

In Memoriam.

MRS. SELWYN.

(From a Correspondent).³

Sarah Harriet Selwyn, the widow of the great missionary Bishop of New Zealand, and afterwards of Lichfield, passed peacefully away on Palm Sunday at Lichfield, where she has spent the twenty-nine years since her husband's death. She was born in 1811, and was, therefore, in her ninety-seventh year.

The daughter of an English Judge (Sir John Richardson), born in stirring times, political and social (she could just remember the news of the battle of Waterloo arriving in London), she must have been well-fitted by her brilliant personality to take her place in the world to which she belonged. But her marriage with George Augustus Selwyn in 1839 introduced her into different surroundings, and for more than twenty years she shared to the full his vigorous, strenuous life, and helped him, in New Zealand and Melanesia, as scarcely another woman could have done. Her great cultivation, for she came of a literary family, and inherited literary taste; her practical knowledge, her wit (that most uncommon attribute of a woman); and, above all, her devotion to Christ were all brought to bear upon the mission work, and to the end of her long life she loved the Maori and the Melanesian races—extolling their virtues, fighting their battles, and telling in a rarely brilliant and racy manner the wonderful story of her life among what were then called "savages." But she always told of what other people had done; of herself she did not tell, and, perhaps, among the greatest and most remarkable of her many fine qualities were the reticence, the invariable good taste, and the shrinking modesty of thought, as well as of word, which she showed about what she had done. No one will know—until the day when all may be revealed—what Mrs Selwyn's share really was in the evangelisation of the colonies where Bishop Selwyn's work lay.

She returned to England in 1867, when her husband became Bishop of Lichfield. It was evident that she had left at least half her heart on the other side of the world. But her versatility came to her aid, and it is certain that, considerable as may have been her influence in New Zealand, it soon became, if quieter, still as powerful for good, and as remarkable, in England. Those who knew, who saw behind the scenes, when things went wrongly and appeared suddenly to right themselves—said with a smile "Mrs Selwyn." But she did not appear. She was

rarely seen at a public meeting—in fact her shrinking from publicity of any kind was, even in those days, unusual. Her charity towards those who differed from her was unbounded, on this and on other points. But her quick-witted nature, her power of accurate and courteous expression of her meaning, enabled her to hold her own with dignity. Her reserve was great, and perhaps it never entirely melted, even towards those who knew her best. She inspired a large respect as well as love in those whom she honored with her regard. No account of her could be complete without a mention of her love of fun and real joy in a joke. She could tell one herself—nobody better. Yet although she was a first-rate talker she was an even better listener, and this quality of listening well increased rather than diminished with her extreme old age.

Naturally her very quiet, very womanly, but most powerful influence for good grew as she lived on. Quite quietly, quite privately, accessible to all her friends and acquaintances at almost any hour of the day in her little room at Lichfield, she spent the twenty-nine years after her husband's death. Seldom going away, except now and then to Cambridge, reading greatly, writing much, she kept herself in touch with New Zealand, and with the world. The largeness of her thought, as well as her knowledge of men and of affairs, led her to despise nothing and no one, but only to hold out compassionate hands to the simple and to help the fallen to rise, with the greatest simplicity and absolute unconsciousness of being better or of doing more than other people. Her life has been a varied, romantic, and unusual one in the highest degree, and her own world is the poorer for her death. But those of us who really knew her as she was owe a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid for her wonderful life amongst us. She is enshrined in our hearts as a courteous, Christian gentlewoman, high-minded, reticent, modest.

ly a man who "walked with God," and no one who met him even casually could help feeling that he was speaking to one who was constantly in converse with God in Prayer and Sacrament. The loss to his friends in general is very great, but to his Selworthy, Allerford, Lynch, and Bossington friends it is impossible to estimate. He voluntarily threw himself whole-heartedly into the work at the Chapel of Ease at Lynch, and though hampered latterly by increasing age, he still did that which he had set himself with a determination and vitality which many a younger man might envy. The children who came to his Sunday school at Lynch know well what a loving friend and shepherd they have lost; for he had won their hearts completely by his gentleness and goodness, and then gathered them round him to teach them of that Faith which was the mainstay of his own life. The attendance at the Memorial Service held at Lynch Chapel of Ease on the Sunday following his death testified to the affection in which he was held by all, and the recollection of such a Service must not a little help to lighten the weight of sorrow which the members of his family are being called upon to bear. It remains to us who are left long to remember the example of this saintly man and Priest, and strive to copy that which we have so clearly seen; knowing that, if we do, our lives will indeed come nearer to that Perfect Pattern set forth in the life of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

Extracts from the "Porlock Vale Magazine," February, 1907.

We have to record this month, alas, the passing into Paradise of a very dear friend and neighbor, Canon St. Hill. A fuller obituary notice appears in the Selworthy news, so we will do no more than express our deep sorrow for our great loss—especially felt by the people of Bossington—and also our heartfelt sympathy with Mrs J. Dyke Acland and Miss St. Hill.

ANGLICAN CHURCH JUBILEE.

NAPIER CELEBRATIONS.

The jubilee of the Church was celebrated in Napier by celebrations of the Holy Communion at 8 and 11 a.m., and by a public meeting in the Theatre Royal. There was a large attendance. Mr T. Tanner occupied the chair. Among those on the platform were the Bishop, clergymen and representative laymen, and a combined choir under the conductorship of Mr J. H.

HARRY WOODFORD ST. HILL.

We deeply regret to record the death of Canon St. Hill, which took place at San Remo, Italy, on Tuesday, January 15th, of heart failure. Canon St. Hill had lived amongst us for only six years, but in that short time had endeared himself to all, both rich and poor, with whom he came into contact by his gentleness, kindness and sympathy. These traits in his character were undoubtedly the result of a deep spirituality, for he was emphatical-