



HERBERT BEEMAN

Mr. Herbert Beeman, who is responsible for the accompanying address "To Felix" (which Mr. Harold Nelson Shaw declaimed with masterly ability) is perhaps as well known to the business men of the Terminal City as he is to folk with literary interests.

Mr. Beeman is a valued member of the staff at the Vancouver Board of Trade Office. Like some others whose lot in life involves their being diligent in business, he is

fervent in literary spirit, though innately modest in disposition.

Without asking for any documentary evidence, anyone would gather from his speech that Mr. Beeman is British born, and originally from the Southern portion of the Island, though we presume he is now, like most sensible citizens satisfied to be a Canadian, and especially a British Columbian.

—(Ed. B. C. M.)

To Felix---A Tribute

By H. Beeman.

Spoken by Harold Nelson Shaw at the Midnight Matinee Benefit at the Allen Theatre, Vancouver,

It was the custom in a courtlier age,
When a fair lady left the mimic stage,
To hire a varlet with some skill in rhyme
To tell the triumphs of the well-lov'd mime,
Describe her beauty and surpassing wit
In language flatt'ring and in measures fit;
Or when a Hero whose all conqu'ring sword
Had brought destruction on some Paynim horde
And sav'd his country from an evil fate;
And then again, perhaps some Man of State
Had earn'd the homage of his fellow-men;
But not for one of these we take the pen,
Nor do we write for hire, but out of love
For one whose wit and lore are far above
The efforts of our feeble quill to tell—
As feeble as our efforts are to quell
The flood of reminiscence that will drown
The mightiest thwacks a Chairman may bring down
Upon his desk. There is a story told
About a monk, one Felix, who of old
Listen'd enthral'd unto a bird's sweet song
One hundred years; to him but one hour long
It seem'd. We doubt our Felix would, but then
We know he's talked for three score years and ten.

Enough of banter, though it's writ in fun,
We're glad to know it's but a paper Sun
He went to, when he left a paper World.
Long may he live to wave his flag unfurl'd,
And wield the weapon mightier than the sword!

It happ'd last summer that he went to board
(Batter'd and bruised by evil fortune's kicks)
At a fine Hostel, built hard by the Styx,
Before he sought for what the tired soul yearns,

The bourn from which no traveller returns;
But chang'd his mind as he lay resting there,
And so it chanced that Charon lost a fare.
And now this nasty fellow makes a charge
For board and room, and passage on his barge
Which was reserved, but happily not used.

It comes our Pal, by fortune so abus'd,
Is hardly put, as doubtless you've inferr'd,
To meet a charge not willingly incurr'd.
And thus we find what often is made plain—
That one's misfortunes are another's gain,
And hail this chance to help the best of men,
J. FRANCIS BURSILL, or our FELIX PENNE.

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A Word of Counsel



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