paired to the metropolis.@@1 This ingenious young man, then a journeyman mason, he received with his habitual kind­ness, and not only treated him with hospitality, but, we have every reason to believe, rendered him very important ser­vices, and greatly contributed to his subsequent advance­ment. In his account of his own life, it is observable that Telford makes not the slightest allusion to his benefactor. As to his occupation, he states that he was fortunate in be­ing employed at the quadrangle of Somerset-place, where he acquired much practical information, both in the useful and ornamental branches of architecture. After a resi­dence of two years in London, he was engaged in superin­tending the building of a house in the dock-yard at Ports­mouth, intended for the resident commissioner. For this appointment we suppose him to have been indebted to the influence of Mr Pasley, exercised through his brother the admiral. “ During the three years,” he remarks, “ that I attended the building of the commissioner’s house, and of a new chapel for the dock-yard, I had an opportunity of ob­serving the various operations necessary in the foundations and construction of graving docks, wharf-walls, and similar works, which afterwards became my chief occupation.”’

Having terminated his engagement at Portsmouth in 1787, he was employed by Sir William Pulteney to super­intend some alterations in Shrewsbury Castle, which he wished to fit up as a temporary residence. This baronet likewise belonged to Westerkirk, being a younger son of Sir James Johnstone of Westerhall. For several years he practised at the Scotish bar, but by his marriage with Frances Pulteney, niece to the carl of Bath, he acquired a princely fortune ; and being a man of penurious habits, he continued till the end of his life to accumulate riches, which his only child, created countess of Bath, was miser­ably incapable of enjoying. It is more than probable that Telford had been recommended to him by Mr Pasley ; and to this new connexion he was indebted for a very favour­able opening of his career as a civil engineer. He was ap­pointed surveyor of the public works in the rich and exten­sive county of Salop ; and this office he retained till the time of his death. His chief attention was thus devoted to building and repairing bridges ; but, as an architect, he was likewise employed in superintending the erection of churches and other edifices. His politics did not coincide with those of his patron. “ Telford in his youth,” says Mr Rickman, “ is known to have been tinctured with the then fashionable doctrines of democracy, while the strong mind of his patron derided and detested the flimsy tissue, as might be expected from his penetration and experience. A dan­gerous rupture was once likely to ensue, when Telford rather improperly transmitted some of the political trash of the day under his patron’s frank;@@\* but the latter pardoned him, after due animadversion.”

Telford’s progress in his professional career, though not uncommonly rapid, was steady and certain ; and every new opportunity of exerting his talents contributed to extend a reputation which at length became unrivalled. In 1790 he

was employed by the British Fishery Society to inspect the harbours at their several stations, and to devise a plan for an extensive establishment in the county of Caithness ; and after an interval of three years he was intrusted with the management of the Ellesmere Canal. In 1803 the par­liamentary commissioners for making roads and building bridges in the Highlands, as well as the commissioners for the Caledonian Canal, appointed him their engineer. Un­der the former board, eleven hundred and seventeen bridges were erected, and nine hundred and twenty miles of new roads were made ; and under the latter board was completed the Caledonian Canal, a work of great labour and expense. Under the road commissioners on the Carlisle, Glasgow, and Lanarkshire roads, thirty bridges were erected ; one of them having a span of a hundred and fifty feet, and another being a hundred and twenty-two feet high. In both parts of the kingdom, he afterwards conducted a great variety of public operations; and in 1808 he was employed by the Swedish government to execute a regular survey, and lay down cor­rect plans and sections of the country between Lake We- nern and the shore of the Baltic, near Soderkoping, and to make a detailed Report on the subject, with the view of con­necting the great fresh-water lakes, and forming a direct communication between the North Sea and the Baltic. Having completed this service, he embarked at Gottenburg early in October. In August 1813 he again visited Sweden, and inspected all the works then commenced, which chiefly consisted of excavations. The king bestowed upon him a Swedish order of knighthood, but his good sense prevented him from assuming the title. In our days, such honours “ be good cheap.” As a further mark of the royal appro­bation, he received the king’s portrait set in valuable dia­monds.

He continued for many years to be engaged in a great variety of similar undertakings, indeed in all the most impor­tant undertakings that were then in progress ; and a simple enumeration of his roads, bridges, canals, and harbours, would itself occupy a very considerable space. “ It has been said, and no doubt truly, that Mr Telford was inclined to set a higher value on the success which attended his exer­tions for improving the great communication from London to Holyhead, the alterations of the line of road, its smooth­ness, and the excellence of the bridges, than on that of any other work he executed. The Menai Bridge will unques­tionably be the most imperishable monument of Mr Tel­ford’s fame. This bridge over the Bangor ferry, connect­ing the counties of Carnarvon and Anglesea, partly of stone and partly of iron, on the suspension principle, consists of seven stone arches, exceeding in magnitude every work of the kind in the world.”@@’

Telford was possessed of a robust frame, and till he reached the age of seventy, he had never been visited with any serious illness. While at Cambridge in the year 1827, he was afflicted with a severe and dangerous disorder ; and although he gradually recovered a certain degree of health, he never recovered his former vigour. He became sub-

@@@’ The son of an unprosperous farmer had been recommended to him by his kind-hearted relations at Burnfoot ; and as the young man had not been trained to business of any kind, he thought the best way of serving him was to procure him a clerkship in a man of war. He ac­cordingly lost no time in writing to his brother Admiral Pasley ; but the admiral informed him that he had no employment for any such per­son. The application was immediately renewed. An answer was returned, that he really had no employment for the young man, and could not make employment for him. Even this answer was not received as final. One letter followed another so rapidly, that at length the ad­miral wrote to this effect : “ For God's sake, send me S. I.. and let me see if any thing can be done for him.” This young man speedily became a purser ; and at the termination of the first French war, retired from the service in very prosperous circumstances.

@@@• It was most probably addressed to his intimate friend Andrew Little, who kept a private and very small school at Langholm, and who completely agreed with him in his political creed. Telford did not neglect to send him a copy of Paine’s *Right, of Man;* and as he was to­tally blind, he employed one of his scholars to read it in the evenings. Mr Little had received an academical education before be lost his sight ; and, aided by a memory of uncommon powers, he taught the classics, and particularly the Greek classics, with much higher reputation than any other schoolmaster within a pretty extensive circuit. Two of his pupils read all the Iliad, and all or the greater part of Sophoclea After hearing a long sentence of Greek or Latin distinctly recited, be could generally construe and translate it with little or no hesitation. He was always much gratified by Telford’s visits, which were not infrequent, to his native district.

@@@• Annual Biography and Obituary, vol. six. p. 203.