

DISTRESSING SUICIDE

OF A

LIVERPOOL GENTLEMAN.

Liverpool citizens will hear with regret that Mr. C. P. Melly, who was years ago recognised as a public benefactor—a very practical philanthropist—has met with his death under very trying circumstances, dying by his own hands, but without the responsibility of his own mind. The deceased was the son of the late Mr. Andrew Melly, of this city, by Ellen, daughter of the late Mr. Samuel Greg, of Manchester, and the brother of Mr. Geo. Melly, J.P., formerly member of Parliament for Stoke, and after his scholastic career he devoted himself to commercial pursuits, becoming a member of the well-known firm of Messrs. Melly, Forget, and Co., merchants, of Peter's-buildings, Runcorn-street. But while engaged in business he did not forget that wealth and position have their duties, and he threw himself heartily into a variety of movements having for their object the benefit of the working classes. When the scheme for obtaining water from Rivington Pike was nearing completion, Mr. C. P. Melly strongly advocated the erection of drinking fountains in public places, and to show that he was in earnest during 1856 spent about £500 in placing fountains in various parts of the town. A couple of years later he fitted up an open-air gymnasium at the corner of Chatsworth-street and Smithdown-lane, the site of which, however, has now been built upon for many years. Mr. Melly took a great interest not only in providing workmen with free water with a view to keeping them out of the public-houses, but he was active in promoting and taking part in their amusements, prominent among them being the pastime of model yacht sailing. He also took a deep interest in the volunteer movement, and we believe at one time held a commission in one of the artillery corps. His philanthropy was generously acknowledged by the town, and in November, 1861 he was presented with a public testimonial consisting of a massive silver spargue and candleabra, the cost of which, about 200 guineas, had been subscribed by all classes. In politics Mr. Melly was a Liberal, and in 1864 he endeavoured to enter the Town Council as a representative of Exchange Ward, but his Conservative opponent, Mr. James Tyzer, who had represented the ward from 1844, defeated him by the narrow majority of 13 votes. In 1866, however, Mr. Melly was returned for Abercromby Ward without opposition, and in 1869, when he was elected for the last time, he defeated Mr. Robert Vining, the Conservative candidate, by a majority of 68 votes. From the time he retired from the Council Mr. Melly gradually