
Obituary.

Rev. George Butler, D.D., * Canon of Winchester, formerly Vice-Principal of Cheltenham College, and then Headmaster of Liverpool College, died on the 14th of March last. He was born on the 11th of June, 1819.

In this brief obituary notice, especial regard must be shown to the valuable support given by Canon Butler to our Society, in its efforts more than 20 years ago, to improve the teaching of geography in public schools. Being himself a classical scholar of high rank, and a headmaster whose pupils attained a full measure of University success, his assertion that the liberal study of Geography was a help to the classical student and not a burden, backed by the example of his own school, could not fail to influence opinion. His pupils were among the earliest and most successful competitors for the prizes that were offered by our Society to the public schools. Year after year the words "Liverpool College" are attached to some of the names printed in our lists, of winners of the school medals and of honourable mention. Canon Butler's own son, who is now Senior Assistant Examiner to the Civil Service Commission, was one of our earliest gold medallists.

A man needs to be variously informed before he is qualified to become a good geographer, and Canon Butler was remarkably so. He ranked at Oxford among the very first classics of his time, and he bore a high and independent reputation for general ability. One of the foremost dignitaries of the Church told the present writer that he considered George Butler to be the most generally accomplished man he had known. Canon Butler had remarkable powers, both mental and physical. He inherited them from his father, Dr. Butler, afterwards Dean of Peterborough, the headmaster of Harrow during the earlier part of this century, and senior wrangler in Cambridge in

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the year when the future Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst was second. He shared those powers with other brothers of an exceptionally gifted family.

In addition to his more serious qualities and pursuits, Canon Butler had a buoyant and almost boyish temperament, with a strong natural instinct for field sports, which made him a keen fisherman up to his last illness. He had also a passion for landscape painting. The staunchness of his attachment to old friends, together with the sympathy felt by a considerable political party with his efforts for social reform, in conjunction with those of his wife, but now widow, Mrs. Josephine Butler, cause his death to be widely felt.
