

It only remains to mention that in obtaining the probabilities above set forth no account has been taken of the age of the wife at the date of marriage. Our conclusion therefrom will have no application to individual cases where the age of the wife is known, but are only applicable to the cases indicated at the outset, where the men we are considering are not contemplating marriage. In other words, we have calculated the probability that, if a man who is either now married or who is single and is not contemplating marriage, shall hereafter enter into a marriage at a certain age, the marriage will be unfruitful.

The following Gentleman was duly elected a Fellow of the Society :—

JOHN TURNBULL, Esq., of Abbey St Bathans.

Monday, 19th May 1879.

PRINCIPAL SIR ALEXANDER GRANT, BART.,
Vice-President, in the Chair.

1. Notice of the Death of the President of the Society.
By the Chairman.

Sir Alexander Grant said:—

GENTLEMEN,—We cannot pass to the proceedings of this evening without some reference to the calamity which has befallen the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and under the sorrowful impression of which we now meet—the sudden death of our honoured and well-beloved President.

We knew, alas ! gentlemen, that his health had been failing of late, and that when, only six months ago, he first took his seat as President of this Society, his vigour was impaired, at all events for the time.

But when the lamp of his spirit blazed up so brightly, in the address which he delivered to the University, less than one month since, and which was received with pleasure and enthusiasm by the students and his colleagues, and all the large audience

that were gathered round—on that occasion, I say, who could have expected that his end was so near? He seemed to exhibit vital force such as might carry him through many a year more upon this earth.

Perhaps, had he listened to the first premonitions of disease, had he recognised the necessity of repose and inaction, this might have been the case. But he was of too ardent a nature to “husband out life’s taper to the close,” and amidst the regrets and lamentations which have now been called forth, may we not say that there was some consolation in that last public scene? May we not almost say that he was *felix opportunitate mortis*? He died, like a victorious warrior, with the affectionate cheers of the University which he had loved so well still ringing in his ears. He sank surrounded by the hues of a refulgent and happy sunset after a long bright summer day.

I shall only venture, gentlemen, to offer a few words of personal recollection of our friend whom we have lost.

His kindly presence seems to belong to this room, as it does also to the University, and to the very streets of Edinburgh. His sympathetic nature led him always to identify himself with the human interests among which he found himself thrown. As professor of mathematics for forty-one years, he was not only one of the best and most highly appreciated teachers that the University of Edinburgh ever had, but also one of its most loyal members and devoted champions. In University matters he had that true insight which is begotten by sympathy; so that though he was an Englishman, born and bred in an English parsonage, and educated at Cambridge till he was thirty years old, he is acknowledged to have understood the Scotch Universities—better almost than any one else. In his addresses and his conversation he loved to dwell more on the merits than on the imperfections of the Universities of this country, and he earnestly deprecated any reforms which should destroy the essential character of those Universities. He had, in the best sense, a thoroughly academic mind. Indeed, he was the type and model of an academic figure. Of genuine piety; with deep learning in his own subject; with a modest, seemly, and dignified exterior; he was full of bright pleasantry and the sweet amenities of life. His interests were not confined to the Universities; he

adopted and took to his heart the broad land of Scotland; and it was a labour of love with him to assist in administering one of the most important of the educational Trusts of this country. It would be utterly out of place—both on this occasion and for myself—to attempt to speak of the scientific merits which rendered Professor Kelland worthy, by universal consent, to hold the high place of President in this Society. I will now merely recall one or two of his own utterances, still full of meaning for us, extracted from those addresses, which were always so pleasing and always so characteristic of him. Whenever I have listened to or read these addresses, they reminded me of that description of a Roman worthy :

Venit et Crispi jucunda senectus
Cujus erant mores, qualis facundia, mite
Ingenium.

The pleasant old man, Crispus,
Whose life and mind were, like his oratory,
All in a gentle strain.

But there was more than mere gentleness in Professor Kelland's utterances. He had the art of conveying many deep and pregnant truths in apparently light and mirthful sentences. I never knew a lecturer who was at the same time so sunny and so wise. Had his life been prolonged and his health restored, we might have expected him often to delight us from this chair. But it has otherwise seemed good to Providence.

Nineteen years ago Professor Kelland returned to his class after being face to face with death in a terrible railway accident. He had travelled sooner than some thought prudent after the injuries he had received. He said, in an address to his students, "I believed that the path of duty is the safest and the easiest path, and I acted on this conviction when, against the advice of my friends, I came down suddenly amongst you." He spoke then of the deaths of no less than twenty-nine professors which had occurred since he had joined the University, and he added, "but I am spared a little while." In that address he seemed to rise to a survey of human life, especially a life spent in pursuit of science. He paid a noble tribute to the earnest genius of Professor George Wilson, then recently dead, whom he compared and contrasted in a most interesting way with the great mathematician Baron Cauchy, and he quoted that beautiful saying, which might almost be considered to

have been the motto of Professor Kelland's life: "The measure of the happiness of a man is the number of things which he loves and blesses, which he is loved and blessed by." From the address which Professor Kelland delivered to us at the opening of this session, I must beg to quote three sentences. The first indicates the spirit in which he accepted the office of President. He said: "To myself this honour has come neither to gratify ambition nor to administer to self-conceit. It has descended on me all unsought, through the kindness of the many friends who have sat with me in this room, and the only emotion it awakens is that of affection and gratitude." In the second sentence which I shall recall, Professor Kelland evinces his warm interest in the rising generation of scientific workers. He says:—"One word which I venture on as both encouraging for the present and hopeful for the future, is the remarkable number of young men who are just entering on their work. In the fasciculus of the Society's Proceedings just issued, I count no less than eleven names of young men just entering on their career of investigation. How many of them have caught their inspiration from contact with those older workers who have been long among us? How many have been drawn out and cheered by the associations of this room." In the last sentence which I shall quote Professor Kelland teaches us how now we ought to regard himself. He says: "The feelings which arise on casting one's thoughts back through twenty years are full of sadness when they fasten on individual members of the Society whose presence at our meetings was a source of pleasure not unmixed with pride, but of sadness, brightened by glimpses of the future, when we think of them as members of a living body, as workers even now in the field which man has been sent into the world to cultivate—the field where truth is to be sought and found." As a member of that living body, as an immortal worker in that field of truth, with "sadness brightened by glimpses of the future," we must now think of Philip Kelland.

It was moved by the Chairman, "That the Society should request the Council to express to Mrs Kelland and family, the great regret experienced by the Society at the death of the President." The motion was carried unanimously.