

The Press April 28.
LATE MRS C. J. BRIDGE.
1923

The late Mrs C. J. Bridge, who died on Saturday last in Christchurch, was born in Worcestershire, England, in 1827, and lived in the reigns of five English Sovereigns. George IV. was then King; the little Princess Victoria of Kent, was but eight years old, and all unwitting of her exalted destiny. Catholic Emancipation and the Reform Bill were but pious aspirations; the Duke of Wellington was an active figure in the Kingdom. The second French Revolution, the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, the Coup d'Etat, were all to come, while the great German Empire was as yet undreamt of. The great steel ships, the palatial mammoth steamers, the electric telegraphs, the telephone, wireless, telegraph, electric lighting, the bicycle, the motor-car, all these were unthinkable to that generation; yet the little girl of 10. . . ayed to see them as commonplaces of daily existence.

Mrs Bridge's father, Sir Charles Hastings, M.D., D.C.L., Oxon., was a distinguished physician of Worcester, and visitors to that "ever faithful city" will find many public memorials to him. He was the founder of the British Medical Association, of the Hastings Museum, also of several county societies related to the culture of the community. He received the honour of knighthood from Queen Victoria, and was publicly honoured by Worcester with a magnificent presentation of plate of the intrinsic weight of one thousand ounces of silver. Two of his brothers became admirals, one serving as lieutenant in the vessel which conveyed Napoleon Bonaparte to Elba after The Hundred Days. He was afterwards stationed at Smyrna, which is interesting to recall at the present time, and was spending holiday leave in Paris at the time of the Coup d'Etat. The other naval brother served with the Sailor Prince, the Duke of ~~York~~, who on becoming William IV., knighted his old friend, continuing the friendship, and admitting him to constant familiar

* Clarence.

intercourse at Court, where Sir Thomas frequently dined. A third brother received the family living, and became a canon of Worcester Cathedral and Rural Dean of the diocese. A distinguished near kinsman was that of Warren Hastings, first Governor-General of India.

Elizabeth Frances Hastings was married in February, 1854, to Charles J. Bridge, a Canterbury pilgrim, who arrived in the Randolph on December 16th, 1850. He returned to England late in 1853 to claim his bride, and bring her out to his property at Opawa, then known as Opawha Farm. Their friends and neighbours at that time comprised, among others, the families of Sir Michael le Fleming, Archdeacon Wilson, the Kents, all well known in early Canterbury history. On his return in 1854, Mr Bridge, in partnership with Mr Baines, took up a large country station, which stretched from the Rakaiia river to the sea, part of what was known later as Ellesmere. In 1862 he removed his family to the property known as Homebrook, laid out and named the town of Southbridge, and there he died in 1876 as the result of an accident. His widow survived him for over forty-six years.

Mrs Bridge visited England three times, and until recently took a vital interest in all public affairs. She was a devoted member of the Anglican Church, of which she was a liberal supporter, also contributing largely to all movements for the benefit of the community. While residing at Southbridge she was active in all parochial matters, conducting a class at the Sunday school and playing the harmonium at all services. The family as a whole were very specially identified with this church, to which, on its erection and that of the vicarage, Mr Bridge had presented twenty acres of land. A few years after her husband's death Mrs Bridge removed to Christchurch, where she resided until her own decease. When the boarding-out system was first instituted for orphans here she was a prime mover in the matter, and for many years served on the Visiting Committee of the Female Refuge in Cashel street, where her presence and counsel were greatly appreciated.

* Gladstone Baines

May 1923.
ST. LUKE'S PARISH MAGAZINE

Full of years, honoured and loved, Elizabeth Frances Bridge has gone to her rest. For the last fifteen years of her life she lived in St. Luke's Parish and was a constant worshipper with us. Beautifully did she show

forth that true standard of English Churchmanship embodied in Keble's Christian Year, which was next to her Bible her best loved book. Hers was a religion in which the heart and the intelligence both played their full and proper parts. Always deeply interested in all that the Church does, as a loving mother for the young, the weak and the erring, she was at the same time fully alive to the intellectual aspects of the faith, and full of sympathy with all modern movements by which thoughtful men and women try to adapt the old religion to the needs of the new age. In a wonderful way she escaped the common tendency of old age to live only in the past, and no one entered more fully into the thought and aspirations of today than this old lady who has just passed away in her ninety-sixth year. She was buried at Ellesmere where a great part of her life was passed and her grave, only a few feet from the church door, is a fitting symbol of her life, for she ever drew strength for life's work from communion with God in His own House. In this, as in so many other ways, she was one of the best of that generation of God-fearing men and women who founded our province of Canterbury, and we of this generation may well pray for grace to follow her good example that with her we may be partakers of the Heavenly Kingdom.

Longevity is hereditary in her family, two of her near ancestors attaining centenarian rank. Her own life, protracted into extreme old age, ended on April 21st, in her 96th year. She was laid to rest on April 24th, by the side of her husband and other predeceased members of the family in the pretty churchyard of St. James's, Southbridge. Many members of her family and old friends were present, some of whom had come very long distances to pay respect to the passing of a loved relative and friend on the breaking of yet another link with the pioneering days of Canterbury's historic past.

M. Bridge

Christchurch
New Zealand

THE Funeral of the late Elizabeth Frances Bridge will take place on Tuesday, arriving at the Southbridge Anglican Churchyard, at 2 p.m., April 24th—GEORGE BARRRELL. 1923

pell, of Sydenham. 1925.
RUTHERFURD—On May 1st, London, Mary, wife of W. G. Rutherford, and younger daughter of the late Charles J. Bridge, of Southbridge, New Zealand; in her 66th year.
SCULLY—At Sydney, on Anzac Day, Walter Thomas, a pioneer of the Post and Telegraph Service of New Zealand; formerly of Hawke's Bay, Christchurch and Wellington.