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H. HAFTER. †

The Swiss Colony has lost a true Swiss and friend in the death of H. Hafter, who after an illness of eight months patiently borne, died on the 8th July, 1952, at Potters Bar Hospital.

A good many Swiss and English friends met in the Chapel of the Enfield Garden of Rest on the 10th July, 1952 at 3.45 p.m. for the funeral and committal service. The Rev. H. Spörri of the Swiss Church (Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde) officiated. He opened with the reading of Psalm 90. His impressive address was based on Romans XIV, 7-9, with special emphasis on :

“ Whether we live, therefore, or die,
we are the Lord’s. ”

A personal friend of the Deceased spoke in the following terms :—

“ We are gathered to pay our last respects and tribute, and to take leave of a friend with whom many of us were associated, either in business or private life, for a generation or more.

Henry Hafter was born in Weinfelden, Canton of Thurgovie, Switzerland, on the 4th May, 1871. He spent a happy childhood in his native town, where he received his first education. At the age of 16 he was apprenticed to a firm of Skin Dressers in Basle, where he learned the rudiments of business, both from the administrative as well as the practical side. After his apprenticeship, he continued with the firm as an employee until the age of 25, when he felt the urge to see the world, and to turn his acquired knowledge to good account outside the boundaries of his native land.

He thus came to London in 1896 to join C. W. Martin & Sons, Fur & Skin Dressers and Dyers, at Upper Thames Street, in whose employment he remained for close on 50 years, and until his retirement from fulltime work in November, 1940. His services with this firm were highly appreciated, so much so, that he was appointed a Director in 1922, and Joint Managing Director in 1938, a post which he held until his retirement.

Henry Hafter married Else Heymann in 1911, to whom he remained a devoted husband until his death on the 8th of this month. The marriage was a most happy one, and blessed with three children, two daughters and one son. The Departed was privileged in celebrating his fortieth Wedding Anniversary, in full health and vigour, last year. In fact, until he was stricken with illness a few months ago, our friend enjoyed good health throughout his long and fruitful life. On his eightieth birthday, for instance, we find him indulging in mountain climbing in his native land.

He was a member of the Fur Club, the City Swiss Club, the New Helvetique Society, and for many years took a very active interest in the Swiss Church, of which he was an Elder. Though retaining Swiss nationality to the end, he was deeply attached to his land of adoption. Many are his friends, both English and Swiss, who have lost in the Departed a true, faithful, and never failing friend.

Henry Hafter—as a friend of many years standing remarked in a letter recently received—always proved a true friend without moods or false pretensions, whose success in business never became a foe of his soul.

For Mrs. Hafter and her family, the loss of husband and father is a great blow. The longer the ties of love last, the more difficult is the severance. Our sympathy goes out to the widow, her three children and six grandchildren, as well as to the only sister of the Departed. May they take comfort in the knowledge that their Beloved One is now relieved of all pain, and eternally at rest.

To us, as his friends, I would say, let us render thanks to God Almighty for the privilege of having been associated, encouraged and influenced by a life such as that of our departed friend.”

The committal of the remains of the Deceased was followed by prayer and the singing of the Deceased’s favourite hymn “ Now thank we all Our God ”.

F.G.S.

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