

In Memoriam.

THE REV JOHN DINGLE, VICAR OF LANCHESTER.

It becomes our painful duty this week to the death of the Rev John Dingle, M.A., F.R.S., the esteemed and reverend incumbent of the village of Lanchester, the sad event having place about half-past six o'clock yesterday (day) morning. The career of the deceased was one of the most remarkable and eventful.

Born at Plymouth, Mr Dingle was a scholar at Wesleyan Christi College, Cambridge, where he was a Wrangler, and succeeded in carrying off 1st mathematical honours. He took his B.A. degree in 1891 when he was ordained by Bishop Lichfield. He was thereafter licensed to the curacy of Withinghall, Salop, being subsequently appointed perpetual curate of the same village. In 1899, he was

moted to the Vicarage of Withington, and at the same time as Master of the Grammar School at High Ercall, another village in Shropshire. In 1856, Mr Dingle succeeded the Rev. Farnshaw to the perpetual curacy of Lancel and received his M. A. degree in 1862. This gentleman entered upon his duties at Lancel on Easter Tuesday of the year 1856, and at that moment he was presiding over the first

meeting, he was inexpertedly called away to the death-bed of his former wife, by whom were two children. At that remote period the original parish of Lanchester was one of the largest in England, embracing (with the exception of Chapelries of Tamfield and Batley, and the parishes of Medomsley, Muggleswick, Ebbw Vale, and Ebbw), the whole of the extensive Union of Glamorgan. It therefore appeared to be great necessity to divide this large parish, one of Mr. Iveson's first objects was to have it separated

different ecclesiastical districts, the Government of the episcopacy of Bishop Longley, the Government induced (chiefly through the instrumentality of the rev gentleman) by one of the greatest and most influential public meetings ever held in Nottingham—at which a strong deputation was appointed to wait upon Lord Palmerston in London—to pass through Parliament an Act empowering Ecclesiastical Commissioners to make provision for the poor parishes, without wealth and influence, and to fund at their discretion the

by collecting all the surplus funds as known and diverting the moneys into other D. This was one of the most important Acts of the infirmity and welfare of the Church operated with beneficial results in this especially where mining villages were con springing up everywhere in the great N Coalfield, without any Church accomm being afforded to the new populations. Mr was an active and energetic supporter movement, and the whole of the statisti

which the claims of the Diocese of Durham were compiled by the deceased cleric. That his efforts in this direction were crowned with success is simply illustrated by the fact that afterwards new churches were erected at the Leadgate, Holmside, and Castle; the Blackhill being in course of contemplation. The result was that the living of Lanchester was transformed into a Vicarage. Mr. Gifford's conduct throughout was that of a truly honest and God-fearing man. He was a

published in 1863—about the period of this controversy—a volume entitled, "The Hallelujah Revelations and Science: A Series of Essays on Theological Questions of the Day," which was highly praised as being a complete refutation of the contradictions of the vital questions then under dispute. In 1879 he printed another interesting work, "An exposition of the Apocalypse," based on the same principles of interpretation.

the principles of the house, and the
brought down to that date. Both volumes
bulky, and are issued by Seeley and
Dingle also wrote an able reply to Mr Gifford's
pamphlet on "England and the Vatican,"
as other works of minor importance.
gentleman was likewise instrumental in
handsome and commodious National School
village of Lanchester, in order to cope
increased requirements of the Education
1870, and this saved the ratepayers the

board of the expensive machinery of the Board. In 1859 he was appointed Chaplain of the Lancaster Workhouse, an office he held until the time of his demise, conducting a series of lectures and preaching to the inmates once every week, and occasionally catechising the children. He acted as treasurer to the Lancaster Savings Bank, and occupied other public positions. Mr. Bland laboured earnestly and rigorously for the improvement of his Master and for the promotion of the interests of the Church of England during his life.

early portion of his career, but latterly on account of his age and infirmity his health became feeble and he was frequently indisposed to work on the last day of last year, the deceased unfortunately caught a severe cold whilst officiating at a service on a cold, damp, foggy day, and he never recovered from the effects thereof. He was likewise afflicted by rheumatic pains, and has for several years been confined to his bed. Although not suffering from any acute illness, he was gradually sinking, and his medical adviser (Dr John Wilson) had observed that he was gradually sinking.

during the past few days, many friends has the sick patient's bedside and taken a long of one who was beloved and esteemed by knew him. Whilst the rev. gentleman prevented from discharging his parochial various clergymen in the district have officiated in his stead. The news of his the Village spread rapidly, and in all were to be observed expressions of the sorrow and profound grief, his demise or

Deep gloom in the village. All being of a quiet and unassuming disposition, he closely endeared himself to all classes of parishioners—Churchmen and Nonconformists alike. Mr Dingle, we may observe, married and he leaves a widow and a family to mourn his loss, and we feel sure that his death will receive the sympathy and condolence of all inhabitants in their hour of sad bereavement. He was a Conservative of the mildest type, but did not take the least part in political matters.

even troubling himself to record his vote in the recent municipal and par-
liamentary elections. No definite arrange-
ment has been made for the future, but
yet, as far as we can ascertain, being in-
terested in the welfare of the district.
The income of the living is about £350
worth about £350 per annum with fees
living is in the gift of the Lord Chan-
cellor. From Mr Neasham's "History and Biog-
raphy of the County of Durham" we learn that when he
entered upon the duties of the living the
parish was about ten miles long from east to west, and
the population were at the extremities. Lo-

chance centre, with a population of about four miles from the church; to it, however, people had to resort for the rites of the churchyard was their only burying place. Poor people were commonly in the habit of their dead that distance by land. A few things emanated when the cholera broke them, and the little country churchyard to the utmost. A local effort was made additional services, and liberally responded one side of the parish by the coalowners

Hey and Co.; but the Consett Iron Co. not unreasonably pleaded their heavy loss to the Commissioners. Grants were obtained from the Pastoral Aid Society, and two curates were assigned districts; but after a year the funds proved inadequate to maintain both, and three years subsequently the incumbent, Mr. W. Mitchell kept up the services in places between them, Mr. Dingle, after a few years' service at home, which

circumstances were unusually heavy, Mr. Leadgate to take a service, &c., at night, and Mr. Mitchell, after the service at Holmsdale, returned to Lancaster and back that he kept up his service there. This was might up with the mission from 1859 to 1863. In the mission Dingle, urged by the hardship of the case, general injustice done to the Diocese, and himself in collecting the necessary statistics, bringing the facts before the public and

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