

The Dispatch

The Last of the Great Victorians.

Lancastrians are entitled to claim a special interest in Dr. Ginsburg, the great Hebrew and Biblical scholar, who has just passed away, for before he became a familiar figure in London he lived in Liverpool, where his only son, now a barrister on the Northern Circuit, was born. In those days Dr. Ginsburg, then a recent convert from Judaism, was engaged in proselytising among the Jews on behalf of his new-found faith. But as time went on he became completely absorbed in one pursuit, to the exclusion of everything else—the study of the Hebrew texts of the Old Testament. I often had the privilege of a chat with the old doctor, who never quite learned to speak English like one to the manner born, though he had lived here nearly seventy years. He was most frequently to be met at the British Museum, where he had a room kept specially for him, also at the National Liberal Club, where he was chairman of the Library Committee for twenty-one years, as well as in the secondhand bookshops, where he was frequently the rival at bargain hunting of his friend Gladstone. He is really the last of the great Victorians, and the last survivor, unless we include Dr. Aldis Wright, the secretary, of the company which was called together more than forty years ago to revise the Old Testament.

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