

Register 16th Sep 1896



THE LATE MR. J. A. HARTLEY, INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF SCHOOLS.

mission appointed in November, 1881. The investigation, which was very exhaustive, was confined mainly to primary education. The Commission found that the transfer of powers from the Council to the responsible Minister had been beneficial, and that there had been marked and progressive improvement in organization and in the quality of the education imparted. Some of the witnesses complained that the Inspector-General had been overbearing and arbitrary in his manner and official conduct, but the more serious charges were not sustained. Indeed the Commission entertained no doubt of Mr. Hartley's desire to be fair and to act justly. Their report concluded with a tribute to the Inspector-General's indefatigable industry, marked administrative power, and enthusiasm in promoting the education of the children of the people. And that testimony will be endorsed by every one, except perhaps the very few who could not judge his motives, for the simple reason that they were not acquainted with him, or were unable to appreciate the combination of foresight, calmness, and earnest purpose which characterized his temperament. He fought his way through unpopularity, till ultimately the few who were his opponents were only those who had not been brought into contact with him. No man in the colony more completely outlived the prejudices formed against him.

As general director of the school system of the colony, Mr. Hartley was entitled to credit for the admirable methods adopted from time to time, and for numerous reforms in our national system of education. The improvement in the teaching of arithmetic, for instance, must ever be associated with his name. The old abstract method was supplanted by the concrete and more realistic mode. The perfecting of the work and manner of teaching was really the life work of the late Inspector-General, and various textbooks in use in the schools owe their origin to Mr. Hartley's special preparation. He was practically the guiding spirit of the Education Department from almost its very beginnings to its present position. The introduction of free education involved increased labour, but Mr. Hartley was equal to the responsibilities of the work and to the demands which were made upon the department. Indeed, Mr. Hartley was universally acknowledged to be the one man in South Australia competent to shape the destinies of our department of national instruction. When in December, 1875, he was appointed President of the Council of Education, the Hon. J. P. (now Mr. Justice) Boucaut was Premier, and the Hon. E. Ward, M.L.C., was the Ministerial head of the department. The other members of the Government were His Honor the Chief Justice, the late Sir William Morgan, Sir John Colton, and the Hon. T. Playford, now Agent-General for South Australia in England. Sir William Morgan was Premier of the colony when he took office as Inspector-General, and the late Hon. Thomas King was Minister of Education. Since then Mr. Hartley had served under the Hons. F. Basedow, J. L. Parsons, Sir E. T. Smith, Sir R. C. Baker and Dr. Cockburn, Mr. J. C. F. Johnson, the Hon. J. H. Gordon, the late Hon. D. Bews, the Hon. J. G. Jenkins, Mr. W. Copley, the Hon. J. H. Gordon, Mr. Copley, also a second time, and the present Minister, the Hon. Dr. Cockburn. A few years ago the late Inspector-

General visited New South Wales at the request of the Government to report on the question of religious instruction in the public schools of that colony, and on his return he presented a report which was of great public interest and value.

Mr. Hartley's high position in the education world and his great talents were recognised by his unanimous election as President of the important Conference of Teachers which was held at Ballarat this year.

For many years the late Mr. Hartley was a leading member of the Council of the University of Adelaide, and no one was more present in his attendance, and took a more prominent part in the deliberations of the Council. This was recognised in 1893,

when he was appointed Vice-Chancellor in succession to Dr. Farr, a position which he held up to the time of his decease. Mr. Hartley was a member of the Council of the Roseworthy Agricultural College, which was appointed just twelve months ago.

The *Education Gazette*, the monthly organ of the Education Department, has been issued for many years under the direction of Mr. Hartley, who also supervised the publication of the *Children's Hour*, a popular paper devoted to intelligence for the children of the public schools. The South Australian Teachers' Association, the Public Schools' Floral and Industrial Society, the Public Schools' Decoration Society, and other organizations connected with the schools of course had his active assistance. Mr. Hartley was the prime mover in the establishment of the Public Teachers' Provident Fund, an institution which almost amounts to a superannuation scheme for old and disabled teachers.

The late Inspector-General was actively interested in the Public Service Association from its inception. He was one of the founders of this body, and held office as President on several occasions. For many years he ably edited the *Public Service Journal*, the organ of the Association. He was also associated with the late Commissioner Peterswald, Mr. Peer Whittington, Mr. T. Gill, Mr. B. Somon, and others in forming the Public Service Provident Fund, and he was on the Board of Governors of this fund up to the time of his death.

Only those who were intimately associated with him know his restless energy and the enormous amount of work which he performed beside of his strictly official duties. Whether in connection with the Public Schools Exhibitions, the Public Schools Decorations Society, or the organizations attached to the public service he was essentially a moving spirit, and took the liveliest interest in them all.

Loyalty to the principles of absolute justice governed all his actions publicly and privately. Teachers looked upon him as a true friend, and his influence over the whole department was remarkable. His attitude to his subordinates was ever that of a considerate friend giving advice rather than as a superior exercising his authority. He was not only a perfect educationist, but he combined with this quality a character and a reputation so stainless and bright that he might almost be described as an ideal friend of the innocent children whom he loved and sought to serve. He was a pattern for imitation by every teacher and every pupil in our public schools.

Mr. Hartley was the Secretary and Compiler of a well-known Book Club, whose members are leading citizens. To him was

to the sole choice of the books and periodicals for circulation among the members. He was also a member of the North-terrace Whist Club, and was associated with the old Kensington Whist Club, which is not now in existence. Mr. Hartley has left a widow but no family. Several years ago he adopted a little girl.

THE INQUEST.

The City Coroner, Dr. H. T. Whittell, on Tuesday afternoon, held an enquiry at the Adelaide Hospital into the circumstances surrounding the death of John Anderson Hartley.

Mr. James Hatt was elected Foreman. After the Jury had been sworn in the Coroner intimated that the police had not had time to work up the evidence in connection with the case, and he therefore only proposed to take evidence as to the identity of the deceased that afternoon. After this had been taken he would adjourn the enquiry until the police were ready with the evidence.

Harry Alexander Curtis, Chief Clerk in the office of Inspector-General of Schools, identified the body as that of John Anderson Hartley. He was Inspector-General of Schools, and resided at Baliol-street, College Park. The deceased was 52 years of age. He had seen him almost daily, and was under the impression that he was in good health. He was not, so far as witness was aware, subjected to fainting fits, but, on the contrary, the deceased was of a very healthy constitution. He thought the deceased had taken to bicycling during the last two months. He had never seen him riding, and could not say whether he was an expert rider. He was a very cautious man and would not run into danger.

The Coroner stated that they had taken sufficient evidence to allow of the body being buried, and he therefore adjourned the enquiry to the request of the Jury until Friday morning, at 11 o'clock.

EULOGISTIC REFERENCES.

TRIBUTE FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

The Hon. Dr. Cockburn, the Minister for Education and Agriculture, was associated with the late Inspector-General of Schools at various times for nearly six years, and he is deeply affected, not only by the loss of one with whom he has been for so long a period on intimate official relations, but also of a valued personal friend. Speaking to one of his staff on Tuesday, the Minister made the following tribute to the character of the late Inspector-General of Schools:—
[I regarded Mr. Hartley as an ideal educationalist, not only from his extensive technical knowledge of all subjects relating to education, from the infant school to the university, but also from his infinite worth as a man, his high sense of honour, his courage, and his absolute devotion to truth and justice, uniting to form an ideal which should be held before both teachers and children as the pattern on which the lines of character should be formed. Of all the men I have ever known or read of, there is no one, in my opinion,

possessed more of the qualities to be
ed in one holding the high and responsible
sion of guardian of the minds of children.
at loss is simply irreparable, and no man
on as occupied a public position in South
in alia will ever be more sincerely mourned
ony the community. His was popularity in
ted best sense of the word. The high
ap- in which he was held by the public
then result of his unflinching performance
Com^a in the face of many difficulties, as
agree who remember the
Commission, which sat some four-
s ago. That was the time of his
from it he emerged triumphant.

Only those who had the privilege of his personal knowledge knew the gentleness which was associated with his firmness as an administrator. Nothing occasioned him greater pain than when any of his subordinates fell under the censure of the department, and little do some who at times have thought him severe know the infinite trouble he took in bringing forward every plea which could be urged as a mitigation of any punishment that had to be inflicted. Mr. Hartley's reputation was not limited to South Australia. He was regarded as one of the world's authorities on education. During his illness telegrams were received from Ministers in the adjoining colonies anxiously enquiring as to his condition. Mr. Hartley's whole life was indeed wrapped up in the work of the department, which to him was a labour of love. Many more highly remunerative positions elsewhere have been offered to tempt him away from the position which he filled so well. But the work itself and not the salary formed in his eyes its own reward. He was the author of practically all the books used in our schools and also used largely in the schools of the adjoining colonies, and the profits realized by the department from the sale of his books have for years past more than covered the amount of his official salary. At the time that he met with the unfortunate accident he was busily engaged in planning the additional publication of books which will be necessary in view of the proposed free supply to children. Of course, all the public schools in the colony will be closed to-day, the day of the funeral, and instructions to that effect have already been dispatched through Sir Charles Todd to every school within reach of our telegraph system." The Commissioner of Police has undertaken to marshal the procession.

EULOGY BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY.

A member of our staff waited upon His Honor the Chief Justice, Chancellor of the University, on Tuesday afternoon, when the Chancellor passed the following eulogy upon the life of the late Inspector-General of Schools:—"The great loss which every member of the community has sustained in the death of Mr. Hartley is accentuated in my case by the fact that for more than a quarter of a century we were closely associated in educational work, and he was a valued personal friend. I noticed Mr. Hartley's remarkable talents and administrative ability from the time he became Head Master of Prince Alfred College. I believe it was on my suggestion that he was appointed to a seat on the old Education Board. The Boucaut Administration, of which I was a member, passed the new Education Act of 1875. The Bill was drafted by the Premier, Mr. Boucaut, and a grave responsibility was thrown upon the Administration of the day in selecting the official who was to be the head of the new department. On my recommendation Mr. Hartley was appointed to that position with the title of President of the Council of Education. Never was an appointment more signally justified. The task before him was herculean in character, and no one who has watched the development of our education system can fail to recognise that it is a monument to Mr. Hartley's remarkable energy, courage, administrative skill, and devotion to his work. In all my experience I have never

known a more persistent and capable or more facile worker. In fact he seemed insensible to fatigue, and I have often remarked the readiness with which he turned from one task to another of an entirely different character. Like myself, Mr. Hartley was a member of the University Association, which was formed to give practical effect to the munificent donations of the late Sir Walter Watson Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder, which resulted in the foundation of the University. That Association co-operated with the Government of the time in the framing and passage through Parliament of the University Act and the endowments both in money and land provided by that measure. Mr. Hartley was appointed a member of the first University Council, and he continued to be a member ever since that body became an elective one. From the very outset he was an active member of the committees of the Council and of most of the Faculties. It is no exaggeration to say that the curriculum in each of the University schools bears traces of his remarkable influence. The same also may be said with respect to the statutes and regulations which form the constitution of the University, and which a few years ago were amended and consolidated by his draftsman's hand. The present system of University examinations—the old matriculation examination—the Preliminary, the Junior, the Senior, and the Advanced—were all the product of his readiness of resource, his unrivalled experience, and a practical genius. In fact, no one has worked a larger share than himself in the history of the University from the beginning to the present time, nor had any one exercised a more commanding influence in bringing the institution to its present development. His position as Inspector-General of Schools, and his experience as an educationist in the advanced schools—at Prince Alfred College and in his previous career—placed him more completely in touch than perhaps any other man connected with the University with each successive stage of education, from the primary schools to the University itself. The public have no conception of the time which he spent, quite apart from his official duties, in honorary work for the University as an examiner, and upon the various committees and Faculties. Nor was his work for the University of an exclusively academical character. For many years up to the time of his death he served on the Finance Committee, and for some time he was Chairman of both the Finance and Education Committees, at which most of the administrative work of the University is threshed out. It was in recognition of his distinguished services that when the Ven. Archdeacon Farr retired from the Vice-Chancellorship in 1893 Mr. Hartley was unanimously elected to succeed him. In reviewing the history of the University it is my opinion that the record of the late Vice-Chancellor's distinguished service has been unsurpassed by any member of the Council or the Senate. I am sure also that South Australia has had no abler, more conscientious, or indefatigable public servant, or one animated by a higher sense of duty or greater fearlessness, than the late Mr. Hartley. When I was in Canada I was accustomed to see the bust of Dr. Ryerson—a Methodist, like Mr. Hartley—in all the public schools. I

should like our own lamented fellow-colonist's distinguished services to our system of education recognised in the same manner, and his work and example thus daily recalled to the boys and girls in our public schools, for whom he toiled so enthusiastically, so untiringly, and so well."

TRIBUTE BY COLONEL MADLEY.

Colonel Madley, the Commissioner of Police, who until lately was Principal of the Training College, was asked if he desired to say anything with regard to the life of his late respected friend. The Colonel, speaking to our representative under feelings of deep emotion, remarked—"Well, you may say if you like that I was associated with Mr. Hartley for the last twenty-two years, and was admitted to his confidence in nearly all matters pertaining to the department. During the whole of that time our intercourse was one of unbroken friendship; indeed, never did I hear one hard or cross word from his lips, although at times we differed in our opinions. My feeling for the late Mr. Hartley was one of reverence. I never met a man so thoroughly devoted to his work and to the interests of those under him as he was at all times. His grasp of work to the minutest detail was simply phenomenal. He considered no trouble too great to work out the simplest detail on every matter that came before him. In his administration and his dealings with those under him he was—well, the very essence of justice. He was one of the most tender-hearted men I ever met. There were many cases where at his personal expense he relieved distress, and this was known to but very few. Truly he never let his left hand know what his right hand did. To a teacher in sickness or distress he had the heart of a woman. I have known that man," said Colonel Madley, "come to my office on occasions when he had to express his disapprobation of the conduct of teachers in the shape of punishment, and tell me the circumstances with tears in his eyes."

A FRIEND'S TRIBUTE.

Among the many thousands who regret most deeply the loss of such a sterling man as the late Mr. J. A. Hartley is his old companion and intimate friend, Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc., Principal of Prince Alfred College, who succeeded the late Inspector-General of Schools in the Head Mastership of that excellent institution. Speaking to a representative of the *Register* yesterday, Mr. Chapple said—"You put it quite correctly; the loss of Mr. Hartley is a national one. He was a man whose equal it would be hard to find; he was so genuine, so earnest, so full of his work, and so tireless in the pursuit of his duty. He was the best friend I ever had in my life—a man you could always be sure of if you wanted safe advice, for he was full of kindness and information. There were three of us friends—J. A. Hartley, Joe Sunter, and myself—and I am the only one left of the trio. We used to be together as often as possible. Yes, I am the only one

left," added Mr. Chapple, with a sigh, "now poor Hartley has gone. I need not tell you the history of his connection with this College. It has been published; but I may say without disparagement to his predecessor that with his great administrative ability and uncommon grasp of things he made marked improvements in the general order of things. The school had only been established for two years, and there was much in the way of organization to do, but he was equal to it and was soon master of the situation. Naturally he gave to the work his whole time and attention, and laid down rules to the excellence of which the condition of the College eloquently testifies. When I succeeded him I found it in the perfection of order, and continued on the admirable system

he established. He never lost interest in the institution, even after he had severed his connection with it. He based his system on the lines of the modern school, giving due attention to mathematical science and those branches of education that South Australian boys need. He was a man of strong personality and distinct force of character, with a great faculty for mastering details and remembering them. He remembered every boy's career, his capabilities, and his peculiarities. I found existing amongst the lads the most enthusiastic admiration and fond affection for him, and his reception at the old scholars' meetings was proof of the esteem in which he was held. They seemed to have the feeling that they might never look upon his like again. It was one of my difficulties as his successor to attain to his standard, for I did not mind being a Jonathan to his David, but felt I could not be such a David as he was. No; being short-sighted he could not join in the sports of the boys as some masters do, but he had a hearty sympathy for them, and in Debating and Literary Societies he was one of the warmest debaters, encouraging the others to the utmost. It was his custom to have the boys and men like the Rev. T. E. Thomas, the late J. Sunter, and Mr. Scott round at his house on a Saturday. He never considered his work done; he was always at it, morning, noon, and night; his whole life was given to it. He was for many years Trustee and Secretary of the Kent Town Wesleyan Church, and was always loyal to the Church of his father. He detested everything mean and despicable, and was down upon any boy who 'did contemptible things, visiting him with righteous indignation. He could gauge a boy's mental capacity accurately, and was exceedingly clear in his demonstrations. His real leaning was towards a literary life, and he once said to me, 'I could never have been a wrangler, but I think I should have done something in classics.' His recreations were simple; he was exceedingly fond of amateur gardening, and encouraged many of the students in it, and he was also a great walker, besides being given to exercise on the tricycle. He took the gold medal in the London University for botany, and always retained his love for the practical part of the science. He was a clever whistplayer, and a companionable man. In his earlier days most com- ment at the Wesleyan College, Sheffield, when a st was wont to preach, and I think he also when he came to South-Aus- preached & did a lot of good work at the tralia. He where he was a leading man on University, question, being such a master of almost every q- ing so firm a grasp of things. details and having occasion, when a number remember on one certainly drawing up a l- us were struggling - it to me; I'll bring- course, he said 'Give -,' and he did, ret- back on Monday morning - done, too." ing the work done, and well -

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EULOGY BY DR. T. L., Prince half-

Dr. W. G. Torr, M.A., B.C., of the sent a Way Colleege, writes:—"The sign- after masted flag on the Post-office to- thrill through the college. One another came up saying half-whispering, 'Is that for Mr. Hartley, Sir?' It seemed too much for us all. I could only remember a young man twenty years ago trying to help himself to study, who, meeting Mr. Hartley, then Chairman of the Board of Education,

was asked, 'Why don't you come to me? I'll help you.' I reminded him that I had three friends in the same trouble. Classical coaches were unknown in those days. 'Bring them with you,' was the ready answer, and for weeks and months he took us in that beautiful little cottage home at College Park, without fee or reward. He rarely, if ever, missed his evening with us, and this in a time when all his energies were concentrated in laying the foundation of our unexcelled public-school education system. I remember one night, after a more drastic than usual criticism in the daily Press, his bending his head upon his hands at our expression of sympathy, and remaining so for some time. At last, lifting up his head, showing marks of the burden of worry, he said, 'I wonder if I shall ever live through it.' How nobly he has done so, and how on the Continent of Europe as well as in the Australian Colonies the name of John Anderson Hartley is recognised as the founder and organizer of one of the best State-school systems in any part of the world, is a duty for others to tell. Hearts, as well as eyes, are too heavy for words to-day, but one who knew him well would like to lay the above reminiscence as a memento on his coffin."

An old and esteemed friend of the late Mr. Hartley, in the course of a feeling reference to the deceased gentleman's life, states:—"Up to Sunday morning the symptoms were decidedly favourable, and the doctors entertained considerable hopes of the possibility of a recovery, although at no time would they give any definite statement to that effect, as the chances of recovery in such cases of fracture of the skull are considerably against the patient. It was on Sunday evening that the symptoms assumed an unfavourable aspect, while on Monday morning the patient assumed a drowsy state, and the temperature at the same time became most unsatisfactory. From Monday morning the deceased gentleman began to sink, and then became unconscious up till a few minutes past 9 this morning, when he breathed his last. Mrs. Hartley, who was attended by Mrs. Sunter, widow of the late classical Master of Prince Alfred College, most of the time, was present when her husband died. Professor Watson and Drs. Hayward, Corbin, Lendon, Russell, and Stirling were most unremitting in their attentions."

It is a coincidence that Mr. Hartley should have died within a few weeks of the death of Mr. J. T. Sunter, B.A., who was Second Master of Prince Alfred College, Mr. Hartley and Mr. Sunter being inseparable friends. At the annual dinner of the Prince Alfred Old Collegians' Association this year it was decided to send a letter to Mrs. Sunter expressing sympathy with her in her husband's illness and the hope that he would soon recover. Mrs. Sunter received the letter just about the time of her husband's death. On Saturday last, at the annual meeting of the same Association, a similar letter was directed to be sent to Mrs. Hartley; this letter was posted on Monday.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Mr. Hartley will leave the Adelaide Hospital at 12 noon to-day for the North-road Cemetery. The Rev. R. S. Casely, minister of the Pirie-street Wesleyan Church, will hold a short service in the Hospital Chapel at half-past 11, and the service at the grave will

be conducted by the Rev. Canon Poole, of Ballarat, who will arrive by the Melbourne express this morning. The funeral arrangements will be carried out by Messrs. Pengelley and Knabe.

The Minister of Education, Hon. Dr. Cockburn, has directed that all schools under the department shall be closed to-day. Teachers of city and suburban and other schools near Adelaide are invited to allow any scholars of the second class and upwards, who desire to do so, to follow in procession. It will be necessary that they should assemble in assigned positions in Frome-road at 11.30.

A meeting of head teachers was held at the Training College last evening for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements.

The remains of the deceased gentleman will be buried alongside those of the late Mr. Sunter.

UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENTS POSTPONED.

In consequence of the lamented death of Mr. Hartley, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, the conversazione which had been arranged for last evening in connection with the University Boating Club has been postponed till a future date. The lecture by Dr. Stirling announced for this evening will not be delivered. The course will be resumed next Wednesday. Professor Mitchell's education class did not, for the same reason, meet last night.

GRIEF IN THE COUNTRY.

Port Pirie, September 15.

Mr. Hartley's death is regarded here as a national loss. Deep regret and widespread sympathy are being expressed, and many persons would have attended the funeral had the time been opportune.

Maitland, September 15.

Profound regret was expressed here on receipt of the intelligence that the recent accident to Mr. Hartley had resulted fatally.

Farrell's Flat, September 15.

General regret was expressed here on the news being circulated of Mr. Hartley's death, the loss of such an able officer being felt keenly.

Yorketown, September 15.

Much regret is felt on account of Mr. Hartley's death. ~~Expressed~~ 11 half past.

Eudunda, September 15.

Great regret is expressed here by the public school teachers and Eudunda residents at the death of Mr. J. A. Hartley.

Broken Hill, September 15.

The news of the death of Mr. J. A. Hartley was received with general regret. The deceased gentleman had numerous friends in Broken Hill.

A WREATH FROM VICTORIA.

Melbourne, September 15.

The Minister of Education has telegraphed to Adelaide giving instructions that on behalf of the Victorian Education Department a wreath should be placed on the coffin of Mr. Hartley, the late Inspector-General of Schools.

REGRET IN SYDNEY.

Sydney, September 15.

Much regret is expressed in education circles here at the lamentable death of Mr. J. Hartley.

MR. HARTLEY'S FUNERAL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—May I suggest that the children of State schools in and around the city should be allowed to take some part in the funeral of their departed friend Mr. Hartley? It would be a fitting and touching tribute to the memory of one whose best powers have been devoted to the children's service. The debt they owe to him can only be fully recognised when they are old enough to appreciate his great work, and it will be pleasant in those after years to remember the part they took in the funeral of their teacher.

I am, Sir, &c.,

S. B.