

Death of Sir William Molesworth.

A strong fatality attends the Colonial Department of the British Government. After years of mismanagement, and disasters growing out of incompetent heads of the department, at last a man was placed in the Colonial Office whose whole life had been devoted to the necessary studies to fit him for its duties, and whose moderation, love of justice, and liberal principles, gave every promise of a wise and prosperous administration of that most extended and important branch of the administrative government of the British Empire. All parties agreed in the opinion that Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH was eminently qualified for the post of Colonial Secretary when he received the appointment from the present Premier. But he did not occupy it long enough to make his influence felt in the administration of Colonial affairs.

The *Arago* brings the intelligence of the death of this able Minister, who died after a brief illness, on the 22d ult., in the 45th year of his age.

Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH was a remarkable man, rather than a man of remarkable talents; he inherited his title and large estates at the early age of thirteen, and now in the prime of manhood, or rather, at that age which should be the prime of a healthy man, he dies and leaves no male representative of his family to inherit his title and ancestral acres. He came of a short-lived race, and was of a feeble constitution, which broke down under his intellectual labors. His education was irregular, but calculated, doubtless, to develop his talents; he was expelled from the University of Cambridge at an early age, for sending a challenge to his tutor; he then went to Edinburg, where his education was continued, under the instruction of an Italian refugee. From "Modern Athens," as the Scotch literati call their city, he passed to a German University, and, after making the grand tour, returned to England and entered Parliament as soon as he had attained the legal age. He was extremely liberal in his politics, and, up to his death, advocated the ballot, being the only member of the Government who gave his countenance to that radical measure. In literature he was an amateur; he purchased the *Westminster Review*, and edited it himself; but he lost so much money by the speculation that he was glad to be rid of it; he edited the works of HOBBS, the philosopher of Malmesbury, and published them at his own cost; but the sale, it is said, would not pay for the binding and lettering of the volumes. But, by presenting his costly volumes to public libraries and the Universities he may be said to have purchased for himself a literary reputation. It is said that he made but a poor figure as an orator, and that all his speeches were carefully prepared; but he always commanded attention, and the soundness of his views and the liberality of his principles made him a man of mark in spite of his oratorical defects.

It was as a Colonial Reformer that he was chiefly known, and he lived to see his principles adopted, and their soundness and wisdom about to be tested—a happiness which has fallen to the lot of but few originators of great reforms. He had been several times in Parliament, and, at the time of his death he sat, for the third time, as the representative of Southwark. He was a member of Lord ABERDEEN'S Cabinet in 1853, as first Commissioner of Public Works. His successor had not been named when the *Arago* left, but, we imagine, it will be difficult to find another man so well qualified to fill his post.