

**THE LATE JAMES LAIDLEY, ESQ.  
DEPUTY COMMISSARY GENERAL.**

*(From a Correspondent.)*

THE melancholy event of the death of this lamented gentleman has filled the public mind with a deep and universal sorrow. The distinguished position which Mr. Laidley occupied in society invites a more than ordinary notice of his name and character in our obituary.

For the last eight years, Mr. Laidley has been at the head of the Commissariat Department in New South Wales. Previously to his arrival in this Colony, he filled the same situation in the Mauritius. He had also served some time in Canada and the West Indies, and throughout the whole of the Peninsular Campaign. He passed through the several grades of professional rank with infinite credit to himself—of which the most flattering marks of approbation from his superior officers, and the many friendships he secured, furnish the best and handsomest attestations. In the high and arduous office which Mr. Laidley held in this country, he acquitted himself to the entire satisfaction of the Government and the Public. In business, his habits were active and diligent—and whilst evincing with an exemplary earnestness a faithful devotion to the Public Service, a judicious and considerate regard for the difficulties with which the various Contractors had to contend, distinguished his popular administration of the Commissariat Department. Indeed, the last act of his life partook of the amiable character of the whole of it. The present prevailing drought, and the high price of provisions consequent upon it, bore so heavily on many of the Contractors, that if the strict terms of their obligations were enforced, severe loss and injury would be entailed on many enterprising and useful men. The mind of Mr. Laidley was filled with anxiety to afford every reasonable relief—and manifest every considerate forbearance (consistent with his duty to the Government) towards those whom the present exigencies of the country had placed in so difficult a position.

On the Thursday previous to his death, he visited the Governor, at Paramatta (we believe) upon this very subject, and returned on the same day. To the entreaties of his family and others, and the remon-

strances of a friend, who endeavoured to dissuade him from the journey, in his exhausted state of health, Mr. Laidley replied, "No! 'tis too important, though I were to die upon the way, I must go." This simple fact needs no comment—none could enhance its merit—none could more powerfully portray the devotedness of his zeal to his public duty.

Thus far have we spoken of Mr. Laidley, in his public capacity; on his private worth, and the moral excellence of his character, we should not be altogether silent. His principles were pure—his sense of honor high—his affections generous and kind. In the domestic connexions, he was the tenderest of husbands and fondest of parents. In his closer intimacies, he was the steadiest and most devoted friend; in his general intercourse, frank, friendly, and conciliating. It may truly be said of him, that he never made an enemy or lost a friend; and, in a Colony somewhat dis-

This truly excellent and kind-hearted man was suddenly torn from us early on the morning of Sunday last, in the forty-ninth year of his age. He was followed to the grave by the largest concourse of persons of all ranks that we have ever known assembled on any occasion in the Colony.

Mr. Laidley is gone! having left a void in our public and private circles, which we scarcely venture to hope can be again filled up.

"Farewell, dear friend, in all relations dear,  
In all we love, or honor, or revere."

The Funeral of the late Deputy Commissary General, James Laidley, took place on Tuesday last, with military honours; the following was the order of the procession, which proceeded at Two o'clock, from his late residence, at Darlinghurst, to the burial ground.

A Field Officer's funeral party, commanded  
by Lieutenant Colonel Despard,  
17th Regiment.  
Clergymen.

Clergymen.

**THE COFFIN,**

Borne by six soldiers, with the Honorable Lieutenant Colonel Snodgrass, C. B. and M. C., and seven other Military Officers of rank, as pall bearers.

Mourning Coach, with the two sons of the deceased, the Chief Justice, and J. E. Manning, Esquire.

His Excellency the Governor and Suite.

The Horse of the deceased, covered with black, and led by a groom.

Judges.

Knights.

Members of Council.

Law Officers.

High Sheriff, &c.

Magistrates.

Officers of the Civil Service.

Private Gentlemen.

Carriages.

The funeral service was impressively performed, at the burial ground, by the Rev. Richard Hill, in presence of His Excellency the Governor and a numerous assemblage of the friends of the deceased. The coffin was deposited in the vault, under three discharges of musquetry.