

Continuation of the Newspaper article in Listing No: N507

Mr Spencer Perceval Butler is an elder brother of the famous Master of Trinity, Cambridge, who celebrated his silver wedding last month. He is the second son of the Very Rev. George Butler, Senior Wrangler in 1794, and headmaster of Harrow, from 1805 to 1829. He retired last year from being one of the conveyancing counsels of the High Court of Chancery and counsel to the Treasury. He was born in 1828, and was educated at Rugby under Dr. Arnold, so that his memories go back to a splendid past. He won high academic distinction, like almost every one of his house, taking a first class in classics at Trinity College, Cambridge.

First Classes in the Family

The same capacity is marked in his numerous family; of his nine sons:-

One (Sir Harcourt Butler) is Vice-President of the Legislative Council in India.

Two, Ralph and Geoffrey, obtained fellowships at Cambridge Colleges and first classes in the tripos.

Two more obtained first classes at Oxford or Cambridge but not fellowships.

One, after being President of the Cambridge Union, is an Inspector of Schools.

One, Mr C.K. Butler, has been High Sheriff for Berks.

One is in the Army

One died as Gunnery Lieutenant in the Navy

One of Mr Butler's two daughters married Sir Eric Richards, Chichels Professor of International Law, Oxford.

The Father of Heredity

Three of Mr Butler's brothers gained first classes in classics, among them being Dr. Butler, the Master of Trinity. Of his nephews, five have gained first classes in classics or mathematics, among them being Mr J.R.M. Butler, the son of the Master of Trinity, who swept the board of prizes at Cambridge, and whose list of triumphs is unprecedented. By his sister, Louisa Butler, who married Sir Francis Galton, the famous authority on heredity and eugenics, he is connected with the house of Galton, which also has a remarkable record, and with the Darwins, with whom the Galtons's intermarried.

Mr Butler's grandfather was the Rev. Weeden Butler, with whom the intellectual distinction of the family began. He was born in 1742, and was a classical master at Chelsea. This for more than a century and a half the stock has maintained the bent which he gave it. This is remarkable in the annals of heredity, and seems to show that family has more to do with producing capacity than any environment.