

## In Memoriam.

THE removal of Prebendary Bassett, after a short illness, leaves a gap in the diocese of Bath and Wells which will not easily be filled. As an accomplished scholar and an able writer he is widely known beyond the limits of the diocese in which the greater part of his ministerial life was spent, and a brief notice of his life will therefore be acceptable to many readers of *The Pulpit*, to which he largely contributed. He was born at Norwich in 1827, and in due time he went to Cambridge, where he had every hope of distinguishing himself. He entered at Caius College in 1848, and was successively exhibitor, prizeman, and scholar; but owing to a very severe illness (which nearly cost him his life) he was prevented graduating in honours. He took his degree in 1852, and in December of the same year was ordained by Bishop Wilberforce. His first and only curacy was at Bucklebury, in Berkshire, which he served for five years under the well-known Gabriel Valpy. In 1857 he was appointed association secretary to the London Jews' Society, with his headquarters at Cambridge—a position which he filled with much credit to himself—and in 1860 he was transferred to Bath. In 1866 his health broke down under his constant labours, and he was obliged to take rest. He was, however, of too active a temperament to remain long without work, and Prebendary Tate offered him the Sunday Morning Lectureship at Widcombe Old Church, which he filled for several years. During his residence in Bath he made many friends, and in 1871 he was appointed chaplain to the Royal School for Officers' Daughters. In 1872 he accepted the important living of Dulverton—one of the best Chapter livings in the diocese—and there he laboured assiduously for twenty years. The living was no sinecure, and the difficulties in his path when he entered upon the work were manifold. Step by step Prebendary Bassett won his way in the parish, and the universal reverence and affection for him was shown not only by the numerous callers at the vicarage as soon as his illness was recognised as serious, but by the large attendance of mourning parishioners who left their various duties to gather round his grave on Monday, September 26. In 1885 the Bishop conferred upon Mr. Bassett a prebendal stall in the cathedral in token of his appreciation of his literary and parochial labours—an honour much appreciated by the parishioners of Dulverton, who were very proud of their eloquent vicar, as well as by Mr. Bassett's many friends. But no notice of his life will be complete without some allusion to his writings. He had very versatile gifts, and some of his poetical pieces in *Dulverton Musings* show true poetic vein. But it is of his theological writings we would rather speak. His first important work was a translation of the Prophet Hosea, which showed him to be well versed in Hebrew scholarship. This was soon followed by a little volume on certain Messianic texts. His next important work was a commentary on the Epistle of St. James. His assignment of the Epistle to St. James, the son of Zebedee, instead of to St. James, the Bishop of Jerusalem, is worthy of special mention, as, although not entirely novel, he supported it with great acuteness. He had great power in elucidating difficult texts, and was often applied to by his clerical brethren. His facile pen produced many interesting brochures, but perhaps none of them is more important and valuable than his Sermons on the Sabbath, a trite theme which he succeeded in investing with fresh interest. Prebendary Bassett leaves a widow and eight surviving children (four sons and four daughters).—*The Pulpit*.