

## MILITARY FUNERAL.

PERHAPS the largest military funeral that has ever been witnessed in the Northern district took place on Saturday, when the remains of the late Henry Smethurst, of the Newcastle Permanent Artillery, were interred in the Sandgate cemetery, in the presence of a large concourse of people. The greatest interest was evinced in the event, which, as a military pageant, was of a very impressive character. The line of march was completely thronged with spectators, and all places of business were closed as the procession passed through the different streets, out of respect to the deceased, who was universally respected. At about 3 o'clock the different volunteer forces were drawn up in line at the Hospital, and the gun carriage bearing the coffin was placed in position. The deceased's helmet, sword, and accoutrements were placed on the carriage, whilst the Union Jack was conspicuous, adorned with beautiful wreaths of flowers. The order of procession was as follows:—Guard of N.S.W. Artillery, Band Infantry Northern Regiment, gun carriage drawn by a division of the Permanent Artillery, Fire Brigades, Naval Brigade, Volunteer Artillery. Next came the representatives of the companies of Infantry, followed by the Public school cadets, private carriages, and other vehicles. The Infantry band played the Dead March in "Saul" in a solemn and efficient manner. The line of route chosen was down King, Watt, Hunter, and Blane streets, and thence to the mortuary station, where the coffin was placed in the funeral carriage. The whole of the forces were seated in the train, and on arrival at Sandgate were re-formed and marched to a vacant portion of the cemetery, whilst the coffin was taken to the grave. The Rev. Canon Selwyn, having read portions of Scripture appropriate to the occasion, delivered an able address, in which he paid a high tribute of respect to the deceased. The burial sermon was then preached by the rev. gentleman, after which three volleys were fired over the grave as the coffin was lowered. The different corps were then marched to the station, and returned by train to Newcastle. The flags at the fire-brigade stations were at half-mast, and the bells were tolled as the *cortège* passed. During the short time Sergeant Walker had to make arrangements for the funeral he was voluntarily assisted by everyone with whom he came in contact, and as a result everything was carried out with perfection, which reflected the greatest credit on all concerned. The volunteer companies were commanded by their different officers, the whole being under Lieutenant-Colonel Airey, of the N.S.W. Artillery. The other officers included Captain Kirkaldy, Volunteer Artillery; Lieutenant Moulton, Infantry; Commander Cross, Naval Brigade; Mr. W. Hillier, Fire Brigade, whilst the field gun corps was in charge of Sergeant Walker.

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