

OBITUARY.

We have a painful duty to perform in recording the loss by death, during the year just closed, of two of the oldest members of the Society.

MR. THOS. D. KING.

In the death of Mr. King on Saturday, November 8th 1884, there passed away one of the best known figures in Montreal. Mr. King was 65 years of age; his youth and early manhood passed in his native city, Bristol, England. He came to Montreal in 1858, with Mr. Blackwell in connection with the Victoria Bridge, on which he was employed for a period in a scientific capacity. We have heard him boast with pride, that time had not shown any estimable fractional difference from his calculations as to the contraction and expansion of the great tube. He had been connected with every society in Montreal having for its object the cultivation of art and literature. He was a charter member of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, and one of its most active and earnest helpers. He was an enthusiastic worker in connection with the Caxton Celebration, held in 1877, under the auspices of the Society, a work which was most congenial to the tastes of our deceased friend. His devotion to the literature of Shakespeare is well known, and he was, perhaps, the best Shakespearian scholar in Canada, and was foremost in founding the Shakespeare Gold Medal for English literature in McGill University. We are glad to record that through the kindness of friends, his collection of editions of the works of Shakespeare and all manner of works bearing on the great dramatist, have been donated to the University Library.

Mr. King maintained to the end, his love for letters and members of the press, among whom he was familiarly known as "Rex," (his favorite *nom de plume*) and amongst his host of friends his memory will long be held in affectionate remembrance.

MR. GEORGE AUGUSTUS HOLMES.

On December 29th 1884, our friend died at the too early age of 61 years. Mr. Holmes was an earnest fellow worker, and a sincere well-wisher to the Society; until feebleness of health came upon him, no one was more regular in attendance at its meetings. He had served for several years as Secretary and Treasurer, and during the before-mentioned Caxton Exhibition he did giants-work in connection with the arrangements of its multifarious details. He at all times worked most cordially with his fellow members and bore the "white blossom of a blameless life." He was the son of Mr. Benjamin Holmes, formerly of the Bank of Montreal, Member for the city in Parliament, and at the time of his death, Collector of Customs.

Of our departed friends, we may say, "*Par nobile fratrum*," and in the words of a worthy colleague we repeat, "Those who knew them best, loved them most."