

OBITUARY.

THE REV. JOHN LYLE, M.A.

Very widespread regret was felt in the community yesterday when it became known that the esteemed minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the Rev. John Lyle, had passed away at Melbourne about 8-30 that morning. The demise was not unexpected, the latest letters conveying the intelligence that although the rev. gentleman had successfully passed through the ordeal of two critical operations for a serious internal disorder, his strength was unequal, and life was gradually and peacefully ebbing away.

The deceased some months ago was advised that the only chance of prolonging his life was to undergo the operation indicated, and this course was finally decided upon. In the first week of June Mr Lyle, accompanied by his wife, left for Melbourne, where he became an inmate of Mr N. Fitzgerald's private hospital. Everything that could be devised was done to aid recovery. Although Mr Lyle was naturally possessed of a robust frame, his strength had become so seriously undermined as to render it almost a miracle that life could be sustained. Besides the attention of the best surgical skill and trained nursing, Mrs Lyle was constantly with the patient, who resignedly submitted to what he came to know was the inevitable.

The deceased had no relatives in the city, and not much is known of his early career. He was a native of Londonderry, in the north of Ireland, and his father was a well-to-do farmer. The ambition of the son was to enter the ministry, and to that end he became a student at Belfast College, Glasgow University (where he took the M.A. degree), and the New College, Edinburgh, respectively. His first ministerial charge was that of a Presbyterian church in the north of Ireland. Mr Lyle came out to the colonies in the year 1876, having a commission to a Presbyterian church in the North Island, New Zealand. On his way thither he called at Melbourne, and took a service at North Carlton Presbyterian Church. He made such a favorable impression that this church, which previously had been a mission one, gave him a call, and this he accepted. He felt it his duty, however, to proceed to New Zealand to present his commission, and after staying a few weeks he was released from the obligation. Mr Lyle returned to North Carlton, and for three years faithfully ministered to the congregation, which rapidly increased under his ministry. During 1879 he visited Launceston, being invited with many other clergymen to preach to the St. Andrew's congregation with a view to the pastorate. He was eventually chosen for that important post, and he accepted the unanimous call of the church. That he possessed the esteem of his brethren is proved by the fact that during his ministry he was twice chosen Moderator of Synod, occupying that high honor for the second time in the official year 1888-94. Mr Lyle was convener and treasurer of the sustentation fund committee; convener of the aged and infirm ministers' fund (which he started and faithfully nursed); and convener of the committee for the Union of the Presbyterian and Free Church of Tasmania. He was a perfect model as a business man, his methodical and painstaking work being of great service to official church work. Mr Lyle was an able Greek scholar, besides being a keen and logical theologian, and his scholarly acquirements were markedly in evidence in a letter controversy on "Baptism" in which he took part a few years ago in the columns of the *Daily Telegraph*. The deceased, besides ably ministering to a large congregation in public services, was a faithful visitor of his flock, and his pastoral attentions, marked by wise and loving counsel, will be sadly missed in many a home in the city. Mr Lyle was a consistent member of the Launceston Ministers' Association, and took an active part in evangelistic services in connection therewith.

The deceased, who was 56 years of age, leaves a widow—daughter of the Hon. James O'Brien—and three children, the eldest being about 14 years old. The sincerest sympathy of all citizens will go out to Mrs Lyle in her pecuniary and bereavement.

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The remains of the rev. gentleman will arrive in Launceston from Melbourne tomorrow. A meeting of the friends of deceased will be held at St. Andrew's Church at 3-30 p.m., and the funeral will leave there for the Scotch Burial Ground at 8 p.m.

A meeting of St. Andrew's congregation was held in the school-room last evening to consider the question of union between the Free Church in Tasmania and the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania. The Rev. J. Russell, of Evansdale, occupied the chair, and opened the meeting with prayer. Out of respect to the memory of their late pastor the meeting was adjourned until Monday, 19th inst.