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worthy channels, and whose character has helped to mould—are the living monuments of his teaching. He was indeed peculiarly successful in winning the esteem, the affection, and, above all, the confidence of all brought into close contact with him; and to this result his practical and unaffected kindness and his singularly equable temper greatly contributed. It is a rather curious reflection that if Mr. Fletcher, and such as he, rendered half the service in the political arena which they perform in the social and the moral circles they would be honoured by the State with titular distinctions. Such decorations, however, though they have their significance and their uses, are mere gowgaws. A record such as Mr. Fletcher has left is by far the better title to a venerated memory.

## The Advertiser

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1894.

### THE LATE MR. FLETCHER.

THE Congregational Church in South Australia has lately been rejoicing over a great gain in the return of Dr. Jeffers. It is now called upon to mourn a heavy loss in the death of the Rev. Mr. Fletcher. There was an element of deep pathos in the recent meeting for the last time of these two ministerial veterans. In the old days they were pillars of the Church together. Their brief reunion revived many pleasant associations of the past, but there was no hope that the younger man would ever again work shoulder to shoulder with his old colleague. Mr. Fletcher was already in the valley of the shadow, his earthly labors over. It is natural to think of his premature death as, first of all, a blow to the denomination he adorned. Yet his influence far outran the limit thus suggested. Taking a wide view of all the varied forms of religious activity in this province, he was to be recognised as a man of light and leading, and the whole community is sensibly poorer by his death. In Mr. Fletcher, as a Christian minister, intense earnestness was combined with large and liberal culture. But he was more than an intellectual, powerful, and popular preacher. He supplemented his usefulness as a pulpit-teacher by throwing himself heart and soul into movements concerned with the moral and religious training of the young and the educational progress of the people. His valuable support of such organisations as the Young Men's Christian Association will not speedily be forgotten. His labors in connection with the University of Adelaide date almost from the foundation of that school of learning. He was profoundly interested in its gradual expansion, and for five years held all but the highest position in its gift. In Mr. Fletcher South Australia loses one of the ablest and most useful of its ministers—an eloquent preacher, a ripe scholar, and a practical worker who never wearied in well-doing.

#### DEATHS.

FLETCHER.—On Tuesday, June 5th, at his residence, Waverley, Kent Town, William Roby Fletcher, in his 62nd year.



THE LATE REV. W. R. FLETCHER, M.A.

### DEATH OF THE REV. W. R. FLETCHER, M.A.

#### A DISTINGUISHED CAREER.

We deeply regret having to announce the death of the Rev. William Roby Fletcher, M.A. The event was not unexpected, as for weeks past his life has been despaired of, and the frequent notices of his illness appearing in our columns have prepared the public for the sad announcement. Through the death of Mr. Fletcher South Australia has lost a most useful colonist, and one of the ablest men and most distinguished ministers of religion who have lived and laboured in the province. Besides being a Scriptural expositor of profundity and lucidity, and a man of scholarly and scientific attainments, Mr. Fletcher was a specialist in several subjects. Notably he was a close student of Oriental religions and philosophies, and he followed with peculiar zest the recent discoveries made by archaeologists in Egypt and Assyria. He was also imbued with an intense love of the literature of Shakespeare, Tennyson, and the other great English poets, upon whose works he wrote and lectured, and from whose inspirations he drew numerous app illustrations and delivered many forcible lessons in an acceptable and refreshing manner. Mr. Fletcher was a member of the Australian Society for the Advancement of Science, and at the recent sitting of that body in Adelaide no one more attentively watched the proceedings than he did. Some years ago he gave a very large measure of attention to social and land reform questions, but he never allowed the advocacy of these to affect his insistence upon the religious truths which he so well taught from the pulpit, and which he deemed to be the only safe foundation for all reform, whether social or legislative. He was an ardent total abstainer, and, as a man with broad catholic sympathies, was ever ready to take advantage of any new line of thought, for instance, by his active interest in all philanthropic and religious movements.