

from those whose tastes it consulted is the greatest proof of its merit. His "Researches as to the Origin of Civilization," took a wider field, but it must remain the book of such readers as can give the time and attention to master so difficult a study. When it is said that Sir Daniel was not a popular writer, it is simply to say that he wrote above the horizon of his immediate *entourage*. But his books gained him fame in the world of scholarship, and they must hereafter be included in every library worthy of the name.

It was his distinction in this respect which led our founder, Lord Lorne, to select him as the first president of the English section in 1882. Sir William Dawson was then nominated president of the society, and the late Mr. Chauveau, vice-president. Sir Daniel was our fourth president, in 1885-1886. We all know the interest he took in our well-being, and we can each of us bear testimony to the good sense, the courtesy and the invariable ability with which he treated every question brought before us. On the last day of May at our last meeting, he addressed the members from the position I now occupy as his humble successor in the presidency of the English section. It was within ten weeks of his death. His health was at the time not good, for his unceasing labour had told upon him. He was in his seventy-seventh year, and although his mind was never more active, or his powers more mature, the physical strength which we possess in middle age was wanting. Sir Daniel might have been well excused from attending the meeting. He felt, however, that his duty enforced that he should be present, and with that devotion to principle which marked his life, he set aside all personal considerations.

His address on that occasion, on the law of copyright, is given in the volumes of the 'Transactions' of this year. It has, moreover, been published separately, and in this form disseminated among men of letters in England and the United States. To use his own words, it was his claim to place, on a just basis, the rights of authorship and the principles of copyright. This address may be regarded as a voice from Sir Daniel's grave, for he was unable to revise his manuscript or to read the proof. Those who were present will remember how distinctly he apparently read his written sentences; how continuously in one unbroken, powerful appeal he brought his case before his auditory. Circumstances led to my seeing the manuscript. It consisted of brief unconnected notes. The subject was, however, so impressed upon his mind, that he never faltered for a word, or used one out of place, or inappropriately.

He was present to plead the cause of literature, not from the sentiment of the gain he might derive from the working of the legislation he advocated. He had no long period to look forward to in this world. He held a lucrative office; his future was assured; and as his will shows, by his prudence he had acquired a competency. He entered the lists to record his protest against the injustice of the proposed law. He was actuated solely by the desire of protecting the man of letters. He held that it was a narrow view to regard a public writer as the mere producer of a marketable article, as a bread-winner. It is the argument of the trader who profits by this bestowal of thought and labour, and of the politician who desires to conciliate the favour of a clique, or to turn on his side interests which may conduce to his success. It can never be the thought of a man of a high tone of mind, who recognizes the political consequences which result from the enunciation of principles, and of historic facts, brought into prominence with truth and ability. One of the persons who advocated the claim of the "trade" and acted with the clique which strove to influence the policy of the Government, had the impudence to affirm that