

Bramham's Patriarch.

At half-past one yesterday (Thursday) morning week there passed away Bramham's oldest inhabitant at the advanced age of 89 years; we refer to Mr. Wm. Robinson, who was formerly a police-constable stationed in the village and retired on pension in 1891, and who at the time of his death was the oldest pensioner in the West Riding Police Force. Though he would have been 90 years old had he lived until June 2nd, he had enjoyed very good health and had been confined to his bedroom only a week. With the exception of his eyesight his faculties were as good as ever.

Ex-Police-constable Robinson was born at Ovenden, Halifax, and at the age of 19 joined the Manchester Police Force, where he remained two years. On the formation of the West Riding Force (about 1856) he left Manchester and joined the West Riding. He first served in the Sheffield Division—at Handsworth Woodhouse, where he remained a number of years. While there he received the Merit Badge for rescuing a brother officer from a furious mob during a serious riot in which many arrests were made and the cases were dealt with at the Leeds Assizes.

At that time organized and dangerous gangs of thieves roamed the country and no one was free from molestation and nothing was safe. Cutlasses were carried on night duty and often used, in defence.

Mr. Robinson next moved to Hillsborough, in the same division, where he remained seven years. Then he went to Garforth, in the Leeds Division, and afterwards to Bramham, in the Tadcaster Division. Here he served until his retirement, and was followed by ex-Police-constable Mellor, now of Wetherby. His brother officers presented him with a timepiece and ornaments, and friends and villagers gave him a silver watch and gold albert, which he most highly valued. The inscription on the watch is:—"As a mark of respect and esteem for his valuable services and upon his retirement after 37 years in the force and 15 years police-constable at Bramham."

His invariable politeness and courtesy won him many friends. He was a staunch churchman, and held the position of sidesman for many years. He was an ardent worker in the Conservative cause, and at the last election preferred to walk to the polling booth instead of taking advantage of a proffered ride. His wife predeceased him 38 years ago. He had four sons and three daughters. Mr. Arthur Robinson and Mr. W. H. Robinson (Shipley), Mr. Harold Robinson (Bramham), Mr. Geo. Robinson (Newcastle), Mrs. Fred Marriner (eldest daughter, who died three months ago), Mrs. Geo. Jenkinson (Bramham), and Miss E. Robinson.

THE INTERIORS.

The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon at Bramham Church and was largely attended by relatives and friends. The Rev. E. G. Wadson (vicar) conducted the service. The chief mourners were:—Mr. A. Robinson, Mr. W. H. Robinson, Mr. G. Robinson, Mr. H. Robinson (sons), Mrs. G. Jenkinson and Miss E. Robinson (daughters), Mr. F. Marriner, Jun., and Mrs. Marriner, Mr. and Mrs. A. Marriner, Mr. T. Robinson (grandsons), Misses Edith and Dora Robinson (grand-daughters), Messrs. F. Marriner and G. Jenkinson (sons-in-law), and Mrs. W. H. Robinson (daughter-in-law). Among the friends who paid a last tribute of respect to the deceased were:—Mr. W. S. Summersgill, Mr. J. S. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. W. Cotterell, ex-Police-constable Willman (Tadcaster), Mrs. A. Booth, Mr. W. H. Thackwray, Mr. and Mrs. A. Wood, Mr. J. Greenshaw, Mr. J. Bullock, Mr. T. Stockdale, Mr. and Mrs. Warrington (Saxton), ex-Police-constable Seldon, Mr. G. Walker, Mr. D. Middleton, Miss Whittaker, Miss Stirk, Mr. and Miss Bradley, Mr. J. Shaw, Miss Cass (Spenn Farm), Mr. T. Richardson, Mr. J. Eastwood, Mr. R. Hebborn, Mr. V. Smith, Mr. G. Smith, Miss Proudlock (Newcastle), etc.

Beautiful wreaths were sent by:—The Family and Grandchildren, from all at Bungalow and Fred and Clara; Mr. and Mrs. Cotterill, Mr. and Mrs. Warrington, George (Newcastle), Mr. and Mrs. Proudlock, from all at Crag Cottage.

The coffin was of oak with solid brass furnishings, and Mr. Wm. Wood was the undertaker.

Preaching on Sunday morning, the Rev. E. G. Wadson (vicar), in the course of his remarks said by the death of William Robinson they had lost a well-known parishioner, a loyal friend, a devout communicant, as well as the oldest and one of the best known residents of the village. His death left them with yet another gap in the dwindling ranks of their older friends; but they could not really regret a death which was truly a release from long continued infirmity, and no doubt the death of his daughter, and the very long trying winter, which hardly yet seems to be ended, had been the cause of his loss to them. A thoroughly good Christian, a faithful member of his church, he bore his infirmities with exemplary patience and fortitude, looking steadily unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.