As we contemplate the lofty qualities of many consecrated men of the past in Wilmington, whose chief end was to glorify God, whose self-sacrificing lives were devoted to the temporal and spiritual welfare of our people, we are moved to emotions of profound thankfulness that God has given us such Christ-like examples of His people who through faith and patience have inherited the promises. The honor roll is a long one, but their record is on high, and the last is of one who was loved with more than fraternal affection by his devoted people.

Those of us who had known Robert Strange from his boyhood and had witnessed the generous impulses of his school life; who had later watched with affectionate interest the moulding of a character that was to shine in the reflected glory of the King in His beauty; whose life was to expand from the narrower to the widest sphere of activity and usefulness, were proud of this prophet, who was not without honor in his own country, for we believed that he had seen the vision and as his Divine Exemplar's evangel would draw many men from worldliness to the better life. His gentle, genial, kindly nature, his exquisite courtesy of manner, his loving, sympathetic devotion to his people and indeed to all men, for he had an intense yearning for souls, were always manifest; but I think from the time of his great decision, when, like Samuel of old, he humbly responded to the call of Jehovah, the increasing beauty of his personal life was "the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." He was renewed in the image of God and was enabled more and more to die unto sin and to live unto righteousness.

His humanities were manifold and found expression in his constant solicitude for the health and happiness of the children of the city. Several times in the year he made an address to the pupils of the public schools, and he never went unprepared; there was a charm in what he said and in his manner of saying it that greatly pleased his eager listeners, and his appearance was always hailed with expressions of delighted appreciation. He gave much of his valuable time to various schemes for public playgrounds, and his patience and forbearance under repeated disappointments when his plans were almost accomplished are gratefully remembered by those who strove with him to obtain these benefits for the boys of Wilmington.

We were workers together in the Seamen's Friend Society of this port at a critical time in its history, when the forces of

evil baffled the efforts of the few who were faithful in promoting the welfare of the toilers of the sea, and it was largely due to his sympathy and support in the earlier days of his ministry that this important service was brought to a higher degree of efficiency.

In many other ways he was devoted to the welfare of the people whom he loved so well, and his constantly increasing activities, linked with the larger responsibilities of his sacred office, gradually undermined a constitution which had been greatly overtaxed. His sudden illness, which from the beginning filled us with sad forebodings, seemed for a time to yield to medical treatment, but the joy this brought to many hearts was evanescent, for it soon became apparent to those who discerned a change that the frail tenement was closing up its windows, and putting out its fires; but as the outward man failed, the inward man was renewed day by day, until his gentle spirit took its flight to be forever with the Lord.

It may be said of him in the dying words of General Havelock, while his devoted son held him in his arms, "For forty years I have tried so to live as to meet death without dismay."

One of Bishop Strange's rare qualities was a cheerful countenance and an abiding spirit of cheerfulness. "He wist not that his face so shone." And even under the inevitable shadow of clouds and darkness which sometimes obscured the light, he was never dismayed. Nor did he ever protest under a sense of injustice or unfairness.

"One single passion held his heart in sway;
An earnest craving for the pure and true.
And though at times God's face felt far away
His earth-dimmed eyes so deeply yearned to view;

"Still in the dark as in the light he smiled,
He said the sun was shining all the time;
And for the things he could not understand
He hoped and trusted in a love sublime."