

THE LATE W. H. JUDKINS

The service we held last Sunday to unveil the window in memory of the late W. H. Judkins became really a rally of social reform workers. Memories were awakened of the stirring days of 1906 and 1907. We are now enjoying some of the fruits of the great efforts of those days. Six o'clock closing and the strong temperance sentiment around us to-day owe a good deal to the men, who ten years ago, put up so good a fight for reform. The Rev. A. R. Edgar and Mr. W. H. Judkins have passed away to their reward, but stalwarts like the Revs. T. S. B. Woodfull and H. Worrall, the Hon. S. Mauger and Mr. John Vale, are still with us, and came to us on Sunday last to bear their testimony to the unique character and worth of the valiant man to whose memory we had met to do honour. Mr. Woodfull, who was the first speaker, reminded us of the fact that Mr. Judkins was a man with a vision. He saw ahead of him a state of society in which it would be easier to do right, and harder to do wrong, and he wrought for such a time with all his heart. Mr. John Vale, who has long been a temperance leader, was very closely associated with Mr. Judkins, and he reminded us of the spirit with which Mr. Judkins carried on his great campaign.

The Hon. Samuel Mauger, who was Postmaster-General whilst some of the fiercest of the fight was on, and to whose courage the friends of reform owe more than is probably realised, asked us to think as to what would be Mr. Judkins' attitude were he here with us to-day. He was sure that he would be against the gambling, and the lust, and the temporising with liquor. The betrayal by the

rising with liquor. The betrayal by the Government when the promise of ten years' standing was broken would have met with Mr. Judkins' strongest opposition. Rev. Henry Worrall made a strong appeal to us all to carry on the work that Mr. Judkins struggled so bravely for.

The Memorial.

We could only spare ten minutes for each speaker, but each in turn struck a note that kept the interest of the great congregation and helped to serve the purpose of the gathering. Mr. A. J. Derrick, our secretary, unveiled the window, saying as he did so: "To the glory of God and in memory of a good and brave man, whom we all loved, I unveil this memorial." Mr. G. W. Kemp, who was one of the group of men who constituted Mr. Judkins' bodyguard in the days when violence was threatened him, was joined with Mr. Derrick in the act of unveiling the window. The window is one of the smaller three-light windows on the western side of the church above the gallery, and is the one nearest to the transept. The centre light is occupied with a figure of St. George of England. The inscription on the window reads: "To

the glory of God and in memory of William Henry Judkins, Born 26th Feb., 1869, Died 3rd Sept., 1912. I have fought a good fight." On the right panel are the words, "Social Reform Leader. A St. George of the newer chivalry. His work centred here." On the other panel are the words, "Erected by his widow and daughter, and by the Central Mission. The execution of the window was en-

daughter, and by the Central Mission. The execution of the window was entrusted to Messrs. Brooks, Robinson and Co. Ltd., of our own city, and the workmanship reflects a great deal of credit upon them. The phrase, "A St. George of the newer and nobler chivalry," was one that was used of Mr. Judkins by Rev. R. Ditterich, in his address at the memorial service held on the Sunday after Mr. Judkins' death. Mr. Ditterich then said: "He was a St. George of the newer and nobler chivalry. He fought not fabulous monsters, but horrible dragons and vice in both high and low places."

Appropriate Testimony.

The following beautiful and appropriate testimony to Mr. Judkins' life and labours, by Rev. R. Ditterich, was read at the unveiling ceremony last Sunday, and most fitly closes this tribute to one of our most honoured leaders that social reform ever had in this State.

"William H. Judkins was the bravest, best and most eloquent social reformer we ever had in Victoria. Gentlemanly in appearance, cultured in style, fluent in speech, forceful in argument, apt in illustration, bubbling with humour, swift in repartee, tender in pathos, terrific in invective, loving as a child, bold as a lion, with ringing, silvery voice, he gathered and swayed the most immense audiences that ever assembled on Australian soil in the interests of social reform. He kindled an enthusiasm that was unique. Hated by those who loved the devil and his works, he was loved by those who knew his heart of gold. His fiery eloquence compelled public attention to the abominations of strong drink, gambling, and the social evil. His record was the more amazing when we recall the conditions

amazing when we recall the conditions under which he laboured. A little man worn down by a terrible disease, with the most dreadful operations repeatedly performed upon his frail body—laid aside for six months, and once for eighteen months, out of his brief public life of only six years in this State—he would rise from his bed of suffering, and leaning on a stick, and once at least, leaning upon my arm, climb a platform, and once more pour out his very life in eager, passionate eloquence, pleading for nobler customs and better laws, that the path might be made softer for children's feet to tread, and the way back to God and virtue made easier for men and women who had gone astray. A hero of the Cross, a true St. George of the newer chivalry, was my brave, beloved bosom friend, William H. Judkins."