

Rev. J. F. Curlewis.

SUDDEN DEATH AT THE PAARL.

A gloom has been cast over the Paarl by the death of the Rev. J. F. Curlewis, rector of the Paarl parish, including Wellington and Upper Paarl for more than forty years. The schools, the rectory, and the church were erected during his time, and as the result of his energy and devotion. About six months back his health broke down, and two months ago he retired on pension. The circumstances of his death are extremely sad. On Thursday last feeling chilly, he lit a recently-bought heating stove in his bedroom, and by some accident or other it is believed he fainted, and fell over it. His clothes caught fire, and in his weak state he was unable to extinguish the flames before he had received injuries which proved fatal. The terrible position in which the reverend gentleman was placed was discovered by outsiders seeing the conflagration in the room. On rushing in, they found that the deceased had managed to wrap himself in his bedclothes, and was lying in an unconscious state on his bed. Medical assistance was summoned as speedily as possible, but the fearful injuries sustained proved fatal on Monday morning last.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place yesterday morning at the Paarl. Long before the appointed time the neat and pretty English Church, on the upper side of the magnificent fir avenue at the extreme northern end of the town, was crowded with the members of the deceased's congregation. Outside in the shade of the grand firs the rest of the congregation, old and young, male and female, stood waiting. The large number of representatives of the European section of the community bore testimony to the esteem in which the deceased was held by the Paarl public. Among those present were: Messrs. S. V. Cloete, ex-C.C. and R.M.; S. P. H. de Villiers, the Mayor; C. C. de Villiers, W. Albertyn, J. H. Bignaut, J. de Ville, C. Wahl, Rademeyer, Hutchinson, J. Philips, Page, P. J. Malherbé, Alant, Charl de Villiers, C. D. Hopkins, Jac. Bignaut, and J. L. Tindal. The English clergy was represented by the Ven. Archdeacon Lightfoot and the Revs. A. Jeffrey, pastor loci; C. Slingsby, of Stellenbosch; C. Scratchley, of Upper Paarl; W. R. Morris, of Wellington; and F. B. Moore, of Claremont. The ministers of the other denominations at the Paarl were also present, viz., the Revs. A. A. Louw, A. Moorrees, W. A. Joubert, and De Villiers, of the D.R. Church; Rev. Mr. Hahn, of the German Lutheran Church; Rev. Mr. Ramage, of the Congregationalists, and Rev. Mr. Heath, of the Wesleyans. The service in the church was brief. It commenced by the congregation singing a Dutch hymn, "Ik Wensch te Zyn Aise Jezus." Then the 90th Psalm was read by the Rev. C. Scratchley, after that 1 Cor., xv. by the Rev. W. R. Moore, another hymn concluding the service.

The coffin, which had rested in front of the pulpit, having been borne to the hearse, the procession to the cemetery was formed. The members of the St. Stephen's Friendly Society, all with their sashes, walked in front, and the English clergy immediately preceded the hearse. Messrs. Advocate and Mrs. J. S. Curlewis, of Pretoria, Mr. J. F. I. Curlewis, of Potchefstroom, Mr. H. B. Sauer (son-in-law), Mr. Wilson, of Hopefield (a stepson), and Mr. P. B. de Ville (brother-in-law), walked immediately behind the hearse, and then came the churchwardens and sidesmen, and next the rest of the congregation. The deceased's European friends and admirers brought up the rear in their carts and carriages. As

the procession passed on to the cemetery a hymn was sung by the congregation. At the graveside the full burial service of the English Church was read by the Ven. Archdeacon Lightfoot. The deceased was laid to rest in a grave next to his late wife. Deep grief and subdued sorrow were written upon the faces of the congregation as they gathered with bowed heads round the grave of their pastor. Wreaths, both large and small, were placed in large numbers on the grave. The bearers were: Messrs. H. P. van Eyk, P. Sheldon, P. de Villiers, S. Minnaar, H. Green, C. Elliott, G. Retief, and J. H. Durr. The pall-bearers were: Messrs. R. Moll, J. I. de Villiers, P. C. le Roux, and W. Marsh.