

COL. NEILL A. McLEAN.

An Appreciation.

[Paper read before the North Carolina Bar Association at its recent meeting at Lake Toxaway by Mr. R. C. Lawrence, of the law firm of McIntyre, Lawrence & Proctor of Lumberton.]

"But oh the heavy change now thou art gone. Now thou art gone and never must return."

Milton: "Lycidas."

The "heavy changes" in the swift-moving panorama of life are nowhere more vividly impressed upon us than in these annual meetings of our association when we turn aside for the moment from the duties of a busy business world to pause for contemplation and reflection upon the noble virtues of our brethren gone before. The suddenness and swiftness of these changes are keenly brought home to us in the death of our brother Col. Neill Archibald McLean, who died in the city of Raleigh on the evening of the 15th of February, 1911. Just a short year ago he stood before this association in the prime of his manly vigor, in full possession and control of his splendid intellectual powers, and delivered a forceful address which will long be remembered by those privileged to hear it. He twice served as chairman of the committee on memorials of this association, first in 1906 and again in 1910. Just a year ago when this association met at Wrightsville Beach it was his pleasure and privilege to eulogize his dead brethren; today by the irony of fate he is himself the subject of a memorial and another stands in the place then occupied by him. In his death a great man has fallen and the Scottish Clans of North Carolina have lost the pride and the joy of their race.

"The worldly hope men set their hearts upon, Turns ashes or it prospers, and anon Like snow upon the desert's dusty face, Lighting an hour or two—is gone!"

There are some emotions that cannot be expressed in language; some thoughts burn too deep for words. Yet there is in every loyal and loving heart a disposition and a desire to speak the longings of its soul for a departed friend and companion. In obedience to that yearning I come to lay upon the altar of the memory of my departed friend an offering which, fragile though it be, is yet redolent with a grateful affection.

Neill Archibald McLean was of Scotch and Scotch-Irish descent. Soon after the battle of Culloden his great-grandfathers upon his mother's side, Col. James McQueen and Patrick McEachin, emigrated to America and were among the pioneer settlers of the Cape Fear section. In the war of the Revolution, some of his forebears fought with the Continental Army and some under the banner of the Crown. Carruthers relates that his great-grandmother, Mrs. Neil Murphy, walked 80 miles from Robeson county to nurse a brother who was wounded in the battle of Cane creek. His paternal grandfather, Angus McLean, emigrated to America about the time of the Revolution. He married a Miss Murphy, a sister of the late Governor Murphy of Alabama. The late Dr. P. J. Murphy of our own State was descended from a collateral branch of this family. His maternal grandfather, Col. Archibald McEachin, was the second clerk and master in equity of the Robeson county court and held other positions of trust and confidence in the early history of the county. His mother, Eliza McEachin McLean, was one of the most brilliant women of her day. She was a writer of note. His father, Col. Neill Archibald McLean Sr., was a man of superior intellectual attainments and for many years was the leader of the bar of Robeson and adjoining counties. As the result of the union between Col. Neill Archibald McLean and Eliza McEachin, Neill Archibald McLean and Eliza McEachin, Neill Archibald McLean, the subject of this sketch, was born in Robeson county near the present town of Red Springs, on the 10th day of November, 1855. With such an ancestry it is easy to understand the splendid gifts of mind and of heart possessed by our departed brother. "He received upon his worthy shoulders the twofold mantle of their greatness and this mantle he wore with a grace and grandeur peculiar to himself."

He received his academic education at Bingham School and the University of North Carolina. He also read law at the University and was admitted to the bar in 1878. After receiving license he entered upon the

practice with his father and this connection continued until his father's death. He then formed a partnership with the late Col. Alfred Rowland and this continued until Col. Rowland's election to Congress in 1886. He then entered into partnership with his cousin A. W. McLean, Esq. An ever-increasing practice caused the admission into the firm of J. G. McCormick, Esq., under the firm name McLean, McLean & McCormick. After the removal of Mr. McCormick to Wilmington, Mr. W. B. Snow became a member of the firm. Upon his retirement and return to Raleigh, Col. McLean again resumed the practice with his cousin A. W. McLean and McLean—a name so well known in all the Cape Fear section.

In 1880 Col. McLean was married to Miss Elizabeth Townsend, daughter of the late Richard Townsend of Robeson county, and of this union seven children were born. Of these children, three daughters—Messdames H. B. Jennings, A. T. McLean and Miss Agnes McLean—and three sons—Messrs. R. A., Douglas and Murphy McLean—still survive. After the death of his first wife Col. McLean married Miss Essie C. Stewart of South Carolina. Mrs. McLean's gifts of mind and of heart were on a parity with those of her distinguished husband and their union was an ideal one. He idolized his wife and children and those who enjoyed the bounty of the hospitality of their elegant home can testify to the beauty of the happy and congenial life they lived. Mrs. McLean, with two young daughters, Eugenia and Alice, still survive him.

Col. McLean served his State and generation in many positions of trust and confidence and was twice a member of the State Senate—first in 1883 and again in 1907. He was the Democratic candidate for solicitor of his district when the Fusionists swept the State and the character of the man is shown in the fact that although the canvassing board declared his election, he refused to qualify or accept the office, which he considered had been awarded to him upon a technicality. Had he so desired, he could have had any office in the gift of his people. The game of politics, however, had but little attraction for him and he never entered the political arena except when he conceived it to be his duty or when his people demanded it. He never sought office. He despised the hypocrisy of the ward politician and the cant of the time-server. He never

"Bent the pregnant hinges of the knee That thrift might follow fawning."

"Vox populi" was not always "vox Dei" to him. He spoke his convictions, whether popular or unpopular, and the fact that his speech might be unpopular found him the more willing to assert and contend for the principle he believed in. He never had half-hearted conviction. His intellectual courage was on a par with his physical and moral courage and he never allowed the unpopularity of his cause in any way swerve him from what he conceived to be his duty. And herein lay the strength of his best genuine service to his people.

In his early life Col. McLean joined the church of his ancestors and remained a consistent member to the time of his death. An illness of some weeks duration in the fall of 1910 satisfied him that his days were numbered and when the summons came it found him ready and unafraid. He suffered no pain, his end was calm and peaceful. He literally "fell on sleep." His death was such a death as Tennyson might have desired when he sung—

"But such a tide as moving seems asleep, Too full for sound and foam, When that which drew from out the boundless deep, Turns again home."

The law was his life work and joy and by it he is best known. He was easily among the foremost at the bar of the Cape Fear and it was generally thought by those best acquainted with his legal gifts that he was the peer of any lawyer in the State. His knowledge was the knowledge of principle as well as precedent and covered the entire body of the common and the statutory law. There may have been lawyers who have surpassed him in some particular branch of legal knowledge and accomplishment, but it can be said without any exaggeration that he had no superior as an "all round" lawyer. He was equally at home

(Continued on page 3.)

SUGGESTIVE QUESTIONS

On the Sunday School Lesson by Rev. Dr. Linscott For the International Press Bible Question Club.

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Sept. 3rd, 1911.

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Review. Golden Text—Depart from evil and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. Ps. xxxiv:14.

The following review may be used as a complete lesson, or as a review of the nine preceding lessons. The date, and title of each lesson, where found, Golden Text, and one question from each lesson follow.

July 2. Isaiah's Prophecy Concerning Sennacherib. Isa. xxxvii:14-38. Golden Text—God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Ps. xlv:1.

(1.) Verse 14—Is it the privilege of every man to spread all his letters, including those that give him trouble before the Almighty God, and if so what is the advantage of so doing? July 9. The Suffering Servant of Jehovah. Isa. lii:13—lii:12. Golden Text—The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isa. liii:6.

(2.) Verse 15—What proportion of the kings or the presidents of the nations look to, and honor Jesus as the Saviour of the world?

July 16. Manasseh's Wickedness and Penitence. 2 Chron. xxxiii:1-20. Golden Text—Cease to do evil; learn to do well. Isa. i:16-17.

(3.) Verses 1-2—When the son of a good father becomes a bad man, how do you account for it?

July 23. Josiah's Devotion to God. 2 Chron. xxxiv:1-13. Golden Text—Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Eccl. xii:1.

(4.) Verse 3—If a boy is not converted by the time he is sixteen years of age, what are his chances of ever becoming a true Christian?

July 30. The Finding of the Book of the Law. 2 Chron. xxxiv:14-33. Golden Text—Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Ps. cix:11.

(5.) Verse 19—Did Jesus abolish any of the laws of Moses, and if so which? (See Matt. v:38-44.)

Aug. 6. Jeremiah Tried and Acquitted. Jer. xxvi. Golden Text—The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? Ps. xxvii:1.

(6.) Verse 1-2—May all persons today with the goodness and ability of Jeremiah, hear the voice of the Lord as plainly as he did?

Aug. 13. Jehoiakim Burns the Prophet's Book. Jer. xxxvi. Golden Text. The word of our God shall stand forever. Isa. xl:8.

(7.) Verses 1-2—What advantage is it to us, that men like Jeremiah wrote the history of God's dealings with his people, and that we have these records in the Bible?

Aug. 20. Jeremiah Cast Into Prison. Jer. xxxvii. Golden Text—Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Matt. v:11.

(8.) Verses 1-2—When sin is working wreck and ruin, how do you explain that men keep on in their disobedience to God, as Zedekiah did? (This is one of the questions that may be answered in writing by members of the club.)

Aug. 27. Judah Carried Captive to Babylon. Jer. xxxix. Golden Text. Be sure your sin will find you out. Num. xxxii:23.

(9.) Verses 1-2—When a historian gives the day, the month, and the year an event took place, and associates his facts with some other well known fact, how much weight does that give to the credibility of his story?

Lesson for Sunday, Sept. 10th, 1911. Daniel and His Companions; A Temperance Lesson. Dan. i:8-20.

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International Press Bible Question Club.

I have read the Suggestive Questions on the Sunday School Lesson published in The Robesonian, also the Lesson itself for Sunday, (Date)

19- , and intend to read the series of 52.

Name _____ Address _____

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Time Table No. 15.

In Effect 12 o'clock noon, Sunday, June 25, 1911.

Between Lumberton and Hope Mills.

SOUTHBOUND

Table with columns for station names (Lumberton, Hope Mills, Roslin, McMillan, Oakland, St. Pauls, Roziers, Woodmore, Powers, Bee Gee, Lumberton) and train numbers (No. 65, No. 79).

NORTHBOUND

Table with columns for station names (Lumberton, Hope Mills, Roslin, McMillan, Oakland, St. Pauls, Roziers, Woodmore, Powers, Bee Gee, Lumberton) and train numbers (No. 64, No. 78).

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No. 79 will wait 15 minutes at St. Paul for passengers from No. 8.

No. 7 will wait at St. Paul for passengers from No. 78.

J. P. Russell, General Supt.

Raleigh and Charleston Railroad

Time Table No. 9, Taking Effect

Sunday, May 15th, 1910, at 6 A. M.

SOUTH BOUND.

Table with columns for station names (Lumberton, Pope, Kingsdale, Proctorville, Barnesville, Flowers, Marietta, Holmesville, Pages Mill, Kemper, May, Mellier, Squires, Fork, Zion, Rogers, Ar Marion) and train numbers (No. 1, No. 5).

NORTH BOUND

Table with columns for station names (Marion, Rogers, Zion, Fork, Squires, Mellier, May, Kemper, Pages Mill, Holmesville, Marietta, Flowers, Barnesville, Proctorville, Kingsdale, Pope, Lumberton) and train numbers (No. 2, No. 6).

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