

DEATH OF MRS M. A. RALLI.

IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL SERVICE.

It is our painful duty this week to record the death of Mrs Polymnia Ralli, the wife of our esteemed townsman Alderman M. A. Ralli, J.P., which took place at Morannedd, at half-past five on Saturday evening. For seven years the late Mrs Ralli had suffered from Bright's disease, and notwithstanding the assiduous attention of the highest medical skill obtainable, the malady continued to work its fatal course. Recently the patient showed growing signs of weakness, and on Friday dangerous symptoms manifested themselves, and it was deemed advisable to send for all the members of the family. She got gradually worse, and passed peacefully away in the presence of her sorrowing family as already stated. The deceased lady had only just attained her forty-second year, having been born in 1854. She was the daughter of the late Mr P. A. Ralli, the head of the well-known firm of Greek merchants of London and Liverpool, whose business ramifications extend to almost all parts of the civilized world. She was married in 1875, to her cousin Mr M. A. Ralli, who was then actively engaged in business as a member of the firm of Messrs A. and M. Ralli; another of the great Greek houses who occupy such a conspicuous place in the commercial world. Some sixteen years ago Mr and Mrs Ralli came to reside to Wales, their first home being at Henfryn, Newmarket. Subsequently they removed to Brynbella, Tremearchion. But the dampness of the soil and atmosphere there considerably affected

Mrs Ralli's health, and for that reason they decided to take up their residence some five years ago at Morannedd, Rhyl. The change though not successful in effecting a cure, served in some measure to prolong the life of the afflicted lady, and it is largely due to the climate of Rhyl, that the fell disease which is one of the most formidable scourges of humanity, had not earlier a fatal ending. Throughout her long years of suffering Mrs Ralli bore patiently and even cheerfully, the pain and helplessness of her situation. Until comparatively recently she fulfilled all the functions which her station in life enjoined upon her. During the time her husband was Greek Consul in Liverpool, she was called upon to entertain largely, and she discharged the duties of the amiable, hospitable hostess, with a grace and thoroughness which made Mr Ralli's tenure of office as Consul in Liverpool, one full of pleasant memories to those privileged to attend those social functions in which his wife played a leading part. In Wales the same kindly characteristics marked her social life. It is not soon we shall forget the untiring attention she paid to her guests during the week the National Eisteddfod was held in Rhyl when practically open house was kept at Morannedd. In fact scarcely any public ceremonial has been enacted in Rhyl within the last five years, but what the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Ralli has not been the least prominent feature of it. In connection with the many school treats to Henfryn, the departed lady invariably made a point of herself superintending the preparations for the pleasure of the little ones, and the pleasant and graceful way she had of setting everyone at their ease, and ministering to their comfort, made doubly pleasurable to the participants the delights of those annual excursions. But her usefulness as a member of

society did not end here. Her brightest attribute was her kindness of heart—that unfailing source of true and Christian philanthropy. Consorted with a husband whose charitable disposition has been so lavishly displayed, she was able to give full expression to her inclinations. Her desire to do good was made manifest very soon after her advent to the principality. She and her husband became as it were indigenous to the soil in their adopted country, and found something in the Celtic nature which soon formed a bond of union and affinitiveness with their own national characteristics. They sympathised with them in their politics, and in their national and democratic convictions, and though themselves members of the Greek Orthodox Church, whose ornate ritual differs so diametrically from the plain service of the Nonconformist Churches Mr and Mrs Ralli took the deepest interest in the Nonconformist places of worship in the neighbourhood in which they resided. At Tremeirchion, where no Dissenting conventicle previously existed, one was erected through the munificence of Mrs Ralli, in conjunction with her husband. For a radius of fully 20 miles there is scarcely a place of worship that has not on repeated occasions, participated in the liberality of Mr and Mrs Ralli. To follow the varied directions in which their generosity flowed, would be as difficult as perhaps it would be undesirable. Given during her lifetime as it has been unostentatiously, it would be almost unseemly to publicly parade now the princely benefaction she has exercised. In the home circle Mrs Ralli was an affectionate wife, and a loving solicitous mother. To her sorrowing husband, her son and two daughters, who are left to mourn her loss, her memory will remain as that of “one who has worn the white flower of a blameless life ;” and

to the people among whom she has resided during the most useful sixteen years of her life she will be remembered not merely for her extensive kindness and charities, but as one who in many ways and through various channels has shown that "though a stranger she loveth our nation." With one accord the sympathy of the community has gone out to Mr Ralli and his family in their irreparable loss. If public sympathy can assuage the poignant grief of such an affliction, it is pleasing to think that it has gone out so entirely and spontaneously to a family who stand so much in need of it.

The funeral of the remains took place at Rhyl on Wednesday, amid visible tokens of public respect and mourning. Most of the shops in the town had the blinds drawn, and in the neighbourhood of Moranedd, and the route to the cemetery, this mark of respect was to be observed in every window. Though it was intended that the obsequies should be private several of the leading residents attended outside the house, and most of them walked to the Church cemetery, where Mr Ralli has had a family vault constructed and in which the remains were placed. Twelve o'clock was the hour fixed for starting the funeral cortege from the house. Prior to that hour the service for the burial of the dead, in accordance with the rites of the Greek Church, was conducted in the house by the Rev. Archimandrites Zervoes, of Liverpool. The coffin, which was of beautiful polished oak with brass mountings, and bore the inscription on the plate, "Polymnia Ralli: died November 28th, 1896, aged 42 years," was brought down to the library on Monday, and night and day there was kept burning at the head and foot lighted candles. At the head there was also placed the image of the Saviour and the Virgin Mary. The

room in which the coffin reposed was literally covered with flowers, sent by different relatives and friends, the furniture being likewise covered with beautiful floral tributes, the scene being one of impressive magnificence. This was heightened during the progress of the service. Lighted tapers were handed to the mourners, and the relatives taking up a position around the coffin the priest offered, in Greek, the prayers for the dead; and intoned the whole of the elaborate ritual which the Greek Church enjoins on occasions of this kind. He also read a portion of the Scriptures—the 5th chapter of St. John, from the 16th verse. Having read the whole of the service the immediate relatives kneeled and kissed the coffin, and it was borne to the hearse outside. Preceding the mourners was the Priest, attired in the picturesque robes of his office, and carrying in his hand a jewelled crucifix. This crucifix, it is interesting to observe, was presented to the Greek Church in Liverpool by the father-in-law of Mr Gallati—a particular friend of Mr Ralli—and was secured by that gentleman from some English sailors who had taken it from a Greek Church in Russia during the Crimean War. The funeral cortege left the house in the following order:—Carriage containing the Priest, the Vicar of Rhyl (the Rev. Dan Edwards, M.A.), Mr Alexander Ralli, and Mr Pandia Ralli; Mr Ralli's private carriage

containing the wreaths; Hearse; first carriage containing Mr Ralli (husband), Mrs Ralli (mother), Mr Spartali, and Mr Antonio P Ralli; second carriage—Mr A. M. Ralli (son) Miss Ralli, Miss Sonia Ralli, and Mrs Spartali; third carriage—Mr Galati, Mr A. Spartali, Mr J. Y. Strachan, J.P., and Mr S. J. Amos. Other carriages contained Messrs. S. Smith, M.P., Abel Jones, J.P. (Chairman of the Rhyl Urban District Council), Capt. E. W. Keatinge, J.P., Messrs. J. L. Muspratt, J.P., P. Mostyn Williams, Arthur Rowlands (Town Clerk of Rhyl), and Joseph Williams (Gas). Among others who were present were the Revs. Ishmael Evans, Jenkyn Griffiths, T. H. Vaughan, O. J. Davies, Messrs. Wm. Wynne, J.P., Richard Edwards, John Jones (Russell Buildings), &c. Arriving at the cemetery the coffin was placed in the vault, and a service of brief duration brought the ceremony to a close. The wreaths were exquisitely lovely and were sent by the following:—Mr and Mrs John Svargopoulo, Mr and Mrs Pandia Radocanachi, Unknown (Liverpool), from the servants of Morannedd, Mr and Mrs Dixon, Mr P. Mostyn Williams, Mr and Mrs Strachan, Mr S. Smith, M.P., Mr Ambrose Ralli, Mrs Ll. Heaton, Mrs Plunkett, Mrs Hugh-Jones, Mr and Mrs Muspratt, Mr and Mrs Spartali, Mr and Mrs Galati, Mr Hatch, Mr and Mrs Sechiori, Mrs Theodore Schiligg, Mr and Mrs John Jarifi, Mr and Mrs Marragami, Mr Peter J. Calligos, Mr and Mrs Alex Ralli, Mr Pandia Ralli, Mr P. L. Argenti, Mr T. Wynne Edwards, Miss Vizard, Messrs. A. M. Ralli's Clerks.

The undertaker was Mr David Griffiths, West Parade, and the general arrangements were carried out under the superintendence of Mr G. W. Parry. The carriages were supplied from the Alexandra Hotel Mews.