

KYNETON INDEPENDENT CHURCH.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE DR. PESTELL.

At the Kyneton Independent Church on Sunday morning a memorial service for the late Dr James Pestell was conducted by the Rev G. J. Richmond, the pastor. The congregation, which was large, included several members of other denominations, and contained many of the late doctor's old friends. During the service the choir sang the anthem, "What are these in white array" / and all the hymns used were appropriate to the solemn occasion. The Rev Mr Richmond preached a brief but eloquent sermon on the words, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the Crown of Life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him"—found in St. James's Epistle, chap. I, v. 12.

At the close of his discourse, Mr Richmond referred in brilliant and pathetic language to the late Dr Pestell. In recognising, he said, that a Christian church was a fellowship of hearts, it was a custom in that church always to make some reference when one of their comrades fell out of the ranks. They made no distinctions in regard to worldly position, or age, or station in society, but as far as they were able, from the circumstances of the case, whenever one of their members, however young or aged, rich or poor, or honored, fell away from their side they were accustomed here to give God thanks for His mercy and to rejoice in what their friend was able to do in his life, and especially for the assurance that such an one had gone home to rest in Heaven. They had to do that once more today. The circumstances were somewhat special in their character, because their dear departed friend was no ordinary man but one of the oldest and most esteemed members of that Christian communion. There was a phrase in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians to which he referred a small company on Tuesday night, and which he knew was passing through a good many of their minds now, as those words of Holy Scripture—greetings to the Christian church—beautifully and sufficiently set forth one aspect of the compact and beautiful testament of their late friend, which drew out to so large an extent their confidence and esteem and love. As a member of the noblest of all the professions, except one, the late doctor was by experience skilful and kind and successful. His kindliness of heart found abundant opportunities of showing itself in the course of his professional career, and very often he (Mr Richmond) thought himself that the tender and sympathetic and gracious way which characterised Dr Pestell at the bedside of the weak and suffering did as much good as the medicine he prescribed; and he (Mr Richmond) thought they ought to recognise the very liberal spirit which characterised their departed friend in the cause of the poor. To an extent perhaps which would never be fully known he was a liberal benefactor. He not only gave the sick and suffering the advantage of his skill of long experience, but supplied them with means to obtain necessary medicine and medical comforts and food. He was not a man to play a trumpet before him when he performed those kind and Christian deeds; it was his practice not to let his left hand know what his right hand did. However, circumstances from time to time came to light during the course of his career in Kyneton, which showed how kind and good he was to his poor friends. In

of his career in Kyneton, which showed how kind and good he was to his poor friends. In regard to the late doctor's skill, wisdom, and love, there was one other matter that should be mentioned. He not only ministered to the body of suffering, but ministered to the mind's disease, and tried to pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow. He took the opportunity to speak a word of comfort in season to those who were weary and passing away to the Saviour, the great Physician of souls. Dr Pestell was a very loving, faithful, considerate, warm-hearted, sympathetic friend. He (Mr Richmond) knew him for half a lifetime as a faithful, true-hearted, gracious friend to him, and if any of them felt that perhaps their grief for their loss was not sufficiently tempered by the glory and dignity of the service into which he had passed, they must say with Tennyson in *In Memoriam*—

Forgive my grief for one removed,
Thy creature whom I found so fair
I trust he lives in Thee, and there
I find him worthier to be loved.

Dr Pestell was amongst the oldest of their church members. There were only five names left on the roll which had been there before him. In that relation he won the confidence and esteem of every member of their community, without exception. He was very regular and very attentive at all their public services, and he adorned his Christian profession by a consistent and goodly life. Those accustomed to attend the weekly devotions knew how constant he was in attendance when in good health, and he helped to make that gracious atmosphere in the assembly which was so conducive to devotion and so helpful to the worshipping spirit. Those who had heard him lead the thoughts and desires of the assembly to the heavenly grace would not forget his devoutness. Their dear, departed brother was especially gifted in his power of utterance in regard to humble and earnest petition to God. He would be sorely missed by those who loved to gather together that for themselves and others they might seek the presence and blessings of God. He was one of the six deacons of the church, had always retained the church's confidence, and was willing to devote his best energies and strength to the service of the church in that relation. And now he would refer to the last experience of their departed friend. He was not about to draw aside the veil of privacy, but at the same time he thought it was right for him to assure the congregation that Dr Pestell's quiet and gentle and consistent and helpful Christian life was crowned by a calm and peaceful death. At the very hour, the very minute, in which this congregation last Sunday evening was asking God to be gracious to him, that when he came to the brink of the stream of death the water might be shallow and he, like the pilgrim, might feel bottom, he was passing over. He (Mr Richmond) did not doubt for a single moment that he heard from the lips of the Saviour the welcome, "Well done, good and faithful servant," as he entered into that sacred presence where there is fullness of joy and blessing for ever more. Mr Richmond then asked the worshippers to join with him in feelings of deep thankfulness to God for the race their departed friend had run, for the fight he had fought, and for the victory in Christ's name and strength he had won. He said family circles, the circle of that church, and the wider circle of this town and neighborhood were decidedly the poorer on account of Dr Pestell's death. But they must not fill their thoughts entirely with the remembrance of their loss; they must remember their late friend's gain and give God thanks; and for the remainder of their time on earth they might be gladdened and cheered by hope and expectation, which promises of God awakened

might be gladdened and cheered by hope and expectation, which promises of God awakened our souls to an eternal re-union in the mansion of the Father, where sin, and tears, and partings, and sorrows of all kinds were unknown. In conclusion, Mr Richmond asked the worshippers to express their sympathy with those bereaved, their feelings of deep respect and love for their late friend, and their thankfulness to God for crowning his life on earth with that blessing and fuller life to which they had been thinking to-day, by singing hymn No. 1250, which was accordingly sung.

Mr Richmond said they would not play the Dead March, as they did not think it would be in unison with their feelings.

The service then closed with the benediction, pronounced by the pastor.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—
If your hair is turning gray or white, or falling off use "The Mexican Hair Renewer," for it will positively restore in every case Gray or White hair to its original color, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots, where the glands are not decayed. Ask your Chemist for "THE MEXICAN HAIR RESTORER," sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere at 3s 6d per Bottle. Wholesale depot, 33, Farringdon Road, London England.