

## MR. PANTON.

(The following obituary notice in reference to the lamentable decease of the above-named gentleman appeared in our issue of September 4) :—

The name of the late Hon. John Panton has been so intimately connected for many years with the best interests of this town and district, that it is difficult to reconcile the mind to the melancholy fact of his sudden departure from among us in the very prime of life. He was so well known and so universally respected—so active in every good work—of so kind and generous a disposition—and took so warm an interest in every enterprise and movement that had for its object the advancement and prosperity of the people among whom he lived—that when the news of his sudden death was circulated yesterday morning, there were few who did not feel that they had lost a friend.

For some weeks past Mr. Panton had not been himself, and, although no one anticipated that his end was so near, his condition had caused considerable uneasiness to his family and his more intimate friends. He had been seized with fits of apoplexy on more than one occasion, and it was an attack of this kind which finally carried him off in his own house on Sunday evening, in the presence of Mrs. Panton, and of Mr. Hassell who had been called in to see him.

Mr. Panton was born in Scotland, in 1818, and arrived in Australia when quite a lad. His father, familiarly known as "Baillie Panton," held for several years the appointment of Postmaster-General of New South Wales. While still a very young man, Mr. John Panton entered into partnership with Mr. Betts who had married his sister, and the mercantile firm of Betts and Panton, of Sydney and Windsor, was well known for many years. It was, however, unable to bear up against the commercial crisis which commenced in 1841 in New South Wales.

At the first election under responsible Government in that colony Mr. Panton was returned for Cook and Westmoreland in opposition to Mr. George Bowman, and he sat for several years in the Assembly. In about the year 1840 he married the third daughter of Mr. Samuel North, formerly of Windsor, who was afterwards many years Police Magistrate in Sydney. It was while acting with his father-in-law on the Windsor bench that Mr. Panton acquired that ability as a magistrate for which he was always distinguished.

Having, on several occasions, visited the then little-known province of Moreton Bay, he determined, about fifteen years ago, on settling as a merchant in this town, and, supported by Messrs. Smith, Campbell, and Co., of Sydney, he started the business firm of Panton and Co. in those premises in Brisbane-street now occupied by Messrs. Hooper and Robinson. His success was more than equal to his expectations, and, about eight years ago, he built the warehouse and residence on the banks of the Bremer, now occupied by Mr. Thorn. About five years afterwards, however, his career was checked by the stringent action adopted towards him by the banks, and his affairs were placed in the hands of trustees: but the fact that the whole of his liabilities were paid off in full, and that he remained still an independent man, showed how entirely unwarranted had been the course pursued towards him by those corporations.

Great interest was always manifested by Mr. Panton in the development of the agricultural resources of this district, and the spirited and successful experiments made by him in cotton cultivation entitle him to be regarded as the father of that branch of industry in Queensland. He and Messrs. Biggs and Banks were also the founders of the Jockey Club, and he was one of its most zealous and popular members, having filled the office of steward ever since its commencement, fourteen years ago. The North Australian Club also owes its existence to him, who, in conjunction with Mr. Faircloth, originated and carried it out; and the last occasion on which he left his house was to attend a committee meeting of that institution on Wednesday last.

Mr. Panton was a very regular and able magistrate, and strictly impartial in all his decisions. He was liberal in his support of charitable institutions, and no tale of private distress was ever told to him in vain. Although born a Presbyterian, he was devotedly

no tale of private distress was ever told to him in vain. Although born a Presbyterian, he was devotedly attached to the established Church of England—a regular attendant when in good health, and an energetic and conscientious office-bearer. In his own house his hospitality knew no bounds.

Mr. Panton was the father of a large family—his eldest daughter being married to Mr. Samuel Moffatt, and the youngest child (out of eleven living) being still an infant. It is not long since Mr. Panton accepted a seat in the Legislative Council; but partly because the business was not very important, and partly in consequence of ill health, he did not attend very regularly.

The memory of John Panton will long be cherished, especially in this town and district, with affectionate regard; and in other parts of the colony, as well as in New South Wales, the intelligence of his death will be received by many with sincere regret.

From our issue of the 6th we take the following :—The remains of the late Mr. Panton were interred in the Church of England Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon. The funeral procession was a very large one, reaching from Cribb and Foote's corner up to Tattersall's, and nearly every shop in the town was closed. The service, both in the church and at the burial ground, was conducted by the Rev. J. Mosely, and during the entrance to and departure from the church Mr. Younger performed the Dead March. The pall-bearers were Colonel Gray, Mr. Thomas Bell, Mr. George Thorn, Mr. Faircloth, Mr. Alexander Bell, and Mr. G. H. Wilson. The masters of the Grammar School, in academic dress, with a large number of the boys, walked after the principal mourners, Mr. Panton having been one of the trustees of the school.