

Obituary

CLARENCE CHURCH, M.D.

Dr. Clarence Church who recently died in Ottawa at the comparatively early age of 52, was one of the most widely and favorably known of the many graduates of McGill.

Soon after taking his degree in 1868, Dr. Church commenced the practice of his profession in the village of Ashton, County of Carleton, but finding this sphere too limited, removed to Ottawa in 1873. Here he soon commanded a large clientele, and at one time had, with one or two notable exceptions, the largest and most lucrative practice in the Ottawa Valley. Among his patients were included, from time to time, some of the ablest statesmen of Canada, whose official positions made them residents of the Capital. Our lamented friend kept himself thoroughly posted in his profession, being a constant reader and an accurate observer. He was always eager to learn and adopt new and approved methods in both medicine and surgery. When his numerous engagements permitted, he never lost an opportunity of attending professional gatherings in Canada and the United States, and on two occasions crossed the Atlantic to be present at meetings of the British Medical Association. In 1897, he was unanimously elected President of the Ottawa Valley Branch of that association, and it will be remembered that one of the most pleasant outings connected with the Montreal meeting of the British Medical Association, in 1897, was a trip to the Capital at the invitation of the Ottawa Valley Branch. Dr. Church was one of the most prominent Masons in Canada and was considered an authority on Masonic matters. Being a direct descendant of a United Empire Loyalist, he was a Conservative of the Old Tory School, and on several occasions was offered a constituency in that interest, but persistently refused, having no desire to enter the hurly-burly of political life. His father, the late Dr. Basil R. Church, was for many years a member of the old Canadian Parliament. He was a delightful companion, being well read and well informed, besides possessing a large store of personal recollections and anecdote.

For two or three years previous to his death, Dr. Church had been in poor health, the result mostly of an accident which caused very severe general shock and permanent injury to one of his limbs. The immediate cause of death was valvular heart disease. He leaves a widow and four daughters to mourn his loss.