

BAPTIST.

The Rev. Henry Dowling, the oldest minister in Launceston, is no more. He died at his residence, adjoining the Baptist Chapel, York-street, on the evening of the 29th ult., in the 89th year of his age, and the 63rd of his ministry. He was surrounded by several relatives and friends; he retained consciousness to the last, and his peaceful end was a fitting termination to the teachings of a pastorate as energetic as its duration was unusual. For some years past his active bustling habits had gradually declined as the growing weight of years pressed upon him; yet still he continued to discharge the duties of his office, and it was only during the last few months, after an attack of paralysis, that he was precluded from moving about without assistance. He continued to join in public worship in the sanctuary where he had so long and so worthily presided, and it is scarcely two months since he assisted at the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. Edeared to all who knew him, he was specially revered by his own Church and congregation, and now after a lifetime such as is permitted to but few, he has been lovingly taken to his rest. Deceased was the father of Mr. Henry Dowling formerly Mayor of Launceston, and at present secretary to the Launceston and Western Railway Company; and also Mr. Robert Dowling the well-known artist who is now in England. The funeral took place in the Cemetery on 2nd inst., and was attended by nearly three hundred persons, including the following clergymen:—Rev. W. H. Browne, LL.D., Rev. H. P. Kane, M.A., and Rev. A. Stackhouse, (Episcopalian); Rev. D. Allen, and Rev. S. Cozens (Baptist); Rev. C. Price, and Rev. W. Law (Congregational); Rev. S. Williams, Rev. G. T. Hayward, and Rev. J.

White (Wesleyan); Rev. J. Lindsay and Rev. J. Gardner (Presbyterian); and Rev. Joshua A. Smith (Primitive Methodist). The Revs. Messrs. Price, Law, Cozens, Allen, Lindsay, and Williams took part in the services at the chapel or the grave. The Rev. Dowling was much esteemed, and had been laboring in Launceston for the past 35 years. On Sunday 4th inst., funeral sermons were preached at several churches in town. At the Prince's Square Congregational Church, the Rev. W. Law gave the following biographical sketch of the late Mr. Dowling. He was born in the year 1780, near to the city of Bath in England. His parents were godly people, and of his mother especially he was accustomed to speak with great reverence and affection. In accordance with the wish of an uncle he went to sea, and on board a troop ship was present at the taking of the island of Trinidad by the British in 1797. Going on shore immediately after the capture was effected he saw the wounded and the dead lying around on every hand. On returning to England he gave up all intention of a seafaring life and entered into business. While living in Worcester he became a member of

a Christian church and an earnest worker in Sunday Schools—then a new and in many cases an unpopular movement. As a lay-preacher of the Countess of Huntingdon's connexion he preached on and around the Malvern Hills, where his memory is still fragrant. Afterwards removing to London and preaching as opportunities offered, he was led, after very serious thought, to accept the charge of a Union Church at Colchester, to which he ministered for the long space of twenty-one years with great peace and usefulness. Through various circumstances he was led to think of Tasmania, (then Van Diemen's Land) as his future home, and his diary thus records the circumstances connected with his removal here:—"July 6th, 1834, last Lord's Day at Colchester. This was a day of great grace from the Lord; through his mercy I was enabled to address the people (who crowded together on the occasion) with much earnestness and fortitude from 2nd chapter of Jonah, 9th verse, in the morning and afternoon; and from Jude, 24th verse, in the evening, after which I took my farewell amidst the sighs and tears of those I so much loved. Nothing but the hope of filling out the will of God in carrying the gospel to a distant land could have induced the separation from a people so near and dear to me. Our prayers will be mutual to a God of all grace for His blessing to rest upon the intention to promote His glory thereby." On leaving England and drawing near to Van Diemen's Land his diary furnishes many beautiful expressions of his trust in God, and earnest prayers that his ministry in this island might be made a great blessing to many. Reaching our shores in the close of the year 1834, he at once gave himself up to the work of preaching the gospel of God's grace with great zeal and assiduity. He sought to do the work of an evangelist, and to make full proof of his ministry. In labor he was abundant, frequently travelling from Launceston to Hobart Town, and crossing the island in different directions he was well known at the houses of the settlers; and during these days his ministry was one of power. Mr. Law then passed on to speak of Mr. Dowling's personal qualities, referring in warm terms to his kindness of heart, his liberality of sentiment, his prayerfulness of spirit, his trust in God and ready submission to His will in seasons of great trial, and dwelt also upon the peace of mind which marked the last few days of his life upon earth. On a recent occasion he said to the preacher, "Christ is very precious to me—He is all sufficient." "I have no doubt—no fear: all is well with me." The sketch concluded with an appeal to all, both old and young, to fear God and to keep his commandments.

The Rev. D. Allen, of Victoria, occupied the pulpit of the York-street Chapel on several occasions at the beginning of the month. Since then the Rev. J. R. Jenkins from England has been officiating. He preached in aid of the Sabbath School on Sunday last, when over £8 were collected.