

## NOTES AND NEWS.

CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM was born near Bardstown, Kentucky, August 1, 1856, and died there at his home June 8, 1888. His father was a lawyer and member of the Legislature of Kentucky at the time of his decease, some eight or ten years ago. His mother, who survives him, was a daughter of the late Governor Charles C. Wickliffe, of Kentucky. Mr. Beckham was educated at a private school near Bardstown, and when seventeen years old was for one or two years a student at the University of Virginia. After that he was attached to the Geological Survey of Kentucky under Professor Shaler, for about two years. He then followed Professor Shaler to Harvard University where he spent a year in scientific studies. He was then appointed, by the Hon. J. Proctor Knott, of Kentucky, clerk of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, at Washington, where he remained for four years. Afterwards he went to Pueblo, Colorado, where for about a year he engaged in mercantile pursuits; thence returned to Washington and became connected with the National Museum. While clerk to the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives he studied law, attending for a portion of the term, the Columbia Law School in Washington. About two years before his death he was induced to turn his attention to the practice of law, as a patent solicitor, and entered the office of Mr. Pollock, where he was engaged with great promise of success when his fatal disease began to develop itself.

Mr. Beckham's talent for mathematical and physical science, united to other qualities, formed a rare combination from which his friends argued that he would win success. But Providence decreed otherwise. It was in the effort to throw off disease that he spent a winter in Texas, employing his time making a collection of birds, a fine series of which he presented to the National Museum. Returning from Texas for a few months, he resumed his labors at Washington, but again attacked by illness he went to Louisiana and spent the winter with his uncle, Governor R. C. Wickliffe, near St. Francisville. Growing worse, he returned, with his mother, to Bardstown, where he died, after extreme suffering. "All that friends and relatives and medical skill could do were of no avail. He died without an enemy, and was followed to the grave by the tears and tender regrets of all who had ever known him." During his connection with the Department of Birds of the National Museum, Mr. Beckham proved an intelligent and able assistant, while his gentle, genial, and unassuming manners, and gentlemanly deportment won for him the genuine regard of his associates. Owing to his ill health, he was not able to devote much of his leisure time to the labor of original research in his favorite study, but he managed to write several papers, each of which is a valuable contribution to the subject to which it relates, being characterized by an unusual degree of painstaking care and unbiased judgment; and had he been able to write more would undoubtedly have won for himself a high rank among ornithologists.