

OBITUARY.

Thomas Keightley.

We have to record today, says the *London Times* of Nov. 7, the decease of an honest, careful, and laborious historian, Mr. Thomas Keightley, which happened at his residence at Belvedere, near Erith, Kent, at an age extended beyond eighty years. He was, we believe, of Irish extraction, being a native of Dublin, and was educated, like so many of his countrymen, at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took his Bachelor's degree in the Spring of 1808. His original destination was the Bar, for which he read during a short period; but circumstances arose which altered his course of life, and he resolved to abandon the labors of the law for those of literature. With this view he came to London when about five and twenty years of age, and joined the late Mr. Crofton Croker in the production of his *Fairy Legends of the South of Ireland*, at the same time filling his leisure hours by contributions to the periodical literature of the day. To most of the present generation his name will be familiar as the author of several useful and able school-books, though rather dull and dry in point of style, more especially his histories of Rome, Greece, and England, and his *Outlines of History*, which formed one of the early volumes of Dr. Lardner's *Cabinet Cyclopædia*. He also edited the *Fasts* of Ovid, and compiled a work, which enjoyed very deservedly no small popularity in its day, *Fairy Mythology*. This, however, is far from a complete list of Mr. Keightley's labors, the full amount of which is recorded in the pages of the British Museum catalogue. Besides his classical works, Mr. Keightley was known as the translator of at least one work from the Dutch, and as the editor of *Milton's Poems* and of the *Plays of Shakespeare*, his edition of the latter having appeared about eight years ago. Mr. Keightley was for the last few years of his long life in receipt of a literary pension, which it is hoped may be continued to his sister—a septuagenarian lady, if not older still—who used to help her brother in the production of his learned and painstaking works.

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