

# THE LATE GEO WASHINGTON WALKER.

[Communicated.]

The death of Mr George Washington Walker took place on Tuesday afternoon, between two and three o'clock, after a short illness, originating in an attack of influenza. The mournful event comes suddenly upon the friends of deceased, he having so lately as last Sunday fortnight attended the Meeting House in Murray street, of the Society of Friends, to which he belonged. On the Wednesday his complaint was more acute, and it was found necessary to call in, besides the family physician, another eminent practitioner of this city, and both these gentlemen, Drs Agnew and Bedford, met in consultation on the case, in the progress of which great debility supervened, and the symptoms, towards the end of the week, became more alarming. On Saturday, we believe, the medical attendants felt assured that the disease would terminate fatally; but in the evening of that day the patient seemed to rally, and was able to converse with his son upon business, and to give directions respecting various matters, including landing of some goods from a ship in harbour. The symptoms on Sunday, were not more alarming,

and Mr Walker appeared to be perfectly conscious of what was passing while his sympathising friends and relatives were gathered around him. Next day, it was apparent that disease was surely doing its work, and paralysis of one side having taken place, the patient was rendered nearly insensible, unable to articulate, and thoroughly prostrate. The watchful care of members of the family, and relatives, who, by turns, sat with him was appreciated, as at intervals returning consciousness, induced an effort on his part to communicate, and to mean "the thanks he could not speak." Helingered on for some hours until the closing scene approached: a short time before he died, opening his eyes, he made an attempt—an unsuccessful attempt—at utterance. About two o'clock, the moral combat occurred, and the death struggle issued in the release from suffering and from earth of a GOOD MAN, a man beloved in life for his works of faith and philanthropy, now honored though lamented in death, and whose memory will be cherished by the generation which he served, and by many who will rise up "to call him blessed." For of him it may be said, as of the Patriarch, "When the ear heard him, then it blessed him; and when they saw him, it gave witness; Because he delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon him; and he caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. He put on righteousness, and it clothed him; he was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame: he was a father to the poor; and the cause which he knew not he searched out."

Deceased was for some years identified with the social and moral progress of this colony, and a warm supporter of the various institutions of the day. As a member and minister of the Society of Friends, his earnest piety, consistent example, conscientiousness in the discharge of duty, and characteristic sympathy for the cause of education endeared him to the members of his own religious community, as well as to his fellow-townsmen generally. The Annual Meeting of the Friends held in the month of December last was distinguished by the wisdom and fervour of his counsels, and by his wnted zeal for the prosperity and increase of true religion. A wide gap indeed will be caused by the decease of this true Friend;

but while the tear of sympathy will be elicited by this visitation, the faith of the Christian will thankfully and trustfully suggest acquiescence in the will of the Divine Being, who "buries his laborers, but carries on his work."

The Bible Society was dear to his heart; he has worked hard for its promotion, and his fellow-committeemen will long remember his judicious and salutary advice and suggestions with reference to the management and advancement of the Society's operations. For some years his establishment in Liverpool street was the Depot for the Society's publications, and when he ceased to be the Depository, his interest in the business never failed; in the recent arrangements for a change of premises for the Depot, Mr Walker took an active part, and to his energy and counsel, the success of the negotiations is in a great measure attributable. He was equally fervent in behalf of the Tract Society, whose Depot is held at the same establishment; and, as was lately remarked by a citizen, perhaps there was not another person in the colony who had distributed so many religious and moral tracts as Mr Walker. In these respects it may be said "his works do follow him" and his unwavering ardour in promoting Bible and Tract circulation, affords an influential example to survivors to "go and do likewise."

As is well known, George Washington Walker was a staunch friend and supporter of the Temperance Cause. For many years he was its unflinching and consistent advocate, and his influence was largely exerted in the discouragement of those drinking habits, which are the bane of any community, and which, in many instances, have debased and pauperised the productive classes, dethroned intellect, and caused premature death. Deceased bore a firm and even dogged testimony against the custom of taking alcoholic drinks, and from his first arrival in the Colony he was a rigid total abstainer. Temperance advocacy was introduced by Mr. Backhouse and himself at the first Temperance meeting held in the present Court House which was lent for the purpose, at the period of their visit in 1832; and, in conjunction with others, some few of whom are still honorably adhering to their principles, Mr. Walker identified the welfare of the community with organization for the promotion of temperance. The old Temperance Society was superseded by the Total Abstinence Society. In the progress of the cause, from Temperance to Total Abstinence, and in the various efforts connected therewith, Mr. Walker's name and influence were ever as "a tower of strength." He was one of the founders of the Total Abstinence cause in Bathurst-street; and, subsequently, when from circumstances which need not now be adverted to, he, with others, retired from active connection with that Society, he became a prominent member of the Van Diemen's Land Total Abstinence Society. Later still, on the formation of the Tasmanian Temperance Alliance, Mr. Walker gave his hearty co-operation, and identified himself with the plans adopted for the extension of the work, by taking part on public occasions, presiding or speaking at meetings, and by receiving signatures to the pledge, in a book kept for years, at the Savings' Bank, for the purpose. Mr. Walker was a member of the Alliance Committee, and he was elected a Trustee of the Alliance Building, in the negotiations for the purchase of which, he took an active part. Amongst the later efforts of the deceased in connection with the Temperance Alliance, was the presentation by that gentleman, in the name of the Alliance, of a valuable copy of the Sacred Scriptures, handsomely bound and suitably inscribed, to Mrs. Thomas (formerly Mrs Stamp), the celebrated Female

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WASHINGTON WALKER.

—It is our melancholy duty to chronicle the death of Mr. George Washington Walker, an old colonist, of many years' standing, and whose Christian example has conciliated, during his residence amongst us, the esteem and respect of every person in the community. The deceased gentleman was a member of the Society of Friends, and was an early coadjutor with Mr. Backhouse in the missionary cause in this colony. In every movement having for its object the cause of religion and charity Mr. Walker took an active part; and his works will live to posterity as a monument to his virtue. Mr. Walker was the founder of the Hobart Town Bank for Savings, and an influential member of the various literary and benevolent institutions of the city. His illness was severe, and not of a lengthened duration, but it was not until yesterday, when paralysis of one side of the body supervened, that his medical advisers (Drs. Bedford and Agnew) gave up all hopes of recovery. Mr. Walker lingered until half-past two o'clock this afternoon, when death put a period to his existence.

*Comer 1/2/59*

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Providence which, while they baffle human expectations, bespeak acquiescence and entire resignation on the part of erring, short-sighted man. The management of the Savings Bank will probably now be committed to Mr W. V. Morris, who has for some years performed the functions of Accountant to the Bank, and whose experience and position, naturally indicate that he will be the future Actuary of this important Institution.

In addition to the foregoing, it may be remarked, that Mr Walker, who took a lead in every thing that was calculated to benefit the community, was, at the time of his lamented decease, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and one of the Auditors of the same; and also a member of the Council of the High School, besides an official in various other societies.

Deceased was in his 60th year, having been born in 1799. Twenty-seven years ago he visited Van Diemen's Land as companion to James Backhouse, one of the ministers of the Society of Friends, sent to this hemisphere on Mission work; it being customary for a Minister of the Friends to be accompanied by a Friend to take charge of financial matters. In the course of that voyage, Messrs Backhouse and Walker visited the Cape of Good Hope, Port Phillip, New South Wales, Norfolk Island, New Zealand, and the various Islands of the South Pacific. Their reception in this colony was exceedingly cordial. His Excellency Governor Arthur welcomed them at Government House during their presence in Hobart Town, and gave them every facility for carrying out their religious mission to the different penal establishments of the colony; almost every habitable part of Van Diemen's Land was visited, and the seeds of Divine truth were scattered, through their instrumentality, among the free and the prisoner population. During their stay, they published two addresses, one to the free people and the other to the prisoners, both of which were printed by Dr Ross. Meetings for worship and for the promotion of temperance were held in different places, and the nucleus of the Friends' Meeting in Hobart Town was formed. The first meeting for worship of the Friends, as a Society, was held in the Court House. Meetings for public worship were also held at the then Wesleyan Chapel, Melville-street, the building now occupied by the Mechanics' Institute. For some time also, we are informed, that Messrs Backhouse and Walker were guests of Mr T. J. Clouch, the Undersheriff of the colony. Mr Backhouse is, we hear, now living in Yorkshire. After the Mission was finished, Mr Walker returned to this colony, and commenced business in Liverpool-street, as a woollen draper. At that establishment the Savings Bank and Bible Depot were held as already mentioned. About nineteen years since, deceased married a daughter of the late Robert Mather and sister of the present Messrs Mather. This lady survives him and has ten children, the eldest son (who received his education at the Friends' School, in the North of England) holding a situation in the Counting house of T. D. Chapman, Esq. Merchant, and M. P. of this city. We have now exhausted the materials kindly furnished to us; we have not invaded the sanctity of the mourning circle to glean details, nor are we aware of many particulars of Mr Walker's death-bed experience. Another influential colonist and citizen has passed away, and it is to be hoped that the probity, the philanthropic spirit, and the irreproachable example, of the deceased, will have a lasting influence upon religionists, the commercial community, and our public men generally, in favour of those principles of which Mr Walker was so commendable an example. *Requiescat in pace.*

#### THE FUNERAL.

Yesterday afternoon the remains of Mr G. W. Walker, were interred at the Friends' Cemetery, Providence Valley; the procession left the Savings Bank premises, at 4 o'clock, the funeral being held under the direction of Mr. Rowland.

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The Hobart Town Savings' Bank, or, as it used to be frequently termed, "Mr Walker's Bank," owes its origin to a few individuals, of whom Mr Walker was at the time a prominent one, and under his management, it has flourished exceedingly. Mr Walker's aptitude for finance, his scrupulous punctuality, and his characteristic precision in all matters with which he had to do, rendered him a fitting Director of such an Institution. The amount of prosperity to which the Savings' Bank attained will be seen by the large number of depositors and of deposits, and by the handsome building now in the course of erection in Murray-street on the site of the Old Gaol, for the Bank premises, in the progress and completion of which he took a thorough interest; that he should not have lived to see the building finished, is one of the mysteries of

Yesterday afternoon the remains of Mr. G. W. Walker, were interred at the Friends' Cemetery, Providence Valley; the procession left the Savings' Bank premises, at a quarter to three o'clock, the funeral being under the direction of Mr. Rowatree. The body, contained in a leaden coffin, manufactured by Messrs. Davis and Semple, of Bathurst-street, which was enclosed in a pine and polished cedar shell, and a plate with simple inscription on the lid, was conveyed in a hearse. Then followed three carriages, containing Mrs. Walker and her daughters, Mrs. R. A. Mather, Mrs. Esther Mather, Mrs. Samuel Mather, and female members of their family, with Mrs. Sarah Crouch. Deceased's eldest son, followed as chief mourner, with the younger sons, the Messrs. Mather, and youthful members of their families. Among the followers were representatives of the Friends' Meeting, the Savings' Bank, Bible Society Committee, Total Abstinence Society, Tasmanian Temperance Alliance. Also a deputation from the Municipal Corporation, ministers of the several denominations, and a large number of influential and sympathizing friends, some of whose names we subjoin:—Rev. G. Clarke, (Independent); Rev. R. M'Clean, (Church of Scotland); Ven. Archdeacon Davies, (Church of England); Rev. Mr. Downes, (Knox's Free Church); Rev. Mr. Nesbit, (Independent); Revs. Messrs. Cope and Lelean, (Wesleyan); Rev. W. Day, (Independent); Messrs. Coggin, Gray, and Smales, (City Missionaries); Joseph Hone, Esq., (in a cab), Mr. Harrison, (Registrar of the Diocese of Tasmania), Mr. Allport, Mr. Chapman, M.P., Rev. Mr. Gellibrand, (Church of England), Capt. Fisher, Mr. Crouch, (T. J.) Mr. P. Facy, Mr. Joseph Facy, Mr. Stanton Crouch, Dr. Agnew, Mr. Cleburne, M.P., Mr. Whitcomb, Mr. Jas. Smith, Capt. Crosby, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Morris, Mr. Rothwell, Mr. Barlow, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman Murdoch, Alderman Propsting, Alderman Stewart, Mr. Joseph Andrews, Mr. W. J. F. Andrews, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Miller, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Cato, Mr. Samuel Cato, Mr. Burgess, Major Cotton, Mr. Murray Burgess, Mr. Kiscock, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Welch, Mr. Moss, His Honor Sir Valentine Fleming, Dr. Officer, Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. W. W. W., Mr. Cairnduff, Mr. Rolwegan, Mr. R. Shoebridge, Mr. Ball, Mr. Campbell, Mr. R. L. Hood, Mr. R. B. Bown, Mr. John Dunn, Mr. James A. Dunn, M.P., Mr. J. J. J. J., Mr. G. Salier, Mr. R. Rout, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Thomas Giblin, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Horton, Mr. Tolman, Mr. R. S. Waterhouse, and others, numbering in all about 150 persons. Several carriages, cabs, &c., brought up the rear of the procession. At the grave, prayer was offered, and short addresses given by Friends, after solemn pause, as is customary among the Friends. The whole service was very affecting, and pervading the vast assemblage were sentiments of affectionate sympathy with the bereaved, and of chastened sorrow at the dispensation by which one so estimable and so useful has been taken from our midst.

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