

MR. WILLIAM FOX, OF HORTON
COLLEGE.

Mr. William Walker Fox, who died at Launceston on Saturday, was born on November 24, 1837, at Doncaster, Yorkshire, England. He was educated at various schools in Yorkshire, and in 1862 was admitted to the degree of B.A. at the London University. As a young man of 25, and just after he had taken his degree, he was chosen as the headmaster of Horton College, and as events proved it was a very wise choice. He entered upon his duties as headmaster in February, 1863, and continued to act as headmaster until June, 1889, a period of over 26 years, broken only by a visit to England from April, 1865, until February, 1886. Many of the boys who passed through Horton College while he was headmaster have been scattered through all parts of the Commonwealth; some are now in England, and many have occupied high positions. One of the old boys who has had experience of public school life in England and in Victoria can say that in few schools has better discipline been maintained than in Horton College, and that with a minimum of punishment. It was the late Mr. Fox's personality, and his eminent sense of fairness and justice, that won the boys' esteem. His interest in his work at Horton College was shown not only by what he did, but by what he gave up. He declined a more lucrative position at a large school in one of the neighbouring States, and during a period between 1868 and 1874, when Tasmania was passing through a time of great depression, and the attendance at the school fell off, he voluntarily surrendered a part of his salary—at no time a high one—in order that the work of the school might be carried on under the straitened circumstances. Fortunately the success of later years allowed those arrears to be made good. Upon two occasions, when he went to England in 1885, and when he left the school in 1890, the old boys presented him with testimonials as tokens of their respect. Some of the subscribers to those testimonials have passed away, but all old Horton College boys will feel that by the late Mr. Fox's death they have lost, not only a respected headmaster and teacher, but a true friend. On June 18, 1874, Mr. Fox was married to Miss Emma Currie, and since his retirement from Horton College he had lived quietly at St. Leonards, and of late years at the Ladies' College, where up to the last he kept up a keen interest in the work of that school. After a week's illness he died in his 88th year, leaving a widow and a daughter, Miss Fox, the efficient and respected headmistress of the Ladies' College. His only son died in January, 1905.