

A BELOVED MASTER.

Death of Canon Girdlestone. Former Head at St. Peter's.

Among thousands of men in both Australia, and in many other parts of the world, there will be keen regret at the announcement of the death in London on Tuesday of Canon Henry Girdlestone, M.A., at the age of 63 years. He had been ill for some time prior to his death. Canon Girdlestone was head master of St. Peter's Collegiate School from 1894 to 1916, and head master of Melbourne Grammar School from 1917 to 1921. During that period he won the endearing esteem and affection of hundreds of boys, whose lives he was called upon to a large extent to mould. Big-framed and big-hearted, he was the schoolboys' ideal man, and his influence on his young charges was of incalculable benefit. His name will be imperishably bound up with that of St. Peter's College.

Following Head Master.

Canon Girdlestone was born at Penzance, in Cornwall, and was the son of a Church of England clergyman. In 1872 he went to school at Bath College.



THE LATE CANON GIRDLESTONE, M.A.

With the school completed.

The boys submitted to his charge. He set to work with a will to build up the college, and to ensure that its name should always be linked with what is manly and clean. To that end he gave much attention to the task of promoting sports among the boys, and—more than sport itself—inculcating the sporting spirit in them. His own athletic accomplishments counted him immensurably, for he spoke to his charges as one having authority, and the fact that they had an Oxford "blow" for a headmaster spurred the pupils on to emulation. Rowing came to be one of the more material features of the school, and was apparent. When he took charge of the school there were 170 boys on the roll; 12 months later there were 232; another year and the roll showed 275; next year, 310; then 347; and so on, until, when he resigned, in 1916, the attendance had grown to 430. From the first, Canon Girdlestone did his utmost to propagate reverence for religion and religious duties, which he always associated with the phrase "Playing the game." Thus was given to the college that tone, that tradition of manliness, which present and "old" scholars treasure greatly. Stern when sternness was needed, he won the confidence of pupils and parents, and never lost touch with the boys as a headmaster. He took only one extended holiday, and that merely during the first term of 1904, when he was called to England by the illness of his father. Shortly after the outbreak of the war Canon Girdlestone resigned his position, saying, with characteristic insight and soundness, that a headmaster needed to be young, and he a large amount himself. "I have felt," he said, "as though I am not as much in touch with the boys as I used to be." He passed from the school one of its greatest figures. The canon retired to his beautiful home at Balthamrah (now owned by Mr. O'Leary), at which boys from the college had spent many happy holidays, to finish his days in the quiet of the hills. To that remote spot, the call of duty penetrated, however, and in 1917 he consented to take over the charge of the Melbourne Grammar School, as its headmaster, but volunteered for war service. He remained in that position for four years, after which he retired, his mind and his body, and his heart, throughout his life he maintained touch with most of his "boys," and those who passed through his hands speak affectionately and gratefully of the man who laboured so faithfully for their good.

Moulding Character.
Writing in The St. Peter's School Magazine on Canon Girdlestone's retirement, one who knew him intimately said, "The just estimate of his work can be gauged only by a comparison between the school when he came to it and what it is now. It has been accomplished mainly, indeed solely, by the high ideals which he placed before himself. He realized that true education means more than mere cramming; he understood that education in its best sense means the moulding of the mind, the body, and the spirit of the boy, and hence he endeavoured to cultivate the true nature of those placed under his charge. His ideal has ever been to train a race of strong, virile men, that finest type of manhood that is never overvalued, never entirely dismayed; that character type of manhood that feels its bounden duty to ride abroad, redressing human wrong, to stand for an ideal, to honour its own word, as if 'to God!' The idea that has permeated the boys' every action at St. Peter's is that the school is to be a model of the better world, into which our boys must pass. And it is for this reason that those who have had the privilege of being trained under Canon Girdlestone have always found something fresh and original in his way of thinking. He was a man who had some the truth that to knowledge must be added love of country, to love of country must be added a sense of duty, and to duty must be added a sense of responsibility. He was a man who stood upon some impossible, but he was very human, and what he said, he was; and what he knew, he did. And now he leaves us, but his influence upon the school will be boundless. St. Peter's may be filled with wide range graduate that he leaves behind the great philosopher, friend to the school for so many years, and friend he will remain to the end."
Canon Girdlestone was a fanatical supporter of the late Mr. W. Crawford, at one time manager in Adelaide of the Union Bank, and had a son and a daughter. On his return to England he lived at Lansdown, near Bath. Mrs. Girdlestone ably assisted her husband in so many duties, and the pair had much to do with the founding and successful working of the St. Peter's College Mission.

"OUTSTANDING PERSONALITY."
The Bishop of Adelaide (Right Rev. Dr. N. Thomas) stated on Wednesday "With real regret I learned a fortnight ago that there was no hope of Mr. Girdlestone's recovery."

young people, whose feet were already set on the path of musical appreciation, but seemed a little above the heads of some whose musical education had been neglected.

The tuneful and familiar "Bavareolles" from "Tales of Hoffman" was a much enjoyed number. This was followed by the "Peer Gynt" suite, depicting "Morning," "The Death of Aase," the hunchback's mother, "Amtra's Dance," in which the rhythmic dance of the piper girl is heard against the complaining of Peer Gynt, the hunchback, demonstrated by the "cello and the grand finale "In the Hall of the Mountain King," where the castle collapses on a scene of wild revelry.

Gung's delightful "Antaretic" waltzes gave a charming example of graceful rhythms which the youngest child could understand, and Delibes' "Coppelia" ballet music in three dances completed the programme, which had been carefully chosen to demonstrate easily-understood but good music.

The young people joined heartily in the singing of the National Anthem. The hall emptied rapidly and in perfect order, and in a few minutes a society of orchestra men arrived had borne the vast mass of children homeward, with no outward incident.

and after 16 years there went on to Oxford, where he was enrolled at Magdalen College. During a stay of four years at the university he took his B.A. degree, and three years later secured the Mastership of Arts, but his main distinction at the university was his ability to row. In 1888 he returned to his old school, Bath College, as a master, and was for a short time private tutor to Lord Ashurst, who was then at the head of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, in 1891. A cherished aim was regular parish work; but that aspiration was not realized, partly through the influence of Bishop Kenyon, who was then at the head of the Diocese of Adelaide. The Bishop was in London, and was on the lookout for a head master for St. Peter's College. Mr. Girdlestone applied for the position, and mentioned that he had received stroke for Oxford in 1885 and 1886. In later years he used to remark that he thought that the latter accomplishment had more to do with his selection for the head mastership than his intellectual attainments. Whether that fact weighed with the Bishop or not, the year 1893 saw Canon Girdlestone on his way to South Australia to rule the destinies of St. Peter's College "for two years."

School's Steady Progress.

That two years lengthened eventually into 22 years, for Canon Girdlestone's broad shoulders bore so admirably the heavy responsibilities he had to carry that the trustees of the institution disapproved strongly of any desire on the "heady" part to relinquish the post and take up a parish. When he entered upon his duties, in the first term of 1894, Canon Girdlestone was 22 years of age, and the old school was thought to be showing signs of decadence. The big Englishman had a son and a daughter. On his return to Australia he lived at Lansdown, near Bath. Mrs. Girdlestone ably assisted her husband in so many duties, and the pair had much to do with the founding and successful working of the St. Peter's College Mission.

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MEANING OF MUSIC

Orchestra Delights Children SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT

The interesting experiment of presenting good orchestral music to children was tried with the greatest success on Tuesday night, when 2,500 seniors from the metropolitan schools gathered in the Exhibition Building for a special concert by the South Australia Orchestra.

In the official seats were Dr. E. Harold Davies (chairman of the executive of the South Australian Orchestra), to whose enthusiasm and selfless efforts both orchestras and concert owe their inception, the Hon. L. L. Hill (Minister of Education) and Mrs. Hill, Mr. W. T. McCoy, B.A. (Director of Education), and Mrs. McCoy, and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Sumner. The warm cooperation of the principals of the orchestra and the Education Department made the concert possible.

Dr. Davies pointed out the real meaning of music in life, discriminating between enjoyment and amusement in pictures and kindred arts. He expressed a hope that a further incursion into the realm of good music for school children would be made possible.

Mr. W. H. Foote then took charge of the concert. He described the works to be played and called for demonstrations from his players of the tone quality of the various instruments. He also described the general characteristics of the "William Tell" overture with which the programme opened.

Mr. Foote, who is recovering from severe indisposition, took the baton only from a sense of responsibility to his youthful audience, but it was evident that the work was a severe strain. His descriptions were much enjoyed by the