

## A Fine Life Ended.

THE LATE MR. THOMAS DEVERY.

"His life was gentle, and the elements  
So mixed in him, that Nature might  
stand up,  
And say to all the world—  
"This was a man!"

In pondering the above quotation, Shakespeare might well have meant it as the epitaph of the late Mr. Thomas Devery, one of the most pleasing personalities from amongst the group of early settlers who transformed the big scrub to its present fertile dairy lands, who passed away last week. The deceased was the eldest son of the late Patrick and Mary Devery of Gerrin-gong, South Coast, where he was born in 1857, the other surviving members of the family being Maria and Ellen Devery, of Alstonville, and Patrick and James Devery of the South Coast. Having arrived on the Richmond in 1898, he settled at Clondale where he resided till the time of his death. During those years which were fully occupied by his work as a successful dairy farmer, his industry, judgment, and appreciation of things beautiful marked out his home, farm and herd as models of orderly development and efficiency. For many years he took a keen interest in the Alstonville Agricultural Society, being a member of its committee till the time of his death, and having also been one of the pioneers of the North Coast Agricultural Societies Association, and a delegate since its formation. So completely had he enjoyed the confidence of his fellow-farmers that he had been elected twice by them president of their Society. At the Agricultural Show he had been a successful exhibitor of pedigree stock, and won in his time championship prizes for stock that had been bred on Clondale.

Both in the practice of his religion, and in the generous manner with which he always supported religious undertakings he was considered a model Roman Catholic by his co-religionists; on every subscription list his name had always been amongst the leaders. He contributed the sum of £50 towards the establishment of the present Alstonville Convent, and was consistently generous in the support which he subsequently accorded it. Some few years ago, he handed a cheque for £250 to Bishop Carroll for the education of a young Australian for the R.C. priesthood. Progressive in spirit, sound in judgment, and generous in heart, he was a leading and loyal member of the Christian virtues which made his life resplendent had won him the admiration of the whole flock.

During the five weeks which he spent in St. Vincent's Hospital prior to his death he accepted the sorrows and sufferings of his last illness with a spirit most edifying to all who came in touch with him. He cheerfully bore the shock of two operations, and seemed to be

with him. The operation was one of two operations, and seemed to be making headway for a time, but handicapped by his years, his heart finally failed, and despite the skill and kindnesses of doctors and sisters, and notwithstanding the constant and affectionate attendance of his sisters and brothers, on Tuesday morning, the 15th ult., he passed peacefully to his eternal reward.

The deceased was one of nature's gentlemen, quiet and inoffensive, industrious and painstaking, deeply attached to his sisters, proud of his home and farm, he followed the even tenor of his way, gilding the path by his generous sympathies, and brightening life's monotony by the play of his merry fancy. Though he never courted popularity it is doubtful if there was a more popular figure on the North Coast; he never made an enemy; and when the tidings of his death reached the Alstonville district, there was not a heart there that did not experience a pang of deep regret for his passing.

In the Cathedral, Lismore, which was the starting place of the funeral cortege, his Lordship Bishop Carroll, assisted by Fathers Cullen and Glesin, conducted the obsequies, after which the Bishop paid a most beautiful tribute to his life and character, and offered the united condolences of the clergy and laity to the bereaved sisters and brothers. The burial took place in the R.C. portion of the Alstonville cemetery, the funeral procession being one of the largest and most representative seen in the district for some time. A pathetic feature of the final proceedings was the carrying of the coffin from the hearse to the grave through an avenue formed by the little children from the Alstonville Convent. While Father Cullen, assisted by Fr. Fitzpatrick and Dr. Maguire recited the last prayers, the children forming a guard of honour stood silently and sadly round the graveside. When the last prayers had been read, the undertakers were occupied for a considerable time arranging a large number of beautiful wreaths on the grave.

The Union Jack was flown at half-mast at the showground, as a last tribute from the Society, for which the deceased gentleman had done so much.—  
"Alstonville Advocate."