

DEATH OF PROMINENT TRADESMAN.

Mr. John V. Harger.

The death, which took place on Friday, of Mr. John Vincent Harger, of Goldielands, Settle, removes from the district one of our most respected townsmen. He was the second son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Harger, and was 79 years of age. Early in life he took a keen interest in the Wesleyan Church, and in 1867 became a preacher. From then until towards the end of 1925 he had travelled long distances into remote villages and hamlets, and on many occasions on foot, in pursuance of his duties as a preacher. Wherever he went he was liked by all.

Mr. Harger had long been associated with the firm of Harger Brothers, furnishers and cabinet-makers—about the oldest established firm of that nature in the district. At one time there was a considerable "handicraft" branch to this business, and, although this branch was sold some years ago, it is still carried on in Edinburgh under the style of Harger.

In addition to holding many offices in the Wesleyan Church, Mr. Harger was a member of the Good Templars and the Band of Hope United Kingdom Alliance. A keen nature-lover, Mr. Harger was also a wide reader, especially of books of a historical or geographical nature. He visited and conversed with the inmates of the Poor Law Institution at Giggleswick every Saturday afternoon for many years, and no case of sickness or need which was brought to his attention was overlooked by him.

Mrs. Harger, to whom he was married in 1872, predeceased him almost two years ago, and it was after this blow, together with the death of his brother, Mr. Thomas Harger, that his health began to fail.

The interment took place at Settle Churchyard on Monday afternoon. A service was held in the Wesleyan Church by the Rev. J. Wells, who gave a beautiful address, outlining the life of Mr. Harger. The Rev. W. H. Batho-Gibbon and the Rev. L. J. Malkinson assisted. The choir was in attendance, and the hymns, "Now the labourer's task is o'er" and "The King of love, my Shepherd is," were sung, as well as the 90th psalm. Mr. W. T. Walker was at the organ. The Rev. T. F. B. Twemlow conducted the committal service.

The very large attendance was a moving tribute to the esteem and regard the people had for Mr. Harger.

Amongst the floral tributes were those from the following:—Jos. and Mary; Winifred, Margaret and Jack (his grandchildren), with tenderest and most grateful memories; In loving remembrance, from Kate, Pollie and Sallie; In loving memory, from Madge and Harry; In loving memory of Uncle John, from Gertie and Eddy; With deepest sympathy, from Mrs. T. Harger, Eric and Percy; In remembrance, from Mrs. Robert Peel, Caton; With loving sympathy, from Mrs. Beckett; Kind thoughts and deepest sympathy, from Miss Hard, Mrs. Ashcroft and Mrs. Smart; In loving memory and sincere sympathy, from W. Preston; In affectionate remembrance, from the employees; In kind remembrance, from the Wesleyan Church and Sunday School; from the friends at the Hellfield Wesleyan Church; Kind remembrances, from the Longpreston friends.

Fully ripe and only waiting for the Master's call;
Faithful unto death in telling joyful news to all;
Finished all his earthly course, and ended all the strife;
Now through the gates he enters to receive the crown of life.

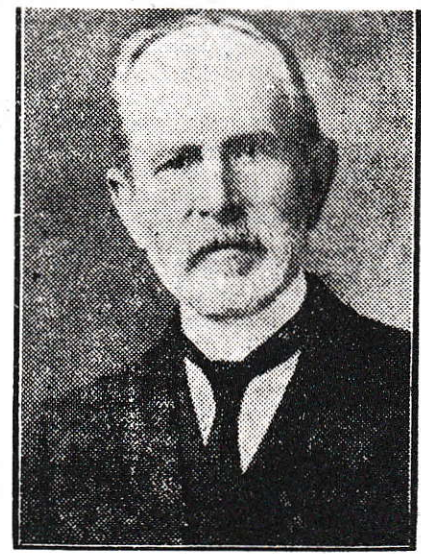
And yet, though dead, he speaketh, poor human hearts to win;

A SETTLE WORTHY.

Mr. John Harger passes to his rest.

Although he had been in failing health for some time, the news of the death of Mr. John Vincent Harger, Goldielands, was a great shock to his large number of friends.

Mr. Harger, who was born in 1846, was the second son of Joseph and Margaret Harger and was in business as a builder and cabinet-maker. It was chiefly in connection with his work in the Wesleyan cause that Mr. Harger was so well known. He was a local preacher since 1867. He took his duties very seriously and often made long journeys on foot to Ingleton Fells, Horton and Clapham to preach. When the Midland Railway was being built



he regularly used to visit and preach to the men excavating Bleamoor Tunnel. He was an ardent lover of nature, and this love was reflected in his sermons. Children interested him and revered him.

No one will ever know how much John Harger gave away, and certainly no person in trouble came away empty handed. He would have died a rich man but for his unflinching kindness of heart and generosity. He has also been described as the "most religious man in Settle," but public affairs held no great interest for him. At the close of 1925 he realised that he would have to cease as an active local preacher on account of failing health. He held several other offices in the church and was greatly interested in sick visiting, and visited the Union Infirmary almost every Saturday afternoon. He was keenly interested in the temperance cause. He was a member of the Good Templars, Band of Hope, and United Kingdom Alliance. His work in these three societies was invaluable.

In 1892 Mr Harger married Miss Isabella Procter, Lainger House, Rylstone. She was a faithful helpmate and her death in April, 1924, was a great blow to him. The following year his brother, Mr. T. Harger, died and Mr. John never seemed to really rally after this last bereavement.

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon at the Wesleyan Chapel. The body was borne by the employees of the firm and all the shopkeepers closed their places of business until after the cortege had passed. There was a very large attendance of workers in the Wesleyan and Temperance cause.

The service in the chapel was taken by the Rev. J. Wells, assisted by the Revs. W. H. Batho-Gibbon and L. J. Malkinson. Mr. Wells spoke on Mr. Harger's sterling character and paid tribute to his noble mindedness. Mr. W. T. Walker presided at the organ and the choir were in attendance. The service was choral and the hymns, "Now the labourer's task is o'er," "The King of Love, my Shepherd is," and the 90th Psalm were sung. Rev. T. F. B. Twemlow, Vicar of the Parish Church, took the committal portion of the service.

FLORAL TRIBUTES.

Among the wreaths were those from: In loving memory, from Kate, Pollie and Sallie; From Joseph, Mary, Winifred, Margaret and Jack (his grandchildren), with tenderest and most grateful memories; In loving memory, from Madge and Harry; In kind remembrance, from Wesleyan Church and Sunday School; With deepest sympathy from Mrs. T. Harger, Eric and Percy; From the friends at Hellfield Wesleyan Church; Kind remembrance from the Long Preston friends; With loving sympathy from Mrs. Beckett; In affec-

An Appreciation of Mr. J. V. Harger.

On February 15th we laid to rest our oldest local preacher, Mr. John Vincent Harger, of Settle. For many years he has been at the head of our Circuit Plan, and has been a real father to the younger brethren.

Very many years ago when the Mutual Aid formed a branch in this Circuit Mr. Harger was asked to become secretary, and held the position up to 2 years ago, when he sustained a very great loss in the death of Mrs. Harger, and since then he has become more and more feeble.

He gave his heart to God very early in life, having a father and mother who always had his highest interest at heart.

In his teens he was proclaiming the gospel that gave him so much zeal and joy.

About that time the Settle and Carlisle Railway line began, and as a mere lad on a Sunday he would walk 24 and even 30 miles taking 3 services for the navvies, returning home fairly tired out but rejoicing greatly in his Lord and Master and thankful that he was being owned in his Master's Kingdom.

It was at this time that I first came to know him.

On week evenings it was his wont to stand at street corners and get into conversation with the

great rough men, trying to persuade them to come to the Wesleyan Chapel, giving them a handshake and a tract. During the several years the Line was being laid I know of no one, either minister or layman, that took as much interest in the navvies welfare as did John Harger.

There is no doubt that as head of a large and flourishing house furnishing business in Settle he could have accumulated wealth, but instead of that he prepared to lay up much treasure in heaven, always bearing in mind the "inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these ye did it unto me."

During Mrs. Harger's lifetime it has often been my privilege to have hospitality in their beautiful home, and what a home it was. During all my visits I have not heard a string that jarred. It was a real pleasure to sit and enjoy their company.

For several terms Mr. Harger filled the position of Circuit Steward. As a class leader and worker among the young people he much excelled. It always seemed when he came our way he had prepared something special for the children, and the young folks much appreciated him.

As a preacher of the ever blessed gospel very few excelled him in deep spiritual tone and fervent application. Many of his sermons had in them a breath of spring. He loved the country lanes as a preparation for the pulpit. The singing of the birds and the fragrance of wild flowers

The funeral service of the late Mr. J. V. Harger.

The funeral of John Vincent Harger "who passed to his eternal rest on Friday, Feb. 12th, 1926," took place on Monday, Feb. 15th. Mr. Harger was in his 80th year. A service was conducted in the Wesleyan Methodist Church at 2 p.m. A large congregation, representative of all parts of the Settle Circuit and all sections of the citizens of Settle, was present in the beautiful Wesleyan Church. The Rev. J. Wells, superintendent of the Circuit, conducted the service. Two favourite hymns of our deceased brother were sung: "The King of love my Shepherd is," and "Now the labourer's task is o'er."

Rev. L. J. Malkinson, Congregational Minister, read the lesson: Rev. W. H. Batho Gibbon, B.D. (a former Superintendent) lead the congregation in prayer: the Rev. J. Wells delivered an address, in which he spoke of the great loss the Methodist Church in the Settle Circuit had sustained in the death of their venerable father and their dearly beloved brother.

He had been a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church and a consistent Christian for 70 years, a wonderful providence had watched over both his natural and spiritual life, a beautiful domestic life, an upright business life, and an unimpeachable moral life had characterised him. Moreover his loving kindness had been experienced by the needy. Circuit Steward, Class Leader, Trustee of many chapels in the Settle Circuit were among the offices he held. His chief work was as a local preacher. Mr. Harger had itinerated the wide Settle Circuit for some 60 years, often walking great distances proclaiming the gospel. No one could estimate the good influence he exercised. He was a good citizen, respected by all classes of the community. He held no public office, but no doubt he had an invisible and unconscious influence upon public life. A man who preached and taught the moral and doctrinal truths of the gospel, was constantly preparing men to be upright and useful citizens and the church through such men is doing more for the public life of the nation than she gets credit for. Mr. Harger had never been quite the same since the death of his beloved wife, but God puts our reunions over against our separations, hence husband and wife have now been reunited. Mr. Harger loved the sunshine in nature and religion, and he now enjoys the sunlight of God's eternal presence, and while all deeply sympathised with the bereaved in their great loss, all rejoiced with them in that Mr. Harger having passed within the veil was glad because he sees the Lord.

After the service in the Chapel the congregation proceeded to the Church-yard where the words of the Committal were read by the Vicar of Settle. Many lovely wreaths had been sent and later in the day the grave was covered with these lovely flowers—symbols of sympathy with the bereaved, and of the admiration and love which all felt for our beloved brother who still lives in Jesus.

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