

A PROMINENT CHRISTIAN WORKER.

THE MEMORY OF THE JUST IS BLESSED."

XXXXXXXXXX:

Proverbs 10: 7.

I should neither voice your desires, I think friends, nor be true to my own knowledge and feelings, did I not make my words at this time concerning the deceased very largely words of personal tribute. This is one of those occasions when a sermon and exhortation is appropriate. But Rev. Rodgers has already preached the sermon. And because he is silent he exhorts us with a persuasiveness that words would not strengthen. We call him dead, but he will live among us for a long time. And because this is true allow me to of him, not alone as a "departed friend," in the common phrase of funeral address. I may have the privilege, I am sure, of speaking of him by these old, familiar, loved name as I try to speak of what he has been to us all.

As I think of his life many things that endeared him to us.

Rodgers was a child of the ~~city~~ CHURCH.

He was a child of the ~~earth~~ COMMUNITY.

The church of Christ has nothing in itself of which to boast. Its power, its fruitage is of God. And yet any church in itself may be grateful, may take heart and go forward with good courage that has been instrumental in shaping such a life as his. Freely he gave of his time an everything - freely he received to give for its richest blessings.

II. And then in community work outside of the church he was ready, and faithful and ~~XXXXXX~~ - increasingly useful.

Therefore, in the outer circumstances his life and death, somethings = that bring his life closer to us, at this time. One thing was this: He was among us as one who ministered. His spirit was the spirit of service.

He was not thinking of being ministered unto, but of ministering. We knew that what he was given to do would be faithfully and cheerfully done.

Always, and we knew that it would be done upon principle instead of impulse.

Also, his spirit was born of the Master's love for him and his love for the Master.

Then in those years he was most active among us, his life was a growing character. It was a character sweetened and strengthened by a personal relation of loyalty and love to the Saviour Himself. It was a character that was built upon eternal foundations, of truth and righteousness, and because of this it abides forever. It was a character that seemed to say in every act: "I expect to pass this way but once." If therefore there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to my fellow human beings, let me do it now, let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

And this is our sorrow, friends, today, that he will not pass this way again. but should not joy mingle with sorrow that he has been permitted to pass this way once and to leave ~~xxx~~ blessings in his pathway. ?

And so I go on, not knowing.

I would not, if I might.

I would rather walk in the dark with God,
Than walk alone in the light,

I would rather walk with God by faith
Than walk alone by sight.
