

OBITUARY NOTICE.

Rev. E. James.

The death of the Rev. E. James, Chaplain of the Victorian Seamen's Mission, and honorary Chaplain of the Naval Forces, has caused a blank which it is almost impossible to fill. The deceased gentleman had been so long in our midst, and had so closely associated himself with every good work in Port Melbourne, that he had come to be looked upon as one of the institutions of the place, and that he should ever be removed was almost regarded as amongst the things most improbable. His death, therefore, quite unexpected by most of us, even to the last, came as a great shock, and caused a considerable amount of pain to his many friends.

Mr. James arrived in the colony from Cornwall when he was about 17 years of age, voyaging in the same ship with Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, sen. He occupied various positions, mostly in the country, and in the year 1896—just 15 years ago on the 1st of last May—he was appointed as Chaplain of the Seamen's Mission, succeeding the late Rev. Kerr Johnson.

To many, his work, during the 15 years of his residence here, is familiar, but a short *resumé* will not be out of place. When he took up the position of Chaplain, the condition of Port Melbourne was different, as regarded the shipping, to what it is to-day. Then our piers were fully occupied with ships, and the work of the Chaplain lay about his headquarters, but gradually much of the shipping went up the river, and it became necessary to follow the men. This Mr. James did, but it meant an increased amount of labour: and, although often weary in his work, Mr. James did not complain, so long as he was able to do his ever shifting flock any good. His great grief was when the sailors went astray, and it was one of the joys of his life to know that the men had responded to the efforts of the Mission and were leading new and better lives.

When Mr. James took up the position of Chaplain there was an old wooden building fronting Beach street, known as "The Bethel," but this had soon to make room for the present spacious and attractive structure, the foundation stone being laid by Sir

Henry Loch, then Governor of the colony. This building remains as a monument of the zeal put into the Mission by Mr. James from the very commencement of his work. As the years went by the Mission became more successful, and the Chaplain's heart was in his work to the very last. As his family grew up they also became a great assistance to him.

Mr. James took a very active part, some years ago, in helping to stamp out crimping, which at that time was very rife, and he also worked hard to bring about the local option poll, which resulted in a large majority voting for a decrease in the number of hotels in Port Melbourne, but was upset through a technicality in the law.

Not only did Mr. James spend his days in trying to come into contact with the sailors, but every night was occupied in the work of assisting to entertain or instruct them, and for this purpose meetings were held at both Port Melbourne and Williamstown, and it had also been Mr. James's desire to have a building somewhere near the river.

In works of charity wherever Mr. James could be of any assistance, he was always ready to lend his aid.

He was good a friend, a faithful husband and father, and those who knew him best will miss him most.

Mr. James died at Ballarat on Sunday last, he having gone there to spend a holiday, but shortly after his arrival Mrs. James was summoned to his side and remained there attending him to the last. His remains were brought home and the funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, and the respect in which he was held was manifested by the many tokens of sympathy which were forthcoming, and the large number of all classes who followed the funeral to the grave. A detachment of the Naval Forces was in attendance, also in recognition of their honorary Chaplain's services on many occasions. The funeral service at the deceased's late residence was conducted by the Revs. A. R. Edgar and J. M. Abernethy, M.A., and at the grave by the Revs. A. R. Edgar and W. Burrige. Mr. Edgar also gave testimony to the life lived and the good work done by Mr. James. The service was a solemn one, and the scene at the grave will be remembered by many for a long time to come.

The funeral arrangements were most satisfactorily carried out by Mr. R. McKenzie.

Port Melbourne "Standard," 20 July, 1901.

There was a large congregation at the Seamen's Institute on Sunday night, when Mr. C. E. Bowen preached the sermon in memoriam of the Rev. E. James. 3/8/1901.