

the rescue, and we all know how thoroughly he has performed his part. And Sir Edwin Saunders very kindly, and at some personal inconvenience presided over the last committee meeting, and I need not say that Sir Edwin is a chairman *par excellence*.

My duty on the present occasion somewhat resembles that of "Wall" in the "Midsummer-Night's Dream." I am, as it were, the medium of communication between the lovers. And I do not think I am wrong, in the remembrance of all that has passed, in considering those whom we are met here to-day to honor, and ourselves, lovers in the truest sense, who have ever been desirous of living the life most conducive to the mutual welfare. But I must not say more, lest the fate of "Wall" in the play befall me.

I therefore beg, Sir John and Lady Tomes, to introduce Sir Edwin Saunders as the representative of those who have united to found the Sir John Tomes triennial prize; and Mr. Brunton, who, happy man, on this appropriate day of St. Valentine, represents the ladies, Mrs. Brunton having taken the initiative in offering their gift to Lady Tomes. And I will now conclude in the words of "Wall":

"Thus have I, Wall, my part discharged so,
And being done, thus Wall away doth go."

Mr. Brunton, on behalf of the ladies, presented Lady Tomes with a silver-gilt inkstand, and in a few words expressed their congratulations, and the hope that she might long be spared to make every use of it.

Sir Edwin Saunders: Sir John and Lady Tomes,—This flying visit to the peaceful, sylvan shades of Upwood Gorse, at a season which cannot be regarded as the most favorable for the full appreciation of its beauties, demands a few words of explanation. In the first place, let me assure you that you are not being interviewed, so that we may speak with the unrestrained freedom of social intercourse. We are here, then, to signalize a somewhat rare and interesting event. Golden weddings are not of every-day occurrence, and in these days of revolting daughters, emancipated women, of equality of the sexes—which always means the supremacy of what used to be considered the weaker sex—and of general relaxation of the old social order, such events become more and more precious, and ought not to be passed over without some recognition; for they furnish the best possible, because practical, answer to the somewhat cynical question, "How to be happy though married." We are here in a dual capacity—first, as old friends who have watched with interest your life pilgrimage; and, second, as representing, at least *pro hac vice*, the profession with which you, Sir John, have been so long, so closely, and so honorably identified. We all represent some society, association, or other interest connected with that profession, and I may truly say