

**A TRIBUTE TO THE
MEMORY OF
ROBERT KELLY**

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A Tribute to the Memory of Robert Kelly by Edgar S. Van Winkle

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EDGAR S. VAN WINKLE

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 ROBERT KELLY.



An Address,

DELIVERED JUNE 4, 1856,

BY EDGAR S. VAN WINKLE,
 BEFORE THE CENTURY AND THE COLUMN,
 AND PRINTED BY THEIR ORDER.

"Only the memory of the just
 Smells sweet and blooms in the dust."



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1856.

At the regular monthly meeting of THE CENTURY, held at No. 24 Clinton Place, on Saturday evening, May 3d, 1856, the Hon. GULIAN C. VERPLANCK in the chair, and a full attendance of members present—

Mr. CHARLES M. LEUPP called to the notice of the Club the decease of Mr. ROBERT KELLY, one of its founders, who, up to the last meeting at which he had been present and called it to order, had been one of its most esteemed and active members.

Mr. LEUPP alluded in warm terms to the many claims that Mr. KELLY had upon the regard of its members, and to the fact that on the decease of Mr. DANIEL SKYMOUR an eulogium had been delivered before the Club by Mr. KELLY. He suggested the propriety of some action of the Club expressive of their regret at the loss they had now sustained.

On motion of Mr. LEUPP, it was

Resolved, That Mr. EDGAR S. VAN WINKLE be requested to deliver an eulogium upon the life and character of Mr. Kelly, and that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to make arrangements therefor.

The chair appointed Mr. CHARLES M. LEUPP, Mr. OLIVER S. STRONG, and Mr. B. R. WINTHROP such committee.

On motion of Mr. OLIVER S. STRONG, it was

Resolved, That The Century has heard, with deep emotion, the announcement of the death of ROBERT KELLY, one of its founders and constant members.

That his cultivated mind and varied accomplishments in many departments of learning; the deep interest he took in the cause of education; the active and zealous devotion of his life to the moral and intellectual improvement of his fellow-men; his eminently practical abilities; his public usefulness and private worth, rendered him a most valuable member of this association, and impress us deeply with the loss we have sustained by his death.

That while with the public in general we deplore his decease, it is gratifying to know that we in particular enjoyed a closer communion with him living; and, as members of The Century, we feel proud of his talents, his virtues, his active benevolence, and his varied usefulness.

That we deeply sympathize with his family in their affliction, and tender to them the expression of our unfeigned sorrow.

That these resolutions be entered on our minutes, and a copy be communicated by the secretary to the family of the deceased.

[From the Minutes.]

BAILEY MYERS, Sec'y.

At a monthly meeting of THE CENTURY Club, held at No. 24 Clinton Place, on Wednesday evening, June 4th, 1856, the Hon. GULIAN C. VERPLANCK in the chair—

The members of the THE COLUMN were present by invitation.

Mr. EDGAR S. VAN WINKLE, in compliance with the joint invitation of THE COLUMN and THE CENTURY, delivered an eulogium commemorative of the life and character of the late ROBERT KELLY, one of the founders, and a member of both associations.

On motion of Mr. WILLIAM M. EVARTS, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of The Column and The Century be returned to Mr. VAN WINKLE for his beautiful and appropriate effort, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same to The Century for publication.

[From the Minutes.]

BAILEY MYERS, Sec'y.

At a meeting of The Column, held April 28, 1856, Mr. LEPP having announced the death of ROBERT KELLY, it was

Resolved, That EDGAR S. VAN WINKLE be requested to deliver an eulogium commemorative of the virtues of our fellow-member, before the Society, at such time as he may appoint.

[Extract from the Minutes.]

OLIVER S. STRONG, Sec'y.

A D D R E S S .

Fellow-Members of THE CENTURY and Brethren of THE COLLEGE :

We have met together, to pay, in common, a tribute of respect to the memory of our departed friend, **ROBERT KELLY.**

Selected by both bodies to deliver an address on the character of Mr. Kelly, I found, in preparing for the discharge of the duty I had undertaken, that so much I would wish to say would be appropriate to both institutions, and so little exclusively pertinent to either, that it was expedient to address you jointly, unless some reason, not apparent to me, existed to the contrary.

On consulting many members of each Society, the proposition was approved, and the Committee of The Century adopted the necessary measures to carry it into effect.

Besides, as whenever *I* should speak of Kelly, I

would speak also of The Column, the union of the two societies in one audience renders those allusions I may make both just and proper, which might seem intrusive or alien to The Century alone.

Thirty years (a large segment of the petty circle of human life) have elapsed since Mr. Kelly was associated with several now present in founding The Column. Since then, youth has ripened to manhood; life has advanced far on its voyage; each one has assumed his place in the busy world—has become engrossed in business or in cares—has pursued his pleasures and his duties—has experienced his joys and his sorrows, his reverses and his triumphs;—and yet, after all the vicissitudes of these thirty years, most of the survivors of that little band still gather around The Column, and still cherish its endearing friendships; the delight of their youth tempered into the solace of their manhood.

From the foundation of The Column until his death, Mr. Kelly was a constant and prominent member, and always bore towards it a very ardent attachment. His surviving brother, in a communication obligingly and kindly furnished me, says:—"His intercourse with the members of The Century and Sketch Club was most agreeable to him; but there was one fraternity which was his first and continued to be his

chief love—'The Column.' A member of it for thirty years, he regarded his brother members with peculiar affection. The weekly meetings of this society, continued through many years, did much to train him for the important station he was called to occupy; and his association with the gentlemen of The Column I regard as having been the chief means of maintaining in him a love of study and literary pursuits, and preventing him from becoming a mere man of business."

A friendship which was so intimate and so enduring Death has rudely severed; but I trust it will form a sufficient apology for my addressing some few remarks, more particularly, to the members of The Column.

The Century, with its varied interests, its troops of members, in the pride of its youth, and the flush of its success—with its eye upon an auspicious future and a long career of prosperity opening before it—may, on such an occasion of a common bereavement, gracefully yield something to The Column, whose life is in the past, and whose chief pleasures lie in its memories.

Connected with Mr. Kelly as I have been, in both institutions, from their origin, I know the loss that each has suffered; and if I affectionately magnify The