

which contains a good deal of instructive and interesting matter.

Captain Wilfred Dakin Speer, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., a magistrate of the county of Surrey, was born on the 19th of October 1835, the eldest son of the Rev. Wilfred Speer, Incumbent of the parishes of Thames Ditton and West Moulsey.

After a school education at Beckenham, and subsequently at Hampton, he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, with the intention of eventually studying the law, and proceeded to the degree of M.A.

On the death of his father in October, 1856, having come into possession of an estate of considerable annual value, he relinquished his intention of going to the bar, and obtained a commission in the 1st Middlesex Militia.

In September 1859, Captain Speer went to India on a sporting expedition, and crossed the Himalayas into Thibet and Chinese Tartary. From this expedition he returned in May 1862, bringing with him numerous skins and horns, and other articles which he had collected during his travels, together with a number of most interesting photographic views of the places he had visited. Shortly after his return to England he exchanged from the 1st Middlesex to the 3rd Surrey Militia.

In November 1864, he again proceeded to India, on a second sporting expedition, and shortly after his arrival there joined the British Army, then invading Bhootan, in which he served as a volunteer. But having been attacked with fever, he returned to England in June 1865. In September 1866 his untiring zeal led him to undertake a sporting expedition to Canada, whence he subsequently visited several of the southern states of America, and, passing through the seat of the late war, he proceeded to Cuba, returning to Canada in the spring of 1867. He then determined to cross the Rocky Mountains and visit the Mormon Settlements, and afterwards California, and thence return to England. In the early part of May last, in prosecution of this design, he proceeded to St. Louis on the Missouri with the intention of going by steamer to Fort Brinton, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. He embarked accordingly in the steamer Octavia, on board which vessel he was shot in the night of the 7th of June, by a soldier belonging to the the United States Army, who had been posted on deck as a sentry to guard from a night attack from the Indians. But it would appear that strong reasons exist for believing that the act was one

of premeditated murder, and we understand that steps are being taken to bring the murderer to justice*.

In a brief notice of Captain Speer's career and untimely end, communicated to the Quebec Mercury of the 9th of July by an officer of the 75th Regiment, with which he passed the preceding winter in Quebec, it is stated that, just before setting out, Captain Speer dreamed that he saw a coffin with "W. D. Speer, died June 17, 1867" on it. This is one of those strange coincidences of the apparent fulfilment of a foreboding which, though by no means inexplicable, yet, whenever they occur, are calculated to excite surprise.

Thomas Pridgin Teale, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S., died on the 31st of December, in his 67th year.

Mr. Teale was born at Leeds, the son of Mr. Thomas Teale, a medical practitioner of high repute in that town. Educated for the medical profession, Mr. Teale entered on its practice in conjunction with his father in the year 1823, and soon evinced such knowledge and skill as an operating surgeon, as at a very early period of his career to show that he could not fail to attain an eminent position in his profession. Nor was this anticipation disappointed, seeing that, for many years before his decease, Mr. Teale was reputed one of the most eminent among provincial, and, it may be said, metropolitan surgeons. In the year 1824 he was elected Surgeon to the Leeds Public Dispensary, the duties of which office he continued to discharge for nine years, when he was appointed one of the Surgeons to the Leeds General Infirmary, which afforded him an appropriate field for the display of his ability. He was also one of the founders and most active teachers in the Leeds School of Medicine, which at the present time stands second to none out of the metropolis.

Immersed as Mr. Teale was, from a very early period of his life, in the labours and anxieties of a large and constantly increasing practice, the greater part of his published writings were, as might be expected, devoted to professional subjects, and several of them have deservedly obtained, and will long maintain, great estimation. But, like many others belonging to the medical profession, Mr. Teale, notwithstanding the almost complete absorption of his time and thoughts in the practice of surgery, found leisure and

* In the Gardeners' Chronicle of July 11, 1868, it is stated that William Barry, the soldier who killed Captain Speer, had been brought from Fort Stevenson to Yancton, to be tried for murder.

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