

## SUDDEN DEATH OF LADY WAY.

NOTABLE CAREER ENDED.

SYMPATHY WITH THE  
CHIEF JUSTICE.

For one of the noblest women in South Australia time has merged into eternity. Lady Way, the devoted wife of Sir Samuel Way, and a fitting life's partner for perhaps the most notable figure in South Australian history, died last evening. The painful shock which the news caused in the city will to-day be spread throughout the length and breadth of the land, bringing very genuine sorrow and a sense almost of personal loss to thousands of hearts, not only in this State, but wherever her ladyship's benign influence has spread. And years of untiring effort in every good cause have so extended the boundaries of the circle of sympathy and affection of which she was the quietly magnetic centre, that her loss assumes the character of a national calamity. The terrible unexpectedness of the blow intensifies, if that were possible, the sorrow with which one learns of a loss so grievous in every sense. Death always means a vacant place in someone's heart, a broken link in some chain of friendship. Lady Way's death means hundreds of vacant places which may never again be filled, hundreds of broken links which were vital, and the loss of which will have a powerful influence now and in the years to come. Her ladyship was the inexhaustible fount of sympathy to whom the less fortunate in life's struggle never appealed in vain; and because of this alone, because of her deep and lasting interest in everything that made for the well-being of the community, her death is well-nigh a tragedy for South Australia. It is as if one of the main supports had been removed from the fabric of charitable effort in the State.

In the high position which Lady Way so fittingly occupied as wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia, she won a wealth of affection and admiration—affection because of her unvarying kindness and unaffected cordiality, admiration because of her unfailing tact and good sense. Every South Australian will recall many instances of the way in which Lady Way displayed her admirable conception of the social duties which again and again fell to her lot when the Chief Justice represented the Crown in South Australia. Only a very few weeks ago the Chief Justice and Lady Way reassumed the position to which long use had accustomed them, and for which the nobility of their individual characters so well fitted them. Those who were fortunate enough to attend the garden party given by the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Way at Government House a few weeks ago, will ever remember the charm and grace of their hosts. Only last week Lady Way was present at the annual sports of the School of Mines, and it was there that the last photograph of her was taken, a snapshot published in this week's "Chronicle."

Lady Way was intimately associated with numerous charitable and benevolent institutions, and an organisation which had as its object the improvement of the moral, physical, or social conditions of the community never appealed to her in vain. She not only exerted her influence for the furtherance of philanthropic efforts, but gave liberally of her time and money. As the Chief Justice is the pillar, as it were, of many masculine organisations, Lady Way was the main support of practically every

institution and society in South Australia which has as its object the betterment of the condition of women and girls. There is no girls' club or similar institution in the State which has not very special reasons for deploring her demise. Approaching death found her still active in the work to which she had devoted so many years of a more than ordinarily useful life. On Wednesday afternoon, comparatively a very few hours before she was called hence, she was at a meeting of the State Children's Council, apparently in her usual health.

Several representative South Australians have already paid heartfelt tributes to the life and character of Lady Way. About her personal characteristics there is a chorus of genuine and affectionate praise, which will swell into a vast volume of regretful eulogy to-day. Those who knew her intimately, and they are numbered almost by the hundred, are at one in their admiration of the nobility of her character. "She was the kindest, gentlest, and most ladylike of women," said Dr. O'Reily, and thus summed up in a sentence what everyone feels to be true. Her kindness and largeness of heart, if one may use the expression, seem to have been the outstanding features of her character. She was never known to speak evil of anyone. That is the key to the conception of life which governed her conduct. She was universally charitable; and if unable to say anything favorable about the individual or the thing under discussion, she was invariably silent. She was a woman of the kind who uphold the highest ideals of womanhood.



THE LATE LADY WAY.

When the Chief Justice left Montefiore for the Supreme Court on Thursday morning, Lady Way was not well, but it was not supposed that she was seriously ill. It was thought that she was suffering from a bilious attack, which would pass away in the course of an hour or two. Her condition gave his Honor not the slightest uneasiness, but in the afternoon, shortly after 4 o'clock a message was received at the court to the effect that Lady Way was very ill, and asking his Honor to return at once. This he did, and on arrival found Dr. J. C. Verco in attendance on the patient, whose condition was so serious that the doctor reported that there was no hope. Lady Way gradually sank, and a few minutes after 6 o'clock had passed away. As may be supposed, this was a terrible blow to the Chief Justice—terrible in itself, and terrible by reason of its suddenness. His wife was all the world to him, and how he will manage without her is a problem that time alone can solve. Is it merely a coincidence that both on Tuesday and on Wednesday he asked himself the question, "What should I do without my wife?" He had never before asked himself such a question. To him Lady Way had always been the personification of health, and he had taken it for granted that she would outlive him. The actual cause of death was blood poisoning, the result of uræmia.

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