

BREVIA.

The Late Rev. W. H. Simcox.—It is with deep regret that we record the early death of Rev. W. H. Simcox, a valued contributor to *THE EXPOSITOR*, and one of the most promising New Testament scholars in England. At the age of fourteen Mr. Simcox got a scholarship at Marlborough. After the examination, the headmaster, Dr. Cotton, said he had never met a boy with such a knowledge of Holy Scripture. He belonged to perhaps the most brilliant generation of Marlburians, that which enjoyed the teaching both of Cotton and Bradley, though he came near the end of it. He was elected to Balliol College with Sir Matthew Ridley the year after Ilbert and Papillon, when he was thought too young to go into residence. Though his health from the beginning gave cause for alarm, and interrupted his residence, he took a first at the end of three years from his matriculation, and his university success was only second to that of his brother, Mr. G. A. Simcox. He owed much, not only to the teaching, but also to the tender care of the present Master of Balliol, who nursed him in his own room for weeks together. Before he came to Oxford the books which influenced him most were *In Memoriam* and the works of Ruskin. At Oxford he early adopted the views of the "Catholic school," though it was not till after his degree that he came under the personal influence of Dr. Pusey, who thought very highly of some work which he did for him in revising the translation of *St. Chrysostom on the Romans*, and in translating into Latin the preface to one of his son's editions of *St. Cyril*.

Mr. Simcox accepted the college livings first of Weyhill, Andover, and then of Harlaxton, Grantham. In both of these places his ministrations were greatly valued; his preaching at its best presented a rare union of depth, refinement, and simplicity; and his services to the sick were unceasing. In Weyhill, and still more in Harlaxton, he did much to improve his schools. He was also interested in the Church of England Temperance Society, and regretted that he was obliged to withdraw from the abstaining section. Notwithstanding delicate health, he was able to do much important literary work. To the *Academy*, from the beginning of its existence, he contributed criticisms—in not a few instances both brilliant and discerning. In 1880, he delivered a course of lectures in Winchester

Cathedral, on the history of the early Christian Church which were published in the following year. They are remarkable for freshness, vivacity, and suggestiveness. To the *English Historical Review* he contributed an important paper on King Alfred, and the imaginative aspects of that subject inspired him with much picturesque and vigorous verse. It is hoped that it may be possible to publish a selection from his sermons and poems. He has left a commentary on Revelation in the hands of the editor of the *Cambridge Bible for Schools*, and had prepared for publication a grammar of New Testament Greek for the "Theological Educator."

Mr. Simcox's personal character,—his conscientiousness, care for others, sobriety of judgment, and quietly resolute courage,—made a deep impression on those who knew him; and his death is lamented as a sore loss, both on public and private grounds, by many of the foremost men in the Church of England.

EDITOR.
