



HUGH ALEXANDER LOW.

On the occasion of our first Annual Gathering, subsequent to the sad event, devolves on me the duty of recording the heavy loss sustained by our Association through the passing of our brilliant fellow-islander and esteemed ex-president, Hugh Alexander Low, at the comparatively early age of fifty-one years. This tragic occurrence took place, with such startling suddenness, in London, on the 7th March last, that the news when first received by us, was hardly to be credited; so active and full of vigour did he appear when last we had the honour and pleasure of his presence.

By his death, the Tiree Association has lost more than we can measure in ordinary terms. His affection for his mother's native isle knew no bounds, and from his generous heart there flowed such a warmth of love for all who were bound by similar ties of birth and kinship to our lovely little Island in the West, that he was enabled thereby to find time from his manifold activities in the business life of this our city of adoption, to throw himself wholeheartedly into the social and benevolent functions which our Association had been striving to carry on through times that were more than difficult.

Very soon indeed, as witnessed by the moral uplift which our Association experienced, in prestige among the kindred societies of Glasgow, did he make his presence felt. His enthusiasm for the cause became so infectious and imbued those around him with such a purposefulness of aim and unity of action that they gave of their very best, so much so, that results of far-reaching value could not but ensue. His clarity of vision and keen business sense, so quickly detected, not only flaws of organisation, but also means of correction, that, in a very short space of time, our activities as an Association became wonderfully extended and our usefulness thereby proportionately magnified. This progressiveness is well exemplified, in one aspect, by the fact that our Annual Gatherings, which, up till, and for some years subsequent to, the War, were held in the Y.M.C.A. Halls, Bothwell Street, and later were transferred to the more commodious City Halls, Candleriggs, and again later, to the St. Andrew's Halls, the most commodious in the city.

His good works while with us remain as a living memorial to his capacity and goodness of heart.

During his three years term of office as president of the Glasgow Tiree Association (1928-1930) he performed yeoman service in helping to improve the lot of those who still remain within our Highland bounds. With unstinted zeal he threw himself wholeheartedly into many projects with this aim in view, and with his purposeful energy he brought practically all of them to happy fruition.

Foremost of these, to Hugh Alexander Low belongs all the credit for the vast improvement created in the transport services to our Western Isles. With inexhaustible energy and at great personal sacrifice, both in time and money, he got into definite contact with the political heads of Departments concerned, and by sheer persistence awakened them to the clamant

needs of our homeland in this respect. His efforts were crowned with glorious success, when the Government announced that the old MacBrayne fleet of steamers, which had long since served their day, was to give place to an up-to-date augmented service replete with all the latest improvements for the comfort of passengers.

HIS GIFT FOR THREE PATIENTS.

He also found time in his great generosity of heart and innate sympathy for the sick and distressed to supply a much-needed want by endowing a bed in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, for Three patients requiring hospital treatment. With the same warm sympathy he championed the cause for improved surgical facilities for the Islands, and evolved in great detail a scheme whereby, with the close co-operation of all the Highland Societies interested directly, a fund could be raised, which, with the addition of a Government grant, might definitely establish a consultant surgical unit of the highest skill obtainable, to be available at short notice and conveyed by air to give of its expert services where required. Unfortunately, this project fell through owing to the lukewarmness of others, who lacked his keen vision and enthusiasm.

Many a Highlander to-day owes thanks to him for interesting himself in his cause, privately, and securing him a niche in this great city, where his talents are employed to advantage. His good works in the public interest were many, but his quiet acts of kindly, practical help to those less fortunate ones around him were legion. He was noble in bearing, generous in impulse, and faithful to the highest tenets of Highland chivalry and honour. He was a loving son and brother ; a dutiful, compassionate husband and tender father.

We would fain believe him with us here to-night.

“ Gus am bris an là.”

JOHN CAMERON, M.B., Ch.B., *President.*