

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE H. A. FLEMMING

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The United Church in Halifax, in common with the community at large, sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. Horace Alexander Flemming, who passed away at his home on the twenty-eighth day of February in the eighty-fifth year of his age.

Mr. Flemming occupied an outstanding place in the banking fraternity of Canada. As a young man he joined the staff of the Bank of Nova Scotia and represented it as Manager in various centres in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and in the main offices in Toronto and Montreal. When he retired from the managership in Halifax he was appointed Secretary of the Board of Directors and retained that position throughout the remaining portion of his life.

He had always been vitally interested in enterprises that had the good of the community in view and he was usually called upon to take an active part in their promotion. When he relinquished the duties of Bank Manager to become Secretary of the Board he had more leisure at his command than formerly and he used it to make a still larger contribution of personal service to the causes which appealed to him.

When the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the Presbyterian Church, Eastern Section, was left vacant, by the ~~death~~ death of Dr. Thomas Stewart, he undertook to carry on the work without remuneration. He set out, with the thoroughness which was characteristic of him, to master every minute detail of the Church's finances, and in a short time he acquired an unsurpassed knowledge of this field. He made himself familiar with the terms of every trust, legacy and will in which the Church had an interest, and studied every investment with expert care.

On the eve of Church Union in 1925 he became Chairman of the Board of Governors of Pine Hill, and from the day of his appointment onward he placed his great knowledge of practical affairs at the service of the College. It was inevitable, in view of the qualities of his heart and mind and of the great esteem in which he was held in the City, that public institutions should try to secure him for their Boards: and so it is not surprising that his name was included among the Directors of the School for the Deaf and the Governors of Dalhousie University. It was to Pine Hill, however, that he gave the largest share of his attention. He made it a rule to devote two or three hours every day to its direction and development. He spent his last afternoon at his desk there, and drove his own car home as he was quite well-able to do in spite of his advanced age.

He was the senior Elder in Fort Massey Church and for a considerable period its Clerk of Session. One of the stories that he loved to tell was that while men usually associated his name with that of the Bank of Nova Scotia, an old lady in Cape Breton on being introduced to him inquired whether he was by any chance "Mr. Flemming, the Elder". He was the Honourary President of the Choir, of which he was once a member: and one of the annual events to which he looked forward with pleasure was the dinner at which he was host - and what a genial host he was! - to those who make up the choir of the present day. He considered his obligation to the Church as a claim of the most sacred character. His regard for it was due at bottom to his personal love for Christ and His Kingdom. His whole life in all its relations may truly be said to have adorned the Gospel of God.

His office in the Bank was the resort of a great many poor people. He was sought out by men who by their industry and frugality had saved a little money against the needs of their declining years, and who now, being beyond the time when they could continue to earn their livelihood, had to administer their resources with cautious wisdom, and by widows who were dependant upon incomes from small legacies which they were anxious to invest in ways that would offer a maximum security and advantage. There is no doubt that he protected and improved the situation of a large number of people who without his counsel would almost certainly have lost their scant holdings. He became a kind of

unofficial advisor in financial matters to a ^{score} ~~large number~~ of ministers and their dependants, and to church people whose material affairs were in any way entangled.

Mr. Harace Flemming has passed on at the ripe age, having fought in the good fight and finished his course and kept the faith. He ~~has~~ witnessed a good confession; and the very quality of his spirit makes it easier to believe that for such as he there is laid up a crown of glory that fadeth not away.