

R. A. Mather  
1815-84

Notes from the papers  
of sea-father death &c

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M. 19/40

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

OF

*ROBERT ANDREW MATHER,*

*Who died at Hobart on the 17th of 10th Month, 1884,  
in the 70th year of his age.*

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*The Interment took place in Friends' Burial Ground, Providence Valley, Hobart,  
on First day the 19th.*

Grandfather

# THE TASMANIAN NEWS, MONDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 20, 1884.

## IN MEMORIAM.

YESTERDAY morning, at 9:30, a large and representative assemblage met—actuated by one motive—to pay the last tribute of respect to a good man, and followed to their last resting-place, in the Society of Friend's Burial Ground, Providence Valley, the mortal remains of Mr Robert Andrew Mather. There were from 250 to 300 persons, of almost all denominations, on foot and in cabs, amongst whom were the Hon. the Treasurer, the Hon. W. R. Giblin, the Hon. P. O. Fysh, His Worship the Mayor, the representatives of the Press, and a large number of the leading citizens of Hobart. The chief mourners were the sons of the deceased, and in the leading vehicles were the female portion of the family. The *cortege* included many members of the Society of Friends. At the grave, as is usual with the members of that persuasion, several Friends took part in the solemn service. Mr J. B. Mather offered prayer, as also did other members of the family. Mr and Mrs Pierce gave very impressive addresses, and, at the conclusion of the service, Mr Mather invited those present to attend a service at the Friends Meeting House, to be held that morning at 11 o'clock. The whole of the ceremony was marked by its simplicity. The coffin was of plain polished lightwood, with heavy black mountings, the lid bearing the name and age of the deceased, and was covered with wreaths of flowers.

# SMANIAN NEWS

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# On the Death of Mr R. A. Mather.

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He has entered his heavenly home,  
The home of the pure and the blest ;  
The home where the loving ones wait,  
And the weary of earth take their rest.

He has taken his flight o'er the river,  
He has trodden the golden shore ;  
He has entered the grave of the silent,  
And now he is happy e'er more.

What an outburst of joy at the meeting  
From those bright happy ones on the strand ;  
How they gather around the dear spirit,  
As they wait for a clasp of his hand.

The white pearly gates are thrown open,  
And there is exposed to his view  
A city of dazzling brightness.  
Prepared for the faithful and true.

Around the white gates are standing  
Bright angels in brightest array,  
Awaiting to welcome the spirit  
To his home of eternal day.

But hark ! what is that they are singing ?  
A new song to them has been given :  
A song to be rung by the joy bells,  
The silvery joy bells of Heaven.

Ring out ye silvery joy bells,  
Ring with a might and a main,  
Ring for a servant's departed,  
A son is received home again.

ELMA WARD,  
162, Bathurst street, Hobart.

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OBITUARY.—On Friday last Mr. Robert Andrew Mather, a well known and respected resident of Hobart, died in his 70th year. From our southern morning contemporary we learn that he was born in London on August 17, 1815, came to Tasmania when quite a lad, and the greater part of the education which he received was obtained in this colony. About 1849, he went into business in Brock's buildings, in Liverpool-street, and the firm once established, the trade increased, until now the house of Mather and Sons is one of the most prominent of its class in the city. Of a kindly, generous nature, the deceased early associated himself with the various philanthropic movements which have been established in Hobart, and his name will long be held in grateful remembrance by numbers of recipients of his beneficence. The deceased was for many years chairman of the Benevolent Society, and was also chairman of the Visiting Committee of the General Hospital, and of the Boys' Home. He took great interest in the welfare of the boarding-out children, and was an active member of the Society of Friends.



# NCESTON EXAMINER,

## TASMANIAN INTELLIGENCE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

HOBART, October 18.

Mr. Robert Andrew Mather, a venerable philanthropist, known by name to all, and personally beloved by many of the residents of this city, yesterday breathed his last. The deceased gentleman was born in London in August 1815, but came to the colony when quite a youth. Early in 1850 he entered business in the drapery line, and established the firm now so widely and honourably known as Mather and Company, of Liverpool-street, Hobart. Mr. Mather early identified himself with various institutions and movements of a philanthropic and charitable character; for a number of years, and almost up to the last—when failing health obliged him to seek the rest and retirement of private life—he was chairman of the General Hospital Visiting Committee, also of the Benevolent Society, and of the Boys' Home; and ever evinced himself one "zealous of good works." The deceased's health for a few months past has been gradually deserting him, and yesterday, shortly after partaking of dinner, he was seized with an apoplectic fit, and, before medical attendance could be procured, expired. Good, genial-hearted old man, he has gone to his rest, rich in years and honour. Most of the houses of business in town to-day had their shutters half up, out of respect to the venerable deceased.

THE LATE MR. MATHER.

Mr. BROWNELL said, that in accordance with a resolution passed at the previous meeting, the committee appointed had prepared a letter of thanks to be forwarded to Mr. R. A. Mather for his long and untiring efforts in connection with the hospital, but the sudden demise of that gentleman had prevented the fulfilment of the design. In its stead, however, a letter of condolence had been forwarded to the relatives of the deceased gentleman, and a reply had been received from Mr. Robt. Mather, thanking the chairman and the board, on behalf of his mother and himself, for their kind and sympathetic letter.



best way, gently persisting in his own fine spiritual view of things, using his sound sense by a quiet touch or suggestion here and there, and most memorable to those who knew him for what Wordsworth called

that best portion of a good man's life,  
His little, nameless, unremembered acts  
Of kindness and of love.

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MR. MATHER'S FUNERAL.—There was a very large gathering at the funeral of the late Mr. R. Andrew Mather, which took place yesterday morning at the Friends' burial ground, Providence Valley. About 250 persons in all were present, including the Hons. W. R. Giblin and P. O. Fysh, and many other leading citizens. Addresses were delivered at the grave by Messrs. J. Benson Mather, J. Propsting, and other members of the Society of Friends.

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## DEATH.

MATHER.—At his residence, Upper Murray street, on the 17th inst., Robert Andrew Mather, in the 70th year of his age. The Funeral will leave his residence for the Friend's Burial Ground, Providence Valley, on SUNDAY MORNING, at half-past 9 o'clock.

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## OBITUARY.

TO-DAY it is our painful duty to record the death of Mr R. Andrew Mather, of the firm of Messrs R. A. Mather and Co., who expired rather suddenly at his late residence, Murray street, yesterday afternoon, at the advanced age of 69 years. For some time past deceased had been ailing, and of late his health completely broke down, which caused him to retire from the position of Chairman of the Benevolent Society, which position he held for a considerable time. Yesterday afternoon, after taking his dinner, deceased died very suddenly, and it was supposed in an apoplectic fit. Mr Mather will long be remembered in the colony for his benevolence and philanthropy, for which he was always noted. He was born in London in the year 1815, and arrived in the colony in 1822. He was educated by the late Mr James Thompson, who kept a large school at Pressland House, Melville street, and about the year 1846 he entered into business in Liverpool street as a draper. Mr Mather was well known amongst the lower classes, and in all good and benevolent objects he was always to the front. His death will be regretted by those with whom he associated, and the news of his sudden demise cast quite a gloom over the city yesterday afternoon.

The lamented death of Mr Mather calls attention to the manner in which any little honours the Executive of the day have to give are disposed of. Hundreds, perhaps literally many thousands, of times during the last few years, printed forms, with "J.P." on the line for signature, have awaited his name, but in every instance he has had to strike out "J.P.," and state some other sort of signature before the document carried force. Had Mr Mather been a political partisan, or active agitator in city progress, he might have been made a magistrate, but the anxious and not less useful career of public service among the poor, actually requiring magisterial authority, was left unnoticed and without honor. It is so in other matters, men may toil for months and years to bring social movements to the front, and when success is fairly certain, other men step in and take honors, for the reason, perhaps, that they can make a noise, or give trouble, and therefore they must be rewarded. Besides a very large circle of friends to mourn their loss, Mr Mather leaves a widow, three sons and two daughters, as well as a sister (Mrs W. Walker, of Davey street), and two brothers, the elder, Mr J. B. Mather, outfitter, Liverpool street, and the other, Mr S. B. Mather, of the Bible Depot. Mr Mather's funeral takes place to-morrow morning.

Mr R. A. Mather has been called up higher. No fuss: no ceremony. A few days ago he wrote:—"I expect to be called any minute and I am quite ready." Yesterday, in the morning, he was about as usual; ate his diuner, lay down on the sofa, and his spirit sped away leaving the body beautiful in death. The noble face seemed to say "Good-bye: I have entered into the joy of my Lord," and we added, "Well done, good and faithful servant; rest in thy labours, and thy works shall follow thee." But the grand old Saint will be seen amongst us no more. What epitaph shall we write over the noblest man that has ever walked our streets? "Never did a shady thing," said a neighbour tradesman, yesterday. "Good," said we, and if all of us in trade earned even this, the world would be a very different world to what it is." "Generous to a fault," said another. So we judge, but what is now the judgment of Him who "judgeth not as man?" While we have been piling up wealth here, his has been accumulating up yonder. "Went about doing good." Yes that shall be it. Careless of self; always thinking of others; his walk was ever in the Master's footsteps, and as we do honor; no, as we honor ourselves—by gathering around his last sleeping place to-morrow morning, we will think of R. A. Mather as bearing the "new name," and in company with Howard, Elizabeth Fry, and, perhaps more to his liking, with hundreds from Hobart who have entered the eternal mansions through his work, joining triumphantly in the "new song," "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

## In Memoriam.

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We have to record the death of a well-known citizen and philanthropist, MR. ROBERT ANDREW MATHER, who passed away from this world on the 17th ult., having attained the age of "three score years and ten." He arrived in the colony when a mere lad, and enjoyed great advantages in his early life, which tended very materially to develop those features of character by which he was for a long course of years distinguished. Of a kind and generous disposition he was led to identify himself with the various philanthropic institutions of the city. His ear was ever open to the tale of woe, and his hand ever extended to render needful help to mitigate human suffering. Equally anxious was he also to do what he could to raise the moral tone of society, and to bring the outcasts under the genial and saving influences of religion. He was a member of the Society of Friends, but not a sectarian. His conduct showed that he did not consider Christians were confined within the narrow bounds of one ecclesiastical organisation. We need scarcely say he took a deep interest in the Temperance reformation, and in the course of his life rendered considerable assistance to it in his own unobtrusive way. He was a member of the Tasmanian Temperance Alliance, and also of the Excelsior Lodge, No. 8, I.O.G.T., with which he had been connected about nine years. His health, which had until very recently been remarkably good, had lately failed, but he had not been laid aside. His end was, however, sudden. "He was not, for God took him." We would tender our sympathy to the widow and family thus bereaved. It is hard to be bereft of those we love; but still in reference to him who has been thus taken away, in addition to the strong hope of a blessed immortality realized, the thought that his removal has saved him from suffering which he might otherwise have been called upon to endure, cannot but assuage their grief. Let us hope that his death also will lead us all to remember that it is our duty to "work while it is yet day, seeing that the night cometh when no man can work."



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PUBLIC MEETING.—A largely attended public meeting was held at the Alliance Rooms last evening, there being fully 200 persons present. Mr T. J. Crouch occupied the chair. The Rev. W. H. Bowe opened the meeting with prayer. The Chairman then stated that the object which had drawn them together, was to thankfully acknowledge their indebtedness to God, for the noble life and work of the late Robert Andrew Mather. He (the Chairman) had known him, and worked with him for over 40 years, and although his work had not been so ostentatious as that of many, it had been none the less earnest and effective. He would urge upon all to follow the example of the late Mr Mather, and walk in the footsteps of so good a man. Mr W. Witt gave many interesting incidents, and personal reminiscences of Mr Mather's work among the sick and poor, stating that he was generous to a fault, and that his liberality was most frequently imposed upon. Mr L. Lodge said that some people were abstainers on scientific grounds, and others on economical, but he believed that the late Mr Mather was an abstainer from the moral standpoint. He was convinced that the fruitful source of the dire distress and lamentable crime he saw round him every day was strong drink, and he fought the cause

## ING, NOVEMBER

in his efforts to remedy the effects. Mr G. S. Crouch said that Robert Andrew Mather would need no sculptured stone in the Friends' burying ground, to record his virtues. He would live in the grateful memory of all who knew him; and those who knew him best had loved him most. The Rev. J. W. Simmons also made a few remarks to the same effect. The Rev. W. H. Bowe stated that Mr Mather had been a member of the Tasmanian Temperance Alliance from its commencement, and was always a liberal supporter of its funds. During the evening some members of the "Eva" service of song choir sang some very appropriate pieces from that production, Miss Burdon presiding very efficiently at the organ. The concluding piece, entitled, "Peacefully Sleep," was very solemn and beautiful; after which the Rev. C. Anthony offered prayer, pronounced the Benediction, and the meeting closed.

HOSPITAL BOARD.—The usual monthly meeting of the Hospital Board, was held in the Board-room yesterday ; there being present Dr Smart, chairman, Messrs. W. Belbin, J. Harcourt, J. Hamilton, L. R. Castray, A. Riddoch, and McMillan W. F. Brownell, J. J. Watt, E. Maher, W. T. Collier, with Drs. Perkins, Bright, and E. L. Crowther. Mr Brownell stated that in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Board, a letter of condolence had been sent to the family of the late Mr R. A. Mather, and a suitable reply had been received from Mr R. Mather, thanking the Board on behalf of Mrs Mather and family for their kind expression of feeling.

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