

## Mr. Charles Eyres.

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By the death of Mr. Charles Eyres, on 2nd February, Ballarat lost one of its most respected citizens, and the Lydiard-st. Methodist Church one of its worthiest members. Mr. Eyres was born in the city of Bath in 1847. Coming as a youth to Victoria, he settled in Geelong, and joined the office staff of Messrs. Bright and Hitchcocks. He filled the position of head of the staff for some time, but resigned ultimately that he might accept the appointment of accountant to the Ballarat Banking Company, which had just been formed. This position he held for twenty-five years; and for another twenty-five years he occupied the position of manager. Failing health caused his retirement from the bank about two years ago. While connected with the Company, Mr. Eyres won the respect and confidence and affection of a very wide circle of clients and friends. He was the embodiment of courtesy and uprightness. Very few men had the charm of manner that



was his. It was the charm of humour, brightness, sincerity, genuine friendliness, and true kindness. Behind his warmth and brightness there was sound judgment and business capacity. On his death the **Ballarat City Council** wrote a letter of sympathy in which they referred to him as "a citizen whose character has made for the benefit of his fellow-men, in whose esteem he occupied a high position." A prominent business man wrote: "After forty years of close association and personal friendship, I find it difficult to express my sincere appreciation of one who, by his high personal character and honourable business life, has endeared himself to all with whom he has come in contact, and commanded the esteem of everyone." But it is those who for long years were members of the Lydiard-st. choir, while he was organist and choirmaster, who feel most keenly his passing. For forty-eight years he filled this difficult position. This probably constitutes a record. There are many competent, and a few brilliant, musicians; but how few could keep a choir together as he did for nearly half a century and maintain it at such a high level of efficiency? An old member, himself now a choir leader, writes: "I never remember hold-

ing any man in such respect and esteem as Mr. Eyres. I know the organ and the choir were really and truly a part of his being. He had a better conception of church and devotional music than any choir leader I ever knew." In addition to his office of organist and choirmaster, he was a trustee of the church, and for 30 years acted as treasurer of the trust funds.

Space forbids our referring to all his offices inside and outside the church. Ballarat lost in him a fine citizen, as well as an exemplary churchman. On his death the President of the Methodist Conference wrote: "His was a great life upon which God has shut the book, and his record is on high. I recall the fact that for nearly fifty years he served our Church with remarkable ability and fidelity. Our Church is grateful for his noble service and noble character, and, as the President of the Conference, I want to place on record our deep respect for a

ter, and, as the President of the Conference, I want to place on record our deep respect for a work and a worth, which, while free from ostentation, registered itself solidly in the memory of our people." The funeral was a large and representative one, and at the graveside past and present members of the choir sang his favourite hymn, "Rock of Ages." In order to mark their appreciation of his long and valued services as the church's leader in the ministry of music, the past and present members of the choir have erected a brass mural tablet. It was the writer's privilege to unveil this on the evening of Sunday, 6th May. Though the night was wet and cold there was a good congregation. Immediately following the unveiling the choir, under the leadership of Mr. Haydn West, sang with fine effect the Hallelujah Chorus. He, to whom music meant so much, has already, we believe, joined the throng which sing, "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."