

Obituary.

[Relatives or Friends supplying Memoirs are requested to append their Addresses, in order that a Copy of the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE containing their Communications may be forwarded to them.]

THE EARL OF ILCHESTER.

Jan. 10. At Melbury-house, Dorset, aged 69, the Earl of Ilchester.

The deceased peer, William Thomas Horner Fox-Strangways, was the eldest son of Henry Thomas, second earl, by his second marriage with Maria, third daughter of the Hon. and Very Rev. William Digby, Dean of Durham, and was born May 7, 1795. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford (B.A. 1816, M.A. 1820), and entered the diplomatic service even before finally quitting the university. He was attached to the embassy at St. Petersburg in 1816; at Constantinople, 1820; and at Naples, 1822. He was appointed paid attaché at the Hague, January, 1824; and secretary of legation at Florence, March, 1825. In February, 1828, he was selected to fill the office of secretary of legation at Naples; and was secretary of embassy at Vienna in 1832; under-secretary of State at the Foreign Office in 1835; and envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary at Frankfort-on-the-Maine from Aug. 1840 to Jan. 1849, when he retired upon a pension. He succeeded his half-brother, Henry Stephen, Jan. 3, 1858. He married, July 21, 1857, Sophia Penelope, second daughter of the late Sir Robert Sheffield, Bart., of Normanby, Lincolnshire, but dying without issue, he is succeeded by his nephew, Henry Edward (born Sept. 13, 1847), the son of his youngest brother, the Hon. John George Charles Fox-Strangways (formerly M.P. for Dorset), who died Sept. 8, 1859.

“The late earl,” says the local paper, “who was a man of highly cultivated mind, was very fond of horticultural pursuits, and during his residence in

Vienna he was the means of introducing into this country the seeds of the *Pinus austriaca*, or Austrian pine. Since his retirement he has devoted a great deal of attention to the culture of flowers and plants, and his gardens at Abbotsbury bear evidence of the care and attention exercised in those departments. He was a liberal supporter of the charitable institutions of the county; and in his death the Dorset County Hospital, of which he was the patron, will miss a munificent and most valuable friend. He also took the greatest interest in the County Museum at Dorchester from its foundation; and quite recently an interesting geological specimen was by his kindness added to the valuable collection which has there been formed. He was a liberal landlord and a kind-hearted friend to the poor, and his loss will be greatly felt. During the past few years he has improved his estate by erecting a number of labourers' cottages, replete with the necessary offices, and the tenantry have had good reason to thank him for his attention to their comforts.”

In compliance with the wish of the deceased, his remains were removed to Abbotsbury Castle, and after lying in state there one day they were interred in the churchyard (the family vault being now closed), near the grave of his mother. Though the funeral was intended to be private, and none but a few personal friends were invited, very many of the Earl's tenants attended on horseback, all the shops in the town were closed, and flags half-mast high were displayed at the coastguard station and other points, whilst the labouring classes gave equal evidence by their demeanour of the loss that they felt they had sustained by the death of a kind and liberal employer.