



CHARLES STOKES DUDLEY.

*(From a Sketch by Geo. T. Edwards.)*

Charles Stokes Dudley was born at Clonmel, Ireland, in 1780, and was the son of Robert and Mary Dudley, members of the Society of Friends. His father's family had been resident in Ireland since the time of Cromwell, while his mother was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Stokes, of Bristol, of whom it is recorded that they had thirty children, and that half that number were on one occasion present in Temple Church, Bristol, to hear a brother preach. Mary Stokes was intelligent and thoughtful, and, while still young, she became dissatisfied with her life of worldly pleasure. She owed her conversion, instrumentally, to the preaching of John Wesley, who became much interested in her, and was greatly distressed when she was afterwards led to embrace the principles of the "Friends." She became the third wife of Robert Dudley in 1777, and Charles, the subject of this notice, was her eldest son. From his father he seems to have inherited much of that cheerful and genial temper as well as literary tastes, by which he was distinguished; while resembling his mother, to whom he was devotedly attached, in the winning, persuasive influence, command of language, and active benevolence, which were marked features in a character that combined some of the best traits of English and Irish nationality. In a home, cultured and refined, he received the valuable early training so characteristic of the families of Friends, of which body his mother became an acceptable minister, and in due time he was sent to a