

MR. NATHAN GOUGH was born at Holt-Town, Manchester, in 1790. His father, Mr. Joseph Gough, a dyer, originally from Kendal, Westmoreland, having a large family, could not afford his children the benefit of even the ordinary rudiments of education, and at ten years of age, young Nathan was set to work, for an elder Brother, in a cotton mill, where for seven years, he worked on an average about seven days and a half per week, and at the age of seventeen he had risen to the position of manager of his Brother's mill. In the course of time he became a spinner on his own account, at Ancoats, and during his career encountered many vicissitudes, the mills he occupied being twice burnt down, and at the mill, built for him at Salford, by Mr. Bateman, the building fell, whilst the hands were at work, unfortunately causing the death of nineteen workpeople; yet he persevered in his endeavours to work his way upwards, and being always fond of mechanical pursuits, he abandoned cotton-spinning, to become a manufacturer of small portable engines and other machinery, chiefly employed by contractors for buildings and engineering works, for which a large demand was then springing up. He thus became the medium of introducing several simple and ingenious machines for saving labour and was ultimately very successful.

He was an ingenious, self-educated man, who owed his ultimate position entirely to his own industry and perseverance. He was extensively employed by Civil Engineers and Contractors, by whom he was much respected, and at his decease on the 9th of January 1852, in his sixty-third year, he left a considerable engineering establishment now conducted by his son Mr. Henry Gough.

He was a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, of Birmingham, and joined the Institution of Civil Engineers as an Associate Member in the year 1845; he took great interest in the proceedings and attended the meetings whenever his avocations permitted his doing so.

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MR. ALDERMAN WILLIAM THOMPSON, M.P., the second son of Mr. James Thompson, of Grayrigg Head, Westmoreland, was born at that place in the year 1793, and after receiving there the first rudiments of his education, was removed at about fifteen years of age to the Charter House School, London, and was in due time placed in the counting-house of his Uncle, the late Mr. William Thompson, then the head of the eminent iron firm of Thompson, Forman, and Homfray, married the daughter of the latter gentleman, and at the death of his Uncle, succeeded to his position as head of the firm, inheriting at the same time a con-

siderable sum of money, the foundation of the colossal fortune which he amassed, and left chiefly to the family of his only Daughter, married in 1842 to the Earl of Bective, a Nobleman of amiable character and estimable qualities, who has recently succeeded his Father-in-law in the representation in Parliament of the County of Westmoreland.

Under Mr. Thompson's energetic direction, and with the skilful co-operation of Mr. W. H. Forman and Mr. S. Homfray, the Iron Works at Penydarren and Tredegar, South Wales, soon became flourishing and extensive concerns; he also embarked in lead-mining in Westmoreland, and became a very considerable shipowner, besides taking interests in many other commercial undertakings. His remarkable commercial foresight and tact rarely failed in discovering the opportunities for the successful employment of his large capital, and he soon acquired an eminent position in the mercantile world.

At an early age he sought and obtained Parliamentary honours, for in 1820, when in his twenty-seventh year, he was returned as Member for Callington, in Cornwall. He did not, however, remain for any lengthened period in the representation of that Borough. His business habits, and the commercial standing of his firm, pointed him out as a fit representative for the City of London; and at the general election in 1826, he was returned as one of its Members. He remained in the representation of London till 1832; but in the following year he was returned for Sunderland, which he continued to represent till 1841, when he became the representative of his native county, Westmoreland, where he was the possessor of large estates.

In the years 1828 and 1829 he was consecutively chosen and elected Lord Mayor of London,—an honour of rare occurrence,—and in those years the late Sir Felix Booth, Bart., and Mr. Alderman Copeland served the office of Sheriff. He had been elected in 1821 the Alderman of the ward of Cheap, the gown of which he retained until his death.

The line of politics he adopted was very marked; he not only strongly opposed the commercial policy introduced in 1847 by Sir Robert Peel, but he was one of the fifty-three Members who refused even the modified adherence to free-trade principles implied by Lord Palmerston's amendment, in 1852. He emphatically denounced any change in the Navigation Laws, and to the last adhered to the opinion, that the absence of the predicted disastrous effects from the change of the commercial policy of the country, must be attributed entirely to extraordinary and exceptional causes. Nearly the last time of his speaking in Parliament was on the inquiry into the Customs' Department, with the working of which he expressed considerable dissatisfaction.

Although endowed with considerable fluency of language, he was not a frequent speaker in Parliament. His energy and talents were, however, duly recognized, and as he never hesitated to take an onerous share in the working of the legislative business, he was often selected for important Parliamentary Committees,—especially those relating to monetary and commercial matters.

Probably few men worked harder than he did, till the pressure of illness compelled him to pause; but he was enabled to get through a large amount of business by his habit of early rising, his punctuality, and the systematic manner with which he pursued any object. His vigour and activity appeared to be inexhaustible; and his unremitting attention to his Parliamentary duties was remarkable, when it was remembered, that he had to undergo the labour, not only of his own particular business, but also that which was entailed upon him by the great mercantile corporations in the direction of which he was actively engaged.

It will suffice to enumerate a few of the leading companies in which he took an active part:—He was a Director of the Bank of England,—of the Chester and Holyhead Railway Company,—of the Blackwall Railway Company,—of the Rhymney Iron Company,—and of the Globe Insurance Company. He was Chairman of the St. Katherine's Dock Company,—of the Society of Merchants Trading to the Continent,—and of the Royal National Shipwreck Institution, in which latter he took great interest,—Treasurer of King's College Hospital,—Deputy-Lieutenant of London, and Vice-President and Colonel of the Honourable Artillery Company. He was also for some time Chairman of the Committee for Lloyd's. But that which he considered one of his most important and honourable offices, and in which he took peculiar pleasure, was that of President of Christ Hospital, which post he filled for twenty-six years, with much advantage to that national educational institution.

He was connected with several of the Scientific Societies of the Metropolis,—joined the Institution of Civil Engineers, as an Associate Member in 1843, and though, on account of his numerous engagements, he was rarely able to attend the meetings, he always evinced great interest in the prosperity of the Society, and was ever ready to communicate information to the Members and to co-operate in measures for its advancement.

In his personal habits he was plain and unostentatious,—was accessible to all,—and in his public position, as in private life, his sterling integrity, and the urbanity and kindliness of his disposition were generally admitted. His decease occurred at Bedwelty House, Monmouthshire, on the 10th of March, 1854, in his sixty-second year, in consequence of a cold caught whilst visiting his extensive iron-works in that district, where his loss was sincerely deplored,

and his remains were interred at Kirkby Lonsdale, in his native County, where he had acquired great influence, and where his memory will long be cherished.

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MR. BENJAMIN LEWIS VULLIAMY, born in London on the 25th of January 1780, was descended from a family of high respectability in Switzerland, whence his grandfather, Mr. Justin Vulliamy, emigrated to this country, and settled in the Metropolis. He became connected with Mr. Benjamin Gray, then living at "Ye sign of ye Sun Dial," in Thatched House Court, St James' Street, married his Daughter, and succeeded him in business ; since that period the appointment of Clockmaker to the Crown, which was held by Mr. Gray in the reign of George II., has continued in the Vulliamy family. In the performance of the duties of his office, Mr. Benjamin Vulliamy, the father of our late Associate, was frequently in attendance upon George III., at the Observatory at Kew, and thus his son, Mr. Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy, was brought at an early period into contact with the younger branches of the Royal Family, and there are in existence letters written to him by some of the Princes when young, exhibiting the esteem in which they held him. Nor did this feeling cease with their early years, but, on all occasions, when their interference could be beneficial to him, he had only to express his wishes to insure immediate attention. He was, however, so fully penetrated with this feeling, and so scrupulous in exercising the influence he possessed, that he submitted to the imputation of indifference, rather than prefer the most simple request, even for the advancement of his own family. Her Majesty, the present Queen, on her accession, was pleased to give special direction for the maintenance, during his lifetime, of the patent office which he held ;—a gracious acknowledgment of his services and those of his father and grandfather, to which he always referred with pardonable pride and gratification.

The notice of the Royal Family naturally induced that of great numbers of the Aristocracy, and there has rarely been an instance of a man engaged in trade being admitted to such intimate communication with so many of the nobility ; his sound common sense, the fearless expression of his opinion, and his general bearing, induced confidence, and more intimate acquaintance confirming the preconceived good opinion, he was admitted to an intimacy with many noblemen and gentlemen, whose talents are as fully appreciated in the scientific world, as their names stand high in the aristocratic circle. Many of them were gathered to their fathers before their friend, but on his decease, his family had the satisfaction of receiving condolences from high quarters, whence such kind consideration could scarcely have been anticipated.