

Heysham, London, 1870. Numerous comments, &c., on his work will be found in the Assurance Mag. and Statistical Journal.] W. A. S. H.

**MILNE, WILLIAM** (1785-1822), missionary, was born in 1785, in the parish of Kinnethmont, Aberdeenshire, and employed in his early years as a shepherd. At the age of twenty he resolved to become a missionary, and passing through the regular course of studies at the college of the London Missionary Society at Gosport, he was ordained there in 1812. In September he sailed for the east, arriving at Macao in July 1813. An order from the Portuguese governor compelled him to leave the settlement, and Milne proceeded in a small boat to Canton, where he was joined by his colleague, Robert Morrison [q. v.] Shortly afterwards Milne made a year's tour through the Malay Archipelago. Settling down at Malacca he mastered the Chinese language, opened a school for Chinese converts, and set up a printing-press, from which was issued the 'Chinese Gleaner.' He also translated portions of the Old Testament into Chinese, and became principal of an Anglo-Chinese College, which he was mainly instrumental in founding at Malacca. In 1818 he received the degree of D.D. from Glasgow University, and in 1822 his health failed, and he went on a visit to Singapore and Penang, but died on 27 May, four days after his return to Malacca. Milne married in 1812 a daughter of Charles Gowrie of Aberdeen, who predeceased him in 1819.

Milne was author of: 1. 'The Sacred Edict,' London, 1817, 8vo. 2. 'A Retrospect of the First Ten Years of the Protestant Mission to China,' Malacca, 1820, 8vo. 3. 'Some Account of a Secret Association,' a paper read before the Royal Asiatic Society by the Rev. Robert Morrison, 5 Feb. 1825.

One of his sons, **WILLIAM CHARLES MILNE** (1815-1863), missionary to China, ordained 19 July, and appointed to Canton, sailed on 28 July 1837, arriving on 18 Dec. at Macao, where he assisted until 1842 in the Morrison Education Society's House. Proceeding via Chusan, Tinghae, Ningpo, and Canton, he arrived at Hongkong in August 1843, and was nominated with Dr. Medhurst [q. v.] to commence a station at Shanghai. In 1844 Milne visited England, but, returning to China in 1846, he served on the Translation Committee, part of whose work he subsequently attacked. In 1852 he again visited England, and terminated his connection with the London Missionary Society. He afterwards went back to China as an interpreter under the British government, became assistant Chinese secretary to the legation at Peking, and died there on 15 May 1863. Milne married Frances

Williamina, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Beaumont. He was author of: 1. 'Life in China,' 1858. 2. 'Critical Remarks on Dr. Medhurst's Version of the First Chapter of St. John,' and contributed to the 'Edinburgh Review,' of October 1855, an 'Account of the Political Disturbances in China.'

[Works in Brit. Museum Library; Memoir by the Rev. Robert Morrison, D.D.; Life and Opinions of Rev. William Milne, by Robert Phillip: Memoir in the Christian Library, vol. i.; Gent. Mag. 1822, ii. 649, 1863, ii. 381; Irving's Eminent Scotsmen; information supplied by the Rev. G. Cousins.] A. F. P.

**MILNER.** [See also **MILLNER.**]

**MILNER, ISAAC** (1750-1820), mathematician and divine, was born at Leeds on 11 Jan. 1750. His education began at the grammar school, but on the sudden death of his father, who had been unsuccessful in business, he was taken away when only ten years old, and set to earn his livelihood as a weaver. He followed this trade until his eldest brother, Joseph [q. v.], who had been sent to Cambridge by the kindness of friends, had taken his degree, and obtained the mastership of the grammar school at Hull. As soon as he was established there he appointed Isaac his usher (1768). It is said that the friend whom he sent to make inquiries as to his brother's fitness for the post found him at his loom with Tacitus and a Greek author by his side. It seems certain that he had obtained considerable knowledge of Latin, Greek, and mathematics before he went to Hull, and that while there he became, as he said himself, 'a tolerably good classic, and acquainted with six books of Euclid' (*Life*, p. 523). In 1770 Joseph Milner found means to enter him as a sizar at Queens' College, Cambridge. The brothers came up together on foot, with occasional lifts in a wagon (*ib.* p. 128).

Milner found the menial duties then incumbent on sizars so distasteful, that when reproved for upsetting a tureen of soup, he exclaimed, 'When I get into power I will abolish this nuisance' (which he did). He refused to sign a petition against subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles; and, when keeping the 'opponency,' then required of all candidates for the B.A. degree, he used an argument so ingenious as to puzzle even the moderator, who said, 'Domine opponens, argumentum sane novum et difficile, nec pudet fateri meipsum nodum solvere non posse' (*ib.* p. 8). Hard reading combined with his natural talents secured for him the first place in the mathematical tripos of 1774, and enabled him to outstrip his competitors so com-



those he forced the society to elect to fellowships. His proceedings excited considerable opposition at first, but gradually the society submitted, and to the last he ruled over the college with a despotism that was rarely called in question. Nor was he unpopular. The numbers steadily increased, and though sneered at as 'a nursery of evangelical neophytes,' Queens' College stood fourth on the list of Cambridge colleges in 1814.

In December 1791 Milner was presented to the deanery of Carlisle. He owed this preference to the active friendship of Dr. Thomas Pretymann, afterwards Tomline [q. v.] bishop of Lincoln, who had been Pitt's tutor. In consequence of his university duties he was installed by proxy—a beginning which might have been regarded as typical of his whole career as dean, for during his twenty-nine years of office he never, except once towards the close of his life, resided at Carlisle for more than three or four months in each year. He made a point of presiding at the annual chapter. He preached frequently in the cathedral, and energetically supported all measures for moral and material improvement, but this was all (*Life*, p. 101).

Milner resigned the Jacksonian professorship in 1792, and thenceforward gave up chemistry, and science in general, except as an amusement. To the end of his life he was, however, continually inventing something—as for instance a lamp or a water-clock—in the workshop fitted up for his private use in Queens' Lodge. He was also a member of the board of longitude. But after his election to the headship of his college he became daily more and more immersed in, and devoted to, university affairs. In November 1792 he was elected vice-chancellor. His year of office was rendered memorable by the trial in the vice-chancellor's court of the Rev. William Frend [q. v.] for publishing 'Peace and Union,' a tract recommending both political and religious reforms. Frend announced himself a unitarian, and objected to various parts of the liturgy. But the prosecution was political rather than religious. Mr. Gunning, who was present at the trial, says that 'it was apparent from the first that the vice-chancellor was determined to convict' (*Reminiscences*, p. 272). Milner hated what he called 'Jacobinical and heterodox principles,' and had, moreover, personal reasons for exhibiting himself as the assertor of law and order at this particular time. He was ambitious, and the piece of preferment that he most ardently coveted was the mastership of Trinity College. This is evident from a remarkable letter to Wilberforce, dated 13 May 1798 (*Life*, p. 161),

in which he admits that he 'should not have been sorry to have been their master' in 1789, when Dr. Postlethwaite was appointed. In 1798 the office was again vacant, and the letter was written in the hope of influencing Pitt in the choice of a successor. In the course of it this sentence occurs: 'I don't believe Pitt was ever aware of how much consequence the expulsion of Frend was. It was the ruin of the Jacobinical party as a university thing, so that that party is almost entirely confined to Trinity College.' Then, after discussing various claimants, he adds: 'When I say that in all I have said, I have, on this occasion, whatever I might have had formerly, no respect to myself, I am sure you will believe me.' Wilberforce may have believed his correspondent, but it is difficult for posterity to be equally credulous.

In November 1797 Milner lost his elder brother, Joseph. The grateful affection with which he had always regarded him is one of the most pleasing traits in his character. During the rest of his life his best efforts were directed to preserve his brother's memory. He edited, with additions, the volumes of his 'History of the Church of Christ' which had already appeared, and continued it to 1530. He prided himself greatly on the importance assigned to Luther, and on his character as there set forth; but the writer's ignorance of German, and his religious prejudices, must throw doubt on the accuracy of his statements. In connection with this work he was led into a controversy with Dr. Thomas Haweis [q. v.]

In 1798 Milner was elected Lucasian professor of mathematics, a post which he held till his death. He delivered no lectures, but performed the other duties, such as examining for the Smith's prizes, very efficiently.

The remainder of Milner's life was apportioned, with undeviating regularity, between Cambridge and Carlisle. In 1800-10 he was again vice-chancellor, and in 1813 he had a brisk controversy with Dr. Herbert Marsh [q. v.] on the Bible Society. Marsh had addressed the senate on the impropriety of circulating the Bible without the prayer-book, and of allowing an auxiliary branch of the society to establish itself at Cambridge. Milner had spoken (12 Dec. 1811), at the meeting called to establish the auxiliary branch; and subsequently elaborated a volume of 'Strictures on some of the Publications of the Rev. Herbert Marsh,' in which he traversed almost the whole of his life and writings. Marsh replied, and his antagonist did not venture to enter the lists with him again.

Milner was fond of describing himself

as an invalid, and towards the end of his life rarely quitted his lodge. In the spring of 1820, while on a visit to Wilberforce at Kensington Gore, he had a more than usually severe attack. No danger was at first apprehended, but he grew gradually weaker, and passed away peacefully 1 April 1820. He was buried in Queens' College Chapel.

In person Milner was tall, with a frame that indicated great bodily strength, and regular features. In old age he became excessively corpulent. He was constitutionally gay; and his religious views, though they made him disapprove of amusements of various kinds, did not impose upon him gravity in society. He was 'the life of the party' (*Life*, p. 329), and if the official dinners which, as vice-chancellor, he gave on Sunday before the afternoon service at St. Mary's were very merry, his private parties were uproarious (GUNNING, *Reminiscences*, i. 246). Sir James Stephen, who knew him well, says of his conversation: 'He had looked into innumerable books, had dipped into most subjects, whether of vulgar or of learned inquiry, and talked with shrewdness, animation, and intrepidity on them all. Whatever the company or whatever the theme, his sonorous voice predominated over all other voices, even as his lofty stature, vast girth, and superincumbent wig, defied all competitors.' He was a popular and effective preacher, and when he occupied the pulpit at Carlisle, 'you might walk on the heads of the people' (*Life*, p. 116). His thirst for knowledge prompted him to discourse affably with anybody from whom he could extract information or amusement. In charity he was profusely generous, and contributed annually to the distressed poor of Leeds. He delighted in the society of young people, and spared no pains to make their time with him amusing. In politics he was a staunch tory, and an equally staunch supporter of the established church as a state institution. His friendship with Wilberforce made him an abolitionist, but he nearly quarrelled with him over catholic emancipation. There is a portrait in oils of Milner by Opie, in the dining-room of Queens' College Lodge, and a second, by an unknown artist, in the combination-room. He was also drawn in chalk by the Rev. Thomas Kerrich [q. v.] in 1810.

He wrote: 1. 'Reflections on the Communication of Motion by Impact and Gravity,' 26 Feb. 1778, 'Phil. Trans.' lxxviii. 344. 2. 'Observations on the Limits of Algebraical Equations,' 26 Feb. 1777, *ib.* p. 380. 3. 'On the Precession of the Equinoxes produced by the Sun's Attraction,' 24 June 1779, *ib.*

lxix. 505. 4. 'A Plan of a Course of Chemical Lectures,' 8vo, Cambridge, 1784. 5. 'A Plan of a Course of Experimental Lectures Introductory to the Study of Chemistry and other Branches of Natural Philosophy,' 8vo, Cambridge, n.d. 6. 'A Plan of a Course of Chemical Lectures,' 8vo, Cambridge, 1788. 7. 'On the Production of Nitrous Acid and Nitrous Air,' 2 July 1789, 'Phil. Trans.' lxxix. 300. 8. 'Animadversions on Dr. Haweis's Impartial and Succinct History of the Church of Christ; being the Preface to the 2nd edition of vol. i. of the late Rev. Jos. Milner's History of the Church of Christ,' 8vo, Cambridge, 1800. 9. 'Further Animadversions on Dr. Haweis's Misquotations and Misrepresentations of the Rev. Mr. Milner's History of the Church of Christ,' 8vo, Cambridge, 1801. 10. 'An Account of the Life and Character of the late Rev. Joseph Milner,' 8vo, Cambridge, 1801. 11. The same, enlarged and corrected, 2nd edit. 8vo, Cambridge, 1802. 12. 'Strictures on some of the Publications of the Rev. Herbert Marsh,' 8vo, London, 1813. 13. 'The History of the Church of Christ, by the late Rev. Jos. Milner, A.M., with Additions and Corrections by the Rev. I. Milner, D.D.' 8vo, London, 1816. 14. 'Sermons by the late Jos. Milner. Edited by I. Milner,' 2 vols. 8vo, London, 1820. 15. 'An Essay on Human Liberty, by the late I. Milner,' 8vo, London, 1824.

[*Life* of Isaac Milner, D.D., by his niece Mary Milner, 8vo, London, 1842; *Essays in Ecclesiastical Biography*, by Sir James Stephen, 1849, ii. 358-67; *Life of Wilberforce*, passing see index; *Gunning's Reminiscences*, 1855, pp. 83-5, 234-51, 255-84; the *Missionary Secretariat of Henry Venn*, by W. Knight, 1888, p. 10.]

MILNER, JAMES (*d.* 1721), merchant of London, was extensively engaged in the trade with Portugal, and his commercial transactions with that country enabled him to render great service to the government in the remittance of money abroad. During the controversy on the eighth and ninth clauses of the commercial treaty with France (1713) he contributed to the 'British Merchant' several articles on the 'Methuen Treaty and the Trade with Portugal,' in which he combated the arguments advanced by Defoe in the 'Mercator.' He was returned to parliament for the borough of Minehead on 11 April 1717, and he voted for the repeal of the acts to prevent occasional conformity in January 1718-19. He died on 24 Nov. 1721.

Milner's articles on the trade with Portugal, which had first appeared in 1713-14

were republished by Charles King [q. v.] London, 1721, 8vo. There is no evidence he was aided by any work. He also related to the S. Bank, &c., London, foretold the dissolution of the Sea scheme.

[The *British Merchant* Political State of 1722, p. 12; *Reminiscences*, pt. ii. p. 43; *ib.* c. 104, cxii. 40, c. 23, clvi. 3, 9, clxx.] MILNER, JOSEPH, minister, second son of Joseph Milner, born at Skircoo, and was baptised and educated at the same place, and entered at the university on 21 June 1642.

He obtained a degree before the university. He made the acquaintance of the university subsequently by his sister he seems to have probably with L. He is stated to have but the Middletons of him. It was between Lake and the neighbourhood of Chadderton schoolmaster of been appointed friend was preached 1654. Milner returned to Halifax was given the parish of Halifax come vicar of I the degree of letters. His papers that he had been during the rebellion was made minister inducted vicar elected prebend.

On the revolution he was a nonjuror, and returned to Cambridge, where he was made and much on 19 Feb. with reputation for his was exceeding!