

R. BARR SMITH.

adventures he took part in as a follower of the leash, including spills from his horse; but misadventures he always accepted with good humour.

—Business Influence.—

In his prime Mr. Barr Smith not only had his finger on the financial pulse of the State, but actually controlled its beats. There was no sounder authority on finance in Adelaide. Naturally his business position made him somewhat of a dictator, but there was no kinder-hearted friend or mentor than he was. He was the consultant of influential men in every direction, who were always prepared to accept his advice. At the time of the bank smashes in the State, if there was one man in the city who was besieged night and day by anxious and bewildered business men it was Mr. Barr Smith. He was director to several large financial institutions other than Elder, Smith, & Co. He would never consent to enter public or municipal life, but one of the exceptions he made was in favour of the Botanic Gardens Board, and deep regret was felt by his colleagues when he resigned from that body just before he and Mrs. Barr Smith left on a two years' holiday trip in 1899. He was also formerly for some years a member of the Public Library Board.

—His Many Benefactions.—

Where to begin a history of the assistance rendered by Mr. Barr Smith to all sorts of institutions is a problem. He lent works of art to the State, he assisted to complete cathedrals, he helped to build trades halls, and he gave much money for educational purposes. These were his more public efforts, although he always objected to having them described as such. In the matter of private benefactions what he and his devoted wife did will never be known. For years efforts were made to complete St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral, which lacked its towers, and one morning the officers of the diocese were electrified by the receipt of a cheque for £10,000. It bore the signature of "Robert Barr Smith." On another occasion he assisted the same church by giving £2,000 to the fund raised to establish the Bishopric of Willochra. Other churches benefited by his generosity, for he gave indiscriminately to every church in need, and to every cause connected with the churches which he regarded as worthy of help. One of his best gifts was £10,000 to the Adelaide University in 1913. It was for the purpose of starting a residential college. In the covering letter he wrote:—"I am willing to give the University of Adelaide the sum of £10,000 at once for the purpose, in the first instance, of building a common hall for the meeting of professors and students for meals and social purposes. My idea is that this should serve as a commencement of a residential college. The conditions of this gift are:—1. That the Government will subsidize the donation pound for pound, to be used for the above purpose. 2. That the Government will allocate to and vest in the University the additional grounds for which the council has made request." Cabinet accepted the offer without hesitation, as the nucleus of what will be a large and extensive undertaking. In acknowledging the gift, the Premier of the day (Hon. A. H. Peake) wrote:—"I am directed to express the high appreciation of Ministers of your noble gift." It was characteristic of Mr. Barr Smith, that, for some little time the public did not know the name of the giver of the £10,000, although they guessed it. The University in other ways was helped by the same generous hand. For instance he gave the library £2,000.

—The Trades Hall.—

Perhaps of all his gifts that which gained the most widespread attention was the cheque for £2,300 towards the Trades Hall in Grote street, which was sufficient to free the building from debt. The Trades Hall management had a mortgage to bear, and they were also worried by their inability to extend the building so as to meet the many demands made upon them for accommodation. Mr. Barr Smith stepped forward with his acceptable donation, and at once the Trades Hall Committee was able to take steps which, not long after, saw fruition in the erection of a fine new wing. Mr. Thomas Ryan, the collector of the cheque, echoed the feeling of every one of his fellow-members when he wrote across his letter informing them of the donation the words of Lowell—"Not what we give, but what we share. For the gift without the giver is bare."

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A NOTABLE CITIZEN.

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—Other Gifts.—

Mr. Barr Smith, in 1895, presented South Australia with a steam lifeboat, which was named the City of Adelaide, and which cost £3,500. The boat is stationed on the southern coast. It was his liberality which enabled Mr. Clement Wragge to bring about the establishment of the observatory on the summit of Mount Kosciuszko, in New South Wales. He was mainly responsible for South Australia's contribution which enabled the State to be represented in the first team at the Bisley rifle matches. He also contributed largely to the equipment of expeditions for the exploration of the interior and the development of natural resources in every possible direction, and his practical aid inspired others to help in the advancement of exploration.

—Private Hospitality.—

The deceased citizen possessed one of the most beautiful homes round about Adelaide in Torrens Park (Mitcham), which was purchased from the estate of the late Sir W. W. Hughes. There, for many years, the family exercised great hospitality. Attached to the house is a bijou theatre, which was erected solely for the purpose of affording entertainment to friends. At Mount Barker is another residence, Auchendarroch, which was used in the summer months. Mount Barker was always glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Barr Smith. Their presence meant a solid gain to the life of the town, for their open-heartedness was princely, and every one who had the privilege of being entertained at Auchendarroch was not likely to forget it. Not only that; but every local institution received a filip, and the people all over the district were made fully aware of the generous friends who were in their midst. Christmas time at the house was something to be remembered, particularly by the young people, whom Mr. and Mrs. Smith delighted to have around them. A friend had this to say of them:—"The names of Mr. and Mrs. Barr Smith will not fade from the memory of South Australians. The noble and charming lady who had been the life partner of this noble man was, like her husband, a cheerful and liberal benefactor. Probably the full extent of their unostentatious deeds in conferring blessing and happiness upon widows and orphans, the poor and indigent, the distressed and helpless, will never be known in human records. Eye hath not seen nor ear heard what they have done in the cause of charity. Who can tell the amount of sunshine they have been the means of imparting to lives of men and women when dark clouds of sorrow intervened, and amid anxious cares and burdens of life Mrs. Barr Smith has been a veritable angel of light and love."

—The Family.—

The deceased gentleman left a widow and one son and three daughters (Mesdames F. W. Braund and G. C. Hawker, jun., now resident in England; Mrs. T. O'Halloran Giles, Adelaide; and Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, Glen Osmond).

THE PREMIER'S.

"By the death of Mr. Barr Smith," said the Premier (Hon. C. Vaughan), "South Australia has lost one of her greatest citizens. Mr. Barr Smith's name is closely associated with the development of South Australia from a small community to an important and a wealthy State. As a business man he quickly won his way to the front, and in his business life he maintained a high standard of honour and integrity that no doubt helped to stamp the business life of this State, and perhaps gave us an envied reputation in that respect. But Mr. Barr Smith was more than a great trader. His broad sympathies and wide outlook upon affairs made him rise superior to his environment. He never turned a deaf ear to any genuine appeal for a worthy cause. He scattered his largesse with a generosity that knew no bounds, except that of seeing that the money was wisely spent. His great gifts to the University were given with an evident desire to democratise that institution by making it more available to the poorer section of the community. His generosity in completing the Anglican Cathedral was on a par with his generosity in helping to complete the Trades Hall. In all these undertakings it is well known that he had Mrs. Barr Smith's generous sympathy. I do not think I am revealing any secrets when I say that he more than once refused the honour of a knighthood, preferring to remain a plain citizen. In innate modesty, in upright nobility of character, in broad intellectual sympathies and lovable disposition Mr. Barr Smith fulfilled all the best traditions of the highest citizenship."

HON. A. H. PEAKE'S REMARKS.

"South Australia will be the poorer in many ways for the death of Mr. Barr Smith," said the Leader of the Opposition (the Hon. A. H. Peake), "for the loss of such a public-spirited and munificent citizen must leave a big vacancy whenever it shall happen. He has served his day and generation well, and has now departed full of years, and 'with all that should accompany old age as honour, love, obedience, troops of friends.' In his earlier days he was numbered among the merchant princes of the State, and as a pioneer pastoralist he did great and excellent work in opening up the back country. He belonged to a race of energetic men who laid the foundations of the State strongly and securely. No record has been kept of his many acts of private charity, but his public benefactions were multifarious, and were bestowed with well-considered judgment and generally just in the nick of time—in many cases adding greatly to the value of them. His monument has already been erected, and will stand firm in the enduring respect and admiration of the public he served so well."

*CHIEF JUSTICE'S EULOGY.

The Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way) remarked on Sunday:—"For the last 19 years Mr. Barr Smith was a member of the council of the University, and next to his brother-in-law, the late Sir Thomas Elder, the most liberal contributor to its funds. The subjoined list of his benefactions (not a complete one) indicates the interest he took in every phase of the life of the University:—(1) In the years between 1892 and 1911 Mr. Barr Smith gave to the University library sums amounting to £9,000; (2) to the formation of a fund for research in physics, £1,000; (3) for the erection of a boathshed, £750; (4) to provide an annual prize for Greek, £150; (5) donation to the fence account, £400; (6) donation to the pavilion on the sports grounds, £100—aggregate, £11,400; (7) in 1913 Mr. Barr Smith promised a sum of £10,000 for the purpose of building a common hall for the meeting of professors and students, 'on condition that the Government would subsidise the donation, pound for pound, to be used for the purpose mentioned; and that the Government would allocate to the University the additional grounds for which the University had made request. His benefactions to the University are thus equivalent to £21,400."

SIR LANCELOT STIRLING'S TRIBUTE

Sir Lancelot Stirling, K.C.M.G. (President of the Legislative Council), who was intimately acquainted and closely associated with the deceased gentleman, in answer to a representative of The Register, said:—"Seldom, I suppose, has the death of a citizen of this State caused a wave of regret extending so widely as that which will be felt through Australia at the death of Mr. R. Barr Smith. Though not in its usual acceptance of the term, a public man, the weight of his experience and judgment has had a very large influence on public affairs in this State. In financial circles his opinion has frequently been the power behind the throne, while his ability and success have conduced very largely to the prosperity of South Australia. When in earlier days the business of Adelaide was concentrated in fewer hands, the firm, in the guidance of which his skill and prudence formed a leading feature, took a prominent part in the development of our trade and resources. Around the old offices of the firm in Grenfell street centred many of Adelaide's chief interests. Perhaps, however, the pivot of that sorrow and regret, and with a wider range, will centre around the memory which Mr. Barr Smith leaves behind him of those philanthropic and charitable instincts which have so magnificently marked his life, while he possessed the capacity to give the fullest effect to those instincts. This he has done in a higher degree and a wider range than perhaps any of our colonists, who owe their success and fortune to South Australia. His adopted country gave him his wealth, and the calls of public institutions, and the needs of her poorer citizens, have enjoyed to the full a large share in the results of his individual energy and success. The names of Mr. Barr Smith and his dear companion in life will, while our memory lasts, be associated with benefactions and kindly acts innumerable, perhaps when those of more conspicuous men and women will have faded into oblivion."

ANGLICAN APPRECIATIONS.

At a service at St. Peter's Cathedral on Sunday morning the preacher (Rev. Dr. W. S. Milne) made touching reference to the many liberal