

Silver jubilee dinner

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SILVER JUBILEE DINNER

in Honour of

Monsieur le Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme

on Wednesday, 31st of October, 1934,
at the First Avenue Restaurant, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

Silver Jubilee Dinners are of a rare occurrence in our colony, and I feel sure but few who attended last Wednesday's festivities have been present at a similar occasion in London.

This might have been one reason for the large gathering (nearly 300 persons sitting down to table), another, and undoubtedly the chief reason was however, to pay a tribute of affection and of loyalty to the honoured guest, who during the last 25 years has been the spiritual guide, friend and helper to the Swiss Colony in London. It was a befitting tribute. Although the evening bore none of the *allures* of some of the big banquets with their splendours, to which we have become accustomed during the last few years, there was nevertheless a festive atmosphere apparent.

Many faces, young and old, who one never sees at other functions sat around the beautifully decorated tables; no favour was shown to anyone as regards the seating, rich and poor, prominent and humble were mixed together; it was almost symbolic. Has not our Pasteur attended to rich and poor alike during the many years of his Ministry; are we not all children of the one Master, whom the guest of the evening has served so faithfully?

Many of those who were present had in bygone times received spiritual and perhaps material help from our Pasteur; in days of darkness, despair and agony they have come to him, to seek guidance and advice; they have not knocked at his door in vain, many had their waning faith strengthened, received new courage to fight the battle of life; they had come to say "thank you" to their friend, who had stood by them in their hour of need and trial.

I feel sure, — and the numerous letters, some of which were read out later on, — were a striking testimonial, that many more, who were unable to be present, have been in their thoughts with this gathering, and sent him their silent good wishes. —

Previous to the dinner, M. Hoffmann-de Visme and the members of his family received the assembled company. Faithful to London-Swiss traditions the dinner started late, but a certain impatience soon gave way to joy, when the honoured guest of the evening, in the company of Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister accompanied by Madame Paravicini entered the dining hall, where he received a hearty ovation.

The dinner which was served did great credit to the *cuisine* of the First Avenue Restaurant, and especially to our compatriot Mr. Indermaur who had looked so well after the material wants of the company.

Shortly before coffee was served, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, who was in the Chair, proposed the toast to H. M. The King followed by the one to "La Patrie," both toasts were readily responded to and rendered with musical honours, Mme. Sophie Wyss, the eminent artiste and compatriote of ours singing the first verse of the two National Anthems.

The Minister then rose again to address the company in the capacity of Chairman, he mentioned that a function like the present one, was a solemn affair, and it was only right that it should be so. "We have had exactly twenty-five years to prepare for it," he said, "and I feel sure, we, and the organisers of this Jubilee dinner, are convinced that the arrangements made, are perfect, but it remains to be seen what the *Jubilator* thinks of it, when the festivities are coming to a close." —

Monsieur Paravicini then expressed the hope that M. Hoffmann-de Visme would enjoy this function as much as the company present, and that it would leave him with pleasant memories. Amongst great hilarity, he advised all and sundry to take a fortnight's holiday, and then begin with the arrangements for the Golden Jubilee in October 1959.

Turning to the honoured guest, the Minister said "You will have noticed, by now, Monsieur le pasteur, that your Silver Jubilee involves a good many public utterances about yourself, both *verbalim* and in writing. A great number of

your friends and acquaintances, some of whom you have least suspected, are insisting on making personal remarks about you, I am afraid that cannot be helped on such an auspicious occasion, you must not complain, for it will be much worse in 1959."

The Minister then referred to the address which he had given at the Eglise Suisse on the occasion of the Jubilee Service, in which he voiced the high esteem in which he held Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme, for his work and his great public spirit. "Having spoken last Sunday in Church," he said, "I will spare you the ordeal of a new review of your record on the same lines." — An account of a conversation overheard, when leaving the Church caused great hilarity, and proved that our Minister can enjoy a joke even if it goes against him. M. Paravicini then presented M. Hoffmann-de Visme with a beautiful Silver water jug in the name of the Swiss Colony. —

The address which was given in the form of a witty after dinner speech, was a welcome break from the more solemn speeches which followed later, and the Minister received a hearty ovation on resuming his "Fautenil Presidenciel."

The applause had hardly died down when M. H. Barth, in the unavoidable absence of M. Alfred Brauen, President of the "Consistoire" of the Eglise Suisse, addressed the company as follows:

Speaking on behalf of the Eglise Suisse I would first of all express our great regret, that owing to illness our President, Mr. Brauen, is unable to be here and I am sure you will all join in wishing him a speedy recovery. We are very pleased that Madame Brauen is able to be present, and I would ask her to kindly convey our message to her husband.

In connection with the Silver Jug which has just been presented to Mr. Hoffmann by our Minister on behalf of the Colony, I would mention that having heard that Mr. Hoffmann possesses part of a silver coffee service, the Church felt that this Silver Jubilee celebration was an excellent opportunity to restore and complete this service, as a token of our appreciation and of affection for him.

It is a happy coincidence that this very service was presented to Mr. Hoffmann's father on his completion of 25 years ministry at the Lutheran Church in Geneva on the 29th September 1907.

I now have great pleasure in asking Mr. Hoffmann to accept this silver tray to complete the afore mentioned service. The tray bears the following inscription: "Offert par l'Eglise Suisse de Londres à son dévoué Pasteur René Hoffmann-de Visme en souvenir reconnaissant de 25 ans de services. Octobre 1909-1934."

The applause which greeted these utterances was spontaneous.

M. Alphonse Steiger, the President of the "Kirchenpflege" of the "Schweizerkirche" being absent on account of illness, M. F. G. Sommer addressed the gathering in his stead, he said:

I feel somewhat of an intruder on this venerable occasion, for the honour of addressing you should be that of our Veteran President Mr. Steiger. Unfortunately, as in the case of Monsieur Brauen, illness prevents him from being present. In his absence I feel greatly honoured in having been granted the privilege of presenting, on behalf of the Members of the Kirchenpflege of the Schweizerkirche, to Monsieur Hoffmann in a tangible form, our united tributes of goodwill, on the occasion of his completion of 25 years activity as pasteur of the Eglise Suisse de Londres.

The previous speakers have already reviewed in detail the many outstanding qualities of the man whom we are endeavouring to honour to-night, and as the saying goes, they have stolen my thunder. However, this is truly one of those unique occasions on which two or more voices are unanimous, and I can only underline the remarks both of Monsieur le Ministre and Monsieur Barth. I would assure Monsieur Hoffmann that we are all very appreciative of his qualities, his personality,

and in particular his conscientious and untiring efforts for the spiritual welfare of the London Swiss, his enthusiasm in his strenuous work, his sympathy in distress, and above all his desire to serve God and man.

John Wesley once said:

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.

I feel sure Monsieur Hoffmann-de Visme, during the last 25 years was animated by a similar desire. Many times he has succeeded and sometimes perhaps he felt his shortcomings. However, he will in the latter case find comfort in the fact, that God did not make men perfect, but pilgrims after perfection.

Without further ado, Ladies and Gentlemen, I will now pass to the most pleasant part of my duty, and that is to ask your acceptance Monsieur Hoffmann of this Silver Bowl, with the fervent hope that it will serve to portray to you, your family and your descendants the kindly thought and good wishes of the Members of the Kirchenpflege of the Schweizerkirche in London.

Mr. Sommer's well-rendered address earned the approval of everyone present.

A proof, that Mr. Hoffmann's Jubilee was not only remembered by the Swiss in Great Britain, but also in Church circles in our home country, was, that the next speaker was M. le Pasteur H. L. Henriod, who brought the greetings of the "Fédération des Eglises Suisses." Greatly moved he addressed his colleague, voicing his personal as well as the admiration of the Church authorities in Switzerland on the splendid way in which M. Hoffmann-de Visme has fulfilled his task. He mentioned also the faithful collaboration of the late Mme. Hoffmann-de Visme, whose loving work and loyalty will ever be remembered. In concluding he read out the following address:

Sehr geehrter Herr Pfarrer!

Der Vorstand des Schweizerischen Evang. Kirchenbundes entbietet Ihnen zu Ihrem 25. Amtsjubiläum seine herzlichsten Glückwünsche und seinen wärmsten Dank für all die Dienste, die Sie unseren evangelischen Landsleuten und damit unserer evangelischen Kirche in Ihrem Amte während eines Vierteljahrhunderts geleistet haben.

Es ist uns wohl bekannt, wie viele unserer jungen Leute in Ihrem Pfarrhause und in der Schweizerkirche in London Schutz und Halt und ein wahres Heim gefunden haben. Wir gedenken dabei auch dankbar Ihrer unvergesslichen Frau Gemahlin, die Sie in Ihrer Arbeit bis zur Grenze Ihrer Kraft unterstützt hat. Wir sind sehr dankbar für die Kraft und Freude, die Gott Ihnen gab um unserer Schweizer Gemeinde mit der Verkündigung des Evangeliums, in der Seelsorge und mancherlei Fürsorge zu dienen und betrachten diese Arbeit als einen Dienst, den Sie auch unserer gesamtschweizerischen Kirche geleistet haben, zu der ja nun die Londoner Gemeinden gehören. Sie dürfen versichert sein, dass an Ihrem Ehrentage viele in der Heimat Ihrer mit grosser Liebe und dauernder Anhänglichkeit gedenken, und diese geistige Frucht Ihrer Arbeit wird gewiss auch der schönste Lohn Ihrer Arbeit sein.

Es freut uns, Ihnen durch den Kirchenrat Ihrer Gemeinde ein Zeichen unseres besonderen Dankes zu überreichen.

Mit den besten Segenswünschen und in der Hoffnung, das Gott Ihnen noch lange Kraft und Freude schenken möge für Ihre Arbeit, die ER so sichtlich gesegnet hat.

Namens des Vorstandes des Schweizerischen Evang. Kirchenbundes:

Der Präsident: Sig. Prof. J. E. Choisy.
Der Sekretär: sig. Prof. Adolf Keller.

This messenger from our homeland was greatly cheered when he resumed his seat. —

Madame Sophie Wyss, accompanied by Miss J. Southey-John at the piano sang two songs, and the enthusiastic applause was not only well merited, but proved once more, how popular this gifted singer has become in our colony, her willingness to put her services frequently at the disposal of the Swiss in London is highly appreciated.

M. A. F. Suter, then spoke in the name of the Swiss Societies, he said :

I can assure you that I have never risen to speak with greater delight than on this occasion, but I have never felt less able to put into suitable words the depth of affection, admiration and reverence which we all have for Mr. Hoffmann-de Visme. This gathering is fully representative of the colony and is in itself more eloquent than ever I shall be, and the greatest proof of the sincerity of our feelings.

I trust I may be permitted to speak to-night of our guest of honour as a *man* rather than as a priest. (I use this word priest in its truest sense, that is, a servant of God), but I find on reflection that such a division is in fact impossible. We must content ourselves therefore with a rapid comparison, in order to appreciate fully how different a layman's outlook on life is from that of a priest.

Speaking as an ordinary layman, in a fairly narrow circle of activity, yet always interested in the motives, the causes and effects in the endeavour of other men, I have come to the conclusion that all the world over the primary driving force of human nature moves in the direction of *peace and plenty* with all its implications. Along with this conclusion comes the recognition that the life of a priest (I use this word in its widest and fullest sense, as the Servant of God) must be a particularly difficult one, since it is not only opposed to a part of this primary instinct, but is intended to be a disciplinary force for the direction of it. Hence the church as the originator of the people's education, and if to-day church and education are separated in some States, the reason must be looked for rather in the highly technical developments of modern times than in the church's loss of ability to teach. A priest's work still consists and must continue to consist entirely of moral teaching.

You will see the fundamental difference between the life of a layman and the life of a priest, when I say that we laymen are permitted to follow our bent and collect, for ourselves, as much glory and worldly goods as we can in a lifetime, and the more we collect, the greater the world's respect for us. Also, there are so many actions in a layman's life which are not at all dishonest, but still leave us uneasy because they may deprive someone else less able than we are of that which we gain, and the world calls it cleverness. — Contrast with these liberties the austerity of the life of a priest, whose duty it is surely also to collect money, but not for himself, for the poor: whose portion it ever will be to give to the full all his energy and capacities for the welfare of humanity at large, earning for himself very small material benefit, and often abuse and aversion. It is not easy to like the man who puts his finger on the sore spot, be he priest or surgeon.

A man is known by his work, and, if we obtain an insight into the activity of our guest of honour during his 25 years ministry in London, our admiration will be spontaneous and deep. He, if any man, is a man of unbound energy, indomitable courage and radiant optimism. I can do no better than to read that part of the illuminated address presented to him to-night which deals with his activity:—

A Monsieur le pasteur René Hoffmann-de Visme
citoyen genevois,

né le 30 septembre 1884

bachelier ès lettres et bachelier en théologie
de l'Université de Genève,

pasteur de l'Eglise Suisse de Londres
(langue française)

79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

membre du comité du Fonds de Secours pour les
Suisses pauvres à Londres,

membre fondateur du groupe londonien de la
Nouvelle Société Helvétique,

membre honoraire du City Swiss Club,

membre honoraire de l'Union Helvetia Londres,

secrétaire du Comité de la Fête Suisse,

fondateur et président du Foyer Suisse,

membre fondateur du comité du Noël des enfants
de la Colonie,

représentant suisse au Bureau international pour
la répression de la traite des femmes et des
enfants,

etc., etc., etc.,

entré en fonction le 1er Octobre 1909

la Colonie Suisse de Londres

reconnaissante

a tenu à marquer sa haute appréciation des vingt-
cinq années de ministère dévoué qu'il lui a con-
sacrées assisté par son infatigable compagne trop
tôt ravie à l'affection de chacun, feu Madame
Hoffmann-de Visme, fondatrice de l'Ecole du
Dimanche,

etc., etc.,

* * *

J'espère toujours,

Je te louerai de plus en plus,

Ma bouche publiera ta justice, ton salut, chaque
jour,

Car j'ignore quelles en sont les bornes.

Je dirai tes oeuvres puissantes, Seigneur Eternel !

Je rappellerai ta justice, la tienne seule.

O Dieu ! tu m'as instruit dès ma jeunesse,

Et jusqu'à présent j'annonce tes merveilles.

Psauve 71, v. 14-17.

the most remarkable part of which are the three etc., at the end of the long list. Whatever position any one member of the colony may occupy, it must be clear to him that part of this enormous activity touches him directly, and with force and that he is influenced to his benefit by the spirit of this activity. I will not refer to the difficulties which such a powerful nature (mind) must discover and, in fact, engender, at times, but I would say with conviction that, if not all the things our guest has put his hand to have flourished immediately, they will come to fruition when their significance is fully understood. It is not unnatural, in the endeavours of man, that there should be checks as well as successes, in fact the former are very often the measure of the magnitude of the latter, and it is only by working that we can hope to achieve adequate work.

I cannot forbear to mention the terrible loss which has overtaken our friend not long ago, and which has cut his life in two; the loss which has brought unspeakable sadness to him and his family; the loss which has deprived him and the colony of a helper and worker of rare and beautiful qualities of heart and intellect; a loss which must have left him broken and numbed in spirit and health for an awful period. — May I assure our dear Pastor here again that we have borne with him the full weight of his loss, as if it had been our own as far as that can be, and that we know that his future work among us will be tinged with greater patience, greater understanding and greater forbearance still, because of our common loss.

The intuition is strong in me that now we may be sure of the continuity of his work in London, the colony he loves so well and where his family has grown up, but have you people ever given a thought to the fact that the quality of his work is known and highly esteemed far beyond London? Do you know that no less than 26 different appeals or invitations to other pastorate, some of them repeated, have been extended to him during his ministry in London, the last one as recently as January 1934, to go to Montreal? Have we not every reason to be proud of Mr. Hoffmann's sense of duty and fidelity, his selfless identification with us, and is it not our duty to render him our thanks here, humbly and with reverence?

Can we ever divine the reason for his loyal attachment to us? Let us hope that it may not be because we are so bad that he could not leave us for pity's sake, but rather that there is so much hope of our ultimate goodness that he just had to stay.

Mr. Hoffmann, perhaps not very many of us here have been in London during the whole of your activity. The natural influx and efflux of the colony's life must have brought you in contact with thousands and thousands of young men and women fresh from home and, no doubt, has had a strong influence on your pastoral duties. Also, it has made you known throughout Switzerland as the man with the ever-open house, the man with the heartiest of welcomes to strangers. It is therefore not length of time or acquaintance which compels our very sincere admiration of your personal qualities as man and priest, and we laymen are aware that it is not the priest who makes the man, but the man the priest.

It is your spontaneous sympathy, your ready and fruitful collaboration in all schemes of the colony, your unquenchable optimism and

cheerfulness, the force of your convictions, your honesty and singleness of purpose and, perhaps beyond all, your radiant patriotism; these are the qualities which have made you pre-eminently fit to be our spiritual leader, and if we of the colony have found it suitable to give you on this occasion a more material token of our affection and recognition of your work among us than our mere thanks in words, I trust you may not mistake this gesture for ostentation which is far from our minds. — May you stay with us to the end of your days, and may your work prosper as it has prospered hitherto!

Long applause greeted his fine oration, and Mr. Suter then presented Mr. Hoffmann with the "Golden Book" which will contain all the names of the donors to the "Silver Jubilee Fund" and which is beautifully executed by our compatriot M. Pierre Savoie.

Mr. Suter also read out the following telegrams :

Berthi Boegner, Aarau; M. Chavan, Lausanne; V. Celnikoff, London; City Swiss Club, London; Leibbursch, Coppet; Dupraz, London; Swiss Observer, London; Swiss Orchestral Society; London; Swiss Choral Society, London; Swiss Benevolent Society, London; Swiss Culinary Society, London; Swiss Mercantile Society, London; Swiss Y.M.C.A., London; Ct. Devisme Firavet, London; Schedler, Manchester; M. Trivier, Lausanne; Unione Ticinese, London; Union Helvetia, London.

Letters of congratulations were also received some of which were read out, namely :

Schweizer Verband Volksdienst, Kilchberg; L. Sordet, Zurich; Arthur Baume, Folkstone; Vve. A. Castel, London; E. L. Clark, Laniel (Canada); Auslandschweizer Kommission der N. H. G. Zurich; Deutsches Nationalkomitee zur Bekämpfung des Mädchenhandels, Berlin; E. Montag, Liverpool; Michell, Washington; J. T. Mustard, London; etc., etc.

All eyes were now focussed on the guest of the evening, M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, who on rising received a great ovation, several minutes elapsed before, — owing to the continuous cheering — he was able to deliver his reply, in which he said :

Il n'y a qu'une seule occasion dans la vie d'un homme, où tout le monde s'accorde à dire du bien de lui: c'est quand il est mort! Or vous avez accumulé les paroles aimables, les compliments, les louanges sur mon compte — et pourtant je me sens encore très vivant et nullement couché déjà sous terre. Et très certainement vous n'avez aucune intention de m'envoyer prématurément à mon repos. Notre ministre ne m'a-t-il pas donné rendez-vous au mois d'Octobre 1939, pour une nouvelle célébration de ce genre, le jour seul restant à fixer?...

Alors, comment expliquer ce mystère? Je vais vous le dire: Il y a très certainement eu erreur d'adresse. Vous m'avez prêté toute sorte de vertus et de qualités, mais je n'y suis pour rien, je vous assure. Ce ne sont pas les miennes, elle ne m'ont été que "prêtées" et c'est à leur auteur que doivent revenir toutes vos louanges, au Maître que je sers et qui m'a fait la grâce de pouvoir travailler parmi vous durant ce quart de siècle. *Soli Deo Gloria!* — Et si j'ai pu faire quoi que ce soit à Londres durant ce temps, c'est encore le mot du plus grand des apôtres du Christ, de St. Paul, qui est de mise ici: "C'est par la grâce de Dieu que je suis ce que je suis et la grâce qu'il m'a faite n'a pas été vaine; au contraire, j'ai travaillé beaucoup plus qu'eux tous, non pas moi pourtant, mais la grâce de Dieu, qui est avec moi. (I Cor. XV, 10).

Aussi me senté-je libéré maintenant, et puis-je de tout coeur m'associer à vous pour me réjouir et rendre grâce.

Toutefois ce n'est pas là la première chose que j'ai à faire. Si je jette un coup d'oeil sur le passé, ce que je me sens pressé de faire, c'est de déplorer mes nombreux manquements. On ne se souvient pas, lorsque on regarde ainsi en arrière, en un jour comme celui-ci, du peu qu'on a pu accomplir, mais bien au contraire, de toutes les fautes, de toutes les erreurs, de toutes les misères dont on s'est rendu coupable.

Et ce que je me sens pressé de vous dire, en ce moment, c'est un merci bien sincère pour votre patience, votre indulgence, votre longanimité. Vous m'avez supporté, tel que j'étais, avec tous mes défauts, et c'est de cela que je vous suis si profondément reconnaissant. Voyez-vous cela a été un immense privilège de pouvoir travailler parmi vous, dans cette Colonie de Londres, qui est comme une petite Suisse en miniature. Quant à l'avenir, je ne peux pas vous faire de promesse: l'avenir est à Dieu! Mais si Dieu veut bien m'accorder encore quelques années de travail au milieu de vous, c'est avec la plus grande joie que je demeurerai

à ma place. Pourrais-je faire mieux que de continuer dans la ligne que mon propre père m'a tracée, lui qui accomplit à Genève un ministère de plus de trois décades, ministère que symbolisent les pièces d'argenterie qui sont là devant moi et que vous venez de compléter si généreusement par ces autres pièces magnifiques, qui seront pour les miens et moi-même un admirable souvenir de votre bonté.

C'est le moment que je vous remercie tous, du plus profond de mon cœur, vous, Monsieur le Ministre, qui êtes le chef de notre Colonie, et vous toutes les Sociétés suisses et vous tous les membres de la Colonie, pour tout ce que vous avez fait pour moi. Vous m'avez comblé de témoignages d'affection et d'appréciation les plus immérités, moi qui suis conscient d'avoir fait si peu! Vous m'avez surtout fait sentir votre sympathie et m'avez comme porté par votre amour dans les heures sombres, longues et douloureuses par lesquelles j'ai passé dernièrement. Vous ne savez pas le bien que vous m'avez fait, le secours que votre tendresse a signifié pour moi.

Aussi mon plus grand désir est-il de tâcher de vous rendre un peu tout ce que vous avez fait pour moi.

Mais ici je dois invoquer votre clémence. Les années qui passent commencent à peser. On n'a plus tout à fait la force de jadis et les obstacles physiques et matériels vont en augmentant, ne serait-ce que de par la dispersion étonnante de mes paroissiens. Vous êtes répandus partout, sur toute l'étendue de cette ville immense et jusque dans les comtés avoisinants et je ne possède pas le don d'ubiquité pour garder le contact avec vous tous. Pourtant c'est tout mon désir, et je ferai de mon mieux, à l'avenir, comptant sur l'aide et le secours d'En Haut. Quoi de plus beau, en effet, que de pouvoir travailler pour notre Colonie, c'est-à-dire pour notre patrie tout entière, dans un esprit de foi et d'amour!

Qu'est ce que notre petite Suisse en effet, sinon l'incarnation d'un acte de foi, elle qui, coincée au milieu des grands peuples totalitaires, en est l'exact contraire, composée qu'elle est de races, de langues et de confessions différentes. Ce n'est que par la foi qu'elle peut vivre, la confiance réciproque, la confiance dans l'amour, dans le sacrifice, celui que nous rappelle l'emblème de notre drapeau. La croix du Christ qui nous unit est le signe suprême de l'amour sur cette terre, du sacrifice, de la foi. Et tout comme l'empereur Constantin y trouva le gage de la victoire, quand le labarum lui apparut dans le ciel, je veux moi aussi y voir ma seule raison d'être y puiser toute mon inspiration: *in hoc signo vinces!* j'en accept l'augure, que Dieu me soit en aide!

This truly fine address was acknowledged with great cheering and applause and seldom before have I witnessed such scenes of enthusiasm. —

Thus a memorable evening came to a close, an evening which will linger for many a day in the memory of those who had the privilege to attend.

Humbly we join in the eulogies to a man who has well deserved all what was said. Not only has he proved to be a spiritual leader, friend and comforter, but he has been a true and faithful Swiss, a patriot in the truest sense of the word.

May the sincere tributes, which were paid to him, on this great day be a source of encouragement in the performance of his arduous duties. The success of his work has not only been recognised and appreciated by his own parishioners, but by a much wider circle, and whatever the future may have in store for our two London churches, we are sure, that fortified by this universal recognition he will see that unity will prevail, and that the harmony which has been so spontaneously expressed will receive a new impetus for the glory of His Master in whose service he has spent so many years of fruitful work.

ST.

Apart from those already mentioned, the following were present:

Mr. and Mrs. M. Audemars, Mr. and Mrs. Averard, Miss Averard, Mr. and Mrs. Baerlocher, Miss L. Beaud, Mr. Tt. Becker, Mr. W. Beckmann, Mr. and Mrs. J. Berger, Mr. A. T. Bodmer, Mr. and Mrs. P. Bessire, Mr. M. Bezencenet, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bieri, Miss H. Binzwanger, Mr. and Mrs. J. Boos, Mr. P. Bormand, Miss M. Bourgeois, Miss E. L. Brasse, Mr. and Mrs. C. Brüllhard, Mr. G. Bruschweiler and party, Mr. U. Bretscher, Mr. P. Brun, Mr. Brun, Miss A. Bucher, Mr. C. Campart and Miss Campart, Mrs. H. Cedard, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Chapuis, Mr. and Mrs. R. Chappuis, Mrs. L. Chapuis, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Cooke, Miss M. Cugny, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cuendet, Mr. de Bourg, Mr. C. de Castella, Mr. J. Delmue, Mr. and Mrs. F. Deutsch, Mr. E. P. Dick, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Downs, Mr. and Mrs. S. Dreyer, Mr. Du Bois, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Dufour, Mr. H. W. Egli, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Elliot, Mrs. L. Elmer, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. R. Fader, Mr. and Mrs. Frick, Dr.

Ch. Ferrière and Mrs. Ferrière, Mr. F. G. Finsler, Mrs. A. H. Finsler, Mrs. W. Fischer, Miss B. Frischknecht, Sir William Goscombe John, R.A., Mr. C. H. Gallmann, Mr. F. M. Gamper, Mr. E. Gassmann, Mr. H. Gattiker, Mr. J. Gerber, Mr. and Mrs. Glauser-Oggier, Mr. E. A. Goergens, Mr. and Mrs. G. Godet, Mr. F. Golay, Mr. E. A. Gotz, Mr. W. Graf, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Grau, Mrs. R. Greenfield, Mrs. Greenfield, Mr. and Mrs. W. Guignard, Mr. and Mrs. Gysin, Miss Haag, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hafter, Mr. W. Hauser, Mr. P. Hilfiker, Mr. J. Hoerler, Mr. and Mrs. R. Holes, Mr. A. Hugentobler, Miss Huguenin, Mr. G. Jenne and party, Mr. and Mrs. L. Jobin, Miss R. Joerg, Mr. and Mrs. Joss, Miss L. Keller, Mrs. Kenyon, Mr. Th. Kesselring, Mr. W. Kilchenmann and party, Mr. and Mrs. Koelliker, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Kraft, Miss L. Kramer, Dr. P. Lansel and Mrs. Lansel, Miss M. Lassueur, Mr. Paul Lequint, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Lichtensteiger, Mrs. C. F. McKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss A. Maeder, Mr. J. E. Maeder, Mr. F. Magnin, Mr. David Mange and party, Miss J. H. Magron, Mr. G. Marchand, Mr. and Mrs. A. Marti, Mrs. R. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Matthey, Miss Ida Matthey, Miss Merkel, Mrs. Meylan, Mr. O. Meyer and party, Mr. and Mrs. J. Monn, Miss Morel, Mrs. A. Morris, Mrs. Muller, Miss O. Muller, Mr. J. T. Mustard, Mr. and Mrs. Nickles, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Niklaus, Miss Ochsenbein, Mr. J. Oertli, Mr. Ogney, Mrs. Ogney, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Oltramare, Mr. W. Pellet, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pfandler, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pfirter, Mr. and Mrs. A. Pluss, Dr. H. Rast, Mr. G. O. Ray, Miss Reber, Miss E. Reist, Mr. Th. Ritter, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Roost, Mr. Rothlisberger, Miss H. Ruegg, Mr. and Mrs. J. Scheuermeier, Miss Schlup, Miss H. Schmid, Mr. A. Schmid, Mr. Max Schneider, Miss L. Seliger, Mr. H. Senn, Mr. H. Shuldham-Shaw and party, Mr. J. Sermier and party, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Sigerist, Mrs. E. H. Spooner, Miss M. L. Spuhler, Miss Simmen, Mr. A. R. Stauffer, Sister T. C. Stauffer and party, Miss A. Steiner and party, Mr. A. Steinmann, Mr. A. Steiner, Mr. Pierre Savoie, Mr. H. Schaufelberger, Mr. and Mrs. Schallibaum, Miss M. Streit, Miss Sushina and party, Mr. Adrien Vaucher, Miss E. von Arx, Mr. A. F. Suter's party, Mr. and Mrs. C. Th. Hahn, Mr. P. Walser, Mr. C. L. Walthard, Miss Walter, Mr. J. Weber, Mr. and Mrs. Wetzler, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Whittall, Mr. G. Wirz and party, Miss C. Wuorin, Miss I. Wyss, Mr. and Mrs. M. Zahn, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Ziegler, Mr. F. E. Ziegler, Mr. J. Zimmermann, Mr. F. Zogg, Mr. and Mrs. E. Zwicky, Mr. S. Zwingli.

A BRITON LOOKS AT THE SWISS.

The Silver Jubilee was an evening to be remembered and treasured. As a visitor it was an inspiration and a tonic. There were so many fine outstanding items in the evening's programme, which left abiding memories as I am sure it must have done with those, who have deep reasons for treasuring the work of your grand priest and man.

What impressed me most was the spontaneous gratitude by speech and look and attitude of that delightful throng. It was good to be among them, to feel almost a halo of deep and abiding purpose enwrap one. It was magnificent in its very simplicity and homeliness.

The speeches were on a very high plane; they rang true, and were permeated with high purpose and sane idealism. If I had any preference it was for that clever wise speech of Mr. Suter. One was gripped by its honest frankness about things which really matter in this world yet it was so practical and useful. But there was that other speech full of real bits of wisdom — of how, when, where, and the opportunity to do good useful actions to help your neighbours. It raised your faith in human kind.

Listening and watching your Pastor one readily understood why he was cherished and loved — such men are the salt of the earth.

As my eyes wandered some faces appeared just a bit tired-looking, a little lined, as though the stress of life to them had been strenuous. One such face of a friend I noted. We all stood to sing our National Anthem with decorum and in due form as befits good Swiss grateful to England. La Patrie! Ah, what a change was there to see for "The chiel among ye taking notes!" My friend's face like that of many others were transfigured — It was like sunshine glowing on your homeland snow-capped peaks — It was radiant, vital, alive and pulsating with some grand passion and devotion. Or was it the memory of some delicious day or night in their beloved La Patrie making their features reveal their inmost heart? Whatever the cause it was a picture one can never forget. La Patrie! What a land that can stir such spiritual fervour in its sons and daughters. Happy Land, Happy People! True an inspiration and a tonic; and may all prosperity be yours to carry such sanity and enthusiasm into the world.

It was just a little startling to hear the request for your Pastor to close the evening with prayer. Yet how fitting. It was the appropriate coping stone to an evening which had passing through it what is best expressed in the words of Tennyson:—

"And so the whole round world
Is knit by bonds of gold
About the feet of God."

J.T.M.

BEROMUNSTER ITEM.

Sunday, Nov. 11th at 4.10 p.m.

Uebertragung aus Degersheim.

Toggenburger Heimat- und Jodellieder.

Mitwirkende: Männerchor Harmonie Degersheim. Frauen und Töchterchor Liederkrantz, Degersheim, Jodel-Quartett Degersheim, Solo Jodler: P. Müller Flawil und A. Brunner Degersheim, Ländler Kapelle Speer, Ebnat-Kappel, Prof. H. Edelmann, St. Gallen, A. Scheu, alt Lehrer, Flawil.

1. Ländlerkapelle: A. Kerker: a., Mit Schick und Schneid, Marsch; b. Wenn die Rosen wieder blühen, Walzer.
2. Männerchor: Ambühl: a., De Fruehlig; b., Toggenburger Vrenele.
3. Jodlerquartett: a., Ambühl: s'Alperösl; b., Naturjodel, c., Düsel: Im schöne Toggenburg.
4. Frauen- und Töchterchor: a., A. Forrer: Auf der Höhe; b., R. Wiesner: Toggenburgerlied.
5. Gemischter Chor: a., Of de Berge, Volkslied; b., Ambühl, s'Toggenburger Maitle.
6. Plauderei von Prof. Edelmann, St. Gallen, über das Toggenburg.
7. Ländlerkapelle: a., Auf Fuchsacker-Höhe, Ländler; b., Kerker: De Jakob im Stadium.
8. Jodelquartett: a., Düsel: Bergfriede; b., Naturjodel; c., Ambühl: E. Maitli, das viel Taler hätt.
9. Plauderei von alt Lehrer A. Scheu, Flawil, über Tegerschen.
10. Männerchor: Ambühl: a., De Unentschlossene; b., Nach der Heimat.
11. Gemischter Chor: Us de Berge, liebe Fründe, Volkslied.
12. Ländlerkapelle: a., Gruss aus Oberhächen, Schottisch; b., Ski-Chilbi in Degersheim, Ländler.

THE ACADEMY CINEMA,

165, Oxford Street, W.1.

Film goes who find pleasure in René Clair's films will simply revel in his latest fantasy "Le Dernier Milliardaire" now showing at the Academy Cinema and those, to whom René Clair makes no appeal, had better stay away, for they will not appreciate his biting irony or the subtleness of his sarcasm. —

You will remember the ingenious way in which René Clair explained the story of "Le Million" for the benefit of those whose French was not perfect, by means of a dialogue between two men who looked through an attic window. —

In "Le Dernier Milliardaire" he has made use of an equally ingenious device by presenting a kind of synopsis in the form of a short silent film which explains the story and which is accompanied by a commentary in English.

In a little state, by name Casinario, a combination of Monte Carlo, Utopia, Tryphème and any other ideal state of which you can think, there lives the queen, her son and his wife and their wonderfully beautiful daughter, the Princess Isabelle. Now in this ideal state, none apparently does any work, unless it be the one and only Beggar in the country, and the needs of the people are met by the profits made by the Casino, which presumably is the staple if not the unique industry of the place.

But hard times have come, no more profit is made and the Treasury is empty. No means of executing the magnificent architectural plans which are to make Casinario the most beautiful city in the world.

The Queen and her ministers are in despair, and finally it is decided to bestow the hand of the Princess Isabelle on Mr. Banco, "Le dernier Milliardaire," who consents to pay the sum of 300 millions into the Treasury within one week of his marriage.

But the Princess has other ideas, for Mr. Banco is in his sixth decade, while the Princess is barely twenty and she has fallen in love with the leader of the Palace Orchestra, a charming young man who is equally in love with the Princess. Mr. Banco decides to go to Casinario but in the meantime, ruin has fallen upon the State. There is no money — the army goes on strike, so does the police and the telephone operators, and even the footman in the Palace refuses to buy a tie until his wages have been paid.

The inhabitants are forced to barter, and when one citizen desires to pay for a drink with a hen, he receives as change, two chickens and an egg, and the egg is returned to the waiter to take the place of a pourboire.