

EUGENE LAFLEUR 1856-1930.

AN APPRECIATION.

"Happiness is working with mastery and success."—STOBAEUS.

Few men leave a record of life well rounded, and constant in aim; of Lafleur those who have known him longest have the deepest impression of such intention and accomplishment.

I knew him as a school boy, in 1872-1873, giving promise of ability, full of fun, and a general favourite.

At McGill his success was marked but I was away at Harvard, so know little of his undergraduate career.

Then came the climb up the legal hill, slow and toilsome, but with increasing power and with criticism of himself always more exacting. I was in his office and though we were both young, not yet taught tolerance by life, I never heard Lafleur speak sharply of other men's ways or work.

He began then to keep the notes of his cases which grew into such a treasure of material, ready for the day's needs. Through his long career he was one:

"Who not content that former worth stand fast,
Looks forward, persevering to the last;
From well to better, daily self-surpast."

Since his death I have been told that day by day in the Davis case (now pending), which marked his last appearance in court, he kept jotting down the points for argument suggested by the day's evidence.

In these earlier years, when the pressure of work was not great, he was a delighted reader of literature, and his spirited singing was a pleasure to his friends—of whom he had an appreciative and affectionate circle—one such group meeting for seven winters to study Shakespeare and enjoy talk, where if the jokes were small, the laughter was abundant.

The cases that first gained him an outstanding reputation were *Fiske v. Stevens* and *Laflamme v. The Mail*.

Then followed success more marked each year—how great it was has been admirably shown by Judges and by leaders of the Bar

in England and in Ontario as well as in our own Province. What is rarer than professional success is the winning of it in a manner that gains personal regard and esteem for the *man*. It is a glory to our Bar to have deserved such words as have been said of him, and a fresh proof that honour and courtesy and the love of letters command, as of old, deference and good will.

Montreal,

FRANCIS McLENNAN.

DEFAULTING SOLICITORS.—The two or three prosecutions of solicitors for mishandling their clients' funds which have appeared in the press in recent weeks were no doubt responsible for the raising of the question of professional defalcations in the House of Commons ten days or so ago. In reply to a question put by Sir John Ferguson, the Solicitor-General stated, on the authority of the Law Society, that there had been eleven prosecutions in the eleven-and-a-half months from 1st May, 1929, to 14th April, 1930. In response to a further enquiry as to whether he would introduce legislation by way of insurance or otherwise, by which solicitors convicted of fraud might be enabled to refund, in whole or in part, the losses of those who had suffered by their fraud, he referred to the consideration of this matter by the Law Society, and promised that the Lord Chancellor, who had already been in touch, would, if not then in communication, resume negotiations with that body. The time was, he said, not yet ripe for the introduction of legislation upon the subject.—*The Law Times*.