

## Walter John Stanton.

We regret to chronicle the death of Mr. Walter John Stanton, which occurred at Stroud on 2nd August last, following a paralytic seizure some few days previously. He was born at The Upper Thrupp, Stroud, on 24th March 1828, and lived practically the whole 85 years of his life in the neighbourhood of that town. His father, Charles Stanton, had been in the Royal Navy, and was subsequently a civil engineer and manufacturer. He married Miss Martha Holbrow, of Stroud, by whom he had three sons and eight daughters, the subject of this memoir being his second son. Educated at Warminster, and then in France and Germany for the profession of a civil engineer, he followed that calling for some time under Joseph Locke, giving it up, however, about the year 1856. Among works for which he was responsible, as he once told the writer, was the portion of the London and South-Western line between Havant and Guildford, or at least the portion of it embracing the Buriton tunnel. He was also employed on the Blackwall tunnel, and on railways at Barnstaple, Midhurst, and Aberdovey. At the age of 28 he was offered a partnership in his father's cloth business, which he accepted, at the same time relinquishing his original profession. For some years he was engaged in the arena of politics, and was elected M.P. for Stroud in or about the year 1873. But these were stormy days in politics at Stroud, and he was unseated on petition. In 1880, however, he was again elected, and sat till 1885. Keenly devoted to science, and particularly to astronomy, he was an original member of this Association, and retained an animated and practical interest in the science till the last. Not much more than a month before his death he took the writer to his telescope one afternoon to observe the Sun spectroscopically. His instrument was a Newtonian reflector, with silver-on-glass mirror of  $10\frac{1}{4}$  ins. diameter and 6 ft. focal length, by With, with altazimuth stand by Browning, provided with a battery of eyepieces and a spectroscope. From an astronomical point of view he was thus, as may be imagined, a most interesting person. But above and beyond his science and his many and varied attainments was the irresistible charm of his character. Tall and erect in stature and spare in figure, he could not fail to attract attention, and no one, even a stranger, could converse with him for more than a few moments without feeling drawn by his sympathetic geniality. Like his far-famed younger brother, Father Stanton, he was always brimming over with fun and merriment, and one of the most delightful of his characteristics was the exuberance with which he entered into the feelings and

interests of young folk. He had lost the sight of one eye ; but, blind as it was, it seemed to share in the merry twinkle of the other, and one always knew that something good was coming. His was a rare personality, and one that will be sadly missed by a large circle. He married Miss Mary Capel, of The Grove, Stroud, who died in 1894, and leaves two sons and three daughters.

C. D. P. D.