

love, till she too pass within the veil to greet one who was not lost, but only went before.

The article below is from the pen of one who knew the Professor, and appreciated his work and worth:—

"His strength was as the strength of ten.

Because his heart was pure."

The fundamental characteristic of this modern Sir Galahad was purity of intention and purpose. Every gift and grace was laid under tribute to a magnificent dream.

The world is becoming so materialistic and prosaic that it is ceasing to produce dreamers. Most men can make a table, not every man has the imagination to conceive the plan of the house furnishings. Moderate men abound. They are the speciality of mediocrity. The life force of the race might with advantage be rarified by the inflow of a reasonable amount of what we may call—for want of a better word—enthusiasm.

The subject of this sketch was a man who always sat on the extreme end of the plank in the see-saw of the world's affairs. He chose the place where his weight would have the greatest effect. For this reason he was regarded with some suspicion as an extremist, until men were gradually but surely coming to see his transparency of spirit and feel the reality of his sanity.

Dr. Bedford combined the idealism of youth with the practical outlook of the man of experience. His removal from our midst under such distressing circumstances is a staggering mystery. Years of unremitting toil—the toil of study had brought the knowledge which, combined with great natural gifts, fitted him to become the recognised leader of a sane and effective Liberal Party in this Dominion.

It is difficult even to imagine the explanation of a circumstance which removes a man from the arena of life just when he has donned the armour, and before he has come to grips with the opponent whom he has challenged.

It is true that few men have done so much as he in so short a life, but it is also true that his gifts and acquirements were greater far than the amount of service he has been permitted to render to his day and generation. His qualifications made it possible for him to reach the heights,

and he had barely begun to climb when he was removed from the path. Up to the day of his tragic death his friends and admirers said, "In him gifts and opportunity were destined to meet." And now God has seen fit to permit the accident which has silenced his brain and closed his lips. We can but say "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord."

We can only conclude that for him God has a sphere somewhere in which he continues to exercise his amazing powers, and for which he has been prepared.

His efforts and achievements will remain as a challenge and rebuke to all earnest New Zealanders in the struggle for a new and loftier national life in the immediate future. We trust that the power and inspiration of his example will pass into the fibre and feed the life of those who are left behind to carry on. It is difficult at this time to analyse his personality and state his characteristics. The blow of his death and the glow of his life have at once stupified and blinded his friends. The better and more intimate was the friendship, the more acute is the sense of loss sustained.

Perhaps the outstanding quality of this fearless soldier was his commanding simplicity. He had absolutely no pretentiousness in his nature. He never drew attention by his demeanour. There was not the slightest trace of vulgar assertiveness, and he was singularly free from the desire for the spectacular. On many occasions one was struck with the absence of assumption which marked his attitude. His power lay in the possession of real estate. He carried goods in his shop window, but they were honest samples of the contents within.

He suffered for a time—as every man suffers who is loyal to his principles—from misconstruction, because his ideals were very high. But it is the sober truth that Dr. Bedford was "coming into his own" in the confidence and love of the people.

Probably the most permanent work, the most enduring influence of his short but brilliant career, was effected in his University classes in History and Economics.

We suspect that he was qualifying himself to deal with the great economic questions which will inevitably arise after the war, and his absence

will be sorely felt by the Temperance party in this land. The late Professor has, however, sown very precious seed in the minds of his University students. He captured them not only by the lucidity of his teaching, but by the charm of his personality. They began as his scholars; they were fast becoming his disciples. The flower and fruit will appear, under the Providence of God, in some man raised and prepared for the day and the hour.

It is not my purpose to indulge in reminiscences, but one cannot forbear from remarking upon his power over an audience. I heard him first in the spacious Town Hall in Auckland, when he held a vast assembly in the hollow of his hand for over an hour as he expounded the doctrines and enforced by logic and rhetoric, the principles of the great reform of Temperance, which lay so near his heart.

When Dr. Bedford secured his triumphant majority in one of the Dunedin electorates as a very young man, he is credited with giving an evidence of remarkable power of prompt and effective repartee. Some one in the audience on the night before the election, referring to his youth, called out in a loud voice, "Does your mother know you're out?" The instant reply was flashed back, "Yes! and to-morrow night she'll know I'm in."

The possibilities and likelihoods lying ahead of Dr. Bedford were very, very promising—and now they are blotted out. He possessed special gifts and graces which peculiarly fitted him for the leading part he was, to all appearances, destined to play in the days to come.

We fear that the number of such men is apparently few, and yet—who knows?

When Stephen fell, the early Christian Church received a blow, the force of which is not realised to-day. But God raised up Saul of Tarsus. Dr. Bedford is not dead. He lives, and, better still, God lives and reigns.

There is no room to speak of his service to the various churches and institutions of the Dominion. He was a devoted Methodist and a passionate preacher. By his passing, one of the greatest moral forces in the country has been removed. But we have enough faith in God to believe that another will be raised up to grasp the sword, as did King Arthur.