

OBITUARY NOTICE  
OF THE LATE  
LORD JOHN HERVEY.

BY SIR WM. BRAMPTON GURDON, M.P.

**L**ORD JOHN WILLIAM NICHOLAS HERVEY, third son of the second Marquis of Bristol, was born on the 15th November, 1841. He was educated at Eton and Cambridge, at both of which his charm of manner, his constant unselfishness, and his readiness to help all those with whom he came in contact, earned for him that wonderful popularity which followed him through life. It is hardly possible to describe the loss which the County of Suffolk has suffered by his death. In all good works, in all social movements whose object was to help those in need, he was ever prominent; a good man of business, endowed with an excellent judgment and a clear insight, never sparing himself, he laboured constantly for the good of all around him. In his earlier days on the Board of Guardians, and since 1889 on the County Council, he has been one of our most useful workers, and as first Chairman of the Technical Instruction Committee of West Suffolk he inaugurated a system of useful education, which has stood the test of time. For some years an officer in the West Suffolk Militia, in which he latterly held the rank of Major, he did much to raise the tone of the Regiment. Ever a free-handed though unostentatious

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donor, he was even more prodigal of his person ; and, though he had been for some years out of health, and had frequently suffered much pain, with patience and resignation, his death was actually caused by his devotion to his work. Undertaking in the very severe weather of last winter an inquiry near Bungay, on behalf the County Council, which necessitated a journey and exposure late at night, he contracted the disease to which he succumbed after a fortnight's illness. It is most touching to know that the inhabitants of Bungay, who loved him as we all loved him in Suffolk, watched with the greatest anxiety the progress of the malady, and vied with one another in endeavours to serve him, and to help the relations who were with him during his last days.

He had ever taken great interest in our Society, and had occupied the Presidential Chair from 1870, when he succeeded the late Sir Charles Bunbury, to 1886. Since that date he has served on the Committee, and has been regular in his attendance and work. Most Suffolk inhabitants are acquainted with the useful and interesting researches which he has made into ancient County Records, and with the publications which he issued at his own expense, notably the Domesday Book for Suffolk, and the "Ickworth Surveye Boocke." So lately as May, 1899, he opened Moyses's Hall, in Bury St. Edmund's, as a Museum, and it is partly due to his active assistance that the collection has been so well housed and arranged.

For many years he presided over the Bury Athenæum, in succession to his uncle, the late Bishop of Bath and Wells. It was no easy task to follow so eminent a man, but under Lord John Hervey's care and guidance, the institution lost nothing of its value and popularity.

This is not the place to dilate upon his political life, in which, as throughout his whole career, he was always labouring for others rather than for himself ; and on more than one occasion he showed that remarkable chivalry and high sense of honour, which were his especial characteristics.

It may be interesting to our readers to know that he was not only a well-read man, but that he had added to his knowledge of the world by extended travels. He had visited Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, immediately after taking his degree in Classical honours at Cambridge; in 1865 he made a tour in Greece, which, as is well-known, was rendered more exciting than pleasant by his capture by brigands, on which occasion he showed considerable personal courage. He had travelled much on the Continent, and in 1867-8 he visited India, with which, including Cashmere, he made a thorough acquaintance; and during the administration of the present Duke of Argyll in Canada he remained for many months a guest at Government House, where he was much appreciated by all who knew him.

Those who may have only casually met him, and have been struck by his gentle and unselfish disposition, and by his courtesy of the old school, would not guess the force of character which lay beneath the quiet exterior. But it is a fact that many of us in Suffolk have long been accustomed to follow his guidance, never questioning his advice, even when it might appear contrary to our own judgment, so thorough was our trust in his honesty and right-mindedness.

We are very glad to find that a number of his admirers of all shades of opinion have commissioned our county artist, Mr. William Robert Symonds, who was personally acquainted with him, to paint Lord John Hervey's portrait, which will be presented to Christ Church Mansion, and will form there a memorial to future generations of a Suffolk worthy, whose memory will never fade from the hearts of those who knew him and loved him.