

# In Memoriam

## Sir Donald Sangster

THE EDITOR, Sir:- On Thursday, April 13, at St. Augustine's Anglican Church, Mountainside, a conservative estimate of 9,000 people filed past the catafalque supporting the casket in which lay the body of Sir Donald Burns Sangster. It was a great tribute to the love and esteem in which the late Prime Minister was held by so many St. Elizabethans.

We are grateful to the Government for the honour paid and the privilege granted to us of paying our last respects to one who grew up amongst us at Mountainside, and afterward went on to achieve honour and world-wide respect in almost every country.

In the midst of his busy life, crowded with so many vital and important national and international duties, he yet made time to willingly come to us for the re-dedication by Bishop Vaughan of St. Augustine's, the church of his boyhood days. Earnestly he spoke to us then of the need to dwell together in unity, and to strive for the betterment of our country.

In company with all Jamaica we mourn his passing, and pray God to guide his successor in the paths of uprightness, wisdom and integrity which characterised Sir Donald, especially in the latter years of his political life.

Throughout the long hours of vigil at St. Augustine's, the following organists in relay played appropriate soft music, viz:- Messrs. Warren, Jones, Evon Grant, Captain Johnson, Mrs. Whittaker, Nurse Lawrence, Miss Roach, whilst the thousands of St. Elizabethans filled solemnly by the casket to take their last look at a great statesman who was yet a friend of the humblest of the poor. Whilst soft music filled the church, the following Catechists and teachers in relay kept vigil, kneeling at the Litany desk in the Sanctuary, viz:- Captain Cumberbatch, Messrs. Thompson, Crawford, Dunkley, Samms, Buchanan and B. B. Coke.

A team of ladies of the Church were responsible for the draperies as well as for hospitality and housing of the Military and Police Force who did a magnificent job in controlling and organising the vast crowds as they passed through the Church in an endless stream of humanity during the seven hours of vigil.

Tribute must be paid to Messrs. Bruce, Bennett, Rogers, and a number of others responsible for the preparation of the Church grounds and the erection of two arches of the national colours at the head of the two roads leading to the church. Also we thank the public officers responsible for making available needful washing facilities for those coming from far.

Amongst the prayers offered by those keeping vigil were the following:-

"For the splendid life and fine example set by Sir Donald who laid down his life in the service of his country and his people, we offer unto Thee, O Lord, our humble thanksgiving.

"Lord Jesus, Who didst suffer alone on the Cross, we ask Thee to be very near to all in sorrow and desolation today. Let Thy Presence turn their sorrow into comfort, their weakness into strength, and their mourning into consolation in the consciousness of Thy divine compassion, O Thou most strong Helper and Friend.

"O Thou Who art Love, passing all understanding, kindle in our hearts this day a loving and adventurous spirit like that of Sir Donald whose adventurous spirit did dare and even enjoy the risks of unselfish service in love of his country and of Thee. Help us all to be worthy of him, who, venturing all in obedience to Thy call, has gone forth to death with sure trust that in Thee he will rise to life again. We believe that for him 'the trumpets have sounded on the other side'. Alleluia! Amen and Amen."

### HE WALKED WITH GOD

How many souls were succoured on his journey - Helped by his words or prayers, we may not know; Still, this we read - words of an excelling grandeur - He "walked with God" while yet he walked below.

And, after years, long years, of such blest walking, One day he walked, then was not, God said "Come".

Come from the scene of weary strenuous labour. Come to the fuller fellowship of home!"

Such be the tribute of thy pilgrim journey

When life's last mile thy feet have bravely trod -

When thou hast gone to all that there awaits thee,

This simple epitaph -

"He walked with God!"

(Author unknown)

At 9 p.m. the Church doors were closed and as members of Military and Police reverently stood within, there followed a hushed moment of intense silence as with bowed heads they paid their tribute to a truly great man so suddenly called to Higher Service.

Then the Rector of the church stood by the Casket in prayer, saying, "Into Thy hands O Lord, we commend the soul of Thy servant, our beloved friend. May his tired body rest in peace until the final awakening when Thou

comest in Thy glory to gather together all Thine own. And now may the peace of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit rest and abide with you now and forever. Amen."

Thus the long hours of vigil ended. In silence the Rector left the Church, and through the night until day break a Military guard was now posted.

Sir Donald - Sadly we salute you -

Requiescat in pace!

I am, etc.,

REV. W. T. MUMFORD,

Delapre,

Munro College P.O.

April 15, 1967.

## A tribute to Sir Donald

Farewell, to thee, Sir Donald, noble statesman, brother, friend

We loathe these words to utter, on thee death's sting descend God's purpose He doth not reveal, ours not to wonder why He called you home; hopefully we pray, for rest beyond the sky - Farewell, Sir, Don, Farewell-

Your labours, gallant brother, are sadly o'er at last Years of strain and stress, their hardship on you cast Your unremitting devotion, your loyal sound advice

Your patriotism, all were blended, in your final sacrifice

-Farewell, Sir Don, Farewell-

We believed your ambition was to promote the national aim

That you would have led your nation to prosperity and fame

For such unflinching devotion and your national love

We pray you'll have a Portfolio in God's Cabinet above

-Farewell, Sir Don, Farewell-

E. CHASE ELLIOTT  
43 Duke Street,  
Kingston,  
April 18, 1967.

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THE EDITOR, Sir:- Please grant me a few lines of space in your excellent paper in order to let me on behalf of the few

Danish people living here in Kingston, pay the last tribute to the memory of the late Prime Minister, Sir Donald B. Sangster.

There are not many of us from Denmark living here in Jamaica, but those of us who met after the tragic circumstances which led to the death of Sir Donald, could not help but compare him to a person who is very close to us even though we live in a foreign country. I am referring to the Danish King Federik IX.

Both of them were popular beyond belief, both of them were never short of kind words to rich or poor, but most important, both of them were so dedicated in their service to people and country, that we who lived under their government had a feeling of security.

The Danish King is still alive, Sir Donald is unfortunately dead.

He will be sadly missed by us as well as other foreigners living here in Jamaica.

May his soul rest in peace!

I am, etc.,

PAUL SCHMIDT

19 Morningside Drive,

Kingston 8.

April 15, 1967.

## A tribute to Sir Donald

Sigh a tear is shed, how fast the news was spread, you'd left us.

Rest in peace Sir Donald Sangster 'tis a rest you really need.

We cannot say, this morning, that you've ever toiled in vain

Cause you've left us an example in these beautiful words-

"The meek shall inherit the earth"-

A tree, said Carl Sandburg "Is best measured when it's down"

How true!

You were a Christian gentleman, and for this we honour you.

ALFRED SMART JR.  
3B Shortwood Avenue,  
King ton 8,  
April 13, 1967.

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Daily Observer; April 21 '67, Page 18: 7-9.