

WILL REMAIN CITY SOLICITOR

MR. BRUCE'S ESTIMATE

City Solicitor Analyzes Late Mayor's Characteristics.

"WELL BALANCED AND SURE"

"Was Mature In Experience And Insight Beyond His Years"—No Premonition Of Untimely End.

Perhaps no man was closer to Mayor McLane than Mr. W. Cabell Bruce. Mr. Bruce in an interview yesterday had the following to say:

"I was, of course, incalculably shocked when I heard, about 6 o'clock in the afternoon yesterday, of Mayor McLane's sudden death. And even now I can hardly think of it except with a certain amount of incredulity, so at war with all probability does it appear to be.

"Of all the men of his age that I knew he was the one with whom I was the least likely to associate the idea of an untimely end; so self-possessed, so well-balanced, so mature in experience and insight beyond his years, so sane in thought and wise in conduct was he, and so full of bright morning promise were all the conditions of every sort surrounding the fresh, winning personality which he had brought into the public life of the city, and which had fair, as time went by, to gather about it everything that men respect and honor.

"So far as my intercourse with him went—and I saw him daily, officially and unofficially, and am proud to think that I was in some measure the recipient of his confidence and friendship—there was not a premonition to augur the early termination of his life. He was intensely interested in the duties of his office and never exhibited to my eye anything in the slightest degree resembling growing impatience with his care and responsibilities or a disposition to escape from them or to lay them, even for a time, aside. On the contrary, down to the very day of his death he was planning with unabated zeal new means by which his administration might recommend itself still more strongly to the favor of the people.

Criticism Never Embittered.

"He winced a little at times, it is true, under public criticism, but never to any greater extent, so far as I could see, than would any normal, healthy-minded individual do under the same circumstances, when he was conscious of the rectitude of his aims and the injustice of his detractors. Certainly criticism never embittered him, or had any effect upon him except that of intensifying his determination to satisfy every reasonable suggestion of popular discontent.

"I observed nothing like despondency, much less dejection, in his deportment. Whenever I met him he was social, cheerful and talkative. After his marriage a few weeks ago he was even happier in his outlook than he had been before. The last time I exchanged words with him was last Saturday, when he spoke of the pleasure with which he looked forward to the fulfillment of an engagement that Mrs. McLane and himself had to take dinner with us in the country next Sunday.

In the overwhelming indorsement by which the voters of Baltimore city had recently given to the Back and Pier Loan, of which Mr. McLane quite frequently spoke with the utmost gratification, he had received the most convincing proof, if proof were needed, that he had such a hold, as few of his predecessors had enjoyed, upon the confidence of the people of the city.

Of Remarkable Endowments.

"In many respects Mr. McLane was a man of remarkable endowments of character and mind. In point of self-command under circumstances of irritation or excitement I am almost disposed to think that he was the superior of anyone I ever knew. It seemed as if nothing could disturb the perfect self-poise with which he met every disturbing situation. It was not phlegm or lack of sympathetic feeling. It was simply supreme resource of will in its highest manifestations, fortified by invincible good sense and good breeding. When his mind was once committed after careful thought to a proposition his resolution was equal to any draft that might be made upon it, but there was no taint of unreasoning obstinacy in his nature.

"In his relations to his public duties his conduct was governed by an integrity of purpose which I do not hesitate to pronounce to have been simply perfect. All the workings of his soul in the performance of his functions as Mayor could have been exposed to the scrutiny of the people of Baltimore without the slightest mixings upon his part. So far as I could see he had no ulterior, selfish or personal ends, but merely an absorbing desire to adhere to the highest standard in the discharge of his official obligations. So clearly realized was this by the members of the General Assembly and of the City Council that, in urging upon their favor legislative measures which he had at heart, the difficulties of my task were immensely simplified by the implicit trust that was reposed in his entire disinterestedness.

"In resisting personal or political pressure without unseemly outbreaks of resentment or anger it would be hard to imagine how anyone could bear himself better than did he. How much pressure of the latter sort he had to resist when he made the appointments which in the main gave such unalloyed satisfaction to the people, few persons will ever know.

Level-Headed And Sure.

"In his mental attributes he was level-headed, sure-footed and practical to a degree that always won an uncommon measure of respect for his conclusions from the members of the Board of Estimates and the Board of Awards. His head was never in the clouds, his feet were never in the mire. His speech was distinguished by a gift of apt and homely illustration which gave additional point to his views, and all his intellectual operations were marked by a clearness, a directness and a simplicity which often led me to think that his qualifications for professional eminence were even more noteworthy than his qualifications for public distinction.

"Those, if any there be, who are disposed to impute his lamentable death to personal or political disappointment will have to recast their theories. He was essentially a strong man, as little likely as anyone I ever knew to be hurried to death by such causes. To me his death, reasoning as I do from his characteristics and habits as I knew them, will always be an insoluble mystery. I only know that a pure, brave, upright, enlightened and useful spirit has gone from our midst, and that the best pledge for the future administration of the city will long find that all good men desire will be lined in fidelity to his example."



MR. W. CABELL BRUCE

commanded the absolute confidence of every man who knew that board personally, as regards their integrity in the handling of the city's funds, and to have the head of the board taken away under such circumstances is really a great public calamity."

Mr. George Weems Williams, in a brief address on behalf of the younger members of the bar, said that "Robert McLane was a strong power for good and the community will feel the loss of his strength, his ability and his goodness."

In response to the addresses Judge Morris said:

"The Court cordially concurs in all that has been said of the character, strength and the ability of Mayor McLane. In view of the sorrowful calamity that has come to the bar, to the city, to the whole community, by which we are all deeply affected, I deem it proper and appropriate that the motion of the members of the bar to adjourn this court in respect to his memory until after his funeral shall be assented to. I shall, therefore, adjourn the court until Thursday."

IN THE STATE COURTS

Supreme Bench Orders All Closed Until After Funeral.

All of the courts in the city suspended business yesterday out of respect to the memory of the late Mayor McLane and all adjourned until after the funeral.

At a special meeting of the Supreme Bench called to take action on Mr. McLane's death it was ordered that all the State courts be adjourned until after his funeral. The following order was passed:

Ordered by the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, That as a mark of respect to the memory of Robert M. McLane, late Mayor of Baltimore city, who died suddenly yesterday afternoon, the several courts of this city shall be adjourned until the morning after the funeral.

After the Supreme Court adjourned the order was read by each of the judges in his court and business was suspended. Most of the judges expressed themselves briefly as to the sorrow caused by Mr. McLane's untimely end, but, except in the United States Court, there was no formal announcement of his death, with a motion to adjourn out of respect to his memory.

"We meet under calamitous circumstances and under a great public sorrow," Chief Judge Harlan said in the City Court, before reading the order of the Supreme Bench.

"The Court assembles this morning, gentlemen, under circumstances of unusual and peculiar sadness and gloom," Judge Stockbridge said, before reading the Supreme Bench order in the Court of Common Pleas. "Robert M. McLane," the Judge continued, "was endeared by his many admirable personal qualities to a large number of us, certainly to all the members of the bar, alike by his professional labors and his performance of official duties."

No business was transacted by the Orphans' Court. Judges Block, O'Brien and Galtner only met long enough to prepare the following order, which was read by Chief Judge Block:

BALTIMORE, Md., May 31, 1904.

In the Orphans' Court for Baltimore City: The members of this court have learned with the deepest sorrow of the death of his Honor Mayor McLane. The grief which this announcement has caused us and many others who had the privilege of Mr. McLane's friendship comes with much sorrow. He was a lawyer of ability and most charming personality. This court and others have in the course of our public lives been brought into personal and official life with him, and no man ever brought to the discharge of his duties higher qualifications. The bar and the people have lost a devoted servant and many of us a personal friend. We will order a minute made upon the records and adjourn this court in respect to his memory.

The court officials and lawyers had not recovered yesterday from the shock caused by the announcement of Mayor McLane's tragic end. The clerk's office was open as usual for the transaction of business, although the trial of cases was suspended and but very little business was transacted. A few damage suits were filed and a few divorces were applied for, but there was very little doing otherwise.

COUNCIL SESSION BRIEF

Receives Letter From New Mayor—Resolutions Of Respect.

Both branches yesterday of the City Council held brief sessions yesterday afternoon, but no

representatives of this great city, feel that it is incumbent upon them to give expression to that overflowing grief which has seized upon all Baltimoreans as the result of this misfortune; and

Whereas the exigencies of the moment seem to present an afflicting climax to the public catastrophe which so lately befell our city; and

Whereas it is the belief of this body that our deceased Mayor has bravely met the exceptionally laborious and vexatious experiences of the past few months, giving his best thought, his full time and the very essence of his manly abilities toward the rehabilitation of our stricken city;

Be it resolved by the First Branch of the City Council of Baltimore, That we personally grieve over the death of our fallen executive, feeling that we have lost an official who was the embodiment of dignified courtesy and broad-minded intelligence.

Be it further resolved, That his untimely death impresses upon us the necessity of attending faithfully to our public duty, the needs of the hour demanding that we should promote as far as our power will permit all of the statesmanlike policies which he conceived, or adopted, or put into motion.

Be it further resolved, That while this branch itself feels deeply distressed, it fully appreciates the poignant, the almost overwhelming grief which has befallen his family. Therefore the members of this branch, individually and collectively, extend to his bereaved widow the full measure of their sincere sympathy; they at the same time fully remember the bitter sorrow of the father and mother, who had such good reason to cherish splendid hopes and to look forward, with confident expectations to the career of a son crowned with the laurels of success.

Be it further resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the journal and that a copy of the same be sent to his family.

In The Second Branch.

The members of the Second Branch spent over half an hour discussing the tragic end of Mayor McLane and speculating on who would be the successor of Mayor Timanus as President of the branch. Then the branch was called to order by Mr. Robert M. Welch, reading clerk, as the President's chair was vacant, and Mr. Merrill A. Teague, chief clerk, was absent. Mr. Smith was called to the chair on motion of Mr. Hubert, one of the three Democratic members of the branch. No previous agreement had been made as to the action to be taken, Mr. Hubert offering the motion of his own volition.

All the members of the branch were present except Mr. George Stewart Brown, who, it was understood, had gone to New York, where he is to be married today.

The communications of Mayor Timanus sent to the First Branch were also sent the Second Branch.

Mr. Hubert wanted to have the appointment of Mr. Harry W. Rodgers, as Mayor's secretary, confirmed, but he was told that such action was not necessary.

On motion of Mr. Eisenbrandt, the Second Branch decided to have a committee of three from each branch appointed to draft suitable resolutions on the death of Mayor McLane, to be presented at the next meeting of the Council.

This motion was changed so as to provide for the appointment of a Second Branch committee only for the purpose, when it was learned of the resolutions of the First Branch. Mr. Smith appointed Messrs. Eisenbrandt, Hubert and Platt on the committee.

It is expected that the resolutions will be presented at the meeting of the Council next Monday, and that a number of addresses will also be made then.

The Council adjourned, to meet again next Monday.

GLOOM IN CITY HALL

Sadness Overwhelms The Associates Of The Late Mayor.

Throughout the interior of the City Hall yesterday there was a perceptible gloom that struck even the stranger with the weight of its sadness. People passed to and fro in the corridors, with softened tread, and spoke to each other in subdued, almost awe-struck, tones.

The tall columns of the Holliday street portico were wound round with black cloth, until the marble was hidden beneath the sable folds. Inside above the entrance and over each of the doors that afforded access to the rooms occupied by the Mayor and his personal staff the long black drapery spoke plainly of death.

In the Mayor's private office, the chair which he had so often occupied was hung with the symbol of grief, and the