

Frederick William Kelley

B.A., Ph.D.

AN APPRECIATION

Edited by

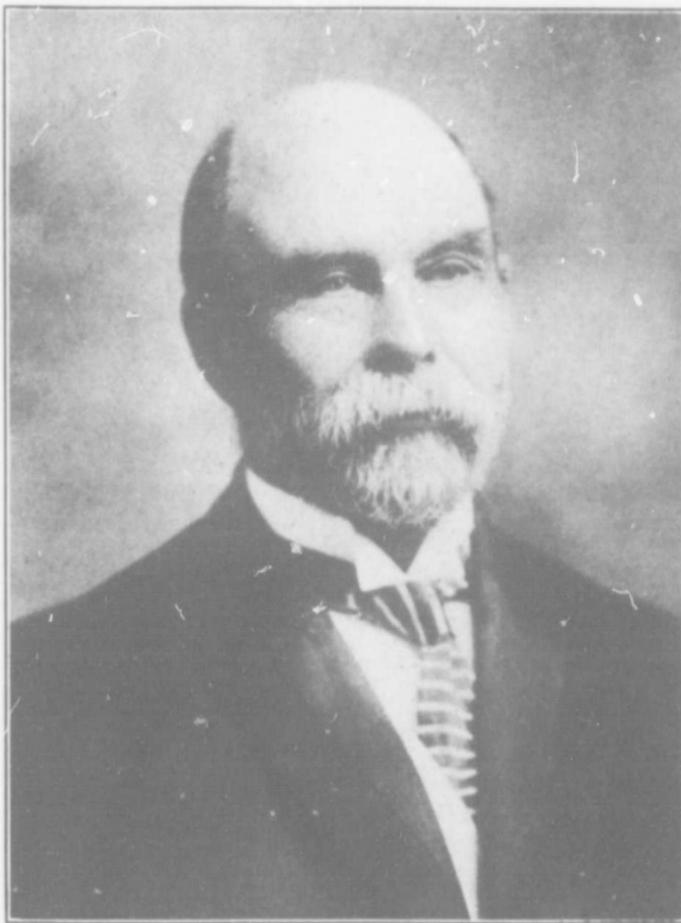
A. S. ROSS, B.A.



MONTREAL

1918

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FREDERICK WILLIAM KELLEY,
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B.A. (*McGill University*), Ph.D. (*Cornell University*)

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THIS BOOKLET

in memory of

FREDERICK WILLIAM KELLEY
B.A., Ph.D.

is dedicated to

HIS WIFE

who shared with him his splendid ideals, encouraged and aided him in his numerous activities, and while now knowing the loneliness of separation yet enjoys the sense of unbroken fellowship.

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FOREWORD

THE history of organized Protestant Education in this Province of Quebec is included within the limits of the past half century. It is just fifty years since the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of Montreal were first put in possession of revenues which enabled them to organize a system of schools adequate to the needs of the Protestant population of the city. Among the young men who took an influential part in these early educational movements of our community, the name of Dr. F. W. Kelley must be assigned a prominent place.

In the High School of Montreal and as head master of the Royal Arthur School, the first of a series of important school buildings erected by our School Board, this recent graduate of the Universities of McGill and Cornell began a career as an educator which has left a deep impression upon the life of our city.

His untiring energy, his inspiring enthusiasm, and his powers of forceful presentation marked him out for leadership, and there has been scarcely any important movement in this formative period of our educational history in which Dr. Kelley did not take a leading part. His was a strongly democratic spirit, which led him not only to champion the cause of his fellow-teachers, but also to criticize the weak points of official boards charged with the conduct of our educational affairs.

He was a pioneer in the movement to secure the incorporation of the Protestant Teachers' Association of the Province and in the appointment of representatives of the teachers upon the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction. His special gifts as a convincing exponent of a cause made him a leader in all educational discussions and secured for him an outstanding place in religious and educational gatherings of this continent.

Dr. Kelley was also a prominent participant in the organization and development of the Graduates' Society of McGill University and in working out an election scheme by which representative graduates were granted seats on the Corporation of that institution. These privileges appear to us at the present time not only natural but even necessary for the normal development of educational institutions, but they were secured only after a prolonged struggle, in which Dr. Kelley took a leading part.

Even within the narrow limitations of the classroom, his pupils were frequently startled by his clear and emphatic delineations of the principles which should regulate their course in life; and on the public platform he had few equals in compelling the interested attention of an audience.

In the early celebrations of Empire Day, elaborate functions were organized for the purpose, and the best speakers of the Dominion were secured to address the large audiences which crowded the Arena on these occasions. Those who had the privilege of listening to Dr. Kelley on similar occasions in our High School Hall readily admitted

that for historic setting, for inspirational value, and for impressive statement, Dr. Kelley's addresses were second to none in the Empire Day celebrations.

His voice is silent amongst us, but his forceful character abides as a powerful influence with all who knew him. It is with pleasure that I avail myself of this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the life and work of my late friend and colleague.

ELSON I. REXFORD.

May 30, 1918.

SKETCH OF DR. KELLEY'S LIFE

FREDERICK WILLIAM KELLEY was born in Stewiacke, Nova Scotia, on March 12th, 1844. His father was one of the earliest temperance reformers of that province. When the son was a laddie about five years of age, he one day met a traveller who stopped his horse to speak to a little student of nature whom he saw grasping a bunch of wild flowers with one hand and holding two or three stones in the other. The traveller was himself much interested in scientific research, and education as well, and at once entered into a brief conversation with this promising young investigator. The lad invited his new-found friend home to tea. In later years, when young Kelley came to consider whither he should go for his college education, he decided in favor of McGill University because, for one reason at least, Principal Dawson of that institution was none other than this way-side acquaintance of his very early years.

He attended Truro Normal School, and at sixteen years of age was teaching in his native province. He entered McGill in 1867 and completed his course in Arts in 1871 with the degree of B.A., and with first-rank Honors in English Language, Literature, and History. He also won the Shakespeare gold medal, and the Logan prize for the best collection of specimens in Zoology.

In the closing hours of the examination of his final year, he was asked by Principal Dawson to undertake a temporary teaching engagement in Montreal High School, the acceptance of which

secured his first introduction to the sphere of his great life-work. During the session of '71-'72 he was principal of the Royal Arthur School, which position he resigned to pursue a post-graduate course at Cornell, and which he completed in '74, receiving the degree of Ph.D.

Refusing a number of attractive offers in the United States, he returned to Montreal in 1875 and accepted an appointment as senior master in the High School of this city, which he held until his retirement in 1911. It was here that he came into immediate touch with so many of the youth of this city and province. Throughout, he took the deepest interest in university matters, especially in relation to the secondary schools, and for twenty-two years represented the graduates in Arts in the Corporation of McGill. In raising the standard of provincial education Dr. Kelley bore a prominent part, being secretary of the Teachers' Association during a critical and decisive period.

But his activities led him beyond the sphere of secular education. An authority and leader in Sunday School work, he held for a time the presidency of the Quebec Sunday School Union. He was also president of the Y.M.C.A. in 1885, the year in which the building on Dominion Square was in process of erection. Continuously from 1882 until the time of his death, he was a member of the Senate of the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

His Church affiliation was Presbyterian, and for thirty-two years he served his Church in the capacity of elder, during eleven years of which he was a member of Crescent Street Session, and from

1896 until the time of his death he served in the Session of Montreal West.

In 1893 he married Mrs. Herbert C. Fuller, née Hart, who was principal of the Girls' High School of Montreal, and who survives him.

The last four winters were spent by Dr. and Mrs. Kelley in Long Beach, Cal., where they made scores of friends, and where Dr. Kelley's activities in connection with the First Presbyterian Church and Sunday School of that city were greatly appreciated.

After a very brief illness he passed away at his home in Montreal West on June 30th, 1917.

The disposition of his property is eloquent testimony to the sincerity of his interest in the causes which he advocated with such sustained and passionate zeal during his life. His will bequeaths a number of legacies, personal and benevolent, appoints his wife as the usufructuary legatee of his estate, and directs that at her death the residue shall be capitalized into a trust or endowment in favor of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the annual income therefrom to be applied for educational, church extension, and social service work within the bounds of Montreal Presbytery. This will annually provide a very substantial sum to assist in promoting the work of the Church in Montreal and vicinity.

The foreword by Principal Rexford, the pulpit appreciation, and the tributes that follow and which have been selected from a large number of resolutions and personal letters received by Mrs. Kelley, will illumine this necessarily meagre sketch of a truly noble and worthy life.

A. S. R.

I.—EDUCATION

*The Rector of Montreal High School—
WELLINGTON DIXON, B.A.*

Spoken at Dr. Kelley's Luncheon, June 7th, 1911.

I shall not attempt a survey of the services which you, Dr. Kelley, have rendered to the cause of education, or of those qualities of heart and head which have made so deep an impression on your colleagues. Such a survey of a career as long and many-sided as yours has been would require much more time than an occasion like this offers.

I should like, however, to have you feel that your work and life, even if they cannot be fully referred to by the speakers on this occasion, will long be remembered by those of us who have had the good fortune of being associated with you, and will, I am sure, be an inspiring incentive all through our lives.

In your teaching we shall always remember the fine example you are leaving us of the true spirit of the teacher—the spirit that enabled you to project yourself into the future and to ask yourself the question: "What kind of men is the influence of my training going to make of these boys?"

We shall remember, too, your wonderful power of presenting ideas, a power that made it impossible for anyone to listen to you and be in the slightest degree inclined to sluggishness or somnolence.

Nor shall we soon forget the cheerfulness and buoyancy of your disposition which always and everywhere radiated hope and courage.

Strong in your convictions, and fearless in expressing them, you were always a force in every movement, religious or secular, in which you took part.

In the words of a recent book, you have always in education stood for red blood, steady nerves, clear eyes, dirigible hands and limbs, thinking brains, desire for knowledge, and right conduct.

I trust that everything connected with this informal but spontaneous mark of esteem and respect will always recall to you happy memories of a school which will long miss your strong and sympathetic nature—which, in fact, can never be the same without you.

AN "OLD BOY'S" TRIBUTE—

W. M. BIRKS.

As little lads in the younger forms we looked up to Dr. Kelley, or rather forward to him, with something akin to awe; then in the Fifth and Sixth we belonged to the Doctor, and the Doctor belonged to us.

We see him more truly and appreciate him even better now, from the perspective of thirty years after graduation, and to us it is hard to realize his threescore years and ten.

Of that Province which has bred so many of the best of Canada's sons, of Scotch-Irish blood, and of Presbyterian traditions, the Doctor did not belie his surname, for his impulsiveness, his warmth of heart, his generosity in both time and money, and his profound love for boys were surely Irish. In argument his hard hitting, too, showed, we thought, an Irish love of fight, producing sometimes a boyish desire to hit back.

The Doctor was a great teacher, equal, I am sure, to him who drew forth Bobbie Burns' famous teacher's epitaph:

O, Satan, when ye tak' him,
Gie him the schoolin' o' your weans,
For clever de'ils he'll mak' 'em!

The Doctor was indeed a great teacher; his history lived—especially the history of our own Canada—really lived with us and lives with a thousand of his old boys to-day. Dearly did we

love, by some adroit question, to draw him off the given lesson into some by-path of the subject.

Thanks to the old Doctor, many of us appreciated, as we would not otherwise, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's eulogy of Canadian History this week before the Canadian Club, ending with the phrase: "When the spirit of history has left the land—merely rock, earth, and water remain."

English Literature was History's only rival with the Doctor, and "Julius Caesar," Longfellow's "Evangeline," and Scott's "Lady of the Lake" will never forsake us.

Our Sixth ('85) was a smaller class than usual—Sixth Science and Sixth Classical—in all eighteen boys.

Twenty-five years after graduation, when we came to count heads, we found that death had taken three; two more "had gone down hill." Of thirteen remaining, one was manager of a bank in a neighboring province and twelve still in Montreal, and all doing well, among them Messrs. J. W. Ross, A. F. C. Ross, General Meighen, Col. Victor Buchanan, D.S.O. (since killed in action in Flanders), Dr. Milton L. Hersey, etc., etc.

The trio of old teachers honored and so often referred to by my father of the class of 1857 were Rodger, Gibson and Howe.

Dr. Howe, Dr. Rexford and Dr. Kelley form the trio which will live in the memory of our class of 1885, and again Dr. Kelley dominates the thoughts of my eldest son's class of 1910.

All of us knew of his outlook on life outside of his profession, his presidency of the Y.M.C.A., his

great and unselfish service to his Church—unsurpassed by any of her laymen.

We who have given ourselves to the building of great businesses—the building of mills rather than the building of men—honor him because he chose to give his life to the development of the characters of a thousand boys. Which of us can stand before such a scale of values and be unashamed?

Now, in the sunset of his life, his old boys wish him well.

[At the time of the removal of the High School of Montreal, in the spring of 1914, to its new building on University Street, the above tribute was written by Mr. Birks and has been inserted here with a slight change as a most valuable contribution to this collection.]



ANOTHER " OLD BOY "—
WALTER S. JOHNSON, B.A., B.C.L.

[Extract from Letter]

. . . One can say nothing more profoundly sincere, or more loyal to his memory, than that he was in every sense the loving friend of young men wherever he met them, and that their moral and spiritual education was always uppermost in his mind. I look back personally with great gratitude to the little talks he almost daily gave us boys of the Sixth Form upon world politics, the death of great men, ethics, physical geography, and a hundred other subjects, always with the hope of quickening in us an interest in the world of men and affairs beyond the bare classroom walls. I remember his chuckling with delight—twenty years ago—over my enthusiastic reading of Charnay's big tome dealing with his archaeological explorations in Mexico, which he lent me. I mention these facts to illustrate that he was a stimulant to the awakening intellectual life in the young fellows whom he taught. Hundreds of his boys are at the front. Many more are too old to be there and are scattered throughout the globe. The news of his death will bring to all of them memories, fresh and pleasant indeed, of one whose dearest wish was that they should go out into the world strong and clean-hearted, to succeed in their chosen way of life. . . .

II.—THE CHURCH

The Senate of the Presbyterian College

The Senate places on record its deep sense of the loss sustained by the College in the death of Frederick W. Kelley, Ph.D., which occurred on the 30th day of June, 1917, at the age of 73 years. Dr. Kelley was continuously a member of the Senate for thirty-five years and during the past thirty-one years was the donor of an annual prize or scholarship for competition. His special interests lay in our French department and the department of pedagogy.

It was largely due to his earnest advocacy of the training of ministers for the training of teachers that this college established, in Principal MacVicar's time, a Lectureship on Sunday School Pedagogics, and it was also largely due to his recent advocacy of the larger place that religious education should occupy in a theological curriculum that the course in pedagogics now extends over two years, with the prospect of further recognition. His unceasing efforts for the efficiency of the work done at the Pointe-aux-Trembles School resulted in the honorable place now occupied by that institution of our Church in sending to us matriculants of McGill University, who are looking forward to the Christian ministry. Dr. Kelley's thought was largely given to educational problems

that confronted Protestants in this Province, and the Senate, in expressing sincere appreciation of his passionate and successful devotion to the cause for which the College was founded, prays that successors will be raised up to carry the standard of Protestant education with similar heroism and self-sacrifice.

The Senate records with pathetic interest that Dr. Kelley had consented to give the address at the recent Jubilee of the College in praise of the founders and benefactors, but when the anniversary came round his name held an honored place on the list of benefactors commemorated.

The Senate expresses to Mrs. Kelley its heartfelt sympathy in her bereavement and assures her that her loneliness is shared in degree by many generations of graduates who were helped on their way to the Christian ministry by his generous interest.

Presbytery's Committee on Home Missions and Social Service

The Presbytery's Committee on Home Missions and Social Service places on record the great loss sustained by its members and the Church generally in the death of Frederick W. Kelley, Ph.D., which occurred at his home in Montreal West on the 30th of June, 1917.

While Dr. Kelley was keenly interested in almost every department of the Church's work, and while his wise counsel in times of planning and his enthusiastic advocacy of this Committee's recom-

mendations on the floor of the Presbytery will be greatly missed, special reference should be made to his splendid services to the cause of Protestant education in the Province of Quebec.

It was largely due to his unceasing efforts for the welfare of the French work that its educational character was particularly emphasized and developed in the establishment of Presbyterian schools at Hull and other local centres. The success of the school at Pointe-aux-Trembles owes not a little to his generous assistance. His unceasing advocacy of high educational standards and his persistent endeavors to secure a thoroughly trained and qualified teaching staff at that school contributed largely to the remarkable efficiency that has characterized its work in recent years.

Dr. Kelley was a warm friend of the French missionaries who sought to carry the evangel to their fellow-countrymen; and every mission that combined the evangelistic and the educational elements, such as Chalmers House Settlement, the Presbyterian Home, the Italian Y.M.C.A., won his sympathy and hearty co-operation.

He was also for many years a member of the Presbyterian Sunday School Association, where his long experience as a teacher and his scientific knowledge of pedagogic methods secured for him a trusted leadership.

That Dr. Kelley carried the usefulness of our church as a burden on his heart was shown by his self-sacrificing givings and personal services during his lifetime, by the request in his will that ultimately all his means should be devoted to further-

ing the work of the Presbytery of Montreal, and by his bequests for immediate encouragement of such causes as Chalmers House and Pointe-aux-Trembles School.

As a diligent and faithful member of this Committee and of Presbytery, as a true comrade of the Protestant workers of this Province, who are peculiarly beset by discouraging circumstances, as the fearless advocate and generous supporter of the evangelization and education of those at home and abroad who know not the gospel, Dr. Kelley will be sorely missed by this generation, but his name will assuredly live amongst the worthiest traditions of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Board of the Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools

This Board has learned, with deep sorrow, of the death of Dr. F. W. Kelley, one of its most able and devoted members, and places on record its high regard for his Christian character.

While taking a warm interest in the varied work of the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Kelley was more especially concerned for the Christian education of the young people of French and Italian parentage. To this end he rendered most efficient service in the carrying on of the French and Italian mission day schools of this city, but more particularly of the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools. These he visited diligently in his official capacity, encouraging alike both teachers and scholars, while his earnest and oft-repeated counsels to the latter will not readily be forgotten by them.

His untiring and successful efforts in connection with the enlargement of the schools are recalled with grateful pleasure.

Dr. Kelley's frequent and powerful advocacy of the schools in the General Assembly of our Church and the inferior courts created and fostered renewed interest in them throughout the Church, in response to which many scholarships were contributed by new friends, all of which is thankfully remembered by this Board.

Our brother brought to the consideration of every question affecting the welfare of the schools a mind disciplined by long experience in teaching, a zeal which impressed his fellow-members, and a knowledge of present scholastic conditions in the Province of Quebec which was both illuminating and instructive.

Always genial and courteous in his bearing, his presence will be deeply missed by the members of this Board, but he, being dead, yet speaketh to us, and the memory of his fine example will long be an incentive to greater devotion to the cause.

The Presbytery of Montreal

(Extract from Resolution adopted)

The Presbytery of Montreal records with deep regret the death of Frederick W. Kelley, Ph.D., a representative elder and member of this Court, which took place on June 30th, 1917, at the mature age of 74 years. . . . Adopting the profession of teaching, he taught in Montreal for nearly 40

years, 36 of which were spent in the High School. Animated by the highest ideals, which he sought to impress on his pupils, his life became an important factor in elevating the public life of Montreal.

. . . Dr. Kelley's voice was frequently heard in the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery, advocating some department of the Church's work. He was an impressive speaker, and his pleading always helped the cause he espoused. His busy life was devoted to the uplift of his fellow-citizens, and he has departed from our midst full of years and honor to inherit his well-earned rest and reward.



III.—A PULPIT APPRECIATION

Delivered in Montreal West Presbyterian Church
on Sunday, July 8th, 1917

by

Rev. A. S. ROSS, B.A.

"Always abounding in the work of the Lord."—
I Cor., xv, 58.

We meet to-day under a sense of great loss. One to whom we had learned to look as a leader and counsellor, a strong pillar of the Church of Jesus Christ, upon whom we had often leaned, a citizen of high standing, a man of exceptional personality, has been called away from our midst.

Some men attain distinction in the world of letters, some through scientific research in the world of matter, others through efforts in the sphere of commerce or finance or statecraft; but the person who dedicates abilities of a high order and restless energies to the work of teaching, training, developing character in the rising manhood of the nation has exercised his life on a yet higher level. When he does well, results are estimated not in terms of books or things or money or statutes, but in terms of human life and character. To spend one's life as a successful educator, in absolute

devotion to the highest Christian ideals, is to write one's name high in the halls of true fame. This much we claim for Dr. Kelley, whose recent death we mourn, whose name we honor, whose memory we will cherish.

How often, with arm outstretched and index finger pointing in startling fashion, have we heard him speak of "that boy!" It was his dramatic manner of directing attention to the greatest asset of the nation, the rising youth. As a teacher, he wanted his pupils not merely to pass the curriculum examinations; he desired that his boys should become good and able men; and, therefore, he would often lead his class away from the subject of the hour out into the larger questions of human affairs. This purpose, amounting almost to a passion, gave direction to his whole life. His first great thought was for the young life growing up in our land, whom he would claim for large and useful careers. His guiding standard for conduct was that given us by Jesus Christ, and wisely and persistently he kept this ideal before him. During his thirty-six years as senior master of the Montreal High School he had exceptional opportunities of coming into daily contact with large numbers of the youth of this city and community, for whom he had such worthy ambitions; and it was a source of the highest gratification to him to learn in later years that so many of these had caught something of his spirit and a glimpse of his vision, had responded to the appeal of their teacher, and had gone forth to do valiant service for the common weal. And to-day, in all the leading walks of life, the touch and

influence of his personality and teaching upon his scholars may be traced in the lives of very many of the prominent citizens of our land. With great pride he referred to the fact that 600 of his "old boys" were at the front, and many of them holding places of high and responsible command.

His interest in the boyhood and youth of our country linked him with the Y.M.C.A. work of this city. For many years he represented the graduates in Arts on the McGill corporation, and his services in this connection contributed materially to the improvement of the secondary schools of the province. Recognizing the importance of good scholastic preparation for the work of the ministry, he has given for many years a scholarship in aid of prospective students in the Presbyterian College during their Arts course. And in our own town we cannot easily overstate the debt that is owed to Dr. Kelley for the services and counsel he has given in connection with the schools under the local Board.

Dr. Kelley was in a very definite manner a Christian educationist. His abilities as a teacher were frequently offered in courses of studies on the English Bible, and all those who had the wit to avail themselves of this privilege know how he made the truth of the sacred pages to breathe with life and power. His constant desire and aim was to assist every hearer to know Jesus Christ in the marvellous richness and fullness and significance of His life. The splendid work which he did here and in Rockfield Church is but a sample of what he has been doing all his life in Sunday School effort.

As a member of Session he rejoiced greatly at seeing young people come into the membership of the Church, and his approval and admiration were always stirred as these undertook some definite Christian service.

He had also the large vision of our Church's work, and was always an advocate of the forward move. He has championed for many years the Church's work in this province of Quebec. No one has more fervently and successfully presented to our people and our Church Courts the claims of the schools at Pointe-aux-Trembles, and even at the last General Assembly, when he felt his health as uncertain, he spoke on this work with eloquence and power. His interest of recent years in the problems developing in our rapidly growing centres of population illustrates the keenness of his spiritual insight and the alert and liberal quality of his mind. The point of strongest appeal to him was always the same. The thought of little children or young people, either out in the frontier settlements or down in the city slums, growing up without a fair chance in life, touched his heart and elicited his best energies in their behalf. The sincerity of his professions of interest in the extension of the Master's kingdom was continually evidenced by a large-handed and self-denying liberality, but in the provisions of his last will and testament there is given exceptional and significant testimony of this good man's devotion to the work of his Church and the advancement of the Master's kingdom.

Dr. Kelley was endowed with excellent natural abilities. He developed his gifts. He was possessed of a restless energy which led him to assume large programmes of work from which younger men would often shrink. A quality which he possessed in a marked degree as a teacher and speaker was his power to present a thought. It was his custom to work all around his subject until he became thoroughly familiar with it; his opinions on any practical question then crystallized into convictions, and, when he voiced these, it was always with impressive effect.

A kindly, courteous, affable, high-minded gentleman, he lived an earnest, active life, so dominated by Christian ideals and fidelity to his Master that of him it can be truly said, he was "always abounding in the work of the Lord."

For twenty-one years this Church has enjoyed the presence, the labors, the example, the influence of this worthy man. His wise and inspiring counsels, his unfailing optimism, his splendid services in particular along educational and devotional lines, and his munificent liberality, have been a means of spiritual enrichment to this congregation that few Churches in our land enjoy. His fine public spirit, his fearless condemnation of every danger-spot in the social life, his enthusiastic and eloquent advocacy of every measure for the people's highest welfare, warrant us in speaking of him as the premier citizen of this town.

Our question now is: How shall we suitably commemorate the life of such an one? It seems to me that one of the best tributes that we as a

congregation can pay to the memory of this whole-souled servant of the Lord is to help "carry on," as far as we are able, those lines of service for his fellow-men in which he was so deeply and intelligently interested, for which he spoke so fervently, labored so earnestly, and gave so generously, and to which he has by the provisions of his will bequeathed so royally. May this congregation share in his spirit to the furtherance of the Master's kingdom!

We thank God for the beauty of his passing. At home, with his beloved partner in life at his side, his house thoroughly in order, the threescore years and ten more than run, fifty years full of consecrated service centred in this city completed on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of Confederation, respected, honored, beloved by hosts of friends and former scholars whom he had taught and prayed for, he passed out quietly, almost painlessly, into the larger life of the "Father's House."

