



Mr Edward McGlashan, who in bygone days filled a not unimportant part in the history of Otago, passed away quietly at his residence, St. Clair, on Wednesday 31st July 1889.

[On 10th May 2011 his beautiful memorial in Dunedin's Northern Cemetery, after standing proudly for some 120 years, was caught by the gale force wind – an act of God - toppled and smashed, but has been repaired.]

For some years his health has been such as to cause his friends a large amount of anxiety, but it was only last week that serious symptoms manifested themselves. Dr Burns was at once consulted, but it was quite apparent that the end was near, and from that time till his death Mr McGlashan did not regain consciousness.

He was born at Edinburgh on December 12, 1817, and had thus passed his 72nd year. He was fortunate in obtaining an excellent education and in receiving a mercantile training, which prepared him, in a way that few of the colonists were prepared, for life in a new country. It was to Adelaide that he first emigrated — the period being 1848, — but, after visiting Melbourne, he came to Otago in 1850. For a short time he held the office of registrar of the first Supreme Court in the settlement, presided over by Mr Justice Stephen, but subsequently he leased from Mr Valpy the first flour mill erected on the Water of Leith, in conjunction with the milling business he carried on a store and auction room in Princes street.

In 1858 he entered into partnership with Mr W. Carr Young (whose name cropped up frequently in the course of the evidence in the Winmill-Gallie case), and this firm carried on an extensive trade from 1858 until the dissolution of partnership soon after the discovery of the goldfields. Mr McGlashan's energy was next directed towards the establishment of another industry in the Leith Valley, the manufacture of paper — an industry which is still carried on by Messrs Fergusson and Mitchell on the same spot.

He had a leading share in the establishment and development of many other industries, but in the later years of his life he enjoyed the leisure which he had so thoroughly earned. Politically Mr McGlashan was for nearly a score of years one of the most prominent figures in the provincial district. He occupied a seat in the first, and also in the second Provincial Council, but was defeated on seeking election for a new constituency in 1861, and did not recover his seat until 1871, from which time he held it until the abolition of the provinces in 1876.

For several years also he was a member of the House of Representatives, his last constituency being Roslyn, which he represented from 1871 until the dissolution in 1876. He was defeated by Mr Dick upon the only occasion upon which he contested the Superintendency.

He was twice married — on the second occasion to a daughter of Mr George Bell, of this city, who survives him. He was highly esteemed as a citizen, but the life of retirement which he led latterly caused him to drop somewhat out of sight. By his death another of the now slender chain of links, connecting the present with the past history of Otago, has been severed.

Prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand from information in PapersPast, Otago Witness, Issue 1968, 8 August 1889, Page 9