

THE LATE REV. T. S. GUYER

On Thursday week, the 5th March the above-named Minister departed this life. It would be improper in us as journalists if we passed over this event without some notice of this excellent and eminent man. There are few readers of this paper to whom wither his name or his person is not familiar. Mr. GUYER was a native of the town of Portsea, the only son of Mr. Saunders GUYER, who for upwards of 40 years was master joiner in Her Majesty's Dockyard, Portsmouth, and for 45 years an exemplary Deacon of the Independent Church in Portsea. Mr. GUYER at an early age developed a serious disposition and considerable ability for public speaking. At length he was placed under the care of the late reverend BOGUE, of Gosport, where he acquired the requisite attachments in Theology, Church History, Biblical Criticism, and the Classics, before entering upon the public discharge of Ministerial duties. His diligence, regularity, and thoughtfulness as a student are attested by all who then knew him. His career under Dr. BOGUE being finished, he settled, about 28 years ago, over a small congregation of the Independent order, at Ryde, where he remained till his death.

The abilities of Mr. GUYER as a preacher soon began to develop. His originally small audience rapidly increased---the chapel became too small---more than once had it to be enlarged, and at length he gathered around him a people so numerous, that a further increase would have formed an audience too great for the preacher profitably to address, and would have created duties too numerous for one pastor to have discharged.

He went to Ryde when it was comparatively a village, he died there when it was a fashionable town. No man could have been more fitted for such a position.--- His preaching was impressive and informing---as much to the humblest seaman as to the most polished scholar. It was owing to this wonderful power of adaptation that he was united to the demands of Ryde in all the rapid stages of its recent history.

The talent by which he seemed to be most eminently distinguished, as a public speaker, was that of clear forcible, and terse exhibition of Gospel Truth. His utterance was rapid, though distinct, and one idea would flow from him after another, with such ease and appropriateness of expression, that the hearer became irresistibly impressed with the idea he had heard a man of no ordinary mental possessions. The stream of his thoughts was not abrupt and grand, like that of the highest order of speakers, but smooth, broad and pellucid. He made no inconsiderable approach in theology, in style, and in the construction of his mind, to that distinguished living Minister, the rev. W. JAY, of Bath, and he possessed Mr. JAY's flexible voice and commanding person, he would have had an almost equal popularity---he would have been a Mr. JAY, without his quaint peculiarities.

The members of his.....the Independent order in the country---and the thousands throughout England who have had the pleasure of hearing him at Ryde, all feel that "a great man is fallen in Israel"; and as journalists, we will not withhold our praise from the deceased, or our sympathy from the bereaved.

Our readers will now be prepared to appreciate the following astounding statement:--
"An application was made to the Rev. P. HEWITT, Rector of Binstead Church, for the interment in the church-yard of that parish. This he decidedly refused, stating that he was a Dissenting Minister, and that he had preached against the Church of England; and that he was not a parishioner. The undertaker was anxious to remove Mr. HEWITT's objection, as Mr. GUYER had two children buried in the church-yard, and it was his wish to be buried by their side; but Mr. HEWITT said, he had previously made up his mind on the subject, and should not do it; but that they might take up the bodies of the two children, and most liberally said that he would not take any fees for that, which he was at liberty to do."

This specimen of Christian charity has caused great excitement in the town, both to Churchmen and Dissenters, as the deceased was universally beloved. The church party are so indignant at the conduct of Mr. HEWITT, that they are subscribing amongst themselves to erect a tablet to Mr. GUYER's memory; and also, that 69 of the most respectable inhabitants of Ryde have sent a sympathizing letter to Mrs. GUYER on the subject.

Mr. GUYER has left a widow and six children.

IMPROMPTU LINES on the refusal of the Clergyman to bury the remains of the Rev. T. S. GUYER in Binstead Church-yard, and on the sympathy evinced by the generous contributions of all classes, Churchmen and Dissenters, for a Tablet to his Memory.

Near Binstead's rural Church
Two infant Children lie,
Their dying Father said,
"I would be buried nigh."

"He—a Dissenter was,
So I can never do it,"
Thus spoke that Christian Priest,
The Reverend Philip Hewitt.

But mark the contrast well,
Far let the fact be told—
The Priest refuses Earth,
The people proffer Gold.

And can Christ's law of love
Be taught by such a Pastor—
By him who thus can grieve
The spirit of his Master.

NB: Where there is a dotted line..... in the above report, we were not able to read the text owing to the poor condition of the newspaper.

Researched by
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