

WILLIAM BUNDEY



*Mr. W. Bunday
(Mayor of Adelaide, 1883-6).*

Mr. William Bunday was born on 26th January 1826, at Beaulieu, in New Forest, Hampshire, England, where he spent his early boyhood. Mr. Bunday went to London and served his apprenticeship as a carpenter and builder. Soon after completing his term of service he left for South Australia, where he arrived on 19th November 1848. He worked at his trade for a few years. The stories of the extraordinary richness of the Victorian goldfields induced him to try his luck as a digger. He was fairly successful, but after a short experience of the life, returned to Adelaide, where he began business as a master builder and soon made his mark.

From his first connection with the City, he took an active interest, in its affairs and in December 1861, was elected to represent Robe Ward in the City Council. As one of the City Fathers he did good work and was twice re-elected for the Ward, the residents of which came more in contact with Mr. Bunday than those in any other part of the City. In 1868, after seven years' service, he did not seek re-

election, but retired from active participation in civic affairs for 13 years. In 1881, he again entered the Council as one of the six Aldermen when that section of the Corporation was revived. There were no less than 13 candidates for the new honours, and Mr. Bunday was returned third on the poll, after the Hon. W.C. Buik and Mr. F. Hagedorn. After two years' service as an Alderman he consented in 1883 to contest the election for the mayoralty with Mr. H. R. Fuller. The result was a decisive victory for Mr. Bunday by 2,495 votes against 1,518. In 1884, he was opposed by Mr. John Rounsevell whom he defeated by 1,991 votes to 1,650. At the end of November 1886, he vacated the Chief Magistrate's chair, and afterwards took no active interest in public affairs. Strangely enough, he concerned himself only with civic and not with general political movements. He was often strongly urged to stand for Parliament, especially by citizens of North Adelaide, but would never consent.

Mr. Bunday was a prominent member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity and so early as 1856 was Grand Master of the Lodge in South Australia. He was also one of the founders in 1867 of the City Permanent Building Society, and was elected Chairman at the time, a position he held for many years.

In private life Mr. Bunday by his upright dealings gained the esteem of a host of friends. He was of a genial disposition and was always exceedingly affable. Mr. Bunday was not an orator, but his earnest solid speeches on municipal affairs always gained listeners. The deceased gentleman was a prominent advocate of total-abstinence principles and was the leader of many Bands of Hope and other similar organizations. His death occurred suddenly on 2nd April 1889, at a wedding gathering in the North Adelaide Institute, and he was buried in the Walkerville Cemetery, from his residence, Mackinnon Parade, North Adelaide. He left a widow, a son and a daughter. The son was Mr. George Bunday, manager of the Bank at Eudunda.