

Although a certain timidity of disposition prevented him from making original discoveries, few men were better acquainted with the whole range of scientific inquiry; and his kind and generous disposition, as well as the means at his command, enabled him to liberally assist many who were pursuing the difficult path of original investigation.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on May 12, 1837; and at the following meeting on June 9 contributed an account of his observations of the eclipse of May 15, 1836 (*Monthly Notices*, vol. iv., p. 89). This was the only communication he made to the Society.

SAMUEL CHARLES WHITBREAD, F.R.S., of Southill Park and Cardington, in the county of Bedford, Justice of the Peace, was the second son of Samuel Whitbread, M.P., the well-known statesman and adherent of Fox. His mother, Lady Elizabeth, was the sister of Charles, Earl Grey, who was Prime Minister. He was born on February 16, 1796. From 1820 to 1830 he was M.P. for Middlesex, and in 1831 he served as High Sheriff of Bedfordshire. He succeeded to the large landed estates of his family in 1867, on the death of his brother, William Henry Whitbread, M.P., of Southill. On June 28, 1824, he married the Hon. Juliana, second daughter of Henry Otway, twenty-first Lord Dacre, by whom he had one daughter, Juliana, late Countess of Leicester, and one son, Samuel Whitbread, now M.P. for Bedford. His wife died in 1858. On February 18, 1868, he married Lady Mary Stephenson, daughter of William Charles, fourth Earl of Albemarle, who survives him. Mr. Whitbread took considerable interest in astronomy, and built an observatory at his seat at Cardington: a few observations made there were published in the *Monthly Notices*. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on January 12, 1849, and succeeded the late Mr. George Bishop as Treasurer in 1857. This office he held till 1878, when he was reluctantly compelled by the state of his health to relinquish it.

Mr. Whitbread also was one of the three founders of the Meteorological Society in 1850, the late Dr. John Lee and Mr. James Glaisher being the other two. He was always interested in the prosperity of the Society, and a long series of careful meteorological observations were made at Cardington under his direction. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society on June 1, 1854.

The brewery, in connection with which the name of Whitbread is so well known, was founded by Mr. Whitbread's grandfather, who is remembered as a benefactor to the town of Bedford.

Mr. Whitbread died at his London residence, 49 St. George's Square, on May 27, 1879. He had been for some time seriously ill, but his death was somewhat sudden.