

Government. One of the most important results of this expedition was the establishment, on Humboldt's recommendation, of the ten magnetical and meteorological observatories by the Emperor of Russia, at which hourly observations were recorded for many years, and annually published *in extenso* by the Russian Government, the whole forming the completest record of these phenomena we yet possess.

Shortly after his return from Siberia the Norwegian Government voted the funds for building an astronomical and meteorological observatory at Christiania, which was erected under Hansteen's direction. He also superintended the trigonometrical and topographical survey of Norway, which was begun in 1837.

The completion of his fifty years' public services was commemorated in 1856, shortly after which he ceased to lecture, and in 1861 retired altogether from public duty. He died on the 11th April 1873, at the advanced age of 88.

8. Biographical Notice of Jacques-Adolphe-Lambert Quetelet. By Alexander Buchan. Esq.

JACQUES-ADOLPHE-LAMBERT QUETELET.—On 17th February 1874 Quetelet died at Brussels, in the seventy-eighth year of his age, having been born at Ghent on 22d February 1796. At the age of 18 he was appointed Professor of Mathematics in the College at Ghent; and in July 1819, the degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on him by the University of the same town, which had just been founded by King William. His dissertation on the occasion was so well received that he was shortly thereafter appointed to the Chair of Mathematics in the Royal Athenæum of Brussels. In February following he was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences and Belles-Lettres.

The earliest of Quetelet's published memoirs, which began to be issued in 1820, were on geometrical subjects. He soon, however, directed his attention more exclusively to physics and astronomy, and lectured publicly on these subjects with great success.

In 1823 he was sent to Paris to report on the observatory of that city, for the guidance of the Belgian Government in founding a similar observatory at Brussels. After some delay the observatory

was founded, with Quetelet as director; and in 1833 were begun the valuable series of astronomical, meteorological, and other physical observations for which this observatory is so favourably known. Of the work done by this observatory, special mention may be made of the catalogue, begun in 1857, of stars which seem to have appreciable motion; and the systematic observation and publication, from 1836, of the occurrence of meteors and shooting-stars,—records which proved to be of so great value thirty years later when the true character of these bodies was satisfactorily established. The meteorological observations have been particularly full and valuable, and they have been exhaustively discussed by Quetelet in his “*La météorologie de la Belgique comparée à celle du globe*,” published in 1867,—a treatise which must yet be regarded as the fullest and best account of the meteorology of any single locality on the globe. Stations at Liège, Ghent, and other places in Belgium, were also established by him in 1835.

He was elected Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Sciences and Belles-Lettres in 1834, and to his influence was chiefly due the section on the Fine Arts which was added to the Academy in 1845. To this section Quetelet made extensive and original contributions, particularly in his researches regarding the proportions of the human body, the results of which are published in his “*Athropométrie*.” In matters referring to the higher education of the people, the census, and several other national questions, the Belgian Government availed itself repeatedly of his great knowledge and experience.

He was made President of the Central Commission of Statistics at its establishment in 1841, and continued President till his death. His first paper on Statistics was published in 1826; in 1835 appeared his “*Physique Sociale*,” and ten years later his “*Lettres sur la théorie des Probabilités appliquées aux sciences, morales, et politiques*.” He originated the idea of convening an International Congress of Statistics, and the first Congress was held at Brussels in 1853.

The many-sidedness and fertility of Quetelet’s genius may be seen from the list of his scientific memoirs, enumerated in the Royal Society’s Catalogue, amounting at the close of 1863 to 220. It is in the field of statistics that Quetelet appears as a great dis-

coverer, and his success in this department is to be attributed to the clearness with which he saw that statistics occupy the same place in the development of the social and political sciences that observational data do in the development of such sciences as astronomy and meteorology; to the patient industry with which, through long years, he gathered together his facts; and to the mathematical skill he brought to bear on their discussion. He was truly, as stated by the Academy of Berlin in their congratulatory letter on the occasion of the centenary of the Belgium Academy, "the founder of a new science, which proceeds from the firm basis of observation and calculation, to discover and unfold those immutable laws which govern the phenomena, apparently the most accidental, of the life of man, down even to his most trivial actions."

9. Biographical Notice of George Berry.

By George Barclay, Esq.

MR GEORGE BERRY was born in Edinburgh (where his father, of a Quaker family in Somersetshire, had settled as a merchant), on the 12th of January 1795. Bred to business himself, partly at home and partly in France, Mr Berry succeeded his father in Edinburgh, but about 1834 removed to Leith, whence, after a successful mercantile career of twenty years, he retired, and died at Portobello on the 1st of May last.

While in Leith Mr Berry took an active part in public affairs; he was one of the founders of the Chamber of Commerce, and having early become an enthusiastic "Free trader," he continued, during the years of struggle which preceded the national adoption of that policy, perhaps the most prominent representative of free trade doctrines in Leith.

But though greatly occupied with business, Mr Berry was through all his life also somewhat of a student. A great reader, and gifted with a retentive memory, he was well versed in English literature and in science. He had been a pretty good chemist of his own day, but specially a devoted and accomplished mineralogist and geologist of the school of Jameson. In pursuit of these studies he spent for years as a young man his spare hours at home, and his holidays in