colony, yet much also has resulted from various wise measures adopted by your Excellency, and particularly from regulations concerning assigned servants, which, together with clearing gangs, have laid the foundation of future plenty to the colony, and of permanent prosperity to the settlers individually.

“ In consequence of the enlightened views of your Excellency, the efficient agricultural boundaries of the colony have been greatly extended. Hunter’s River, from a mere penal settlement, has become a flourishing agricultural establishment, and Port Macquarie is rising into such importance, as to promise at no distant period to follow its example.

“ The establishment of sugar plantations at the River Hastings would alone entitle your Excellency to our lasting gratitude, as we may anticipate being supplied from that quarter with an article of primary necessity, which we are now obliged to purchase from distant colonies.

“ It would be injustice to your Excellency to overlook the measures you have taken to introduce and to promote the cultivation of the vine, the Sea Island cotton plant, and tobacco. As your Excellency was aware that much of the rising importance of the colony depended upon its capabilities being ascertained and made public, from the commencement of your administration, you have been the warm and liberal patron of discovery, whether made by public or by private individuals. The consequence of which is, instead of being hemmed in as we were a few years ago by the forbidden and almost sacred stream of the Nepean, which enclosed a narrow and generally barren tract of country, a boundless extent of rich land is now opened to the industrious and enterprising settler, sufficient indeed to provide the means of comfort and happiness for the whole surplus population of Great Britain for ages to come.

“ Notwithstanding the important advantages above enumerated, and which are only a few of those which have accrued to us during your Excellency’s administration, it is but justice to add, that they fall far short of what we feel confident we should have derived in future from your Excellency’s government. These pleasing expectations your Excellency cannot now realize, as you leave us at a time when, from your acquired experience and knowledge of the real circumstances of the colony, you had become more fully capable of carrying your good intentions into effect, and of raising a superstructure upon the foundation which you yourself had laid.

“ This circumstance, whilst it induces us to view your departure with the more regret, warms our affections towards your Excellency. In taking our leave, we beg to assure your Excellency that you will long live in our remembrance, and that our best wishes will ever accompany your Excellency and amiable family.

“ ALEXR. BERRY.

SAND. WALHTONECRESS.

*Joint-Secretaries by order of a Special Meeting.*

“ SYDNEY, 9th November 1825.”

Also from the general inhabitants he received the following most satisfactory address, honourable alike to them that spontaneously presented it, and him that received it :—

“ To His EXCELLENCY, &c., &c.

“ We, his Majesty’s most loyal and dutiful subjects, the gentry, merchants, landholders, farmers, traders, and other free inhabitants of New South Wales, assembled in Sydney at a public meeting duly convened, and presided at by the sheriff of the colony, beg leave to approach your Excellency with the most sincere expression of our respect and esteem, and, on the eve of your departure from among us, to present our earnest wishes for the health and happiness of your Excellency and family, and for your and their safe arrival in the land of your fathers.

“ The period of your Excellency’s government has been too short to permit you to give complete effect to those benignant views which we know have animated your breast, but which, in a society composed of such

different orders of men, required the ripened experience of a more protracted administration to develop and display. When our most gracious Sovereign committed this important but singularly constructed colony to your Excellency's guidance, the mother country had arrived at the crisis of those sufferings which had arisen from overwhelming taxation, and a convulsed and disjointed commerce, forced into new channels by the greatest political innovations Europe ever experienced. His Majesty's ministers felt it to be their imperious duty at that arduous juncture to attend to the cry of a famished, unemployed people, and to adopt, in the administration of the colonies, the most rigid economy.

“Under these unfavourable circumstances did your Excellency enter upon your government ; yet we can truly say that during the four years you have presided over us we have enjoyed three of the greatest political blessings, a mild, an impartial, and a firm administration. Your Excellency's government for mildness has not been equalled since the foundation of the colony. For impartiality it has been pre-eminently distinguished. Its firmness has been exemplified by your Excellency having never, in the distribution of the patronage of the Crown, or in framing new laws or ordinances, allowed yourself to know the high from the low, the emigrant from the emancipist ;—all orders of the people have been equally protected and equally recognised, and no temptation has ever caused your Excellency to swerve from the straight path of simple rectitude, or to give one class of his Majesty's free subjects an undue preference above another.

“Our late revered governor, Major-General Macquarie, giving vent to the impulse of his benevolence, raised British subjects in bondage in this colony, from an odious slavery at once to the feelings of men—a slavery as foreign to the intentions of our late most venerated sovereign King George III. as to those of his present most gracious Majesty King George IV. The suddenness of that change might not have been without its inconveniences ; but your Excellency's distribution of tickets of leave, upon a system which excludes venality and insures a final reward to real merit—merit, too, of that species the most to be encouraged in such men, namely, length of service to one master, has restored this unfortunate class

of colonists to a proper feeling, and has effected more towards their discipline and reformation than had ever been previously accomplished, and we are *confident* that our most gracious Sovereign will not consider this as the least important characteristic of your Excellency's government.

“The unlooked-for emigration to these colonies of that excess of population, wealth, and intelligence which impeded the renovation of the mother country during her late singular and trying struggle, proved the greatest support to this community which it ever experienced from a single cause. The reduction which, upon your Excellency's arrival, took place in the expenditure of our commissariat department, and which was then anticipated by all as the certain forerunner of general bankruptcy, was superseded and neutralized in its dreaded effects, by the more than equal expenditure consequent on this influx of new settlers ; and contrary to universal expectation, our agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing interests progressed with a rapidity which happily confounded the calculation of the most experienced colonist, notwithstanding those partial disasters which were produced by the substitution of Spanish dollars for the sterling circulation, which preceded them. Both the settlers in the country and the inhabitants of the towns continued to prosper and to accumulate capital. It is due to your Excellency to state that this general prosperity was accelerated by sundry reductions of imposts on raw produce exportable from the colony ; but this important branch, equally with all other branches of our internal economy, requires, as your Excellency is fully aware, revision and improvement, for which we are looking to the honourable the Council of the colony with patient expectation.

“It is a duty which we owe your Excellency to thank you for the readiness with which you opened to fair and legitimate discussion the columns of the Government Gazette, immediately after your arrival in the colony ; and the cordiality with which your Excellency witnessed the subsequent establishment of a free press, convinced us of the sincerity of your former professions, and that you ever had our real freedom and prosperity at heart.

“While we are bidding your Excellency farewell, we feel that we can entirely rely upon your watchfulness to embrace all opportunities

which may offer on your return of suggesting to His Majesty's Government the pressing necessity which exists for the immediate establishment in this colony, in all their plenitude, of those two fundamental principles of the British constitution—Trial by Jury, and Taxation by Representation. We are not ignorant that upon both these subjects your Excellency's opinion has long been accordant with the general opinion of the colony. Your Excellency cannot but have felt the inconvenience of directing the efforts of a free people, left at large to guide themselves by the analogies and recollections, as it were, of English law and English usage, in the absence of their ancient free institutions—a people whose good sense, moral feeling, and patriotism alone have prevented them from a louder expression of their impatience, when their English prejudices have been outraged by the unavoidable vexations of a government so anti-British in its structure and operation, that it would be difficult to designate it by a just name.

“ With respect to trial by jury, the magistracy of Sydney have already expressed the voice of the people, in their answer to the patriotic interrogatory put to them by your Excellency ; and as to that other great first principle of the British constitution, taxation by representation, we are aware how much your Excellency has needed the assistance of a deliberative assembly, which, to prevent the influence of party faction, ought to consist at least of one hundred members—a number which our population can readily furnish of men in every way qualified to discharge this duty to their fellow-colonists. The inhabitants of New South Wales, composed exclusively of British born subjects, and their descendants, now amount to nearly fifty thousand—a population already exceeding the native white population of the colonies in the West Indies. As far as good morals are necessary for the enjoyment of enlarged civil rights, your Excellency's extensive acquaintance with the other colonies must have convinced you that we excel them all in this great particular. The orderly state of Sydney, although a seaport, the great attention and encouragement which schools and religious societies receive from all classes, and the peace and order of our streets on the Sabbath-day, all demonstrate that the seeds of religion and good morals have taken deep root in Australia.

“ We will not, however, hide it from the representative of our most gracious Sovereign, that there are colonists of rank and wealth here, and of very great influence at home, who are inimical to the establishment in New South Wales of the British constitution. These persons were also unfriendly to the late substitution of English law in the place of the arbitrary regulations of preceding governors ; but the history of every institution which has eminently blessed mankind will show the impolicy of withholding a great and general benefit until those for whom it is calculated shall be unanimous in their petition to obtain it. The very goodness of a thing will of course be considered its greatest objection by those who are conscious that their own aggrandizement is mainly attributable to the absence of that good. The number of such persons, however, is not considerable, and we trust that your Excellency will make it known to His Majesty’s Government, that nothing can render the colony so soon independent of pecuniary aid from the British Treasury, as a House of Assembly elected by free householders and settlers ; nor can anything so soon as trial by jury, universally diffused, put an end to those political dissensions which originated with the late judge of the supreme court, were strengthened by the partial investigation and erroneous report of the late commissioner of inquiry, and are kept alive by the misconceptions and misguidance which our lately appointed colonial agent labours under, in consequence of the misrepresentations of that party here with whom he is more immediately connected.

“ Your Excellency has been among us long enough to be satisfied that the great superiority of a popular and deliberative assembly in connexion with a council over a legislative council alone, consists mainly in this, that the members of a council are too elevated in society—too far removed from the habits of humble trade and domestic manufactures, to be at all familiar with those unphilosophical data and ignoble details, without which, however, local laws will not only be impracticable in their operations, but absurd in their nature. Upon great questions of national jurisprudence a council of real statesmen is doubtless desirable ; but in the British colonies the jurisprudence of England being established, a minute acquaintance with the habits and circumstances of the operative classes of the people is all

that is required in the framers of colonial regulations, and such knowledge can only be brought into action for the public weal by an elective assembly.

“ We now most respectfully take our public leave of your Excellency, with the assurance that you will long live in our grateful recollections, and in that of our posterity ; and we sincerely hope that your Excellency may enjoy, in a dignified retirement for many years, that peace and serenity of mind which can hardly fail to follow in the train of an arduous and honourable career, devoted to the service of your country and of mankind.

“ Signed and authenticated according to the resolution of the meeting by me,

“ MACKANIFS,

*Sheriff of the Territory of New South Wales.*”

There are several other addresses, which it has been deemed expedient to insert in the APPENDIX ; they are so good that we cannot entirely leave them out of this volume. Yet what has been given is evidence amply sufficient to warrant the gallant General, on reviewing his life and government, to write as follows :—

“ It was gratifying, on my departure from that important colony, to receive addresses from the most respectable inhabitants and the public functionaries, expressing their regret at my quitting it. I had an opportunity while there, besides, of advancing the interests of science, by founding an Observatory at Paramatta. I carried out with me, at my own expense, two qualified assistants, and the requisite instruments. The Observatory was soon put into a state of active operation ; and it is with great satisfaction I reflect that the catalogue of 9385 stars—the fruits of that Observatory—have been published by the Lords of the Admiralty at the expense of the State. The Government has also attended to the Observatory since that time, and one of my assistants is now in charge of it, prosecuting a continuance of astronomical observations. I need not say that the great difference of meridians between Paramatta and Greenwich, amounting to upwards of ten hours five minutes, renders this Observatory

far more eligible than any other in that hemisphere. In confirmation of this remark I may mention that, in 1822, when Encke's comet was lost in the sun's rays, in its passage through the perihelion in Europe, it was taken up by us, and observations continued on it for several weeks. These were transmitted to Europe, and I had the satisfaction of receiving from Professor Eneke himself, at the meeting of the British Association at Glasgow, his thanks for the observations made at New South Wales on that comet; observations which, he added, enabled him to extend and correct the elements of its orbit. Southern comets have since been observed in New South Wales, and various other important observations have been made on planets, as on other celestial phenomena. The Observatory at Paramatta may now be considered the Greenwich of the southern hemisphere."

All the world knows how this colony has advanced since that period. The discovery of the gold fields, so soon after those of California had been found out—the falling of both into the hands of the Saxon race—and the consequent springtide of emigration thitherward from all lands, as well as from our own, present matter for interesting reflection to the moralist as well as to the politician. The Christian at least will not fail to trace the hand of Divine Providence in sending Sir Thomas beforehand, and the Christian and moral, as well as material, advancement of Australia, is certainly due, in great measure, to the fact that he had administered the government there.

So absolutely unselfish, rather self-forgetting, was the conduct of General Brisbane as governor there, that beyond his official income he expended at least £5000 of his own private means on Australia. Need it be added that in this also he deserves well of his Sovereign and his country?

## CHAPTER X.

## HONOURS CONFERRED ON SIR THOMAS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE.

WHILE in Paris with the army of oecupation, and during these years, which would have been otherwise weary to an active and military spirit, Sir Thomas demonstrated his scientific predilections, and indulged them in a high degree. He became the intimate friend of the leading *savans* of the time, as well as of the most distinguished military men of that brilliant capital. The oecasion of his being elected Corresponding Member of the Institute of France is worthy of record, as well as the fact itself. It was reported one day to General Brisbane that a portion of the allied army threatened to destroy the buildings, &c., of the Institute. Sir Thomas went forth, commanded them to desist, and ordered them to their quarters. Bouvard, the celebrated French astronomer, at their next meeting proposed that the name of Sir Thomas should be added to the honourable roll of membership. There were five candidates for this high honour ; but every other name was withdrawn, and Sir Thomas, without solicitation, was elected by a unanimous vote. This was in 1816, and he continues an active member from that date.

In 1817, being still in Paris, his Grace the Duke of Wellington, by royal authority, conferred on General Sir Thomas the honorary title of Knight of the Cross of Hanover.

While in New South Wales the University of Oxford conferred on him the degree of D.C.L., and the same title was conferred a few months after by the University of Cambridge.

Sir Thomas and his lady were authorized, by sign-manuals, dated 14th August 1826, to use the surname of Makdougall before that of Brisbane.

In 1832, he was unanimously elected President of the Royal Society of London and Edinburgh, as suceessor to Sir Walter Scott, Baronet.

In 1836, King William IV. created him a Baronet. On being presented, his Majesty said, "Sir Thomas, have you been knighted before?" To which Sir Thomas replied, "Yes, please your Majesty, I have been knighted by the Duke of Wellington at Paris." Whereupon his Majesty said, "Kneel down." On rising, his Majesty said, "Of course, Sir Thomas, your services are not unknown to me, and it must be highly gratifying to you, surrounded by so many distinguished officers of both professions, to receive the highest honour which the country can confer, except that of a peerage."

On being shortly afterwards made a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, King William said, "Sir Thomas, you must feel it a high honour to stand at the head of so many of the illustrious." His Majesty graciously laid on him his commands to dine with him at the palace on the following Wednesday; but, alas! before that day, William IV. had breathed his last.

In 1841, Sir Thomas was elevated to the rank of General in the British army.

Meantime, men high in place and in the counsels of their Sovereign turned to Sir Thomas for needed help. In 1836, he was offered the command of the army in Canada and British North America, the best token of the satisfaction that he gave while formerly there. The following letter amply warrants this statement:—

"HORSE GUARDS, 23d January 1836.

"MY DEAR GENERAL,—It being the intention of His Majesty's Government to employ a Lieutenant-General in the command of the troops stationed in Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, I have received the directions of Lord Hill to convey to you the offer of the appointment; and to acquaint you that the communication is made with the sanction and concurrence of His Majesty's Government.

"I cannot state accurately what your pay and allowance are proposed to be; but I am enabled to say, that either you will have the pay of your rank, or the pay of the higher rank.—Yours, &c.

"FITZROY SOMERSET, K.C.B."

The state of Sir Thomas's health constrained him to decline the honour, which he did in the following answer :—

“MAKERSTOUN, 25th January 1836.

“MY DEAR LORD,—I have just had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 23d instant, offering me, by the direction of Lord Hill, the command of the troops stationed in Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick ; for which mark of high consideration, I beg to express my most grateful acknowledgment ; nor am I insensible to the additional honour that the communication is made to me with the sanction of His Majesty's Government, and I beg to assure your Lordship that no communication could have been more gratifying to my feelings. But I lament to reflect that the rigorous climate of Canada is most unfavourable to the only complaint with which I have ever been afflicted, namely rheumatism, contracted during the different campaigns in which I have served, so great has their variety been. Still I should not have inferred unfavourably of any region of the globe without practical experience ; but, having passed a winter in Canada, I feel competent to decide, and with deep reluctance to decline the honour of so distinguished a command.—Believe me, yours, &c.

“THOMAS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE.”

In token that high and unqualified confidence was cherished towards the gallant General by the Commander-in-Chief, he received the following letter :—

“HORSE GUARDS, 15th August 1838.

“MY DEAR GENERAL,—Sir Henry Vane having intimated his desire to be relieved from the chief command in India in January or February next, I am directed by Lord Hill to say that he will be happy to recommend you to the appointment, if it should be agreeable to you.

“This communication is made to you with the knowledge and approbation of Her Majesty's Government. It is important that his Lordship should be informed of your decision with the least delay possible.—I have the honour to be, &c.

“FITZROY SOMERSET.”

Though here an entirely different clime was proposed, in deference to Sir Thomas's ailments, still the state of his health constrained him to deny himself the honour, and to decline, which he did in the following letter :—

" MAKERSTOUN, KELSO, 17th August 1838.

" MY DEAR LORD,—I have just had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 15th instant, offering me, by invitation of Lord Hill, the chief command in India, which most high consideration, so gratifying to my feelings, calls forth the expression of my most grateful acknowledgment to his Lordship. Did my health permit, or had I the prospect with such health as I have, of being able to discharge to the satisfaction of my own mind the various and onerous duties connected with so important and extensive a command—a command so agreeable to my feelings and so gratifying to my ambition—I should at once have accepted. But five years' experience of a tropical climate has convinced me that my constitution would now be unequal to the task, and therefore, with the deepest regret, I am under the necessity of declining it.—I have the honour to be, &c.

" THOMAS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE."

Such honours, spontaneously offered to the gallant General, could not but be grateful to his feelings. Still, fifty years of active service in all varieties of clime, and in both the battle-field and the cabinet, constrained his medical advisers to decide that he could not possibly live in India. He is, however, gratified by the assurance which these appointments afford that his services were appreciated at head-quarters ; in them all, he does not fail to trace the firm friendship of the Duke of Wellington, demonstrated towards him, indeed, to the last day of his life. To be praised by the praiseworthy has ever been justly prized.





Fr Schenck, Lith<sup>r</sup>

50, Geo St Edinb<sup>urgh</sup>

ÆTATIS LXXIV

## CHAPTER XI.

OBSERVATORIES AT BRISBANE, PARAMATTA, MAKERSTOUN—CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY—ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR HERSCHEL—LETTERS FROM SIR R. I. MURCHISON, ADMIRAL SMYTH, PRINCIPAL J. D. FORBES, AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE LATE DUKE OF KENT.

THOUGHTFUL and earnest minds have been, from earliest times, attracted by the study of astronomy. A well-known author has declared that “an undevout astronomer is mad.” Sir Thomas is at once devout and an astronomer. From the preceding narrative it has been seen that the gallant General, in his school-boy days, was devoted to mathematical studies. On entering on the duties of military life, he had occasion at sea to prize the possession of a knowledge both of navigation and astronomy. He was exposed to the dangers of shipwreck on the western coast of Africa, the ship, being what is called a troop-ship, having on board a large number of soldiers under his command. Either from carelessness or incapacity, the Captain calculated that they were hundreds of miles out at sea, when Sir Thomas, even with the little knowledge he then possessed, calculated that they were near the coast. So it turned out to be. He resolved therefore to improve himself in these sciences, in case he should need in his future experience to apply his knowledge for the safety of others and himself. He obtained the best books on the subject, and instruments appropriate to the study, and as soon as he reached the shores of Britain, he placed himself under the most approved professors of these sciences. Ever after Sir Thomas carried with him, on sea and on dry land, his own set of instruments, and made his own observations; and on several occasions he was able to correct the observations made by the officers of the vessels in which he and his soldiers sailed, and to insure the safety of the ships.

In the present day, when no sailing master, or mate even, would be intrusted with the charge of a ship without a certificate from Trinity House or the Board of Trade, the extreme ignorance, as far as scientific knowledge was concerned, of those to whom the command of vessels was intrusted, sixty or seventy years ago, can scarcely be conceived; and for the improvements now introduced into the service, we are in a large measure indebted to the representations made by Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane half a century ago.

#### OBSERVATORY AT BRISBANE.

Hence, on his return to Great Britain, as an invalid in 1808, for a brief interval, he devoted his time and talents and treasures to the erection of an Observatory at Brisbane, his native place. It stands on an elevated knoll, about 200 yards to the north-west of Brisbane House. It is built of freestone, with a dome 12 feet in diameter. The large room is 27 feet long by 16 feet wide, and contains a  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -foot instrument by Troughton. Under the dome there is a very fine altitude and azimuth instrument, with 18-inch circles and an excellent sidereal clock, and two journeyman clocks. There is also a pier and on it a mural circle. There is besides an ante-room, 27 feet long by 8 feet wide, with a fireplace, and containing a bed fitted up for his convenience while observing during the night. There is another apartment, with a large stone table, on which is an equatorial instrument and a journeyman clock.

At the entrance there is a brazen tablet, on which are inscribed the following words:—

“ Ad Scientiam Astronomicam Colendam. Extruxit, T. Brisbane. Anno Domini, 1808.”

In the large room the following words are also inscribed:—

“ Observatory—Brisbane.—Latitude,  $55^{\circ} 49' 6''$  north; Longitude,  $19^m 27.8'$  of time, or  $4^{\circ} 52'$  of space, west of Greenwich. Height of basin of Barometer above mean level of sea, 156.5. A.D. 1842.”

Among all these instruments and books on astronomy, and journals of observations, is carefully laid a copy of the Word of God. Every morning, as dawn is breaking over the western mountains, Sir Thomas

has been wont to ascend the knoll and take his observations. On special occasions he spends the night in the watch-tower. But he delights to relate, that when the morning is hazy, and when dark clouds intercept his view of the *works* of God, he “turns and reads a chapter of *His Word*. Thus, when communion with his Father is denied through His works, he can always do it through His Word, which is to him as a light shining in a dark place.”

This has been his practice, as often as he has enjoyed the privilege of being at home in Brisbane.

#### OBSERVATORY AT PARAMATTA, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Being an enthusiastic astronomer, in whatever part of the world he was called to serve, in his military profession, or in his civil administration, Sir Thomas pursued his favourite study with the utmost eagerness. Hence on his entering on the supreme government of New South Wales, he embraced the opportunity thereby afforded of showing his great love for the science. He knew that no observations of the stars in the southern hemisphere had been made since 1751-52, when Lacaille made a very valuable series of observations at the Cape of Good Hope, and that a wide field was opened before him at Sydney for the labours of the astronomer. Accordingly, shortly after his arrival in the colony, he looked out for an appropriate site for an Observatory, and at length fixed on Paramatta, about fourteen miles from Sydney. Here an Observatory was erected, and supplied with books and first-rate instruments, and two assistants from Europe, by Sir Thomas, all at his own expense.

The result of his observations during the years of his government there, besides many papers contributed to the Royal Society, and the Royal Astronomical Society of London, was the volume known by the name of “THE BRISBANE CATALOGUE OF 7385 STARS OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.”

Professor Encke’s acknowledgments to Sir Thomas of the value to him of his observations on the comet which bears his name, when that comet was lost in the sun’s rays in its passage through the perihelion in Europe, at Paramatta, have been already noticed. It will be admitted,

seeing Sir Thomas, by his observations there, determined the period of its revolution round the sun to be 1203 days, as well as on account of the complete adaptation of this Observatory to scientific purposes, that its founder is warranted to call it "the Greenwich of the Southern Hemisphere," and to say "that masters of ships can send their chronometers thither, to have their rates determined, with the most perfect confidence that the thing will be accurately done."

So much prized were the Observatory at Paramatta, and the labours and expenses of Sir Thomas in the New World, not only by scientific men, but even by the Home Government, that the latter adopted the whole on his return, and it is maintained by the British Government, under the direction of one of his assistants, to this day.

#### MAKERSTOUN OBSERVATORY, NEAR KELSO.

In 1826, the year in which Sir Thomas returned from New South Wales, he founded the Observatory at Makerstoun. Herein, as at Brisbane, was erected a transit-room, furnished with an excellent transit instrument by Troughton, and a sidereal with a journeyman clock. Also another room was built, with a revolving dome, containing an equatorial instrument, sidereal, and journeyman clock.

It is situated to the east of Makerstoun House, on a ridge which occupies the northern bank of the Tweed, and is eighty feet above the level of that river. Latitude  $55^{\circ} 34' 45''$  north; longitude  $0^{\circ} 10' 3.5''$  west. Height of cistern of barometer above the mean level of the sea at Berwick, 213 feet.

#### MAKERSTOUN MAGNETICAL OBSERVATORY.

In the year 1839, on the suggestion of Professor Gauss, magnetical observatories were established in various parts of the world by the British and other governments, in which observations should be simultaneously made, with the view of ascertaining the laws of the earth's magnetism.

No Observatory of this kind was established in Scotland, though it had been pointed out as one of the most interesting localities for such observa-

tions. To supply this omission, Sir Thomas, in the year 1841, erected a Magnetical Observatory also at Makerstoun, and being determined that it should not be inferior to those established by the governments of other lands, he procured the very best instruments, and appointed a staff of the very best qualified assistants to carry on the works, all at his own expense.

Sir Thomas was no less careful in the choice of the materials of which the Magnetic Observatory is constructed. Its internal dimensions are forty feet long by twenty feet wide. It is all framed and boarded with the best foreign fir wood, and fastened with copper nails, every particle of iron being excluded, so that the magnets may not be affected. It is completely furnished with magnetical and meteorological instruments. There are a declinometer, vertical force and horizontal force magnetometers, a standard barometer, an anemometer, a wind vane with dial inside, and dry and wet thermometers. There is also a fine azimuth instrument with 15-inch circle. Another transit-room has been added, with transit instrument and sidereal clock for the use of the assistants. A third large room has been erected with a dome for an equatorial, wherein is a large telescope, of eight feet focal length, moved in azimuth by clock work, made by Troughton and Simms. Besides, there are four fine clocks and three journeyman clocks. The cost of these clocks alone was upwards of 1200 guineas.

Sir Thomas has been very fortunate in the choice of his assistants. Mr. John A. Broun continued with him till his appointment as Royal Astronomer at Travancore in India; Mr. Welsh, recently deceased, till his appointment as Director of the Observatory at Kew; and Mr. Alexander Hogg is his assistant up to the present time.

From 1841, the date of its erection, till 1846, magnetical and meteorological observations were made every alternate hour, except in 1844 and 1845, when they were made every hour, day and night. Since 1846, the number of observations made has been reduced to nine per day. Three quarto volumes, of 1500 pages, containing these observations, have been published. Copies have been presented to all the Observatories of the world. The copyright of these has now been presented to the Royal

Society, and they form part of the record of their Transactions. Another volume is now in the press, containing the observations made since 1849. Mr. Hogg continues in charge at Makerstoun. Since 1849, he has daily made four magnetical and six meteorological observations. He has, besides, long contributed a meteorological table weekly for the *Kelso Mail* newspaper. At this moment Makerstoun is acknowledged to be one of the best meteorological stations in Scotland.

Hence it appears that Sir Thomas has not only erected astronomical Observatories at Brisbane, Paramatta, and Makerstoun, but also he has erected, furnished, and worked the only magnetical and meteorological observatory in Scotland. Besides, he was for many years president of the Edinburgh Astronomical Institution, and mainly by his influence the Royal Observatory of Edinburgh has attained its present high efficiency, having been placed on its present footing as a Government establishment, under the management of the Astronomer-Royal for Scotland, Professor Piazzì Smyth, and his first and able assistant, Mr. Wallace.

In May 1810, Sir Thomas was elected a member of the Royal Society of London, and during the following year a like honour was conferred on him by the Royal Society of Edinburgh. As stated in the last chapter, he was unanimously elected president of the latter on the death of Sir Walter Scott.

The following list of Sir Thomas's contributions to science has been prepared by a well-known lover of science in Edinburgh, Alexander Bryson, Esq., F.R.S.E., his highly valued friend, to whom it has been a labour of love.

To the "Transactions" of the Royal Society of London Sir Thomas has contributed the following important papers:—

On a Method of Determining the Time with accuracy from a series of altitudes of the Sun, taken on the same side of the Meridian. Vol. viii. p. 497.

Memoir on the Repeating Reflecting Circle. Vol. ix. p. 97.

Method of Determining the Latitude by a Sextant or Circle from Circum-meridian Observations taken near Noon. Vol. ix. p. 227.

Astronomical Observations made at Paramatta and Sydney. Vol. x. p. 112.

Observations before and after the Superior Conjunction of Venus and the Sun, made with the Mural Circle at Paramatta in 1824. Vol. x. p. 330.

Observations on two Comets discovered at Paramatta by Mr. Runker and Mr. Dunlop. Vol. x. p. 332.

To the Royal Astronomical Society's "Transactions" he has contributed the following papers :—

Observations on the Solstice at Paramatta in June 1823. Vol. ii. p. 63.

Observations on the Solstice at Paramatta in December 1823. Vol. ii. p. 66.

Observations of the Inferior Conjunction of Venus in October 1823. Vol. ii. p. 65.

Observations of Stars from November 1823 to February 1824. Vol. ii. p. 77.

Observations at Paramatta, January to July 1824. Vol. ii. p. 277.

On 6th March 1848, Sir Thomas was presented with the Keith Medal by the Royal Society of Edinburgh for his Magnetical Observations at Makerstoun.

In Vol. iv. of the "Edinburgh Philosophical Journal," Sir Thomas communicated a Table for determining accurately the time of High Water at any given point. The object of this paper was to facilitate the determination of the time of high-water, by applying a correction dependent on the accelerated or retarded action of the Moon on the tides in passing the given meridian in her different parallaxes. This Table he computed from the elements given by La Place, in his *Mécanique Céleste*.

Mean of Twelve Months' Meteorological Observations in the year 1822-3, made at Paramatta.—"Edinburgh Philosophical Journal," vol. xi. 1824.

This Register shows that the warmest month at the antipodes is January, the mean temperature of which is 74° Fahr., and the coldest month is

June, with a mean temperature of 53° Fahr.; the lowest temperature observed in June being 26°, and the highest 67°.

On the Mean Temperature of the Earth at Paramatta.—“Edinburgh Philosophical Journal,” vol. x. p. 219. 1824.

Astronomical Observations made at Paramatta in 1823.—“Edinburgh Philosophical Journal,” vol. x. 244.

An Account of Experiments made with an Invariable Pendulum at New South Wales, by Major-General Sir Thomas Brisbane, K.C.B., F.R.S. Read June 19, 1823.—“Philosophical Transactions,” 1823, p. 308.

In this communication, laid before the Royal Society at the request of Sir Thomas Brisbane, the experiments are detailed made by him, and Mr. Dunlop, at Paramatta in New South Wales, and by Captain Kater, and Mr. Runker, in Portland Place, London, with an invariable pendulum belonging to the Board of Longitude. The number of vibrations made by this pendulum in a mean solar day in London, in N. lat. 51° 31' 8.4", at the temperature of 60°, and reduced to a vacuum, was found to be 86.09017; at Paramatta, in S. lat. 33° 48' 4.3", by Sir Thomas Brisbane's experiments, 86.02159, and by those of Mr. Dunlop 86.02221. Captain Kater, after detailing these observations, proceeds to deduce the compression, and finds it, by comparing the vibration at London with those resulting from Sir Thomas Brisbane's experiments at Paramatta, to be  $\frac{1}{295.54}$ , by Mr. Dunlop's  $\frac{1}{291.53}$ .

By the comparison of the vibrations at Unst with those at Paramatta, Sir Thomas Brisbane's experiments give  $\frac{1}{303.95}$ , and those of Mr. Dunlop  $\frac{1}{301.09}$ , for the compression. But the author remarks that these numbers are not to be deemed conclusive, as a small alteration in the number of vibrations made by the pendulum, would occasion a considerable difference in the fraction indicating the compression.

A Catalogue of Nebulæ, and clusters of Stars in the Southern Hemisphere, observed at Paramatta, in New South Wales.—“Philosophical Transactions,” 1828, p. 113.

“Edinburgh Philosophical Journal,” notice of the intention of the Royal Society to reduce Sir Thomas Brisbane's Observations. Vol. iv. second series, p. 398.

The Brisbane Catalogue of Stars. A Catalogue of 7385 Stars, chiefly

in the Southern Hemisphere, prepared from Observations made in the years 1822-26, at the Observatory at Paramatta, founded by Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane. The Computation made and the Catalogue constructed by Mr. W. Richardson. London, 1835. Quarto.

In February 1828, at the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society of London, Sir Thomas was presented with the Society's Gold Medal, for his establishment of an Observatory, and for an important series of observations made at Paramatta. Transactions, vol. iii. p. 399.

The Address delivered on that occasion by the President of the Society, J. F. W. Herschel, Esq., M.A., V.P.R.S.L., F.R.S.E., is here introduced, not only for the honour it confers on Sir Thomas, so richly merited, but also for its intrinsic beauty :—

“GENTLEMEN,—In pursuance of the award of your Council which you have just heard, I have now to call your attention to the subject of the honorary marks of this Society's approbation, which it is part of our business at this meeting to bestow. The selection of objects on which such distinction may most deservingly and most usefully be conferred, has been, in this instance, of much interest and some difficulty, not from paucity of claims, but from their variety and magnitude.

“On all sides, both abroad and at home, the spirit of astronomical research and discovery has been diligently alive. The great work which has been commenced on the Continent for the determination of the places of all the stars of our hemisphere in zones, has been continued with a patient ardour to which no words can do justice. The heavens have been ransacked for double stars, and the results of the search developing a most rich and unlooked-for harvest of striking discoveries, being the first-fruits of the great telescope of Fraunhofer, have been consigned to immortality, in a work which does honour to its age and nation, and which has already been brilliantly rewarded in another quarter. The ingenuity of one of our

own countrymen has placed new, simple, and powerful means in the hands of observers for verifying the stability of their instruments, and determining their fluctuations.

“And in every quarter, to go no further in this detail, an activity worthy of the high ends and dignity of our science, has been remarkably displayed. Among so many important labours, however, some of which are yet awaiting their final completion, or receiving the last touches of their authors, the attention of your Council has been fixed by the imposing mass of valuable observations which has emanated, during a series of years, from the Observatory at Paramatta, established by the late Governor of the Colony of New South Wales, Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, one of our Vice-Presidents, long distinguished among us by his ardent love of astronomy, and an intimate familiarity both with its theory and practice.

“Nothing can be more interesting in the eyes of a European astronomer, especially to those whose field of research, like our own, is limited by a considerable northern latitude, than the southern hemisphere where a new heaven as well as a new earth is offered to his speculations, and where the distance, the novelty, and the grandeur of the scenes thus laid open to human inquiry lend a character almost romantic to their pursuit. A celestial surface, equal to a fourth part of the whole area of the heavens, which is here for ever concealed from our sight, or whose extreme borders, at least if visible, are only feebly seen through the smoky vapours of our horizon, affords to our antipodes the splendid prospect of constellations different from ours, and excelling them in brilliancy and richness. The vivid beauty of the Southern Cross has been sung by poets, and celebrated by the pens of the most accomplished of civilized travellers; and the shadowy lustre of the Magellanic clouds has supplied imagery for the dim and doubtful mythology of the most barbarous nations upon earth. But it is the task of the astronomer to open up these treasures of the southern sky, and display to mankind their secret and intimate relations. Apart, however, from speculative considerations, a perfect knowledge of the astronomy of the Southern Hemisphere is becoming daily an object of greater practical interest, now that civilisation and intercourse

are rapidly spreading through those distant regions, that our own colonies are rising into importance, and that the vast countries of South America are gradually assuming a station in the list of nations, corresponding with their extent and natural advantages. It is no longer possible to remain content with the limited and inaccurate knowledge we have hitherto possessed of southern stars, now that we have a new geography to create, and latitudes and longitudes without end to determine by their aid. The advantages, too, to be obtained even for the perfect and refined astronomy of the north, by placing nearly a diameter of the globe between the stations of observation, and taking up the objects common to both hemispheres in a point of view, and under circumstances so every way opposite to those which exist here, have been strongly pointed out by a venerable and illustrious member of this Society, in an elaborate paper published in its *Memoirs*, and would alone suffice to justify a high degree of interest, as due to every well-conducted series of observations from that quarter. The observations of Halley at St. Helena had made known the places of a moderate number of the brighter southern stars, but the only catalogue of any extent and accuracy which existed previous to the establishment of the Observatories at the Cape and Paramatta, was that of Lacaille, who spent three years at the Cape of Good Hope and the Isles of France and Bourbon, and though with very inadequate instrumental means, yet by dint of the most indefatigable industry, succeeded in observing and registering upwards of 10,000 stars.

“But by far the greater part of these observations have never been reduced; a selection only from them, of 1942 of the principal ones, not amounting to a fifth of their whole number, having been formed into a catalogue, and published by this meritorious astronomer. It must be admitted, however, that the degree of accuracy stated by Lacaille himself to have been probably attained by him is hardly such as to make us now very deeply regret their want of reduction, especially as the observations themselves are printed with every requisite for that purpose when required. Still, however, from his method of observing, which was with a fixed telescope and rhomboidal network, his observations have what may be termed a dormant value, as they most probably give correct differences for each

night's work, and when a catalogue of standard southern stars shall be completed, Lacaille's observations will become available by regarding these as zero points, and referring all the rest to them.

“Such was nearly, with little improvement, the state of astronomy of the Southern Hemisphere when Sir Thomas Brisbane was appointed Governor of the colony of New South Wales. The intention of Government to found an Observatory on the largest scale at the Cape of Good Hope, was indeed already fixed; and the observer, a member of this Society, supplied with instruments sufficient for the purpose of constructing a preliminary catalogue, occupied himself with the necessary observations while awaiting the arrival of those ultimately destined to adorn that establishment, and the building of his Observatory. The approximate catalogue so constructed and reduced, containing all the southern stars observed by Lacaille, down to the fifth Magnitude, is already printed by the Royal Society in their Transactions.

“Sir Thomas Brisbane's attachment to astronomy had ever been a prevailing principle of his mind, and one which, even amid the distractions of a military life, of no ordinary degree of activity and adventure, he found means to indulge, and which never deserted him however the calls of his country might demand his services in a different and more splendid career.

“His appointment to the important office of Governor of New South Wales, however, put it in his power to execute to their fullest extent, and under the most favourable circumstances, plans of astronomical investigation which to a private individual would have been utterly impracticable. The opportunity was embraced with eagerness. The best instruments, consisting of an excellent transit of  $5\frac{1}{2}$ -feet focal length by Troughton; a mural circle of two feet in diameter, the workmanship also of Troughton, and said to have been the model on which that of Greenwich was constructed, and which had long been in his possession [this instrument was removed by Sir Thomas Brisbane from Brisbane Observatory, erected by him in 1811], and a fine 16-inch repeating circle of Reichenbach, were destined for this service, and two gentlemen engaged as assistants at considerable salaries, the one a foreigner of high estimation as a mathema-

tician and calculator ; the other, Mr. Dunlop, of whom I shall presently have occasion to say more.

“It ought to be mentioned that this noble equipage was furnished entirely from Sir Thomas’s private fortune, and maintained wholly at his own expense. Immediately on his arrival in the colony in 1821, and so soon as the Observatory could be erected and the instruments established, the work of observation commenced, and continued with little interruption under the immediate superintendence and direction of Sir Thomas Brisbane himself, who, though the pressing and important duties of his high office would of necessity seldom admit of his devoting any material proportion of his time to actual observation, yet frequently took a personal share in the labours of the Observatory as a relaxation from higher duties, and, in particular, a great portion of the transits were observed by himself. The first fruits of this enterprise were the observations of the December Solstice of 1821, which were published in the ‘Astronomical Notices of Schumacher ;’ in which work also appear those of both the Solstices of 1822, and a number of detached and occasional observations, which reached Europe at different times by a variety of channels, and found their way into that valuable collection.

“The Solstices of 1823 were communicated by Sir Thomas Brisbane to this Society in a letter to our late worthy President, together with a considerably extensive series of observations of principal stars, chiefly those visible in both hemispheres, and which have undergone a careful reduction and close scrutiny in the hands of Dr. Brinkley, the details of which, as well as the original observations, are printed in the first part of the second volume of the Memoirs of this Society, and which justify in the eyes of that experienced observer, as they must in those of every practical astronomer, a decided opinion of the great care and skill with which they have been made.

“A great number of occasional observations, such as eclipses, occultations, and observations of the planets Venus and Uranus near their conjunctions and oppositions, and of comets, from the same source, are also printed in the same volume. One of the most remarkable single results we owe to the establishment of Sir Thomas Brisbane’s Observatory consists

in the re-discovery of the comet of Encke in its predicted place on the 2d of June 1822. The history of this extraordinary body is well known to all that hear me, and as its re-discovery at Paramatta by Mr. Runker has already been on a former occasion distinctly noticed and rewarded by this Society, there is no occasion that I should here enlarge on it; and yet I cannot help pausing a moment to figure the delight its celebrated discoverer must have experienced to find the calculations on whose exactness he had pledged himself thus verified beyond the gaze of European eyes, and this strange visitant gliding as if anxious to elude pursuit into its primitive obscurity, thus arrested on the very eve of its escape, and held up to mankind, a trophy at once of the certainty of our theories and the progress of our civilisation.

“Observations of the length of the pendulum were not neglected by Sir Thomas Brisbane, and the determination of this important element at Paramatta forms the subject of a highly interesting and valuable communication made by him to the Royal Society, and printed by them in their Transactions for 1823, and discussed by Captain Kater with his usual care and exactness. The remainder and indeed the great mass of the observations made with the mural circle and transit instrument have at different periods been communicated to the Royal Society, and are for the present deposited in its archives. Forming our judgment only upon those of which an account has been publicly read at meetings of that illustrious body, but which are understood to constitute only a comparatively small part of the whole, they form one of the most interesting and important series which has ever been made, and must ever be regarded as marking a decided era in the history of southern astronomy. It is for this long catalogue of observations, whether scattered through the journals of Europe, printed in our own Memoirs, or deposited as a precious charge in the care of a body so capable of appreciating their merits, but still more for the noble and disinterested example set by him in the establishment of an Observatory on such a scale in so distant a station, and which would have equally merited the present notice had every observation perished on its voyage home, that your Council have thought Sir Thomas M. Brisbane deserving the distinction of a medal of this Society, which, as he

is unable personally to attend this meeting, I will now deliver to his proxy, Mr. South.

“MR. SOUTH,—We request you to transmit to Sir Thomas Brisbane this medal, accompanied with the strongest expressions of our admiration of the patriotic and princely support he has given to astronomy in regions so remote. It will be a source of honest pride to him while he lives, to reflect that the first brilliant trait of Australian history marks the era of his government, and that his name will be identified with the future glories of that colony, in ages yet to come, as the founder of her science. It is a distinction truly worthy of a British governor. The colonial acquisitions of other countries have been but too frequently wrested from unoffending inhabitants, and the first pages of their history blackened by ferocious conquests and tyrannical violence. The treasures of gold and silver they have yielded—the fruits of rapine—have proved the bane of those who gathered them ; and in return ignorance and bigotry have been the boons bestowed on them by their parent nation. Here, however, is a brighter prospect. Our first triumphs in those fair climes have been the peaceful ones of science ; and the treasures they have transmitted to us are imperishable records of useful knowledge, speedily to be returned with interest to the improvement of their condition, and their elevation in the scale of nations.”

The year 1857 was distinguished by a token that, notwithstanding the many thousands of pounds Sir Thomas had laid out for the promotion of science, and the honour and prosperity of his country, the fervour of his first love had in no degree diminished. He then founded gold medals, for the reward of scientific merit, one for the Royal Society, and one for the Society of Arts. The first of the former was happily and gracefully presented to his fellow-countryman and quondam fellow-soldier, Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, G.C.St.S., D.C.L., &c., at the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Aberdeen in September 1859, under the presidency of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, by the hand of Sir David Brewster, Principal of the University of Edinburgh.

On the 15th, immediately after Sir Roderick I. Murchison had read a most interesting paper on the Geology of the Highlands, Sir David Brewster, from the chair, expressed the thanks of the meeting to Sir Roderick, "for the clear and admirable illustration which he had given them of the geology of Scotland." He added, that a more lasting testimonial than a mere vote of thanks was now to be presented to him, namely, the Brisbane medal of the Edinburgh Royal Society (of which Sir David is a vice-president). A deputation of the members of the Council were now in waiting for this purpose,—Dr. Christison, Professors Allman and Balfour, and Mr. R. Chambers. The medal, amid renewed plaudits, having been presented by Sir David Brewster,—

"Mr. R. Chambers, in name of the deputation, addressed Sir Roderick, stating that the Royal Society of Edinburgh, viewing his late researches in the Highlands of Sutherlandshire with an interest and admiration shared by the whole scientific world, had thought proper to vote to him the first example of a gold medal founded by its respected president, Sir Thomas M. Brisbane, for remarkable scientific services, which Mr. Chambers then enumerated.

"Sir Roderick replied in feeling language, stating that no honour ever conferred on him had touched him more than this testimonial conferred on him at the hands of his own countrymen. He was gratified beyond measure at receiving this honour from a Society which of almost all others in Europe is chary in conferring its honours, and has a more limited number of honorary members than any other scientific society. And all the more would it be esteemed that it was put into his hand by one of the most eminent of living philosophers."

The following letter from Sir Roderick, in reference to Sir Thomas, as well as this interesting event, will be gladly read, honourable alike to the donor and the donee :—

"GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OFFICE, 28, JERMYN STREET, S.W.,  
18th October 1859.

"DEAR SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 13th, in which you ask me to communicate to you my 'impressions' as to the scientific merits of

my eminent friend, General Sir Thomas M. Brisbane, I have to assure you that, if I were competent to scan these merits, nothing on earth would give me greater satisfaction than to add my testimony to the fiat of the phalanx of strong men on whom you have a right to call, and who will most assuredly gratify you and all the friends of Sir Thomas in developing his high qualifications. But how can a geologist like myself pretend to speak of these acquirements, and those works, public and private, which have rendered the name of Brisbane famous among astronomers ?

“As a soldier who long ago turned his sword into a hammer, I have ever reflected with pride that the army should have produced, in one of its bravest and most skilful leaders, so profound an astronomer as Sir Thomas Brisbane. As a Scotchman, too, I am naturally most proud to have been selected by my countrymen of the Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, to receive the first gold medal which bears on it the likeness of their distinguished leader. No honour which I have ever received has more powerfully touched my feelings than the adjudication of the ‘Brisbane Medal,’ which was presented to me at the Aberdeen meeting of the British Association ; and I beg you to be assured that the inspection of that medal will ever remind me of the noble, disinterested, and intellectual promoter of science, with whom it has been my happiness to have been associated.—Believe me to be, my dear Sir, yours faithfully,

“ROD. I. MURCHISON.”

The compiler has had likewise the honour to receive the following letter from one of Sir Thomas’s oldest friends, the Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society, London, Admiral W. H. Smyth, father of the Astronomer-Royal for Scotland :—

“ST. JOHN’S LODGE, NEAR AYLESBURY, 11th November 1859.

“DEAR SIR,—On returning home after a short absence, I find your second letter on my table, and I beg to thank you for your kind condolence.

“You wish to know my opinion as to the estimation in which I hold the merits of my admirable friend, General Sir Thomas M. Brisbane. My knowledge of the pursuits of this eminently distinguished officer is of many

years' standing, and my personal acquaintance with him almost as long,—for, shortly after the peace of 1815, we met—British soldier and sailor—of all places in the world in a French Astronomical Observatory! And I can render testimony to the high regard paid by his late enemies to his scientific attainments.

“From long intercourse, I can have no hesitation in pronouncing that Sir Thomas is equally familiar with the theory and practice of astronomy; and he not only worked himself, but was the cause of work in others. Nor should it be overlooked that intellectual zeal at that time was even more meritorious than of late, since it was necessarily exerted among the incessant and frequently distracting duties of actual warfare.

“About the year 1820, when appointed to the high office of Governor of New South Wales, Sir Thomas resolved to improve our astronomical knowledge of the southern hemisphere. With this important object in view, previous to sailing for his destination, he made direct inquiries in various quarters as to how it could be executed to its fullest extent; and I cannot but feel proud of having been consulted on that very interesting occasion.

“Sir Thomas arrived in the colony in 1821, provided with two assistants, and a capital outfit of the best instruments, for which he built an efficient observatory; the whole being at his own expense, and under his own superintendence and direction. From a sound understanding of the necessary requirements, this was so promptly accomplished that the delicate data for the winter solstice of that year were secured.

“In this Uranian edifice—besides occasional phenomena and extra-meridional observations—he formed what is now designated the ‘Brisbane Catalogue of Southern Stars’—a most valuable contribution to sidereal knowledge, in accumulating which he bore a leading personal part. To him also we are indebted for the re-discovery of Encke’s comet of short period, when, owing to its position in the heavens at its perihelion passage in 1822, it could not be seen in Europe; at a moment when its detection was necessary to establish, beyond contradiction, the theoretical truth of that wonderful body.

“The well-known military career of Sir Thomas Brisbane is now matter

of history ; but I may truly assert that there is not, either in the army or navy, an individual to whom '*tam artibus quam armis*' can be more appropriately applied than to that excellent and honoured officer.

“ Well warranted by facts for what I have asserted, I beg to subscribe myself, yours very faithfully,

“ W. H. SMYTH.”

The next letter is from J. D. Forbes, Esq., D.C.L., who, from early youth, has been devoted to, and distinguished for, scientific attainments and well-known discoveries, and who has been worthily elevated to the dignity of Principal of the United Colleges of St. Salvator and St. Leonard's, St. Andrews, the most ancient seat of learning in Scotland. He and Sir David Brewster have both maintained for many years a constant correspondence on scientific matters with Sir Thomas. The letter needs no introduction ; it speaks for itself :—

“ EDINBURGH, 1st December 1859.

“ MY DEAR SIR,—With reference to the Memoir of Sir Thomas Brisbane, on which you tell me that you are engaged, I fear it is in my power to afford few observations of any kind which have not occurred to yourself, or been communicated to you already from other quarters.

“ Having known Sir Thomas for very many years, I can safely say that I have rarely if ever met with a person whose tastes and interests were more inseparably and disinterestedly bound up with science and its advancement. Sir Thomas has filled many posts of distinction, and he has enjoyed those worldly advantages of station and fortune, which too often withdraw a man's mind from scientific pursuits, and from friendly personal intercourse with its cultivators. This, as you well know, has not been the case with him ; and it will in after times be his highest eulogy that he has directed his personal and official influence, as well as his private fortune, to the direct advancement of astronomy and other kindred subjects, in which he has from first to last taken an unvarying interest. Two instances of his judicious liberality will remain to attest his influence on the science of his time. The one is the foundation of the first Australian observatory, which was long maintained at Sir T. M. Brisbane's sole expense. The

other is the establishment of a magnetical and meteorological observatory at Makerstoun, close to his own residence, where observations of a kind much desired by men of science were carried on for a series of years, in the most accurate manner, by able and zealous observers. Having been consulted by Sir Thomas at the commencement of this undertaking, and throughout its continuance, I can speak with confidence of the liberality and singleness of purpose with which he carried his patriotic intentions into effect. I say *patriotic* advisedly, for, but for his timely generosity, no observations of the kind would have been made at all in Scotland. Indeed, I do not believe that a similar series of observations has been carried on at the cost and by the care of a private individual in any part of the British dominions. Sir Thomas was fortunate in his choice of assistants, in carrying out his intentions. Messrs. Broun and Welsh (the latter now unfortunately deceased) did every justice to the system of observation and calculation recommended to their care, and Sir Thomas's personal kindness and indulgence to those (then) young men was eminently characteristic of his goodness of heart.

“You are aware, I believe, that Sir T. M. Brisbane has founded medals, bearing his name, for the reward of scientific merit in the Royal Society and the Society of Arts. These liberal foundations (in the management of which a large discretion has been left to the Councils of those Societies) will still further tend to connect the memory of the founder with the institutions of the country.

“I need not add that no one more cordially than myself wishes the venerable General and his excellent lady the prolonged blessings of a serene old age.—I remain, my dear Sir, yours most truly,

“JAMES D. FORBES.”

This most interesting chapter cannot be more appropriately closed than by the following letter, received by Sir Thomas during the period when he was with the Duke of Wellington and the army of occupation in Paris, from our beloved Queen's late most excellent father, his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, accepting the gift of a volume then published on his favourite science. His patriotism, his loyalty, for which he has ever

been as much distinguished as for bravery and science, induce him to judge the letter as among the most precious of his reminiscences :—

“BRUSSELS, 11th January 1817.

“MY DEAR SIR THOMAS,—It was only yesterday that I had the pleasure of receiving your favour of the 11th ultimo, accompanying the very valuable little work presented to the King of France, by the *Bureau des Longitudes* for the current year, for which, and the very comprehensive set of tables by Lieutenant Vignoles, a few days previous, I now beg to express my most grateful thanks, assuring you that I very highly appreciate this proof of your remembrance and regard ; and that I feel not a little proud at being considered by you worthy of having such a work of science placed in my hands. As you have not mentioned your address at Paris, I shall forward this to Valenciennes, but trust it will be conveyed to you in safety from thence.

“I am happy in this opportunity of repeating the sentiments of friendly regard and sincere esteem, with which I ever am, &c.,

“EDWARD.”

It is not saying too much, when we affirm that no private gentleman of any land has laid out so much of his private fortune, and so long devoted his talents and his time, to the advancement of science, and its application to the arts which elevate and embellish human life.

## CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC FOUNTAINS—LARGS, ITS SANITARY CONDITION IMPROVED BY SIR THOMAS—BRISBANE SCHOOL, AFTERWARDS ENLARGED, NOW THE BRISBANE ACADEMY—NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNTY OF AYR GIVE SIR THOMAS A COMPLIMENTARY DINNER AT LARGS IN 1842.

IN these days, when so much is done for the sanitary improvement of our densely populated cities, and when philanthropists are erecting public fountains at the confluence of our busiest streets, to supply fresh running water for man and beast, it will be interesting to know that Sir Thomas had no sooner returned to his paternal home, than he set about practical measures for promoting the health and material comfort of the neighbouring town of Largs. Like all old towns, it was deficient in drainage, the waterfloods from the hills behind were obstructed, and lay in stagnant pools and marshes, sending forth pestilential effluvia, generating deadly fevers, and torturing the prematurely aged with racking rheumatisms. Sir Thomas had hard work to obtain leave to carry out his wise and benevolent plans of providing for at once carrying the water into the Clyde, and causing a constant uncovered flow of living streams along the sides of the principal streets. The *laissez faire* principle was so obstinately strong, that, but for the mighty power of the kindness of the gallant General and his lady, it might never have been allowed. But happily it was accomplished in 1832. Since that time fevers and deadly epidemics have all but disappeared. Old and young—the former tottering on the staff of age, the latter bounding and heated in childhood's gambols—inhale the refrigerating influence, and slake their thirst by means of these pure waters. Largs is now the most healthy place on the Firth of Clyde, and a favourite watering-place; both the inhabitants and strangers know it to be the most salubrious of maritime towns, and all, as they enjoy, bless the name of Brisbane.

## BRISBANE ACADEMY.

The village of Largs, like all the others on the banks of the Clyde, fast increasing in population and importance, had long been observed by Sir Thomas to be greatly in want of elementary, as well as a higher education. In his youth, also, even in his father's days, the parochial school had been most inefficiently conducted, though these evil days are long since past. Casting about in his fertile and benevolent mind how he could best do something for the permanent good of his native parish, he wisely decided that nothing was equal to a provision for a scriptural and enlarged education for its multiplying families. At first he erected and amply endowed a simple elementary or parish school, which for many years has afforded a good English education to hundreds of the rising generation. But during the last few years, through means of the active, wise, and persevering efforts of the Rev. David Buchan Douie, advantage has been taken of the advancement of the educator, and the art of teaching or training. Adjoining the school now stands the Largs Brisbane Academy. Ample provision is hereby made, by suitable rooms and a spacious playground, and a full complement of highly qualified and efficient masters, properly endowed, for conferring on all ranks a liberal and finished education in this enlightened, enlarged, and ever enlarging community. This has been done at a very considerable cost to the General and his family and friends.

At the completion of the Academy buildings, last year, a grand gathering was held, and a formal opening celebrated, at which Dr. Campbell made the following remarks :—

“ May I call your attention for a moment to the vast boon which the Brisbane Academy offers to the inhabitants of Largs. Need I remind you of the two distinguished brothers who hold the honourable positions of first and second masters ; and that not only is a thorough English education presented to all who choose to avail themselves of it, but also the higher departments of knowledge—the Latin language, an acquaintance with which throws such a flood of light on our own tongue, and on all the modern languages of Europe ; the Greek, which I heard Professor Blackie the other day style ‘ the most glorious of all languages, and in which the

most glorious of all books was written ;' geography, history, the higher departments of arithmetic, mathematics, French, &c. &c., so as to qualify any youth availing himself fully of his opportunities to go directly from these walls, and take an honourable position in the classes of any of our Universities. This has not been the case in the past history of Largs. Those who went to the University were obliged to go from Largs to other preparatory schools, or they went at great disadvantage, ill prepared to compete with their fellows, and to enjoy the full benefit of the classical teaching of the University. Before I sit down, permit me to say how much I am gratified by the personal appearance of the venerable Baronet, by whose munificence this school was founded. Need I remind you how much he is beloved by all ; that he combines in his character the gallant soldier, the philosopher, the philanthropist, and the Christian gentleman ? Need I say how much he has done to improve the amenity and to promote the sanitary condition of Largs ? But there would be indelicacy in his own presence to dilate on these topics ; and I conclude by pointing to this school as the most precious of all his good deeds, which I trust will carry down his name to distant generations, as a liberal and enlightened benefactor to his native parish, by affording to its inhabitants the inestimable blessing of education. I am sure you will all join with me in fervent prayer to the Almighty that his valuable life may be prolonged for years to come ; that he may continue his deeds of benevolence, and enjoy that 'crown of glory which rests on the hoary head if found in the way of righteousness ;' and that he may be an eye-witness of the important benefits which I doubt not will result from the union of the Brisbane with the Congregational school. from this time henceforth to be known as the *Brisbane Academy*."

Sir Thomas most appropriately and beautifully responded in the following words :—"Of all the acts of his life none had given him greater satisfaction than the establishment of this Academy which was to bear his name. In this undertaking he could freely say that Lady Brisbane had at least an equal share. Many of his other actions would perish with himself, but not so, he trusted and believed, would this Academy, which he fondly hoped would continue an instrument of good to generations yet unborn."

After such a course of military and civil service to his country, and such public-spirited and substantial works for the good of his native place, it will appear seemly that the noblemen and gentlemen of the county should invite him to a public dinner. This they did at Largs in 1842. As Sir Thomas's address contains many facts not noticed in his preceding narrative, we give it as follows :—

“ Sir Thomas remarked upon the great moral and religious improvement which had taken place in the army since he first joined it. At that period it was most difficult to find non-commissioned officers who could read or write, and who were fit to pay companies ; in proof of which he might mention that the light company of the regiment which he first joined was paid by a Serjeant Page, a gallant soldier who had served throughout the whole American revolutionary war, but who could neither read nor write. He had a roll of the company, the names of which he understood, and by pricks of pins opposite to the names, he kept the accounts. He now reverted with much pleasure to the change that had taken place since that time. Within the last few days he had received from Colonel Airey, who commands the 34th—his own regiment—a return of the state of that corps in regard to education. From this it appeared that the regiment consisted of 47 serjeants, 40 corporals, 14 drummers, and 760 privates, making in all 861 individuals. Of these, the whole serjeants and corporals, and ten of the drummers, can both read and write. Of the remainder, 571 can read ; and of these, 375 can both read and write. In other words, of the 861 men, 666 can read, and 472 can both read and write. There was also belonging to the regiment a library, consisting of between 500 and 600 volumes, to which the men had access at stated periods. This certainly showed a very different state of things to that which existed when he first joined the army. For this great improvement the army was mainly indebted to the late Duke of York, who, in 1811, established regimental schools, with a schoolmaster-serjeant to each, and reports of the progress of these seminaries are regularly made to the proper quarter, in the same way as the parochial schools are reported on by the Presbytery. In 1840, Her Majesty established, by warrant, female schools for the instruction of the daughters of

soldiers, who are there taught reading, writing, with needle-work and knitting, in all their branches. The moral effect that education had produced in the army would be best illustrated by the fact which he was about to state, namely, that on the march from Bayonne to Toulouse, a distance of more than two hundred miles through a plentiful wine country, he had frequently visited the quarters of the soldiers who had slept upon wine casks covered with a little straw, and they turned out in the morning without having touched a drop ; nor did he ever hear any complaint on the part of the inhabitants against the troops. History gave no previous example of troops marching through an enemy's country in such good order, where everything on the march was as regularly paid for as if they had been passing through England. He mentioned these things the more particularly, because none of the historians of the late war had done justice to the good order and discipline which the army had all along maintained. With such men, and such a commander as the Duke of Wellington, it was not surprising that to march to battle should become synonymous with to march to victory.

“ Seeing some of his nautical friends near him, he hoped they would excuse him if he borrowed a phrase from their vocabulary, and should tell them that, in speaking about himself, he did not mean to ‘ spin a long yarn,’ but would endeavour to confine himself to a brief analysis of what he had been about since he first left them, in order to show them that he had not been idle. He ventured to say that he could boast of what very few military men could say, namely, that in the service of his country he had circumnavigated the globe ; that he had crossed the Tropics twelve times, and the Equinoctial Line twice. He was with the Duke of York's army from the beginning to the end of its services, and was in the severe winter's retreat through Holland in 1794. He proceeded afterwards to the West Indies, under the celebrated Sir Ralph Abercromby, where he remained for five years, and was at the reduction of the islands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent, the capture of Trinidad, and the attack upon Porto Rico. He also served throughout the whole Carribean War, then went to Jamaica, where he remained till the regiment was called home. He next proceeded to the Peninsula, where he commanded a brigade in five general actions under

the Duke of Wellington, besides a great variety of minor affairs ; and had the high honour of receiving the thanks of Parliament for the part he took in the battle of Orthes, on which occasion he had 700 men killed and wounded. He served in the campaign of 1814 in America, and joined the army of occupation in Paris the year following, with twelve of the Duke's oldest and best regiments, amounting to 10,000 men. The Duke instructed him to have them drawn out next day in order that he might review them. There were two lines of 5000 in each, and when his Grace looked along them, he exclaimed, 'If I had had these men at Waterloo, I should not have wanted the Prussians.' He remained in France during the three years in which that country was occupied by the allied troops ; and here he might mention a very singular historical fact, which was, that the first general action of the war took place on the hill of Famars, near Valenciennes ; and upon this spot the allied army, under the Duke of Wellington, was reviewed by the Emperor of Russia twenty-five years afterwards, and he was present on both occasions, and there are few now alive who can say the same thing. He afterwards went to New South Wales ; but before he said anything about that colony, he had better state under what authority he went there ; and on this point he would simply remark that, although the authority under which he went was indisputably sufficient, the verdict of a jury of his countrymen had nothing to do with it. Of New South Wales itself, he would state that few people in this country have any idea of the value of that colony to the British empire, both morally and politically ; but a great deal may be inferred from the fact of its being 12,000 miles in circumference. By its means many persons, once abandoned and deprived, have been made good members of society, a blessing to themselves and to that colony. In a political point of view, too, it is of great importance as a quarter from which supplies for India could be easily procured, should the latter be ever placed in jeopardy, as the distance between the two countries can be sailed over in the course of five weeks, whereas the communication with the mother country would occupy four times that period. Great Britain had done far more than any other nation of the world in respect of colonization, having established two vast empires, one in the East, and the other in the West, and the English tongue is now

spoken over a greater portion of the globe than any other language was ever known to extend. New South Wales, considering its recent origin, possesses many of the most valuable institutions of the mother country, including even a College, where her youth can be taught. He must be allowed here to bear his testimony to the vast benefits which the missionaries have rendered by the spread of Christianity, not only in New South Wales, but in many of the islands scattered throughout the Southern Pacific. Even Owhyhee, where the immortal Cook was murdered, is now an island of Christians. He (Sir Thomas) was brought more immediately in contact with the Wesleyan and Church missionaries, and could bear ample testimony to their successful endeavours in extending to the benighted heathen the blessings of Christianity ; and who would dare to say that the war now waging in China might not, in the mysterious dealings of Providence, be the means of introducing the light of Christian knowledge into that vast empire, the population of which probably exceeded that of the whole of Europe. To return to the subject of New South Wales, he might inform his agricultural friends now present that everything there was opposite to what was found in this country. There they got up in the morning when here people were going to bed—there the sun at noon was due north—and there the harvest would be just now about to commence. They have this advantage, however, that they have two crops in the year. It is not to be disputed that in many portions the soil of New South Wales is most luxuriant. He had himself seen the stone of the peach placed in the ground, and in three years had eaten the ripe fruit which sprang from it ; and he had seen fields which had produced white crops for twenty-eight years in succession, without manure or any other stimulant being applied to them ; a fact which certainly said much more for the quality of the soil than for the enterprise or intelligence of its cultivator. During the time when he administered the government of New South Wales, there were two acts upon which he reflected with much gratification. The first of these was the having laid the foundation-stone of the first Presbyterian Church in Sydney ; and the second was, that on going out he found the press shackled under a rigid censorship ; and as he could see no good end to be served by this thralldom—having no selfish

object to serve, his first wish being the wellbeing of the colony—and not being conscious of anything ‘rotten in the state of Denmark,’ and wishing the acts of his government to be freely discussed, he therefore removed the shackles from the press, and never saw any reason to regret having done so. No abuse followed the liberty he had conferred, and he thereby obtained information which he might not otherwise have gained. He begged to say a word respecting the aborigines. To show that nature had not denied intellect to them, he might state that he had been present at various examinations of the schools where their offspring were taught, and he had observed with much satisfaction that these children, both male and female, had made equal—he might say greater—progress than the children of European parents of equal standing. On leaving New South Wales in 1826, he had no object in view save the cultivation at home of the peaceful arts. Since then he had been offered very flattering commands; but as he felt, in the language of the negroes in the West Indies, that ‘this time was no like t’other time,’ and also finding that, after a life of so much activity, the frame required repose, he was reluctantly obliged to decline offices to the duties of which he feared he could not do justice. Now, at the close of a somewhat eventful and protracted life, it was his most earnest desire to live in friendship with every individual, not only here, but on the face of the earth, and to do good to his fellow-creatures as he had opportunity.”

## CHAPTER XIII.

THE 34TH REVIEWED BY SIR THOMAS AS THEIR COLONEL AT DUBLIN, AND HONOURED BY A COMPLIMENTARY DINNER FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE 34TH, AND THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY THERE IN 1844—ARRIVE IN SCOTLAND IN 1856, STATIONED FIRST AT GLASGOW, THEN AT EDINBURGH—RECEIVE ORDERS FOR INDIA IN 1857—FINAL AND AFFECTING PARTING BETWEEN SIR THOMAS AND HIS REGIMENT AT EDINBURGH—MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN BRAVE—THE GREAT DUKE'S FUNERAL IN 1852.

THE gallant General, as Colonel of the 34th Regiment, took occasion to review that distinguished corps while stationed at Dublin in 1844. While there he was honoured with a complimentary dinner by the officers, at whose head then was General Sir Richard Airey, as commanding officer, and the *élite* of Dublin. Sir Thomas, with his wonted benevolence, provided a sumptuous dinner in the Barrack Square for the whole of the non-commissioned officers and privates, with their wives and children.

From the Report printed at the time, we extract the address delivered by Sir Thomas at the former :—

“Colonel Airey and officers of the 34th Regiment,—I beg most unfeignedly to assure you, that this is a most gratifying occasion to me ; and I have looked forward to it with the greatest pleasure. Ever since the regiment returned from foreign service, I have been most anxious to meet with the officers of so gallant a corps, which has distinguished itself on every occasion, and in various quarters of the globe. Although I never had the good fortune to have the regiment immediately under my command, yet I have fought with it in many of the same battles ; even as far back as 1796, I fought with it at the capture of the island of St. Lucia. I also served with it in the Peninsula, and in all the battles which they proudly bear upon their colours, with the exception of Albuhera. We fought together at Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, and Orthes ; and I consider that the regiment ought to have had Toulouse added to the others,

and I regret that the high authorities decided otherwise. But the 34th Regiment occupied a most important situation during that action, of which I was an eye-witness, being the nearest division to that of Lord Hill ; and the returns of the killed and wounded on these various occasions, amounting to nearly 1800 men, proclaim that the regiment had borne the brunt of many a severe and hard-fought battle. I assure you, gentlemen, it is a source of great gratification to me that I have been enabled to record all these gallant deeds, and more particularly that of Arroyo de Molinos. In that brilliant affair the 34th Regiment took the French 34th Regiment prisoners, together with its brass drum, and Drum-Major's Staff, &c. ; and in consequence, the gallant corps to which you belong is permitted to enjoy a distinction that has fallen to the lot of no other regiment—that of wearing the white and red tufts in their caps. But this and the other heroic deeds will be imperishably recorded in the history of the regiment, a copy of which I intend to present to every officer, and also some copies to the library, that when any officer or soldier joins the regiment, he may, on reading all these gallant exploits, be animated with the desire of upholding that *esprit de corps* which has happily ever subsisted in the regiment, and which I hope will ever continue. I cannot here omit to notice how much we are indebted to Mr. Cannon, of the Adjutant-General's Office, for the pains and labour he has bestowed, to enable us to print these records, and to give a faithful detail of all our early operations, deduced from the most authentic sources. Next to the bravery before the enemy, I admire the conduct which has marked the regiment, wherever it has been quartered ; and it is with a feeling of pride I say, that in every place in which it has been, both officers and men have left with the high opinion of the inhabitants. Gentlemen, I assure you this visit associates itself with many remote and pleasing recollections, as I consider myself one of the few connecting links left which unite the army of the last century with that of the present ; and I am happy to think, in drawing a parallel betwixt the two, the contrast is all in favour of the latter. In the first place, we are now a much more scientific army ; next, we are an infinitely better educated body, and much more sober, as relates both to officers and soldiers ; and thirdly, as to our movements. When I first joined the army,

there was no officer to be found in a regiment who could give a sketch of a country, or delineate a position; now, in consequence of the establishment at Sandhurst, there are few regiments without several of the officers who are qualified, not only to give a sketch of a country, or delineate a position, but to construct field-works, or to undertake the siege if necessary. With regard to education, it was then difficult to find even a serjeant who could read and write, or keep accounts; whereas now almost every soldier in a regiment is so far educated, and there are 700 out of the 800 men of which the 34th is composed, who can read and write. The period that I allude to was when I was quartered in this city in 1792, and a part of 1793. I have had the advantage of serving in the first and second campaigns of the war with the Austrian and Prussian armies; and I may say I have seen almost the whole of the European armies in motion upon a large scale; and I consider that the British, in point of quickness and accuracy, stands foremost; and nobody will doubt that their physical strength and moral courage are superior to that of any other nation. It is all one to the British soldier where his enemy may be,—whether in his front, flank, or rear; he will fight him as long as his officer orders him, as at Waterloo, where whole faces of the squares were swept away with round shot, still the British soldier was found immovable. And although you may characterize the British soldier as the lion in the field, yet the most noble of all his traits, according to my estimation, is his humanity after a battle, when the lion suddenly changes to the lamb; and I never saw an instance in all my service in which the British soldier committed an act of cruelty upon his fallen enemy. Next to the British soldier I consider the Russian the most formidable while placed in position, although he cannot move; and I may instance the fact in support of this, that at the battle of Borodino, the redoubts were five times taken by the French, and as often retaken by the Russians. Napoleon, finding he could make no impression on their iron front, made a flank movement with his army during the night, and got betwixt them and Moscow. It is too much the idea amongst the continental armies, that if their centre is pierced, or their flanks are turned, the battle is lost, as at the unfortunate battle of Jena, which the Prussians lost, and which decided the fate of their country. The same may be said with

regard to the Austrians, at the battles of Wagram and Asperne, which led to the occupation of Vienna by the French, and to peace. How widely different with the British soldier ! While in Paris, in the year 1815, I had many conversations with French officers of high rank, who argued strongly, that by all the laws of war, the English had lost the battle of Waterloo, as their centre had been pierced, their flanks turned, and their artillery were in possession of the French. Could these gentlemen have possibly paid a higher compliment to the British army, although they wished to turn that compliment to their own account ? When Napoleon saw the English army drawn up in position for the battle of Waterloo, he remarked to Marshal Soult, ‘ There are the English ; I have got them at last, and I think it is nine chances out of ten that I have them all before night.’ The Marshal, who had had a great deal of experience of the English, while opposed to them in Spain and in the south of France, replied to the Emperor, ‘ Your Majesty certainly sees the English army, but you will find them like trees, riveted to the ground.’ I may here mention, in confirmation of this, that when the Kremlin was re-occupied by the Russians, the portfolio of Berthier, the War Minister, was found, giving a return of the French army in Russia, amounting to 400,000 infantry, and 80,000 cavalry. There were also found secret reports from the French marshals opposed to the English in Spain, and addressed to Napoleon himself, stating that the French army could not be got to withstand the English when they came into close quarters ! I have been long anxious to get the regiment to come to Scotland, that I might have an opportunity of uniting the bond of friendship and good understanding with myself and with the officers more closely, and particularly as it is now ninety-eight years since it was in that country. In the year 1746, the regiment fought at the battle of Culloden, and by a singular and rather extraordinary coincidence, my father fought with it in that action as aide-de-camp to the Earl of Home. I have felt exceedingly gratified in examining into the interior economy of the regiment, to find that it is perfect and complete, both as to barracks, hospitals, and school ; and I regret that my right honourable friend, Sir Edward Blakeney, the Commander-in-Chief, is not here to receive the report, as also in reference to its movements in the field. It is impossible for me to express too high an

opinion of Colonel Airey, and the hearty co-operation he must have received from his officers to have enabled him to bring the regiment to its present state of perfection ; he could only have accomplished it by establishing a chain of responsibility throughout all ranks, where every individual discharged his proper duty, and to which we may ascribe the brilliant victories we always obtained under our great and invincible leader, who strictly enforced this amongst all ranks of his army, and which enabled him to declare to me his conviction, after the battle of Toulouse, when the army was about to be broken up, that he had commanded the most perfect army that ever was in existence. In conclusion, I fear I have occupied a good deal of your time, but I was anxious that you should hear many of these important military facts, from an individual who has passed above fifty years in the service, and who, in following up his profession, has crossed the Tropics twelve times, the Equinoctial line twice, and circumnavigated the globe, besides having been in America and other parts of the world.

‘ Quæque ipse miserrima vidi,  
Et quorum pars magna fui. ’

In token that the Peninsular commanders lived in the heart of their soldiers, we give the following extract of a letter from James Bruce, Esq., of Dunfermline, who had visited an old man, a worn soldier of Sir Thomas's brigade in the French war, at the gallant General's request, to convey to him a gratuity from his benevolent lady and himself, to cheer the closing days of the old soldier ; only one incident from many thousands similar.

The letter is addressed to a friend of both, through whom Sir Thomas and Lady Makdougall Brisbane came to the knowledge of the man and his wants :—

“ DUNFERMLINE, 16th February 1859.

“ DEAR SIR,— . . . Mr. Mackenzie and I waited on the old soldier, and I assure you it was most affecting to witness the impression our visit made upon him. I could fill half-a-dozen pages, and yet not be able to tell you all he said, or convey either his feelings or my own. The old man, who, seldom during a long life, I should think, has shed tears, wept like a child for very joy at being remembered by his gallant General. I need

not tell you what he bade us express in thanks to Lady and Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane. You can imagine what the old soldier said of such a commander.—I am, my dear Sir, yours very sincerely,

“JAMES BRUCE.”

The old soldier, years before this, and ere he had reason to expect that his old commander would ever hear of him on earth, was wont “to fight his battles o’er again,” before the people of the kingdom of Fife—to tell “how their commander was a scholar and knew everything—a Christian, and encouraged every one in Christian well-doing and education, firmly reproving crime, and punishing the slightest violence to the weakest inhabitant of the seat of war, while he warmed with his subject, and closed the climax by telling that his commander was a *Scotchman*, six feet high and more, the most beautiful in countenance, the finest in features, the handsomest in person, the most steadfast, and the bravest in all the army.” The great Duke knew the men to gather round his standard. They loved and trusted him; their soldiers loved and trusted them. Herein lay the secret, under the God of battles, of British valour and British victories. May they never want successors to guard our much-loved native isle!

A grand gathering was assembled, and a dinner was given, in Glasgow, in June 1849, consequent upon the brevet of 1847, to the field officers of the army and navy, contemporaries of the Duke of Wellington, at which the Right Honourable the Earl of Glasgow presided, and at which, as the oldest survivor, the gallant General officiated as eroupier.

In deference to Sir Thomas as their colonel, to the great gratification of both officers and men, who love him with filial affection and feel honoured to have him at their head, the 34th, by orders of the Commander-in-chief, on returning from the Crimea, were for a few months stationed at Glasgow, and for a longer period thereafter in the metropolis of Scotland. Fresh additions were added to the many laurels of that distinguished corps before Sebastopol, who fought as if they saw their honoured and venerated Colonel looking on. In spirit indeed, he was with them. The prayers of the aged and worn warrior and his lady ascended for them night and day, and only age with its infirmities, increased and intensified by unparal-

leed service, prevented them both from being in the midst of them. And now, the General and his lady remained at their Edinburgh residence during the summer, principally to load them with the tokens of their interest and affection. Not to speak of their daily assiduities in private, in which, both for their present good and their eternal welfare, they watched, in public as well, over each officer of this distinguished corps, and rejoiced to have them with them as parents cherishing their children.

At length the regiment being under orders for India, on account of the mutiny there in 1857, a very interesting and somewhat affecting scene took place on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, on Monday morning, July 20th, of that year. Sir Thomas and his Lady, accompanied by other members of his household, and attended by the *élite* of the city, both military and civil, drove up punctually at the hour of ten morning, being the time fixed. The regiment, commanded by Colonel Kelly, had paraded, and formed three sides of a square, ready to receive, with every demonstration of respect, their revered chief. The General wore the stars and ribbons of the orders of the Grand Cross of the Bath and of Hanover, and the other honours with which he had been worthily loaded, when he had fought at the head of their fathers, all of whom, but himself, have passed away. He stepped forward and inspected the corps, putting questions to several of the decorated officers and men, regarding the battles in which they had fought, and the service they had seen. At the request of the General, the Honourable Colonel Dalziel, Assistant Adjutant-General, then, in the name of the Right Honourable Lord Melville, distributed the six medals given by the King of Sardinia, as rewards for distinguished conduct in the field, to Lieutenant-Colonel Simpson, Brevet-Major Jordan, Lieutenant Peel, Lieutenant Boyce, Colour-Serjeant J. Pratt, and Serjeant D. Coughlan. Colonel Dalziel at the same time took occasion to state, that, having been stationed with the regiment a good many years ago, he then found them to bear an excellent character, and he was happy to know that they had always since maintained their good name.

The 34th had landed in the Crimea on the 9th December 1854, and had had its full share of the weary watchings, privations, and sufferings which befell the British army during the following disastrous winter in the

trenches before Sebastopol, when the flower of as fine an army as the world ever saw, found a winding-sheet in the snow. This corps took part in many night sorties, and in June 1855, it was engaged in the gallant attack on the 7th of that month, which resulted in the capture of the rifle-pits and quarries in front of the Redan, and again it formed one of the storming columns which assaulted that important work on the 18th. In the final attack on the Redan, the 34th was one of the regiments placed in support, and was ready to sustain the same deadly share in the conflict which it had undergone on the 18th of June.

Throughout the campaign the corps had sustained an excellent character, and its gallantry and discipline have not lessened since its return and enjoyment of the comparative repose of home. The commanding officers almost daily exercised the regiment in the duties of the field; and at a review and a mock battle, a few weeks before, their practical familiarity with their military duties was conspicuously illustrated. Their venerable chief then took an affecting farewell of the regiment, and made some remarks to the effect, that, during the long period in which he had been their colonel, he had always had the satisfaction of considering them one of the model regiments of the British army, and he trusted that as such they would ever distinguish themselves. The aged and worn hero then lifted up his voice and said, "Thirty-fourth Regiment,—I take an affectionate leave of you all. I commend you to the God of battles, who has covered my head in scores of battles during the last sixty-seven years in which I have been a soldier. I cannot expect to meet you on earth again; but while I live your honour shall be dear to my heart; you shall ever be present in my prayers." Colonel Kelly, with bedewed eyes—though one of the bravest of the brave, for what eye was tearless there and then?—instantly gave the signal for three cheers for their venerated and beloved chief, to which the men responded with waving of their hats, and with three times three, in which the vast assemblage of spectators joined, till the old Castle re-echoed and rang again, at the close of which the accomplished band struck up in thrilling tones the appropriate air: "Should auld acquaintance be forgot?" Again, as Sir Thomas with his Lady drove off from the grounds, the cheering was renewed; and again the band



played the Scotch air : "John Anderson, my jo, John, when we were first acquainted." It was a scene to the citizens, as well as to the soldiers, truly spirit-stirring and sublime. There had stood the gallant veteran whose life, so prolonged, is a rare history of fame ; whose early services date from the beginning of the revolutionary war ; who was wounded in one of its first battles in Flanders, fighting under His Royal Highness the Duke of York ; and who, under Sir Ralph Abereromby in the West Indies, was met by a brother officer, marching up to take a fort deemed impregnable, with the remark, It cannot be taken : to which he replied, "*It can ; I have the order in my pocket.*" And he and his men did take it.

On the Friday following, the 24th July, the regiment left the Castle on their way to India. Colonel Kelly led them in their march to the railway station through Charlotte Square, in which the General resided. They drew up before his residence, and like a father, rather than a commander, he again gave them a few words of counsel and kindness, and bade them good-bye. The whole city seemed gathered together looking on, and again the band played the airs already mentioned, and again they expressed their grateful affection by loud and prolonged cheers, as they marched away, the hardiest of the officers and men being observed again and again to wipe away a tear.

The regiment is still in India. They have gained new honours in suppressing the terrible and shameful mutinies of that far-off land. But not a few of both officers and men whose breasts heaved with young life and high hope that day in Edinburgh, have already had their bones buried in India's burning sands, and gloriously won their title to be numbered among the fallen brave.

At the request of Sir Thomas, the whole of the officers, ere they left, had their portraits taken by Mr. Moffat, Princes Street. Their soldierly appearance elicits the admiration of every beholder. Their likenesses on the walls of Mr. Moffat's gallery, prove them to be as fine a staff as any regiment can boast of. The portraits—forty in number, exclusive of that of Sir Thomas—are what is termed untouched, and have been taken with perfect success. As specimens of photographic art, they are of the first order ; nothing could be more tastefully done. They have been trans-

ferred to Brisbane House, and they ornament the walls of one of the public rooms.

The General and his Lady, besides, presented every soldier in the regiment with a copy of the Word of God, having the name of their chief inscribed, and the words—"a parting gift," in token of their Christian regard for their present and everlasting welfare. Many are the private acts of kindness shown to their wives and children left behind, from that period down to this day.

An elegant monument of marble, in memory of the officers and soldiers of the 34th, that fell before Sebastopol, is nearly completed by the celebrated sculptor at Edinburgh, John Steell, Esq., R.S.A., to be erected in Carlisle Cathedral, because the regiment was first embodied in Cumberland. Sir Thomas has undertaken all the trouble of obtaining this privilege of its erection within the time-honoured walls, and of seeing all the expense defrayed.

At the illustrious Duke's public funeral, by command of the Queen, as will appear from the following letter, Sir Thomas was appointed a distinguished place, as one of the few surviving friends and fellow-soldiers of the great captain of his age. The letter follows :—



"HORSE GUARDS, 4th November 1852.

"SIR,—I am commanded by General Viscount Hardinge to acquaint you that Her Majesty the Queen, in consideration of your long, faithful, and distinguished services in Her Majesty's army, has been graciously pleased to desire, that his Lordship should ascertain whether it would be agreeable to you to take part in the procession on the occasion of the funeral of the late illustrious Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington, or to avail yourself of the accommodation which would be reserved for you, within St. Paul's Cathedral on that occasion, as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

"RICHARD AIREY.

"General Sir Thomas M. Brisbane, Bart., G.C.B., &c., &c."

Most grateful it would have been for the aged hero to have shown this last mark of respect to all that was mortal of the honoured dead, but his medical adviser and Christian friend firmly forbade the exposure at his time of life, and especially at this season of the year. Indeed, Sir Thomas felt that to be four or five hours confined in one position on the way to the grave, and then within the Cathedral, was more than his worn frame could possibly undergo. He had most respectfully, though most reluctantly, to decline the honour and the privilege which her Majesty so graciously intended for him.

## CHAPTER XIV.

MOVEMENT BY SIR THOMAS'S FRIENDS, MILITARY AND NAVAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CIVIL, TO OBTAIN FOR HIM THE DIGNITY OF FIELD-MARSHAL—EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS AND PERIODICALS—CONCLUSION.

DURING these years, and subsequently, a movement was simultaneously made by the few surviving fellow-officers and numerous friends of the General, to induce his Grace the Duke of Cambridge, as Commander-in-chief, and others that have the charge of these matters, to recommend to our beloved Queen to confer upon so distinguished an officer the Field-Marshal's Baton. Were we only to name all to whom such a promotion would be grateful, we would need to enumerate all the descendants of his companions in arms during the last seventy years—all in both services, the naval and military. The honour would be peculiarly grateful to Scotland and the Scotch—to all of whom the name of Her Majesty is so dear. Scotland does feel honoured to number among her surviving illustrious sons one who fought the battles of his country under our Queen's illustrious father, nay more, who was honoured with the personal friendship of his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent; one who is the daily correspondent of the learned and scientific of every land; who is, in short, the oldest officer in the army at this moment.

The following extracts, both from letters of friends and contemporary newspapers, will indicate how ardently the community, as well as both arms of the service, desire that this crowning honour should be conferred.

From General Lane, Dublin—

“DAWSON PLACE, DUBLIN, *July 4, 1857.*”

“DEAR SIR THOMAS,— . . . I see by the periodical press, not only of Scotland, but of England and Ireland too, that your claims are at length

put forward ; and I most sincerely hope that the eloquent and truthful statement of facts, on behalf of Scotland's oldest soldier, may be at once acceded to by the authorities.

“ E. LANE.”

From Captain Blair of Blair, Dalry, Ayrshire—

“ DEVON, 7th July 1857.

“ MY DEAR SIR THOMAS,—I see by the newspapers even at this out-of-the-way place (Ilfracombe, Devon), your claims advocated. I agree in every word I have read, and I am sure it is the general feeling of both services that you have not been fairly dealt with, in not having the Baton. But I hope *le beau temps viendra*.—Yours most truly,

“ W. H. H. BLAIR.”

The former is a specimen of the military, and the latter of the naval feeling, though many similar letters to Sir Thomas might be given.

We present next some brief extracts from the periodicals of the day :—

“ The Queen, we learn from the *United Service Magazine*, is about to confer the Baton of Field-Marshal on his Royal Highness the Commander-in-chief, and it is believed that the opportunity will be taken to pay a similar honour to Lords Gough and Seton, both distinguished soldiers. Another account says that the two oldest Generals, the Earl of Cork and Francis Moore, may be included in the list of promotions. A stronger case than either of these officers can make out could be stated in favour of the high honour being conferred upon Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane.

“ He first served under the Duke of York, before even the career of Wellington had commenced ; he was the companion in arms of that commander during his victorious Peninsular career, and his decorations prove that he did not spare his best blood in the day of battle. He was afterwards intrusted with the government of our great Australian colony,

where he fostered its infant prosperity, and shaped into civilized and constitutional model its early institutions, and that with such success that even among the very changeable and shifting population of that region, his name is still cherished with affectionate respect. We would have anticipated, according to the system so vauntingly promulgated of late, that when there was an opportunity to bestow a baton, advantage would have been taken to confer it upon a veteran chief so distinguished, and who possesses besides, as the representative, by birth and alliance, of two of the oldest families of the baronage in the kingdom, the advantage of that aristocratic element which was wont to be so popular at the Horse Guards. We might have said something, besides, of Sir Thomas's scientific attainments, the extent and variety of which are so well known; but we rather suspect that that class of accomplishment does not count for much in any of the 'circumlocution' offices. We have not the honour of the personal acquaintance of the gallant officer to whom these remarks refer, but, seeing that the dignity of Field-Marshal is at best always so rarely bestowed, we could not help pointing attention to the fact that the proposed promotions, even if not objectionable in themselves, are somewhat to the prejudice of others who seem to have better claims to such a reward; and we hope that the Duke of Cambridge will not delay an act of justice, with which we are certain the army would warmly sympathize.

"It may be proper to add, that General Brisbane was present at, and engaged in, fourteen battles, the principal of which were Tournay, Dunkirk, Vittoria, Nive, the Pyrenees, Orthes, and Toulouse; at twenty-two minor actions, such as Mornian, Buren, Chabot, Trinidad, Pampeluna, Sameterre, Bayonne, Hasparren, &c.; and took part in six sieges, viz., Valenciennes, Dunkirk, Newport, Nimeguen, Morne-Fortune, and Porto Rico, besides sorties. The presentation of a Marshal's Baton to Sir Thomas would be at once a popular and a judicious exercise of patronage by the military advisers of Her Majesty.

"The *North British Mail* has the following remarks on this important subject, and we are induced to copy them into our columns as much for their intrinsic merit, as on account of the view which is taken of the

claims of a distinguished individual long connected with this neighbourhood :—

“ ‘ We notice an announcement in some of our military contemporaries that it is the intention of the Horse Guards to confer the dignity of Field-Marshal upon two old Generals, the Earl of Cork and Francis Moore. We are not informed whether this measure emanates direct from the new Commander-in-chief, or is just another piece of routine from the old source of such practices still existing at the Horse Guards. We observe, however, that the two Generals in question are the two already at the head of the list, and who have had that distinction and the consequent emoluments for a good many years already. As we have not been able to trace the record of any very brilliant services performed by either of these officers, we are left to presume that their elevation now to the highest military rank in the army is an instance of the continuance of a return to the old system of seniority, which has already produced such baneful effects upon the character and efficiency of the service. We had hoped better things under the present management. Even Lord Hardinge, although as great a slave to routine as the Horse Guards ever produced, at last opened his eyes to the necessity of merit promotions ; and the lamented Lord Raglan obtained his baton, as was most carefully paraded at the time, only because of his eminent services. We had hoped to have seen more of this when there was an occasion of opportunity of promotion. For example, the eye cannot glance far down from the top of the list of Generals, without encountering the name of Sir Thomas Brisbane—one of very considerable standing in seniority, if that is a chief requisite—and associated with numerous and most important services, both in the field and of an administrative kind.’

“ We need not say how heartily we sympathize with the journal above quoted, in its allusions to Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane. We would much sooner see a Field-Marshal’s Baton in his hand than in that of many who have received this high distinction of late years. We look upon Sir Thomas’s claims to the office as beyond all question, equal, if not superior, to any in point of merit ; and we hope that he will not be forgot on the very earliest opportunity.”

Sir Thomas's friends, in Scotland, who had occasion to correspond with those of Her Majesty's advisers having the direction of such matters, respectfully laid before them his claims, and the universal desire of his countrymen, that at length now they should be met and honoured. Noblemen and officers, both naval and military, in high place and authority, recommended that a Memorial, briefly setting forth the gallant General's protracted, varied, and distinguished services over the whole world, should be respectfully laid before our beloved Queen. About a year ago this was done. At the same time a copy was transmitted to his Royal Highness the General commanding-in-chief. Considering that not only has the illustrious Field-Marshal, his ever faithful friend the Duke of Wellington, passed away, but almost all his fellow-soldiers, this course was deemed expedient. Besides, it may be added, as will be apparent from these REMINISCENCES, that Sir Thomas is, and that he has ever been, more of a soldier and a philosopher than a politician, and that in all these three aspects his character in public and in private demonstrates that "he has never given up to party what was meant for mankind." This course has been adopted, therefore, to insure that "the new generation," including Field-Marshals that were not born when Sir Thomas was wounded in his country's battles, should discern his high deserts "looming in the distance."

Her Majesty commanded the Right Honourable General Grey to acknowledge the Memorial directly to Sir Thomas, in the following gracious words :—

" WINDSOR CASTLE, 6th Nov. 1858.

" SIR THOMAS,—I have received the commands of Her Majesty to acknowledge the receipt of letter of date the 1st, with accompanying Memorial, giving a summary of your long and meritorious services in all parts of the world, during a period of sixty-eight years. Her Majesty has a grateful appreciation of the value of these services ; but at the same time she feels it necessary to adhere to the constitutional practice of being guided in awarding honours or rewards for such services by the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, who has before him the various claims, on a comparative consideration of which the bestowal of these

honours must depend.—I have the honour to be, Sir Thomas, your most obedient servant,

“GREY.”

The Commander-in-Chief also honoured the gallant General with the following letter :—

“HORSE GUARDS, 2d Sept. 1858.

“SIR,— . . . I have received Memorial to Her Majesty presenting your claims to the rank of a Field-Marshal, and I avail myself of this occasion to assure you of the high respect which I entertain for your services ; but, as far as I am aware, it is not intended to add at present to the number of Field-M Marshals.—I am, Sir, yours,

“GEORGE.”

“General Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, Bart.,  
“G.C.B., &c., &c.”

While Sir Thomas heartily appreciates the kindness of his many friends, he now desires that no additional steps should be taken in this matter. He stands in the midst of a new generation, like an aged oak of his own native mountains, surrounded by saplings—alone—where once a forest has been. Almost all his compeers have been cut down or have passed away. He now waits to follow—patiently waits till his change come.

Still, his friends are only anxious that the well-earned honour may not be delayed, till it be out of the power of earthly potentates to confer the reward which he has so richly won. This would be regretted, principally on our country's account, and on account of our young, ardent, and noble-minded soldiers, to whom the General has given such a noble example of faithfully serving his God, his sovereign, and his country ; and who, with India, China, as well as nearer home, seem likely to have work enough in prospect, to afford them an occasion of showing themselves worthy of their fathers. As for Sir Thomas, he has reward enough in a good conscience—in the society of the partner that has sweetened his joys and shared his sorrows ; and, above all, in communion with the Captain of his salvation, giving him that peace which the world can neither give nor

take away. Calmly and quietly he enjoys life's evening in the home of his fathers at Brisbane, his heart beating as strongly and burning as brightly for the honour of his beloved Queen and country as it ever did, while he pursues his favourite studies, and makes his daily observations with the fervour of a young philosopher. No less, but more fervently and devoutly does he walk with his Saviour and his God, reading His word, and meditating thereon day and night, in the hope, sure and certain, that every day as it dawns, and every night as it darkens, is bringing him nearer the moment when, through sovereign grace, he shall join his godly parents and his sainted children, not lost but gone before, in that land of holiness without sin—peace, without war—knowledge, without ignorance—day, without night—then to be *ever with the Lord*.



## A P P E N D I X.

THE following notice is recorded in the eighth page of the Historical Record of the 53d, or the Shropshire Regiment of Foot :—

“ In 1794, May 10th, Captain Brisbane, now General Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, Bart., G.C.B., &c., &c., commanded the light company on this occasion, which consisted of thirty-three men, of whom twenty-two were either killed or wounded, of the latter of whom Sir Thomas was one.”

In page 102d of the Historical Record of the 74th Regiment the following words will be found :—

“ 1814, April 10th, Major-General Brisbane, now General Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, and Colonel of the 34th Regiment, commanded the brigade in which was the 74th, and was himself wounded.”

The following extract from Major Alves' Journal, regarding the *tête-de-pont* by the 74th Regiment and Sir Thomas's brigade at Toulouse, on this day, proves that whoever was guilty of temerity the gallant General was not :—

“ Shortly after daylight the division was put in motion, with orders to drive all the enemy's outposts before us, and though acting as Adjutant I was permitted by Colonel Trench to accompany the skirmishers. With but feeble opposition we drove them before us, until they reached the *tête-de-pont* on the canal, leading into Toulouse, on the right bank of the Garonne. On arriving there I mentioned to Captain Andrews of the 74th, that we had gone far enough, and reconnoitered very attentively the manner in which it was defended by strong palisades, &c. I then returned to where the regiment had halted, and mentioned my observations to Colonel

Trench, stating that nothing further could be done without artillery to break down the palisades. He immediately brought me to General Brisbane, to whom I also related my observations as above, who directed me to ride to the left, and find out Sir Thomas Picton, who was with the other brigade, and tell him my observations. After riding about two miles to the left, I found Sir Thomas Picton, and told him as above stated, who immediately said, in presence of all his staff, 'Go back, Sir, and tell them to move on.' This I did with a very heavy heart, as I dreaded what the result must be, but I had no alternative. About a quarter of an hour afterwards the regiment moved from where it was halted. We suffered a loss of thirty killed, and one hundred wounded, out of three hundred and fifty, in the attempt to get possession of the *tête-de-pont*, and were obliged to retire without gaining any advantage. The attack was the more to be regretted, as Lord Wellington's orders were, that it was only to be a diversion, and not a real attack."

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Additional Addresses from various sections of the community in New South Wales, presented to Sir Thomas on his renouncing the government there :—

To His Excellency SIR THOMAS BRISBANE, Knight-Commander of the most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Territory of New South Wales, &c.

NEW SOUTH WALES, 26th October 1825.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned civil officers of New South Wales, beg leave to approach your Excellency, on the eve of your departure from the colony, with the warmest sentiments of respect and esteem.

Our official capacities precluded us from joining in the tribute of grateful admiration which your Excellency's public conduct called forth from all classes of the community at the late general meeting of the colonists.

Anxious, however, to evince our respectful attachment, we earnestly entreat permission to place a portrait of your Excellency in the Government House of New South Wales, to remain as a memento of the warm and affectionate feelings with which your Excellency's character has inspired us.—We have the honour to be, your Excellency's faithful and devoted servants,

WILLIAM STEWART, Lieut.-Governor.  
 JOHN STEPHEN, Asst.-Just. Supr. Court.  
 J. FINNELE, Commander at Bathurst.  
 WILLIAM CARTER, Mem. of Supr. Court.  
 M. ANDERSON, Assist.-Surgeon.  
 GEORGE GALLWEY NALLY, Regis. Sp. Ct.  
 W. H. MOORE, Mast. of Crown Office.  
 THOMAS FORBES, Chief-Justice.  
 J. MESCHANESS, Sheriff.  
 W. BALCOMBE, Col. Treasurer.  
 JODLENG, Surveyor-General.  
 HENRY GRATTON DOUGLAS, Clk. of Court.

JOHN PIPER, JUN., Assr.'s Office.  
 THO. NICKOLSON, Master-Attendant.  
 REV. THOMAS REDDALL.  
 JOHN CAMPBELL, Comis. for Appor. Coly.  
 F. ROSS, J.P. and Superintend. of Police.  
 WM. LUHGONE, Ass.-Comy. of Civil Accts.  
 W. BOYES, Asst.-Cly.  
 KENTIL L. WELY, Prin. Sup. of Convicts.  
 J. MITCHELL, Assist.-Surgeon.  
 FREDERICK GARLING, Solictr. for Crown.  
 DAN. MACLEOD, Pol. Magis. of Paramatta.  
 ROBERT CRAUFORD, Pr. Clk. of Col. Secy.

To HIS EXCELLENCY, &c.

We, the undersigned, being free inhabitants of the town of Paramatta and its vicinity, beg leave most respectfully to address your Excellency on your approaching departure from this colony, with our warmest expressions of gratitude for the spirit and genius of your government over us, and with our most hearty wishes for your personal and domestic prosperity and happiness when you are separated from us.

We do not come before your Excellency with the language of fulsome adulation to extol your administration at the expense of sacrificing our judgment; we do not mean to exhibit the acts of your government as a system of perfect regulations; but we mean to express our fullest conviction, that the measures of your government have equally and equitably promoted the general interests of the colony.

The political strength of a country, whether that strength consists in an increased population or an augmentation of wealth, is commonly regulated by its adherence to the principles and practices of morality and reli-

gion. For the example your Excellency has set before us, we feel truly grateful, inasmuch as your private and public conduct, so far as morality and religion are implied, has materially changed the moral features of this town and its vicinity. By this circumstance alone, as a part of the people under your government, we have become more happy, useful, and prosperous members of society.

Your impartial administration has been remarked by others who have approached your Excellency, and we reiterate the sentiment in its most extensive acceptance, because we have felt its benefits. We are not generally a wealthy people, but the principle of our wants proceeds exactly on the same grounds, and is supported by the same reasons as the most opulent among us; it would not, therefore, be just in us to conceal the fact, that you have attended to our wants with the most scrupulous impartiality. For the kindness and urbanity with which our requests have been heard, and for the sympathy which you have expressed when it was not in your power to meet our wishes without introducing a principle of partiality and injustice, we should be insensible to every noble and generous feeling, were we not to express our highest satisfaction thereof.

We sincerely and deeply deplore the existence of a party and factious spirit in the colony, because its operations are diametrically opposed to every measure that is at once calculated to promote both our prosperity and our social peace; and we sincerely regret that our neighbourhood should be the foremost in fomenting those distractions which have so vitally injured the best interests of the colony.

For the countenance and support you have given to trial by jury, we feel greatly indebted to you. We feel convinced that its general effects have been exceedingly satisfactory and productive of public good. But we would humbly submit it as our opinion, that the sooner an addition be made to the numbers of the grand jury men, the more speedily will that factious disposition subside, which has so seriously affected every administration from the commencement of the colony to the present day.

But in nothing does the genius of your Excellency's government so fully and clearly appear, as in taking away the shackles from public discussion, by bestowing on the colony the liberty of the press. Such is our

judgment of the liberality of this measure, that were it possible that every other act of your administration was subversive of the real welfare of your people, this act alone would neutralize every evil. But it shows us how willing you were to listen to the voice of your people, and it assures us at the least of the rectitude of your intentions ; for we cannot conceive it to be possible that a governor, whose designs were to oppress and impoverish his people, would lay himself open to the remarks of the world, when it was in his power to circumscribe the promulgation of his oppressive measure. This is an act of enlightened policy, and it speaks more for the liberality of your mind, and the uprightness of your intention, than we can find words to express.

In taking our farewell of you and your amiable family, we beg leave to offer our most fervent prayers, that when you leave our shores, you may have a safe and speedy passage to the land of your fathers. To yourself we wish health and a long life, devoted to the service of your country, and to the interests and liberties of the people of New South Wales. May you enjoy every blessing, and be preserved from every evil ; and if you continue to move in a more public and exalted sphere than the government of this colony, we earnestly desire that you may be the instrument of effecting much good to mankind, and that your life may terminate surrounded by the honours and future hopes that crown the last days of a man who has done his duty.

W. LAWSSON, *J. P.*

[With many others.]

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, &c.

WE, the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of the Australian Social Lodge No. 260, being the primary Masonic Lodge established in this colony, beg leave to approach your Excellency, on your retirement from the government, with the faithful assurance of our most sincere respect, our most cordial personal esteem.

From a society, of which the leading object is to promote and disseminate the principles of peace, love, and harmony, it is due to your

Excellency to acknowledge that the mild virtues, which are the distinguishing characteristics of your Excellency's general conduct, are in perfect accordance with that benevolent system on which the foundation of this society is firmly based. And we therefore feel ourselves peculiarly called upon to mark those virtues with the strongest expression of our approbation.

Precluded by the regulations of our brotherly association from blending within our public addresses any observations of a political nature, it only remains for us to convey to your Excellency the assurance of our friendly regard, and of our lasting recollection of your benevolent qualities, your honourable principles, and your generous philanthropy, and to express our heartfelt wishes that on your departure from these shores you may next meet with a safe, pleasant, and speedy passage to your native land, and may there long enjoy, in the bosom of your social and domestic circle, that repose and felicity which are the deserved meed of honour, rectitude, and beneficence.

W. CAMPBELL, Jun., *Worshipful Master*.  
[For Officers and Brethren of Lodge 260.]

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, &c.

WE, the Master, Wardens, Officers, and Brethren of the Leinster Marine Lodge of Australia, No. 266, held under warrant from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the subscribed Masonic Brethren residing in this colony, beg leave, upon the eventful moment of your Excellency's departure from hence, very respectfully to tender you our sentiments and feelings of respect and esteem for yourself and family, and a grateful admiration of the rules and principles which have universally guided and directed your Excellency's administration. Deeply impressed with a due sense of the many blessings bestowed on this infant colony by those measures, we cannot withhold expressing our general and individual regret in the moment of separation, which, we are sorry to say, is so near at hand ; but which, we sincerely hope, may increase your Excellency's future life with happiness, and add honour and prosperity to every branch of your family, which,

from the nature of events, could not be reasonably anticipated in this distant part of the world. From a Society whose views are ever directed to the dissemination of charity, peace, love, and harmony, whose tenets are truth and justice, nothing like flattery or dissimulation can be expected.

Our obligations to masonic duty prevents us from entering upon the benefits which this colony has derived from your political administration ; yet permit us, Sir, again to repeat our congratulations on the advantages it has derived internally and morally during that period.

That the heartfelt satisfaction arising from conscious rectitude and integrity may always accompany your Excellency through life, that pleasing and prosperous gales may waft you safely and speedily to the shores of your ancestors, and to the bosom of your family, where you may long enjoy the blessings of domestic and social happiness, is the ardent and sincere wish of your Excellency's most respectful, obedient, and humble servants,

WM. L. EDWARDSON, *Worshipful Master*.

[And all the Officers.]

#### TO HIS EXCELLENCY, &c.

SYDNEY, 29th October 1825.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Australian Turf Club, have the honour to approach your Excellency with respectful acknowledgments for the repeated marks of attention shown towards us, and more particularly for the kind solicitude which has been displayed in a communication recently conveyed to us by your Excellency's aide-de-camp.

We feel highly sensible of your Excellency's obliging proposal of recommending to His Majesty's Government the establishment of a King's Plate, to be run for every season ; and we accept, with lively satisfaction, the flattering expression of your Excellency's wish to present a Silver Cup to be awarded annually at the discretion of the stewards.

It is a source of pleasure to us to understand that your Excellency so fully and so justly appreciates the legitimate objects of the Turf, convinced as we are that they will render the most essential service to the public,

and that that essential service cannot be better or more surely accelerated than by such assistance as your Excellency has personally given us, and by the further patronage which may be expected from your Excellency's recommendation to His Majesty's Government.

The example thus set will tend sensibly to promote social intercourse, and increase the happiness and union of the community to which your Excellency is about to bid adieu.

In taking leave of your Excellency, we beg to repeat our thanks, and to express our sincere wishes for the future health and happiness of your Excellency and family.—In the name of the Australian Turf Club,

G. G. MILLS, *Honorary Secretary.*

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The following are the inscriptions on the Marble Slabs erected over the graves of Sir Thomas's departed children, in the Brisbane Burying-place, at Largs, Ayrshire :—

In Memory of

ISABELLA MARIA,

ELDEST DAUGHTER OF

GEN. SIR THOMAS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE, BART., G. C. B.

SHE DIED AT BRISBANE HOUSE, 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1849,

AGED TWENTY-EIGHT.

IN HER,

Surpassing Graces of Person only served to display,  
 During early Life, deep Filial Affection ;  
 During more mature years, unwearied and affectionate Interest in the  
 Happiness, and zealous Endeavour for the Good of all within  
 The sphere of her Influence ;

WHILE

A highly refined Intellect, in union with a meek and quiet Spirit,  
 Purified and yet stimulated by earnest Aspirations  
 For the diffusion of the Truth as it is in Jesus, sanctified by the Spirit from  
 On High, enabled her to complete her comparatively brief  
 But useful course, when she fell on sleep,  
 And was laid to her Fathers.

*“ Precious in the Sight of the Lord is the Death of His Saints.”*

PSALM CXVI. 15.

In Memory of  
THOMAS AUSTRALIUS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE,  
WHO DIED AT GIBRALTAR,  
ON 15TH NOVEMBER 1849,  
AGED TWENTY-FIVE.

HE HAD GONE THITHER TO VISIT HIS FORMER BROTHER OFFICERS  
OF H. M. 34TH REGIMENT,  
TO WHOM, AS TO ALL HIS OTHER FRIENDS, HIS AMIABLE AND GENEROUS  
DISPOSITION HAD WARMLY ENDEARED HIM.  
AND HE WAS ABOUT TO RETURN HOME, WHEN FEVER CUT HIM OFF  
IN AN ILLNESS OF TEN DAYS.

*“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”*

---

ALSO OF HIS BROTHER,  
HENRY,  
BORN AT SEA, OFF RIO DE JANEIRO,  
DIED AT MILFORD HAVEN,  
26TH MAY 1826,  
AGED THREE MONTHS.

In Memory of  
ELEANOR AUSTRALIA MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE.

SHE DIED AT VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT,

9TH APRIL 1852,

AGED TWENTY-NINE.

*“ Departing to be with Christ which is far better.”*

HER FAITH AND HEAVENLY PATIENCE, DURING PROTRACTED ILLNESS, WHILE  
GLORIFYING DIVINE GRACE, ILLUSTRATED THE TEXT, CHOSEN BY  
HERSELF FOR THE THEME OF HER FUNERAL SERMON,—

*“ Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus,  
that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.”—*  
2 COR. iv. 10.

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HER PARENTS

SIR THOMAS AND LADY MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE

SORROW, BUT “NOT AS WITHOUT HOPE.”

*“ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which  
sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”—1 THESS. iv. 14.*



THE following letter from Colonel Mansell, Devonshire, written immediately after a public meeting held in Glasgow, for the prevention of shipwrecks, at which Sir Thomas referred to the conjuncture in which he found the troop ship, the *William and Mary*, referred to at pages 13 and 65, was published in the newspapers anonymously at the time. The Colonel was then a very young officer on board the same ship, and had a deep personal interest in the success of Sir Thomas, in being instrumental in saving them all. The Colonel kindly allows his name now to be given here, for his testimony is entirely spontaneous. The letter follows :—

“SIR,—Having lately read in your paper the report of a public meeting at Glasgow, for the prevention of shipwrecks, and being struck with the admirable speech of Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, I am induced to trouble you with a few observations in allusion to his eogent remarks regarding ships not being provided with Nautical Instruments formerly, and particularly adverting to the occasion of his passage to the West Indies in 1795. I have thrice crossed the Atlantie in the same ship with him ; and I well remember that eventful morning when we were nearly all lost on the coast of Africa, which inevitably would have happened, but for his great presenee of mind and personal exertions, through the interposition of Divine Providence. Being in the latitude of Madeira, our skipper calculated on making the island in the course of the preeeding night ; in consequence of which, some of us sat up till a late hour full of expectation. Shortly after retiring to our berths we were roused by the man at the helm calling out, ‘noise of breakers,’ which brought us all on deck instanter. At this time the vessel rolled tremendously from the mountainous swells which followed in quiek but regular suceession.

“On coming up, the first I saw of the master was to hear him order the helm ‘hard up,’ and then he fell on his knees erylng for merey. The wind, very light, was off shore, and on the weather beam. At this moment master and seamen were alike paralysed, and knew not what they were doing. Sir Thomas, not in the least daunted, but with great coolness, eharacteristic of himself, ordered the man at the helm to bring the vessel’s head to stem the eurlly-headed waves, which at this time broke awfully

over the ship, the spray dashing mast high, and she pitching to such a degree that the boat over the stern was forced out of her lashings, and in a moment was a ship's length ahead of her, from the velocity with which the bark was driven astern. This seemed the crisis of our awful situation, when providentially the breeze freshened from the shore, and the sun, appearing from behind very high land, animated our hopes, under the blessing of God, without which no human power could have saved us. Throughout these painful hours, the gallant General never for an instant lost his presence of mind, but continued working the vessel in a most seamanlike manner, which none could have excelled. Not a brace or sheet was touched till Sir Thomas himself eased off the mizen sheet, and at his command the red coats let go the braces, which helped the vessel round, so as to stem the monstrous swells, which did not actually break till some little distance astern, presenting a vast sheet of white foam. On our getting into clearer water, the ship was surrounded with sharks, which happily were disappointed of their prey, and that we all owe, under God, I verily believe, to the instrumentality of Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane. The master then, and oftentimes after, expressed his gratitude to Sir Thomas for saving the ship. That day week we arrived at Madeira. I should add that the General's first order on coming on deck was to myself, to keep the soldiers below—a duty promptly and easily obeyed, for they were chiefly Aberdeenshire men, and good soldiers.

“I may add here, that we sailed from Spithead on the 9th December 1795, in company with a gigantic fleet of men-of-war, transports, and merchantmen, amounting to nearly 600 sail, under the orders of Admiral Christian. On the 12th or 13th, at midnight, a heavy sea struck us, which laid the bark on her beam-ends, carried away our long-boat which was strongly lashed to the deck, and all our live stock which we had laid in for our passage to the West Indies, where we arrived on the 29th February, having lived all that time on salt beef and pork, with lobseouse for an occasional change. It will be remembered that the ill-fated fleet suffered severely from continued heavy gales and contrary winds. We could not light a fire in our small bark for a whole fortnight, and we lived mostly on raw ham and hard biscuit, washed down by a moderate quantum of good

old port. Upon these occasions I well remember the General's ejaculations—'I sheath my sword for lack of argument'—setting aside the knife he had been using, such being the happy temperature of his mind.

"I must not omit to mention, that after the ship righted from being on her beam-ends, we found eight feet of water in the hold, and we were up to the knees in the cabin.

"In referenee to that part of Sir Thomas's speech, where he stated that 'this event' (alluding to the foregoing narrative) 'induced him to resolve to procure the best Nautical Instruments in future, to make himself independent of the ignorance of any shipmaster. He was so successful in this, that in the course of next voyage he was enabled to keep the ship's reekoning;' I can bear testimony to the fact, but I must first refer to an anecdote showing his brave spirit. Unfortunately, he and I embarked on board an unsound ship to return home in 1800, after severe service in the West Indies; and on our passage from St. Vincent to St. Kitt's she foundered, but before she went down, a boat from the convoy-ship arrived to save the lives on board; and as Colonel Brisbane was in the act of stepping in from the sinking ship, with his Nautieal Instruments in his hands, the Lieutenant in charge stopped him, and said his Captain had given him peremptory orders to take no baggage of any sort whatever; he therefore could not allow those things to be put into the boat. Colonel Brisbane immediately retraced his steps, desiring the Lieutenant to give his respects to the Captain, and to tell him that 'before I part with these things I hold in my hands, I will go down with the ship.' Honest Jack immediately replied, 'Step in, sir.'

"At St. Christopher's we engaged another passage and sailed under convoy for England, the Colonel making his astronomieal observations daily; and his talented genius being known to the head-officers of the fleet, they called upon him repeatedly on the passage to know his longitude, which was relied on; and it is a matter of fact that Colonel Brisbane's reekoning was within thirty miles of making Cape Clear. We had very boisterous weather, and seldom saw the sun; and I have since heard that the Commodore was very much out of his road. This needs no comment from me, but you may rely on the fact.

“ So late as 1816, when I sailed from Portsmouth for St. Helena, the master of the transport, on board of which I was, had only a quadrant to find his way with. We had a long passage to Madeira, when I changed into another, and proceeded single ship. I soon found that the master of her was as badly off ; and when it was calculated that we had arrived at our destination, St. Helena was not to be seen. We cruised three days in the latitude of the island, steering w.n.w. and w. by n., and after a fruitless search it was decided we should stand across the s.e. trade again, till we should reach the Variables, which we did in about  $26^{\circ}$  s. ; and after about seven or eight days' sailing to the northward and eastward, we bore down a second time on the lost island, which we fortunately made good on this occasion, after traversing more than 2000 miles out of our way. The Lunars taken on board were not satisfactory, these varying one, two, and three degrees the same day, which could not be otherwise in the absence of a Chronometer.

“ On another occasion, in sailing from Madras for Columbo and England in a merchant ship, and on the fourth or fifth day after departure, we came in contact with the Bassas rocks off Ceylon, in very fine weather, or we must have been lost. Fortunately she was teak built, and stood a thorough hard bumping. After rolling half an hour on this dangerous reef, she got into deeper water, with loss of rudder, and here we remained a week, and ultimately arrived at Bombay, after undergoing temporary repair at Point de Galle. I took the liberty of cautioning the master against the dangerous course he was steering, at which he was very indignant. It proved, however, that she struck in less than an hour of the time I anticipated. She lost her false keel, and had immense holes in her bottom.

“ I put this statement into your hands to make any use of it you may think proper ; but as I have not time to correct it, and to write a fair copy, you will, I doubt not, kindly excuse all its imperfections. Although I sign my name to it, I have to request you will be so good as to withhold it from appearing in print. As the gallant General is associated with my earliest recollections, it is for this reason alone that I write you on the present occasion.”







