

Obituary.

The death of such a man as Col. John C. Groome calls for more than a passing notice. It is an event which more than a family mourn. The county and the State, that knew him so well and revered him so deeply, will claim a share in the sadness. The bar of the State, of which he was a pride and ornament, and the bar of the county, of which he was the father, recalling his wise counsel, now lost save to memory, his uniform courtesy, so grateful to his juniors, and his urbanity of mien, so difficult to emulate, so impossible to imitate, will mingle their grief with the sadness his death occasions. The public works of the State will bear their tribute to his great usefulness in life, and inanimately mourn his departure, while influences beyond the State, recognizing the worth and the force of character so eminently combined in him, will, in a silent recognition of his vacant chair, lend sorrowing heed to the dumb mouth that pleads for his memory. The grief of his family is a subject too sacred to be trod upon here. The agony of bereavement of the widow and the fatherless, who lose at once husband, parent, companion, counsellor, the light of the household, the beauty of humanity, is a pang that only they can know who have loved so well and found so much to love, and only they can endure who have shared his counsel, inherited his fortitude, and profited by his example. Let the door to the domestic hearth be shut in to the sacredness of its sorrow, while the outer world drops a tear on the bier of perishing worth.

Col. Groome was pre-eminently a Maryland lawyer. The entirety of an industrious life had been spent in the State, and the full strength of his intellect had been devoted to such works as dignify the profession and endue it with popular favor. Recognizing in the law the logic of reason, and rejecting the trickery to the level of which it is too often abased, his life-long effort was devoted to the advancement of the science, and its adaptation to the wants of men. With the special pleading that would make the right appear the wrong, he held no sympathy. His logical mind thoroughly educated in the principles of

legal lore, and tempered by a tone of honor that knew no variableness, was quick to detect the dividing line between the true and the false, and sedulous to pursue it. Nor was his reward tardy or uncertain. Entering the bar at a time when men of ago and character and ability were in the arena of active duty, he at once secured a success, the fitness of his claim to which is established by the fact that through life it did not desert him. For forty years he maintained his position—dealing justly with clients, honorably with opponents, and conscientiously with pupils, very many of whom, since risen to eminence, recall with pride and pleasure the hours devoted to study in his office. It was our sad privilege to be the last who enjoyed the illumining influences of his mind in such capacity, and we take a mournful pleasure in recurring to his benignant courtesy as bountiful as his intellect was clear. We shall always with mingled emotions of pride and sorrow recall the privileges we enjoyed so fully and profited so little, and shall in common with the bar seek a solace for our loss in the assurance that he whom we mourn, enjoyed a ~~career~~ as long and eventful, yet left no trace of his life, which, dying, he might wish to blot.

But not as a lawyer only was Col. ~~Osborne~~ remarkable. His administrative talent and enlarged public spirit,

drew him into other arenas. With little taste for political life, he steadily refused all proffers of preferment, until advancing age reminded him of the necessity of quitting active practice at the bar.— Then, yielding to the importunities of devoted friends and honored by a unanimous nomination, he became a candidate for the Gubernatorial chair to which it is but just to say that by the suffrages of the people of the State proper, he was chosen. We do not choose to recall the spirit that reigned in Baltimore at that time which rendered a fair election in that city impossible, and thereby secured his defeat. Let the memory of the heart burnings which the great injustice caused perish with the subjects that elicited them. Col. Groome needed no political station to keep his memory green. His labor as a director in the great railroad that makes two cities almost one, will be fitly crowned by the success which marked them, and will form an aliment for precious memories as long as enterprise shall have its reward. A striking incident illustrative of this reflection occurred at the grave of him whom we mourn. As careful hands were gently depositing in their final resting place, the mortal remains of their co-laborer, an iron horse, speeding along on its errand of duty, that knows neither death nor cessation from labor, clove the skies with its shrill whoop, as if in hasty recognition of the service of the departed, and whirled on in its ceaseless speed to do the work which shall survive its promoters. An overruling providence could not have ordered a more apposite tribute to the memory of the public benefactor. "They rest from their labors, but their works live after them."