

We record with deep regret the demise of one of the oldest and most respected underwriters in the Dominion of Canada—**Alexander Mackenzie Forbes, Esq.**—whose portrait (taken a few years ago, and which, in our opinion, does not do him justice) appears on the previous page, with a fac-simile of his signature written a few days prior to his death.

The sad particulars of the sudden call which death made upon him will be read with feelings of sincere regret as well as deep sympathy for his bereaved family. Mr. Forbes was in the full discharge of his duties, and apparently in the enjoyment of his usual good health on Saturday, the 1st inst., on which day he left his office at the usual hour. In the evening, it appears, he complained of an attack of biliousness, and sent for his physician, Dr. William Molson, who prescribed for him. On Sunday he suffered from a feeling of depression and a painful throbbing at the back of his head. He retired to bed on Sunday night at his accustomed hour. His family being at the seaside, the only other occupants of the house were his servants. On Monday morning as he did not appear at breakfast, a servant knocked at his door several times, and not receiving a reply, entered, when she beheld him lying on the floor in an apparently lifeless condition. Doctors Molson, Howard and McCallum were immediately summoned and done all that science could suggest to restore him to consciousness, but their efforts were unavailing. He remained in this unconscious oblivion of earthly cares until Thursday morning, the 6th inst., when at 2 o'clock a.m., in the presence of his sorrowing wife, who had hastened to his bedside on hearing of his illness, his earthly career was finished and his spirit passed quietly on to the purer and more exalted life, the goal of full and unfailing happiness placed within the reach of his immortal spirit. A kindly face is indeed gone forever—An honest heart is stilled—He sleeps his last sleep!

The deceased gentleman was born in the Isle of Man, April 11th, 1823, and was therefore in his 63rd year, at the time of his death. He was of Scotch descent. He came to Canada in the year 1846, and took up his abode at Montreal. After a term of studies in the Montreal College, he entered the Bank of British North America where he continued for some years, subsequently he assumed the agency for Messrs. Kenneth, Dowie & Co., the largest firm of produce dealers at Liverpool, and of which his eldest brother, Mr. William Forbes, was chief.

More than quarter of a century ago, in the year 1858, he took charge of the Dominion Agency of the Queen Insurance Company, which opened up business in Canada in that year. This position he retained until the time of his death. By his clear foresight and business capacity he placed the company in a leading position in Canada. In those days and for some years afterwards the "Queen" had a local Board of Directors, amongst whom were to be found the names of the late Wm. Molson, Henry Thomas, David Torrance, Hon James Ferrier, and Sir A. T. Galt.

In 1875 Mr. Forbes entered into partnership with Mr. Henry J. Mudge, under the title of Forbes and Mudge. This arrangement was followed by a further large accumulation of business on the books of the company. The practical abilities and business qualities of Mr. Mudge enabled

Mr. Forbes to concentrate his energies more particularly on the general management of the Branch.

In 1864 Mr. Forbes was married to Miss Elizabeth Torrance, daughter of the late David Torrance, by which marriage he had five children. After the death of his wife, he, in 1877, married Miss Matilda Torrance Macpherson, daughter of Duncan Macpherson, Esq., of Quebec, whose wife was daughter of Thomas Torrance, Esq., formerly of Montreal. By this marriage he had three children, thus leaving a wife and eight children to mourn his loss.

In his bachelor days, in company with E. H. King, of the Bank of Montreal, and the late Thomas Cramp, he resided at the old Donegani hotel. He always attended St. George's Church, and was one of its oldest supporters. He was a member of St. James Club, a staunch supporter of St. George's Society, the Montreal General Hospital and many other institutions. His social qualities and kindness of heart won for him many friends, among whom we may mention the late F. A. Ball and Thomas Cramp, Messrs. G. F. C. Smith, Thomas Davidson, W. M. Ramsay, Lewis S. Black, John Molson, C. C. Foster, and very many others.

Mr. Forbes was a man of sterling integrity and honor and was consequently greatly respected by his confreres in the fire underwriting business. He (through his company the "Queen") was selected by them to represent the combined companies, in contesting the validity of the Act imposed by the Quebec Provincial Government, compelling them to pay a tax on insurance premiums, Fire, Life and Marine. This vital case proved to be lengthy, arduous and difficult, but Mr. Forbes fought it through until it was finally settled by the English Courts. The decision being that the tax was unjust and illegal and it was therefore abolished.

His funeral, which took place on the 8th inst., was largely and influentially attended; The insurance fraternity was well represented. Flags were at half-mast on the various offices of the insurance companies.

At a special meeting of the Fire Underwriters held on the 7th inst. the following resolution was passed:

CANADIAN FIRE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

Copy of resolution passed at a special meeting of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association held this day:

Resolved—That this meeting desires to express, both individually and collectively, its deep sorrow and regret at the sudden demise of Alexander Mackenzie Forbes, who for the past twenty-seven years has been the efficient and respected representative in Canada of the Queen Insurance Company, and was not only admired for his strict integrity and sterling worth, but was likewise valued as a staunch member of this Association, and highly esteemed as a personal friend of its members:

That the members of this Association beg to tender the bereaved family their deep sympathy in their irreparable loss, and to offer a floral tribute to be placed on the coffin of their departed friend as a slight indication of the affection and esteem in which they held him:

That the Association, as a body, attend the funeral to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

G. F. C. SMITH,
President.

Montreal, 7th August, 1885.

To the family and relatives of Mr. Forbes we beg to tender our most sincere sympathy.