

THE LATE JOHN GERRARD KEULEMANS.

ONE of the most interesting personages connected with the ornithological world of the latter part of the nineteenth century, has passed away. To most of the younger school Keulemans, who died on March 29th 1912, at the age of sixty-nine years, was known only by name, and few realized the individuality of the unassuming artist, or recognised that for thirty years he was the unrivalled and unequalled draughtsman of ornithological subjects. From 1870 to 1900 scarcely any ornithological work of importance was complete without "illustrations by Keulemans," and his sureness of design, combined with his facility of expression, made his beautiful figures always a delight to refer to.

Keulemans was a man of few words, and the following brief details of his life will probably be as novel to most as they were to the present writer.

Born on June the 8th, 1842, at Rotterdam, of Dutch parents, he was early imbued with the love of natural history, and gifted with Art he entered Leiden Museum at the age of eighteen, and worked there for two years. The love of travel, which characterized his whole life, then led him to Africa on a collecting trip, and at one time he had a coffee plantation on the west coast, but fever forced him to return to Europe, where he again took up a position in the Leiden Museum.

The work which made him world-famous, however, commenced in 1869, when he came to England to illustrate books for Bowdler Sharpe, and from that time onwards the drawing and painting of bird-subjects was his sole pursuit.

But his love of travel still continued, and in these years he journeyed over almost the whole of Europe. He was an exceptionally good linguist, speaking five languages fluently. His chief hobby was music, the 'cello being his favourite instrument, and on this he was an accomplished performer. That he was an ardent Spiritualist, having contributed much to the literature of the subject, will seem strange to those who knew him only as the artist.

He was twice married and leaves nine children.

Of Keulemans it can be truly written "Er liebt in seiner Werken," as a reference to his beautiful figures must always induce thoughts of the artist.

GREGORY M. MATHEWS.