

## Presbyterians' 70th Anniversary.

### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION AND BOYS' NAVAL BRIGADE.

A very happy and congenial gathering of old and present members of the above organisations met in the Cecil-street S.S. Hall on Saturday evening, and spent a very pleasant evening, recalling many interesting reminiscences of the past. Among the old members present were Judge Williams, Messrs. Alex. Ramsay, Herbert Cooke, Wm. Lindsay, Thos. Henderson, J. Cameron, E. Press, Peter Keay, Alex. Williams, H. Stewart, J. Murdoch, J. C. Gladstones, V. T. Gladstones, W. S. Philip, H. R. Balmer, G. Wignall, F. Morrison, C. Paxton, James Hall, and Gunner R. Kearns, O.C. Boys' Naval Brigade.

Miss Ridley, for some years hon. organist to the church, was amongst the visitors, also Mrs. Macdonald, of Meeniyan, Gippsland, daughter of the late Capt. Murdoch, of the "Jerralton." She attended every service and took her old place in the church choir. She said she never enjoyed anything so much, and would not have missed it for anything.

The president, Mr. A. Heriot, welcomed all present, and referred to the history of the Literary and Scientific Association, which was started by the Rev. John Clark in 1879. Mr. Clark was a scientific man; he had a large telescope, a small observatory and many scientific instruments, with which he often gave lectures to the members with practical demonstrations.

Mr. Alex. Ramsay produced some copies of "The Advance," a quarterly magazine, printed by the Association in 1886. The first editor was Mr. W. H. Williams (now Judge Williams). In the first number was an article on the deplorable condition of the old cemetery near the Williamstown Breakwater Pier, written by Mr. J. Cameron. The association then started an agitation for its removal, which was eventually successful. He spoke of the great influence that the training received in those early days had on their lives, which had been very helpful.

On rising to speak, Judge Williams was given three hearty cheers. He expressed his pleasure at being with

was given three hearty cheers. He expressed his pleasure at being with them to renewing the friendships and experiences of earlier days, and to have a look at his old home. When he represented St. Kilda in Parliament he remembered Alex. Ramsay urging the importance and needs of Williamstown. "They had the Breakwater Pier, the Railway Pier, the Ann-street Pier, the Gem Pier," when Mr. Bromley interjected: "Why you have enough peers in Williamstown to start a House of Lords." In a humorous vein he recalled many incidents and experiences in the early days of the association, and wished the association continued success.

Mr. T. Henderson, a past president for some years, was glad to be there to join again with the members in reviewing the past. He quoted from a paper written in 1900 when they had reached their 21st birthday, which told a good deal of the activities of the early days, and of many who had finished life's journey. The association had a worthy past, and hoped its future would be as successful. He met many in the city in good positions who had been members of that association to whom the experiences gained there had been very beneficial. The fine hall in which they met was built by an old scholar, Mr. J. Murdoch.

Mr. J. C. Gladstones recalled the work of Mr. Fred. Skilt as hon. secretary after the war period, whose recent death they all deplored. He also referred to the erection of the recreation hall, after the association had collected a fair sum. Capt. Mitchell very generously contributed the balance.

Messrs. Herbert Cooke, Wm. Lindsay, H. E. Press and W. S. Philip recalled their experiences and incidents during their membership, all of which were very interesting.

Mr. J. Cameron thanked his old association for inviting the members of the Boys' Naval Brigade to join in their celebration that night; 150 lads had gone through their ranks in eight years, and had turned out fine men. He recalled the monthly church parades, when for some years they averaged about 60 in attendance, and the benefit received on those occasions from the practical addresses given them by the late Rev. Robert Murray. They also appreciated the annual training camps at Swan Island and Portsea, and the great work done

annual training camps at Swan Island and Portsea, and the great work done for them by Chief Gunner Kearns, whose training and advice had been of the best.

During the evening the ladies committee of the association handed round refreshments, and musical items were rendered by Misses Munford, Stewart, Messrs. Stan. Stewart and Nicoll.

The meeting closed with "Auld Lang Syne."

On Sunday morning, 9th inst., there was a large attendance at the Communion service, conducted by the Rev. Thos. Brown, and in the evening the Rev. John Mathew, B.D., Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, preached to a very large congregation of members and visitors. He congratulated them on the successes of the past, and prayed that God would still guide them in the future.

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