

A Discourse read by the Revd. Thos. Hinks on the anniversary of the birth of Linnaeus where-in he commemorates the scientific pursuits of the late John Templeton of Cranmore who died on the 15th Decr. 1825.

Editor's Note

This is a direct transcription (preserving original spellings and line length) from the pdf copy of the handwritten lecture given by the Rev. Thomas Dix Hinks to the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society. He was President from 1822 to 1827. He delivered the lecture on 25th May 1827 (to celebrate the birthday of Linnaeus) shortly after the death of John Templeton in 1825.

Hinks' original page numbers are on the right of each text block, the Ulster Museum pdf page numbers on the left. There are some duplicate pdf pages (e.g. 4 and 5). Another complication is that although Hinks generally wrote on the right page (and numbered only these), he added occasional notes on the left page. Because this transcription is by pdf order these notes could have appeared out of context. In order to clarify this, the notes and their position within the text have been lettered, italicised, repositioned and moved to the right.

A version of this lecture was later published in two instalments as:

Drummond, Dr J.L. 'Memoir of the Late John Templeton Esq.' in *Loudon's Magazine of Natural History*, Vol 1, 1828, 403-6.

Drummond, Dr J.L. 'Memoir of the Late John Templeton Esq. Concluded from Vol. 1' in *Loudon's Magazine of Natural History*, Vol 2, 1829, 305-10.

However, there is a conflict here. Although the original handwritten lecture is attributed to Hinks, the published version of 1828 is attributed to Drummond (the succeeding President of BNHPS) in *Loudon's Magazine*. The published version is unequivocal and is titled:

'Memoir of the Late John Templeton, Esq., forming part of the Anniversary Address delivered on the 24th of May, 1827, to the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society, by James L. Drummond, Esq. M.D. F.L.S. &c. President of that Society. Communicated by Dr. DRUMMAND.'

Hinks is certainly the author as the writer alludes to writing for the *Cork Institution* (pdf 26) and Hinks lived in Cork from 1790 to 1815. Drummond lived all his life in Larne and Belfast apart from five years in the Navy, as an apprentice surgeon, and a year in Edinburgh. In (pdf44) he says: '*I may here perhaps recall to your notice some lines of my friend Rev Doctr. Drummond in his poem on the Giants Causeway.....*'

BNH 2015

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Discourse by the Rev.Thos Hinks

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A

Discourse read by the Revd. Thos.
Hinks on the anniversary of the
birth of Linnaeus where-in he commem-
orates the scientific pursuits of the
late John Templeton of Cranmore -
who died on the 15th Decr. 1825.

Linnaeus was born on the 3rd of May 1707

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1.

The return of Our anniversary again calls upon me, to fulfil the duties of that office, to which your partiality has elected me; and I have again to commence any address with congratulations on the flourishing state of Our society, as interesting details on their state will be laid before you in a report from the Curators, it is only necessary for me thus briefly to allude to it. Increasing Members, increasing correspondents, an increasing collection and what is perhaps the most important of all, not only an increase of interest in Our proceedings amongst the inhabitants of this populous and improving town, but also such a taste forming amongst those of the rising generation as holds out the best prospect.

The juvenal Natural History society has wisely received your countenance

4 and 5

2.

and assistance and in the young Gentl. who compose it, you naturally look forward to future members to supply the places of those of us whose exertions cannot be much longer expected.

We have this year Gentleman been able to meet on the birthday of Linnaeus, and I shall employ part of your time, in drawing your attention to a deceased Member & sincere well-wisher of Our society, Who was worthy of being placed in company with that eminent naturalist. Every one present will at once perceive that I refer to the late John Templeton a man devoted like Linnaeus to every branch of natural history, and whose enthusiastic attachment to it, continued to the end of his life. The biography of a retired man of science like our deceased friend seldom presents much that is interesting to the world at large,

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3.

especially when he has not come much forward as an Author, but those who have known and respected him, will take pleasure in such details as may make them more acquainted with him, or may recal him to their recollection; and in particular you who are engaged in the same pursuits, will be gratified by even an imperfect account of his exertions, of his discoveries, and of the treas-

ures he left behind him. Whilst in compliance with your wish I had undertaken to pay this tribute of respect. I must regret that it was not undertaken by some one who had been longer & more intimately acquainted with him, and who could therefore have done more justice to the subject. The readiness however with which sources of information have been laid open to me by the family, have I hope enabled me

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4.

to fulfil your desire better than I could have expected, & I have myself derived considerable pleasure in the employment, whilst the character as well as the talents and information of Our departed friend have risen greatly in my opinion, as I have become more acquainted with him.

Mr Templeton was a native of Belfast having been born in Bridge Street in the year 1766 – his father resided in Belfast and at his country house in Malone near this town where the family have been settled since the early part of the 17th Century and where he himself constantly lived since his father's death. To this place he gave the name of Cranmore i.e. the Great tree in honour of the very fine Spanish Chestnut trees which are opposite the House, and which were probably planted in the 17th century though there

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5.

is no record respecting them. It had been previously called orange grove. His very delicate state of health when a boy was probably the cause of his attention being barely turned to natural history. When unable to partake of active amusements he took great delight in a book of Natural history, containing pictures of birds fishes etc. which pictures he used to copy and with which, and the descriptions he used to compare the various birds, which his friends knowing the pleasure it gave him procured, and sent to him. That habit of discrimination, which natural history is well calculated to form, was thus early acquired. His earliest education he received at the school of Mr Manson, A name yet respected in the neighbourhood. As he grew up he became attached to fowling & fishing but soon gave up the former on

6.

witnessing the sufferings of a wounded bird and was ever afterwards remarkable for his kind attention to every part of the animal creation. In this he set an excellent example to naturalists for he always continued to gratify his curiosity, without pain to the subject of it, and would at any time have lost the opportunity of acquiring knowledge rather than be the cause of suffering to a living creature. When circumstances justified the deprivation of life, he considered how it might take place with the least pain. Benevolence to men & brutes was indeed a striking feature in his character; and those who on many subjects differed from him in opinion could not but have approved the motive by which he was ever actuated a desire to promote the happiness of his fellow creatures. From various papers in

7.

in his writings I select one in proof of my assertion "It is often, says he, within the power of man to exercise a portion of benevolence and while philanthropy confines kindness to our own species, the divine attribute of benevolence extends to every living creature and calls to us to alleviate their sufferings. While snow covers the earth, and frost binds up the waters the feeling heart must pity the distress and strive to give comfort and sustenance to the winged inhabitants of the air, whose lively motions interests and whose music adds a charm to the rural scene. Many driven from their native wilds by the inclemency of the season, seek the plain, of Ireland in hopes of finding that comfort which their own country denied them, but scarcely are they arrived fatigued

8.

fatigued with the length of their journey & weak from want of food ere they experience new calamities, in vain do they seek the silent wood or trust too generously for protection; for no pangs are felt by the greedy epicure or thoughtless sportsman, when innocence and beauty die. It is to innocence and beauty they call for protection "let the

youthful hand scatter food and they will
give life and happiness to hundreds. Let them guard
their rural walks against all destroyers
of the feathered tribes and the consciousness
of having done a good action will make
the music of the Groves awaken ideas which
the virtuous alone can enjoy." In another
place I find him quoting with approbation
the beautiful lines of Cowper
"I would not enter on my list of friends,
(Though graced with polished manners & fine sense

12 and 13

9.

Yet wanting sensibility) the Man
Who needlessly sets foot upon a worm.

The sum is this if Man's convenience, health,
Or safety interfere, his rights, and claims
Are paramount, and must extinguish theirs.
Else they are all the meanest things that are
As free to live, and to enjoy that life,
As God was free to form them at the first,
Who in his sovereign wisdom made them all.

Mr Templeton began to cultivate
flowers about the year 1786 & soon made
his flower garden an object of attention
but it was not till after his Father's
death in 1790 that on recovering from
a severe illness he began to study botany
with enthusiasm as a science, having been
first directed to it by a desire of extir-
pating weeds from his farm, to which
he then applied himself having

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10.

himself well acquainted with Linnaean
System he in 1793 laid out his exper-
imental Garden if I may so call it.
[note a.] which had been partly an Orchard
and partly an osier ground conducted
through a stream of water – raised artificial
rocks, and rendered it in every way fit for
the intended purpose. Here he
collected from various parts of the
world rare and useful plants, which
he endeavoured to naturalise in this
climate by placing them in a soil
& situation resembling as nearly as
possible that to which they had been
accustomed. By this means there is
growing in his garden in the open
air a wonderful and curious col-

lection of plants from India, China,

14 [**note a.**] which is said to have been suggested
by a passage in Rousseau's *Heloise*

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11.

N & S America, Siberia etc. such as *Camellia japonica*, *Thea viridis*, (the Tea plant,) *Ailanthus praecox* & others which were formerly kept in the hot House, and then in the Greenhouse. Most of the Trees at Cranmore except the chestnuts, and oaks were raised from seed or planted by himself and so great a variety of the natives of the forest has perhaps never been collected in so small a place. In 1794 he paid his first visit to London, where he formed an acquaintance with Professor Martyn of Cambridge author of the valuable additions to Miller's Dictionary. Doctr. Shaw the Zoologist Mr. Dickson of Convent Garden an excellent botanist and Mr. Whitley an eminent nurseryman - from whom he afterwards purchased many plants and with whom he corresponded. In 1795 he became

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12.

acquainted with the late Mr. Arbuckle Collector of Donaghadee and through him with the Earl of Clanbrasil. This Nobleman much attached to the study of botany had Mr Templeton frequently with him at Bryansford, and at Dundalk on which occasions he usually accompanied Mr Arbuckle, with whom he carried a frequent correspondence for some years. These visits were only terminated by the death of Ld. Clanbrasil in 1798.

In 1796 Mr. Templeton paid a second visit to London, when he was introduced to Sir Jo. Banks who took great notice of him, and then, or soon after made him an offer to go to New Holland With a salary of 3 or 400 l per Annum and a large tract of land. But his attachment

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13.

to his Aunt and Sisters, with whom he lived before his marriage as well as to his native Country made him decline it, tho' the prospect it held out of prosecuting his favourite study was very tempting. [**note b.**] He also became acquainted with Doctr.

now Sir J.E. Smith Prefst. of the Linnaean Society. Then Dr Goodinough late Bishop of Carlisle. Aylmer Bourke Lambert Esqr. author of a splendidly valuable work on the Genus *Pinus*, Mr. Sowerby, Mr. Curtis and others, besides renewing his acquaintance with Doctr. Shaw & Mr Dickson, and with many of these he afterwards corresponded. Ld. Clanbrasil was in London at this time Mr. Templeton's letters show he enjoyed this visit much. though glad to return to his domestick occupations. Previous to this visit he had made some communications

18 [note b.]

Mr Brown the distinguished Author of the Prodomus of the Plants of New Holland afterwards obtained this situation & rendered great service to science. He was in the number of Mr Templetons friends and Correspondents and exprefsed his sense of the services rendered to Botany by Mr. Templeton by appropriating the name Templetonia to one of his new Genera.

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14.

to the Linnaean Society which were well received. One of them was on the migration of birds & another on soils. In the year 1799 he communicated to the Royal Irish Academy through the Bishop of Clonfert Doctr. Young with whom he was intimate a paper on the naturalisation of plants, a subject to which he had devoted much attention. In this he urged the necessity of experiments 'The same Almighty hand "he says that formed the earth, has scattered "in far distant regions, vegetables, which the "necessity or luxury of man excites him "to endeavour to acuminat about his "home. And if we survey the different "nations of the earth we shall find that "most of them have received great and important benefits by the introduction of foreign "plants, and that there is no Country however

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15.

"numerous its collection of plants but "may yet receive considerable advantages "by the naturalisation of others". This paper contains many excellent practical observations, which have been referred to, in

different works published since that time.
I shall at present quote only one –
“By the appearance of the roots and leaves
“we may nearly determine in what kind
“of soil the plant is most likely to thrive
“Robust roots & fleshy or rigid leaves require
“a dry soil, according to their thicknefs; stiff
“Clay or sandy loam as beans, peach and apple
“trees; robust spongy roots which have a
“tendency to mat near the surface, with thin
“leaves as the Alder (*Alnus*) Willows, (*Salix*)
“require a somewhat stiffer soil with mois-
“ture, many of the *Salix* genus will not
“grow with their accustomed vigour in a
“light soil, or peat mould soil, for want

22 [note c - not referenced in text]

*saved McGees life who was
cast to be hanged for being en-
gaged in some treasonable basi-
nefs when 12 years old*

23

16.

of the necessary resistance to the roots,
although suitable in respect to moisture.
Slender, hard, & wiry roots, as those of the
Pine, cistus etc. require dry, sandy or gra-
velly soils, and extremely fine and hair
Like roots as those of *erica*, *Kalmia*,
Rhododendron etc. must have a soil whose
particles will not impede the shooting
of their tender fibres, and with a small
but regular degree of moisture; that the roots
which by their form cannot resist the
slightest drought, may not be destroyed.
Plants in a warm climate perspire
more than a cold one. So in a warm
climate they require much; and in a
cold one but little moisture. There-
fore when transplanted from a warm
to

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17.

to a cold climate they should have a
drier soil, & from a colder to a warmer
a moister one than their native station”

In the year 1802 Mr. Templeton
sent a new rose which he had discovered
in the year 1795 or 96 in the neighbourhood
of Belfast. (and afterwards found in other
parts of the North) to the Dublin Society
which he named Rosa Hibernica **[note d.]**

24 [note d.]

*but which was by many called the
Templeton rose*

This society had offered a reward of five guineas for the discovery of new native plants limiting the whole sum to 20 guineas – Mr. Templeton was adjudged the small sum, which has from some mistake been called 50 l and spoken of as a liberal premium by Sir J.E. Smith in different publications, when he had occasion to mention it. A similar prize

was

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was obtained by Doct. Scott Professor of botany to Trinity College Dublin. and by Dr Wade Profefsr of botany to the Dublin Society for some new mofses but either from the fluctuation attendant on the Proceedings of a body, constituted like the Dublin Society, or from a supposition that the end of offering the reward, was sufficiently obtained by directing the attention of Botanists to discovery, the premium was dropped after 1803. **[note e.]** had it been continued, Mr Templeton would have had an opportunity of again claiming it, notably for the Orobanche rubra which he first discovered on the Cave Hill in 1805 and which

26 and 27 [note e.]

His application for the premium for his rose opened a correspondence with General Vallency one of the V-Presidents & for many years one of the most active of the Dublin Society. In the publication letter after the description of the rose, there are some remarks on specimens of wood he had sent to the General particularly the locust tree of N. America and the chesnut. In other letters he gave the General accounts of the antiquities of the North – especially of the Giant's ring which he measured for him. Of Genl. Vallency Mr Templeton seems to have had high opinion, and the intercourse I had with the Genl. during many years and the kind attention I experienced from him whilst writing for the Cork Institution enable me to say that opinion was well founded. Those who only knew the General as an antiquarian were apt to ridicule what they regarded as ex-travagant in his opinions, but whatever errors

29 [e. cont.]

any may suppose him to have fallen into on this subject he was a well informed and amiable man, anxious to promote the advancement of knowledge & politely attentive at the Society to every person engaged in the pursuit of it.

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19.

which has since been found on basaltic rocks in other parts of the county, (& since that time in Scotland) [note f.] but also for a number of Cryptogamic plants which he communicated to such friends as were engaged in Botanical pursuits.

In 1804 Dawson Turner Esq. of Yarmouth published *Spicilegium Muscologia Hibernia* in which he acknowledges his obligation to Mr. Templeton in conjunction with Doctrs. Scott and Stokes of the former Mr Turner says he has investigated the North of Ireland with indefatigable labour (labore improbo indigavit) characterizes it as a Country mountainous and rich in the productions of nature - He also intimated that from

28 [note f.]

To English botany he sent besides the *Rosa Hibernica* and *Orobanche rubra*, *Funaria Templetonia*, *conferva paradoxa*, & *Jungermannia gracillima* all original discoveries of his own & 20 other plants found in Ireland all Cryptogamic except the *Euphorbia hibernica*.

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from Mr. Templeton a flora hibernica was to be expected. In the same year Doctr. Wade published his *Plantae rariores in Hibernia inventae*, and in the preface speaking of a Flora Hibernica observes "I am well aware that there are some genuine and valuable materials for such a flora in the hands of a Gentlem. in the northern part of this Kingdom, a person every way qualified from industry, information and acuteness for such an undertaking and it is much to be lamented he does not gratify the botanical world with a result of his researches" This work he sent to Mr. Templeton as a mark of "respect for his botanical abilities and private worth". I do not find however

that an intimacy ever took place between

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21.

these gentlemen though nothing is so apt to lead to friendly intercourse as a zealous attachment to the same pursuits. Several botanists about this time urged Mr Templeton to prosecute the work alluded to, and from a letter to Mr. Brown, then quartered with his Regiment at Derby, it appears that he seriously engaged in it, but his diffidence & his desire of rendering the work perfect still delayed the publication. It may be here to mention that Mr. Templeton was a frequent contributor to *English Botany* published by Sir J. E. Smith and Mr. Sowerby. So the *fuci* published by Mr. Dawson Turner - To the *Confervae* of Mr. Dillwyn - and to the *Muscologia* of his friends Doctrs. Hooke and Taylor **[note g.]** but Mr Templeton did not confine his attention to Botany - skilled like Linnaeus

32 [note g.]

He also furnished many remarks on the cultivation of plants, to Profr. Martyn for his folio edition of Miller's Dictionary & to the Revd. Messrs. Dubourdieu and Sampson for their County reports though much was admitted in these which his better judgement would have disapproved - and which was after made the subject of severe but just censure.

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22.

Linnaeus in the various departments of natural history his comprehensive mind planned what he worked was peculiarly well qualified to execute, a general natural history of Ireland. His preparations for this work were considerable and he continued to labour it to the last, being withheld from Publication by his desire to render it more complete. Though never instructed in the art of drawing, he acquired such while in representing the various objects he saw that his delineations are remarkable for their fidelity, and his anxiety to impart knowledge, made him particularly attentive to whatever would tend to illustrate the subject **[note h.]** Natural Science will indeed sustain a heavy loss - should these accumulations

34 [note h.] *He has left behind him lists in each*

department of the native productions, which came within his knowledge with references & original remarks and often illustrated by drawings made by himself from the objects. In illusion to these which he often gratified his friends and even strangers with liberty to examine. It will naturally be expected that some of them should be more full than others, Ornithology was I believe the first object to which Mr T. paid attention & whilst no department has been neglected - this is peculiarly rich and interesting. The author of an address to the Manager of Our Belfast Institution on the cultivation of natural history after speaking to Mr T. as a Botanist adds "that none of the

36 [h. cont.] branches of Nat. history have escaped his penetrating research. Much of the Nat. history of Our Island has received elucidation from his pen, & very many of its natural productions have been beautifully delineated by his spirited and able pencil, his labours would form a most valuable present to the Public"

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23.

accumulations of his genius and industry be withheld from the public, but his son may be reasonably expected to accomplish his Father's design, and though these valuable remains will want that finish, which had life been spared the author was himself so well qualified to give. Yet they were so much advanced that there seems no objection to their publication. As this however will be attended with heavy expense, it may be hoped that those who respected the Author while living, as well as those who are interested in the pursuit of Natural History will give it all the Countenance in their Power and that the publication will take place as early as possible.

When in 1808 the *Belfast Magazine* was undertaken Mr. Templeton supplied it with two monthly articles entitled the naturalist's Report and the Meteorological report nearly

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nearly as long as the work was continued besides occasional articles. The object of the former appears to have been, to notice such

circumstances as would serve to denote changes of weather etc. for the use of the husbandman & the Gardener. In the introduction after pointing out the modes which the ancients had of foretelling changes in Weather, he proceeds thus "But the celebrated Linnaeus was the first who endeavoured to establish a Calendar for the Husbandman and Gardner independent of astronomical signs, which in Our Northern and Variable climate sets down prognosticates the Changes of the weather with such certainty as might be expected. As plants however vegetate according to the temperature which prevails, and flowers

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25.

flowers blow in a regular and never varying order, we have certain means, which can never fail for directing us, when to begin and leave off the various operations in husbandry and gardening. Should we therefore find, after a few years experience that the best crops were uniformly produced, when we sowed, or planted at the time a particular plant or tree flowered, we have ever a sure guide independent of astronomical revolutions, and can direct others to pursue the same plan, in whatever country they are placed. Thus if we have found that on sowing peas or other seed when the gooseberry flowered, they were ready for gathering when the corn marigold flowered we are fully sure that each succeeding year

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26.

year the same uniformity will prevail, and by little attention time of gathering other crops will soon be known; a matter of considerable importance to those who wish to enjoy the products of their garden in succession.

Advantages nearly similar may be derived from attention to the migration of birds. These never failed to bring us the earliest intelligence of whatever changes in the weather we are to expect. When the woodcock, Fieldfare and other winter birds passage appear unusually soon, and in uncommon numbers, we have every reason to expect a severe winter, & when

wild geese and swans pass to the southward
we know that the season being severe
& the

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and the waters frozen Northwards
a change of the wind towards that
quarter will be accompanied by similar
weather. We should accordingly provide
Ourselves with shelter, food, and suitable
raiment, and the attentive gardener pro-
tection for his tender plants. But when
the swift appears let him turn out the
inhabitants of his greenhouse. By
attention to insects independent of receiving
notice of an approaching plenty or scarcity
of fish, we may often guard against their
destructive effects. Thus may man by the
study of nature, gain new powers, triumph
over obstacles which present themselves on
every side, and by means placed by the Deity
within his reach, acquire fore knowledge.
Such a report continued as it was for

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27.

many years must afford valuable data
and I cannot but think that the collection
of them in a separate publication, with
such additions as his paper would supply,
would be very useful. In the introduction
to the meteorological report he notices what
has been done, & especially the tables completed
by Our late estimable Countryman Richd.
Kirwan Esq., by which the temperature
may be calculated for agricultural or horti-
cultural purposes; But observes "that the
husbandman is yet at a loss to know what
dependence should be placed on the flitt-
ing clouds whether his hay, when exposed
to dry, will meet the long wished for sunshine.
Hoping that at some future period a genius
will arise; who will arrange it and give it
to the world - a system which shall tend
to remove

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28's.

to remove that uncertainty, we will endea-
vour he says, to present a series of well au-
thenticated observations, which may
assist him to complete so desirable an under-
taking". Mr. Templeton was admirably fitted
for supplying such articles, as has been men-
tioned, because his eyes were always open &

his observation ever keen. Nothing curious escaped his attention, and his Journal regularly kept and preserved from the year 1806 to his last illness, contain a great variety of information, which would supply perhaps as interesting a work as that of Mr White of Selbourne, who in some respects he much resembled. Ever ready to communicate what he knew, he supplied the late Mr. Wakefield with many anecdotes respecting the instincts of animals,
and those

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29.

and those cases in which they appear to have powers superior to the instinct; and there are probably many others occurring in these books. In a cursory perusal of one of them I met one respecting a Gander *[note i.]* which he had observed searching for and raising carrots. "The Gander removed the earth around the root with his bill which on becoming clotted with earth, he shook until cleaned & when he had bared the root sufficiently to get a firm hold of it, with his bill, he then with sometimes considerable exertions pulled it entirely out".

Mr Templeton was not a great traveller, but is well acquainted with Ulster. during the time he spent with Ld. Clanbrasil at Bryansford he explored the Mourne Mountains, which he afterwards visited with his friends.

*44 [note i.] I may here perhaps recall to your notice some lines of my friend Rev Doctr. Drummond in his poem on the Giants Causeway, after speaking of the instinct which directs the eel and the Salmon he then adds -
"Unfold it then O Templeton, whose view
Has roved creations peopled regions through
Thou who canst speak of all the flowers of Spring
Of fish of every fin, of birds of every wing;
Tell, for thou know'st, how nature has assigned
Their times, and senses, to each tribe and kind,
And how her laws direct, propel, control,
So wondrous wise, th' instinctive powers of soul.*

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friends Doctr. Stokes fellow of Trinity College & Mr J. T. Mackay the able Superintendent of the Dublin College botanic Garden, whose enthusiasm in the pursuit of Botanical knowledge, made him a great favourite with

Our deceased friend. He went frequently to the Giants causeway, and has left very interesting details of at least two of his excursions to it, which would together perhaps give a more satisfactory account of the Coast of Antrim, than has yet been laid before the public. He also went over the most part of Ulster as far west as Sligo. He examined the interesting regions of the Wicklow Mountains & Valleys, but was never in the West or South of Ireland. Though he often projected expeditions to both. **[note j.]** he made a short tour through some interesting parts of Scotland in company with General M^r-Kinnon, to whom he was much attached,
but

46 [note j.] with the intention of seeing Fingalls Cave but owing to the weather and the difficulty of procuring a boat, they did not accomplish it besides they were told by the inhabitants of

that they might wait a long time without the possibility of crossing to Staffa and Mr Kinnon's leave of absence was limited.

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but does not appear to have made any discovery in that Country. Like Linnaeus in general knowledge, and enthusiastic attachment to science, Mr. Templeton differed much from him in one respect; for while the great Swedish naturalist was remarkable for vain, and ostentatious display, he was very modest and unassuming, so that no person would ever have suspected that he was distinguished for knowledge, till in course of time, his communicative disposition would have discovered the treasures of his mind. The high estimation in which he was held by other eminent botanists is evident from the manner in which they speak of him. By Sir J.E. Smith Pres. Lin. Soc. of which Mr. Templeton was an afsociate he is frequently mentioned.

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32.

And is spoken of as a most acute and observing Botanist. Other instances have been already quoted, and letters in his correspondence would supply more. In addition to the Naturalists already mentioned he corresponded with the Revd. Dr Flemming Author of a valuable work on the Phylosophy of Zoology. Dr Berger the

mineralogist Doctrs. Ogilby and Kennedy
the latter a young Physician who promised
to render important services to medical science
had his life been spared. Doctr. Barker the
Profr. of Chymistry in Dublin College &
many others. I have already pointed
at Mr. Templeton as deserving of imitation by
Naturalists on account of his humanity and
tendernefs. I would also direct your attention
to his candour and his anxiety to do justice
to the claims of others. Whilst know one was
more

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33.

more alive to the pleasures of discovery, he
disdained to rob any man of his due praise.
He took delight in speaking of the acquisitions
made of others, and was always ready to communicate
his own. He was also free from the fault which
Cowper has so well exposed of attributing events
to second causes without referring to the great
first cause - many instances of this occur
in his writings. Thus in one of the Naturalists
reports he says "To mortal man it is not given
to lift the veil, which conceals the mysteries of
nature, & even after the most careful investiga-
tion he beholds but in part only, that economy
which governs the whole. Our winter Birds
of pafsage begin now to leave us, to revisit
the Northern regions and amidst the wilds
of Lapland, NovoZembla and the innumerable
lakes within the Arctic circle to enjoy that peace
and security denied them in the more populous
Countries

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34.

[Blank page]

52

35.

Countries of the South. But by what peculiar
[*blank*] they are enabled to hold their
unerring course through the pathlefs air, amidst
darknefs and storms, the human mind has
not been able to conceive, and man is led to
look with humility "from Nature up to nature's
God". In another report after noticing a num-
ber of striking circumstances he concludes
thus "Such and so various are the pheno-
mina of the creation, that we are led to
exclaim - "Great is our God and great is his power
And his wisdom's unsearchable."

Reflections of this kind are found in his
Manuscripts, and in this he deserves Our

imitation. I shall mention but one
other trait in his Character - an anxious
desire to promote the diffusion of know-
ledge. He was an early Member though
not

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not one of the first of the Belfast Society for Promo-
ting Knowledge. This was founded in the year
1788 - he was admitted a member 1792 and
continued ever after anxious for the Prosperity
of that Society. He was also one of the
early friends and steady supporters of our
Academical Institution, being appointed
a Visitor in the copy of the incorporation.

He was the proposer of the liberal grant
made by the proprietors of the Linenhall
to establish lectures on Chymistry & Me-
chanics. And when lately the Mechanics'
Institute was commenced, being prevented
by illness from attending, he sent his
thoughts on the subject in writing and
was most solicitous for the measure.
Our own society though unable to attend of our meetings from
bad health, he was a Zealous advocate &
received

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received much gratification from the thought that
the branch of science to which he had so
ardently devoted himself was cultivated
in his own native town - and that he
left behind him those who would value his
Labours. May his example
animate your exertions, and may the name
of Templeton be ever remembered with respect
by the members of this society - and that our
young members may be familiar with it
and led to enquire about him. I would sug-
gest the appropriation of such a sum
annually as our limited income will admit
for the encouragement of exertion in natural
history to be called the Templetonian prize
or medal according to the plan you may
adopt - (if these suggestions be approved
of) such prizes are often useful in
exciting

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exciting the youthful mind to exertion, as
we have experienced in the Academical
Institution. And such encouragement
of natural history may lead the young to
avail themselves more than they have yet

done, of the opportunities afforded them
for the cultivation of it.