

Butleigh Funeral of Prebendary Neville

On Saturday last it was evident that the dark cloud of sorrow which, since Tuesday last, the day on which the beloved vicar ended his useful life, has hung over thii village, had not been removed, tokens of its existence being evident from the flag at half-mast at the Court, the closed shops, the drawn blinds and the hush apparent everywhere, a silence only broken by the gathering at the vicarage and the assembling in the Church-yard, of large numbers of black-clad persons, who had assembled to attend the funeral of their parish priest and friend, and to pay to his remains the last sad tribute of affectionate remembrance. At two o'clock the funeral bell tolled, and in a few minutes afterwards, the funeral *cortege* emerged from the vicarage gates and crossing the road, entered the church-yard. The coffin, which was of polished oak, with brass furniture, was covered with a violet and white pall, and had on it a large latin cross, composed of Mareschal Neil roses, arum blooms and other chaste flowers. It was borne by Messrs W. B. Knight, Jacob A. Whitehead, J. Hoddinott, Danton and Addicott (bearers), and Ryall and Higgins (pall-bearers).

Following it as mourners, many of whom carried floral wreaths, garlands, bouquets and crosses, were: Rev. W. Neville, Mrs. W. F. Neville (widow of tlie deceased), Lieut F. Neville, Capt., and Mrs. Biggs; the Misses Mary and Grace Neville; the vicarage servants; Mr. and Mrs. Neville-Grenville; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Neville. the Misses Beatrice and Edith Neville, Mr. Hugh Neville, Mr. Percy Neville, Colonel Neville, Rev. Seymour Neville, the Misses Neville (Baltonsborough); the local clergy (including the Ven. Archdeacon Fitzgerald. Rev. C. S. Ross, Rev. T. P. Nunn, Rev. C. Carey, Rev. G. Beilby) parishoners and friends of the deceased (including Major Swayne, Captain Butt, Mr. T. H. Roach, Mr. J. Beswetherick, Mr. F. Merrick and others).

Mid-way between the vicarage and the church, the procession was met by the officiating clergy, the Revs, J. Thynne, R. P. Murray, and C.D.E. Mallet, and the choir, in cassocks and surplices, who preceded it to the church, chanting on the way the beautiful opening sentences of the church of England burial service. The interior of the church was crowded and here the intermediate portion of the service was intoned (Miss Hick presiding at the organ). On arriving at the grave, which had been made as beautiful in appearance as hands could render it, with its lining of moss and cowslips and its bordering of moss and primsoles, the impressive service was brought to a close with the comforting words of the hymn commencing "Jesus Lives" Before the solemn words consigning the body to the ground had been pronounced, loving hands laid their floral offerings on the coffin, and while the bells rang out their muffled peal, many were the last sorrowful looks taken at the receptacle containing all that was mortal of him who had been their faithful pastor and true friend, and who had gone to his eternal rest and sure reward, a rest and reward which would be theirs also, did they through their life walk as he taught them to walk, and follow the example he had ever shown them. *Sic itur ab astra.*

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. T. Vigers, 162, Buckingham Palace Road, London, by whom the coffin was supplied. On a brass plate at the head of the latter was inscribed:-

IN MEMORIAM
WILLIAM FREDERICK NEVILLE
(PRIEST)
For 36 years Vicar of Butleigh.
Died April 18th, 1882. Aged 63 years
Buried at Butleigh, Somerset.