

A letter to the Mayor dated 19/8/1888
from A.R.Hall East Prahran
To the Mayor and Councillors. Ballarat.

Gentlemen

Whilst glancing over a Ballarat paper sent to me by a friend I was shocked to read that a meeting had been called for the purpose of creating a memorial to the memory of F.M.Claxton .Shocked because it was the first inyimatuion I had of the Mayor's death. I knew him in the early days of Ballarat and have been on the most friendly terms and intimacy with him for over thirty years. I have therefore penned a few lines in memoriam as a tribute of respect,and would deem it a compliment if the Council would accept them in the late Mayor's honor..I therefore enclose them and have the pleasure od subscribing myself. Gentlemen yr,obd svt

CLAXTON

A Tribute from A.R.Hall of East Prahran 18/4/1888

IN MEMORIA

" I knew him well! No man more just I'd wish to call a friend !
"Nor wish , my now declining years - less honorable to end.
"Nature's gentleman indeed was he!
"The sick, the poor, he'd feed.
"To any friends a helping hand he'd give in time of need.

Proud !

To what said - to serve the City for the City's good.

Ambition !

Only to what end - when rightly understood.

"And so for whom to mourn is to mourn a loss irreparable !
"A lost friend ! A city's lost advocate ! A man of parts
"both great and good - whose amiabilities won the hearts
"of men of every class ! Friendships indeed ! Inseparable
"from fame and honor - the characteristics of such men!
"Agree to erect a a monument of acknowledged worth - and then
"The native born will point with pride to strangers when they come
"and say - "Strangers ! This City possesses men of worth
"men of genius, men of high calibre ! There are some
"gifted to govern others - gifts inherited from birth,
"Instilled in their motives, their souls - by a power supreme,
"that they may use these gifts -not alone to their well earned fame
"But to their surroundings - to their fellow men - their esteem
"to merit!
" This monument is erected to the name
"of one a leader in the cause of philanthropy!
"A man firm - steadfast of purpose, ne'er turns aside would he
"From promise given, his word his bond, his bond his honor
"Gifts to charity unpublished - of was he the donor"

"Strangers !

"Such men, we native born, love to commemorate.
"Such men do we honor - nay more - we them do venerate !
"Chief Magistrate of so grand a City - for him we mourned.
"Fernery - gardens - from virgin soil, sweet nature such adorned.
"To him we owe the aid he gave - the leading part he took
"The projects for the City he never once forsook,
The aid he gave to planting trees - the City's pleasant sights
"The champion he ever was for constitutional rights.
."Then will our boys respect his name, elect him as their guide
"And our girls speak of its worth as each becomes a bride."

"I knew him well. a friend of thirty years,
"Thus I may honor give, profound respect, friendships loyal tears.

H.R.A.