

OBITUARY.

REV. R. S. CASELY.

General regret will be felt throughout South Australia concerning the sudden death of the Rev. Robert Smith Casely, which occurred at Kent Town on August 23 under tragic circumstances. Mr. Casely was one of the best known and most highly respected clergymen in the State, in which he had resided for nearly half a century. During that period he had not only held pastorates in most of the principal circuits in the city and country, but he had occupied the distinguished positions of president of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference and secretary to the Home Mission fund. He was a popular preacher and an assiduous pastor, and his simple but sincere Christianity shone through his every action. He was conscientious in the execution of his duty, and in all the relations of life showed himself to be both a good Methodist and an exemplary citizen. He was kindness and courtesy personified, and he won his way to the hearts of all those with whom he became associated. His congregations not only honored but loved him, for his genial sympathy went out to all of them. Mr. Casely had been resting for some years, although he never ceased altogether from ministerial work; but in the earlier days of Methodism in this State his life was particularly strenuous, and the list of the stations to which he was appointed will show in what high regard his qualifications for a successful pastoral work were held by his brethren. He took a deep interest in educational affairs, and he was an ex-president of Prince Alfred College, while he was largely instrumental in founding the Methodist Ladies College. He was always a zealous Methodist, but he obeyed the apostolic injunction, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men," and he was never prominent in angry controversies. He was a Christian gentleman of the best type, and the community is greatly the poorer by his removal. He pointed the way heavenward both by precept and example.

Mr. Casely had suffered from a heart trouble for some time, but no one who heard his cheerful greeting or watched his active step would have guessed that he knew of the ailment himself. The end came with startling suddenness, and he literally "ceased at once to work and live." He had been waiting for a tram at the corner of Dequetteville-terrace and Rundle-street, Kent Town, near his residence, about 11 a.m., and when he stepped forward to board the car as it stopped he fell unconscious on his face to the ground. He was removed to the Adelaide Hospital with all speed, but before that institution was reached he was dead. The Coroner decided that no inquest was necessary. The news of the sad event spread through the city with

great rapidity, and it came with a sense of personal bereavement to many of those who heard it. "Mr. Casely was a shepherd in the truest sense of the word, and I am all the better for his wise, patient teaching," said a former member of his congregation. "Methodism has lost one of its most stalwart figures and the world one of the Lord's most earnest disciples. So long as life lasts those who came into contact with Mr. Casely will remember his influence as something inspiring them to better things. His memory will live in the hearts of all. His was a beautiful character, and he was touched with that feeling of sympathy which makes the whole world kin." There is not a minister of the Methodist Church in this State now in active work who was senior to Mr. Casely whose ordination dated from the same year as that of the Rev. Dr. Burgess. The other names standing above his own are those of the Revs. Joseph Hancock, Thomas Keen, Joshua Foster, and John Goodwin.

Mr. Casely was born at Budleigh Salterton, Devonshire, England, on March 5, 1833, and was thus in his 80th year. On leaving school he was for a short time in the service of the Honorable East India Company in Bombay. He returned to England in 1855, and shortly afterwards left for Tasmania, where he entered the ministry of the Methodist Church in 1859. He had previously been a local preacher both in London and in Launceston. From that date until 1867 he superintended circuits in Tasmania, being stationed at Franklin, Mersey, Deloraine, and Campbelltown. In 1868 he came to South Australia, and was appointed superintendent of the Port Adelaide circuit. During the three following years he had charge of the Norwood circuit, and then he was transferred to the country. He was at Gawler in 1872-3, at Moonta in 1874-5-6, and Kapunda in 1877. In 1875 he was chosen to represent South Australian Methodism at the General Conference, and he was similarly honored in 1878, 1888, and 1894. In 1878 he was appointed to the pastorate of the Pirie-street Church, and for three years he filled that church with a reverent and an admiring congregation. His pulpit oratory, his sincerity, and his honest love for and belief in the Gospel he preached earned for him the wholehearted devotion of the laity, and they were extremely sorry when his three years' tenancy of the pulpit was at an end. During 1881, when he was acting as a supernumerary, he was chosen as the representative to attend the Ecumenical Conference of the Methodist Church in London. The following year he was given charge of the Archer-street Church, and after three years there he went to Gawler in 1885. In 1888 he was back in Port Adelaide again, and from 1890 to 1892 he had charge of the Kent Town Church. Next he spent three years at Koorunga, and then the congregation of the Pirie-street

then the congregation of the Pirie-street Church induced him to return, and from 1896 to 1898 he again had charge of the chief Methodist Church in the State. From there he was transferred for the third time to the Port Adelaide district, where he spent three years. In 1902 he was appointed first president of the Methodist Ladies' College at Malvern, and resided there with Mrs. Casely. In 1903 he retired from active superintendence of a circuit and went to live on the Parade, Norwood, but up to the last he carried out clerical duties. He was wonderfully active and energetic, and maintained his interest in all affairs of the connexion to the end. He attended a ministers' meeting on Monday last, and delivered an address. Among the official positions he had filled are:—President of State Conference in 1882; president Prince Alfred College, 1882; chairman of a district, 1876, 1877, 1882-5; secretary of home missionary fund, 1883-6; chaplain of gaols, 1897, 1898; president of Ladies' College, 1902; theological tutor, 1904; representative to the Ecumenical Conference, 1881; and representative to General Conference on many occasions. Mr. Casely was married in 1863 to the daughter of the late Mr. T. J. Crouch, Under-Sheriff of Hobart, Tasmania. His widow and two sons (Messrs. W. A. L. Casely and E. S. Casely, of Adelaide) and three unmarried daughters

survive him, and the sympathy of thousands of people goes out to them in their bereavement. Mr. Casely was a model husband and father, and his home was always a centre of happiness and joy.

Tributes of Appreciation.

The president of the Methodist Conference (Rev. W. H. Cann), referring on Friday to the character of the late Mr. Casely, remarked:—"He was a Christian gentleman, and one of the finest men we had in our ministry. The news of his death has come as a great shock to the Methodist community. He was beloved by the whole denomination. Only last Saturday he attended the opening of the kindergarten rooms in connection with the Kent Town Methodist Sunday-school, when he appeared to be as well as ever. He was a fluent and a pleasing speaker, and when he occupied one of our pulpits a short while ago he preached a beautiful sermon. In prayer he was one of the finest men I have ever listened to. Although he had not been actively engaged in the work of the ministry for some years, he generally took a service on Sundays."

The Rev. Dr. Burgess had been intimately acquainted with Mr. Casely since his arrival in South Australia, and he felt his death as he would feel the loss of a brother. Dr. Burgess stated:—"Mr. Casely had won for himself a high reputation in Tasmania before he was trans-

Casely had won for himself a high reputation in Tasmania before he was transferred to this State, and he fully maintained that reputation during the whole of the long period that has intervened. He rendered excellent service in the various circuits to which he was appointed. Some of them were among the most important in the country, and his reinvitation on more than one occasion was a testimony to the estimation in which he was held. His pulpit ministry was characterised by keenness of evangelistic spirit and sustained earnestness. As a pastor his sympathetic nature enabled him to be of great assistance and comfort to the families of his people, especially in times of trouble. In the various offices of the church with which he was entrusted he proved himself to be a capable administrator, and his influence has been felt far and wide. The geniality of his disposition gained for him a large measure of personal attachments throughout his career, and few ministers were more valued as an intimate friend."

The Rev. Henry Howard said:—"There were three outstanding features in Mr. Casely's character which impressed themselves upon my mind and endeared him to my heart. First, his highly-refined and gentle courtesy, which by a rare and true instinct always found the most gracious and winsome way of laying siege to the hearts of his hearers. Secondly, his swift and ready sympathy, which made him a 'son of consolation' in hundreds of homes. The itinerancy which removed him from circuit to circuit could never remove him from the affections of our people. He made for himself such an abiding place in their hearts that in times of affliction or bereavement, in the sickroom or at the graveside—although he had ceased to be their pastor—they loved to see his face and hear his voice. Out of a full heart and without stint he gave of that tenderness and affection with which he was so richly dowered and which made him a healing and helpful presence wherever he went. And thirdly, his absolute fairness in discussion. While he stated his own views with clearness and candor and Christian dignity, he always gave due weight to the opinions of others, and never descended to those tricks of debate by which less conscientious men are accustomed to fight for victory rather than for truth. We shall miss him in a thousand ways, but his memory will be a perpetual inspiration to the younger men of the ministry to cherish the loftiest ideals of ministerial fidelity, that when they pass they may leave behind them as rich a record and as stainless a name."

Mr. Robert Buchanan died at his residence, Elbe-street, Glenelg, on August 22, at the age of 86 years. He came to South Australia in 1844 in the ship Glen Huntley. He was born at Kilsyth, Scotland, and worked on the first iron ship built on the Clyde, named the Vulcan. The deceased visited the Victorian gold diggings twice, on one occasion doing the

The deceased visited the Victorian gold diggings twice, on one occasion doing the trip on foot. On his return he engaged in farming at Morphett Vale. Later he went into the hotel business at Reynella, where he kept the Crown Inn. On leaving there he again entered into agricultural pursuits at Eden Hills. About 33 years ago he retired, and settled at Glenelg, where he lived till the time of his death, respected and esteemed by all with whom he came in contact. At one time he was a member of the Mitcham District Council, and while in that district carried out the contract for making the road at Shepherd's Hill. He left a widow and three sons—Mr. R. H. Buchanan, of the Waterworks Department; Mr. G. J. Buchanan, of Koolunga; and Mr. A. S. Buchanan, of St. Leonards, Glenelg.

Last week Mr. Angus McDonnell died at the residence of his son at Rendelsham. He was born in Invernesshire, in 1828, and came to Australia in the ship *Duchess of Northumberland*, landing at Port Phillip Bay, in 1849. After spending some time on the Bendigo goldfields he came to Limestone Ridge, near Penola. He married a daughter of the late Mr. Alexander McArthur, and for several years held Marcollat station in the Tatiara district. Nearly 40 years ago he settled in the Millicent district. He took a keen interest in horse racing, and was once a good amateur rider. Races were then run at Inverness, now known as Glenroy, and on the course there he trained his own horse, Black Sandy, and won the Inverness Cup, in the early sixties. With the same horse he won the Robe Turf Club Handicap, of £100. He was associated with Adam Lindsay Gordon in many of the poet's horse-breaking exploits. He left a widow and grown-up family of six sons and three daughters.

Mrs. Catherine Walters died on Sunday at the age of 93 years, at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. J. F. Mathews, of Prospect. She was the widow of Mr. Stephen Walters.

Mias Louisa Newland died at her residence, Military-road, Henley Beach, on Sunday at the age of 85 years. She had resided in the State 75 years.

TEROWLE, August 23.—Mrs. Margaret Lucy Schmidt died on Tuesday night at the residence of her daughter (Mrs. Charles McInerney), at the age of 87 years. She arrived in the ship *Burma* in 1840. She is a native of County Clare, and was the widow of the late Mr. Sebastian Schmidt, farmer, of Gawler. She resided in Terowie for over 30 years. She left 12 children—Mesdames M. McInerney (Wilcannia), Charles McInerney (Terowie), Guilfoyle (Port Pirie), M. Flaherty (Quorn), McNally (Wilcannia), and Miss Schmidt (Petina), and Messrs. John Edward Schmidt (Warnertown), Joseph

Schmidt (Terowie), James Schmidt (Port Lincoln), Thomas, Frank, and William Schmidt (Tarrawingee). There are 52 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren.

Mr. W. McDonald died at Curramulka on August 21. He was born in Fifeshire in 1846, and came to Australia with his parents when nine years of age. As a youth he entered the business house of Adamson Brothers, of Adelaide, with whom he was connected for eight years. He, with his brother, took up land at Kulpara, and in 1876 settled at Curramulka. He was mainly instrumental in securing a resident doctor at Curramulka. He was president of the Institute for twenty years. He was for some years a member of the Minlaton District Council, and was also associated with the Public School Board of Advice. He was president of the football club. In 1892 he was gazetted a justice of the peace. In 1888 he married a daughter of the late Mr. Robert Buchanan, of Glenelg, and he left one son and one daughter. Mrs. McDonald died in 1901.

ANGASTON, August 22.—The late Mrs. Thorn sen., of Angaston, was in her 82nd year when she died. She came to South Australia in 1853, in the ship *Magdalen* with her husband, and they resided at Aldinga for six months before settling down at Angaston, where with the exception of a few years spent at Spalding they continued to reside. Mr. and Mrs. Thorn had seven sons and five daughters, and one of the sons and three daughters have died. Mr. Thorn, sen., died seven years ago. The survivors are:—Messrs. J. Thorn (Angaston), C. and J. Thorn (Fremantle), A. Thorn (York, Western Australia), G. Thorn (Spalding), and S. Thorn (Laura), Mrs. M. H. Batten, and Miss Thorn (Angaston). There are also 50 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.