powers of locution, he was also exceedingly successful with his experiments. His speeches, whether prepared or extempore, were always models of lucidity, and when moved he was capable of attaining to real eloquence. From a combined scientific and literary point of view he possessed not a few points of resemblance with Tyndall, though very different himself in other ways from Tyndall as a man.

The late Sir William White, himself a very fluent and effective speaker, and himself a no mean judge of oratory, once told the present writer that he had heard Prof. Thompson deliver an address at a religious meeting in the Friends' Meeting House at York, and that it was the best sermon he had ever heard in his life. Nor were Prof. Thompson's powers of speech limited to his own language, as he was equally at home both in conversation, and when speaking in public, in the French, German, and Italian languages. In his writings also he showed himself to be a master of English. If the subject was scientific his language was always extraordinarily clear and to the point, which explains the remarkable success of some of his books. His treatise on "Dynamo Electric Machinery," for example, which was first published in 1884, has run to seven English editions and has further been translated both into French and German. Again, his "Elementary Lessons in Electricity and Magnetism" has been translated into French, German, Italian, Polish, and Japanese, and, in addition, has had a circulation of more than one hundred and fifty thousand copies in this country; while other of his technical books, such as his "Electro-Magnet," his "Poly-phase Electric Currents and Motors," and his "Light, Visible and Invisible," together with many of his other scientific writings and lectures, have met with world-wide success.

To turn to Prof. Thompson's efforts of a more purely personal character, his fine literary style was turned to good use in his life of Faraday, his biographical notice of Philip Reis and his telephone, and his recent two-volume "Life of Lord Kelvin." Then, again, he was always keenly alive to the historical side of science, particularly from a romantic point of view, as is seen from the large amount of time and labour that he devoted to old books, such as the "De Magnete" of William Gilbert of Colchester, physician to Queen Elizabeth, which book he assisted to translate. He also devoted attention to, and reprinted, some of the seventeenth-century works on magnetism of Robert Boyle. Mention should also be made of the translation he made from the original Latin of the epistle on magnetism of Peter Peregrinus, written in the year 1269 by a soldier in the trenches during a siege, which translation he caused to be privately printed, ornamenting the coloured initial letters with his own hand. For, in addition to being a man of science and a man of letters, Prof. Thompson was also an artist who was able himself to draw the portrait of Faraday that illustrates his life of that great man, and whose water-colours of Alpine scenery have appeared on the walls of the Royal Academy.

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As a man Prof. Thompson was a genial and interesting companion of wide general interests and sympathies. He lived up to the high standard of the Society of Friends, of which he was a life-long member, and was, indeed, a very good and true friend to many, to whom he tendered a helping hand in his quiet unostentatious way. Perhaps his chief characteristic was his amazing industry, and it is to this that is due the vast amount of work that he accomplished, though, passing away as he did at less than sixty-five, he has not attained even to the three score years and ten of the Psalmist, much less to the four score years which are now so commonly surpassed by many of our grand old men of science.

Few of the many who attended the service "For Worship," in memory of Prof. Thompson, on Friday last, in the Friends' Meeting House, St. Martin's Lane, will readily forget that remarkable and moving occasion. Many of the veterans of British science were there assembled, and the complete absence of any approach to form or ceremony, and the austere simplicity of the proceedings, were very impressive and carried one back to the days of the Puritans. Such was a fitting finale to a strenuous and distinguished career, by the close of which science has lost an enthusiastic leader and an illuminating exponent. Amongst those who knew Prof. Thompson personally all will deplore the departure of a trusted and very sincere friend—one who will not readily be forgotten.

A. A. CAMPBELL SWINTON.

WHAT SCIENCE SAYS TO TRUTH.

AS is the mainland to the sea,
Thou art to me:

Thou standest stable, while against thy feet
I beat, I beat!

Yet from thy cliffs so sheer, so tall,
Sands crumble and fall;
And golden grains of thee my tides each day
Carry away.

WILLIAM WATSON.

NOTES.

WE regret to see the announcement of the death on June 18 of Dr. R. H. Scott, F.R.S., superintendent of the Meteorological Office from 1867 to 1900.

THE longevity of men of science has often been brought under notice. On Saturday next, June 24, the Rt. Hon. Henry John Moreton, Earl of Ducie, F.R.S., enters on his ninetieth year, having been born in 1827. His lordship is the senior fellow of the Royal Society in point of election to that body, this dating from 1855. When Lord Moreton, he obtained from the Jurassic limestone of Burford the fossil species of star-fish named by Prof. Edward Forbes *Solaster moretoni*, in honour of the finder. In connection it may be mentioned that Sir Robert Palgrave, F.R.S., entered on his ninetieth year in the early part of this month, while Sir William Crookes attained the age of eighty-four on Saturday last, June 17.