

THE LATE HON. ALEXANDER RANKIN, M. P. P., AND MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—When such a man as he whose name stands at the head of this article is removed by death, we think the event calls for some more extended notice than what is usually to be found in the ordinary obituary. It is no part of our present purpose to furnish anything like a memoir of this lamented gentleman, but a few facts regarding him will, we are sure, not be unacceptable to our readers.

Mr. Rankin was a native of Ayrshire in the West of Scotland, and came to this country, we believe, when a very young man, in company with James Gilmour, Esq., nearly forty years ago. They established a business at Douglstown, on the Miramichi, in connexion with the Firm of Pollok, Gilmour & Co., in Glasgow. Under the active superintendence of Mr. Rankin and his Partner this business rapidly extended, and in a short time they had Branches established in all the principal cities and sea-ports in the North American Colonies. Their office soon became famous as a school for training young men for mercantile pursuits, and many, after spending a few years under their instruction, have gone forth to the world and distinguished themselves as Merchants and men of business.

In the year 1827 Mr. Rankin was elected one of the Members of the County of Northumberland, and retained his seat till his death. In this capacity he sought not to distinguish himself by long speeches, but as a man of sound judgment and possessed of much practical knowledge, combined with his unimpeachable honesty of purpose and high moral principle, his opinions carried great weight, and his powerful influence was uniformly exerted at once in promoting the general good of the Province, and advancing the local interests of his constituents. In 1847 he was appointed a Member of the Executive Council, and continued to hold that office till his death.

Seldom, if ever, has one been removed from our community, whose loss has been more generally lamented and will be more deeply felt; and the grief which his departure has spread over the length and breadth of our land, is sufficient evidence, that he who has called it forth could be no common man.

It is far from our intention to pronounce a eulogium on Mr. Rankin. However strongly we might feel disposed to enlarge upon his many admirable qualities, when we think of the retiring modesty of his nature, we feel restrained from saying much that we might most justly do.

We shall leave it to others to draw his character as a politician; but as a man we can safely say that he was distinguished for every thing that was upright and honorable. No one ever more thoroughly abhorred all that was mean, base and selfish. Crooked policy he utterly detested. Consistency and decision were leading features of his character. His opinions were carefully formed, and upon conscientious grounds; and being once formed he adhered to them with unshaken firmness.

In his friendships the same constancy was manifest. He admitted none to the enjoyment of that privilege but those whom he thought worthy, and no one ever lost it, except in consequence of what he considered improper conduct.

In regard to things connected with yet higher interests, he acted with the same steadfastness.—Strongly and conscientiously attached to the church of his fathers—the established church of his native land—and a most strenuous supporter of the same, both by his purse and his personal influence, he yet, cherished a most liberal

spirit towards those who differed. He loved all good men of whatever name, and nothing delighted him more than to see Christians of all denominations “dwell together in unity.” His naturally retiring manner, and the extreme sensitiveness with which he recoiled from all display, caused his religious feelings to be but little understood. But all who knew his habits are well aware that he “loved the habitation of God’s house;” and no considerations of fatigue, or society, or business, could withdraw him from the sanctuary, when its doors were open. Those who were intimately acquainted with him might speak even more decidedly of the power of religion over his heart; but remembering the character of the man, and how he would have shrunk from any public exposition of what passes between God and the soul, they feel constrained to be silent.

He was a man of few words, and his quiet, and somewhat shy manner, might have led some to suppose him cold. But a closer intimacy with him soon discovered the mistake, and that a warm heart beat under the calm exterior. The tear was ever ready to start to the eye at the tale of sorrow; and his large open-hearted, but unostentatious liberality and kindness of disposition, sufficiently indicated the ardour of his feelings. The hearts of many a widow and orphan whom he has visited and relieved in their afflictions, and of many a young man whom he has aided in difficulties, are this day mourning the loss of their benefactor and friend.—*Com.*

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THE Subscriber has entered into new arrangements with MESSRS. EDWARD YARDY and CHARLES S. LUGRIN, for Printing the Royal Gazette, and attending to the routine business of the Gazette Office, and who having an interest to a certain extent therein by agreement, are authorized to collect Moneys and give Receipts in reference to that business, on his behalf.

Royal Gazette Office,
Fredericton, Dec. 10, 1851.

J. SIMPSON.

REGULATIONS.

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The Gazette will in future be forwarded to Subscribers at 10s. per annum, payable in advance.