

THE CANADIAN BAR REVIEW

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In Memoriam

THE HONOURABLE SIR JAMES ALBERT MANNING AIKINS,
K.C., M.A., LL.D.

Obiit, February 28th, 1929.

EDITORIAL.

QUANDO ULLUM INVENIET PAREM?

Sir James Aikins is dead. There is sorrow for many in those five short words. They have a tragic meaning for me. I only knew him intimately for six years; hence it is for those of longer acquaintance with him to speak in detail of the noble and notable way in which he served his day and generation. But the little span of six years was long enough to enthrone him in my affection and respect. It was the REVIEW that brought us into intimate contact, and from the trying days which marked its birth as the literary organ of the Canadian Bar Association down to the recent meeting of the Council in Toronto, when I last felt the pressure of his kindly hand, Sir James Aikins was my guide, philosopher and friend in the truest and fullest way. His sound judgment withheld me from editorial impolicy and disaster, and his splendid

optimism furnished constant refreshment to my ambition to have the REVIEW realise its high purpose. This is what contact with him meant for me. I cannot expect to look upon his like again.

What I have said touches only his private qualities as they were especially revealed to me. How well he was equipped for public life, and how fine was the part he was privileged to play there, are fully attested in the following pages. But I may be permitted to add a word to the tributes to his worth in its more general aspect. He was learned in the Law, but that was not the criterion of his distinction as a lawyer. That lay in his attitude towards the Law. His veneration for it was an exceptional thing. He viewed it *sub specie æternitatis*; and its cardinal rules stood for him on a moral foundation. Thus he was moved to think of his profession as a lesser priesthood.

In its entirety the life of Sir James Aikins is a story of citizenship at its best when his country needed it most.

Ottawa, March 4th, 1929.

CHARLES MORSE.

* * *

On learning of the death of Sir James Aikins, the Honourable Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., President of the Canadian Bar Association, who was at the time in South Carolina, sent the following telegram to the Editor of the REVIEW:

"The Canadian Bar, from its leaders to its latest admitted Junior, sustained an incalculable loss in the death of Sir James Aikins. Before the completion of his personal supervision and working out of his latest plans for the uniform elevation of the standards of education and ethics of the Bar, he had outlined measures for adoption looking towards the protection of the younger practitioner. He was the founder—the real support—of the Canadian Bar Association, and mere words cannot express what we have lost by his sudden passing.

WALLACE NESBITT."

Aiken, S.C., March 4th, 1929.

* * *

It is due only to the kind insistence of the Editor that I venture to add a few words to Mr. Robson's admirable tribute to the late

Sir James Aikins. Yet, perhaps more than any other person, I had the privilege of knowing the thought of Sir James in relation to The Canadian Bar Association and his absorbing interest in every detail of its work and development.

Going to Ottawa as a member of the House of Commons, in 1911, Sir James, I believe, soon reached the conclusion that political life did not possess attractions for him, and his thoughts turned with increasing yearning to the profession from which he had, to some extent, retired. He had organized and guided the Winnipeg Bar Association, which later became the Manitoba Bar Association, and, when the then Minister of Justice (Rt. Hon. Mr. Doherty) inspired by the great meeting of the American Bar Association in Montreal in 1913, suggested that a Canadian Bar Association might be formed, the idea took root in Mr. Aikins' mind. I do not think he quite realized the magnitude of the task, but he threw himself into it and, in spite of occasional discouragements, he never faltered in his purpose. As he advanced in years, The Canadian Bar Association became the chief public interest of his life. In one of his last conversations with me, he remarked that he regarded the work which he had been able to do for The Canadian Bar Association as representing his main contribution to the upbuilding of his native land, and as his effort to manifest his gratitude for the blessings which he had enjoyed.

For The Canadian Bar Association he was at any time prepared to sacrifice his money, his time and his personal comfort and convenience, but I know, from what he told me, that he found in the friendships which were formed and developed at the meetings of the Association an ample recompense. These friendships illumined his last years and many, many times he referred to the loyal and unselfish support which had been given to the Association by the Judges and advocates in every Province of Canada and his appreciation of the personal kindness with which he had been treated by them.

I saw him on a dark February afternoon when I placed in his hands the booklet containing the printed copies of the letters addressed to him on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of his call to the Bar of Manitoba. An hour or so later I saw him again—for the last time. He had read the book and, in a shaking voice, he said "I feel very humble, for I do not deserve these." He noticed that two of the letters were written by members of the Manitoba Bar who, by reason of ill-health, would be unable to attend the Dinner

planned as the crowning feature of the Jubilee ceremonies. These were from Mr. Isaac Campbell, K.C., and the Hon. Sir Hugh Macdonald, K.C. Putting on his coat and hat, he insisted on visiting his old friends to thank them for their letters. He called at their homes and then returned to his rooms, only to be seized with the attack which, a few days later, had its fatal termination. His last call was upon Sir Hugh Macdonald, one of the oldest and most cherished of his friends, and, by a curious coincidence, four weeks from the day we carried Sir James to his last resting place in St. John's Cemetery, Sir Hugh was laid there, only a few feet distant.

In his later years, at least, Sir James was distinguished above all by his wide and kindly tolerance. In his thoughts, and, especially, in relation to The Canadian Bar Association, there were no questions of Provincial boundaries, no divisions of race or creed, no political or social prejudices. His vision and his dream for the Association was that it might be a great and powerful agency for the consolidation and benefit of Canada and for the profession which he loved with a pure and unswerving devotion. It was his earnest hope that the Association had reached a stage in its development when the loss of any member, even the most active and prominent, could not seriously affect its progress. I have the feeling that those of us who loved him and admired his work cannot better display our affection and respect for his memory than by setting ourselves resolutely to see that his vision shall be realised. I fancy his wish would be that at each of our great annual gatherings as the Association grows and flourishes there may be some who will think of him and will repeat "If you would see his monument, look around you!"

E. H. COLEMAN.

Winnipeg, April 6th, 1929.

II. THE STATE FUNERAL

Sir James Aikins was buried with State honors at Winnipeg on March 4th, 1929.

The Legislative Assembly of the Province of Manitoba, on March 1st, had passed the following Resolutions:—

WINNIPEG, FRIDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1929.

THREE O'CLOCK, P.M.

On Motion of Hon. Mr. BRACKEN, Seconded by Mr. TAYLOR,
RESOLVED,

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, in session assembled, desire to express our deep and heartfelt sorrow on the occasion of the death of the late Honourable SIR JAMES ALBERT MANNING AIKINS, K.C., M.A., LL.D.

We desire to record our appreciation of the honours that came to him as an educationalist, as a leader of religious thought, as a member of the House of Commons, as Lieutenant-Governor of this Province, and as President and Honorary Life President of the Canadian Bar Association.

His genial personality, his learning, his unfailing devotion to what he conceived to be his duty, his constant endeavour to improve the standards of his own chosen profession, his heartfelt co-operation in any movement designed to raise the levels of citizenship, or to bind together in unison the various parts of this Dominion and the British Empire, together with the work to which he devoted the later years of his life, the founding and putting on a firm foundation of the Canadian Bar Association, have made him known throughout the Empire and an outstanding figure in the public life of this Dominion, and his death has left a gap which will be very difficult to fill.

That an expression of the deeply felt sympathy of the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba be extended to Lady Aikins and the members of the family in their bereavement, which has caused profound sorrow to the people of this Province and throughout the Dominion.

On Motion of Hon. Mr. BRACKEN, Seconded by Mr. TAYLOR,

RESOLVED, That in consequence of the sudden and lamented death of the Honourable SIR JAMES ALBERT MANNING AIKINS, K.C., M.A., LL.D., formerly Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba, and, out of respect to his memory, this House do now adjourn.

The House then adjourned at 3.30 o'clock p.m. until 8 o'clock p.m.

* * *

The body was brought in a bronze casket to the Legislative Buildings in Winnipeg on the morning of the fourth of March, and set before the throne in the Chamber. The offices of the buildings were closed to the public while the body reposed there from 10 a.m. until 1.30 p.m. A guard of honour was chosen from the Winnipeg Rifles, of which the deceased had for years been Honorary Colonel. An officer of the regiment was stationed at each end of the catafalque, and three non-commissioned officers in the rear. As soon as the doors of the Chamber were opened a long procession of

men and women began to file silently through them to pay their last respects to the man who had served his fellow-citizens and the whole Canadian people so long and so well. It is estimated that the throng numbered between 2,500 and 3,000 people. Premier Bracken and the members of his cabinet paid their respects a few minutes before 11 o'clock.

The main doors of the building were closed at 1.20 and the doors of the Assembly Chamber at 1.30. While crowds thronged the streets on Broadway, Osborne and Assiniboine, the procession formed, and at 1.45 started down the main stairway between files of a guard of honour composed of officers of the permanent military forces, the 90th Regiment and the Winnipeg Rifles.

As the cortège moved down the stairway, the band of the P.P.C.L.I., under the direction of Capt. T. W. James, rendered the Dead March in Saul. From the main door of the building to the funeral car the casket was accompanied by a guard of honour composed of Boy Scouts.

Those in the official funeral procession left the Buildings direct for Grace Church, where public services were commenced at 2.45. The funeral car, followed by immediate members of the family, left the grounds on the Assiniboine side of the Buildings and proceeded to the residence of G. H. Aikins at 69 Langside Street, where a brief funeral service was conducted by Rev. Dr. W. A. Cooke, Killarney, Man.

At the public service in Grace Church, Rev. R. Gordon Burgoyne, pastor of the church, officiated, assisted by His Grace the Archbishop of Rupert's Land, Rev. Dr. J. W. Aikins, Rev. Dr. David Christie, Rev. Dr. Eber Crummy, Carberry, and Rev. Dr. W. A. Cooke.

The band of the P.P.C.L.I. led the musical portion of the service. While the casket was borne through the church entrance the band sounded a funeral dirge, and Rev. Mr. Burgoyne offered a brief prayer. Rev. Dr. Christie opened the services with singing of "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," and Archbishop Matheson followed with a scriptural reading, which was followed by another prayer offered by Rev. Dr. Cooke.

A tribute to his life and achievements was paid by Rev. Dr. Aikins, who referred to the untiring energy which Sir James had devoted to his life work, not the least portion of which had been associated with the endeavours of the Church. After reviewing some of the incidents of his public career, Dr. Aikins referred to:

the great sense of responsibility with which he had approached the duties he had undertaken. His high sense of honour, together with his tenacity of purpose, had made certain the many successes for which he had been so signally honoured.

As a closing hymn, a quartette from the choir rendered "Abide With Me," which had been one of Sir James' favourite hymns. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Crummy, following which the congregation stood with bowed heads while the Princess Pats band again played the Dead March in Saul.

The honorary pall-bearers were the following:—

- Hon. John Bracken.
- Hon. Chief Justice Perdue.
- Hon. Chief Justice Macdonald.
- Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, K.C. (Toronto).
- Hon. H. A. Robson, K.C.
- Major-General H. D. B. Ketchen.
- Major-General Hugh M. Dyer (Minnedosa, Man.).
- Mr. A. E. Phipps (Toronto).
- Mr. Isaac Pitblado, K.C.
- Capt. William Robinson.
- Mr. D. K. Elliott.
- Mr. W. J. Tupper, K.C.

The honorary pall-bearers who were not present were:—

- Hon. Sir Daniel Macmillan.
- Hon. Wallace Nesbitt, K.C. (Toronto).
- Hon. H. W. Newlands, K.C. (Regina).
- Hon. Chief Justice Sir François Lemieux (Quebec).
- Hon. R. B. Bennett, K.C., M.P. (Calgary).
- Hon. Sir Hugh Macdonald, K.C.
- Mr. D. C. Coleman.
- Mr. Isaac Campbell, K.C.
- Mr. G. W. Allan, K.C.

The active pall-bearers were:—

- Hon. Mr. Justice Fullerton.
- Mr. Edwin Loftus, K.C.
- Mr. Horace Ormond, K.C.
- Mr. W. H. Curle, K.C. (Montreal).
- Mr. J. A. Crowe.
- Mr. J. A. McAulay.
- Mr. H. J. Riley.
- Mr. E. H. Coleman.

The order of the funeral procession from the church to St. John's Cemetery, where the entombment took place, was as follows:

Honorary pall-bearers.

Active pall-bearers.

Members of Sir James Aikins' family and personal staff.

Representatives of His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, Colonel H. I. Stephenson, D.S.O.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and His Honour's A.D.C.

Representative of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, Colonel A. E. Snell.

Representative of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, Major A. B. Allard.

Representatives of the Government and Legislature of Manitoba.

Representative of the Government and Bench of Saskatchewan, Hon. Mr. Justice Martin, of Regina.

The District Officer Commanding M.D. No. 10, Major-General J. H. Elmsley, and Colonel Godson-Godson.

Representative of 90th Regiment, Winnipeg Rifles, Lt.-Col. G. F. Dudley.

Representative of Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, Lieut. E. A. Brock, R.C.N.V.R.

His Worship the Mayor, and Aldermen, representing the City of Winnipeg.

The Judges of the Court of Appeal, Court of King's Bench and County Courts.

Representative of The Canadian Bar Association, Hon. R. W. Craig, K.C.

Representative of the American Bar Association, Hon. P. Stewart Heintzleman.

Representative of the Ontario Council of The Canadian Bar Association, Mr. T. A. Hunt, K.C.

Representative of the Quebec Council of The Canadian Bar Association, Mr. A. J. H. Dubuc.

President Mr. A. E. Hoskin, K.C., and Benchers of The Law Society of Manitoba.

Representative of The Manitoba Bar Association, Mr. R. D. Guy, K.C.

Representative of The Blackstone Club, Mr. J. S. Lamont.

Representative of the Manitoba Law Students' Association, Mr. R. E. Curran.

Representatives of the University of Manitoba, Mr. J. A. Machray, K.C., and Dr. J. A. MacLean.

Representative of Brandon College, Mr. E. J. Tarr, K.C.

Representatives of the Winnipeg School Board.

Representatives of the Boy Scouts Association.

Representatives of the Peel County Association.

Representatives of other organizations.

III. EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND ESTEEM.

Many expressions of sympathy with those bereaved and tributes of esteem for the deceased were received upon the announcement of the death of Sir James Aikins. Amongst them were the following:—

(His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.)

(Cablegram.)

Buckingham Palace,

London,

2nd March, 1929.

Lady Aikins,

Winnipeg.

Please accept my deep sympathy in the loss you have sustained.

(Sgd.) Edward P.

(His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada and Lady Willingdon.)

(Telegram.)

Ottawa, Ont.

1st March, 1929.

Lady Aikins,

Winnipeg, Man.

Deepest sympathy from us both in your sad loss.

(Sgd.) Lord and Lady Willingdon.

(Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister
of Canada.)

(Telegram.)

Ottawa, Ont.,

1st March, 1929.

Lady Aikins,

Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Lady Aikins. May I express to you and to your son and daughters my deepest sympathy in your overwhelming bereavement? Your loss is shared by our country in the passing of one whose life was devoted to promoting the highest ideals of his profession and to his country's service.

(Sgd.) W. L. Mackenzie King.

(Honourable G. H. Ferguson, K.C., Prime Minister of Ontario.)

(Telegram.)

Toronto, Ont.,

1st March, 1929.

Lady Aikins,

Winnipeg, Man.

My colleagues and I have learned with great regret of the sudden death of your revered and distinguished husband, who filled for so many years an outstanding place in the public life of Western Canada and did so much to uphold the highest traditions of the legal profession throughout Canada. Sir James was greatly loved by his associates and respected for his public-spirited attitude on all occasions. Our sincere sympathy goes out to yourself and the members of his family in the heavy loss you have sustained.

(Sgd.) G. H. Ferguson.

(Honourable L. A. Taschereau, K.C., Prime Minister of Quebec.)

(Telegram.)

Quebec, Que.

March 2nd, 1929.

Lady Aikins,

Winnipeg, Man.

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy in your great sorrow.

(Sgd.) L. A. Taschereau.

(Honourable John B. M. Baxter, K.C., Prime Minister of New Brunswick.)

(Telegram.)

Saint John, N.B.,
March 2nd, 1929.

Lady Aikins,
Winnipeg, Man.

Please accept sincere condolence from myself and wife on your heavy loss, which deprives his profession of a leader and many like ourselves of a personal friend.

(Sgd.) John B. M. Baxter.

(Sir Claud Schuster, Permanent and Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor.)

(Cablegram.)

London.

Coleman,
P.O. Box 324,
Winnipeg, Canada.

Lord Chancellor desires to express to Canadian Bar Association and to relatives of Sir James Aikins his deep regret. His loss is felt as a bereavement here as well as in Canada.

(Sgd.) Schuster.

(Honourable Hugh Kennedy, Chief Justice of the Irish Free State.)

(Cablegram.)

Dublin,
4th March, 1929.

Coleman,
Secretary, Canadian Bar Association,
P.O. Box 324, Winnipeg.

Profoundly shocked and grieved by death of Sir James Aikins. Please convey my deepest sympathy with Canadian Bar Association in great loss.

(Sgd.) Kennedy.

(Honourable Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., President, Canadian Bar Association.)

(Telegram.)

Aiken, South Carolina,

1st March, 1929.

E. H. Coleman,

Winnipeg, Man.

Deeply shocked your telegram. Canadian Bar loses its greatest friend. Please convey profound sympathy to family. Write particulars.

(Sgd.) Wallace Nesbitt.

(Honourable R. B. Bennett, K.C., M.P., Dominion Vice-President, Canadian Bar Association.)

(Telegram.)

Beavermouth, B.C.,

1st March, 1929.

E. H. Coleman,

Secretary, Canadian Bar Association,

Winnipeg, Man.

Sincere thanks your message. Express to widow and family my deepest sympathy in their great bereavement which deprives them of devoted husband and father, Western Canada of its most distinguished citizen, and the legal profession of Canada of its greatest benefactor.

(Sgd.) R. B. Bennett.

(Jamaica Law Society.)

(Cablegram.)

Kingston, Jamaica.,

March 6th, 1929.

Canadian Bar Association,
Montreal.

Jamaica Law Society tenders condolence loss of Sir James Aikins.

(The Bar of Trinidad.)

(Cablegram.)

Port of Spain,

March 2nd, 1929.

Lady Aikins.

Winnipeg, Man.

The Bar of Trinidad send their respectful sympathy.

RESOLUTION OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN.

RESOLVED: That this convocation of the Benchers of the Law Society of Saskatchewan place on record its sincere sorrow at the death of Sir James Aikins, its recognition of his long and honourable service as a member of the Saskatchewan Bar and his inestimable service as the founder of the Canadian Bar Association and its active patron in and out of office since its foundation. We wish also to place on record our realisation of his service to the whole of Canada as a public man and as the representative of His Majesty. The members of this body desire as well to express the grief of each individual member in the loss of a personal friend.

(Sgd.) J. Kelso Hunter,

Secretary.

ARCHBISHOP MATHESON'S TRIBUTE.

The Most Reverend Dr. Matheson, Archbishop of Rupert's Land and Primate of all Canada, during divine service in St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg, on Sunday, March 3rd, spoke of the life and character of Sir James Aikins in this wise:—

Sir James Aikins had few peers among the native sons of Canada.

Alert, alike in mind and body, he was a man of outstanding ability, who made a signal success in every sphere of life to which he gave his great talents. He spent his entire official career in his adopted city and province, and he gave to their highest welfare of his best, and the best of a man of his calibre was a very rich contribution. We remember him as a great and brilliant member of the legal profession, a magnetic and eloquent public speaker, a great legislator, a great educationalist, a great philanthropist, and, above all, a great Christian citizen.

There is a personal touch when we of St. John's recall that he was present with us, two years ago, at the opening services of our new cathedral, and how greatly and genuinely he rejoiced with us in our achievement. It is very meet and right, therefore, that, as a congregation, we should rise to our feet just now and, while with bowed heads we mourn his loss, thank God for what Sir James was to our growing city and province in their formative days, and to the high ideals which he so warmly shared with all those who professed and called themselves Christians.

IV. THE JUBILEE OF SIR JAMES AIKINS' CALL TO THE MANITOBA BAR.

Some months ago steps were taken to recognise in a fitting manner the Fiftieth Anniversary of the call of the Honourable Sir James Aikins to the Bar of Manitoba. On the Forty-fifth Anniversary of his call Sir James had been entertained at dinner by the Bar of Manitoba and, on that occasion, he had intimated that he desired to be

the host if he lived to celebrate his Fiftieth Anniversary. Sir James insisted on carrying this project through and invited every lawyer in the Province to be his guest at dinner on Monday, February 25th.

The Committee of the local Bar having charge of the arrangements concluded that the most acceptable gift which could be made to Sir James would be a collection of letters from his friends in various parts of the world. Accordingly letters were obtained from about 120 prominent Judges and advocates. These were bound by a Winnipeg bindery (D. R. Dingwall, Limited), and the following is a description of the presentation volume:

"It is bound and mounted in the style of the Italian Renaissance, with hinges and clasps. The leather is the best, select, blue Morocco, and is hand-tooled. The boards are made extra heavy and bevelled between the clasps. The mountings, consisting of the hinges, clasps and escutcheon centre, are made of 14K. gold, and there is superimposed on the escutcheon, the coat of arms of the Law Society of Manitoba executed in hard Jewellery Enamels. Below the coat of arms there is engraved, on the escutcheon or shield, the inscription setting forth the occasion of the presentation.

"The first page is illuminated, and illustrates Confederation Hall, Parliament Buildings at Ottawa. This has allusion to the letter of the Prime Minister of Canada, which forms the centre of this page."

It had been hoped that the Honourable Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., President of the Canadian Bar Association, and the Honourable R. B. Bennett, K.C., Dominion Vice-President of the Association, might be present at the public celebration. Unfortunately neither of these gentlemen could be present and the official representative of the Association was the Honourable Chief Justice Sir François Lemieux, of Quebec, one of Sir James' oldest and closest friends, who made the long journey to Winnipeg in response to the personal invitation of the Committee. Honourable R. E. Lee Saner, of Dallas, Texas, former President of the American Bar Association, was also good enough to attend.

Sir James was unfortunately taken ill on the Saturday preceding the 25th of February but at his request the ceremonies were proceeded with as it was anticipated that his illness was not serious and that he would be about in the course of a week or ten days.

At one o'clock on Monday, February 25th, the Benchers of the Law Society entertained Sir François Lemieux and Mr. Saner at lunch.

In the afternoon at four o'clock a reception in honour of Sir James was given in the library of the Law Society at the Court House. Honourable R. W. Craig, K.C., Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, presided and called upon the Honourable W. E. Perdue, Chief Justice of Manitoba, to make the presentation of the book. It was accepted on behalf of Sir James Aikins by Sir François Lemieux and the following reply prepared by Sir James Aikins was read by Mr. Isaac Pitblado, K.C.:

"Honourable Chief Justices, Judges, Barristers, Solicitors, All Members of the Legal Profession present or absent who are so kindly taking part in this presentation, My Friends!

With all my heart I thank you for your unfailing goodness to me and for the fine fellowship which through the passing years you have accorded me after a half century of activities as a Canadian lawyer. That I should now be the subject of the kind thought and goodwill of those who knew me best—the members of our profession—and be the object of the manifest expression of that thought and goodwill, that surely, is to wear the unfading chaplet of abiding friendship; the crown of human, earthly life. Humbly and with gratitude my heart on bended knee accepts the honour and will carry it for ever there. The tribute presented to me in the letters enclasped in such beautiful form on this anniversary occasion is so amazing that I have become submissive. I feel it is not justified by any adequate merit in me but is due to the merits of those who have so honoured me, due to their bounty, their generosity, what better may I call it, to that love for one's neighbour which is the highest of all social virtues. I cannot understand such a pleasant lot falling to anyone who has not in his heart some love for his associates and in his hand some helpfulness where that is possible. I am happy that you have not at any time doubted the genuineness of my attachment to our profession or the sincerity of any service that I may have been able to render. I simply followed the impulse. Before the Canadian Bar Association was organised, and continuously since, my thought has been that the true progress of Canada, the stability of its institutions and the well-being of its people are inseparable from, and can be largely measured by, the moral strength, the intelligence, and the reliability of the legal profession which through ministers of justice, attorneys-general, barristers, solicitors, court and other officers of the law, constitute the justice branch of national government, and that it behooves us not only to fix but attain the best professional standard. To maintain that high standard is our obvious duty to the people and to ourselves. Under the British North America Act

the Parliament of Canada may make laws for "the peace, order and good government" of our country. Laws, however, are dead letters until put into operation. They cannot administer or run themselves. That can only be done by the justice branch. If the three essential divisions of government can be compared the branch of justice is more important than the legislative and executive departments. Legislatures might prorogue and executives become only ministerial for long periods of time without public injury, but unless the branch of justice and law is always on the job, ever alert, unthrottled and virile, peace order and good government will go aglimmering and vanish and the people be left without security. Accordingly, good government requires a good legal profession. Good government may exist without great intellectuality but not without dependable men, men of probity. Similarly our learned profession may be through and through good without great brilliancy of mind or scholastic learning if those who compose it are persons of sound common sense, probity and reliability and are serious students of the law and are trained in it. Time was when monks and priests were the advocates and judges because they were learned, but soon, and long ago, non-clerics were substituted, but the statute required them to be "good, virtuous and of good-fame" and "to know the law of the realm." From that high standard set 500 years ago there have been lapses at periods but generally only when public morality was low. It has seemed to me that it was at such periods the worst attacks were launched against our profession, and that what the level-headed Eliphaz said to Job might then be apt—"Should a wise man utter vain knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind? Should he reason with unprofitable talk? or with speeches wherewith he can do no good?" None of us wish our profession to be afflicted with that vain knowledge or the public to be blistered by it. The profession has never given intellectual polish the first place as a qualification for the student-at-law or the lawyer in action. Its view has been and is that the primary essential is good character in the individual which is the stabilising force and sure anchorage of our civilisation and of government. Intellect is a gift of the Creator which by training may be increased in efficiency and used for good or ill. On the other hand good character is an individual attainment up-springing from the ideal and the spiritual. It abides. It is the salt that has not lost its savour, the active element which keeps the mass sweet and pure."

At the Dinner in the evening, there were 414 guests. Honourable Mr. Craig presided and at the opening of the Dinner read a brief

message from Sir James regretting his inability to be present and expressing the hope that his absence might cast no cloud over the gaiety of the occasion. After Dinner, Mr. W. J. Tupper, K.C., Treasurer of the Law Society of Manitoba, proposed the toast to Sir James Aikins and Mr. Craig read a few notes which had been prepared by Sir James for the occasion. Sir François Lemieux and Mr. Saner followed with short addresses, and the Dinner ended at about 10.30 p.m. We print below the notes prepared by Sir James for his address at the Dinner:

"What spirit led me to come West in July, 1878, I have failed to discover. Perhaps it was that described by Service—

"Have you gazed on naked grandeur, where there's nothing else
to gaze on,

Set pieces and drop-curtain scenes galore,

Big mountains heaved to heaven, which the blinding sunsets
blazon,

Black canyons where the rapids rip and roar?

Have you swept the visioned valley with the green stream streak-
ing through it,

Searched the Vastness for a something you have lost?"

Following that call I came by rail to Fisher's Landing, thence down the Red on a stern-wheel steamer, the "Minnesota" I think. The orchestral music which accompanied us was produced by the steam blowing off and whistling, and the profanity of the crew in loading firewood for steam purposes at the several points against which we bumped. The other accompaniment was insinuating mosquitoes. I waked up one morning to find the boat snubbed to the bank on the Assiniboine River at what was then the foot of Main Street, somewhat east of where it is now and running beside the Bastions Wall and Hudson's Bay Store in the old Fort Garry. To me it was a reconnaissance, an adventure, everything new, therefore interesting. The highways were mud roads, the drainage side ditches, except that an attempt was made not very successfully to construct a wood sewer for a short distance on the street along which on either side were short stretches of narrow wood sidewalk. Near what is now William Street, it was a bridge over a stream-bed. Complaint was made in the papers of that time about horses gambolling in the streets at night-time, causing alarm to timid pedestrians, and a bunch of dogs, about twenty-five in number, worrying wandering pigs. The population was scattered. At the election the following

year there were on the voters' list for the Winnipeg district some 1,200. Taverns and saloons far outnumbered churches and schools, and the men were more numerous than the women. There were some seventeen lawyers then located here, two in Portage and one in Emerson. There were three Judges, Chief Justice Wood and Justices Betourney and McKeagney. Before the two latter I did not appear, they died in 1879; the Chief Justice died in October, 1882. To see the country I drove by Shaganappay pony and buckboard as far west as Portage la Prairie, thence back via Meadowlea. The pony was white but the clouds of mosquitoes soon made it red. The roughness of the trip was lost in the newness of it. I had no business connections here and knew less than half a dozen people when I came. I concluded, however, that there was ample room to grow and expand with the country and to come West. Went back, passed those heart-rending law examinations, was admitted as an attorney and called to the Bar in Michaelmas term 1878, and early in February took leave of my friends in Toronto, packed up my duds and law-books, and was off by railway for Winnipeg. The rail connection had been made in December, 1878. There was no bridge across the Red River. Therefore, I was transported by sleigh to this city, which was then, of course, becoming important, at all events to me. Went to the Grand Hotel situate at the corner of Graham and Fort Street, was allotted a room of about 8 x 10, large enough for a single bed, a wash-stand, a trunk and a chair. It was heated from a stove some distance away in the hall. It was at this hotel where, on one morning shortly after, I met a young man standing beside the brass rail talking to the bar-tender. Being like myself, a young man and a stranger, I spoke to him (Dr. J. W. Good). We remained thereafter close friends. He used, however, to tell the story to others of how he found me in a bar-room and rescued me from a life of intemperance.

Albert Clement Killam was the distinguished double gold medalist of Toronto University, my senior about two years, whom I had not seen since he graduated until we met here, when at the same time, 15th of February, 1879, we were admitted to practice and called to the Bar of Manitoba. He joined the firm of Ross, Ross and Killam. I had temerity and dared like Daniel to stand alone, and found an officé, the only one available, over Parsons and Richardson's book-store, where the Bank of Hamilton Building now stands, a room 10 x 10 or 12, heated by a stove-pipe only, which office they, having compassion on me, leased to me, subject how-

ever to the condition that I should keep their ink-bottles warm, held for sale in the room. I scrutinized carefully the lease lest that condition should be a covenant running with the land. My furniture consisted of a common kitchen table, three or four chairs and a letter-press. The office was reached by a stair outside of the building, and I felt proud when the sign appeared on the corner of the building "J. A. M. Aikins, Barrister & Solicitor." On the 26th of February, 1879, I find that my advertisement in the paper was as follows:—

"J. A. M. Aikins, Bar., Atty., Solicitor, &c.—office over Parsons & Richardson's store, Main St. Money to loan on good mortgage security. No commission."

The opportunity of collecting the then standard rate of interest here, 10% per annum, had induced some of my friends to entrust me with some of their accumulations for investment.

Court records shew that Killam issued his first writ on the 19th February, 1879. My first was on the 29th April, 1879. The only railway operating in the country at that time was the one from Emerson to St. Boniface. There were not even graded roads. The open unfenced prairie gave ample room for the horse and ox and buggy or sleigh. In summer the canoe was much used and in winter-time the dog-sled. I remember one occasion, when driving into the country on business, I was confronted by the deceptive green grass of a bog. The horse floundered into it; I had to jump on his back to reach the other side and pull him out. Skeletons of numerous animals which had been bogged at Pigeon Lake could be seen in subsequent years. In winter-time, milk was delivered in gunny sacks, and our water system consisted of a sleigh and a barrel. The people had to provide their own concert entertainment. The first gramophone, according to the papers, was exhibited on July 24th, 1879, by Mr. Gates.

Settlers commenced to arrive. They had stout hearts and willing hands. They were brave pioneers, and laid the foundation of industrial progress. They, and others who came before and after, introduced from Ontario the form of our institutions, municipal, school, civic and judicial. At that time the courts had the dual system of practice, common law and chancery. My training had been in both—with Cameron & McMichael, Toronto, for common law (Cameron was afterwards Sir Matthew Crooks Cameron, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Ontario), and Mowat, McLennan & Downey for chancery. (Mowat, afterwards Sir Oliver, Premier

of Ontario and its Lieutenant-Governor.) Our practice books were mainly Daniel's Chancery Practice, Lewis on Equity Pleading, and in common law, Bullen & Leake, Chitty and Archbold. At that time the rules of pleading were such that the lawyer was compelled not only to know his facts, but the exact law applicable, before pleading. If he was not careful, he would be faced with a demurrer or an application to strike them out. Frequently cases were determined solely on the pleading, thus unnecessary trials prevented. One illustration occurred at Portage la Prairie on a demurrer *ore tenus*, before Chief Justice Taylor. At the request of the Bar here he was sent up because he understood the chancery practice. Many of you know what demurrer *ore tenus* was. The opposing counsel was taken by surprise, and, with the assistance of Chief Justice Taylor, who was a strict pleader, he slid out.

You can readily see the enormous changes that have taken place in Manitoba since those early days of '79 and the '80s. I therefore will not delay in recounting them to you. The old order is changing and giving place to the new. We are living in a new world, where everything is being moulded into shape, in times most interesting, when to be alive is sublime. Some assert the world is old; that is because they think in terms of decrepitude and decay. It is they who are old. The world and the people of it to-day are new, as new as when the sons of the morning shouted for joy.

All but God is changing day by day,

And the plastic spirit of the ages

Bids us mould ourselves our robes of clay.

New discoveries of the fundamental laws of things created, new application of those laws, new discovery of life and energy in matter, from the perfectly constructed atom (so small that it will filter through the finest china) to the regular constellations beyond time and space, new inventions and combinations to make those laws and energies available for human uses. Shall we allow those new forces, new powers, to go uncontrolled and without law, to destroy our peoples and ruin our civilization? Have you not at times felt as if the substantial were rocking under your feet and things you thought fixed reeling around, have you not heard the sound of rising waters and the rushing of mighty wind? Calm yourselves.

This fine old world of ours is but a child

Yet in the go-cart. Patience! give it time

To learn its limbs: There is a hand that guides."

V. TRIBUTES TO SIR JAMES AIKINS FROM HIS FRIENDS.

We are privileged to publish below some of the many expressions of appreciation of the work done by Sir James Aikins for the Canadian Bar, and for Canada as a whole, forwarded to him from friends at home and abroad on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of his call to the Bar of Manitoba. In the aggregate they form a veritable anthology of praise that will render his memory imperishable in the annals of the Canadian Bar. We are sure our readers will be glad to find them published here in the order in which they appear in the printed copy of the memorial volume.

(Right Honourable W. L. MACKENZIE KING, D.C.L., LL.D., M.P.)

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE,
OTTAWA, 9th January, 1929.

MY DEAR SIR JAMES:

I have learned with much pleasure that the members of the legal profession, and more especially those who have been actively identified with you in the work of the Canadian Bar Association, are looking forward to the Fiftieth Anniversary of your call to the Bar of the Province of Manitoba, to manifest in some form the admiration and affection which they have for yourself, and their appreciation of your eminent services to the profession.

Though I have not the privilege of being numbered among those who have been admitted to the Bar, I am, as you may possibly know, a graduate in law, and have shared with yourself in the past, and still have, a place in the High Court of Parliament. Moreover, as you will recall, my father was a member of your profession and, if I mistake not, one of your own many personal friends. I am hoping that these reasons may prove sufficient to entitle me to add a word to the congratulations and good wishes which the members of the legal profession will be extending to you early in February.

To have been identified with one of the learned professions for a period of half a century is an honourable record in itself. To have been the first president of the Canadian Bar Association, and to have held that office continuously for more than a quarter of that time, speaks of the honour you have done your profession, and of the very high regard in which, for many years, you have been held by its members in all parts of our Dominion. In addition, to have served your country in its Parliament and as the represent-

ative of the Crown in the Province in which you have practised your profession, constitutes a record of honourable recognition and public service which it would be difficult to parallel, and of which your fellow-countrymen are justly proud.

If I might be permitted so to do, I should like, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary about to be celebrated, to join to my own congratulations those of my colleagues in the Cabinet, and those of all other members of both Houses of Parliament, upon the ability, zeal, and fidelity with which, for half a century, you have served your King, your country, and your profession.

Yours very sincerely,

W. L. MACKENZIE KING.

Honourable Sir James Aikins, Knight, K.C.,
Somerset Building,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

(Right Honourable F. A. ANGLIN, Chief Justice of Canada.)

CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS,
SUPREME COURT,

OTTAWA, 28th November, 1928.

MY DEAR SIR JAMES:

I am more than gratified to learn of the intention of some of your friends of the Canadian Bar to mark the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of your call, which, I understand, will occur early in the New Year. It affords me great pleasure to join in offering you sincere congratulations on the attainment of your golden jubilee as a member of the Bar. Moreover, while I esteem it an imperative duty to express in unqualified terms of praise and commendation my appreciation of the magnificent service you have rendered to the Bar of Canada, and through it to the cause of Canadian solidarity and nationhood, in discharging that duty, I also feel a deep personal satisfaction. Let me assure you, Sir, that the words of congratulation and of admiration, of which you will be the honoured recipient from lawyers throughout the entire Dominion, will be recognized by all who hear or read them as but an inadequate expression of what your great work deserves.

Through the Canadian Bar Association, which owes, if not its very existence, certainly its present position of strength and influence to your fatherly care and unfailing support, you have con-

stantly sought to bring together the best minds and the most unselfish spirits of the Bar of Canada. To promote by association a better knowledge of one another amongst members of the Bars of our scattered Provinces, and thus to remove possible causes of misunderstanding and of racial animosities and jealousies; by fostering an *esprit de corps* in the Bar of Canada as a whole to overcome the provincialism into which our constitutional system makes Canadian lawyers prone to fall—such has been your ambition; and it must indeed be gratifying to you to feel that your efforts have met with most notable success.

In a democratic community like Canada, the natural leaders of public opinion are the professional, the literary and the educated people; and, amongst them, owing to their training, their close connection with the large mercantile and international interests of the country on the one hand and with the mechanic and the farmer on the other, and the confidence which men of all classes have learned to place in their integrity and in their capacity to advise soundly, members of the Bar occupy a commanding position. To work for solidarity amongst them—not merely to associate in, but to lead, as you have done, the movement for unity and for full and complete understanding amongst the lawyers of Canada, is, therefore, to render a most patriotic service—a service of real value in the cause of Canadian nationhood.

Wishing you, Sir James, the fullest measure of satisfaction which knowledge of the affection and esteem in which you are held, not merely by fellow-members of the Canadian Bar, but by Canadians at large, cannot but afford you, and that the Canadian Bar Association may enjoy for many years to come the advantage of having you as its friend and counsellor. I am,

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK A. ANGLIN,
Chief Justice of Canada.

The Honourable

Sir J. A. M. Aikins, Knight, K.C.,
Winnipeg, Man.

(Right Honourable LORD HEWART OF BURY, Lord Chief Justice of England.)

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.,

7th December, 1928.

MY DEAR COLEMAN:

It is indeed a fact of peculiar interest that the Hon. Sir James Aikins, K.C. the Honorary Life President of The Canadian Bar Association, will celebrate in February next the Fiftieth Anniversary of his call to the Bar of the Province of Manitoba, and I should greatly like to join, if I may, in the immense chorus of congratulations and good wishes which will greet my distinguished friend on that occasion. Fortunate are those among whom the Father of The Canadian Bar Association spends and has spent most of his days! But on this side of the Atlantic, too, there are many who know well the sunshine of his presence and the inspiring energy of his character, while some of us have enjoyed the delightful opportunity of observing in Winnipeg, in Toronto, and elsewhere in Canada how highly a prophet can sometimes be honoured even in his own country. His great work in, and in relation to, The Canadian Bar Association has passed into a household word. May he long be spared in health and strength to enjoy the admiration and the affection of troops of friends, and to witness with a proud eye the unceasing growth of that wonderful organization—the very type of Canadian union and unity—in which his paternal interest is naturally and always centred.

Yours sincerely,

HEWART.

(Honourable HUGH KENNEDY, Chief Justice of the Irish Free State.)

NEWSTEAD, CLONSKEAGH, CO. DUBLIN,
1st January, 1929.

MY DEAR SIR JAMES AIKINS:

I have learned that you will celebrate next month a golden Jubilee—the Fiftieth Anniversary of your call to the Bar of Manitoba. A chorus of congratulation from your professional brethren will salute you on that happy occasion, and I am eager to join my voice in unison with my brethren, if I may, presuming on the friendship manifested during my ever memorable visit. You first endeared

yourself to us all here when you led the visiting section of the Canadian Bar and honoured us with your company and delighted us with your charms and gracious speech at our dinner for our visitors in Kings Inns in 1924. To have the privilege of meeting you again was one of the great pleasures of my visit to Canada. While there, I came to know better the big place you hold in the life and history of the Canadian Bar and its flourishing Association, of which you are truly the father and the continuing inspiration. Blessed with perennial youth and vigour and with a personality which draws us all around you as individually your friends, and with the power to inspire active enthusiasm in ambition for the greatness and prestige of the Canadian Bar, that you may have very many years to come with powers unabated, vigour unflagging, lustre of personality undimmed, and youth unaged, will be the very earnest aspiration accompanying the felicitations offered you by all, and especially by the members of the Canadian Bar Association among whom I am now privileged to include myself. In these sentiments I carry with me all the many friends you have made in Ireland.

With every respect,

Believe me, dear Sir James Aikins,

Yours very sincerely,

HUGH KENNEDY.

(Aodh Ua Cinnéidigh.)

The Hon. Sir James Aikins, K.C.,

Winnipeg, Canada.

(Honourable W. H. TAFT, Chief Justice of the United States.)

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,

WASHINGTON, D.C., 5th December, 1928,

MY DEAR MR. CRAIG:

I greatly regret that I shall be unable to participate with you in your expression of congratulation to Sir James Aikins on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of his call to the Bar. It ought to be a source of great congratulation that Sir James was called to the Bar half a century ago, and has had such an opportunity to elevate it and strengthen it by the initiation of the Canadian Bar Association. He has roused thereby a deeper spirit of professional pride among the lawyers of the Dominion. I know how much time,

energy and money Sir James has given in this cause, and have witnessed his generous devotion to our profession. It is most appropriate to celebrate in a fitting way the half century of real service he has done to his country. Will you be good enough to present to Sir James my earnest felicitations and include in them an expression of earnest good will to his gracious Lady who has shared in his unending hospitality to his professional brethren?

Sincerely yours,

WM. H. TAFT.

Mr. R. W. Craig,
Vice-President, Canadian Bar Association for Manitoba,
Winnipeg, Man.

(Right Honourable VISCOUNT FINLAY.)

31, PHILLIMORE GARDENS, W. 8,
9th November, 1928.

MY DEAR SIR JAMES AIKINS:

It is with great regret that I find that it will be impossible for me to be present at the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of your call to the Bar.

I desire to tell you how sorry I am for my enforced absence and, however inadequately, to voice the great esteem and admiration which I entertain for you.

I can never forget the kindness with which I was received by you and Lady Aikins, when I visited Canada many years ago, on the invitation of the Canadian Bar to address them at their meeting at Winnipeg. All the details of that occasion are engraved in my memory and will never be effaced.

That visit enabled me to realize to the full the affectionate regard in which you are held by the whole Profession, and I yield to none in admiration and affection for you.

I regard it as a great honour and a great privilege to have been the guest of yourself and Lady Aikins.

The constant kindness of you both made that visit to me most delightful.

Of your professional eminence, it would be presumptuous for me to speak. The whole Canadian Bar is united in trying to give

expression to the feelings of esteem and affection with which you are regarded.

I most heartedly wish you long life and every prosperity.

Believe me always.

Most sincerely yours,

FINLAY.

The Hon. Sir James Aikins, K.C.

(Right Honourable LORD BUCKMASTER.)

1 PORCHESTER TERRACE, HYDE PARK, W.,

16—10—28.

DEAR SIR JAMES AIKINS:

I hear that in a few weeks' time you will have completed fifty years of legal life.

It is a long record and the retrospect must give you many interesting and, I hope, happy memories.

The growth of the wealth and power of Canada has in itself been prodigious, and with it you have witnessed the splendid development of the law, for which you can claim no little share. The organization of The Canadian Bar Association itself was a great achievement due to your efforts, and each year will show in an increasing degree the service thus rendered to our common profession.

I always remember with pleasure your great kindness to me in Canada, and I hope for many years Lady Aikins and yourself may enjoy the affection and respect you have so abundantly earned.

Yours sincerely,

BUCKMASTER.

(Right Honourable LORD SHAW OF DUNFERMLINE.)

9, BOLTON GARDENS, S.W. 5,

29th. October, 1928,

MY DEAR SIR:

I deplore the fact that Sir James Aikins' record cannot run back when his fifty years come to an end; but I join with his personal, public and professional friends in celebrating his golden wedding to the law.

When I had the high honour in 1922 of addressing the great gathering of The Canadian Bar Association in Vancouver, it was the hand of Sir James that shook mine, and guided and guarded me in my young and tender 73rd year. Then to Winnipeg and his hospitable and beautiful family circle; and there my daughter and I had a reception which we shall never forget, and formed dear friendships which will last through life.

His colleagues know and justly commemorate his work and worth. In a full sense, the truth and force of which extend through all these long years, he has magnified the law and made it honourable.

May his bow abide in strength.

Yours with warm regards,

SHAW OF DUNFERMLINE.

E. H. Coleman.

(Right Honourable LORD DARLING.)

12th October, 1928.

DEAR MR. COLEMAN:

I am indeed delighted to have the opportunity of associating myself with the many friends of Sir James Aikins in their celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of his call to the Bar.

Others may recall the professional triumphs of his career—but I shall always remember him as I saw him when I had the privilege of being the guest of The Canadian Bar Association and himself—now two years ago. His eloquence, and his wit, illumined the daily routine of our meetings. Besides this, he did so much to prove how intimate and beneficial to all within the British Empire is the learning and practice of our Common Law.

When we left Quebec my daughter and I brought away from Canada our affectionate regard for all those we met there—and especially for Sir James and Lady Aikins, in whom we had found such charming and hospitable hosts.

Believe me

Yours sincerely,

DARLING.

(Right Honourable Mr. Justice EVE and Right Honourable Mr. Justice MACNAGHTEN.)

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,

LONDON, W.C. 2, 7th November, 1928.

DEAR MR. COLEMAN:

At the Fiftieth Anniversary of the call of Sir James Aikins to the Bar, may we be allowed to join with his brethren of the Canadian Bar in offering to him our warmest congratulations and good wishes.

It would be impertinent for us to speak of the work he has accomplished for the profession in Canada, but since we were to some extent concerned with the arrangement of the welcome of the American Bar Association to this country in 1924, we should like to express our appreciation of the part which he took on that happy occasion. To him more than to any other individual the unqualified success of that meeting was due, and, speaking of ourselves, we were then able to understand and to share in the affectionate regard in which he is held throughout the Dominion.

We are, dear Mr. Coleman,

Yours sincerely,

HARRY T. EVE,

MALCOLM M. MACNAGHTEN.

E. H. Coleman, Esq.,

The Canadian Bar Association.

(CONDIE SANDEMAN, Esq., K.C., Dean, Faculty of Advocates,
Edinburgh.)

15th November, 1928.

DEAR SIR JAMES:

It must be a matter of pride to you, as it is of pleasure to your friends and admirers, to emerge from 50 years' membership of the Bar as its universally respected head.

You can repeat Macbeth's words—"Honour, love, obedience, troops of friends"—and claim to have them all. And among your admirers and well-wishers, please do not name me least. May you be long spared to enjoy the good things you have won.

Yours very sincerely,

CONDIE SANDEMAN.

(Right Honourable H. P. MACMILLAN, K.C.)

44 GROSVENOR ROAD, WESTMINSTER, S.W., 1,

11th November, 1928,

DEAR SIR JAMES:

May I add a voice from the Scots Bar to the chorus of congratulations which will acclaim the Fiftieth Anniversary of your call to the Bar of Manitoba? It was during your Presidentship of the Canadian Bar Association that I became one of its Honorary Members, and since I received this distinction at your hands, I have been privileged to attend two meetings of the Association as its guest. Both at St. John, New Brunswick, in 1926, and again at Regina this year, I realised how great a part the Canadian Bar Association plays not only in maintaining throughout the Dominion the great traditions of our profession but also in affording opportunities for the advancement of legal science by discussion and the interchange of ideas. To your inspiration the Association owed its first beginnings; as its President for over a dozen years, you promoted its progress and fostered its interests; and now from the serene position of its Honorary Life President you bestow a benignant encouragement upon all its activities.

Few men have served their profession with such distinction and loyalty, and I hope that you may long have the felicity of enjoying the respect and affection you have so well earned from your brethren, among whom I am happy to be allowed to include myself.

With all congratulations and good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

H. P. MACMILLAN.

The Hon. Sir James Aikins, K.C.,

Winnipeg.

(Honourable Senator MANUEL FOURCADE.)

SENAT, PARIS,

8 Décembre, 1928.

Monsieur le Secrétaire-Trésorier et cher confrère,

C'est de bien grand cœur que je m'associe aux hommages qui, de, toutes parts, vont aller à Sir James Aikins, à l'occasion du cinquantième anniversaire de sa présidence.

Je garde un souvenir inoubliable de la dignité, de la hauteur de vue et de la bonne grâce avec laquelle il présidait en 1925 le congrès de Winnipeg auquel j'avais l'honneur d'assister. Il m'a paru, à ce moment, résumer en lui toutes les qualités qui font la fierté du barreau et qui attestent également son aptitude aux fonctions les plus délicates et les plus hautes.

Je suis extrêmement heureux que vous m'ayez fourni l'occasion de cet hommage et je vous prie de vouloir bien agréer l'expression de mes plus dévoués sentiments.

MANUEL FOURCADE.

(Maître ARMAND DORVILLE.)

4, RUE EDOUARD DETAILLE, XVII^e, PARIS.

11 Décembre, 1928.

Ma qualité d'avocat au Barreau de Paris ne m'a malheureusement pas permis d'entendre plaider Sir James Aikins, quand il honorait de son talent le barreau de la province du Manitoba, mais j'ai eu l'occasion lors de mon séjour à Regina de le voir présider une séance du Congrès de l'Association du Barreau Canadien.

J'ai été, au cours des déjeuners qu'il présidait ou auxquels il assistait, touché de sa bonne grâce. J'ai admiré la preste élégance de mouvements de ce vieillard et j'ai été séduit par l'incomparable jeunesse de son regard.

Je l'ai vu à la High Church de Regina présenter à l'auditoire l'Honorable Macmillan et j'ai pu mesurer l'élévation de son esprit et la force de son éloquence.

Ainsi j'ai pu m'apercevoir que sous tous ses aspects, il réalisait au Canada ce que le xvii^e ième siècle français appelait l'honnête homme.

ARMAND DORVILLE,

Avocat à la Cour de Paris.

(Dr. R. MASUJIMA.)

Tokyo, 15th November, 1928.

MY DEAR SIR JAMES:

It gives me much pleasure to congratulate you on the coming Fiftieth Anniversary of your call to the Bar in hearty admiration of your notable personality.

Ever since our first meeting at Ottawa in 1921, I have been proud to cherish our friendship. I regard the Common Law as the most scientifically practical system of law and judicial administration the world has yet seen, a system which educates and raises lawyers of real knowledge, broad mind and sound judgment; and I look up to you as typical of all that is good in the system.

It is not for me to comment on your distinguished career at the Bar, but I would refer to one or two of the many services you have rendered outside your professional activities. Through your efforts the idea of Bar Association was brought over the border and the Canadian Bar Association first founded, and through your magnificent and munificent support placed upon its solid foundation. You have always worked for the maintenance of the bond of understanding between the English Bar and the American Bar Association, and it was largely as a result of your kind offices that the visit of the latter to the British Isles in 1924 was arranged, and its members thereby afforded a memorable opportunity of paying their personal respects to the venerable Inns of Court, the cradle of Anglo-American law. In these, and in many other ways, have you loyally discharged that duty which each member of every profession owes, to extend and enhance its beneficial influence outside its own sphere.

I have not ceased to be optimistic in looking forward to some future time of the world's history when the grand idea of the Bar Association can be universally worked out among the Bars of civilised communities, and the World Bar Association inaugurated so that the power and beauty of the Common Law jurisprudence shall be exhibited to the world to advance the peace and happiness of mankind. My optimism is based on hope that this fine ideal may come to be shared by you, and your wide influence contributed in smoothing away the difficulties which prevent its immediate realisation.

An interesting coincidence I may mention is that the year of your call was that of my graduation at the law college of Tokyo University, which by Japanese law qualified me then to practise. The Middle Temple Dinners, however, delayed my entry into practice until 1884. In a few years, therefore, I hope to look back, as you will be doing soon, across fifty years of work. When that time arrives I shall be proud indeed to think that my years have been spent, as yours have, in the interests of our profession, and for the benefit of society.

With warmest fraternal wishes for your continued health and happiness in the enjoyment of the well-earned fruits of your labours,

I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

R. MASUJIMA.

Honourable Sir James Aikins, K.C., LL.D.,

Honorary Life President,

The Canadian Bar Association.

(Honourable JOHN W. DAVIS.)

15 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK,

4th October, 1928.

MY DEAR SIR JAMES:

I am told that next February you will celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of your call to the Bar of the Province of Manitoba. I count it a privilege to join with others in congratulating you on a life so well and honourably spent, and with them I hope that many more years of usefulness lie before you. To your American brethren of the Bar you will always be the impersonation of the Canadian Bar Association, at whose hands American lawyers have received so many courtesies. That the Canadian Bar Association should have made you its Honorary President for life is a just tribute to your services.

With every good wish, believe me,

Always sincerely yours,

JOHN W. DAVIS.

Honourable Sir James Aikins, K.C.,

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

(Right Honourable Mr. Justice DUFF.)

JUDGE'S CHAMBERS, SUPREME COURT,

OTTAWA.

DEAR SIR JAMES:

What a long and eventful stretch extends between the date of your call to the Bar and to-day! I do not know, but I presume that the adoption of the National Policy, which we can now speak of as history, falls within it. At all events, it includes the whole

C.P.R. story, the zenith of Sir John Macdonald, the rise of Laurier and his long reign, the Great War, the rise and establishment of the West, the final culmination and acceptance in practice of the conception of a plurality of nations of co-equal status within the Empire. And in how much of it you can truly say *Quorum pars magna fui!*

For yourself, nevertheless, I think the most striking thing in your career, as history will appraise it, has been the founding of the Bar Association. To you we owe an agency not only of inestimable value to the profession and the law, but as an instrumentality of unity and conciliation beyond the power of our praise. I would not detract from your long association with the development of the West, but the institution which we owe to your genius will long pursue its beneficent course, and will remain a monument to your wisdom and your generosity, long after we have all disappeared from the scene.

Please accept my warmest felicitations and most sincere wishes that for many years the returning anniversary will find you well and happy in the congratulations of your friends.

Yours most faithfully,

LYMAN P. DUFF.

The Honourable

Sir James Aikins, K.C.

(Honourable CHARLES E. HUGHES.)

NEW YORK, 7th December, 1928.

MY DEAR MR. COLEMAN:

It gives me much pleasure to join in the tribute to the Honourable Sir James Aikins, K.C., a great inspirer of the Bar. In his long and distinguished career he has won the affection and esteem of his brethren by his devotion to the fellowship of the profession. Not only has he promoted a closer union of the members of the Canadian Bar, but he has fostered the spirit of fraternity between them and the members of the American Bar Association by his frequent attendance at our meetings in the United States and by the cordiality and helpfulness of the messages he has brought us.

Sir James Aikins has been the apostle of good will, and the memory of his constant and intelligent zeal in advancing the in-

terests of our common profession will ever be cherished on our side of the invisible line which marks no distinction in the ideals governing the administration of justice.

I am, my dear Mr. Coleman,

Very sincerely yours,

CHARLES E. HUGHES.

Mr. E. H. Coleman,

Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Bar Association,

P.O. Box 324,

Winnipeg, Canada.

(Honourable GEORGE W. WICKERSHAM.)

40 WALL STREET, NEW YORK,

3rd October, 1928.

DEAR MR. COLEMAN:

I am glad to have an opportunity to join with the members of the Canadian Bar Association in a well merited tribute to the Honourable Sir James Aikins, K.C., on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of his call to the Bar of the Province of Manitoba. Sir James is one of the outstanding figures at the Bar of the American continent. That he happens to be on the Canadian side of the boundary between our respective countries only serves to throw his merits into greater prominence and to emphasize the learning, energy and devotion to the public service which has characterized his long career. I know the position which he occupies in Canada, but he is scarcely held in any less esteem by the members of the American Bar. I am sure that I voice the feelings of all who know him when I say that the Canadian Bar Association honours itself in paying tribute to him upon the completion of a half century of activity at the Bar of his country.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

GEORGE W. WICKERSHAM.

E. H. Coleman, Esq.,

P.O. Box 324,

Winnipeg.

(Right Honourable SIR ROBERT BORDEN, G.C.M.G., K.C., D.C.L.).

GLENSMERE, OTTAWA,
24th October, 1928.

DEAR SIR JAMES AIKINS:

Within a few weeks you will have reached the Fiftieth Anniversary of your call to the Bar of the Province of Manitoba. The occasion gives to your friends and admirers the opportunity of testifying their very deep appreciation of the service that you have given, not only to our profession, but to the Nation as a whole.

I do not dwell upon your distinguished career at the Bar, nor upon your service as a Member of the House of Commons and for many years as your Sovereign's Representative in the Province of Manitoba. May I, however, express a very happy memory of my association with you in the House of Commons during the years long since gone by, when I found you always inspired by the highest conception of public duty.

You have fitly crowned your life's work by the establishment of the Canadian Bar Association. We can somewhat realize the labours that you underwent and the difficulties that you splendidly surmounted in making that Association what it is to-day.

It was a much needed national service. The scattered communities that comprise the Canadian Nation, reaching from Atlantic to Pacific, are separated not only by distance but by divergence of race and creed, of ideal, of interest and of outlook. In many cases this divergence is more apparent than real, and he has served his country well who by any reasonable means has sought to bring these communities more closely in touch and to a truer understanding.

It seemed to you useful, and so it has abundantly proved, that from each Province the members of a great profession should be led into co-operation and thus enter the path of more united Nationhood. To accomplish this purpose you have not spared yourself; and you have the proud satisfaction of knowing that your labour has not been in vain but has been abundantly blessed.

To you, to Lady Aikins and to all the members of your family, I tender on behalf of my wife and myself our lively congratulations

and our warmest wishes for all happiness in the years that lie before you.

I remain, dear Sir James,

Yours faithfully,

R. L. BORDEN.

Sir James Aikins, K.C.,
Winnipeg, Man.

(Right Honourable ARTHUR MEIGHEN, K.C.)

Sir James Aikins deserves a testimonial. He has to his credit about seventy years of well directed energy, crowded with achievement in business, in professional and in public life. He is now reaping the reward of wise living in health, in wealth and friends.

ARTHUR MEIGHEN.

(Honourable ERNEST LAPOINTE, K.C., M.P.).

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF CANADA,
OTTAWA.

DEAR SIR JAMES:

I am proud to join my personal homage to the numerous expressions of friendship and admiration which you are receiving on this the Fiftieth Anniversary of your call to the Bar. During that long period of time, you have contributed in no small measure to uphold the honour and maintain the dignity of the profession, being always and in all spheres, not only a prominent lawyer, but also an honest man and a patriotic and loyal citizen.

While others were talking about national unity, you have achieved it in a very important field. The man who is responsible for the foundation of the Canadian Bar Association, who has worked consistently and unsparingly to build it upon a permanent and solid basis, deserves to rank amongst the makers of the Canadian nation.

Our great Association has become one of the greatest and most influential bodies of our social life.

Sir James, as Minister of Justice of Canada, I desire to congratulate you on the success you have achieved and to express my deep gratitude for the noble example you have given, not only to members of the legal fraternity, but also to all the citizens of our country.

I pray Providence to give you the reward of a long, peaceful and happy life, adorned by the respect and the veneration of your fellow citizens.

With kind regards and my best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

ERNEST LAPOINTE.

Honourable Sir James Aikins, K.C.,
Winnipeg, Man.

(Honourable WALLACE NESBITT, K.C.)

801 DOMINION BANK BUILDING,
TORONTO, 27th November, 1928.

MY DEAR COLEMAN:

I have just returned to Canada and find the letters of yourself and Mr. Craig, Vice-President of The Canadian Bar Association of Manitoba, stating that in February 1929 Sir James Aikins reaches the Fiftieth Anniversary of his call to the Bar of the Province of Manitoba.

May I ask you to extend to Sir James on that occasion my congratulations. I have known Sir James, I think, for practically the whole of that period, both as a fellow-practising barrister and also as a practising barrister before the Supreme Court of Canada—on which I had the honour to sit for some little time—and subsequently as Vice-President of The Canadian Bar Association from the date of its organization in 1914 until 1927. He may truthfully be said to be the founder and father of The Canadian Bar Association, and one felt when he insisted upon his retirement that it would be impossible to replace him, and that the words of Shakespeare were curiously applicable to him—

“In the theatre the eyes of men, after a well-graced actor leaves the stage, are idly bent on him that enters next, thinking his prattle to be tedious.”

The Bar of Canada can never hope to be sufficiently grateful to Sir James for all that he has accomplished in its interests, and, in stating this, I am sure that I am expressing the views of all those who have been associated with him in the work.

Sincerely yours,

WALLACE NESBITT.

E. H. Coleman, Esq.,
Winnipeg, Man.

(Honourable R. B. BENNETT, K.C., LL.D., M.P.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS, CANADA,

OTTAWA, 13th December, 1928.

DEAR SIR:

I have learned with great pleasure that a representative Committee of our Profession has undertaken to make suitable arrangements for the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the call to the Bar of the Honourable Sir James Aikins, K.C., LL.D.

It is fitting that the event should be thus recognized. Half a century is a long period in a man's life and during the last fifty years progress has been more rapid than in any previous century in the world's history of which we have a record. And that progress has been reflected in the administration of Justice, the development of our legal institutions and the character of our legislation, as well as in the practice of law itself.

Sir James Aikins has been privileged to play a distinguished and at times a decisive part in assisting that progress. He came to Western Canada, not only as a graduate of a leading Canadian university with a sound legal education obtained in the capital of Ontario where the great traditions of the law were respected and venerated, but under what Lord Granville once described as "those fortuitous circumstances" that were the birthright of the son of a former Member of the Government of Canada, who had accepted the Lieutenant-Governorship of Manitoba. As the Legal Adviser to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company his practice extended from the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains, and while comparatively young in years he made for himself an outstanding position as a leader of the Bar of Western Canada when it numbered amongst its members lawyers of great distinction. His business ability gave him a commanding place in the commercial world. He prospered, but did not forget the claims of his profession nor his duties as a citizen. His wise counsel and sound judgment were equally in demand as a Bencher of the Law Society, as a director of great commercial enterprises, and on the Boards of the Church with which he was so closely associated.

When the call to serve Canada became more insistent he was elected a Member of the House of Commons and subsequently was appointed the representative of his Sovereign in the Province of his adoption.

But his greatest achievement, which will be his lasting monument, was in founding, organizing and firmly establishing the Can-

adian Bar Association. He was its first President and is now its Honorary Life President. In organizing its activities he visited every Province in the Dominion and inspired the members of the Profession with his own enthusiasm and a sense of their responsibilities. He secured support for the Association from the Atlantic to the Pacific and made the new organization a real factor in improving the relations and bettering the understanding between the Provinces of the Confederation. Nor did his efforts cease with organization of the Association. His financial assistance has given permanency to an Association which otherwise might have disappeared with the life of its founder and be remembered only as a passing phase of our professional life.

His friends are legion and are to be found in every country. His social qualities have endeared him to thousands and his devotion to Canada does not lessen his regard for the British Empire and his ardent belief that, as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, we can best work out our destiny as a people. Those who heard him in the great Hall of Westminster and in the Guildhall in London on the occasion of the visit of the Canadian Bar Association to Great Britain will recall with pride and satisfaction the part he played in making a success of that great event, and the lofty eloquence of his addresses, as the chief representative of the Bar of Canada.

I join with his friends in every land in wishing him many years of useful service, and that happiness which comes from the realisation of the value of the contribution he has made to the national life of our country.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. BENNETT.

E. H. Coleman, Esq.,
Box 324,
Winnipeg, Man.

(Honourable Chief Justice MARTIN.)

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICES' CHAMBERS,
18th December, 1928.

The Canadian Bar owes a great debt of gratitude to Sir James Aikins.

Few men have done as much—no man has done more—to advance the interests of the profession in which he has won such distinction

and honour; and in all he has done, he has inspired our law practitioners with his own high ideals. His main work as a practising barrister—initiated in Ontario—has been done in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan—notably in the two last named Provinces when they were known as the North West Territories.

But in the East, his associations have appreciably helped, particularly in Quebec, to broaden the *bonne entente*, to enlarge mutual understanding and thereby make more cordial the relations between the members of the Bar in all the Provinces. His great work in this respect has been, of course, the foundation of the Canadian Bar Association, which will stand in the profession as his monument for all time.

Outside his profession, Sir James Aikins has served the causes of education in different phases. He represented his country at the International Congress on Moral Education at The Hague a quarter of a century ago, and he rendered his Province good service as a member of the Royal Commission concerning agricultural education. He has ever been active in promoting and improving university education; and a career of public usefulness was worthily crowned by his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba.

I know something of the sentiments of the Bench and Bar in Quebec, and, therefore, can bear testimony of the high regard and great respect felt for Sir James Aikins by its French-speaking and English-speaking members alike, and I am sure that on this occasion we all unite in a hope that he has a long period of usefulness before him.

J. E. MARTIN.

(Honourable SIR ALLEN AYLESWORTH, K.C.M.G., K.C.)

21 WALMER ROAD, TORONTO 4

22nd November, 1928.

DEAR SIR:

I am glad to be given the opportunity to be among the hosts of friends of Sir James Aikins who join in offering him the heartiest congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of his completing fifty years at the Bar of Manitoba.

It is to me a peculiar gratification to share in doing honour to one who is universally held in so high esteem. He and I were boys together at College fifty-seven years ago—afterwards we were students at law together in Toronto, and we have always been warm personal friends.

The career of Sir James at the Bar and in public life has been so prominent, and of such unvarying progress and success, that to recount at all the distinctions the years have brought to him would be simply to write the story of his life.

Called to the Bar of Manitoba in 1877 he was a Queen's Counsel in five years—and among his confrères at the Bar was a leader almost from the day of his call. Before many years had passed he was a Bencher of the Law Society of the Province, and afterwards the Society's President and Treasurer. No better proof could be given of what those who knew him best—his fellows at the Bar—thought of him, nor clearer evidence of the confidence they had in him.

As a member of the Dominion Parliament he sat in the House of Commons at Ottawa till he resigned that position to devote himself to public duty of like nature in his Province, and after that—a distinguished son following in the footsteps of a distinguished father—he became Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, and in that high office served for over ten consecutive years, surpassing in his length of service even the long record his father made forty years before.

But I am persuaded the crowning glory of his long and brilliant career has been the founding and establishing of the Canadian Bar Association—a work involving for him years of labour and of travelling through every Province of Canada from Coast to Coast—with long continued effort to bring together into one Association—co-operating and harmonious—all the living members of both Bench and Bar in the ten different jurisdictions of the Dominion.

The beneficial influence that Association is able to exert in the work of our legislatures and of our Courts, and, through those tribunals, over the legal rights, the varied business interests and the practical daily life of every one subject to our laws, is so great that no one could predict its limits.

In successfully building up that great Association, Sir James Aikins has indeed erected for himself a monument more lasting than brass—and has well earned the gratitude and admiration of his professional brothers everywhere throughout the Dominion.

Yours faithfully,

A. B. AYLESWORTH.

E. H. Coleman, Esq.,

Barrister, etc.,

Winnipeg, Man.

(Honourable Chief Justice LAFONTAINE.)

CABINET DU JUGE EN CHEF,
MONTREAL, Novembre 1928.

L'avocat est un homme de bien capable de conseiller et de défendre ses concitoyens. CAMUS: Lettres sur la profession d'avocat.

A l'occasion du cinquantième anniversaire de l'admission de l'Honorable Sir James Aikins, C.R., au Barreau de Manitoba, je suis heureux, grâce à la délicate attention de la Canadian Bar Association et de la Canadian Bar Association for Manitoba, de pouvoir exprimer à l'heureux jubilaire les sentiments et les vœux de mes collègues de la magistrature de la Province de Québec. Au jurisconsulte éminent, à l'homme d'état éclairé, au noble et dévoué citoyen, j'offre le tribut de nos profonds hommages, l'expression de notre vive admiration et de notre reconnaissance pour les nombreux services par lui rendus à la profession légale en particulier, l'assurance de nos sentiments les meilleurs et nos vœux ardents de santé et de prospérité. Ad multos et faustissimos annos!

E. LAFONTAINE.

A L'HONORABLE SIR JAMES AIKINS, C.R.

(Honourable Chief Justice SIR FRANCOIS LEMIEUX.)

CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBER,
QUEBEC, 9th November, 1928.

On the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Sir James Aikins' call to the Bar of Manitoba, permit an old friend to express his heartfelt feelings.

Sir James Aikins! What's in a name? This is a name identified with a national institution.

This is the name of the founder of a lasting work conducive to respect for law and judicial authority and hence to the peace and concord of citizens and to the greatness of Canada.

For Sir James was the founder of the Canadian Bar Association. He inspired it and was its very soul. He ensured its existence by his practical sense, his unfailing energy, his suave diplomacy, his Mæcenic munificence and his princely endowments.

To build on a solid basis an association of Judges and lawyers, with ramifications from coast to coast, to give it a practical con-

stitution, to organize an annual meeting of its members in a Canadian town, to prepare a varied programme appealing to an intellectual élite, to assign suitable parts to the representatives of the various Bars, to invite English, French, American and other jurists to attend its annual conventions and to score a splendid success every time, such was the herculean task undertaken, every year, for fifteen years, by our former president, Sir James Aikins, late Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba.

With undaunted courage and almost youthful enthusiasm, he overcame all opposition and obstacles incidental to the formation and maintenance of any great human institution.

Sir James' great objective and incentive was to strengthen the bonds of the Canadian Bench and Bar, to make it a social body invested with authority, consistence, prestige and power, if need be, to act on Parliaments by suggesting better legislation.

The three thousand members of the Canadian Bar Association therefore wish to express their respect and veneration for Sir James Aikins.

His name will live, for it is linked with an imperishable work.

I voice the feelings of all, no doubt, in tendering him our sincerest gratitude and in wishing him health and happiness. *Ad multos et faustissimos annos!*

It behooves us also to associate in our wishes, Lady Aikins, whose presence at the yearly meetings of the Association added a special touch of grace and distinction.

F. X. LEMIEUX,
Chief Justice P.Q.

(Right Honourable C. J. DOHERTY, K.C., D.C.L.)

YORKSHIRE BUILDING,
210 ST. JAMES STREET, WEST,
Montreal, 27th December, 1928.

MY DEAR SIR JAMES:

I have just learned that the Canadian Bar Association intend, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of your call to the Bar of Manitoba, to present to you a volume containing letters of congratulation and appreciation from your confrères in the profession—both on the Bench and at the Bar.

Though I fear these few lines may come too late for insertion in

the volume, I cannot refrain from addressing to you my most hearty congratulations on the completion of a half century of distinguished and successful service to the profession and to the country. With these congratulations, let me couple a few words of appreciation of that service.

It has been my privilege to follow your career during a large part of that long period of time, and to witness, with always increasing admiration and pleasure, your steady advancement from post of honour to post of honour in the service of our country and that of the legal profession, and the never-failing always-growing zeal and devotion which you brought to the performance of the duties pertaining to these different offices.

Particularly I would like to join in the tribute of gratitude which the profession owes and willingly pays you for your invaluable work in connection with the Canadian Bar Association. That Association is indeed a boon to the profession for which its members can never adequately express their thanks. It is doubtless destined to go on further developing its usefulness, and to serve many a generation yet to come. Its foundation is now well and truly and surely laid, and that is your work. The Association shall be your monument "*aere perennius*."

In connection with it, I like to recall my putting forward the suggestion of the formation of the Association in Winnipeg, now some years ago. The manner in which that suggestion was taken up and translated into effective action by yourself always recalls to my mind the parable of the sower that went out to sow, and particularly of that portion of the seed which fell on good ground.

Believe me,

With most cordial good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

CHAS. J. DOHERTY.

Hon. Sir James Aikins, K.C.,
Honorary Life President,
The Canadian Bar Association,
Somerset Building,
Winnipeg, Man.

(E. LAFLEUR, Esq., K.C., LL.D.)

I understand that next month you will be celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of your call to the Manitoba Bar. While it will be the

privilege of the members of that Bar to entertain you—and I know how well they will do it—your personality as the founder of the Canadian Bar Association transcends all local limitations, and you will not be surprised if your confrères from the other Provinces desire you to consider them as present in the spirit on that occasion.

Quite apart from the very notable contributions of that body to jurisprudence and to legislation, I venture to think that your principal achievement has been to break down the artificial barriers which formerly divided the members of the Bar throughout Canada, and to make us all realise that we are one great family.

But more than that, our conventions have established frequent and fruitful contacts with leaders of the profession in Great Britain and Ireland, in France and in the United States, and widened our sphere of vision and influence.

And what astonishes us all is that you started this movement at a comparatively late period in your career—after many years of practice at the Bar, followed by public service in Parliament and in the Cabinet, and finally as Lieutenant-Governor of your Province. And you have had the supreme satisfaction of witnessing the complete success of your endeavour, and the permanent character of the structure which was erected, not entirely without opposition and without disappointments in the early days.

I suppose it would be in order to express the wish that you may enjoy a well earned rest after all your labours, but I know how futile it would be to imagine that you could remain inactive very long. But I do hope that your work in the future may sit as lightly on your shoulders as in the past, and that you will derive the same satisfaction as heretofore from great tasks well performed.

Ever your sincere friend,
E. LAFLEUR.

Hon. Sir James Aikins, K.C.,
Winnipeg, Man.

(Honourable SIR HUGH MACDONALD, K.C.)

MACDONALD, CRAIG, TARR, ARMSTRONG & HUGHES
Barristers, Solicitors, etc.

WINNIPEG, CANADA,

22nd November, 1928.

DEAR MR. COLEMAN:

As I understand, it is the intention of Sir James Aikins' professional brethren to tender him a banquet in February, 1929, on the

Fiftieth Anniversary of his call to the Bar of the Province of Manitoba, and as my physical condition and general helplessness in getting about will render it impossible for me to be present, much as I would like to be with you, I write to say that I am both pleased and proud that the membership of the Bar recognize the very eminent service which Sir James Aikins has rendered to the public in general, and more particularly, to the Canadian Bar Association.

Had it not been for him and the herculean efforts he made, accompanied by a very large expenditure of both time and money, the Canadian Bar Association would never have come into existence, and I feel sure that every member of our profession recognizes what a great benefit to us the establishment of this Association is.

Sir James came here in the very early days of Winnipeg and Manitoba, and ever since he arrived has taken a foremost part in every good work that has been proposed and in every effort that has been made to advance the interests of our City and Province. Few men, if any, have done anything like what he has in this direction, and I know it must be a satisfaction to him, as I know it is to me, to see how fully, not only the members of the Bar, but the people of Winnipeg and the Province in general, recognize his services. The Canadian Bar Association has done itself proud by repeatedly electing him as President, and I am sure they would willingly do a great deal more to show how highly they value what he has done, if it were possible.

I sincerely congratulate Sir James on reaching the Fiftieth Anniversary of his call to the Bar, and I trust that he will be spared in full health and strength, both mental and physical, to continue the good work which he has been doing and is still doing. The fact of his being an old and valued friend of my own, of course renders my gratification even greater than it would have been under other circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH J. MACDONALD.

E. H. Coleman, Esq.,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Canadian Bar Association,
P.O. Box 324,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.