

Eastern Evening News Thursday September 1st 1904

## THE SPROWSTON TRAGEDY.

### FUNERAL OF MRS. CURTIS

The funeral of the deceased woman took place on Wednesday, amid every demonstration of sympathy at Sprowston Churchyard. An endeavour had been made to conceal the hour which the interment would take place, but the information leaked out, and shortly after three o'clock quite 100 people, the majority of whom were women, congregated at the top of Constitution Place, the approach to which was guarded by two policemen. Their duty, however, was of a very light character, and there was no demonstration of any kind. The first part of the funeral service was held at the residence of the dead woman's parents on Marlborough Road, and was conducted by the Rev. H. Kenward, the pastor of the Magdalen Road Congregational Church, of which place of worship the family were members. The mourners were Mr. R. Neal (father), Mrs. Neal (mother), Mr. Robert Neal, Mr. Henry Neal, and Mr. George Neal (brothers), and the Misses Eliza and Edith Neal (sisters): A few minutes after half-past three the two carriages containing the mourners drove up Constitution Hill, and the body, which was enclosed in a plain elm coffin, was at once borne from the cottage and placed on the hearse in waiting. The shield on the coffin bore the following inscription:—

LAURA E. CURTIS,  
Died August 27th, 1904,  
Aged 19 years.

"In the midst of life we are in death."

"Through the cross to the crown."

On the coffin were placed several floral tokens, including two from the family and two others from neighbours. Wreaths were also received from the church members, who were represented by Mr. G. A. Gibns and Mr. Abel. As soon as the coffin had been deposited in the hearse the mournful procession started on its way to the churchyard, which is fully a mile distant. Many of the neighbours accompanied the procession, and as the cortege neared the church the funeral bell was tolled. There was a large crowd in the churchyard, and the spectators, who were most respectful in their demeanour, formed a double line down the pathway as the coffin was carried on a hand-bier to the grave. Here the committal portion of the service was impressively read by the Rev. H. Kenward, a large number of those present being moved to tears. At the church there was a small body of police on duty, but there again the utmost decorum prevailed.

*To the Editor.*

Sir- Will you, through the columns of your paper, allow me on behalf of the parents and friends, to express our best thanks to Inspector Flint and his staff for all their kindness and courtesy towards us during the last few days, and especially for the funeral arrangements. – Yours truly

ROBERT NEAL

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