

The Mail.
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ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, JULY 11.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND GREAT MEN.

The great sorrow and affliction that have befallen Sir Samuel Way have called forth expressions of deep sympathy as well as admiration of his noble spirit and heroic courage. Happy the people who find in their midst one whom they can love a little short of idolatry. His rare virtue exalts the whole community. Goodness is always everywhere a priceless gift, but it has a special service when allied with a powerful intellect that lifts it above the ordinary level and attracts the common gaze. We need not deify our strong men. The age is too enlightened to mistake the condition of human glory. It is a light which shines through the veil of human imperfections. Shakspeare had his youthful indiscretions, Gladstone his sophistications, Chamberlain his opportunism, Tenyson his morbid vanity; there is a human spot in all our idols; the clay feet belong to the image of the superman. Friendship is the soul of culture because it penetrates to the heart of reality, ignores the fault of temperament, the folly of circumstances, and discovers and prizes the pearl of great price in experience. And the relation of a community to their great men should be that of friendship on a larger or collective scale. Subconsciously it is so, and generally it may be said that whatever the people see in them excellent they imitate, for the issue of worship, admiration, is imitation.

At the Supreme Court the Chief Justice is a Master with disciples in mode of thought and speech. There are, of course, dangers in a school; the excellencies of the Master become obscured as his eccentricities are magnified. Browning was far from being a Browningite. The general community, however, never become disciples of method; they are content to catch the spirit of goodness, and this without identifying themselves with the politics or creed or form of art or idiosyncrasies of any of their worthies, they appropriate them all in the essential beauty of each. South Australia has a galaxy of great men—men as temperamentally diverse as Light, Grey, Stuart, Adam Lindsay Gordon, Kingston, and Price, none free from fault, yet all endowed with a peculiar transcendent gift. The human interest in greatness is the hope of the world. Civilisation depends for growth upon genius to multiply power and goodness to use it aright. Apparently the present supply of goodness is not equal to that of genius, judging by the facts that scientific invention is mainly directed to the production of lethal instrumentalities, that £800,000,000 and more are wasted yearly upon armaments, and that nothing else is needed but brotherly affection to regenerate humanity and cure all the social ills. It is a pleasing omen in politics when the people judge parties less by their programme and more by their personalities. The strength of a nation may be measured by its appreciation of greatness as genius directed by goodness.

The Register,
July 13th 1914.

MAWSON IN LONDON.

LECTURE BEFORE ROYAL
GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLY.

A distinguished audience filled the Queen's Hall on Tuesday night (states Lloyd's Weekly News of June 14), when Dr. (now Sir) Douglas Mawson, leader of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, related the adventures of his party and their attainments at a special meeting of the Royal Geographical Society. Dr. Mawson was accompanied on the platform by some of the comrades who shared the hardships and glories of the expedition. Mr. Frank Wild (the leader of the western base party), Dr. A. L. McLean, Mr. F. H. Bickerton, Capt. J. K. Davis (who commanded the Aurora), Mr. A. J. Hodge-man, Mr. P. Gray, Mr. C. T. Madigan, and Mr. J. H. Blair.

—"A Remarkable Expedition."—

Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield (the new President of the Society) was in the chair, and among others present were Sir Ernest Shackleton, Sir Lewis Beaumont, Commander Evans, Admiral Purey-Cust, Lady Scott, Sir Francis Younghusband, Lord Chelmsford, Admiral Pelham Aldrich, Sir T. B. Robinson, Lady St. Helier, Dr. Aubrey Strahan, Sir Lucas Tooth, Sir Henry Bulwer, Gen. Lord William Seymour, Dr. H. R. Mill, Mr. G. H. Ponting, Admiral Sir Frederick Inglefield, the Countess of Kimberley, Sir Claude Macdonald, and Sir Thomas Holdich. In introducing the explorer the President described the expedition as one of the most remarkable that had ever sailed to the polar regions—remarkable in its scientific results, and still more remarkable for the extraordinary fortitude, in the most difficult circumstances that the mind could conceive, that was displayed by its members.

—Antarctic Hero Applauded.—

Dr. Mawson was loudly applauded when he rose. At frequent points in his lecture he gave a most modest account of the hazards and hardships of the expedition, and confined himself largely to the scientific results. Everybody was waiting to hear the story of that tragic journey which bereaved him of his two comrades, Lieut. Ninnis and Dr. Mertz, and from which he himself emerged alive only by something nearly approaching a miracle. But the details of that adventure will not be known until the book of the expedition is published. The explorers discovered a wonderful floating ice formation, which was found to be very similar in character to the well-known Ross Barrier. They named it the Shackleton Ice Shelf. Its height is remarkably uniform, ranging between 60 and 100 or more feet. Making allowance for the average specific gravity, this indicates an average total thickness of perhaps 600 ft. In area it occupies many thousands of square miles. Its present limits are, no doubt, in a state of temporary equilibrium, in which the crumbling keeps pace with the yearly advance.