

LOSS TO NOTTS.

DEATH OF THE RIGHT HON.

F. J. S. FOLJAMBE.

A USEFUL CAREER.

The death occurred at Osberton Hall, Notts, yesterday morning of the Right Hon. F. J. S. Foljambe, a notable and familiar figure in the social life of Worksop and the Dukeries. A few days ago he had a seizure, which in view of his great age—he was 87—caused his friends great anxiety.

The sad event has removed from the county of Nottingham one of its most prominent sons, the landed interest one of its greatest representatives, and various movements for the welfare of the people a staunch and wise supporter. The owner of Osberton, who has just entered into his rest, was as perfect a type of English manhood as it is possible to meet with. Straight as a poplar and lithe as a willow, his was a figure which once seen was never forgotten. In him there was a happy combination of physical power and mental attractiveness. He was equally at ease in the saddle or in his library, shouldering the gun or wielding the pen, judging agricultural stock or addressing a political meeting. The description "a fine old English gentleman" was never more aptly applied than in his case. A man of high culture and winning grace, he was one of the pillars in the select society in which he moved, and across the broad lands he called his own there was not a man or woman who did not esteem him.

The inheritor of a vast estate, and the head of an old family which for centuries has played a more or less conspicuous part in our national life, Mr. Foljambe realised, at the very outset of his career, the responsibilities which those privileges brought in their train. The innate refinement of his nature revealed itself in his boyhood, winning him genuine friendships wherever he went—in the classrooms and playing fields of Eton, where so many life-long companionships have been started, in the scholastic race at Oxford, in the activities of a Parliamentary life, and in the performance of the thousand and one duties which devolve on a great landed proprietor. In every avenue of work, and in every branch of recreation to which his tastes led him, he was always the same—a hater of shams, and a lover, and, by force of example, a helper, of all that was upright and manly. His conscience was his king, and for no advantage, real or imaginary, would he stoop to trickery, or juggle with right and wrong. What views he held he fearlessly expressed, and the right he claimed for himself was never by him denied to others. High ideals he ever kept before him, and to those whose privilege it was to often come in contact with him it seemed as if the urbanity of his manner and the graciousness of his influence increased as the years rolled on. Firm and loyal to friends, fair, even generous, to opponents, few men have succeeded to such an extent in retaining for such a long stretch of time the affectionate good will of those amongst whom he lived.

Lineage and Early Life.

The deceased gentleman was made a member of the Privy Council in the year 1895. Born on April 9, 1830, he could point to a lineage stretching back to the reign of Henry III., when there was a Sir Thomas Foljambe, of Derbyshire, who was Bailiff of the High Peak. In the year 1622 another ancestor was created a Baronet, but the title expired with him. About the year 1780 Mr. Francis Ferrard Moore, M.P. for the county of York, adopted the surname of Foljambe, and by marriage the family became linked with the Thornaghs, the original holders of Osberton, the Saviles of Rufford, and, in later years, with several of the best houses in the land. Osberton is rich in art treasures, and not the least interesting of them are the family portraits. There is one of Col. Francis Thornagh, who at one time represented Retford in Parliament, and was killed during the Civil War; a portrait of Sir George Savile, one of Mr. F. F. Foljambe, of Aldwark, who wedded the heiress of John Thornagh, of Osberton and Fenton, for forty years a Parliamentary representative for Notts; and another of Sir Godfrey Foljambe, of Walton, who at one time was High Sheriff of Derbyshire. Another object of great interest at Osberton is an almost unique collection of British birds. The subject of this memoir, who so long and so worthily upheld the dignities and discharged the duties of his house, was educated at Eton, and at Christ Church, Oxford, taking his B.A. in the year 1852, and his M.A. three years later. He was the son of Mr. George Savile Foljambe, of Osberton and Aldwark, his mother being the daughter of Sir William Mordaunt-Sturt Milner, the fourth baronet. His mother died in December, 1830, and in 1845 his father married the widow of Viscount Milton. His eldest son by this marriage became Lord Hawkesbury in 1893, and Earl of Liverpool in 1905.

As a young man, Mr. Foljambe travelled extensively, visiting the Nile, the Sinaitic Desert, Petra, Palmyra, and the Crimea, during a tour in 1854-5. At the age of 26 he married Lady Gertrude Emily Acheson, daughter of the third Earl of Gosford, and about a year later—in 1857, to be correct—he entered Parliament for the Hundred of Bassetlaw as a Liberal of the old-fashioned sort, always ready to accept genuine reform, but by no means inclined to adopt the pace which the more reckless spirits of his Party were from time to time pleased to set.

Thirty Years in Parliament.

He held the seat for thirty years, attending diligently to his duties, and by the fairness of his methods and the courtesy of his manner, retaining throughout that long period the respect of all sections in the House. He was eminently fitted to represent an agricultural constituency like Bassetlaw. A lover of country life, he was well versed on all questions affecting the farming interest. His knowledge in this respect was practical as well as theoretical, and so candid was he that if in his opinion the agriculturists of his own district were neglecting opportunities which should be seized, or in other ways showing any disinclination to help themselves, he never hesitated to tell them about it. At the General Election of 1880, Mr. Foljambe and Mr. (afterwards Sir) F. T. Mappin successfully ran together as Liberal candidates, defeating Mr. W. Beckett and Lieut.-Col. Eyre.

The effect of the Redistribution of Seats Bill of 1885 was to change the Hundred of Bassetlaw from a Borough to a County constituency, to be known in future as the Bassetlaw Division, with one Member instead of two as heretofore. During the previous 15 years there had been a steady growth of political feeling in the constituency, and in 1885 there were two candidates for the one seat. Mr. Mappin leaving the division to successfully contest Hallamshire, Mr. Foljambe was the Liberal candidate, and the late Mr. William Beckett was the nominee of the Conservative Party. The contest was keenly fought, and there were many who thought Mr. Foljambe's 39 years' association with the division, along with his personal popularity, would outweigh political considerations sufficiently to secure him the victory. But the result was otherwise, Mr. Foljambe suffering defeat by 295 votes. That he was disappointed with the verdict goes without saying, but he harboured no bitterness, and though Parliament knew him no more, he took as keen an interest as ever in national affairs, and by voice and influence gave valuable aid to the Unionist cause. For he was one of those Liberals who kicked over the traces when Mr. Gladstone brought in his Home Rule Bill. With that dangerous measure the Squire of Osberton would have nothing to do, and from that day forward he was a staunch Member of the Liberal-Unionist Party. As a Unionist he fought the Barnsley Division in 1892, but was defeated by Earl Compton, afterwards the fifth Marquis of Northampton.

As Landlord and Neighbour.

The severance of his Parliamentary ties gave him more time for the delights of his North Notts estate, and for participation in county business, in which he took a keen interest. He held the office of High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire in 1889. He was a member of the North County Council from its formation until recent years, and the place he held in the estimation of the members may be judged from the fact that he was not only an Alderman, but from 1890 to 1900 vice-chairman of the Council. Taking his full share in the work of that body still left him time for serving the public in other directions, and his activities were many and various in the interests of the public, in spite of the claim which his estates made upon his attention, for he was the owner of about ten thousand acres in Nottinghamshire, of over five thousand acres in the West Riding, with residences in both counties—Osberton and Aldwark—and a charming hunting-box, Monk's Tower, near Lincoln. On the death of the late Duke of Newcastle, in whose family the office had been vested for many years, Mr. Foljambe was chosen Lord High Steward of the Borough of Retford, and the gold chain worn by the Mayors of that town bears a pendant containing the following inscription:—"This badge is the gift of Francis John Savile Foljambe, Esq., M.A., of Osberton, first Lord High Steward of the extended Borough of East Retford, appointed May 28th, 1880." Mr. Foljambe devoted a good deal of time to the discharge of his duties as a magistrate, and became chairman of the Retford and Newark District Quarter Sessions, on the retirement of the late Earl Manvers. He resigned this position in 1902. He was also chairman of the Governor of the Retford Grammar School, and chairman of the Charity Trustees. With the town of Worksop he was perhaps even more closely identified than with Retford, and in several public capacities rendered it much appreciated service. From 1876 to 1901 he was president of the Worksop Labourers' Friend Society.

Notable anniversaries in the lives of Mr. and

Lady Gertrude Foljambe called forth more and more expressions of the esteem in which they were held by their friends and neighbours. On the occasion of their golden wedding, in 1906, tenants from the Sturton and Osberton estates, representatives of the Retford Town Council and of the tradesmen of that town, attended at Osberton to make presentations to the squire, and to wish him and his lady long life to continue their good work in the district; while the tradesmen and tenants at Tickhill, and the workmen on the Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire estates also sent gifts. There were also public rejoicings, including a county ball at Osberton, and a dinner to the tenantry on that estate, with their wives and friends, to the number of about 300. Ten years later, when the diamond wedding was celebrated, presentations were made by the tenantry, officials, and workpeople on the various estates. This happy event was also commemorated by the provision of a bed at the Worksop Victoria Hospital by the sons, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren of Mr. and Lady Gertrude Foljambe.

As a landlord he was singularly happy in his relations with his tenantry. Farming on a considerable scale himself, he knew what bad seasons, foreign competition, and other difficulties meant for those who held farms under him, and in the periodical seasons of agricultural distress he showed marked consideration for them. He was a prominent member of the Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society, and was rarely absent from its annual show. The breeder of a famous herd of shorthorns, his name was a familiar one at the Royal and the large county shows. As an exhibitor he was very successful, and the smaller shows, such as Claborough, found in him a warm supporter. On agricultural topics he spoke frequently, and as one having authority. More than once he directed attention to the good which in his opinion local shows were capable of doing for tenant farmers. The county shows, he pointed out, enabled breeders to see the type of animal they should aim at, but the less pretentious fixtures were more calculated to benefit tenant farmers. It was a matter of regret with him that while North Notts had always held its own and done well with shire horses, only a comparative few of the agriculturists paid that attention to the breeding of cattle which they ought to do. Speaking very plainly on this point on one occasion he said when going down the Trent side, and seeing some of the miserable animals that

were out, he did not wonder that farming and stock breeding did not pay. With the view of bringing about an improvement in this respect he offered prizes for the best young bulls, and there is very good reason to believe that his encouragement in this and other ways was not the least of his services for the well-being of the farming community.

A Sporting Squire.

The deceased gentleman was a keen sportsman. To follow the hounds was one of his greatest delights. He was a fearless rider, and at 70 years of age was as keen after the pleasurable excitements of the hunt as when he chased his first fox. For several years he was Master of the Burton Hounds, and afterwards hunted regularly with Lord Galway's pack. He was a capital shot, and as a lover of horseflesh attended some of the leading race meetings. He never bred racehorses, but was fond of watching their performances, and for every Leger week there was a house party at Osberton. He took considerable interest, too, in cricket and at his own cost had a charming ground laid out at Osberton, where there have been many really good matches, especially when Parliament was "up," and the public school holidays were on. As a young man Mr. Foljambe held a captaincy in the Sherwood Rangers, and to the end of his life was an ardent believer in, and supporter of, the Volunteer and Territorial movement. He made no secret of his pride when a number of the Rangers were chosen for service in the Transvaal war. He was one of those who attended the banquet given to the men in Retford Town Hall on the eve of their departure, and in the course of a happily-phrased speech expressed his pleasure that the hunting-field had produced such a good proportion of the volunteers bound for the front, his hope that the Rangers would not allow themselves to be outwitted by the "slim" Boer, and his opinion that that was not the time for ignorant men to show their impatience by finding fault with our Generals because they were not then at Pretoria.

He was not a man of extreme views on any question. What opinions he formed he held tenaciously, but he only clung to them so long as he believed they were sound. Once convinced he was wrong, he was quick to accept that which he believed to be right. As a politician, he had no scruple in breaking from the Liberals when that Party sold its principles in its scramble for power; but in Church matters he remained the same throughout life—a staunch son of the National Church, conscious of her power for

good, and, therefore, intolerant of that section within her pale which has for so many years been seeking to undo what the Reformation accomplished—it was thought for all time. A speech he once delivered best indicates his position. He claimed the right to attend the Church of England, and see its services conducted in a manner which was not offensive to him as a Churchman, and he expressed the opinion that the time had arrived when, if the Church itself would not put its house in order, Parliament would have to do so.

Mr. Foljambe is survived by Lady Gertrude and by two sons—Colonel George Savile Foljambe, born in 1855; and Mr. G. A. T. Foljambe, born in 1859. Their third son, Major Hubert F. F. Foljambe, of the King's Royal Rifles, laid down his life for his country in the present war, falling in action in France early in 1915.

Magistrates' Sympathy.

The Mayor of Retford (Councillor Wheeldon), at the annual Brewster Sessions for the borough yesterday morning, referred to the death of the Right Hon. F. J. S. Foljambe, the Lord High Steward of the borough, and for 24 years its representative in Parliament. His brother magistrates joined with him in expressions of deep sympathy with Lady Gertrude and the family in their irreparable bereavement. Not only as a representative in Parliament, but more closely associated with the town as a Governor of the Grammar School and other public bodies, he had gained their highest esteem.

Mr. S. H. Clay, representing the solicitors practising at the Court, desired to associate himself with the remarks which had fallen from the Mayor. It was a very heavy blow for Retford and the whole of North Notts, with which he had been so long and intimately connected.

751.

January 30. 90.

2, Gower Street.

Dear Mr. Rathbone,

I think it would be an excellent
thing if you could get Mr. Westlake
to join your sub-committee.

But we were appointed "with
power to add to his number"
so that we can it is fully
empowered to ask anyone

Ms. A. 9. 2. 1. 1. 1.

9/31/27^b

right with Miss J. Dundas Fuller
South Cottage.

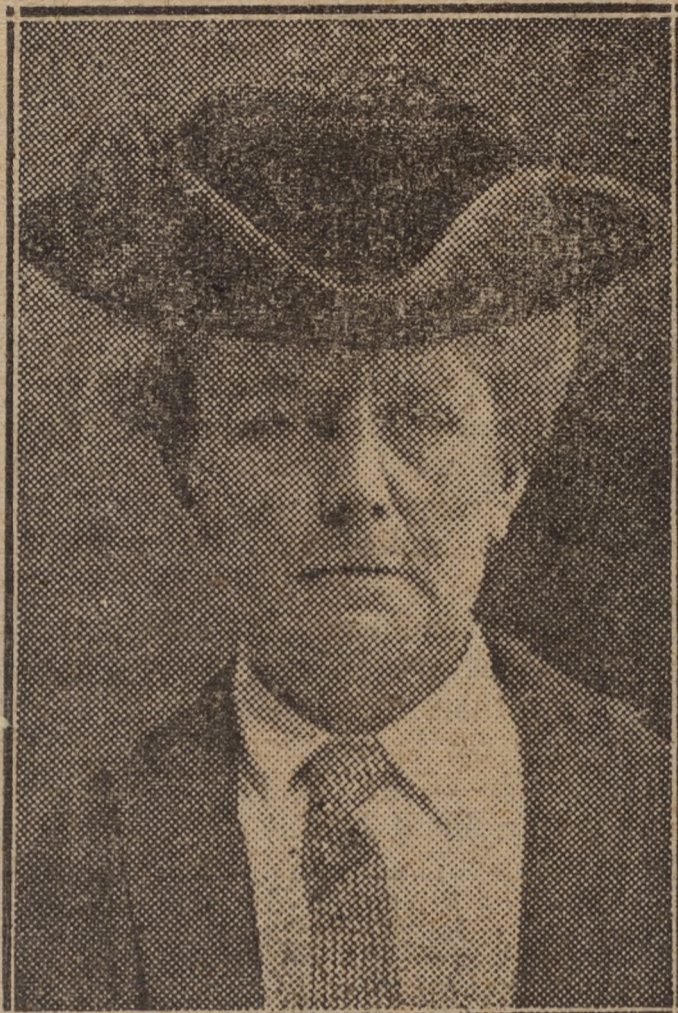
Yours Sincerely

W. J. Sawrath

If your meeting began at 3
I think it could be done. If
I do not catch this I must
leave at 5.30 arriving at
Victoria at 7.48. Do not put

INDEPENDENT, MONDAY

NEW YEAR HONOURS



D.B.E.—Miss Ethel Smyth, Mus.Doc.,
who is also known in Sheffield.



KNIGHT.—Landon Ronald, the
conductor and composer, who has
visited Sheffield. KNIGHT

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Hubert J. Sanders.

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SEPT: 1914.

TO FORM A BRITISH RED CROSS HOSPITAL AT THE FRONT: MILLICENT DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND IN NAMUR.

In our last issue we stated that Millicent Duchess of Sutherland had left Paris to work with the Belgian Red Cross Society, and the photograph reproduced above shows her Grace on arrival at Namur. The Duchess was then in hopes of obtaining premises in which to inaugurate a British Red Cross section.—[*Photograph by Illustrations Bureau.*]