

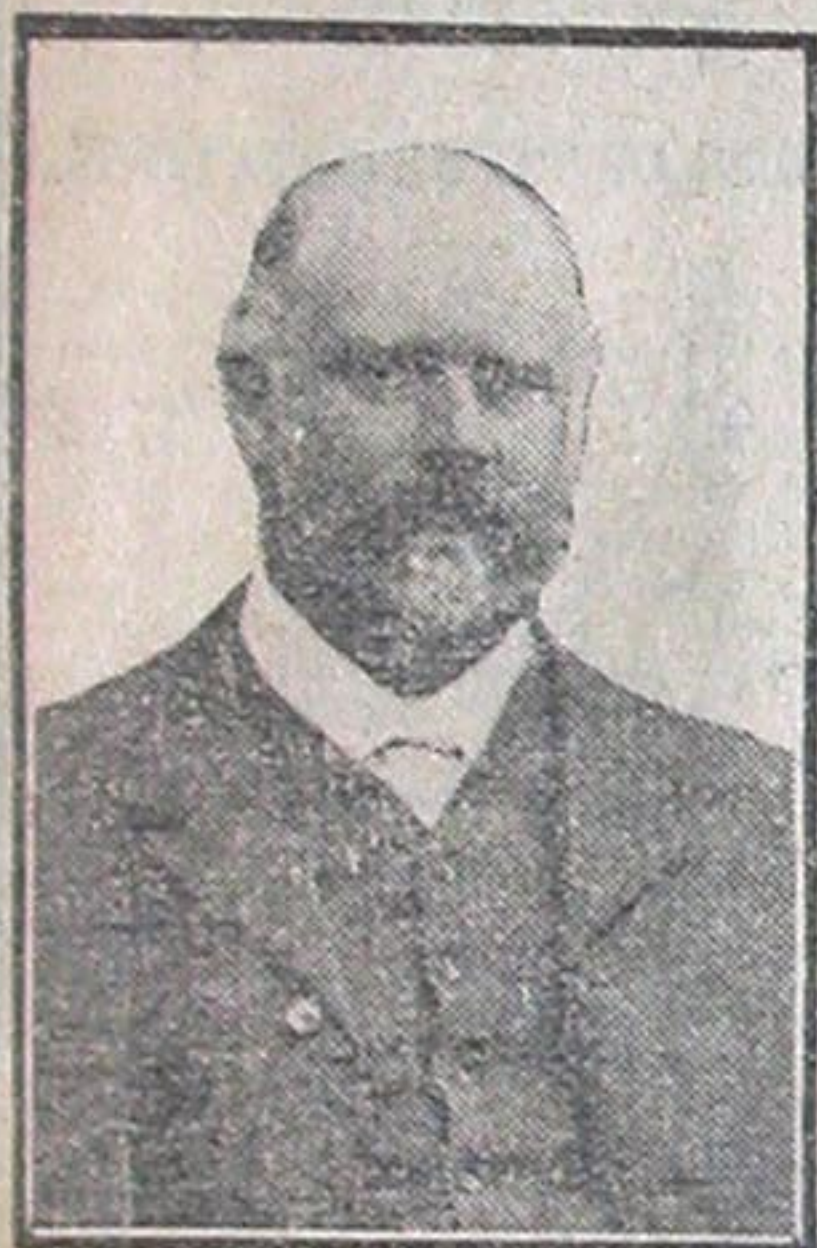
# DEATH OF CANON GIRDLESTONE.

SCHOLAR AND ATHLETE.

"A MAN AMONG MEN."

Old scholars of St. Peter's College throughout the world will regret the death of the Rev. Canon Henry Girdlestone which was announced by cable from England, where he had resided of late years. Canon Girdlestone, who was 63 years old when he died, was headmaster of St. Peter's College for nearly a quarter of a century, and it was largely due to his wise and kindly guidance, and, above all, to his rare gift of understanding, allied to his educational abilities, that the institution prospered in such a remarkable fashion during his regime. He was a young master at Bath College in 1893 when Bishop Kennion offered him the appointment. One of his colleagues at Bath College was going to be married, and he was looking for an engagement as principal of a college.

One night when Canon Girdlestone called on him he was turning over a letter he had received offering him the post of headmaster of St. Peter's College, on condition that he took Holy Orders. He did not want to take either Holy Orders or make the long trip to Australia, and laughingly suggested that as his friend was already qualified as a clergyman, he might apply for the post instead. Then and there Canon Girdlestone wrote out his application, and added to the particulars concerning his degrees (he was an M.A. of Oxford, having taken honors in mathematics and natural science), the fact that



Canon Girdlestone.

he had twice stroked the Oxford Eight in the Oxford and Cambridge boat race (in 1885, 1886). Next day he received an invitation to go to London and interview Bishop Kennion, and within five minutes was engaged. He stipulated that the engagement should be only for two years, as he thought of taking up parish work, but he found that after all his true vocation was in education, and he carried on the fine traditions of the college for more than twenty years. He used to say laughingly that he really owed his appointment in the first place more to his skill in rowing than his knowledge of books, but this was not the case. He was a man of wide culture, and his knowledge of him in nature led him to see that physical education and book learning went side by side, and he spent much of his spare time on the river coaching the rowing teams.

Of commanding physique and with a genial manner, he was one to inspire respect and confidence in the boys placed under his care, and it was said of him that he was at once their master and their friend. Canon Girdlestone was born at Penkridge, in Staffordshire, where his father was vicar. He was educated at Bath College, which he entered in 1872, remaining there for ten years, and then went on to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he remained for four years. Mr. C. W. Hayward, the well-known Adelaide solicitor, who was a contemporary of his at Oxford, is President of the Old Collegians' Association of St. Peter's College, and he always expressed the highest admiration for Canon Girdlestone.

Mr. Harry Thomson, of the legal firm of Varley, Evans, & Thomson, who was at St. Peter's College during the canon's regime, is chairman of the committee of the Old Collegians' Association. He stated yesterday that a cable had been sent to Mrs. Girdlestone, on behalf of the association, expressing regret at the death of her husband, whom he styled as "a man among men, and more than all a man among boys." His influence permeated

St. Peter's College, and great as was his scholastic attainments they were the least part of his career as an educationist. Canon Girdlestone held sound views on education, and although he deprecated dogmatism he had no patience with the craze for practical work to the almost utter exclusion of theory. He always held that the great object of a school such as St. Peter's, was adequately to fit a man to take his part in the civil work of the State. In England the colleges and universities are looked to for the supply of public men, and that was an ideal which he always kept before him at St. Peter's.

Canon Girdlestone had intended to take up the work of the ministry when he entered Holy Orders after serving at Bath College for a couple of years as master, followed by a period when he was engaged as private tutor to Lord Ashington, an Irish baron, and his brother. This is not surprising, for he came of a family noted alike for its brilliant scholastic achievements and its piety. His grandfather was the author of "Charles Girdlestone's Biblical Commentary," published about a hundred years ago. This was literally a household work in England, and was one of the most widely quoted books of its time. His great-uncle, Canon Girdlestone, whom he was said greatly to resemble, was one of the first of the English landlords to try and improve the conditions of agricultural laborers, and his views on the relations of capital and labor were much in advance of the economic thought of the day. The family has been connected with the Church for generations, and some confusion was often caused a few years ago owing to the fact that there were two or three Canon Girdlestons.

The canon built a monument for himself while he was at St. Peter's College, more enduring than any in brick or stone in the characters of his pupils. It is known that 1,200 old boys of the college served at the Great War, and many of these passed through his hands. This was a justification of his theory that education was a matter of training not of location. He made it his aim to enable a young man to complete his education in South Australia, instead of having to go abroad, and it was a matter of regret to him that many of the college boys spent less than three years at St. Peter's. It was characteristic of him that he relinquished the headmastership of the college while still at an age when most men would have considered themselves in the prime of life. He considered, however, that a master to do his best work should be young enough to be in close touch with the aims and aspirations of his boys. After he left St. Peter's College, he took a short holiday, and afterwards took over the post of headmaster of the Melbourne Grammar School in order to release Mr. Franklin, the present principal, for active service during the war. Canon Girdlestone married Miss Helen J. Crawford, the daughter of a manager of the Union Bank, Adelaide. They ultimately made their home at Lansdown, near Bath. In addition to his widow, the canon leaves two children, Mr. Peter Girdlestone and Miss Neste Girdlestone.

### Tribute by the Bishop of Adelaide.

The Bishop of Adelaide (Right Rev. Dr. Thomas) stated last night:—"With real grief I learned a fortnight ago that there was no hope for Mr. Girdlestone's recovery, and all who knew him will learn with sorrow of his death. He was a man of outstanding personality, with his own high ideals of what a public school and a public school boy should be. There is no question that he left his mark upon St. Peter's College, and that many men in this State and city look back in gratitude to their time at school under his headmastership. I had the satisfaction of appointing him an honorary canon of the cathedral, and he was always ready to help in the diocese, but his chief interest was in his boys."

### CHILDREN AND MUSIC.

The Minister of Education (Hon. L. L. Hill), who attended the orchestral concert for school children at the Exhibition Building on Tuesday night, remarked yesterday that he was much pleased with the efforts of Dr. Harold Davies and Mr. W. H. Foote to popularise better-class music in the minds of the young people. The behaviour of the children whilst the various pieces were being played was exemplary, and they appeared to exhibit a deep interest in the selections. The address of Dr. Davies, and the remarks of Mr. Foote, in explaining the musical items, were of great educational value. He trusted that more concerts of a similar character would be given for the benefit of the children, and considered the orchestra should be highly complimented on its work.

# ENGLISH MUSIC. RESCUING OLD SONGS.

People who say that English is not an expressive language and that there is no purely English musical tradition, know nothing of the vast store of folk songs and dances which can be drawn upon, according to Mr. Clive Carey, the president of the newly-formed society for the study and revival of folk singing and dancing. These old-time songs and dances were rescued for posterity, he declared, just in the nick of time, and the man who had most to do with it was Mr. Cecil Sharp, who was so well known here at one time. Mr. Percy Grainger, the famous pianist, was another. Mr. Carey said nothing about his own achievement



Mr. Clive Carey.

in this direction, but it is a fact that he has rescued scores of old-world songs from oblivion.

They were taken down in all sorts of odd and out-of-the-way corners in England, and as they were mostly sung by very old people who had learned them from their grandparents, it was often difficult to pick out the exact phrasing, especially when, as was often the case, they had no teeth left.

"The revival of interest in England is widespread," said Mr. Carey, "and educational authorities have recognised the full their value. They help people, especially young people, to express themselves without affectation. The Morris dance is full of dignity and virility, and is really a survival of the old-time ritual dance. There is, of course, a lot of the old-time gaiety in the country dances, and there is a certain friendliness in the directions which state that 'Longways dancing is for as many as will.' Then there are the Roger de Coverley and the quaint old square dances; but if you want to see them at their best you should see them just after an exhibition of jazzing."

The sword dance is an interesting survival of the traditional dance, which in some parts of England is still given with the traditional little play it is supposed to accompany. Curiously enough, it was the girls' clubs of England which brought about the recrudescence of interest in these quaint old-world songs and dances, and it is the girls' clubs in Adelaide which will help to put them on a sound basis here, Mrs. Charles Todd and Miss Constance Barrett, whose work on their behalf is well known, having co-operated with Mr. Carey in bringing them before the public. There are so many traditional games interwoven with the folk music of England that Mr. Carey is of the opinion that in this field alone there is plenty of room for work by enthusiasts.

"It is, after all, merely a matter of giving the younger generation something which by right should belong to them," he said. "We have no right to deprive them of their heritage of English music, and at the same time that they receive this they will possess a natural art which will enable them to give a natural expression of emotion different altogether from the usual stagey thing which passes muster to-day. There is a village called Bampton, near Oxford, where the musical tradition has never been broken for hundreds of years, and the same thing applies in the north of England in some places. People who admired the natural genius of the Cossack choir will find plenty of evidence of our own possession of a vast field of music different from that of any other nation in old folk songs and dances."

### THE SCIENCE CONGRESS.

An important part will be played by South Australian representatives at the Perth meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science next month. The president's address will be delivered by the president-elect, (Professor E. H. Reenie, of Adelaide). His subject will be, "The Chemical Exploitation, Past, Present, and Future, of Australian Plants." Professor Ker, Grant, who is president of Section A—Astronomy, Mathematics and Physics—will speak on "Atomic Transformation." Professor Sir Douglas Mawson, president of Section C—Geology and Mineralogy—will make a brief survey of the present knowledge relating to the igneous rocks of South Australia. "The claims of the Australian Aboriginal," is the title of the address to be delivered by Professor Wood Jones, the president of Section F—Ethnology and Anthropology. Dr. F. S. Bone, president of Section I—Sanitary Science and Hygiene—will lecture on "Notification and its relation to the Prevention of Disease." South Australia will be represented at the citizens' free public lectures as follows:—Dr. Basedow, "Twenty Years Among the Stone Age Men of Australia"; Professor T. Harvey Johnston, "The Biological Control of Pests"; Professor H. Darnley Naylor, "Blondes and Brunettes in Antiquity"; and Professor T. Bradfield Robertson, "The Duration of Life." The only other citizens' free public lecture on the programme is by Major L. F. Giblin, of Hobart, who will speak on "The Ruin of Hobart—With a moral for Western Australia and Tasmania."

### MUSICIANS OFF TO MELBOURNE.

On Wednesday, July 7, Dr. E. Harold Davies (Director of Elder Conservatorium), the members of the Conservatorium Quartet (Mr. Charles Schilsky, Misses Sylvia Whittington, Alice Meegan, and Mr. Harold Parsons), accompanied by Miss Maude Puddy and Mr. Clive Carey, leave for Melbourne by the afternoon's express.

The Conservatorium Quartet will give two concerts with Miss Puddy and Mr. Carey as soloists. Mr. Carey will stay a little longer in Melbourne and give a recital at which Miss Puddy will play.

Dr. Davies, Miss Puddy, and Mr. Carey will be the guests of Mrs. James Dyer, at Toorak, during their stay. Mrs. Dyer is a great admirer and enthusiastic supporter of the arts, music specially so.