

A Malabaine Pioneer.

Death of Mrs. Eleanor Hitchcock.

At about midday on Wednesday, Mrs. Eleanor Hitchcock, widow of the late John Hitchcock, of Malabaine Farm, passed away at Meckering at the age of sixty-nine years, the direct cause of death being heart failure, following upon other ailments. The deceased lady was born on the Canning, and was left an orphan at an early age. She lived through her girlhood with the late Mr. James Twine, and was afterwards with the Moran family for some years. One sister was Mrs. James Wilkerson, of Northam and another, Mrs. Alfred Eaton, of Goundegim, still lives. Her brother, the late Mr. John Farmer, was a very old resident of the Eastern Districts.

After her marriage, Mrs. Hitchcock went to live at Paradise, and eventually the household removed into the wilderness, starting clearing what eventually became the Malabaine Farm, where the deceased lady lived for nearly half a century. Unselfishness and kindness were among the leading traits of her character, and she was always ready to assist where her good services could relieve those stricken by sickness or other misfortune.

She leaves to mourn her death three sons, Messrs. Frederick, Robert, and Herbert (a son, John, having predeceased her) and four daughters, Mesdames Lionel Smith, Richard Lawrence, John Sheen, and James Davies (York.) Her grandchildren number thirty-four. Several years ago the late Mrs. Hitchcock removed from Malabaine to Meckering, where she resided up to the time of her death.

The body was brought to Northam on Thursday morning, and the funeral proceeded from Mr. Purslowe's private mortuary on Thursday afternoon to the place of interment in the Anglican portion of the Northam cemetery, the Rev. Henry Vine, of Meckering, officiating at the grave. Before her death Mrs. Hitchcock ex-

pressed a wish that no flowers should be sent by the family. The pall-bearers were Messrs. W. and G. H. Smith, T. Sinclair, G. T. Wilkerson, A. E. Lockyer, G. G. Nicholson, A. E. Dudley, and C. Christmass. The chief mourners were her three sons and four daughters and sons-in-law, and several grandchildren.

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. J. W. Purslowe.