

OBITUARY.

THE REV. R. H. HADDEN.

We regret to announce that the Rev. Robert Henry Hadden, honorary chaplain to the King and vicar of St. Mark, North Audley-street, died very suddenly yesterday afternoon in Pall-mall, at the age of 55. His health had for some little time not been very robust and there were signs of heart-weakness. On Thursday afternoon, after sending in his usual announcement for our preachers' list, he went to Oxford to see his two sons at Christ Church. Yesterday he returned, and was talking in Pall-mall with his old friend Canon Sheppard, the Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal, when he fell suddenly to the ground. A doctor was summoned from near at hand and pronounced life to be extinct.

Mr. Hadden was the last surviving son of that well-known citizen of Liverpool, the late Mr. Robert Hadden, J.P., who was partner with the late Sir John Willcox in the proprietorship of the *Liverpool Courier* and other papers. As it happened, the son drew away from the Conservative politics of the paternal papers, but mutual respect and affection remained till the father's death a few years ago. Mr. Hadden, who was born on May 6, 1854, was educated first in Liverpool at Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, and afterwards at King William's College in the Isle of Man. He proceeded to Merton College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1877 with a third class in Modern History, an achievement which was no just measure of his keen mental powers. Creighton, of Merton, was one of his examiners, and in after life was able to interest himself in the candidate, as if to show that he had realised his worth. At the same time the fact that Mr. Hadden was president of the Union in 1876 is an indication that his contemporaries were equally conscious of his abilities. He was ordained in 1877 by Bishop Jackson to the curacy of St. Mark, North Audley-street, to which he was afterwards to return as vicar. But already he was being drawn towards the social interests of the Broad Church party, and in the following year he joined the staff of the Rev. Harry Jones, at St. George's-in-the-East, and remained the close friend of that genial incumbent. But the friendship which left its indelible

mark on Mr. Hadden's character and future was started in 1880, when he became curate to Prebendary Rogers, rector of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, and, while life lasted, "the Old Rector" was his unflinching source of incentive and of conversation.

In 1888 Bishop Temple, at Mr. Rogers's instance, appointed him to the vicarage of St. Botolph, Aldgate, where his powers of social and administrative organization had full play. There were abuses of charity to be attacked, and Hadden "was ever a fighter." He became a member of the City Board of Guardians, finding his way thence to the Metropolitan Asylums Board; he served on the London School Board, and, having learnt in Mr. Rogers's school, promoted the educational reform of the Sir John Cass Foundation. His friend, Lord Rosebery, nominated him to a seat on the governing body of the City Parochial Charities, where he had done admirable service for many years. It was also at the suggestion of Mr. Rogers that in 1891 he joined the staff of *The Times* in order to deal with ecclesiastical affairs—a post to which he brought wide knowledge, keen interest, and a sound discretion, and which he retained till he left the City. He twice served the office of Lord Mayor's Chaplain, and would shortly have been Master of the Musicians' Company.

Since 1898 he had been vicar of St. Mark, North Audley-street, to which he was appointed by the rector of St. George's, Hanover-square, at the instance of Bishop Creighton. He did much to beautify and to lighten its sanctuary, and his incisive and carefully prepared sermons drew a congregation that included an unusual proportion of men of ability. His type of churchmanship—liberal, non-professional, and often lightly misunderstood—is not as common as it was. Only those who knew him best discerned at once his value to his time and the strength of his convictions. To them his sudden and early death means the loss of the most loyal of friends.

Mr. Hadden married, in 1888, the second daughter of the late Mr. J. Carbery Evans, of Hatley Park, Cambridgeshire, by whom he leaves two sons and a daughter.

The funeral service will be held at St. Mark, North Audley-street, on Tuesday at 11 a.m. It is requested that no flowers be sent.