

OBITUARY.

MRS W. A. ANDERSON.

It was hoped that the heavy pall of gloom that has hung over our town the last few days, thrown upon us by the sudden demise of those estimable gentlemen, Mr R. W. M'Eachern (of the firm of Irvine and M'Eachern) and Mr R. W. Lord (manager of the Tasmanian Government Railways), would have been removed, at least for a time, but we are sorry to find it has not so happened, for it seems "death's shafts fly thick! here falls the village swain, and there his pamper'd lord." It is once more our painful duty to record the death of another favorite resident of this town, namely, that talented Tasmanian cantatrice, Mrs W. A. Anderson. About three weeks ago Mrs Anderson caught rather a severe cold, which never left her. Congestion of the lungs followed, and then came typhoid fever, and, despite the constant attention of Dr. R. W. Murphy and the careful attendance of a skilled hospital nurse, these dire diseases assumed the mastery, and she expired at her father's residence, Green's Wharf, at 7 o'clock yesterday morning, in her 37th year.

"Cissie" Anderson, as she was familiarly called, was a daughter of Mr Thos. Archer, who has been for many years manager of Mr R. Green's coal yard, in the vicinity of the Market Wharf. At an early period of her life she developed wonderful vocal powers, and after receiving tuition from Mr Alex. Wallace, she studied for six months under Madame Lucy Chambers, the well-known teacher, of Melbourne. Whilst there she attracted the attention of those extensive theatrical managers, Messrs. Williamson, Garner, and Musgrove, and at their request she rehearsed the part of Maria Francesca, the Queen of Portugal, in Gassé's opera of "The Royal Middy," but not caring for the part, she did not make her appearance in it. After her return to her native town she received an offer from the same triumvirate, to play Mabel, in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance," in Adelaide, but she refused the engagement. It will be remembered she took the part of Buttercup, in Pollard's Original Pin afore Company, the other leading parts being Miss Nellie Wadham (Hebe) Miss Kate Harvey (Josephine), Mr J. Donni-thorne (Capt. Corcoran), and Mr J. Skinner (Ralph Rackstraw), and achieved very great success both in Hobart and Launceston. Besides being the leading soprano in the Launceston Musical Union for a long time, her name was always found on the programme when classical and high-class concerts were given, and she was ever willing to lend her aid in any entertainment for a charitable purpose. The musical world of Tasmania can ill afford to lose such a favorite singer, and it will be

a favorite singer, and it will be hard to realize that her rich sweet voice, which has been the delight of many hundreds, though but on the threshold of her success, has been for ever hushed. Mrs Anderson had promised to assist in the oratorio of "Elijah," which is now being rehearsed by the Musical Union, and she was looking forward to a pleasant evening at Longford, where she had arranged to sing a duet with her old friend Miss Wadham. About 10 months ago Mrs Anderson went to Melbourne to bring home her mother, who had been on a visit to her two sons in Adelaide, and it was her intention then to undergo another course of study, but unfortunately the sudden death of her mother in Melbourne overturned all her arrangements, and she came home to keep house for her father, at whose residence she died at the hour before mentioned. Nearly three years ago she married Mr W. A. Anderson, of Charles-street, a young gentleman popular everywhere, especially in rowing circles, and she leaves behind her a young son about two years old. The funeral will move from Mr Archer's residence at 9 o'clock this morning.

Our latest cablegram from London announces the death of Baron Houghton, in his 77th year. From "Men of the Time" we find that the Right Hon. Richard Monckton Milnes, D.C.L., F.R.S., Baron Houghton, was born on the 19th June, 1809, being the only son of Robert Pemberton Milnes, of Fryston Hall, Bawtry Hall, and Great Houghton, Yorkshire, by the Hon. Henrietta Maria, daughter of Robert, fifth Viscount Galway. Lord Houghton graduated M.A. at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1831. He was elected M.P. for Pontefract in 1837, and retained the seat till his elevation to the peerage, August 26, 1865. He entered Parliament as a follower of Sir Robert Peel, whom he supported in his repeal of the Corn Laws; but afterwards joined the party of Lord John Russell. He declined to become a member of the Government of Lord Palmerston, but gave it his entire support. His attention in Parliament was mainly directed to foreign affairs, and the reform of our penal institutions. He brought in the first bill for the establishment of juvenile reformatories in 1846, and was the President of the Great Reformatory Establishment at Red Hill. His Lordship was also the President of the Newspaper Press Fund.

THE SWORD AND THE PEN.—According to an ancient custom the Ameer of Afghanistan presents each of his generals at the opening of a campaign with a valuable ink-horn, to enable him to draw up reports of his battles. These ink-horns are stuck in leather girdles richly ornamented with jewels and precious stones, and containing amulets in the

ornamented with jewels and precious stones, and containing amulets in the handwriting of holy men, to preserve their wearers against wound of lance or sword. During the recent crisis Abdurrahman distributed fifteen of these ink-horns, costing together 21,000 rupees, amongst his generals. — *Persian Paper*.