

On Wednesday morning the funeral of our deceased representative took place in the Chadderton cemetery. On Saturday, the mayor, Josiah Radcliffe, Esq. issued the following notice; it having been decided to allow the inhabitants of this neighbourhood an opportunity of showing their attachment and deep respect by a public funeral:—

BOROUGH OF OLDHAM.
RADCLIFFE MAYOR.

The mayor respectfully intimates to the inhabitants of the borough of Oldham that the interment of James Platt, Esq. of Hartford House, Werneth, the late much-lamented representative of the borough, is appointed to take place on Wednesday next, the 21 of September.

The members of the Council, and other gentlemen desirous of manifesting their respect by being present at the funeral, are requested to attend at the Town-hall on the morning of Wednesday at nine o'clock, when the further necessary arrangements will be made.

JOSIAH RADCLIFFE, Mayor.

Oldham, August 29, 1837.

A new family vault was constructed in the dissenters' portion of the new burial ground at Chadderton, to receive the remains of the deceased, the spot selected being within a short distance of the Dissenters' chapel. The vault is spacious and substantial, and will doubtless long continue to be the last resting place of the family.

On Wednesday morning, the day appointed for the funeral, the town wore a serious aspect from the early part of the morning, and at the time arranged for the gathering of the inhabitants at the Town Hall, it soon became evident that the response to the invitation of the Mayor would be of no ordinary character, from the vast number of our fellow-townsmen that wended towards the hall from all quarters of the borough, as well as from the extensive parish of Saddleworth, where the deceased was highly esteemed. At the time appointed for the procession to move towards Werneth Park—a quarter to ten o'clock—the large hall, the ante room, the council chamber, as well as the grand staircase, and the vestibule of Town-Hall were very fairly filled with the most respectable of our inhabitants, and nothing shows more forcibly how universal is the feeling of sorrow amongst us, than the fact that the procession was composed of all classes irrespective of political creed or religious differences; the conservative and the liberal, the protestant and the Roman catholic, the churchman and the dissenter, walking side by side to testify that he who has been so suddenly cut off from our midst was dear to all. The large space in front of the hall, the street, the terrace, the front of the churchyard and every window and doorway where a glimpse of the scene could be obtained, were crowded with a mass of faces whose quiet demeanour and subdued aspect differed very widely from an ordinary tumultuous assemblage, and gave token of the mournful character of the occasion which had called them together.

Mr. Jackson, the chief constable, having read out the order in which the procession was to form, the cortège began to move, along High-street, where the shops, as well as throughout the line of route were closed, and business for the time suspended. The bells of the parish church chimed Handel's solemn psalm tune "Hanover" as the procession moved on in the following order to Werneth Park, by way of High-street and Manchester-street.

A body of twenty police.

Two mutes.

Four churchwardens, bearing their staff of office.

Clergymen and dissenting ministers of the district.

Magistrates and magistrates' clerk.

Members of the corporation.

Board of Guardians.

Burial Board.

Corporation and Burial Board auditors.

Vice-presidents, directors, and officers of the Lyceum.

Members of the Tradesmen's Association.

Gentlemen of the town.

Workpeople employed at Messrs. Platt's.

As the procession moved along High-street it numbered nearly 900, while the streets, from the Town-Hall to Werneth Park, were deeply lined with spectators of both sexes, in spite of the unfavourable and uncomfortable state of the weather. Amongst the ministers and gentlemen present we noticed the following:—Rev. John Hodgson; Rev. G. G. Waddington; Rev. Robert Whittaker; Rev. Francis Parsons; Rev. James Bumstead; Rev. Robert Topham; Rev. J. Conway; Rev. F. T. Broadbent; Rev. Joseph Littler; Rev. Thomas Johnson; Rev. D. Brammall; Rev. W. T. Robberds; Rev. J. R. Dunne; Rev. J. C. Hindson; Rev. W. J. Skidmore; Rev. W. Ball; Rev. T. S. Mills; E. A. Wright, Esq.; Joseph Jones, Esq.; F. F. Whitehead, Esq. J.P., Saddleworth; J. H. Whitehead, Esq. J.P., Saddleworth; Joshua Wigley, Esq., Uppermill, Saddleworth; William Jones, Esq.; James Jones, Esq.; George Heywood, Esq.; John Heywood, Esq.; Thomas Heywood, Esq.; Thomas Lees, Esq., Greenhill; Henry Tipping, Esq.; Frank Schofield, Esq.; John Riley, Esq.; William Braddock, Esq.; Samuel Taylor, Esq.; John Taylor, Esq.; J. G. Blackburn, Esq.; H. Halkyard, Esq.; G. B. Nield, Esq.; Thomas Lees, Esq., Chadderton; Edward Mellor, Esq.; T. Morley, Esq.; W. Ascroft, Esq.; W. Warburton, Esq.; Joseph Rowland, Esq.; H. T. Robberds, Esq.; S. Schofield, Esq.; A. Leach, Esq.; J. R. Platt, Esq.; J. Rowntree, Esq.; T. Seville, Esq.; Messrs. Clifton, J. F. Hargraves, Mulliner, D. Buckley, Middleton, P. Nield, P. Land, T. Leach, J. Hirst, J. Holmes, E. Gilpin, J. Potter, W. Ingham, G. Hardman, T. Ramsden, R. Cooper, W.

Thomas Lees, Esq., Chadderton; Edward Mellor, Esq.; T. Morley, Esq.; W. Ascroft, Esq.; W. Warburton, Esq.; Joseph Rowland, Esq.; H. T. Robberds, Esq.; S. Schofield, Esq.; A. Leach, Esq.; J. R. Platt, Esq.; J. Rowntree, Esq.; T. Seville, Esq.; Messrs. Clifton, J. F. Hargraves, Mulliner, D. Buckley, Middleton, P. Nield, P. Land, T. Leach, J. Hirst, J. Holmes, E. Gilpin, J. Potter, W. Ingham, G. Hardman, T. Ramden, R. Cooper, W. Chadwick, J. Howard, W. Firth, J. Beeves, Broadbent, Ballingall, J. Beard, J. Bailey, J. Greaves, J. Crompton, E. Wood, S. Brown, D. Collinge, J. Evans, W. Wainright, G. Gowenlock, B. Brierley, &c., &c., &c.

The procession having reached the entrance to Werneth Park, it halted until the funeral cortege left the grounds of the deceased shortly after eleven o'clock, when it turned in the direction of the Chadderton cemetery, by way of Featherstall Road. The mournful march was then resumed in the following order—the procession of the general public leading the way:—

Two mutes with staves.

THE HEARSE,

drawn by four horses.

Mourning carriage, occupied by John Platt, Esq. the brother of deceased; Andrew Schofield, Esq. his father-in-law; Isaiah Duncuft, Esq.; and J. T. Hibbert, Esq.

Mourning carriage, containing Thos. Ogden, Esq.; J. A. Schofield, Esq.; Chas. Schofield, Esq.; Master Henry Platt; and Master Samuel Platt.

Mourning carriage, containing pall-bearers; Rev. J. D. Jackson, Stockport; Josiah Radcliffe, Esq. the mayor; Edmund Buckley, Esq. Manchester, and Nathan Worthington, Esq.

Mourning carriage, also occupied by pall-bearers; Oldham Whittaker, Esq.; Captain Elgee; John Duncuft, Esq.; and J. S. Hagne, Esq.

Mourning carriage, containing the principal gentlemen engaged at the establishment—Messrs. Palmer, Hartley, Richardson, and Spencer.

Carriage of deceased, empty.

Carriage of Mrs. Platt, deceased's mother, empty.

Carriage of John Platt, Esq. empty.

Carriage of J. T. Hibbert, Esq. occupied by the Rev. R. M. Davies, the officiating minister.

Carriage of Isaiah Duncuft, Esq. occupied by the Rev. Thos. Ireland and J. Summerscales, Esq. town-clerk.

Carriage of Josiah Radcliffe, Esq. the mayor, containing Mr. Harrison Blair, solicitor, Manchester, and A. T. Thomson Esq., the family surgeon.

Carriage of Edmund Buckley, Esq. containing E. Ashworth, Esq. Bolton.

Carriage of Joshua Radcliffe, Esq. Rochdale, occupied by Joshua Radcliffe, Esq. and Julius Knoop, Esq.

Carriage of Samuel Radcliffe, Esq. containing Samuel Radcliffe, Esq. and James Greaves, Jun. Esq. Derker House.

Carriage of James Radcliffe, Esq. containing James Radcliffe Esq. and Charles Sathers, Esq.

Carriage of John Radcliffe, Esq. containing John Radcliffe, Esq.; Hilton Greaves, Esq.; Geo. Murray, Esq.; — Winterbottom, Esq.

Carriage of Oldham Whittaker, Esq. empty

Carriage of Thomas Ogden, Esq. empty.

Carriage of Julius Knoop, Esq. empty.

The other carriages, to the number of seventeen, which had been sent by gentlemen in the neighbourhood, to show their respect to the deceased, were drawn up ready to join the procession as the other carriages left the ground. They comprised, amongst others, the carriages of Joseph Lees, Esq., Clarksfield; John Lees, Esq., Clarksfield; F. P. Whitehead, Esq., Royal George, Saddleworth; P. Saville, Esq., Milking Place, Lees; — Jones, Esq., King-street; Mr. Alderman Redfern, Retiro House, Oldham; Mr. Nelson, Waterloo House, Sheepwash; Eli Lees, Esq., Werneth Park; and Mr. Cockshot, Manchester.

The procession having been greatly augmented after passing down Manchester-street, by the joining of the workpeople at the top of Werneth Brow, it was found to number no less than 1,475 as it passed along Featherstall Road, irrespective of the police and those in carriages. It kept augmenting in number until it reached the cemetery gates, notwithstanding the heavy rain that was pouring down at the time. The road was densely lined with spectators, who formed, in many places, walls six or eight deep for the procession to pass through. It is impossible to estimate the number present at the scene with any approach to correctness, but it is supposed by parties accustomed to see large masses of people that there were not less than 40,000 present.

The top of procession having reached the entrance of the Dissenters' chapel in the Cemetery, was arranged on each side of the walks so as to allow the hearse and carriages to pass along to the place, and the coffin was then carried into the chapel by eight of the oldest workmen of the firm, the Rev. R. M. Davies proceeded to read the impressive portions of sacred writ used by the nonconformist body, and then offered up a fervent and solemnly appropriate prayer. The remains of our late beloved representative were then committed to the grave, and the remaining part of the burial service read, many of the gentlemen present in the procession standing in a circle round the vault, with their uncovered heads exposed to the rain which fell in torrents.

The vast assemblage then slowly and sadly returned to their separate homes, the whole of the proceedings having been characterised by the most praiseworthy decorum. Not a loud voice was heard, nor even any attempt at

LE, SEPTEMBER 5, 1857.

crowding observed during the day, and there can be no doubt that all present were painfully impressed with the idea that, in losing him whose memory is so dear to us all, Oldham has lost its best friend and its most distinguished ornament. In the afternoon the bells of the parish church rang a muffled peal in honour of the departed.

We have thus committed all that is mortal of James Platt to his last resting place on earth; and, although he was cut off so suddenly and unexpectedly in the midst of his useful and honourable career, his family and friends have the satisfaction of feeling how deeply and truly he was respected. It was a mournful event which called him from their midst; but there cannot be the slightest doubt that it was purely an accident—a conclusion which no formal inquiry could have rendered more clear and decisive, and our worthy mayor will receive the sympathy and commiseration of all our townsmen, while the friends of the deceased must feel that everything that affection and skill could devise was done for the poor sufferer to avert his sad fate.

He has left in the many benefits he has conferred upon this town an enduring monument of his rare worth, but we scarcely think that the people of Oldham will feel that they have performed their duty to his memory until they have raised an appropriate monument over the place where his dust reposes in peace.