

Cesar Campart

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CESAR CAMPART.

Dr. A. Latt of Zurich, who was at one time intimately connected with Mr. Campart, has sent us the following notes:

"I knew my old friend César Campart to be very ill and not likely to recover. So the news of his death did not come as a shock to me. I only hope the end came to him quietly and peacefully, as he was always kind and helpful to his friends. And they were many, among the British and particularly among the Swiss in London. Didn't he belong to *all* your societies? He cannot have missed many. He certainly attended every meeting of the Swiss Institute when he was young, the Swiss Mercantile Society, the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Church, the Benevolent Society, the Fonds Secours, the Secours Mutuels, of which, if I am not mistaken, he once was President. It was he who first drew my attention to a certain old chest kept at 74, Charlotte Street, which looked like the treasure box on a pirate ship. And when Campart at last got it open, it contained indeed a treasure, namely the archives of the Swiss Society of the 18th century, "*La Société Unie des Suisses et des Genevois*", founded in 1701. This precious source of your Colony's history, which some members had long thought should be thrown away as waste paper, is now deposited where it should be, at the Swiss Legation.

In winter he would often pull a small black note book from his pocket and gladly "put you down" for a few pence or shillings for the children's Christmas Tree.

In his best years I knew for certain that the Society he liked best and served most faithfully was the *Nouvelle Société Helvétique*, whose London Group he had helped to found in 1916, and whose hon. Secretary he was for about 30 years. He told me he had never missed a meeting of the committee and had written all the minutes in his own hand. It was he who engaged me as the London Group's permanent Secretary in 1917. He introduced me to the Colony and told me very carefully what to do and what not to say. Though his mind was always preoccupied with worries about the Colony and fears for Switzerland during World War 1, I think as a man he was quite happy in his family, in his work and in his leisure, and above all in the cheerful and friendly company of the Suisses romands.

Most loyally he served the Presidents of the N.S.H. first Mr. Jean Baer, then Mr. A. F. Suter, and finally

Dr. H. Egli. The founding of the N.S.H. must have been one of the great moments of his life. There was a personal experience connected with it. The Society's patriotic programme and noble ideal exactly fitted his own picture of what the Old Country should be and how every good Swiss abroad ought to serve it to the best of his abilities. He was proud of being a citizen de Genève, and he was happy when I told him Geneva's University was my Alma Mater, in return he would praise Zurich to me, where he spent some happy days of study at the "Poly."

I never knew what his business was — or whether he had a business at all. But he knew everybody's business in the Colony, of which he was something like a permanent institution. All those who knew him will long speak of him as "Good Old Campart", and his surviving friends will always cherish his memory as that of a brave and lovable man, and a faithful Swiss."

Dr. A. Latt.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

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