

Antiquities. These lucrative appointments served only as incitements to further exertions, and Mr. Wilson's useful and valuable labours were continued almost to the day of his death.

Mr. Wilson was not a laborious scholar and a prolific writer only, he was also a careful and judicious inquirer. He was, indeed, a highly accomplished man; for with his profound knowledge of the languages and literature of the East, he combined a familiarity with the ancient and modern ones of Europe. To these he added skill in music and in the histrionic art, in which he was an excellent performer.

Mr. Wilson was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1834. He married a grand-daughter of the celebrated Mrs. Siddons, and by her, who survives him, had a family of sons and daughters.

M. LOUIS POINSOT was born in Paris on the 3rd of January, 1777; quitted the *École Polytechnique* in the capacity of *Ingénieur des Ponts et Chaussées* in 1796; was appointed Professor at the *Lycée Bonaparte*; Professor and Examiner of the pupils who had completed the course of instruction at the *École Polytechnique*, and member of the Council for improving that institution. He was elected Member of the Institute in 1813, in the place rendered vacant by the death of Lagrange, by whom his future eminence had been predicted. He became Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour, Peer of France and Senator. He died, unmarried, on the 5th of December, 1859, at the age of nearly 83 years. The greater part of his life passed happily; while still young his talents were appreciated by the most eminent judges; in his advanced years he received the highest rewards from his countrymen. With his simple habits, the emoluments of the numerous and honourable appointments he held, and the profits of nine large editions of his '*Statics*,' in addition to a moderate family inheritance, enabled him to leave at his death a fortune of upwards of 1,200,000 francs.

He was regarded as one of the most profound geometers in Europe. His philosophic mind suggested new methods of scientific investigation. His writings, always remarkable for their clearness and elegance, are frequently expressed in language divested of the technicalities of algebra. M. Chasles, alluding to Poinsot's new theory of rotation in the preface to his '*Géométrie supérieure*,' expresses himself nearly in the following terms:—Nothing can be more beautiful than these direct,

lucid and graphic considerations, by means of which a great geometer, employing the ingenious doctrine of couples in dynamics, has unfolded all the geometric and dynamic properties of a heavy body in motion. . . . With the sole aid of geometric reasoning, M. Poinsot renders palpable, and depicts all the circumstances of the motion of a solid.

The titles and dates of M. Poinsot's principal works are as follows:—"Sur les polygones et les polyèdres," *Journal de l'École Polytechnique*, 1809; "Mémoire sur l'application de l'Algèbre à la théorie des nombres et à la recherche des racines primitives," *Journal de l'École Polytechnique*, 1820; 'Eléments de Statique, suivis de quatre Mémoires'; "Sur la composition des moments et des aires dans la mécanique" (from the *Journal de l'École Polytechnique*, 1804); 'Sur le plan invariable du système du Monde'; 'Théorie générale de l'équilibre et du mouvement des systèmes'; 'Théorie nouvelle de la rotation des cordes,' a classical work, in which M. Poinsot first propounded his beautiful theory of couples, and of which the 9th edition appeared in 1848; 'Recherches sur l'Analyse des sections angulaires,' 1825; 'Reflexions sur les principes fondamentaux de la théorie des nombres,' 1845; 'Théorie nouvelle de la rotation des corps,' 1851; 'Théorie des cônes circulaires roulants,' 1853; 'Sur la percussion des corps,' 1857; 'Précession des équinoxes,' 1857; 'Note sur la théorie des polyèdres,' 1858.

HEINRICH RATHKE was the son of a ship-carpenter of Dantzic, and was born in that town on the 25th of August, 1793. Being destined for the medical profession, he studied with that view in Göttingen and in Berlin, and in 1818 he commenced practice in his native city. While at Göttingen, however, he had acquired under the mastership of Blumenbach a decided taste for zootomical and zoological pursuits, and had, even in his student years, undertaken original researches in these branches of science. Accordingly, amid the more pressing occupations of professional life he continued to pursue with eagerness his favourite studies, and soon acquired the reputation of an able and accomplished biologist. His appointment to the chair of Physiology in Dorpat, to which he was called in 1828, enabled him thenceforward to give himself up entirely to scientific work; and, by the death of Eschscholtz, the sphere of his profes-