

Charlotte Chatfeild-Clarke

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 12 February 1910

NEWPORT

DEATH OF MISS CHARLOTTE CHATFEILD-CLARKE

We regret to record the death of Miss Charlotte Chatfeild-Clarke, the last surviving member of the family of the late Mr. Abraham Clarke, J.P., of Carisbrooke. Miss Clarke lived nearly the whole of her life in Newport, where she devoted herself largely to good works, and connected with the Benevolent and most of the other philanthropic agencies of the town. Miss Clarke was an active member of the Unitarian Christian Church, and was for over 50 years a teacher in the Sunday School. As a kind and generous friend and by her sweetness of character and cheerful disposition she endeared herself to a large circle of friends, who will always retain for her memory an affectionate regard and esteem. Miss Clarke passed away on Sunday last at Bridgwater, where she had lately been residing.

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FUNERAL OF MISS C. CHATFEILD-CLARKE

The funeral took place from Oakfield, Wootton, yesterday afternoon, of Miss Charlotte Chatfeild-Clarke, formerly of Newport, whose death at Bridgwater, at the age of 72, is recorded on page 7 [above]. The first portion of the service was conducted at the Unitarian Christian Church, Newport, to which the deceased lady was so long and so devotedly attached, and which owes so much to her earnest work and generous support. A number of the members of the Church and congregation, as well as old Newport friends, were present at the church, where Miss Knott (organist) played "O rest in the Lord" before the service.

The family and others mourners were Mr. Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke, J.P., C.C., Mr. Howard Chatfeild-Clarke, Mr. Arthur H.P. Clarke, Mr. Cecil Manners Clarke, Mr. Arthur H.P. Clarke, Mrs. Finney, Mrs. Otley, and Miss Pike. Among others present were Mr. W.G. Young, Mr. Robert Pinnock, J.P., Mr. J.G. Pinnock, Mr. and Mrs. Lay, and church and Sunday-school workers and others. The Rev. C.E. Pike (former pastor of the church) read the opening sentences of the Burial Service, which was conducted by the Pastor (Rev. J. Ruddle). The hymns sung were "Lowly and solemn be Thy children's cry to Thee," "For ever with the Lord," and "When the day of toil is done."

Before the singing of the last hymn the Rev. C.E. Pike, in the course of an impressive address, said the spiritual influence which had drawn them together that day was the product of a life devoted to the service of others; a life of self-denial and well-doing, a life which strove to follow Him who went about doing good. During the greater part of her life that Christian Church was the spiritual home of their departed sister. There her ancestors worshipped, and all the years of her pilgrimage, from earliest infancy until declining age, were associated with that building. Generations of children in the Sunday-school there knew her fostering care. Almost to the last she would recall old memories and early days in the Sunday-school, when under the superintendence of Miss Kirkpatrick she taught there as a girl. That recalled the old home of her childhood at Carisbrooke, a home to be desired for its external situation, but more for parental love, and the love and companionship of brothers and

sister, and also for its liberal atmosphere devoid of bigotry and narrow prejudice, where public questions could be discussed with intelligence and freedom. The head of that home, too early lost, took a deep interest in all that conduced to the social, intellectual and religious uplifting of the people. Abraham Clarke was not forgotten in that Island, and his youngest daughter faithfully followed his example. Her ardour for social amelioration and intellectual and religious progress never faltered. Societies such as the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Nursing Institutes could always be assured of her support, and with what enthusiasm she helped the University Extension movement. One of the last volumes read to her, and in which she took a deep interest up to a few weeks before her death, was "The Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission." Her acquaintance with Poor Law administration, derived from the experience of her father and brother, as well as from her own observation, enabled her to fully appreciate the recommendations of that important volume. She knew the poor intimately and their sorrows and trials, and she was beloved by them. Her little unremembered acts of kindness and of love were countless in number. To give was her greatest joy. In Bridgwater, her last residence, as in that beloved Island, she gained the respect and affection of a wide circle of acquaintances. Ever faithful to her religious convictions and to the faith of her fathers, without the slightest tincture of bigotry or narrow sectarianism, her loss would be deeply felt.

"I know that my Redeemer liveth" was played on the organ at the close. The interment was at the Newport Cemetery, where the Rev. C.E. Pike concluded the service. There were a number of beautiful floral tributes, with included, in addition to those from members of the family, one inscribed "In loving memory from the members of the Unitarian Christian Church, Newport," and another "With deep respect and sympathy from the mothers at Bridgwater." The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. T. and E.W. Jenkins, Newport.

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