

successes with "Evenings Among the Romanists." The only saving feature of all these works was their racy humour.

He continued to contribute to anti-Catholic periodicals and to lecture to anti-Catholic societies all his life, but one of the latter, "On Nunneries," delivered in 1852, brought Cardinal Wiseman into the open against him and Seymour emerged badly from the Cardinal's scathing reply. In 1838 he issued a new edition of Foxe's "Acts and Monuments of the Church," which claimed to be carefully revised, corrected and condensed, but is now completely ignored by scholars.

In January, 1944, he married Maria, the daughter of General Thomas of the East India Company, but had no children by her. He died at Bath, where he is buried, on 19th June, 1874.

DANIEL SHEA.

Daniel Shea, Orientalist, was born in County Limerick in the year 1777. His father, also Daniel Shea, was a farmer rich enough to send his son to Trinity College on 3rd June, 1793. Shea read a distinguished course here and obtained a scholarship in classics in 1797.

During Shea's student days the United Irishmen were flourishing, and, although apparently not a member himself, Shea was sympathetic towards the movement and friendly with most of the College members of it. In April, 1798, the Vice-Chancellor, the Earl of Clare, visited the College, and took advantage of his honorary post in the College to issue a decree that each student should take an individual oath to inform on any of the members and to tell any of the secrets of the Society they might know. Shea refused abruptly and was expelled. He could find no work in Ireland and went to England, penniless, and after passing through a difficult time, obtained a post as classics master in a private school. Shortly afterwards his mastery of the Italian language gained him a post as chief clerk in Malta to a London merchant firm. While here he studied Persian, and after a time went to work on his firm's behalf on the shores of the Black Sea.

However, his firm was compelled to give up their Eastern trade and Shea once again found himself in England without a job. Another Irishman and scholar, Dr. Adam Clarke, befriended him and obtained him a post as private tutor in the house of Dr. Lansell, and later an Assistant-Professorship in Eastern Languages in the College of the East India Company at Haileybury.

When the Oriental Translation Society was founded, Shea was one of the many Irishmen to become members of the Committee. He translated Mirkhond's "History of the Early Kings of Persia," and it was published by the Society in 1832. His next work was on the translation of the Persian classic, "The

Dabistan," but he died before his task was completed—on 11th May, 1836—at Haileybury College. The work was completed by Anthony Troyer and published in 1844.

A contemporary wrote of Shea :—"A kinder friend, a better man, never breathed. On many occasions he submitted to great personal inconvenience that he might relieve others, whose necessities he deemed greater than his own."

HARRIET CONSTANCE SMITHSON.

Harriet Constance Smithson, actress, who afterwards became the wife of Hector Berlioz, the composer, was born in Ennis on 18th March, 1800. Her father, William Joseph Smithson, was a theatrical manager, who managed the theatres of Waterford and Kilkenny for many years. Harriet was adopted at the age of two by the Reverend James Barrett, of Ennis, and lived with him until his death in 1809, when she was sent to school in Waterford.

Owing to her father's illness she had to leave school and take to the stage, being engaged by Edward Jones, the Dublin manager of Crow Street Theatre, and making her first appearance there at the age of fifteen—at which tender age she played Lady Teazle in Sheridan's "School for Scandal." She then joined Montague Talbot's touring company and played many important parts in the various Irish cities, including Limerick.

From here she graduated, through Birmingham, to Drury Lane, in London, and although she made no very great impression at the time as an actress, she is described as "tall and well formed, with a handsome countenance and a voice distinct rather than powerful." After several years on the London stage, she obtained a place in the great Macready's company and with him toured England, Ireland and Scotland and, eventually, France.

By this time, Harriet's acting was much improved, and, although her Irish accent, which she never lost, told against her in England, Macready was very enthusiastic about her performance in Paris, where, of course, her brogue passed unnoticed. He says that when, as Jane Shore, she said she hadn't eaten for three long days, there was a deep sympathetic murmur of "O mon Dieu" throughout the house.

Harriet Smithson was responsible for the great enthusiasm in Paris for Shakespeare and her playing of Ophelia and Juliet were for a time the rage of the city. Years later, Theophile Gautier, the French novelist, referred to her magnificent acting at this time.

It was here she met Hector Berlioz, who, although poor and as yet unknown, dared to propose marriage to Harriet at the peak of her fame. He was rejected, but soon after, when Harriet had been replaced by a younger actress, he again proposed and