

DEATH OF CAPTAIN PATRICK OF CLOUGHFOLD

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Captain Charles Patrick of Cloughfold died at ten minutes to twelve on Thursday evening at his residence in his 81st year. Captain Patrick was attacked by apoplexy and although he temporarily rallied little hope was entertained from the first that he would survive. With the exception, however, of very slight intervals he was conscious up to Thursday evening. It is somewhat remarkable that Captain Patrick's death occurred exactly one month to the very day after an accident which resulted in the fracture of one of his hips. From that accident, although he is well advanced in years, he improved and he has been out in his carriage once or twice since but the shock then sustained and the subsequent confinement without doubt told on the constitution of a gentleman of the Captain's age who had led an active, out-door life and superinduced the malady which ultimately proved fatal. By the death of Captain Patrick one of the best known and one of the last of 'the old-familiar faces' has been removed from Rossendale social and public life. Born in 1814, the year preceding the Battle of Waterloo, Captain Patrick early in life entered the army and has seen considerable active service abroad. Some forty years ago he was introduced to Rossendale as chief inspector of factories for the Rochdale district, a position which he held until his retirement about fifteen years ago. In the interval he married Miss Mary Ann Ashworth, one of the two daughters of Mr John Ashworth, woollen manufacturer and colliery proprietor, Cloughfold, who erected the handsome and commodious residence which for so many years afterwards was the home of his daughter and her husband, Captain Patrick. Mrs Patrick, after a few hours illness in September 1883, died on the 74th anniversary of her birthday. Since the death of his wife, and with advancing years, Captain Patrick has taken less part in public life, and has been seldom seen on those platforms which in former years his presence so eminently adorned. In his younger days he was an effective speaker. He was thoroughly outspoken, and on the political platform hit straight from the shoulder, but his inherent good humour and dare-devil style never failed to secure him a hearing, even from the most determined of his opponents, and in those days when political strife was more bitter than it is today, no man could better turn a Rossendale audience than Captain Patrick. Meetings whose Constituent elements had been ready to fly at each other's throats a few minutes before, mingled in a hearty chorus of laughter immediately the Captain got on his legs. For a short time he was a member of the original Rawtenstall Local Board, and he had a memorable dispute with his colleagues in reference to their responsibility for the repair of Dobbin Lane, the quarrel eventually ending as a case heard at Preston Quarter Sessions, where the Captain came off conqueror, as he almost invariably did when he set himself that way. He was one of the strongest opponents of the scheme which resulted in Newchurch being added to Rawtenstall and some of his appearances on the platform at that time will not readily be forgotten. On one memorable occasion he turned the laugh on the opposite party by challenging them to put their 'best cock on the walk and he would try conclusions with him' the laughter which followed this sally was only equalled by the roar succeeding his reference to some person or other as 'cat in hell without claws'. In Captain Patrick the Conservative party in Rossendale had one of their ablest champions and most liberal supporters. He was founder of the Conservative Clubs at Waterfoot and Cloughfold and in many other ways took a prominent part in the dissemination of the principles of his party. While he was a devout Churchman,

he was always ready to help other denominations in their good work and if we mistake not his near neighbours, Sion Baptists, have been indebted to him for many acts of unostentatious kindness. The erection of the Church at Edgeside is mainly due to Captain Patrick, who gave the land and in connection with the Rushton family otherwise contributed handsomely towards the building fund. To hark back to Captain Patrick's official connection with the staple trades of the district, no more energetic officer was ever entrusted with the enforcement of the Factory Acts. Government inspection was then in its infancy and the work people were subject to many abuses by those employers who 'hasted to be rich'. The new inspector set himself to combat these abuses and protect the workpeople and many are the stories that are told of the disguises and expedients he adopted in order to detect offenders. Only yesterday an old factory worker told the story of the hands at a certain mill in the Newchurch district. While going to their work one morning they passed what appeared to be a rather dilapidated tramp smoking the black stump of a clay pipe by the road-side in full view of the mill. That morning the engine was started at quarter to six, and before it had made many revolutions the supposed tramp appeared in the mill and revealed the stately form of the inspector who caught the law breakers red handed. With Captain Patrick's splendid physique and high spirits' love of field sports and athletics came by natural instincts. He was a daring cross country rider and a capital shot and excelled in many outdoor sports. He also had a taste for agriculture and at one time had a very fine small herd of shorthorns and a select breed of pigs. The land on the Cloughfold estate has been brought into a high state of cultivation by his skilful management and the old village of Cloughfold itself has been materially improved by his enterprise and kindly interest. Captain Patrick's word was his bond; he was generous to a fault; and thus he 'bore without abuse the grand old name of gentleman'. Honoured and loved, regretted by troops of friends, he has passed to his rest in

Old age, serene and bright
And lovely as a Lapland night

In St Nicholas Parish Church, Newchurch, on the right hand side from the entrance porch is a marble tablet, erected by Captain Patrick to the memory of his mother. The inscription is as follows:- 'In memory of Anne, relict of Thomas Chase Patrick who died at Brantford, Canada, February 28th 1872 aged 81 years. This monument is erected in affectionate remembrance of an exemplary and loving parent by her son, Charles Patrick 'In my flesh I shall see God' Job xix 26'. Just beside it are a couple of stained glass windows, the scenes in <missing> and in loving memory of Mary Ann the doted wife of Charles Patrick of Cloughfold who fell asleep on the 27 Sept 1883 aged (illegible)'. The windows were placed in the Church by Ringer and Co of Munich and London.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday next at 12 o'clock noon then the remains will be lowered in the family vault which is in the interior of St Nicholas Church immediately facing and near to the pulpit. It is somewhat singular that the vault is erected by the pew just in front of the one in which he sat when attending divine service and that he must, in going from the pew to the reading desk to read the lesson

– as he was accustomed to do – have passed the very spot where his remains would be laid to rest. Only two more internments will take place in St Nicholas Church, and the remains of Captain Patrick is one of them.