

THE LATE MR. GILBERT WOOD.

We have to announce the death on Friday, September 24, of Mr. Gilbert Wood, the well-known Adelaide merchant, at the age of 58 years. Mr. Wood was a native of the Shetland Islands, Scotland, and being of an adventurous spirit went to sea early in life. He came to Melbourne as chief mate of the brig Seaton, of Aberdeen, and afterwards had charge of the Grenada, schooner, trading between the colonies. The late Mr. Edgar Chapman was supercargo of the vessel. About the time of the Victorian gold rush he took a cargo of flour hence to Melbourne on account of Mr. S. White, a miller at Aldinga and owner of the steamship named after that town. In this transaction he showed as a young man some of that shrewdness which was afterwards so conspicuous in his business relations on a much larger scale. The flour had been sold, but whilst it was in course of delivery he discovered that the firm who had engaged to take it was hopelessly insolvent. He thereupon by prompt action managed to get back the greater part of it, which he disposed of again at an advanced rate. In this way he made a

capital bargain for the vendor. Soon after his return, more than thirty years ago, he opened a grocery store in Angus-street, where he conducted a successful trade for two years. He then removed into the premises in Rundle street now occupied by Messrs. Gilbert Wood, Son, & Co., and developed by the aid of strict integrity and great shrewdness, and energy a flourishing and extensive mercantile concern. Mr. Wood visited England in 1881 for the benefit of his health. He returned in an improved condition, but no permanent good was effected. In all his doings he won and maintained the respect of his associates. He was a Deacon of Clayton Congregational Church. The cause of his death was heart disease. He leaves a widow and four daughters and three sons. The eldest of the latter is Mr. Peter Wood, now a partner in the firm of which the deceased gentleman was the head.

On Sunday afternoon, September 26, the remains of the late Mr. Gilbert Wood were interred in the West-terrace Cemetery. Over a hundred vehicles joined in the procession. The hearse was preceded by the employes of the deceased gentleman's establishment, walking two abreast. The service at the grave was conducted by the Rev. Thomas Hope, of Clayton Church, of which Church Mr. Wood was a deacon, and the Rev. W. R. Fletcher, M.A. There was a very large attendance, and amongst those present were the Hon. M. Salom, M.L.C., Messrs. E. T. Smith, M.P., S. D. Glyde, M.P., T. Graves, E. Spicer, W. R. Cave, A. W. Meeks, W. H. Phillipps, James Counsell, A. Adamson, F. D. Beach, J. A. Johnson, J. M. Anderson, A. Dowie, A. Stow, H. P. Denton, F. J. Botting, W. Hamilton, G. E. Fulton, J. H. Weidenhofer, G. C. Knight, H. Kelly, J. Kelly, J. Bailey, W. H. Tite, T. W. Harris, A. Kauffman, and M. Goode, and Captains Bickers, Begg, and Osborne. The first mourning coach contained Mr. Peter Wood (the eldest son), the two younger sons, Mr. J. Henderson, and the Rev. T. Hope.