

The Advertiser April 10<sup>th</sup> 185

# SIR SAMUEL WAY.

## HIS REMARKABLE RECOVERY.

### SEVENTY-NINTH BIRTH-DAY TO-MORROW.

#### CHIEF JUSTICE NEARLY 40 YEARS.

A genuine feeling of pleasure and of thankfulness will prevail among all sections of the community concerning the completion by his Honor the Chief Justice to-morrow of his 79th year. The year which has elapsed since Sir Samuel Way passed the 78th milestone of his eminent and illustrious life has indeed been dark and sad. His Honor had to face calamitous bereavement in the loss of his devoted wife, and on his own part a terrible affliction which necessitated the sacrifice of his left arm,

but, as everyone knows, he met the heavy blows with indomitable courage. The second followed swiftly upon the first, and had, in fact, been foreshadowed a month before Lady Way's death. His Honor had a dire fight with the great enemy, but the victory was his. He left Adelaide on July 2 for Sydney, and the object of his visit was unknown, except to relatives and his most intimate friends. A few days later the people of South Australia were astounded and grieved to learn that the Chief Justice's life was in the balance. It was announced that he had consulted Sir Alexander MacCormick and Dr. Jenkins, two distinguished surgeons of Sydney, and the conclusion had been formed that the amputation of his left arm at the shoulder was imperative. On July 6 telegrams were received in Adelaide stating that the operation had been performed, and that Sir Samuel Way was bearing up extremely well. Later tidings came to hand that the distinguished patient was progressing satisfactorily, and the reassuring character of the news was a source of general joy. Members of the bar, representative bodies of all kinds, and scores of private citizens forwarded messages of sincerest goodwill, assuring his Honor of their love, respect, and esteem, and expressing the hope that he would, under God's providence, be restored well and strong to give the State the benefit of his eminent powers and experience. The prayer was heard. Sir Samuel Way returned to Adelaide on August 7, and so great were his recuperative capacity and his fortitude that he gradually, but surely, regained his normal strength and vigor.

#### Return to Judicial Work.

Throughout his period of illness his Honor's predominating wish had been for the time to come when he could resume his judicial work, and the greatest satisfaction was felt when early in October he again took his seat on the bench. In responding to the warm welcome accorded him by the bar, the Chief Justice gave the assurance that his best powers for whatever time he might yet be able to preside in the court would be devoted to his duties, which he would discharge to the utmost of his ability. How well and faithfully his Honor has fulfilled that assurance is recognised by everyone. Since the resumption of his public office he has been attending the Supreme Court daily and has been wonderfully alert in the performance of all the judicial duties required of a Chief Justice, in addition to acting as Deputy-Governor for a time during the visit of his Excellency Sir Henry Galway to Victoria. At the present time Sir Samuel Way is undoubtedly in better health than he has been for several years past. Those who see him as he passes along King William-street in his carriage on his way from Montefiore to the law courts cannot fail to notice how well he

looks. On the bench and in chambers his quick grasp of the intricate cases that come before him for decision indicates that he is as mentally alert as he was 20 years ago. The recovery his Honor has made is in every respect a remarkable one. He spends a full day at the Supreme Court

without any visible signs of fatigue. At Christmas time he elected to be the vacation judge when the other members of the bench went on holidays, and from December 24 to the end of February, during the most trying period of the year, he was ready to attend to all matters brought before him. The January sessions of the Criminal Court were conducted by his Honor, and one day he sat from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. except for an interval of an hour at lunch time, in order to finish a case. He is as devoted as ever he was to his books, of which he has a remarkably fine collection, and he is always on the lookout to procure additional works that appeal to him. Even now the lights may be seen burning in his library at Montefiore often after the midnight hour, and he is back again at the Supreme Court at the customary time next morning.

#### Attendance at Public Gatherings.

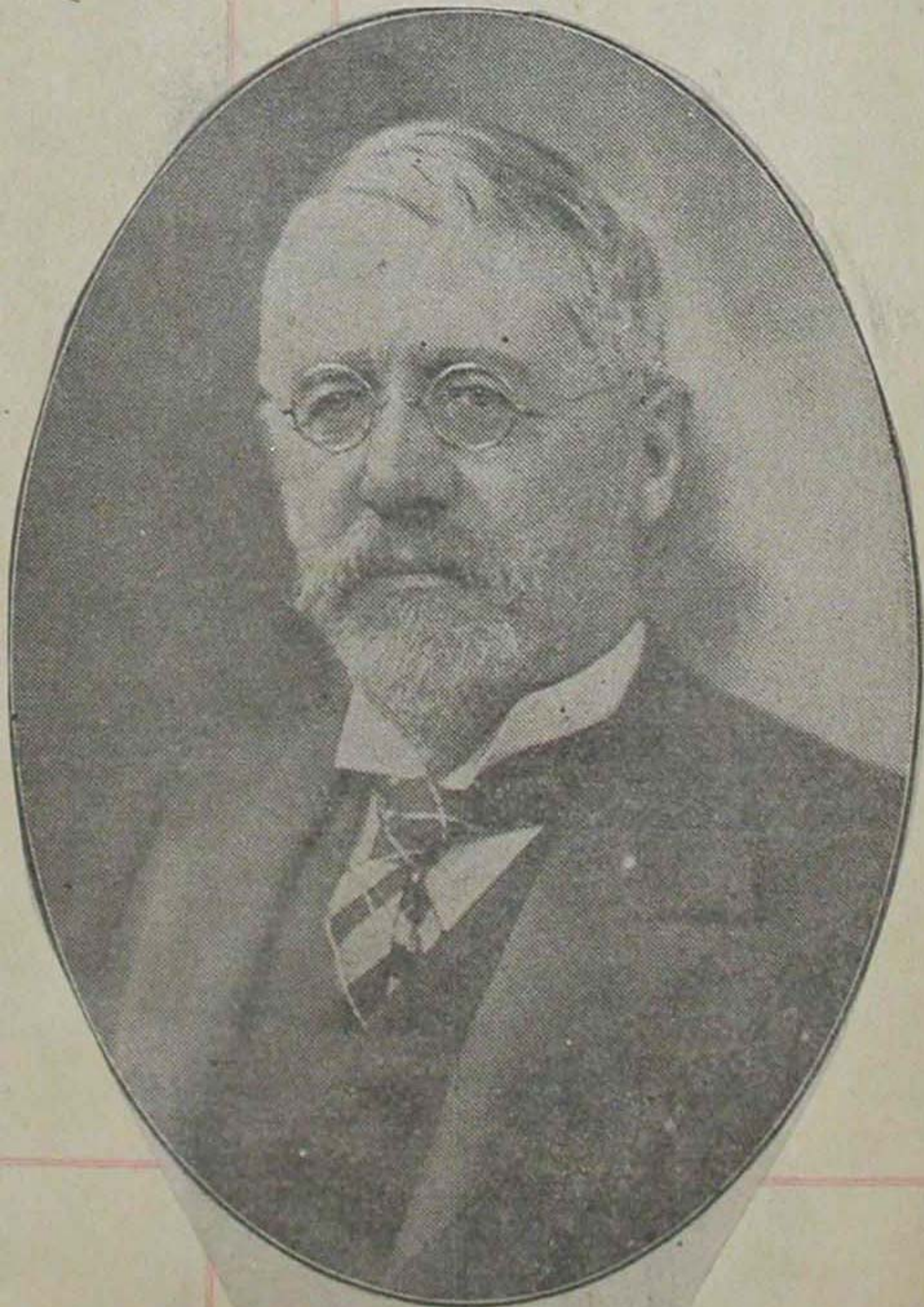
During the last twelve months Sir Samuel has not been able to attend many

public gatherings, but he has generously responded to several calls made upon him. One of these was in the middle of December, when he travelled all the way to Kooringa to perform the opening ceremony in connection with the fine new Methodist Church there, and on the same visit he was accorded a welcome by the Masonic brethren, as Grand Master of the Order in South Australia. He also filled his accustomed place as Chancellor at the annual commemoration of the University of Adelaide, where he expressed great pride in the large number of members of the teaching staff and students who were serving the King with the colors. His Honor's remarks were fervently patriotic, and he was cordially cheered, particularly in that part where he said the whole civilised world was looking on, in the expectation of seeing that these and other volunteers from Australia were worthy of their race and country, and he had no doubt the people of the Commonwealth would be as proud of their soldiers as they were of the British troops who had been

in the battle line. Another recent and notable public utterance of the Chief Justice was at the speech day of Prince Alfred College, an eloquent tribute to the work done by Mr. F. Chapple, C.M.G., the retiring headmaster, in which he recalled the fact that he had met Mr. Chapple for the first time 38 years ago, when he (his Honor) had presided at a breakfast in aid of the finances of Prince Alfred College. The crowd assembled in the streets of Adelaide on Thursday on the occasion of the Belgian flag celebration were delighted to see Sir Samuel Way, who was passing in his Victoria on his way back from luncheon to the Supreme Court, pause to purchase a flag at a handsome price, and take a lively interest in the procession and other manifestations of the Empire's recognition of its indebtedness to King Albert and his people.

### Capable With One Arm.

His Honor appears to have become fairly well accustomed to the loss of his arm. He has invariably a big batch of correspondence to get through. Since the news of his remarkable recovery to health has been published messages of congratulation have been coming to him from all parts of the British Empire. To a number of his letters he dictates replies, but he answers a good many in his own handwriting. Sir Samuel has a lot of judicial work ahead of him in the near future. Next week he will preside in the Banco Court, and the list of cases to be dealt with is indeed a formidable one, including as it does appeals from half a dozen local courts in different parts of the State, one from the Insolvency Court, several questions of law reserved, and various other appeals and motions. It has already been decided that he shall conduct the May Civil sittings. It is approaching 40 years since his Honor was elevated to the responsible and arduous post he now occupies.



SIR SAMUEL WAY.