

Sir William Campbell Johnston, W.S., LL.D.

SIR WILLIAM CAMPBELL JOHNSTON, who died on October 6, 1938, was the last survivor in his generation of a distinguished family which included the Hon. Lord Johnston, Col. Sir Duncan Johnston, K.C.M.G., C.B., Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, and Dr Mackenzie Johnston. He was born in 1860, his father being Henry Johnston, surgeon in the Honourable East India Company's service. After completing his education at Clifton College he was apprenticed as a W.S. and was admitted to membership of the Society in 1885.

He rapidly made a name for himself in legal circles and took an active part in the councils of the W.S. Society. In 1922 he became Collector of the Widows Fund, and was appointed Deputy Keeper of the Signet in 1924 on the resignation of Sir George Paul—an office which he held until his resignation in 1935. He received the Honorary Degree of LL.D. from the University of Edinburgh in 1928 and was knighted in 1934. He was admitted to the Fellowship of the Society in 1934.

He was the trusted adviser of a large circle of clients and held many important legal appointments. He was also a Director of many important financial institutions, amongst them the Commercial Bank of Scotland Ltd. and the Life Association of Scotland. Keenly interested in education, he was a Governor of Fettes College and of Keil College, Dumbarton, and was Clerk to the Governors of Morrisons Academy, Crieff. He had also a close interest in John Watson's School for fatherless children, the Governors of which are the Keeper and Commissioners of the Signet. All these institutions owed much to his guidance.

During his tenure of office as Deputy Keeper important legal developments took place, in which he had a large part. One of these was the passing of the Solicitors (Scotland) Act, 1933, which set up the General Council of Solicitors as the governing body of solicitors in Scotland. He was elected the first Chairman of this body, and the smoothness with which the new machinery worked was largely due to his genius for obtaining the collaboration of others and to the universal respect in which he was held.

Sir William had many interests other than purely professional. He was a member of the King's Bodyguard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers). In his younger days he was a noted cricketer, but in later years golf was his main recreation.

Predominant amongst his interests, however, was the W.S. Society, and the affection with which he was regarded was evidenced in 1932 when members of the Society subscribed for his portrait which now hangs in the rooms of the Society, and again in 1934 when he was entertained at a banquet in the Parliament Hall by members of the Society.

E. M. W.