

## MRS MORLEY.

Hannah Watson, the beloved wife of Rev. Wm. Morley, was the eldest child and only daughter of the late Rev. G. Buttle. She was born at the Wesleyan Mission station, Te Kopua, Waipa, on January 24th, 1845. Losing her mother when only twelve years of age, and having seven brothers, she became thoughtful beyond her years. Her education began at the Rev. Thomas Buddle's—of whose home she was an inmate for some time—and was carried on at Wesley College, Auckland, and subsequently in England, where her father had taken the family. They returned to New Zealand in 1868, and in 1867 she became the wife of Mr Morley, whose home she made, blessed, and brightened for thirty-one years.

Naturally amiable and affectionate, she easily made friends, and by her keen sympathy in their joys and sorrows, retained their friendship. She was a model housewife, and by reason of her careful management, was able always to extend a generous hospitality, in the exercise of which she greatly delighted, and regarded it as a Christian duty. Naturally active, she was untiring in her industry, and for many years was the earliest riever and last to retire, her hands being ceaselessly employed. While her own family was never neglected, she found time to be "a succourer of many," and to the poor she was a good friend.

Brought up in a Christian home, she never knew the date of her conversion. But of the fact of her adoption into God's family, she was conscious from early girlhood. In the formation of her character she always attributed much to the influence of Mrs William Gittos, who was her teacher in Wesley College, and whom she revered exceedingly. Her religious life was marked by deep humility, earnest trust in the Atonement, and a daily dependence on the Holy Spirit's guidance. The habit of secret devotion was strong, and even in the busiest period of her life, with all her children about her, the "quiet hour" with God was never set aside. Devotional aids were not disdained, but specially she grew strong by reading the Scriptures with prayer for divine enlightenment. Willing always to please others in things indifferent, she was inflexible where principle was concerned.

Before marriage, and more conspicuously after it, she threw herself into the activities of church life with all the ardour and energy of her nature. Discharging her home duties with scrupulous care, she found time to act as class leader in several circuits, to work with the ladies of the congregations for financial objects, and above all, to visit the poor and aged. Her love for the Maori Mission never waned, and though the year at Three Kings College overtaxed her strength, she was loth to leave the Maori boys.

Foreign Missions of late took a deep hold upon her, and the young ladies who helped her in this the last 18 months know how she rejoiced in her success. Naturally generous, she cultivated the grace of liberality, and was always planning how much more she could give.

Mrs Morley's hospitality knew no bounds. She was always keeping open house, and go when one might there was not only a welcome, but there were sure to be other guests. There was no house to which the brethren of the ministry felt freer to go or in which they could enjoy a more profitable and pleasant conversation. Her lot for many years past has been cast in the large centres, and the total amount of entertaining she has done must be enormous.

That her husband was able to do so much outside work for the Church was chiefly owing to her unselfishness. Though she

felt the burden of being left so much, yet when the work was determined on she never repined, but by frequent letters heartened him in his work. She was recognised by all who knew her as a model minister's wife. Church affairs were her hobby. In them her duty was her delight, and she understood her duty to be anything and everything that her hand found to do. She was equally at home in the weekly concerns of her own circuit and the larger questions of administration and Conference policy; and one rarely conversed with her without speaking of the work of God, and discovering both her insight and her anxious interest. She was interested in all departments of our own Church, and thoroughly loyal, but she had Christian fellowship with many elect ladies of other communions, and some of them were very close friends.

The following particulars of the appointments in which she has been her husband's true helpmeet will be of melancholy interest. The first year of her married life (1867) was spent at the Hutt, which was then part of Wellington Circuit. Rev. W. Kirk was Superintendent, and the Rev. J. S. Rishworth was third minister—stationed in Wairarapa. Next year they were removed to Wanganui, where they remained three years. They were preceded by the Rev. Isaac Harding, and followed by the Rev. W. C. Oliver. In 1871 they were appointed to Lyttelton, then for the first time a separate circuit. At the end of two years the necessities of the Connexion took them to Wellington, where Mr Morley was District Chairman for the first time. They followed the Rev. T. Buddle, and were followed by Rev. A. Reid. During his three years in Wellington Mr Morley had three colleagues in succession—the Revs. Smalley, Lewis, and Dewsbury. In 1876 Durham street was reached in succession to the Rev. J. Buller. The colleagues being the Revs. J. Berry, W. Worker, and J. Luxford—one year each. During this period Mr Morley edited the *Wesleyan*. In 1879 he went to Pitt street, Auckland, and was President of the N.Z. Conference. After three years they returned to Christchurch, St. Albans, where the second Presidency occurred, and the raising of the Loan Fund. In 1885 they went to Dunedin, returning to Durham street in 1888. The second appointment covered a visit to England, and extended to four years. In this period, too, the Jubilee Fund was raised. In 1892 the Principals of Three Kings was the appointment, and here, as already mentioned, the deceased lady found a constant labour of love. Next year, 1893, the Connexional Secretaryship was instituted, and from that time till her death she was frequently deprived of the society of her husband for long periods. Add to this the two years during each of which Mr Morley visited every place in the Colony, to raise first the Loan Fund and then the Jubilee Fund, and it will be seen that in this respect alone there were many years of hard self-denial in Mrs Morley's life. But this only served to bring her strong qualities into clearer light.

The family knew, and she knew, three years ago, that life might terminate suddenly. But after the first shock, she braced herself up, and was more bright, gentle, and diligent than ever, though weakness gradually became more apparent. Fear of death she had none, and some years since, the dread of its physical accessories was taken away. Though very unwell for a few days previously, the last afternoon of her life she was wonderfully bright. At night the watchers thought she was doing well, when in sleep the change came, and the family were only in time to see her without struggle or pain breathe her last. She slept, and

woke to all the joy and rapture of Paradise. Now "her children rise up and call her blessed." And for her "being absent from the body, she is at home with the Lord."

## THE FUNERAL.

Long before the appointed hour—2 p.m., Monday, June 13th—the people began to gather in Durham street Church, which was draped in black. Methodists from far and near were, of course, in the majority; but all Communionists were represented by many leading citizens and by ministers. As time went on the great church filled, and when at length the coffin and the mourners arrived, the place was speedily packed. The coffin was beautiful in finish and mounting, and was borne by Messrs R. Hill Fisher, F. Tregear, A. R. England, and H. A'Court, G. J. Smith, M.H.R., and R. W. Wake.

As the day was fine, Mr Morley was permitted by his medical adviser to attend. He was supported by his eldest son and daughter. The other members of his family were accompanied by Mrs W. Morley, Messrs Henry, Benjamin, and the Rev. J. N. Buttle, brothers of the deceased, and a number of other sorrowing friends. Within the communion rail were the Revs. H. Bull, D. McNicoll, W. Baumber, W. Lee, D. J. Murray, and P. W. Fairclough. As the tones of the organ died away Mr McNicoll gave out a hymn; Mr Murray followed with the 90th Psalm; and while Mr Bull prayed a great wave of emotion swept over the throng. After a second hymn Mr Lee delivered a brief and moving address. Mr Baumber then read part of 1 Cor. xv., and another hymn was sung. The organ pealed forth solemnly again, and the mortal remains of our Sister Morley were borne out of the church she had loved and served so long and so well. The service was a most memorable one, and must have touched every heart present. The cortege was long and representative; and a great crowd had assembled at the Linwood Cemetery before it arrived. The commitment was read by the Rev. H. Bull; the Rev. P. W. Fairclough engaged in prayer; and Mr Bull concluded this most solemn and imposing funeral with the benediction.

Amongst others, floral tributes were sent by the following:—Rev. J. N. and Mrs Buttle, Timaru; Rev. H. Bull and family, Sydenham; Rev. W. G. and Mrs Parsonson, Napier; Rev. J. G. and Mrs Carr, Rangiora; Rev. D. J. and Mrs Murray, Lyttelton; Mrs Wilcox; Mrs R. Dawson, Sydenham; Mr and Mrs G. J. Smith, Sydenham; Mr and Mrs F. Tregear, Durham street; Mr and Mrs J. C. Prudhoe, Mr and Mrs R. W. England, Mr and Mrs A. R. England, Mr and Mrs R. W. England, junr., Mr and Mrs Chas. Gill, Mr and Mrs S. Gill, Mr and Mrs Coverdale, Mrs W. Strange, Mr and Mrs W. Harris, Mr and Mrs Hill Fisher, Mr and Mrs R. T. Searoll, Mr and Mrs E. C. Brown, Mr and Mrs A'Court, Mrs Aloud, Mr and Mrs Joseph Ballantyne, Mr and Mrs Wm. Ballantyne, Mrs Chas. Gould, Mr and Mrs John Ballantyne and family; Mr and Mrs Corrigan, Wellington; Sister Christian; Trustees Durham street Church; teachers Durham street Sunday School; Ladies' Guild, Durham street; Y.P.S. Christian Endeavour, Girls' Missionary Society, Miss Morley's Sunday School class; employees Briscoe, Maconell, and Co., Wellington; the Deaf Children, Summer Institute; employees, E. Reece and Sons; Mrs Pemberton and family, Mrs and Mrs Coleman, Mr and Mrs Morgan Watson, Mr and Mrs W. R. Cumberworth, Mr, Mrs, and Miss Burgess, Mrs Grishaber, Misses Cunningham, Mrs and Misses Smith, Mrs Corrick and family, Mr and Mrs M. Connell, Mesdames Jakins and Gittos, Miss Jakins, Hon. J. T. and Mrs Peacock, Mr and Mrs G. T. Booth; Mr and Mrs S. Haynes, Dunedin; Mr and Mrs John Ballantyne, Ruapuna; Mr Ken Bassett, Mr, Mrs, and Misses Leslie, Miss Turner.

The great Duke of Wellington (says an exchange) bore for five and thirty years of his life the surname of Wesley. The registry of his birth names him as Arthur Wesley, and he sat in the Irish House of Commons with that surname. He changed his name from Wesley to Wellesly to dissociate himself from all implied relationship with the renowned Founder of Methodism.