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HENRI JENNE

Died 24th November, 1933

Aged 58 Years



The news of the sudden and untimely death, due to heart failure, of Henri Jenne came to his many friends as a very great shock. To have seen him in the morning of last Friday in his usual, to all appearances robust health, and to find him gone from us a few hours later in an instant, brings home to us once again the old truth:

In the midst of life we are in death.

May one who has known the dear departed intimately and continuously for a period of over thirty years put on record a few notes on the life that has just closed, alas, much too soon.

Henri Jenne was born in Bâle in the year 1875. On finishing his education in the schools of his native city he chose a Banking career and joined the staff of the Swiss Bank Corporation at an early age. It was in 1902 that he came to the London Office of this Bank as a clerk and, through sheer hard work, he soon rose to the position of attorney and later Assistant Manager. The writer has watched his progress almost from day to day and never has he come across a man more enthusiastic in his work, more devoted to his duties and more determined that nothing shall come between himself and his daily task. He never spared himself and sacrificed many of the good and pleasant things in life.

He had, until a short time ago, a strong constitution which helped him to get through a tremendous amount of work without effort and with real enjoyment. In his position he came into contact with a very large number of business men from all parts of the world, and many are they who have testified of Henri Jenne's splendid character, his unusual abilities, his integrity and the straight-forwardness in all his dealings during trying years of quite exceptional difficulties and complications.

He will be greatly missed by all his business friends who appreciated his help and counsel so much. For the Bank he served so well, his death must be a very great loss, and it will not be easy to replace him.

Apart from business he had few interests except the all prevailing devotion to his family, and his ambition from early life to do all he possibly could to help his own.

He loved his native land where he liked to spend all his richly deserved vacations.

To many others he was the truest friend they could wish to have. In his great kindness of heart he was ever ready to listen to the troubles of others and to give invaluable advice. He rejoiced with those that were happy and showed true sympathy with all that were in difficulties.

Only a few of his most intimate friends know how very generous he was, giving assistance freely and unostentatiously, never expecting in return so much as a word of thanks. A very large number will miss him, but to us who knew him well and saw him regularly, he will for ever be a rare and shining example of a man who loved hard work for its own sake, a man you could at all times absolutely rely on, a man who enjoyed doing good and being of help to others.

Henry Jenne was unmarried and leaves behind a sister and three brothers to whom his sudden death is a terrible blow. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to them in their great sorrow and irreparable loss.

His passing away leaves the Swiss Colony in which he took so great an interest, the poorer by one of its very popular and loveable members.

The friend who never shirked and never spared or considered himself is now at rest.

It is bitter to have to say good-bye, but his memory shall ever remain fresh and pleasant with us he left so suddenly.

May he sleep in peace!

H.P.

IN MEMORIAM.

The beautiful little church of St. Anne and St. Agnes, Gresham Street, E.C.2, which is the home of the "Schweizerkirche," proved to be too small to hold the vast congregation of well over three hundred mourners, who had assembled to pay their last tribute to Henri Jenne, Deputy Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, and a distinguished member of the Swiss Colony.

Some considerable time before the service was due to start, all seating accommodation was taken, and many members of the congregation had to stand.

There hovered an awe-inspiring stillness over this large gathering, broken only by the muffled tolling of the bell. Suddenly, the organ started to play; it was not a mournful tune, it was a kind of prelude which reminded one that death was not the finish, but the triumphant entry into eternal life. The portals of the church were opened wide, and our departed friend was solemnly carried down the aisle, followed by his three brothers and a few personal friends. Not an eye was dry in this vast congregation; once again the dear departed, was amongst his many friends, who barely a week ago had seen him full of life and hope, now alas, he had come amongst us in silence. Those kindly eyes which were such a joy and comfort to all those who came in regular contact with him, were closed for ever, there was no sound of his merry laughter; calm and majestic he lay in our midst. On his coffin rested the last tribute of his family, who have lost in him a dear and devoted brother.

Pastor C. Th. Hahn, who officiated, recited a short prayer, which was followed by a hymn, "Will in trüben Kummertagen...", this was the favourite hymn of the mother of the deceased. After the reading of the Scriptures (Psalm XC. St. John XI. 1 Cor. 15, Rev. 7), the Swiss Choral Society rendered two verses of the "Schweizer Psalm," "Trittst im Morgenrot daher," it was a touching tribute to our friend, who loved his native land so dearly, that country which on so many occasions he had revisited to gain renewed strength to fulfil his responsible and arduous task. Through his fellow countrymen, his homeland sent him its last greetings across the sea.

Barely had the last sounds of this beautiful hymn died away, when Pastor Hahn, from the pulpit gave a biographical account of the life of Henri Jenne; he described his successful career, which started in humble circumstances and had ended in him occupying a distinguished position in one of the great banking concerns. He told how his life was one of serving, of helping and understanding. "Our friend," he said, "was outspoken, and thus was often misunderstood, but behind it was the constant wish to help, there was no malice, no wish to hurt, and anyone who came to him in distress and sorrow found a helping hand, and no advice was asked for in vain."

Then followed the reading of the Scriptures (1 Cor. 13) and the singing of the Hymn "So nimm denn meine Hände und führe mich."

The address given by Pastor Hahn, once again made one feel how much we have lost in the one who has now passed over to the land, where there is eternal peace, and where there is no struggle anymore, but life everlasting.

The Lord's Prayer and the singing of the hymn "Abide with me! fast falls the eventide..." ended this most impressive service.

And now Henri Jenne, has returned to his own country, which 31 years ago he left full of life and energy. We would have wished him a happier home-coming, a return in different circumstances, when he could have enjoyed a few years of well deserved rest, far from the maddening turmoil of a big city, amongst the hills and mountains which he loved so much. But, it was not to be, providence willed it otherwise, and he was taken from us in the prime of life, to enter into another sphere, and we can but thank the great Lord of the Universe, that he has given us this man, if only for a short span of time; he has made our life the richer for it.

His last resting place will be in his native town of Basle; it was his wish that he should be buried amongst his countrymen, and we know that his home town will be proud to harbour the earthly remains of one of its distinguished sons, whose name will be engraved on the roll of Honour of the proud city of Basle. Wherever friends will congregate, the name of Henri Jenne will be mentioned with affection, his memory will be engraved on many a heart, and can one wish for a better epitaph. "We have been the richer for your dwelling amongst us, and the poorer for your departing, rest in peace dear friend."

ST.

The Swiss Minister was represented at the service by M. Ch. de Jenner, Councillor of Legation. Practically all the Presidents of the Swiss Societies were present, as well as many well-known personalities in the Banking and Finance World. M. E. Seymour was at the organ.

Amongst the large congregation were:

Mrs. Alford, A. C. Baume, H. C. Braun, J. Boos, J. H. Berger, P. F. Boeninger, W. Beckmann, H. Binggely, F. Brandenburger, C. Lertschinger, Th. Becker, P. D. Basser, H. Barlin, E. Bennett, E. Broglie, P. Béguin, J. Bosshard, W. Bodmer, E. Buchi, W. Becker, E. Bentler, O. Bartholdi, Miss E. Buchmann, Baker, M. Carroll-Marx, P. A. Carmine, L. Chapuis, R. de Cintra, E. Chatelain, W. A. Cook, C. Campart, Conrad, P. Dick, J. Diener, W. Deutsch, R. Dupraz, L. Dreyfus, R. Dreyfus, F. Danmeyer, W. Eichenberger, A. Eichenberger, G. Engesser, M. Ernst, E. Frey, E. Favre, A. Gaudetz, F. M. Gamper, W. E. Gattiker, R. S. Griffith, O. Grob, E. A. Grau, Miss Glass, J. Gerber, Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme, F. Haegler, H. Huber, P. Hiliker, Cecil Harding, E. Hardmeier, Dr. Hafner, G. Hafner, H. Hafner, G. J. Holdsworth, J. H. Hiltz, H. Hyde, Ch. de Jenner, W. Jent, Ch. Jackson, A. Keller, H. Kronauer, F. Kibiger, R. Kaiser, A. Kenworthy, F. W. Lichtensteiger, B. Lossignol, Luterbacher, W. Lehmann, G. Lehmann, G. Laemle, C. G. Lloyd, M. D. Lloyd, M. Luthert, L. Loup, E. Lofthouse, A. Meyer, G. Marchand, P. Mathys, A. Mengen, A. Moser, C. Mayr, A. Mottet, Miss N. Meyrat, F. Matthey, J. Nachbur, J. Oltramare, P. Oswald, H. Oberli, Miss A. L. Priddy, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Pirter, J. Pfändler, Pasquier, A. Plender, W. Pellet, Leon Rueff, G. Rueff, E. Dickson, H. F. Roost, E. Ritzmann, O. Roethlisberger, E. Rossetti, M. Smits, E. Seymour, G. Schenker, E. Steiner, G. Schneider, L. Schmidlin, A. F. Suter, H. Steiner, A. H. Smith, H. Senn, Mr. and Mrs. Sigrist, Mrs. L. Seiffert, J. A. Seiffert, J. H. Speich, J. J. Schneider, A. Steiger, Dr. M. Schroeter and Mrs. Schroeter, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Sommer, Mr. and Mrs. M. Schlatter, F. Streit, J. P. Scottie, J. C. Searle, E. Sommer, Th. Schaefer, J. Schad, Ch. Seinet, S. Schweizer, A. Schmid, W. Steiner, A. Stauffer, F. Schenkermeier, A. Tall, S. A. Thorpe, L. E. Thompson, J. Trachsel, H. R. Tobin, Mrs. Uden, F. Winston Scott, F. S. Wright, R. Weist, P. de Wolff, G. Wuthrich, E. Wepf, E. Werner, A. Walchli, Florence H. Winter, W. Wagner, M. N. Walker, W. C. Wilson, A. Walchli, E. Zwicky, F. Zogg, J. Zimmermann, S. Zwingli, M. Zaeslin.

NEWS FROM MUSICAL QUARTERS.

Many Swiss readers of the musical columns of the London Press must have been distressed to read that our compatriot Mme-Sophie Wyss had been taken suddenly ill before the concert of the Contemporary Society at the beginning of October. Fortunately, as the *Daily Mail* headline, "SISTER'S DASH," explained, her sister, Mme. Colette Wyss, was able to take her place at the last moment.

Mme. Sophie Wyss' health has not improved as quickly as was hoped. She has now, however, left for a holiday in Le Locle, where she will be under the care of her brother-in-law Dr. Paul-Edouard Peret. She is expected to return early in the new year in time to make her débuts in Belfast and Manchester.

She has been engaged by the B.B.C. to sing the soprano solos in the first British performance of Artur Honegger's "Les Cris du Monde," but this important engagement has had to be cancelled.

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