

## The Quiet Hour.

**Rev. Principal Grant.**

**An Appreciation.**

BY REV W. D. BALLANTYNE, B. A.

By the death of Rev. Principal Grant, who, we had begun to delude ourselves into the hope, rather expectation, might be spared to us for a little, but which was not to be, the country, and our church especially, sustains another great loss. Like that caused by the death of Dr. Robertson, a few short months ago, it is a loss of the kind that in our sense of its greatness, appears for the time being, irreparable. How rapidly the ranks of our Church's leaders are being thinned! Dr. Cochrane, Dr. King, Dr. MacKay of Formosa, Dr. Robertson and Dr. Grant have followed each other in swift succession. All of them have been men who served well their day and generation, and the memory of their services to the country and to the Church of Christ, particularly the Presbyterian branch of it, will long remain green and serve as an inspiration to generations yet to come. To those still in harness, and to those just putting it on, the fall of these men, coming so quickly one after another, calls aloud "What soever your hands find to do, do it with all your might." This was their spirit, and the manner of their lives, and what enabled them to do all that they did.

Perhaps the first feature of the life and character of Dr. Grant which will occur to many is its many sidedness. No subject of general interest, and no phase of life was foreign to him. He took a ready and hearty interest in everything. Along with this, and perhaps next to it in prominence, was his buoyant spirits, his courageous hopefulness and abounding energy. To those who knew him only in his well days, his days of health and strength, and never saw the physical weakness of long and enfeebling disease, he appeared always brimful of life and energy, and carried this into everything that he did. This buoyancy and fullness of life and spirit, made him a man of constant activity. Judging from the many subjects he took an interest in, and the amount of work he accomplished, he must have had great facility in doing work, and also have been indefatigably industrious. With him, as with all men who accomplish much, "Life was real, life was earnest." His was an illustration of the "strenuous life". No one, we fancy, who has any adequate idea of the immense possibilities and of the tremendous issues of life can live any other life.

Geniality, heartiness, high spirits were marked features of the life that has gone from us. How readily the genial smile, the hearty shake of the hand and the cordial welcome came from him; and how naturally and well they appeared to become him. Few, we imagine who ever knew or met him, can forget these traits of the late Principal. With all this, everyone who knows his public life, knows his high courage. He never shrank from taking the unpopular side on any public question if it agreed with his convictions. Instances of this will occur at once to the memory of all acquainted with his career.

Turning from those more obvious and personal qualities to his public life, his many sidedness at once again arrests attention. In every phase and sphere of his public life he was so strenuous and pronounced that it is difficult to say in which he was the most con-

spicuous. He rejoiced in being a Canadian and was British to his heart's core. He was an enthusiastic British Canadian; and his spirit and example in this respect must have had a powerful effect upon the young men and women who, in his day, came to Queen's College for their education, and through them must have told and in no small measure, upon the country at large in forming that Canadian national sentiment which is a marked feature of the time. What an ardent Imperialist he was is well known both here and in the motherland, and over the whole empire. He believed in imperialism when it was laughed at as a wild dream, he stood by it with characteristic courage and enthusiasm, until the dream has become the hope and belief of multitudes, and is slowly, but surely becoming a reality, if the more ardent will only hasten slowly, be patient and wait. Patriotism was with the late Principal an integral part of religion, as for us, so happily situated as we are, it may well be. His pen too as well as his voice, was very busy and the literature of Canada has been enriched, and the literary spirit of the country quickened by his example and his labours in this field. He rightly judged, as we believe, that it is the duty of every patriotic citizen to take both an interest and part in the political life of the country, and aid in shaping and guiding its destiny. So there has been no political crisis in his time in our country, in which his voice or pen or both have not borne a part.

It is, however, as an educationist on which the name and future of the departed Principal of Queen's University will chiefly rest. What he has done for that institution is a matter of history. The record of his life for the last twenty-five years is the history of Queen's University, and of the Theological College connected with it. Although his activities have branched out into so many lines, the growth, the solid and splendid position these institutions have now attained, will, we doubt not, prove to be his most enduring monument. For them, it may be said, he spent his life, and in their service he has laid it down. There is something most pathetic in his life closing just at this juncture in the history of his beloved University and College. Great interest was being aroused in the prospective celebration of the twenty fifth year of his Principalship, and in the commemoration of it by the erection by the alumni and friends of Queen's of Grant Hall. All the ceremonies connected with its public inception and completion would certainly have been enthusiastically entered upon and carried through, had his life been spared; now they will all be shadowed with a solemn and sad interest.

He held a large and distinguished place as a minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, as well as a Professor and Principal in one of our Colleges. In all these capacities his services to the country and to the Church have been conspicuous; and will, we believe, have an abiding place in the history of both. He was an eloquent and powerful preacher, and the announcement that he was to preach was sure to attract a large congregation. We cannot remember a General Assembly at which he was not present, and in the business of which he did not take a prominent and influential part. He has been almost continuously a member of some of

the important committees which originate and direct the policy and work of the Church at home or abroad; and in all of them the force and weight of his personality were felt, in the devising or carrying on of her far-reaching operations. We can ill afford to lose such men, and Dr. Grant's services to the country and to the Church have been so many and so varied, that for the moment, it is difficult if not impossible to see who can step into and fill the breach made by the fall of this another leader. But though leaders fall fast from the fore front, the Head of the Church, and the Church itself abides; and as it has been in the past it will be in the future. When one is taken, He who sees the end from the beginning will raise up another or others, whom He will qualify for the new tasks which each succeeding generation and age calls for, and so though one after another comes and goes, God's beneficent and far-reaching purposes of good for the race go on without pause until they reach their glorious consummation.

### Paul At Antioch in Pisidia.

S. S. Lesson Acts 13 : 43-52. May 25, 1902.

Golden Text : Acts 13 : 38. Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins.

BY REV. A. S. MORTON, B. D., ST. STEPHEN, N. B.

Many . . . followed Paul and Barnabas, v. 43. Wherever the gospel is preached, it divides its hearers into two classes, those who yield to it and those who reject it. When Christ was on earth His very presence made a clear division between His friends and His enemies. The character of those who came in contact with Him was revealed by their treatment of Him. John spent a night with Him and became His follower for life. Matthew, "sitting at the receipt of custom," heard His call and left his gain to serve One who had not where to lay His head. A woman of the streets saw Him at Simon's feast and a new desire after a purer life took possession of her. On the other hand, the Pharisees allowed their prejudices to drive them away from Him. The rich young ruler chose his possessions rather than Christ. Christ and His gospel always demand an answer to the question : On which side shall we take our stand?

To continue in the grace of God, v. 43. It is not enough that we should receive gladly the message of the gospel. We must persevere in the path which it marks out for us. If we are to be saved, we must do our part, and we may be sure that God will do His. It is told of a Southern gentleman that he met a pious negro one day and asked him : "Do you believe in the doctrine of election?" "Yes sir," was the reply. "Then what about me; do you think I am one of the elect?" "Well, sir," said the negro, "I have seen a great many elections and I never yet knew a man to be elected, who was not a candidate." Our perseverance is required, as well as God's perseverance, if we are to be saved.

To hear the word of God, v. 44. A missionary from India tells how a date palm tree grew strong and tall and shapely in his garden, until one day a little bird let fall a seed of the Bo or Sacred Fig tree, near its roots. The seed germinated and grew up into a tree alongside the palm, but by and by the new tree became stronger than the old, and began to rob its weaker neighbor of its nourishment. At last the palm tree died and the Bo became a huge tree, giving broad and grateful shade. So, when the word of God comes into the heart, it supplants evil passions and worldly affections, and grows