

Reg. 14th July 1903.

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THE LATE SHERIFF.

The news of the death of Mr. Sheriff Boothby comes upon the community with a suddenness which intensifies the feelings of sincere regret that such a bereavement would have occasioned in any circumstances. The deceased veteran officer of the Government was in all essentials a typical "fine old English gentleman." He was also a type of the highest class of British official—the men who uphold the best traditions of positions of dignity and trust; who, while unfaltering and fearless in the discharge of duty, are so patient and courteous and tactful as to gain respect and affec-

tion where others with equally good intentions might incur dislike and hostility. Mr. Boothby had celebrated so many anniversaries marking special services rendered by him to the community as to give an element of pathos to the reflection that he had attained so near to his jubilee of office without being privileged to see the completion of the period. One of the desires of the worthy old public servant was, however, that he might die in harness, and that wish has been gratified. There was a certain appropriateness also in the fact that the latest noteworthy action of his life should have been the subdivision of the state into districts affecting elections for the Federal House of Representatives, for that act constituted in a sense the coping stone of the structure of his achievements in connection with electoral systems. Admirers of the late Sheriff have often expressed the hope that he might leave behind him some authoritative work concerning the ballot and kindred reforms with which his name will always be identified; and there is at least satisfaction in knowing that, if he has not collected his observations within a single volume, the Blue Books of the state contain many sagacious remarks by him relative to this subject. A similar statement cannot, so far as we are aware, be applied to the other department of his labours—prison management and penal reform—matters regarding which less official information is published in South Australia than in any other part of the British dominions. Still, whatever Mr. Boothby's opinions upon this important question may have been, we know what his deeds were. In his post as Comptroller of Prisons, as well as in every other private and official capacity, he was without fear and above reproach, an accomplished, a courtly, and a kindly gentleman, and a model citizen.

love. As a mystic, he was passionately in union with the noblest and highest, and this endowed him with a strange, incommunicable power. He was not a pantheist. But in spite of all his sorrows, his life was full of rich interests. A poet of wonderful inspiration, he lived in sympathy with the very principle of nature, in kinship with bird, beast, and even material things. But he was not merely an abstract thinker; he was a practical mystic, and contemplation was always with a view to action. Nor was he soured by the rigour of his life and creed; he bore ever a spirit of happiness, and he knew all the freedom of a pure idealist. If he emptied his life of personal possessions, he filled it with the richest and most precious joys. Not an administrator, not intellectually powerful, he was a spiritual genius, who grasped the full significance of the practical philosophy of the Christian religion. In life and character he approached very near to his Master—Jesus of Nazareth. He was the impersonation, not of any creed, nor of any order, but of humanity. The lecturer only touched on stigmata of St. Francis, as he dealt with his conclusions on the subject in the printed syllabus. However, he said that in his own mind there was no physiological, psychological, or historical reason for doubting the fact that St. Francis did receive on his body the marks of the Crucifixion, for which he had become famed.

At the conclusion of his lecture Professor Henderson showed a number of slides of paintings by Tuscan artists collected in Rome, Assisi, Perugia, and France. Next week the last of the series of lectures will be given, when Professor Henderson will make a study of Louis IX.

the bailiff in attendance was unable to accomplish), and by his moral strength, with the power of justice behind him, induced the captain to submit to the jurisdiction of the law. He had remarkable intellectual faculties, indicated by his broad, high brow. He was fair, just, firm, and resolute. What dominated his whole character was a lofty sense of duty, "and thus he bore without reproach the grand old name of gentleman." Looking back upon the incidents of Mr. Boothby's noble career of half a century of public service in this colony, he was unable to recall or discern a blot upon it. He was emphatically a knight sans peur sans reproche. It was his (Sir Samuel's) great privilege to be consulted by the Secretary of State during one of his visits to England as to Mr. Boothby's claims to some gracious mark of recognition from her Majesty. He described his work, and the Secretary exclaimed—"Surely you want a K.C.M.G., but I have none to spare." He said—"We ask only for a Companionship of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George," and the reply was—"He certainly shall have it." The late Sheriff's was a most enviable career. He enjoyed the confidence, the admiration, and the esteem of the whole community. He was loved and admired by his friends. He was in full possession of his physical, mental, and moral faculties to the very last, and he passed away into the unseen without pain. He had left behind him a record which was the pride of his family and his friends, and an example which will be an inspiration to all.

Mr. Justice Boucaut said he did not think it would be proper or becoming to attempt to rival the remarks of his learned colleague, the Chief Justice, but he would be very sorry not to say two or three words to express his feeling of regret at the loss of Mr. Boothby. He felt too deeply to say much if he tried, and even if he were able to say much he should still say too little. He felt very keenly Mr. Boothby's loss, for he was a wonderful friend—to the Chief Justice, even, he only told that day how great a friend. Never had the Crown a more faithful and zealous servant, either within England or without.

Mr. Justice Bunday said after the addresses of his learned colleagues, it was almost unnecessary for him to add anything, especially as a representative of The Advertiser had waited upon him the previous day, and had obtained his views and feelings towards their departed friend. He was gifted in the highest degree, especially so in the possession of a judicial and calm mind, making his services of inestimable value to the judges of this court. There was not a feeling expressed towards him, which he did not share. He felt perfectly incapable to say any more of Mr. Boothby.

The Attorney-General said he craved leave on behalf of the Bar, with the members of which the late Sheriff was associated so closely, to express their unanimous concurrence in the eloquent tribute to his character and public services which had fallen from the Chief Justice and his learned colleagues. He would like to mention one remarkable fact, as showing the sound judgment of Mr. Boothby and the great reliance placed thereon by successive Governments. During the five administrations of which he had been a member no decision of the late Sheriff had ever been reversed, and he could not call to mind any occasion upon which a suggestion of his to the Government had not been adopted. This was indeed remarkable, as Mr. Boothby's duties extended over a very large field. He reiterated the profound regret of the Bar at the loss of their friend, and their sympathy with his wife and their bereaved family.

The court then adjourned as a mark of respect for the deceased officer.

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THE LATE SHERIFF.

A CHORUS OF EULOGIES.

THE FUNERAL CEREMONY.

The universal regret felt concerning the death of the Sheriff (Mr. W. R. Boothby, C.M.G.) found expression on Tuesday, both from the bench and in Parliament. In all the panegyrics pronounced concerning him there was a ring of genuine sincerity, for no public official enjoyed wider or more deserved popularity.

When the Banco Court met in the morning there were present, in addition to the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way), Mr. Justice Boucaut and Mr. Justice Bunday, a large number of prominent members of the bar, including the Attorney-General (Hon. J. H. Gordon, K.C.), the Crown Solicitor (Mr. J. M. Stuart, K.C.), as well as many officials connected with the law courts. Immediately after the court had been constituted,

The Chief Justice said the death of the Sheriff had removed a noble and dignified figure which represented the executive arm of that court and of justice in this State for nearly half a century. Few members of the profession remembered Sheriff Newham, who lived to a ripe old age after his retirement, and who was succeeded in 1854 by one who was then called the young Sheriff. The judges were more intimately associated with the late Sheriff than even the members of the bar, and they acknowledged great indebtedness to the wise counsels and sagacious experience of the late Sheriff in the administration of the criminal law. The Sheriff was one of the greatest living specialists in prison discipline. None of the younger generation could appreciate, as did he and his colleagues, the wonderful effect upon the management of the Stockade that was produced by Mr. Boothby's appointment as Comptroller of Labor Prisons between 30 and 40 years ago. His appointment as comptroller and his visits to the labor prison were equivalent in moral force to half a regiment of soldiers. They were familiar in the early days with lamentable mutinies and outbreaks, and the quiet and uninterrupted administration of this painful branch of the law through the firm, humane, sympathetic, wise, and practical management of the Sheriff was a circumstance that ought to be borne in mind in the future. Mr. Boothby took a deep interest in the development of the highest culture and the brightest hopes of the community in the University. The Rev. Dr. Jefferis, Mr. Boothby, and himself were the only survivors of the first University council, while the Sheriff and he were the only members of the council who continuously held office from the beginning to the present time. Dr. Barlow, whose name would always be inseparably connected with the University, was not a member of the original council, but for many years acted as registrar. Probably the Sheriff would be most widely known as a great authority on electoral law. A member of the South Australian Civil Service, his influence, it was no exaggeration to say, was felt throughout almost the whole of the civilised world. Many states of America had adopted the system he devised of conducting the ballot. It had been adopted in England also. He was regarded as a great authority on that subject in England as well as throughout this Commonwealth. It was remarkable that one of his latest great acts of public service was the laying out of the boundaries of the great electoral districts of South Australia for the Commonwealth elections. He was a many-sided man. He had remarkable physical, intellectual, and moral qualities, and everyone recognised that in him those qualities were equally balanced. He was a signal example of the advantage of the great public school and university system of education in England. Mr. Justice Bunday was familiar as a young man with the Sheriff's prowess upon the cricket field, and only a few months ago when a ship was sailing down the gulf disregarding the process of that court the Sheriff followed it in a launch, jumped on board (a feat which

Reg 15th July 1903

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURE.

Professor Henderson gave the second of his series of lectures on the "Leaders of the middle ages" at the University on Tuesday evening, when he took for his subject the great spiritual leader and mystic, St. Francis of Assisi. There was again a large attendance, which included the Chief Justice, Lady Way, and their guest, Count Vay de Vaya. After sketching briefly the circumstances of his hero's youth, which led up to his great renunciation, the professor dealt at length with the character and faith of the man. As a youth Francis was no very extraordinary boy. His parents were of the upper middle classes, and brought up their son in good and prosperous circumstances. Yet he was always a leader. The turning toward the new ideals after his betrothal to the wife of whom he spoke as "The most noble, most rich, most beautiful; the Lady Poverty," caused his separation from his father and the beginning of a new life. Thence his being was bound up in the three words—"Poverty, labour, and peace." He renounced all forms of property, personal advantage in the form of privilege and personal glory or prestige. To him poverty was an ideal, not a misfortune. He advocated work for all men, and, contrary to popular ideas on the subject, upheld that begging was to be only a last resort for the obtaining of the necessities of life. Unlike so many other great leaders, he avoided all theological discussion. He said that his duty was to arouse the inward man, and to teach, not by word, but by action. In character, Francis was a spiritualist, and must so be studied. In the inwardness of his life consisted his greatness. The message he gave to the world was based upon intuitive, not logical, truth. Mind ruled the man, and to that he owed his power. Nature was his friend, his companion, and his