



Death of Mr. F Dixon One of Sarum's Oldest Citizens

In the death of Mr. Francis Dixon, which took place at High Street, Salisbury, on Wednesday in last week, at the age of 84 years, one of the oldest, if not the oldest tradesman in the city has passed away. Mr. Dixon was born in the old farmhouse at Harnham, which was afterwards used as a whiting factory. It was his father who planted the trees on top of Harnham Hill, which was in his farm. At a very early age Mr. Dixon lost his father, who left a widow and twelve children, of which he was one of the youngest, with the result that he commenced his life with a struggle. He started in business for himself in 1841, and remained keenly interested in it until quite recently, being associated with one premises for nearly the whole of the time. His consistent life indoor and out gained him the respect and affection of all with whom he brought into contact. He was full of love for everybody, and all to do good in a quiet way, being particularly fond of little children. He was a member of the Wesleyan Church, a Sunday School teacher and class leader, and greatly interested in the welfare of the sick and needy whom he visited. Outside his denomination he took no active part in public affairs, but was interested in all good work. Among the local institutions which had his warm support were the Railway Mission and the Working Men's Mission, and the success of the recent harvest festival in connection with the former gave him much joy. Until shortly before his death he was in what might be described as "robust health," for his advanced years. About three weeks ago he drove up to his garden on the Old Castle Hill, wherein he spent many happy hours, and in alighting he fell. The shock proved too much for him, and he died after an illness marked by periods of great pain, but his faith was triumphant and his end peaceful.

The funeral took place on Friday afternoon. There was a service in the Wesleyan Chapel, conducted by the Rev. J. J. Bosward. On the arrival of the hearse a band of men from the Railway Mission in uniform officiated as bearers. The scripture was read by Mr. Mann. The hymns were sung: "I'll praise my Maker while I have breath," and "Peace, perfect peace," Mr. Bosward gave an address, in which he said Mr. Dixon was a just man. This must be the verdict of everyone who knew him. He was a man of God and a Christian, and more could not be said of any. When he was a boy of twelve he found his way to that very house of God, and was seriously impressed with the word preached. It was, however, not until he was 17 that he became fully consecrated. Passing one day under the shadow of the cathedral the Divine Spirit that had long striven with him came mightily upon him, and he gave himself to God. That was the day of his salvation. He joined the Wesleyan Church, and at once became an earnest Christian worker, preaching Christ by his consistent, holy life – the most effective form of preaching. He threw himself heartily into the work of the Sunday School until he was called to the more responsible position of a class leader. When personal affliction prevented him doing active work in this way, and in visiting the sick, poor and needy, he continued to help with his prayer and sympathy. He lived a life of simple faith and joy. He carried his religion in his face, and exhibited it in his daily life. Though he claimed no merit for himself yet he had the satisfaction of looking back upon a well spent life, and he could say in all sincerity and simplicity "If I had my life to live over again I would just live it by God's grace as I have lived." This was his testimony to the saving, keeping, sanctifying grace of God. His life's motto was "Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with thy God." The lesson the preacher drew from Mr. Dixon's life was the need of emulating his faith and patience and Christ like zeal.

The hymn "For ever with the Lord" having been sung, Mr. A. Rixon played the "Dead March" in Soul and "O rest in the Lord." The ceremony was completed in the London Road Cemetery, where there was a large gathering. The coffin was borne to the grave by members of the Railway Mission: Messrs. Venus, Barnes, ©Wiltshire OPC Project/2021/Jenny Todd

Bundy, Chapman, Chemmin, Ford, Hall, and Fulford, and the service was conducted by the Rev. J. J. Bosward. After the coffin had been lowered, two verses of the hymn "Jesus, lover of my soul" were sung. The mourners were: Mr. J. Dixon and Mr. W Dixon (sons),

Mr. Bartholomew and Mr. J. Moore (sons in law) Miss Dixon, Mrs. Bartholomew, and Mrs. Moore (daughters), Miss D. Bartholomew (granddaughter), Mr. B. Aubrey, Mr. Young and Mr. E. Young, Mr. Harry Dixon and Mr. Albert Dixon (nephews), Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. T. Moore. Amongst those present also present, either in the chapel or at the graveside, were: Miss Coles, Miss A. Witt, and Miss Clarke. The Rev. A. J. Edwards, Mr. R. M. Hall, Mr. E. Ware, Mr. A. Tovey, Mr. B. Bennett, Mr. Maddeford, Mr. W. Pritchard, Mr. H. Harris, Mr. C. J. Henbeat, Mr. and Mrs. Rivers, Mrs. Shepherd, Mr. G. Bath, Mr. W. H. Holbech, Mr. E. Prior, Mr. T. Butler, Mr. Hamlin, Mr. E. Wilson, Mr. W. Gilbert, and many others. Many flowers were placed on the coffin in addition to those from relatives there being one from the Railway Mission and one from the Working Men's Mission.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Edward Witt, 155, Fisherton Street.

Salisbury Times and South Wilts Gazette, Friday, 13 October 1905