

WHERE PIONEERS SLEEP.

ST. ANDREW'S, WARATAH.

MR. JAMES CORLETTE.

MINING ACCIDENTS.

Many years ago the late Mr. Simon Kemp gave a piece of land to the church authorities, upon which a school, church, and parsonage were to be built at Waratah, but a portion of it was converted into a cemetery, in which many old residents were buried. St. Andrew's Church stands in one corner, a quaint English-like structure, such as one would expect to find in an old English village.

It was here, by his own wish, the late Mr. James Corlette was buried in 1876, the grave being marked by a simple stone, on which is inscribed:—

JAMES CORLETTE,
Born Dec. 25, 1806,
Died August 8,
1876.

Standing by this grave many memories are revived when one thinks of a bygone time in which men like Mr. Corlette assisted to develop the resources of the colony, and this district in particular.

Mr. Corlette was a Manxman, and spent his boyhood in the quaint old town of Douglas, where, without doubt, he imbibed the taste for nautical life, which afterwards shaped his career. The beginning was a voyage made with a friend of the family, who was a commander of a ship, and so strong was the attraction of the sea to the young Manxman, that he continued for several voyages, and strangely enough, during one of them, visited Newcastle, little dreaming it was to be his future home. On one of his later deepwater voyages, the captain and other officers capable of navigating the ship died, when the duty of taking the ship home devolved upon the young sailor. Fortunately he had been an apt pupil, and after an eventful voyage, succeeded in safely handing the vessel over to her owners at the port to which she belonged. We next hear of him in Port Stephens, in 1828, whither, like many others, he had been attracted by the Australian Agricultural Company, which was then commencing the development of its estates. One of the necessary adjuncts to the working plant was a cutter in which passengers and stores could be conveyed between Port Stephens and Sydney, and to supply this want a large cutter-rigged vessel, called the *Lambton*, was provided and employed in trading regularly between Port Stephens, Newcastle, and Sydney. Mr. Corlette was appointed to the command, and successfully sailed the *Lambton* for some years. It was during the time he was so engaged he was brought under the notice of Sir Edward Parry (the Arctic explorer) then superintendent for the A.A. Co. Sir Edward took a strong liking for the young Manxman, and being a sailor himself, probably discovered in their calling a bond of sympathy. At any rate he decided to advance him in the service by offering Mr. Corlette the position of storekeeper at Port Stephens, then the headquarters of the company. At first he hesitated about accepting the offer. He was a sailor, and concluded that such a position would not suit him. Sir Edward was firm, however, and pressed his desire, saying "anybody can be a master mariner, but a chance for advancement in a service like this does not offer every day." Eventually Mr. Corlette accepted the

in a service like this does not offer every day." Eventually Mr. Corlette accepted the position, and settled down at Stroud in the position of storekeeper. Notwithstanding his own doubts as to his capacity for shore work he proved an excellent business man, and rapidly advanced in the service. After a trip to England he returned to take up the duties of accountant and shipping manager for the company at Newcastle, where his previous seafaring experience proved most useful.

He occupied that position under Sir Arthur (then Mr.) Hodgson, and also Mr. Merewether, during the periods those gentlemen were superintendents of the company. It was while filling this office he inaugurated the first benefit society in connection with the miners. The society was formed in 1857, Mr. Corlette holding the position of treasurer for several years. He was very popular with the miners, who manifested their appreciation of his services at a later date by presenting him with a solid silver service. Like most men of his class he was a good churchman, and for years held a position as member of Synod and trustee for the church. When the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed over 40 years ago, he took an active part in the movement, and for a considerable time was its president, while other charitable and religious agencies ever met with his warm support and approval. When the city was incorporated in 1869, Mr. Corlette was chosen as one of the first aldermen, and together with Messrs. J. Hannell, Bolton, Turton, A. A. P. Tighe, P. Fleming, Martin Richardson, T. Adam and George Tully, directed the early municipal life of the city. Dr. Stacey was the municipal returning officer, and some interesting meetings were held at later stages, when candidates came forward for municipal honours. He died respected and beloved by a large circle of friends, having been just half a century in the service of the A.A. Company, whose employ he entered in 1826. Speaking of him at the time of his decease the Newcastle "Chronicle" says "He was a man who endeared himself to all. His name was a synonym in every household in the colony for sterling honesty and inflexible uprightness of purpose. In private circles his great experience united with his simple straightforwardness of action have rendered him repeatedly an invaluable friend and adviser. Ever acting on the principle of never letting his right hand know what his left hand was doing, very few even of his intimate friends were aware of the blessings he diffused around, nor does the district contain a gentleman in whom was reposed a larger amount of confidence than in Mr. Corlette. Mr. Corlette married a Sydney lady (Miss Turnbull) who died about two years ago, and was buried at St. Mary's, near Penrith. There were six children by the marriage, of whom two, Mr. Curphey Corlette, and the Rev. Canon Corlette, are dead. Another son, the Rev. A. C. Corlette, of Kogarah, is a well known Church of England clergyman. The daughters were Mrs. Bingle, who married a son of the late Captain John Bingle, Mrs. Hooper, now in England, and Mrs. Cranmer Kenrick, of Waratah.

Two stones standing side by side bear witness to a double fatality which occurred in the eighties. The inscriptions read:—

To the memory of
DAVID SIMON,
who was accidentally drowned on January
8, 1880,
aged 33.
Erected by the brethren of Lodge No. 133,
L.O.L.

On the second there appears:—
To the memory of
JAMES WILLIAMS,
native of Glamorganshire, who came to
his death by drowning January 8, 1880.

native of Glamorganshire, who came to his death by drowning January 8, 1880, aged 27.

On a plain stone near the centre of the cemetery there is inscribed :—

C. G. G.

Obit.

December 28, 1864.

On the grave of an old identity there appears :—

To the memory of
BENJAMIN LUNN,
died November 27, 1878,
aged 51.

Sweetly to sleep the pilgrim worn
Leaves his weary road ;
In peace he waits a glorious morn,
And slumbers in his God.

There are many records of deaths

If you want to borrow money, go to
M.S. Wales, Mont de Piété D. and L. Com-
pany, Limited, 17 Hunter-st., Newcastle.

caused while working in the pits, among them being the following :—

Sacred to the memory of
NOAH MORGAN,
who was killed by a fall of coal in the
Ferndale Colliery,
March 21, 1882,
aged 64.

Noah Morgan was an old miner well known in the district. On the morning of his death he was fixing some props when one came down, causing the top coal to fall. A huge mass jammed him against a pillar, and although alive when rescued, he died a few minutes afterwards from the terrible crushing he received.

On January 3, 1882, another serious accident took place, when William Charles Kuhn was literally crushed to death in the Ferndale pit by a fall of coal. The stone over his grave is inscribed :—

Sacred to the memory of
WILLIAM CHARLES KUHN,
who was killed by a fall of coal in the
Ferndale Colliery,
January 3, 1882,

On another we find—

Sacred
To the memory of
THOMAS HUGHES,
Who was accidentally killed while work-
ing in the mines, January 4, 1869,
Aged 34.

A fatal accident in the Waratah mine is thus recorded—

To the memory of
JAMES MEYRICK,
Who was killed while working in the
Waratah mines, Oct., 4, 1868,
Aged 22.

On a memorial to a well-known resi-
dent there appears—

Sacred
To the memory of
JOHN BUNN,
Who was killed by a fall of coal in the
Lambton Colliery, August 3, 1853,
Aged 50.

A well-known Lambton family are
buried beneath a memorial inscribed—

To the memory of
JAMES DORRITY,
Who was killed by a fall of coal in the
Lambton Pit, November 23, 1842,
Aged 43;

Also,

ISABELLA M'INTOSH DORRITY,
Died November 1, 1886,
Aged 48.
Erected by their sons.