

THE LATE
MR. HOWARD STAUNTON.

The sudden death of this accomplished literary scholar and eminent master of the science of chessplaying was mentioned with sincere regret in our last week's paper. He was found dead in his library chair, on Monday week; and it appears from a post-mortem examination that he died of heart disease. His age was about sixty-four. He was educated at Oxford, but never practised any other profession than that of writing, and devoted his chief study to the English dramatists of the Elizabethan age. With Shakspeare, Ben Jonson, and Beaumont and Fletcher he was most intimately acquainted, and with all the antiquarian lore of their time. His sagacity in conjectural emendations of a corrupted text was generally admitted. Between 1857 and 1860 he was employed on the edition of Shakspeare published by Messrs. Routledge, which is, next to "the Cambridge Shakspeare" of Messrs. Macmillan, still the best we have. In 1864 Mr. Staunton brought out his facsimile of the folio of 1623. His "Memorials of Shakspeare," and a series of articles, during the last two years, in the *Athenæum*, have kept up his authority in this branch of English scholarship. He was an honorary member of the Shakspeare Society in Germany. Mr. Staunton was the author, too, of an historical and descriptive account of "The Great Schools of England," the second edition of which appeared in 1869. Mr. Staunton's fame as a chessplayer and scientific connoisseur of that game was still more widely known. In 1843 he accepted the challenge to play at Paris against M. de St. Amant, the champion of Europe, whom Mr. Staunton defeated. Many renowned victories at the chess-table increased his reputation during the next seven years. His books upon this subject are "The Chess-Player's Handbook," 1847; and "Chess Praxis," which formed part of Bohn's Scientific Library; with "The Chess Tournament," a collection of notable games; "The Chessplayer's Chronicle," commenced 1841; and a controversial pamphlet of 1852, in defence of the London Chess Club. His report of the London Chess Tournament of 1851 was translated into German. Our readers will not forget that Mr. Staunton was during many years, and to the week of his death, editor of that column in the *Illustrated London News* which is occupied with this most intellectual and instructive pastime. It is, however, upon his merits and labours in preserving and in elucidating the noblest works of our national literature that we prefer to rest his claim upon public esteem. An occasion is likely to present itself for the official recognition of this claim, inasmuch as Mr. Staunton had, shortly before his death, found himself justified in asking her Majesty's Government to put his name on the list of



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literary pensioners. It may, perhaps, be thought a graceful exercise of the Queen's kindness to bestow this sort of favour upon Mr. Staunton's widow. He married the relict of the late Mr. W. D. Nethersole, solicitor, of Essex-street.

THE SEAMEN'S CHILDREN'S NURSERY.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, as we mentioned last week, opened the new Infant Nursery and Mission-Room for the families of seamen, in connection with St. Paul's Church, Wellclose-square, London Docks. This church was founded in 1846, when the corner-stone was laid by his Royal Highness the late Prince Consort; and nearly 300,000 seamen, with their wives and children, have attended

its services. The Vicar is the Rev. Daniel Greatorex. The schools adjoining the church were opened in 1870 by the Prince and Princess of Wales. They give accommodation and instruction to a thousand children. The new building is designed to receive eighty infants, and it will include dwelling-rooms for the nurses, and a large room for the "mothers' meetings," in which the women learn to make clothing for their children and to tend them properly.

The visit of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, on Tuesday week, gave much pleasure to the inhabitants of this district. Their Royal Highnesses, attended by Lady Mary Butler, Colonel the Hon. W. J. Colville, and Captain Ramsay, R.N., first visited the Sailors' Home, in the same neighbourhood. At the new school buildings they were met by the Bishop of Rochester, the Rev. Dr. Greatorex, Vicar, Alderman Sir Thomas White, Mr. Sheriff Johnson, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, the Hon. C. W. Fremantle, Deputy-Governor of the Mint, Mr. Ritchie, M.P., and other gentlemen. The London Artillery Company and the Tower Hamlets Volunteers furnished a guard of honour. Their bands played the National Anthem and the Russian National Hymn when the Royal Duke and Duchess entered the marquee where the company assembled.

An address to his Royal Highness, stating the history and prospects of the Seamen's Mission at the London Docks, was first read by the Vicar. The Duke of Edinburgh replied, expressing his interest in the work, and hoping its best success. Prayers were offered by the Bishop, and the eighth Psalm was sung by the church choir.

The Duke and Duchess were then conducted over the new building, which his Royal Highness declared to be opened. A number of young ladies, one after another, approached the Duchess, bearing purses of money they had collected in aid of the school building fund. These were presented by them, as shown in our illustration, to her Royal Highness, who afterwards delivered the money to the Vicar. The Bishop pronounced a benediction, and the National Anthem was sung. There was a flower-show and bird-show in the grounds belonging to the schools, which the Duke and Duchess inspected. Their Royal Highnesses were entertained by the committee with a luncheon; where among the guests, in addition to those named, were Earl and Countess Brownlow, Lady Selborne and the Hon. Miss Palmer, Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Newdigate, the Bishop of Goulburn, Lady Adderley, Lady Rose Weigall, and the Hon. Mrs. and Miss Locke King. The Bishop of Rochester presided, and proposed, after the Queen's health, that of the Royal Princes and Princesses, to which the Duke of Edinburgh responded. Their Royal Highnesses, on leaving the place, were greeted by the people with loyal affection.



THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH AT THE SEAMEN'S CHILDREN'S NURSERY, WELLCLOSE-SQUARE, LONDON DOCKS.