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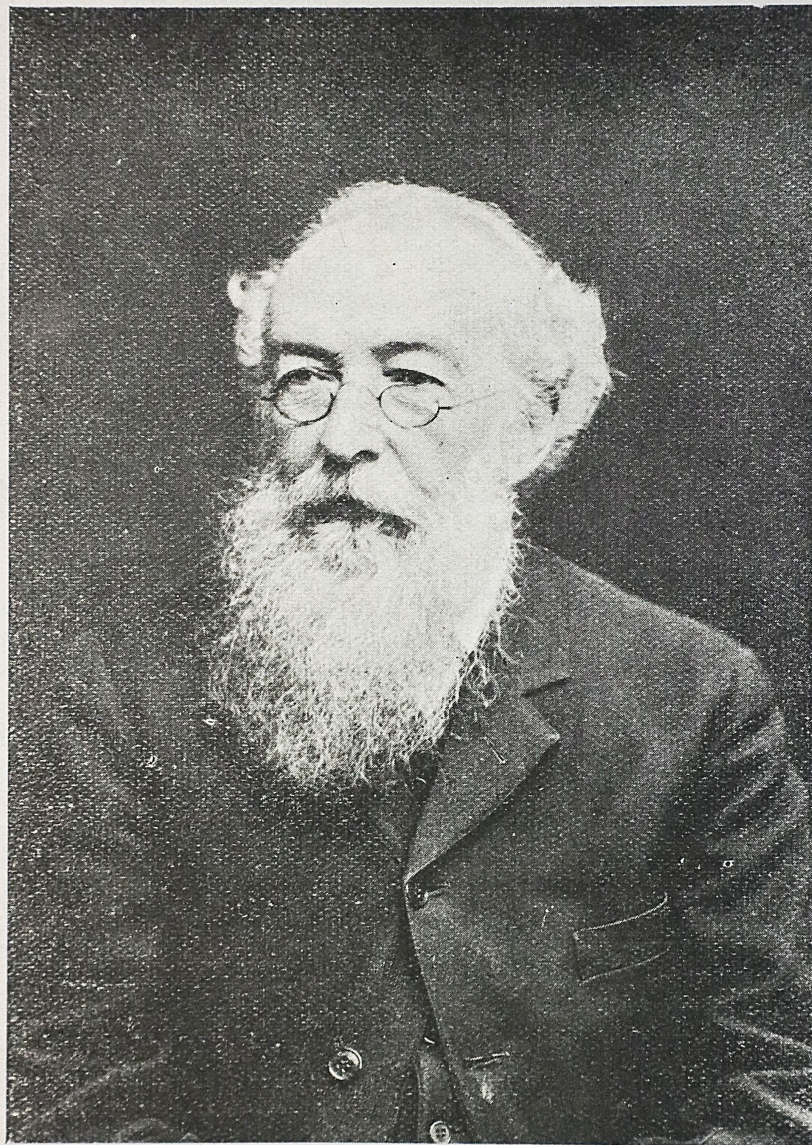




# PROMINENT DEAF-MUTES AND WORKERS OF AUSTRALIA.

BY "MATTLEK."

No. 1. — FREDK. JOHN ROSE.



ANYONE who is observant, will frequently see, trudging miles along the streets of Melbourne: a slightly bent figure of medium height with a flowing white beard,

which gives it quite a patriarchal appearance. This is Frederick John Rose, a well-known identity, and a gentleman of whom the deaf world would naturally be proud.



Born in Oxford, England, he had the misfortune to lose his hearing at the age of four years, through scarlet fever. He was sent to the Old Kent Road School for the Deaf, London, where he received an education that fairly equipped him to fight his way in life, after which he was apprenticed to the cabinetmaking and wood-carving trade. He was apt and soon mastered his trade so well, that he and another apprentice, who was also deaf, were soon able to make a handsome and ornamental cabinet for the great exhibition in London in 1851, and which gained for them high commendation.

Mr. Rose would probably have remained a respected citizen of Oxford, but about this time news of the great discoveries of gold in California and Australia were spreading over England and creating bustle and excitement. Mr. Rose confesses that he, like very many others, fell a victim to what he terms the "Gold Fever." The prospect of picking up in a moment a huge nugget of gold that would mean a fortune made while you wait, so to speak, was too tempting a force to resist. He therefore decided to emigrate to one of the great gold-bearing places to try his fortune. California claimed his attention first, but during the process of weighing in his mind, the scales went down in favor of Australia. So to Australia he directed his steps, and arrived in Melbourne after a long and tedious voyage in the ship "Gloriana," in 1852. These were early days and Melbourne was then a thriving little township.

Mr. Rose can, therefore, lay claim to being one of the glorious band of pioneers of a daring spirit, who, regardless of consequences, penetrated into a new and strange country in pursuit of a competency, and who have helped to develop the British Empire, making it the great Empire it is today. In Mr. Rose's case, handicapped as he was, it showed the plucky and gritty quality of the man. On landing at Melbourne Mr. Rose probably did not feel inclined to face the pleasant shock of amassing a fortune at once, for he, with a brother of his, started in business for a time as carpenters, contractors, and undertakers, and did very well. They built several houses at Newtown (which was the old name of the present city of Collingwood) and Emerald Hill (now South Melbourne). Mr. Rose then decided to try the ordeal at the gold fields, getting together the necessary materials, swag, etc., he trudged his way to Mount

Alexander in company with four of his fellow carpenters, and accompanied by a ferocious and forbidding looking bulldog which had to be held with a chain. They passed through Black Forest, which was a lurking place of bushrangers; returning diggers laden with gold being their object for plunder, not those going to the diggings. They even stuck up the gold escorts, shot the mounted police, and took away the gold, hence the parties going to the diggings had to be well armed.

The carriage of merchandise by road during these days was a paying game, as much as £160 per ton was charged from Melbourne to Bendigo (100 miles). In these days the road was unmetalled, being merely a track winding round the trees. In wet seasons teams often got bogged, hence the high tariff of carriage. A cousin of Mr. Rose's was coming back from the diggings with an empty dray one day, when the bushrangers bailed him up and robbed him of his earnings, they pinioned him to a tree and left him there until he was released by some travelling diggers. Mr. Rose had the good fortune to escape molestation by any of these unwelcome gentry, whether the dog had any thing to do with the non-appearance of any desperado or other rough customer is left to the imagination of readers, no opportunity seems to have been afforded it of showing its fighting qualities.

Mr. Rose was located for some considerable time at the Forest Creek and Bendigo diggings, and met with tolerable success in coaxing the gold from the earth. Sinking a goodly number of claims, both wet and dry, the former generally being rich in nuggets, he picked up a good number of them, among which was one flat piece that bore a remarkable profile likeness to the great Duke of Wellington. Mr. Rose says he thoroughly enjoyed the varied life of these gold hunting days; gold digging was to him a fascinating occupation, as it was to many others, the fascination being the natural outcome of the hope, ever present, that the next turn over of the spade or the dig of the pick axe may unearth a nugget that would make the heart jump with that joy that comes to those who expect it. "Oh! yes," he says to an enquiry, "I would like to go back to those good old days and commence over again."

That Mr. Rose's advent in Victoria turned out a blessing to the deaf children who happened to be in the State at the time is



beyond dispute. There were a good many of these children growing up without, as yet, any attempt being made to educate them. Mr. Rose did not know there were any of his fellow afflicted about. Very naturally he felt that in the early days of the State he may have been the only deaf-mute present. Some years after his arrival, however, some kindly disposed person, under the designation of 'G,' drew attention to the deplorable condition of the deaf children, through the press, pointing out that it was the duty of the Government to see to their education. This was followed a few days later by another letter signed, "A Widow," who had a deaf daughter, and still later on by another signed J. Herriott. These letters attracted the notice of a friend of Mr. Rose, who brought them before him, and as the Government of the day apparently were not disposed to move in the matter, Mr. Rose saw a duty before him. Instead of striking out for himself he manfully faced the situation, and at some personal sacrifice, undertook to start a school for the deaf at a convenient place in Windsor, Melbourne.

Here begins the birth of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution in St. Kilda Road, which extensive building now stands as a fitting memorial to a herculean and responsible task that was undertaken and successfully accomplished by Mr. Rose, with the assistance of a valued co-adjutor and sympathiser of the cause in the person of the late Rev. William Moss, whose memory is cherished by the deaf. Those deaf-mutes who have scattered over Victoria, and who have penetrated to the other States, therefore owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Rose for their present blessed condition. He is familiarly looked upon as the "Father" of the Victorian deaf—a good many of whom are holding responsible positions in the various walks of life. Mr. Rose is very proud to know that this is so and he feels that his sacrificing efforts in the early days have in a great measure been rewarded.

Owing to the apathy of the Government the education of the deaf had, of necessity, to be made a "charity one." Mr. Rose found it impossible to carry on the work at his own expense as it was beginning to get heavy, and finding it difficult to obtain assistants possessing the requisite experience for teaching, although widely advertised for, the assistance of the public had to be invoked for the expanding of the work. This meant hard work and several years were spent by Mr. Rose, the Rev. Mr.

Moss, and a few pupils in travelling practically all over the State, holding meetings and demonstrations in almost every town and village in order to bring the cause under the notice of the public. The travelling was done in an express waggon drawn by a fine pair of horses.

Mr. Rose is a gentleman who does things in a thorough manner, before settling down in the work he undertook he sailed for England, got married there, and brought his wife out to Melbourne.

The plans for the Institution, were in a great measure designed by himself; and even the waggon in which the travelling was done was built from his design, and it was an elaborate one, everything necessary being provided for, even the blackboard they used having a special receptacle made for its stowing away in.

The meetings thus held realised the large sum of £10,000. On the completion of the travelling the horses and waggon were sold as there were no further use for them. Mr. Rose very sorrowfully parted with the horses, that had done him such faithful service. I believe if he had had his own way he would have granted them their "old age pension," and when they died have had them stuffed and set up as memorials of a great work done. The building was completed on the 21st September, 1866, appropriately enough the date of Mr. Rose's birthday, and publicly opened on the 13th October of the same year. Mr. and Mrs. Rose discharged the duties of Superintendent and Matron of the Institution for thirty years, after which they retired at the end of 1890. Mr. Rose, however, retained the position of Principal until the middle of 1892. (Apropos a charity education the deaf are now awaking up to the injustice of it, and calling upon the Government to make it a State one).

The declining years of Mr. Rose's life furnish a pathetic story. He retired with every prospect of spending his last days in comfort and peaceful retirement, but unfortunately unforeseen circumstances, over which he had no control, happened that shattered all his cherished hopes. This was brought about by the failure during the land boom days of some financial Institutions in which he was interested, the consequence was, that instead of enjoying his deserved rest in quiet retirement, he is compelled, at the age of 77, to work to keep body and soul together. He is often seen walking miles about the city and suburbs collecting for the Institution he founded in



order to earn the means of sustenance. Several endeavours had been made to get the Government to grant him a suitable pension commensurate with the valuable services he had rendered the State in the cause of the deaf, but so far without avail. A little assistance has, however, been afforded him and his family by the kindly office of friends and grateful pupils. Unfortunately there is not a sufficient number of wealthy deaf-mutes in Victoria or they would no doubt see that Mr. Rose and his family were provided for.

Notwithstanding his great trouble he takes a philosophical view of life, he is of a pleasant and cheery disposition, and is remarkably active and alert for his age. This is because he has led a uniform and steady life, being moderate in all he takes and does; besides he is retiring and modest, and withal a pleasant old gentleman to converse with. His has been a life that those who are carelessly disposed might well halt to consider and emulate.

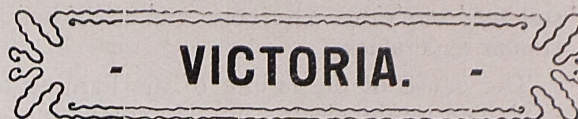
Mr Rose was also instrumental in assisting with others to establish the present flourishing Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria. He has frequently assisted in carrying on the work, and has been a member of the Committee of Management from the inception of the Society 25 years ago.

It is also remarkable that being the first to found education for the deaf in Victoria, he is the only surviving member of all who were the original Board of Management of the School.

He has been blessed with a wife who has been of much assistance to him in all his undertakings, and has a family of three surviving children. Prior to retiring from the Superintendentship of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Mr. Rose, with his wife and a daughter, enjoyed a trip to the old country to see relatives and friends, and he brought back with him some new materials and ideas for the benefit of the School. With that exception he has been a resident of Victoria all the rest of his life. Speaking of residence in Victoria he thoroughly enjoyed it, and considers the country and the climate glorious and ideal.

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There is a deaf-mute examiner in the patent office at Washington, D C., who commands salary of \$2,400 year. Why now should others be debarred just because they cannot hear? Shouldn't chiefs able to read and write be exclusively employed by the Government at the heads of the departments?—*W. Va. Tablet.*



[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

### Personal Pars.

Mr. and Mrs. James Sloane and family were in Melbourne for a fortnight, and had a good time during their holiday, and returned home to Inglewood on the 9th inst. Mr. Sloane remarked that "The South Australian Deaf Monthly News" is about the best periodical, and he always enjoys reading it.

Mrs. Williamson and her daughter returned home from the seaside, Queenscliff, last week after their well earned holiday of seven weeks.

Mr. Hamilton, of Ensay Station, states that they are having a very dry season there, and the stock are in low condition. He is always happy in having "The S.A. Deaf Monthly News," and enjoys reading it every month.

It is reported that Mr. J. Inglis who stated that he was working at Varley Bros., Printers, in the last issue of paper, has returned to New Zealand.

Mr. Abraham was asked to preach on the subject, "The Conditions and Needs of the Deaf and Dumb," on Sunday evening, 14th February, at the Australian Church, Flinders Street.

Mr. J. Caughey is reported to be on the road to the recovery of his health and strength.

### Sunday Service.

On 14th inst. at the Deaf and Dumb Building Mr. W. P. Muir took Mr. Abraham's place to conduct the service, as Mr. Abraham was preaching in another place. Mr. W. P. Muir gave an interesting sermon on "Faith," but unfortunately was stopped at about quarter to 8 o'clock by the sudden cessation of the electric lights. Lucky it was not quite dark at the time. The congregation kept their seats quietly for a few minutes while one or two officers went downstairs to investigate the matter. It appears that something had gone wrong with the wire, and the service had to be discontinued. At this moment the light suddenly flared up with great brilliancy as if a powerful current had turned on and then as quickly dark, almost to the joint of extinction. The occurrence created somewhat of a sensation, and occasioned humorous incidents. This was not the only building which