his degree of M. A. in 1762, he was soon afterwards made moderator of the scholastic exercises of the university, an arduous and honourable office, which he also filled in several subsequent years.

In 1764, he undertook a journey to Paris, though with­out being able to speak the language, in order to take charge of his young friend and pupil Mr Luther, who re­turned to England with him soon after. He was elected in the same year professor of chemistry, though he had never devoted any portion of his attention to that science ; but he soon rendered himself sufficiently master of all that was then known of the science, to give a very popular course of lectures on the subject about a year after his election, with the assistance of an operator whom he had brought from Paris, and to become the author of a series of essays, which served for many years as the most agreeable intro­duction to the elementary doctrines and the ordinary pro­cesses of chemistry. He obtained from the government, by proper representations, a salary of L.100 a year for him­self, and for all future professors. He also paid some atten­tion to theoretical and practical anatomy, as having some relation to the science of chemistry. In 1767, he became one of the principal tutors of Trinity College ; in 1769, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, and in October 1771, he unexpectedly obtained the important and lucrative appointment of regius professor of divinity, upon the premature death of Dr Rutherforth, and in that capacity he held the rectory of Somersham in Huntingdonshire. He had been little accustomed to the study of the divinity of the schools, or even of the fathers ; but his eloquence and ingenuity supplied the want of theological learning, though he gave some offence to his more orthodox col­leagues, by confining his arguments more strictly to the text of the scripture than they thought perfectly consistent with the duty of a champion of the church of England, which they considered to be the description of a professor of divinity in an English university. He attracted, how­ever, as long as he officiated in person, audiences as nume­rous, to the exercises in the schools at which he presided, as had attended his chemical lectures.

He married, in December 1773, Miss Wilson of Dallam Tower in Westmoreland. Their union continued uninter­rupted for more than forty years. In 1774 he obtained a prebend of Ely, in exchange for a rectory in Wales, which the duke of Grafton had procured for him ; and he became archdeacon of Ely in January 1780: in the same year Bishop Keene presented him with the rectory of Northwold in Norfolk ; and in 1782, his pupil, the duke of Rutland, gave him the rectory of Knaptoft in Leicestershire : the same interest obtained him also from Lord Shelburne the bishopric of Landaff. Here his episcopal preferment rested. He generally joined the politics of the opposition, and especially on the question of the unlimited regency ; but he was too independent in his sentiments to become a very useful member of any administration ; and he retired, before the end of the year 1789, without books, and with some­what more of disgust than he ought in justice to have felt, to an estate which he had bought at Calgarth, on the banks of Winandermere, and occupied himself entirely, besides the education of his family, in agricultural improve­ments, especially in planting, for which he received a me­dal from the Society of Arts in 1789. His pupil, Mr Luther of Ongar in Essex, had died in 1786, and left him an estate, which he afterwards sold for something more than L.20,000.

He considered as one of the best practical results of his chemical studies, the suggestion which he made to the duke of Richmond, then master of the ordnance, respecting the preparation of charcoal for gunpowder, by burning the wood in close vessels, which, it seems, very materially im­proved the quality of the powder.

He had the liberality to confer, in 1804, a small living, as a reward for literary merit only, on Mr Davies, the author of the Celtic Researches. The next year, he ap­plied with success to the duke of York for the promotion of his son, who had then the rank of a major ; and his royal highness speedily complied with his solicitation, as a personal favour only, without waiting for any ministerial influence.

His health had been seriously impaired by an illness which attacked him in 1781, and which his friends attri­buted, though perhaps without sufficient reason, to excessive study. In October 1809, he had a slight paralytic affection, and another in 1811 ; but it was in 1813 that bis last illness might be said to begin, and he sunk gradually till the 4th of July 1816. The elder of his two sons was in the army, the younger in the church : he left also several daughters. His writings are as miscellaneous as they are numerous, but none of them are bulky.

1. Institutionum Chemicarum pars Metallurgica. Cambr. 1768, 8vo. Repr. Ess. vol. v.

2. Experiments and Observations on the Solution of Salts. Phil. Trans. 1770, p. 325, Ess. v. Especially on the specific gravities of salts and their solutions. 3. Remarks on the Effects of Cold in February 1771. Phil. Trans. 1771, p. 213, Ess. v. With some experiments on congelation. 4. Experiment with a Thermometer having its bulb blackened. Phil. Trans. 1773, p. 40, Ess. v. Raised 10°. 5. Chemical Experiments and Ob­servations on Lead Ore. Phil. Trans. 1778, p∙ 863, Ess. v. 6. Observations on the Sulphur Wells at Harrowgate. Phil. Trans. 1786, p. 171, Ess. v.

7∙ An Essay on the Subjects of Chemistry, and their General Division.

8. Assize Sermon, preached at Cambridge. 17G9, 4to.

9. Letters to the Members of the House of Commons, by a Christian Whig, 1772.

10. 11. Two Sermons. Cambr. 1776, 4to. On the Revolution, and on the King’s Accession.

12. A brief State of the Principles of Church Authority, 1773. Reprinted in 1813 as a charge.

13. A Fast Sermon, Feb. 1780.

14. A Sermon addressed to the Clergy of Ely, 1780. Recom­mending oriental literature.

15. An Apology for Christianitv, in a series of Letters address­ed to Edward Gibbon, Esq. Lond. 1778, 12mo. Often re- printed, and considered as very satisfactory, though the author confesses, with more of the courtier than of the orthodox divine, in a letter to Mr Gibbon, that the essay “ derives its chief merit from the elegance and importance of the work it attempts to oppose.”

16. Chemical Essays. Lond. 1781-7,5 vols. 12mo. Addressed to his pupil the duke of Rutland. The work was intended for general information, and became extremely popular as a first in­troduction. The first volume relates to salts, sulphurs, vitriols, and gunpowder; the second to common salt, distillation, lime, clay, and pit coal ; the third to bitumens, charcoal, evaporation, lead, and lead ores; and the fourth to zinc, gum, metal, tin, copper, iron, and stones ; the fifth is a republication of the author’s earlier chemical tracts. After the completion of these volumes, he had the resolution to burn all his chemical papers.

17. A Letter to Archbishop Cornwallis on the Church Reve­nues, 1782. A plan for equalizing the bishoprics.

18. A Sermon preached the 30th Jan. before the Lords. 1784, 4to.

19. Visitation Articles, for the Diocese of Landaff.

20. Theological Tracts. Lond. 1785, 6 vols. 8vo. Collected from various authors, not excluding many works of dissenters from the church.

21. A Sermon on the Wisdom and Goodness of God, in having made Rich and Poor, 1785, 1793. Adapted to allay the discon­tents which were then prevalent among the lower classes.

22. Sermons and Tracts. Lond. 1788, 8vo. Chiefly republi­cations.

23. An Address to Young Persons after Confirmation. 1789, 12mo.

24. Considerations on the Expediency of Revising the Liturgy. 1790, 8vo. Anonymous.

25. A Sermon preached for the Westminster Dispensary in 1785, with an Appendix. 1792.

26. A Charge to the Clergy of his Diocese. 1792, 4to.

27. Two Sermons and a Charge. 1795, 4to. The first sermon is entitled Atheism refuted ; the second, The Christian Religion no Imposture.