

### DEATH OF MR. EDWARD TURTLE

An old and respected townsman passed away on Sunday last, in the person of Mr. Edward TURTLE, of the Art Gallery, Union-street. Mr. TURTLE had been ailing, but appeared to be recovering, and was able to sit up in his chair on Sunday last. While so doing, however, he suddenly complained of feeling ill, and asked that the doctor might be sent for, but almost immediately passed away peacefully and painlessly.

Our deceased townsman (who had attained to the venerable age of 87) belonged to an old and respected Ryde family, and in his youth betrayed so much artistic ability that he determined to devote himself to art. After studying under very good masters, he became a portrait painter, and painted many Island residents amongst them being the late Rev. J. SIBTHORPE, the popular incumbent of St. James's Church, Ryde. The rev. gentleman, who subsequently became a Roman Catholic, was then a member of the earlier Tractarian Party, and his innovations in the way of ritual produced an immense sensation. He had a following of devoted adherents, and, of course, had bitter opponents. His admirers were so pleased with Mr. TURTLE's portrait of their pastor, that they determined to have it engraved and published by subscription.

The invention of the daguerreotype and its growing popularity, led Mr. TURTLE to take a rather gloomy view of a portrait painter's chances of a successful career and, having a musical ear, and finding that there was a greater demand in a growing watering place for pianos, and people to tune them, than for portraits, Mr. TURTLE opened a music saloon in Union-street. This rapidly prospered, and in time nearly all the best pianos in the Island were sent out from it, and Mr. TURTLE got an excellent reputation as a tuner. He never, however, lost his interest in art. Painting became his beloved recreation, and many exquisite little gems of Island scenery bore witness to his talent, and found a ready sale amongst the visitors to the Island. Mr. TURTLE found, however, that people had far less admiration for his paintings when they found that they were painted in the town, so he signed most of them "POMEROY" ---his mother's maiden name, ---and very few people knew that TURTLE and POMEROY were one and the same.

Having in his student days made the acquaintance of many rising artists, Mr. TURTLE's window was never without a good painting. He was a personal friend of the younger DUNCAN and of VICAT COLE, and secured many of the earlier works of these artists. He had all the enthusiasm of a born collector. Every year saw him adding to his collection, and in time he accumulated literally hundreds of the works of COOK, PRONT, CATTERMOLE, in fact of most of the leading water colour artists he could produce an example. Being a great friend of the late Mr. COLLARD (who shared his enthusiasm as a collector) he was able, through him, to supplement his gallery with many examples of the continental and especially of the French and Belgian schools, including Paul MARNÉ. He bought hundreds of this artist's best drawings, and in fact must have prevented MARNÉ gaining the reputation which the power and ability of some of his works would undoubtedly have brought him had they been exhibited elsewhere.

As the collection increased with time, Mr. TURTLE found his pictures filling every part of his premises, and it soon became evident that either the pianofortes or the pictures must go. Mr. TURTLE determined, therefore, to retire from the music trade, and devoted himself entirely to art and the building of a gallery in which to store his treasures. He still devoted several hours a day to drawing but, with age, his fingers lost somewhat of their cunning, and he turned his attention to charcoal, in which medium he drew many pictures of local scenery remarkable for delicacy, softness, and aerial effect. Many of these he very generously distributed among his friends. Of late years, with the ailments natural to advancing age, the management of such a large gallery became a source of much trouble and anxiety.

To the last, however, Mr. TURTLE took the keenest delight in his pictures, and nothing pleased him better than to explain to a sympathetic friend the good points of a picture, the reason why it pleased, and the particular parts in which the artist's skill was best displayed. In his personal

character Mr. TURTLE was refined and amiable. He gave the impression of being a somewhat reserved man, but to those who really understood and appreciated art he was quite the reverse. He had outlived most of his friends, and often lamented that the Ryde he had known had departed, and that he almost felt like one in a strange place with strangers. Such is the penalty paid for living a long and retired life.

The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, when the remains of our departed townsman were interred in the old part of the Cemetery by the side of the graves of his father, sister and other relatives. The Vicar (Rev. J. SHEARME) performed the burial service, the coffin first being taken into the Cemetery Chapel. The mourners were Messrs. C. TURTLE, E. TURTLE (nephews), H. TURTLE, and Messrs. BREBNER and George PADMORE (executors). There also attended Col. CRADOCK, J.P., Lieut-Colonel F. ASHWOOD, Mr. W. B. RATCLIFFE, Mr. W. H. RIDDETT, J.P., Mr. J. DOWN, Mr. W. H. GRAY, &c.

Beautiful wreaths, in addition to those of the relatives, were sent by Captain and Mrs. GREGORY, Colonel DASHWOOD, Mr. and Mrs. W. GIBBS and Colonel and Mrs. CRADOCK.

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Researched by  
Ann Barrett