

It has been said that the votes of the women put Mr Taylor in Parliament. It is only partly true, for men voted in as large numbers as women for his return. But that he was a women's hero is true, for he upheld the best traditions of our race by his purity of thought and life, his unstained record as son, husband, and father. "His strength was as the strength of ten, because his heart was pure," and he was the champion of all weak things.

He believed in us, and our influence, and so we believed in ourselves, and took courage to go forward in untrodden paths. He was ready to take advice from any woman, if he thought the advice good, and did not reject it simply because it had come from a woman. His heroism appealed strongly to women as also did his utter fearlessness. He feared no human being and no human power. Public opinion he never considered, expediency had no meaning for him, and social ostracism no terrors, for he saw clearly the path set before him, and he followed to the end the light which shone upon him in his youth, when he first decided to consecrate himself to the service of God and humanity. He blazed the way for many reforms, and his friends gladly followed.

If he seemed at times relentless in his fight against newspaper men and politicians, it was because he saw that they stood in the way of reforms, or stood for that which was undesirable in politics and in the life of the community. Of his greatest political opponent he said: "I could have loved that man, if I had not been obliged to fight him."

Those who knew our fallen leader best, loved him most, and those who saw him in his home, saw at their best his most genial qualities of wit, humour, tenderness and kindness. There in his home his deep religious nature had full play, and those who have been privileged to hear his deep vibrant voice reading stately passages from Isaiah or some of the Psalms he loved so well, will never forget the effect then produced, nor the insight then gained into the man's deep love for the word of God.

We have lost in our departed comrade a high-minded patriot, the cause of humanity a great hearted champion, and our Union feels his loss as a personal bereavement. To his wife who is worthy to be the mate of such a man, we owe a debt of deep gratitude for her unselfish sacrifice, for the patient endurance of long, lonely days, when husband and father was absent fighting the battles for righteousness and truth.

To her we offer our overflowing sympathy and love, and to the dear children

so sorely bereaved of a loving, devoted father, praying that the God of all comfort may be near to console and comfort.

F. COLE.

MEMORIAL FUND.

Great Public Meeting.

The Christchurch Chamber of Commerce was crowded by representatives of all sections of the community, when a public meeting was held to set up a memorial fund in memory of the late Mayor.

Mr H. W. Bishop, S.M., who presided said that he wanted the public to accept his presence there as chairman as the best possible assurance they could have that the movement was entirely unconnected with any party or faction or branch of the work that the late Mr T. E. Taylor during his strenuous life had been connected with. (Applause.) He took the position apart from any party, and he wanted those present to think only of T. E. Taylor, the man. Mr Taylor had given his talents and the whole of his physical strength to advance the best interests of the Dominion, and he had left an imprint that all hoped and knew would live in the country for years. That was proved by the simply marvellous tribute that had been paid by all the people and all the newspaper Press of the country. Had their dead Mayor been able to see the esteem in which he was held, he might well have said that he had not lived in vain. And he had not lived in vain. Continuing, Mr Bishop said that it had been his proud privilege to be associated with Mr Taylor for many years, and he had realised more and more of late years those wonderful qualities that had made the man one of whom all were proud. He had worked unceasingly to help the people of his country and all would agree that any person who tried to raise the standard of life in the Dominion was deserving of the highest praise. He remembered Mr Taylor as a loving and devoted son and as a loving husband and father, and it was only in that he had given his talents for the public weal that he had not left adequate provision for the maintenance of his loved ones. His wife, five daughters and one son were not sufficiently well off to raise them above the worry of educational and other considerations, and no person present would wish to add to the sorrow and strain being endured by the widow, whom all wished to relieve as far as possible. Then the circumstances of his mother should also be considered. They would accept his assurance that it was necessary to establish such a fund to

provide an adequate income so that the immediate effect of their friend's death would not be so severely felt. That was not the occasion for formal speeches, for no word said that day could add to the worth of the man as evidenced throughout the Dominion, and he wanted them to be absolutely practical and assist in the movement.

Mr Bishop read apologies for absence from the Hon. H. F. Wigram, the town clerk, the city surveyor, Messrs T. C. Field, J. A. Frostick, P. Hercus, the Rev. J. Mackenzie, Dr. and Mrs Sandstem (who forwarded twenty guineas) and Mr S. Hurst Seager, who suggested that a memorial volume containing the life and a collection of speeches by the late Mayor should be published in aid of the fund.

Mr R. Malcolm moved:—"That in the opinion of this meeting a memorial fund should be initiated in this Dominion to the late Mayor of Christchurch, Mr T. E. Taylor, M.P., for the benefit of those who were dependent upon him. It recognises that with a self-sacrifice as rare as his abilities were great, he gave his whole life and energies to the service of the people of this Dominion, and it believes that his friends and admirers will respond eagerly to this opportunity of showing in the most practical way possible their love and gratitude to him."

The motion was seconded by the Rev. C. H. Garland, who said: "He is worthy for whom we should do this thing." Mr Taylor had been so absorbed in his work that he had had no time to grasp business opportunities. He had in no mean sense laid down his life for the people.

The motion was carried.

Mr J. J. Dougall, who was received with applause, said that the occasion was not one on which to make long speeches about the city's lamented leader. He had lived not for sordid gain, and his great personality had left him a living example of what a man can do to stir up the human sentiment in any people of any territory. He would suggest that a shilling fund should be instituted, and he moved that the following committee should be appointed to carry out the scheme:—Mayor of Christchurch (chairman), Mayors of other municipal corporations, presidents of Trades and Labour Councils, Mr H. W. Bishop, S.M., Messdames Cole, Wells and Newton, the Revs. J. Dawson and J. Comrie, the Hons. C. M. Luke and G. J. Smith, Messrs R. M'Nab, R. Malcolm, M. A. Fergusson, O. T. J. Alpers, J. A. Fleisher, C. H. Poole, M.P., D. M'Laren, M.P., A. S. Adams, S. Saunders, Wesley Spragg, J. A. Frostick, G. T. Booth, A. W. Beaven, H. G. Ell, M.P., G. Bowron, A. C.