

Wreck of the Loch Sloy.

BURIAL OF KILPATRICK.

The Advertiser correspondent gives the following account of the burial of the body of Kilpatrick, the ill-fated survivor of the wreck of the Loch Sloy:—The final scene in connection with the search for Mr. David Kilpatrick, as far as the Queenscliffe rocket crew are concerned, was enacted when the party left the Rocky River caves at daybreak on Thursday to bury his body. After climbing up the steep gorge to the top of the hill the party had to walk over very rough pointed limestone and heavy sand to the place where the body was found. The party consisted of Mounted-Constable Shegog, Mr. E. Hudson (No. 1), the member who found the body and who is also a Freemason, Mr. V. Cook (No 2), and Messrs. W. Potter and S. Florance, auxiliaries. On arrival at the spot where the body was discovered Mr. Hudson started digging the grave, the others raising limestones. Mr. Cook having come upon a nice soft piece of freestone, about 3 ft. long and 3 ft. wide, Mr. Potter cut it level with an axe, and Mr. Cook printed the following in pencil:—"David Kilpatrick, age 25 years. Wreck of the Loch Sloy, 18-5-99." Everyone of the party went to work with pocket-knives and carved out the letters very deep. Mr. Cook also carved out a footstone and cut the Freemasons' emblem on it, the square and compass. Everything now being ready for the burial Mounted-Constable Shegog had the body searched. In a trousers' pocket was a bunch of keys. In the inside pocket of the coat was a large pocket-book, a small purse, a piece of an eye-glass, one shilling, seven pennies, and a half-penny, a red pocket handkerchief, some tape, and a parcel of white paper.

The body was then laid in the grave, and Mr. Cook read chapter 15 of I. Corinthians, and a portion of the Obituary of England service. After filling up the grave all hands built a tomb of limestone, 2 ft. high, and put the headstone upon top and the footstone in position. Then they planted wild pig-face on the top and placed on the grave a bunch of flowers brought from Mr. May's garden by Mr. S. Florance. The bottles in which Kilpatrick carried water were placed at the head and foot of the grave, of which Mr. Cook took a sketch. The grave looks neat and the headstone will last for years, the letters and sign being three-quarters of an inch deep.

ENQUIRY INTO THE WRECK.

The Marine Board held an official enquiry into the wreck of the Loch Sloy. Evidence was given by two or three nautical experts as to the advisability of having an additional light off the southern coast of Kangaroo Island, and they advocated a light on the South Neptune Island as the most serviceable. The three survivors also gave evidence, but threw little additional light on the causes that led up to the wreck. Land was first observed two miles ahead, but though every effort was made to put about the ship it was unsuccessful, and the breakers swept her to her doom. McMillan and Mitchell were of opinion that had an anchor been dropped she might have held ground, but the gear was not readily at hand. The Board reserved its finding.

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