

II.—NOTICE OF THE BAPTISMAL MARRIAGE AND BURIAL
REGISTERS RESPECTING MR. ROSCOE.

By James Boardman, Esq.

I.—BIRTH

Mr. Roscoe was born at the *Old Bowling Green House*, situate near the junction of Hope Street and Mount Pleasant. Neither this nor the New Bowling Green House, situate lower down the hill, nearly opposite Roscoe Street, was considered as being in Liverpool at the time of the publication of the first Directory, in 1766, which accounts for the omission of the name of Mr. Roscoe's father as a householder. The place of Mr. Roscoe's birth is not mentioned in the entry. The Registration Act, which came into operation in 1837, under which the writer received the appointment of Superintendent Registrar of Liverpool, requires entries of the hour and place of birth, which may often be of great importance, to be known.

II.—BAPTISM.

Benn's Garden Chapel,* which was erected by the English Presbyterians about the year 1728, was the place of worship which Mr. Roscoe's father attended. Ardent as the members of this sect were in their demands for civil and religious liberty, it is to be feared that they wished the extension of the blessing to be limited to those within the pale of their own church; certainly no Papist or Jew need have asked for equal rights. Their tenets were either Trinitarian or Arian; and although no doubt there were some who went a step or two nearer to the opinions of their descendants, the Unitarians of the present day, penal laws sealed their lips. All abhorred the organ and the surplice; and indeed the latter vestment seemed to have had an effect upon their nervous system similar to that upon the bull before the red flag of the Chulillos.

This entry of the birth and baptism of Mr. Roscoe, together with all the entries in the Register Books of Catholics and Nonconformists in England and Wales made prior to July 1, 1837, and deposited in the Non-Parochial Register Office, London, are now legalized by act of parliament, and are admissible as evidence in courts of law. Although the signature of the minister who performed the rite of baptism on the infant Roscoe does not

* "*Benn's Garden Chapel, Liverpool*, William, son of William Roscoe, innkeeper, born March 8, 1753, baptized March 28."

appear in the record, it was most probably Dr. Henderson, the minister of the chapel, and afterwards on his conformity minister of St. Paul's Church. *Vide* the Rev. Dr. Thom's records.

III.—MARRIAGE.

Claudius Crigan,* afterwards Bishop of Sodor and Man, to which See he was presented by the Duke of Athol, who was at that time in a delicate state of health, and was said to have been selected as a 'locum tenens' for one of the Athol family not then ready to assume the charge. But the invigorating air of the Isle of Man, together with a mind at ease in pecuniary matters, had such an effect upon the valetudinarian that he rapidly recovered, and lived to enjoy the episcopate twenty-five years.

The Bishop was a man of agreeable manners and lively conversation. His church in Liverpool was the favourite temple of Hymen. My father, who visited the Isle of Man for forty-five consecutive years, regularly dined with his Lordship at Bishop's Court on his annual trip; and on the two last of these visits I had the pleasure to accompany him. Well I remember the awe with which I approached his Lordship on the first, on my leaving school; attired as he was in a full suit of black velvet and powdered wig. I find the following entry on the subject in my boyish journal. "After dinner walked in the garden with the Lord Bishop, who behaved in the most friendly and affectionate manner, questioning me in my reading and studies, instructing and advising me on various topics. On taking leave, he invited me to Bishop's Court, and placing his hands on my head in the most pathetic manner gave me his blessing and best wishes for my prosperity in life, in such words as I shall never forget." My second visit was soon after the glorious triumph of philanthropy, in which Mr. Roscoe had taken so important a part, the abolition of the African slave trade by England.

The Bishop had served as a chaplain to the forces in the West India colonies, and had there married a lady interested in slave property, his

* "*Chapel of St. Anne, Liverpool.* William Roscoe, of the parish of Liverpool, gentleman, and Jane Griffies, of the same place, spinster, were married in this chapel, by licence, this twenty-second day of February, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, by me,
C. CRIGAN, Minister."

This marriage was solemnized between us William Roscoe, Jane Griffies, in the presence of Samuel Aspinwall, Betty Griffies. No. 681.

(Copy) WM. WHEELER, Incumbent, March 10th, 1853.

N.B.—Mr. Aspinwall or Aspinall was the partner of Mr. Roscoe.

views on the subject were consequently biassed, and to my great surprise as well as sorrow, for young as I was I had imbibed Mr. Roscoe's principles, his Lordship defended the system of negro slavery as warmly as any Liverpool trader. And to illustrate the happy state of negro life, he sung a stave or two of a nigger song, accompanied by all the ludicrous gesticulations which we have witnessed in our visit to the Ethiopian serenaders.

On Dr. Crigan's appointment to the bishopric, Mr. Thomas Chubbard, a very talented Liverpool artist, at the Bishop's desire painted his portrait episcopally attired, but his Lordship refused to take it, although an admirable likeness, at the same time telling Mr C. that he might have it engraved for sale. Mr. C. however would not make the speculation, and in his atelier it continued to hang when I received my drawing lessons. After the Bishop's death it was purchased by the family. This portrait was an object of attraction in the first exhibition in Liverpool, held in the autumn of the year 1783, the catalogue of which Mr. Mayer has done a service to the friends of the fine arts in Liverpool by republishing.

IV.—BURIAL.

Mr. Roscoe having died previously to the Act for the Registration of Deaths coming into operation, there is no legal record of the time and place of his death, but merely of his burial.* I merely mention the fact to show how defective the law was prior to the passing of the Act of William IV., for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in England, and what a valuable measure it is, although like most reforms it was assailed on its introduction.

The funeral of Mr. Roscoe was conducted agreeably to his wishes in an unostentatious manner. The mortal remains of this great man were met on the way, from his last residence in Lodge Lane, by the Members of the Literary and Philosophical Society, the Committee of the Royal Institution, and a numerous body of his friends and admirers, who preceded them into the chapel, where the funeral service was performed by his much loved and valued friend, the late Rev. William Shepherd, LL.D.

* "*Renshaw Street Chapel, Liverpool*, [Burial] July 5th, 1831. William Roscoe, gentleman, Lodge Lane, aged 78, Grave No. 1, WM. SHEPHERD."

(Copy) SAML. THORNELY, March 16th, 1853.

SEVENTH MEETING.

Royal Institution, 5th May, 1853.

DAVID THOM, D.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Certificates of two Candidates for Membership were read for the first time.

The following gentlemen were duly elected :—

John Lawler Bagot, Great Orford Street, Liverpool.
Benjamin Witham Booth, Swinton, Manchester.
William Harrison, Ballachrink, St. John's, Isle of Man.
John Wrigley MacRae, Edge Lane, Liverpool.
Alexander Henry Wylie, 6, Catherine Street, Liverpool.

The following DONATIONS were laid upon the table :—

1. From the *Authors*.

From M. de Perthes Abbeville, France, Hon. Mem.	Nineteen vols. of his own works, viz.— De la Creation, Essai sur l'origine et la progression des Etres 5 vols. Hommes et Choses 4 „ Petit Glossaire 2 „ Sujets Dramatiques 2 „ Emma ou Quelques Lettres de Femme... 1 „ Satires Contes et Chansonnettes .. 1 „ Opinions de M. Christophe 1 „ Chants Armoricaux 1 „ Nouvelles 1 „ Romances, Ballades, et Legendes .. 1 „
From Dawson Turner, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A., &c., Hon. Mem.	Descriptive Index of the contents of MS. vols., illustrative of the History of Great Britain, 8vo., 1851.