

Thomas Egerton Browne

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Birth: 1787
Death: Jun. 21, 1851
Mount Hope
Baltimore City
Maryland, USA

At Mount Hope, near Baltimore, or Saturday, 21st instant., Thomas Egerton Browne, Esq.

The announcement of the death of such a man as Thomas E. Browne, is one of the most painful circumstances of its kind, the writer has ever been called upon to perform.

"None knew him but to love--
None named him but to praise."

Mr. Browne's gifts were of a high order, and his various knowledge enabled him to be instructive and pleasing upon any theme he understood. He was connected with the newspaper press, in Dublin, for a number of years, and Ireland never boasted a heart that beat stronger for her welfare. His multiform gifts shone in full splendor during the time he was engaged in conducting the newspaper entitled the "Comet," in publishing the "Parson's horn Book," and the "Valentine Post Bag." In these various works, Mr. Browne was the presiding spirit; and though he had the aid of such men as O'Callaghan, Sheerer, Kennedy, Maurie O'Connell, Samuel Lover, et id omne genus, his labors surpassed the entire amount contributed by all that are named above. Music, poetry, art, wit, humor and the fiery eloquence of Irish patriotism were all marshalled in what Mr. Browne justly considered the cause of Ireland; and he had the gifts that called all these various powers into active exercise, and the power to guide them to their proper points. I know of no European newspaper that equals the volumes of the "Comet," while it was under the control of Mr. Browne, in all those elements of usefulness, instruction, and pleasure, that form the charm and



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power of periodical literature.

While engaged in an incessant warfare of wit, humor and eloquence against the practices of the British Government in Ireland, Mr. Browne was marked by the harpies of the law for a victim, but his prudence and caution protected him for a considerable length of time. Emboldened by his continual escapes, he at length brought out an etching of the Siamese twins, on one of which was placed a crown, on the other a mitre - in the background stands John Abernathy, the great English surgeon, declaring that he believed the two might be separated without any injury to either. This print was issued and sold, with the name of Thomas E. Browne upon it as publisher, and the Attorney General at once pounced down upon him. A verdict was easily obtained, and Mr. Browne was mulct in the sum of ten thousand dollars for a libel upon the British Government. His office was seized and sacrificed, his household was stripped of everything the law could find, and Mr. Browne himself imprisoned for the remainder of the damages. While in prison a proposition was made to him, offering to release him from prison on condition that he should leave Ireland for seven years. He closed with the offer and came to the United States, and selected the West as his future home.

In 1834, Mr. Browne opened a school in this city, and his fine abilities, aided by the accomplishments of his wife and daughter, soon gave him ample employment. Soon after the opening of this school the writer became acquainted with Mr. Browne, and an intimate friendship linked them together from that time down to the death of Mr. Browne.

Mr. Browne was connected with the press in this city for several years, upon matters disconnected with politics, and all who were connected with him in these employments bore the highest testimony to the integrity and purity of his life, his rare abilities, indefatigable industry and unwavering fidelity to all things. While pursuing these employments, Messrs. Blair & Rives offered him a situation as Reporter of Congressional proceedings for the Globe, and he and his son, J. Ross Browne, soon made themselves conspicuous by their rare talents as reporters. The highest testimony was borne to their abilities by all the leading members of both Houses, and their services were retained for the Globe as long as Blair & Rives continued its publication.

Mr. Walker was so forcibly impressed with the abilities of J. Ross Browne, that upon assuming the duties of Secretary of Treasury, he at once, without solicitation from any quarter, sought him out and appointed him his private Secretary. Mr. Polk gave the father, the subject of this obituary, a clerkship in the sixth Auditor's office, and his wonderful abilities were so admirable displayed in this department that Mr. Washington soon recommended him to Hon. Cave Johnson as chief clerk in the sixth Auditor's office; and when Mr. Johnson surrendered his office to Mr. Collamer, he urged that gentleman not to make any change in the clerks of that department, because they could not be excelled nor equaled easily.

When Gen. Taylor was in this city on his way to Washington, he asked a friend what he could do for him, and the reply was, do not permit Mr. T. E. Browne to be removed from office, and all attempts at his removal were resisted. These efforts were renewed when Mr. Fillmore reorganized the cabinet, but a number of the prominent friends of Mr. Fillmore in this city, addressed such recommendations of Mr. Browne, to the President and to Mr. Corwin, that Mr. Browne retained his place up to the time of his death.

This is but a feeble sketch of the career of Mr. Browne, but it may serve to show the cause of the strong and warm attachments which Mr. Browne created wherever he was known. In all his social qualities Mr. Brown was one of the best of companions, always cheerful and instructive, his company was highly prized and enjoyed by those who had the happiness of being within the circle of his friendship. Samuel Lover, who had known Mr. Brown intimately, in prosperity and adversity, told the writer of this, that he had never known Mr. Browne's equal, in all respects, as a companion in the social circle. There was scarcely a subject on which Mr. Browne was not only well, but thoroughly informed, and his conversation was a flowing stream of the most delightful instruction, rippled with wit and most genial humor. His family circle was one of the most pleasant I have ever known. In the relations of husband and father he was all that was calculated to create affection, love, and reverence.

Mr. Brown was about sixty-four years of age. He married in 1815, and his wife survives him. They had a family of seven children, of whom but three are living - one daughter and two sons. They were greatly devoted to their parent, and his death falls upon them with a terrible force. His body will be brought to this city for interment in Cave Hill Cemetery.

~ The Louisville Daily Courier, Mon., 23 Jun 1851

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Family links:

Children:

[John Ross Browne \(1821 - 1875\)\\*](#)

[\\*Calculated relationship](#)

Burial:

[Cave Hill Cemetery](#)

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