

DEATH OF MR. W. B. SMITH.

Ryde has lost a well-known and deeply respected resident in the person of **Mr. W. B. SMITH**, for no less than 34 years the headmaster of the National Schools, who died, after a long illness, on Monday afternoon. Indebted to him as so many of the inhabitants have been for their education, it was no wonder that a large number attended the funeral on Thursday afternoon.

The first part of the service was conducted in the parish church. The choir and clergy, including the Revs. W.H.E. WELBY and J.A. LABOUCHERE, met the body at the north door. The Vicar (the Rev. J. SHEARME) read the opening sentences of the burial office. The 39<sup>th</sup> Psalm was sung to a single chant. The lesson was read by the Rev. H.C. ANSTEY, curate-in charge of St. Thomas's Church, at which place of worship Mr. SMITH was organist for the many years. Then followed the hymn "Let saints on earth in concert sing." The prayers were intoned by the Rev. J. CARPENTER TURNER. The singing of the hymn "Now the labourer's task is o'er" closed the service in the church. As the body was being removed, the organist (Mr. E.W. GOLDSMITH) played "O rest in the Lord." The knell of the church was tolled.

The Vicar took the service at the graveside. The mourners were Mr. W.D. SMITH and Mr. Walter SMITH (sons), Mr. A.W. BARTLETT and Mr. W. JACOBS, Brading (brothers-in-law), Mr. H. BARTLETT, Southampton (nephew). There was also a large attendance present representing the Conservative Club and Association, the Hants Friendly Society, the teachers, and old pupils. These included the Rev. Canon POOLE, Mr. C.D. CRISP, F.R.G.S., Mr. C. FARRAND, Mr. J. KNAPTON, Mrs. SHEARME, Mrs. AUSTEY, Mr. GOBLE, Mr. J.W. TRODD, F.E.I.S., Mr. H.D. WILLIAMS, Mr. DEWIS, Mr. G. ROSE, Mr. CHARLEY, Capt. H. SWEETMAN, Capt. C. SWEETMAN, C.C., Mr. W. SWEETMAN, Mr. W.H. RIDDETT, J.P., Mr. W. JAKCSON, Mr. E. HUNT, Mr. A. TUTTE, Mr. W.E. RATCLIFFE, Capt. DAUBUZ J.P. Mr. W. WATTS, Mr. W.H. TAIRKELL, Mr. Percy THELLUSSON, Mr. P. SAUNDERS, Mr. H. HARBER, Mr. M.G. CONLAN, Mr. H.H. POLLARD, J.P., Mr. F.G. FLUX, J.P., Miss WATSON, Miss BELL, Mrs. F.W. FLUX, Mr. STEWARD, Mr. and Miss COOMBES, Col. HUNTER, Mr. A.P. JAMES, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. E. WARD, Mr. J.C. MUNDELL, Mr. A. AUSTIN, Mr. T. FORD, Miss JORDAN, Mr. C. LANGDON, Mr. A. DUNFORD, Mr. S. BULLEY, Mr. A.W. NICHOLLS, Mr. W. HAPGOOD, Mr. J. GATRALL, Mr. J.F. LOADER, Mr. F. SHOTTER, Mr. J. SEYMOUR, Mr. RANDS, Mr. CONWAY, Mr. W.H. LONG, Mr. DALE, Mr. CALLAWAY, Mr. A. DASHWOOD, Mr. T.A. BUTLER, Mr. R. FRY, Mr. C.G. PITTMAN, Mr. H. LONG, Mr. STOCKS, Mr. J. DOWN.

Some 20 boys from the deceased's school also followed. The following eight gentlemen, formerly pupils of the deceased, acted as bearers : Messrs. H. GRINHAM, E. CHANDLER, H. TURTLE, F. TURTLE, W. WADDING, J. RASHLEIGH, DUNKINSON, and F.W. FLUX. The coffin-plate bore the inscription : "Wm. Benjamin SMITH, died December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1896 aged 55 years." The floral tributes were from the following : In loving remembrance of dear uncle Ben. SMITH, from Mab and Lilian; with deep regret and sympathy, L.F. ; in loving remembrance, from his godchild, Willie FLUX; in memory of a kind master, Victor BENNETT; a tribute of respect for their headmaster, from the managers of the Ryde National School; in loving remembrance, from his sorrowing wife and two sons; with deep sympathy, Charles FARRAND; with sympathy, from his old pupils, A. and J. GLADDIS and W. WEARN; with deep sympathy, from G. and E. RIDGLEY; a token of respect and esteem, from a few old scholars, 1868 to 1880; a tribute of deepest sympathy and respect to our late master, from some of his old scholars; with deep sympathy, from Mr. T. F. PERROTT; sincere regret and sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs. H.D. WILLIAMS; a mark of respect and regard, Mr. J.C. MUNDELL. The members of the Ryde conservative Club, of the committee of which deceased was chairman, sent a permanent wreath, and a flag was flying on the building at half-mast on the day of the funeral.

A movement has been started amongst the old pupils of the deceased to erect a monument to his memory. Mr. A.A. AUSTIN is acting as hon. Secretary. The widow and family have received with gratitude many expressions of sympathy from all classes of the community, so many as to make an individual acknowledgment impossible.

In the Parish Magazine for January the Vicar writes of the deceased : "He was very active and energetic, and made the improvement and progress of his school his first thought and consideration. Conscientious and upright in his life, he exercised an influence for good upon all who came under his control, and he leaves behind him an example of one who tried to do his duty both towards God and his

neighbour. I hope a movement will be made to erect some memorial of his useful life. I shall be very glad to do anything to further it.”

The funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Messrs. LANGDON.

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Researched & typed by  
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