

in the decoration of those cloisters, in which Milton daily walked when attending the adjacent school, and to which he alludes in that exquisite passage :—

“But let my due feet never fail
To walk the studious Cloisters' pale,
And love the high embowered roof
With antick pillars massy proof,
And storied windows richly dight,
Casting a dim religious light :”

Lydgate lived to a good old age. The exact date of his death is not known. In one of his poems he mentions the death of an Earl of Warwick, which we know from other sources took place in 1446. He must, therefore, have survived to that time, and if, as the best authorities conclude, he lived till 1461, he must have attained the venerable age of 86 years. He was buried in the cemetery of the abbey. His epitaph is extant. It is written in Latin verse—a sapphic stanza—and is only remarkable, like Camden's notice of his birth-place, for the pointed allusion which it makes to his poems being in *English*.

“Mortuus sæclo—Superis superstes
Hic jacet Lydgate tumulatus urnâ
Cui fuit quondam celebris Britannæ
Fama poesis.”

John Greene, writer of the above, was born in 1810 at Bury St. Edmund's, where his father, Benjamin Greene, was then in business. Educated at Bury under Mr. Blomfield, and at the Grammar School under Dr. Malkin, he left in 1828 to be articled to Mr. Wayman, a solicitor in large practice. He was himself admitted in 1833, and rapidly rose to be a successful lawyer and an active public man. In 1841 he was elected Mayor, and again filled the office in 1852-3. He was for many years a magistrate for the borough, and occupied other positions of trust. As a journalist and newspaper proprietor he fought political battles from an early age, and became an authority upon local history as well as in matters of literature. As Vice-President of the Athenæum he co-operated in raising the tone of the instruction and entertainment there afforded, and was himself a favourite lecturer.

He occupied the *Abbey Ruins*, now the residence of the Vicar of St. James', from 1837 till his death, and is referred to in this connection in Carlyle's *Past and Present*. For a portion of this period he owned the property, and considerably improved it during his occupancy.

His subjects included—*Magna Charta* (1850); *the Imagination, its Uses and Culture* (1851); *the British Parliament* (1852); *the Educational Uses of Poetry and Oratory*; *the Influence of Maritime Enterprise*; *the Battle of Waterloo*, and *Richard Bayfield*. One of his lectures given to the Young Men's Christian Association in 1860 has been published, upon the subject of "Christmas." It exhibits a deep insight into the Book which was his life-long study, and shows how classical and literary tastes may be employed in the service of the Christian faith. To the friendship of Thomas Lewin, Rev. C. J. P. Eyre, Sir Charles Bunbury, W. Bodham Donne, Dr. Donaldson, and later, Mr. Wratislaw, he owed much, while he ever retained an independence of thought, a fearless outspokenness, and a broad sympathy, which made him a valued adviser, and earned the esteem of his professional brethren, as well as the affection of his fellow-townsmen of all parties. His name, after more than thirty years, is still potent in the town for which he lived and laboured. On January 29th, 1867, he died somewhat suddenly, and his body lies in the family vault in the churchyard.
