CHAPTER XVI.

CHARACTER.

PUBLIC CHARACTER.—SELF-RELIANCE.—GRASP OF CONCEPTION.—CAPA-
BILITIES FOR PUBLIC SERVICE.—FIRMNESS.—STEADY VIGILANCE.—
GREAT INFLUENCE.—SENSITIVENESS IN DISCHARGE OF DUTY.—GREAT
HONESTY OF PURPOSE.—PRIVATE CHARACTER.—DECISION AND
ENERGY.—SIMPLE UNOSTENTATION.—BLAMELESS INTEGRITY.—STEADY
FRIENDSHIP.—EXTREME SENSIBILITIES.—DEPTH OF RELIGIOUS FEEL-
ing.—GENERAL CONCLUSION.

Having in former chapters recorded several of
the leading public acts of the subject of this memoir,
the biographer feels his task will be most imperfectly
executed, if he go not beyond the mere surface acts
and external routine duties of the public servant, and
look into the character of the man. A memoir, to do
justice to the individual of whom it speaks, should be
something more than a dry statistical series of out-
ward performances; it should disclose, if possible,
the principles, and motives, and regulating springs,
which kept these in equipoise before the world; and,
further still, endeavour to dissociate the man from
the machine of office, divesting him of its trammels
and its trappings, and exhibiting himself, with
the nice points of his more hidden character, his
affections, his sympathies, and the lights and shades
which these threw upon his daily life. It has been
observed that “the narrative of a man’s life is his

2 a
character." But there are many traits in the disposition and inward life of a public man which do not with sufficient distinctness manifest themselves in his public acts; or at least not with such prominence as to cause them to be discerned by the mere casual observer.

To portray the character of John Montagu most faithfully, it will be best to exhibit it in two phases—how it appeared to public view, and how it was steadily manifested in private.

Public Character.—Sketching his portrait as a public man, we should draw the decided profile and mark the broad outline of his character as standing out in the grandeur of self-reliance. Left early without a father’s control, and with little check at work upon his ardent and impulsive nature, when a boy, he appears to a considerable degree to have been self-cultivated, not only in the discipline of his mind, but also for the development and formation of his character. Joining the army when young, and soon in active service, he was exposed early to temptations; but his good solid sense seems to have called out a firm resolution to resist them. Thrown on his own guidance he may have acquired, from very necessity, the habit of leaning on his own judgment, and of strengthening that by his wide observation and growing experience. Be this as it may, few public men, when placed in a difficult position, could sustain it with the firmness and manly independence with which Mr. Montagu could. Few men needed less the advice of many counsellors to lead his judgment to a decision; and few men could have supported their opinions and decisions, when once formed, with as little wavering and compromising as he could. In political debate, there was a warmth in his public
speaking, and a forcible earnestness which caused some to pronounce his style and manner to be cutting and severe. But nothing was further from his design: his rule was (though in the heat of a discussion he might be sometimes drawn from it), "to use soft words but hard arguments." His temper was as firm as his arguments; and those who were but partially acquitted with him might consider his determination, obstinacy; and his self-reliance a species of absolutism; but with him his line of conduct was a process: the two steps of which were—first, the assurance that his opinion was well matured, and then a steady trust in his own firm-mindedness not to be persuaded nor dissuaded from it.

Another feature of his character, as publicly exercised, was his grasp of conception and enterprise. It was remarkable how quickly he seemed to understand any question put before him; give him but its leading points and bearings, and in an incredibly short space of time he made the matter perfectly his own. The different public acts and the great diversity of measures, in which he took a prominent, if not the leading, part, bear witness into how many entirely opposite subjects and undertakings he threw the whole vigor of his mind, and the whole energy of his body. Some men by exclusive application to one particular study, or one favorite pursuit, or congenial enterprise, attain considerable experience and ultimate eminence; but Mr. Montagu's mind seemed to grasp within its capacity every necessary object which the physical or commercial or moral interests of his sphere of duty suggested to him. In the minute details of a difficult finance arrangement, or in the bold and stupendous achievement of hewing through granite rocks, or throwing arches across dizzying gulfs to open a
mountain pass, he was alike the indomitable, persevering spirit,—the master mind,—the careful pains-taking investigator and scrutineer of the whole, from the first design to the remotest winding up of the undertaking. Let anything call his busy attention to plan out the difficult machinery for a complete and reformatory convict system, or to adapt the arrangements of a public hospital, so that the institution should administer its relief with mercy and kindness, as well as with economy and care, and each work was alike ably and diligently done. See him in the day by day routine and sameness of his office duties, or in the exciting and rapid outbreak of a war, whose suddenness called on him to raise with incredible despatch a relief force of levies and volunteers, and he was the same,—acute of perception; ready for every demand; full of resources; animating and quickening every one about him with the magic of his influence, and with an energy which seemed to string and tighten up every nerve of his mind and body for action.

He possessed also great capabilities for public service. A steady mind, a cool judgment, regular habits, extreme punctuality, scrupulous attention, unwearied assiduity, great physical powers, and diligence and perseverance in carrying through whatever he took in hand. The retentiveness of his memory was so remarkable that it is recorded of him by one who was intimately acquainted with his official career, "that often when it was found necessary to get up official subjects, and particular papers were missing, he would give their dates, a description of their appearance, and particular expressions they contained; and when the documents turned up, he invariably proved to be correct." Nothing connected with the
public service was too little, nothing too arduous, to claim his thought and demand his care. He was ever anxious to converse with strangers and visitors to ascertain what measures for the public good were experimented in different countries, with what present advantages, and what apparent probability of ultimate success; and his great end in this was to turn whatever he heard, and whatever was elsewhere transpiring, to some practical advantage in his own sphere of action. It is the mark of a great mind not only to originate, but also to make its own, by adaptation, whatever has been originated by others. All great social improvements, and moral influences, and useful inventions, and fresh appliances which are for the public good, are a kind of common stock, and become of the most extensive benefit by being introduced into different conditions of life, into different countries and under different circumstances and combinations, that so they may be fully tried, and shaped, and dovetailed, and fitted to the most general, if not to the universal amelioration of mankind; and, as if actuated by this impression, Mr. Montagu’s constant and inquiring thought seemed to be, in what manner, and by what means, whatsoever was beneficial for the social order and compactness, the sound and healthy advancement, the political and commercial greatness of the community could be introduced, localized and applied.

Another distinguishing point in his public character was firmness. He could neither be warped by flattery, nor be moved by frowns. His first question in every case of perplexity seemed to be—“what ought I to do?” Not, “what will this or that party expect me to do?” With every honest desire to be approved by all, as far as he could be, in his public ministra-
tions, few men were less influenced by the mere desire or exactions of popularity. In corroboration of this it may be mentioned that Mr. Montagu, whose popularity was always great in the Eastern Province of the Colony, was quite prepared to risk this when his line of duty demanded it. At the outbreak of the last Kafir war, several Kafir convicts were sent, without due authority, from Port Elizabeth to be received into other convict stations, farther removed from the scene of war. The people of Port Elizabeth probably thought it safer that these Kafirs should be more withdrawn from their own people, who might make an effort to release them; and on this surmise and fear they may have acted. Mr. Montagu saw it otherwise; and in the course he adopted, showed his moral courage in incurring momentary popular resentment, rather than compromise the authority of the Government. He conceived the Government would be lowered, if it allowed the inhabitants of any part of the Colony to dictate terms regarding the locating of convicts, or from their fears, to change the place of their destination, when the circumstances of the country did not absolutely require their removal. On this occasion the convicts were immediately sent back; and many of the people at Port Elizabeth afterwards acknowledged the benefit that part of the country had derived by their being returned, and kept at work near their town.

Not only in cases like the above, but in all great public questions, Mr. Montagu was too steady to his trust,—too resolute to trace out fearlessly what his course should be, and then magnanimously follow it,—to come under the description of one who,

"Can change and vary with all forms he sees
Be anything but honest; serves the time;"
Hovers betwixt two factions, and explores
The drifts of both, which, with cross face, he bears
To the divided heads, and is received
With mutual grace of either."

No! most men who at all understood him, knew his principles, and knew that he would not, from fear nor favor, shrink from the defence of them. His measures, and line of conduct, and firm stand for the general good were of that well tried sort, that he could afford to wait and let the clear experience of to-morrow dissipate the wrong surmises and misrepresentations of to-day. He had no fear of a public frown, if he knew he deserved public gratitude,—

"For true nobility is exempt from fear."

The following sentence occurs in a letter in which he was vindicating his own conduct on a most trying occasion:— "Conscious as I am of a pure public motive, I would rather suffer under the unjust exercise of severity, than from the reproaches of my own conscience." Self-consciousness of rectitude was continually his bulwark; and behind this he was prepared for any assault. His truthfulness and the nobleness of his intentions emboldened him with that genuine greatness which can endure misapprehensions and bear a distortion of its real motives for a season of unpopularity; and leave time and results, and the reaction of the public excitement to right them. His family motto appeared to be the rule and commentary of his life—*disponendo me non mutando me.* Such a character as his always commands veneration; and eventually, when it has been proved and fully understood, receives its merited praise. In great political ferment and party struggles, a firm spirit, which stands as a breakwater to stem the beating tide, must prepare itself to be unpopular
for a season; but when the vexed storm is allayed, and the tide is tranquillized within its peaceful landmarks, the very populace, which dashed so violently against it, looks up with a degree of irresistible admiration on the firmness and stability of the high-minded one who stood as the bulwark,—

"Against whose mighty side
Pushed the rude shoulders of the hurricane:"

And not only so, but a public man who has stood unshaken and unmoved against popular prejudices and passions, from a high sense of duty and from the honest conviction that those prejudices were mistaken and those passions dangerous, will, if he be great-minded enough to wait, ultimately reap the reward of his momentary unpopularity, with an accumulating interest. Let him only be patient and enduring in his honesty, and

"Honesty, even by itself, though making many adversaries
Whom prudence might have set aside, or charity have softened,
Evermore will prosper at the last, and gain a man great honor
By giving others many goods to his own cost and hindrance."

Steady Vigilance was another marked quality in his character. The last two years of his holding office were years of internal struggles and outward dangers. Public opinion ran high; the popular ferment threatened at one time an utter disorganization of all government; many minds were completely paralyzed; the Council of the Colony was silenced if not defunct; public works were for a period at a stand-still. Yet throughout the upheavings of the popular disturbance, and the chaos in which all the social elements were confused, the steady vigilance of Mr. Montagu was most untiring. He watched for the moment when the Council could again be formed; was ready at every change and subsidence
to advance another step to strengthen the bonds of order; like a masterly fencer he parried off many a movement which he believed would imperil the public safety; and through two years of vast personal responsibilities and popular disfavor, stood, to the exasperation of some and the admiration of others,—

"Serene and resolute and still
And calm and self-possessed!"

Another point which showed the greatness of his character was his great influence. The late Bishop Shirley in one of his letters writes:—"The view of life which deepens in my mind daily is, that its very essence is influence. The nature and degree of our influence on others is the measure of our own existence and power, intellectual or spiritual. He who has no influence on others may quit the stage and go to bed, for his is a living death. He who has it and does not exert it is the wicked hider in the earth of a talent of inestimable value, for which his Lord will call him to a tremendous account."

Of this talent Mr. Montagu made great use, for probably no man's influence was greater with those over whom he came in contact than his. His character, and the high esteem in which it was held, threw a most remarkable influence over his department, and called out the abilities and energies of several rising young men, who, as his subordinates, kept in constant and steady motion all the machinery of the public service in its manifold ramifications. The unapproachableness and rough bearing of some, when in authority, oftentimes serve to check and chill and alienate from them the personal esteem and confidence of those who are under them. But with Mr. Montagu it was otherwise; for with all the strictness of his office, and with all the discipline
with which it was conducted, his subordinates at all times expressed for him admiration, gratitude, and manly respect. On his suspension from office in Van Diemen's Land, and consequent departure from that Colony, one of the senior clerks in his department expressed to him his high sense of the advantages he derived from his influence and example in the following terms:—"I assure you that I shall ever look back to my connection with you (brief as it has been) with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret; and I most earnestly hope that my future conduct may always be regulated by reverting to the example of one so universally esteemed in private and public life as yourself." A like acknowledgment, containing the most satisfactory expressions of regard, he also received on the occasion of his leaving the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, for his health. It was from the clerks of his department, and evinces their appreciation not only of his arduous duties, but of the courtesy and friendliness and influence towards, and with, those who carried out his measures in their various details.

"Colonial Office, Cape of Good Hope,  
"26th April, 1852.

"Dear Sir,—Upon your approaching departure for England, we hope that the unanimous feeling of those who have had the pleasure (some of us from the period of your arrival in this Colony, the greater number of us for some years past) of serving in the Colonial Office under your immediate superintendence, may warrant this expression of our personal regard for one whose constant and unvarying consideration and kindness towards us has made the public service our pleasure, as well as our duty.

"It has been with deep concern that we have observed for some time past that your health was becoming impaired by your incessant and untiring exertions for the public
service, during a period of no ordinary difficulty and responsibility, and which has at length compelled you to seek some relaxation from them.

"In parting from you (we hope only for a time), we wish to record our deep sense of the kindness and courtesy which we have one and all uniformly experienced at your hands. We have not been insensible to the patience and forbearance with which you have, in each day's necessary official intercourse, at all times received and communicated with us,—never for a moment, in the press of business, or however anxiously occupied with important matters, has one harsh, or even hasty look or expression escaped you.

"Pressed as you have been by the most harassing duties, with incessant and varying demands upon your attention, not only from the ordinary business of the Colony, but from the wholly different duties thrown upon you during two Kafir wars, and for the last two years by political affairs and your position as President of the Council, we feel that this is much to say, and much to be grateful to you for.

"If the assurance that you leave behind you the warmest feelings of respect, esteem, and gratitude on the part of every one of your subordinates, should serve as a source, however humble, of satisfactory retrospect to you, in resting for a time from your official duties, it will afford us real pride and pleasure.

"Allow us now, with every kindest wish for the safe and prosperous voyage to England of yourself, Mrs. Montagu, and your family, and for your speedy restoration to perfect health, to subscribe ourselves,

"Yours, &c.,

"Signed by fourteen Clerks."

"The Honorable John Montagu,

"Secretary to Government, &c., &c., &c."

The influence of his very name was considerable as may be gathered from the annexed statement of one who on the news of his death, and the position of his family, was endeavoring to raise some trifling sums, by way of acknowledgment, among the constables and others at one of the convict stations."
"My subscription list will be about 30l. Every single individual on the station having tendered me from five shillings and upwards, although the majority of them being new comers have never seen Mr. Montagu, the great projector of the convict system. The name, and the circumstances when stated, have had the desired effect."

Another fine quality in his public character was his extreme sensitiveness with regard to the discharge of the duties and responsibilities which devolved upon him. He never seemed to think he had done enough; and the personal labors and anxiety which he bestowed on all he undertook were truly overwhelming. Nobody knew Mr. Montagu but as identified with his public duties: his conversation, his thoughts, in fact his whole daily life, were public service. He knew no cessation. If out of his office, his papers and his projects followed him. His meals, his hours of rest, his time for intercourse with his family were, in the last few years of his service, encroached upon. His reading all tended in the one direction, —it was connected with annals and reports and statistics bearing on moral advancement, social conveniences, international and political measures, and whatever is calculated to promote and cement the true interests and important relations of mankind. No one could have sacrificed more than he did; for he sacrificed all,—his time, his talents, his prospects, his health, his recreations, the solacing quietude of home and family, all to close application to his public duties. Yet notwithstanding this, there was no selfishness in his character, but a most utter abnegation and forgetting of self; no immoderate reaching after personal aggrandizement, but the pure wish and singleness of intention to discharge to the fullest and
most conscientious degree, the services intrusted to him. An extract from his letter to Mr. Stephen, at the time of his personal difficulties, will show how keenly sensitive he was lest his private cares should render less undivided his solicitude in the fulfilment of his public functions:—"Having related to you my position and feelings, will you now permit me to add my wishes? If Lord Stanley would permit me to retire from my present office by providing for me in England I should indeed feel very grateful to him * * * * I am not ambitious of a very exalted or a very lucrative station; my desire is to be usefully employed in the public service with my mind relieved from the fear of debt. In England I could live as retired as I pleased, without impairing my usefulness in office in any way; but as I have nothing left to support my family and myself beyond the salary my office would furnish, I am compelled to look to that as my last and only resource. But if Lord Stanley should be unable to comply with this request, I am quite ready to relinquish my present office, if his Lordship will approve of my receiving the retiring allowance my twenty years' services would justify. Sorry as I should be to dis sever myself from office, I am of opinion I had better do so, rather than continue to hold it, and not execute the duties to that extent of usefulness my conscience tells me I might do under different circumstances."

Another eminent quality, well known to those who had dealings and intercourse with him, was his uncorrupted honesty of purpose. His motives were pure and simple; his aims noble and benevolent. Few men were less selfish or less self-seeking than he. Personal ambition, the enjoyment of the so-
cialities of life, his own ease, the common bounty of healthful relaxation, these and much beside, as has been already observed, he sacrificed to the one call of duty. His acts, like those of all men in office, were open to misapprehension; his motives, like those of all who take their one undeviating course, were often misunderstood:—but let the whole career of Mr. Montagu at the Cape be fairly reviewed, and few candid men will hesitate to allow, that ulterior motives can as little be traced from his public acts, as from those of any the most straightforward, uncorrupt, and impartial administrator who ever had to preside over the execution of great affairs. With a most just abhorrence of what he styled "self and pelf" views, he looked, in the discharge of all his functions, for the grand result of raising the Colony which he so energetically served to stability and progressive greatness. To aid him in this he sought out active energetic men; and, in doing so, was sometimes charged with favoritism and partiality, and with passing by men of long service. Such charges are ever made in the disposal of greater or lesser patronage; but in all Mr. Montagu's appointments, it must be allowed that his great aim was, to secure the best qualified and most diligent men to execute the duties to be intrusted to them; and being self-conscious that this was the directing principle by which he was swayed, he left the capabilities of those he promoted, and the judiciousness of his appointments and recommendations to illustrate themselves, and did not seek step by step to clear his way, by justifying all he did, against every objection and pettish insinuation. He was a manly example, that

"Purity of motive and nobility of mind will rarely condescend
To prove its right, and prate of wrongs, or evidence its worth to others:"
and it was a saying of his:—"Innocence does not look for, because it is not conscious of requiring, opportunities to proclaim itself."

**PRIVATE CHARACTER.**—In private life as well as public, Mr. Montagu showed great decision and energy of character. His losses in Van Diemen's Land, and the uncertainty where they would stop, or to what extent they might involve him, would have paralyzed the energies of most men; but they served only to call up some of the most striking qualities of his character, and to exhibit in him—

"The reason firm and temperate will,

Endurance, foresight, strength, and skill."

He did not sit down and pine, but he girded up his resolution to meet the worst; and he did not only resolve, but act. His undelayed retrenchments, his simple habits, his unhesitating avowal that he was plunged into sudden losses, all showed he was prepared at once to grapple with his difficulties. And if manly energy, and straightforward, high-minded principle could overcome them, this he determined should be done; and he effected it. From the year 1845, when his losses first came upon him, and for eight consecutive years, by rigid economy be paid off at the rate of 1,300l. a-year, and just lived to see his whole debt liquidated. In all lesser and daily matters, he was equally decided: no one who well knew his character would solicit the same favor, or request his co-operation in the same instance, a second time; when his answer was once given, it was definite and final. If the appeal were one of charity, if the solicitation were one to which as a friend he could accede, if his company or patronage were sought for any object which he deemed commendable and worthy of encouragement, in any of these cases,
few men more promptly, or in a more considerate manner, would show assistance, kindness, courtesy, than he; but whether the request would find compliance might be at once known, and from his expressed decision, few things could move him. In his opinions, whether religious or political, in any task he set himself to accomplish, in the manner of his daily life, towards his children and his household, he was equally firm and decided. A kind father, but with a father's proper strictness and authority; a generous and good master, but one who never forgot a due and steady restraint over those who were under him.

Another feature of his character was that of simple unostentation. He was above the low vanity of vying with those about him for the grandest appearance, and the most lavish style of entertainment. He wished to be what he seemed to be, and to seem to be what he really was.* He did not esteem limited means, and rigid economy, and strictness from misfortunes, to be a disgrace. But he considered it a species of dishonesty to keep up an expensive outside appearance, for the sake of hiding real and pressing difficulties. Like all great men he considered that he should gain public esteem not for what he had, but for what he was, and for what he did. Actions, not possessions, he believed to set the stamp of worth upon a man's character; and with this impression he did not hesitate, when his

* The old philosophers knew the true value of such a line of conduct as this. Epictetus taught 'Ενω πατεροταθη λογισμι πειδοντι σε δρασι τυι, ταθί ιει διαλεγεις τη ρ ενσασι. 'Αρκου αυν τη ρ ανηειν των τη Θηφ μωφ ανακειμένων ει δε δοκει βοιλει, σεμνα τ φαινου, και λευν ενι έσι τωτο.—Epicteti Enarchridion, cap. xxx. Xenophon also has left us a like sentiment:—Ουκ ζατυ συντερμωτερα διδα περι δν αν βοιλη δοκειν φρονιμος ειναι, η το γενεσθαι περι τούτων φρονιμον.—Cyropæd. lib. i. c. 6.
exigencies demanded it, to strip from around himself and his household many of those luxuries and conveniences which the conventionalities of society have arbitrarily pronounced to be almost necessaries. There was something truly grand in a man who believed that his official position required him to maintain certain appearances, and to exhibit a generous hospitality, when pushed by a sternexactor than the expediency of external show, selling all his household effects but such as were necessary for the strictest domestic economy,—curtailing his establishment, foregoing his carriage in a climate where much bodily exercise is fatiguing and oppressive, training his sons to rise by arduous exercise, and leaving them only an example of honorable diligence as the best patrimony he could bequeath to them, and living patiently year by year on less than a moiety of his public income, to meet losses brought on him through a noble spirit of public sacrifice!

Another chief ingredient in his character was strict scrupulousness. All his payments were exact and punctual; and no poor man oppressed, no tradesman straitened by long credit, no one with whom he had dealings importunately entreaty for his due, had to speak of Mr. Montagu's name with bitterness. His honesty was of that sort, whose character is formed on the highest principle of divine and Christian morals: "Say not unto thy neighbour, go and come again, and to-morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee." "Owe no man anything, but to love one another." "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it." In illustration of his most rigid fair-dealing it may be recorded, that one or two of his most intimate friends continually urged on him to
effect an insurance on his life, as a future provision for his wife and the youngest of his children, should they survive him; but his prompt and unalterable reply was: "He could make no provision for his family out of that which belonged to others; that all he could possibly put aside, beyond what was required for the decent maintenance of his household, was for the defraying his debts, and that until they were discharged to the last farthing, he could make no reserve." It is painful to add, that although all his liabilities were honored to the full, his health and life were not spared sufficiently long after his difficulties were removed, to enable him to make the smallest provision for his widow and bereft children!

Among the amiable qualities of his character may be placed his steady sincerity. If any man acquired his friendship he found his affection most warm, and his regard most disinterested and sincere; and, for his own part, few men have had stauncher friends and stronger adherents than he had. From his constant attention to his official duties, but little leisure was left to him to cultivate a close acquaintance, or to enjoy the interchange of the sweetest charities of social communion; yet his heart was full of friendship, and no man enjoyed more to impart his confidence to those he esteemed worthy of his trust. To such he was free, transparent, unreserved; and it seemed a relief to him to speak on matters which opened up some of the most generous feelings of his kind heart. To some strangers, at first there was in his manner a degree of official distance, and brevity, and abruptness; but when the first interview was passed, and he knew his man, there was a great suavity of disposition, and a winningness about him, not arising from flattery or mere hollow courtesies,
but from some secret influence which he acquired and firmly maintained over those who were once impressed with the weight and appreciation of his true worth and sterling sincerity, and fine sense of honor and gentility. "Montagu," an old friend of his proudly remarked, "like all others of his name, was a gentleman."

Another property of his character, although recognized but by few, was his extreme sensibility. Though a man of strong mind, he possessed the very finest feeling. Open to, and readily touched by, any instance of real distress or sorrow, he was the readiest not only to lend his aid but to reveal his sympathy. He esteemed, with a degree of tender reverence, a man struggling nobly with adversity, and was always most desirous, in these cases, to help such an one generously. His charities were considerable, though little known; the harrowing trials of our common humanity he looked on with a tearful eye and a wounded heart; and often I have seen him, on hearing the recital of some story of touching distress, overcome with the most unrestrainable and tender emotions. He could steel himself to endure injustice or unkindness; on such occasions not a feature, not a muscle, not a shade on his countenance would betray the concealed struggle which was powerfully suppressed within; and he would preserve a remarkable self-possession and self-control; but an unexpected word of kindness, any generous avowal of gratitude where he least anticipated it, any mark of public esteem, could overcome him in a moment, and readily (and to him involuntarily) bring tears into his eyes.

His private character was also strengthened by that virtue which can alone make it of true and
lasting worth, a deep religious feeling. In desiring
to discharge his duty honorably and conscientiously
before man, he never lost sight of that higher aim to
discharge it religiously and in the fear of God. Mr.
Montagu was a steady, zealous, consistent member
of the Church; a punctual observer of its ordinances;
a firm believer that its doctrines are primitive and
scriptural, and its constitution apostolical and divine;
a hearty maintainer of its principles; a regular com-
municant at its altars; its defender in public, its
promoter and ornament in private life; its diligent
representative in his family; its humble learner in
its sanctuary and in his closet. In his outward
department as a Christian, throughout the most
active period of his public life, he was exact, chari-
table, and irreproachable;—the depth of his inward
sincerity and devotion, and dependence upon Christ,
had to be fully tried, and strengthened, and evi-
denced, in his sick and dying hours. Of his religious
impressions, and those deep matters between the
soul and its God, with which a stranger can rarely
intermeddle, he was generally silent and reserved;
yet there were times when he spoke devoutly and
with very warm interest on sacred matters, and then
he would unfold that there was a deep earnestness
within; a constant seeking after higher holiness; a
desire to be in sincerity, in life, in trust, in heart, in
soul, a Christian so instructed in and regulated to
his Saviour's will, and so strengthened by His grace
to fulfil it, that having served Him faithfully in
this life, he might hereafter attain to His heavenly
promises.

Little more is now required than to condense the
description of the foregoing character into a few
words. Mr. Montagu's name, now he is no more
amongst us, defies the power of detraction. If it were not a host in itself it would find a host of defenders; but to think he needs an apologist or defender is to overlook the greatness of his lasting public acts, which are the best defence and vindication of the soundness of his good intentions, and of the wisdom of his judgment. We are not fain to allow that integrity of purpose and staunchness of principle will not ultimately bring their own enduring respect,—a respect which, in his case, is strong enough to preserve him from being lightly spoken of, or of being suffered to glide into oblivion. Mr. Montagu, when fairly considered, will be pronounced a true friend of that Colony which he served. In his endeavors for its advancement he was eminently unselfish; the loud-sounding littleness of egotism found no place in him; and although he was the prime mover, and mainspring, and support in almost every great scheme which was recently undertaken for the improvement of the Cape, yet he never laid himself open for popularity or public praise, but seemed content to throw himself into that only position which can preserve the consistency of a leading public character,—viz. to be fortified by the consciousness of rectitude, and lean on the assurance that after-time will do him justice, if the present fail to appreciate him. Although no proud bust or public column has yet been raised to him, nevertheless from the height of the pedestal upon which his own celebrity and the elevating commendation of great and good men have figuratively placed him, he can as calmly and grandly look down, as do those bronze or marble statues which a nation has actually erected to preserve and honor the memory of her greatest and wisest benefactors.
Even now the Colony for which he sacrificed himself begins to view him as a chief character in its history, and it will yet universally acknowledge him as the greatest, the wisest, the most upright of its advisers, promoters, and benefactors. The portraiture of his life, character, and actions may well and truly be exhibited, mottoed, and summed up in the following striking lines:—

"Trust payeth homage unto Truth, rewarding honesty of action:
And all men love to lean on him, who never failed nor fainted;
Freedom glowed in his eyes, and nobleness of nature in his heart,
And Independence took a crown and fixed it on his head:
So he stood in his integrity, just and firm of purpose,
Aiding many, fearing none, a spectacle to angels and to men:—
Yea,—when the shattered globe shall rock in the throes of dissolution,
Still will he stand in his integrity, sublime—an honest man."