

**Leonard Jordan**

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**DEATH OF MR. L. JORDAN. J.P., OF NEWPORT**

**WIDE BUSINESS AND LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS.**

It is with a deep sense of loss that we record the death on Sunday at his residence, West Thorpe, Carisbrooke-road, Newport, of Mr. Leonard Jordan, J.P., aged 75. Mr. Jordan was for over half a century one of the Island's leading business men. He possessed marked literary gifts and was an authority on the Island's place in literary history. His charming manner made him welcome wherever he went. In public life he was fearless but cultured in debate, and in private he was always courteous and helpful.

Born in Carisbrooke, Mr. Jordan was the elder son of Samuel Jordan, J.P., of The Cedars, and was educated at Taunton School. Here he exhibited early literary leanings, became a regular contributor to the school magazine and assisted with the libretti of school plays. As a youth he spent four years in London learning the grocery trade, and during this period came under the influence of many of the younger authors of that time associated with the Fabian Society. On his return to the Island his literary instincts were fostered by Professor Henry Morley, L.L.D., then residing at Palissy House, Carisbrooke, where a weekly reading circle was held. Mr. Jordan seized every opportunity of meeting the literary giants of his day, and in the course of numerous interesting lectures delivered in later life he was able to draw on a rich fund of personal reminiscences of famous folk moving in late Victorian literary circles. These included Alfred Lord Tennyson, whom Mr. Jordan first met at the home of Miss Tuttielt (Maxwell Gray), in Castle-road, Newport, George Bernard Shaw, and Rudyard Kipling. He also met Francis Thompson, the poet, in dramatic circumstances as a lad in London. Mr. Jordan's literary style has been described by C. J. Arnell in "Poets of the Wight" as "characterised by a great deal of taste, feeling, and charm, and an undeniable mastery of technique, indicating greater possibilities and more leisure afforded him further opportunities to continue his pursuit of the muse." Readers will remember the series of articles which he contributed to our columns some years ago over the signature "John Leisure," entitled "Walks and Talks" and "Within and Without." He also contributed to various magazines and periodicals under the pen-names of "Laurance Joyce" and Franklyn Thorpe."

In the midst of a very full life as a business man, and as a member of public authorities and local organisations, it is remarkable that he found any time at all for literary pursuits. The wholesale and retail grocery business of Jordan and Stanley, founded in 1861, absorbed much of his time and energies. He succeeded his father in partnership with the late Mr. J. W. S. Stanley about the beginning of the present century and was the principal for many years. The business established a high reputation, and there were many expressions of regret when Mr. Jordan severed his connection with it in April last. April has been a significant month in the history of the business, for it was in April, 1903, that a disastrous fire gutted the firm's main premises in Nodehill, Newport, and in April, 1943, that the re-

erected building was once again destroyed, this time by a German bomb. This last misfortune was a great blow to Mr. Jordan, whose health had not been good previously.

Mr. Jordan filled many public offices with ability, among them being membership of the Newport Town Council for a three year-term in the early 1900s, and representation of the Newport North-west Division of the County Council from 1910 to 1918. In 1914 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Newport, and he was a co-opted member of the Borough Education Committee from 1920 until shortly before its absorption by the county authority early in 1945. An earnest supporter of the Liberal cause, he was hon. secretary of the I.W. Liberal Union from 1892 until 1907, when he received an illuminated address in recognition of his valued services, and he had also held office as president of the Newport and District Liberal association, and in connection with the Newport Liberal Club. On the political platform he was a fluent speaker. In the 1935 general election he was one of several prominent Island Liberals who supported the Conservative Party.

As one of the earliest members of the I.W. Chamber of Commerce he took a leading part in the deliberations of that body and remained a vice-president until his death. He was a past president both of the Chamber and of the Newport Rotary Club, of which he was a founder member. He was also hon. treasurer of the I.W. Grocers' Council from its inception until his retirement about a year ago, and a member and past grand of the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Odd-fellows. A keen supporter of educational and allied organisations, he retained a lifelong connection with Taunton School as a trustee, as well as being closely associated with the work of University College, Southampton, and of the Central Wight Boy Scout Association. He was also a member of the exclusive London Eighty Club. There was a strong family association with the Newport Congregational Church, and Mrs. Jordan followed the example of his father in becoming a trustee, an office which he had held since 1910. His activities were as varied as his habit was energetic, and an entry in the I.W. "Who's Who," published in 1913, which gives his recreations as "Public affairs, nature study, photography, and pass-traversing," illustrated the wide and varied nature of his tastes.

Much sympathy is felt with his widow and family of five daughters and one son (Mr. David Jordan), who is an agricultural officer under the Colonial Office of Sierra Leone.

### **The Funeral.**

The funeral service took place on Thursday at the Newport Parish Church in the presence of a large and representative congregation. The Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley (vicar of Arreton) officiated and the procession was met at the church entrance by the robed choir. Miss K. Lower, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., L.T.C.L., was at the organ and the service included the hymns "Abide with me" and "Crossing the bar." Mr. Wheatley referred to Mr. Jordan's rare combination of qualities which he used for the welfare of the public. In business his integrity was unquestioned and he used his not inconsiderable influence to encourage his fellow business men to maintain high ideals. He was very well informed in Island history and traditions, particularly in regard to the Borough of Newport, and all who had enjoyed his friendship had been greatly enriched by it. The service concluded with the Nunc Dimittis chanted as the cortege left. The mourners were Mrs. Jordan (widow), the Misses P., V., M. E. P., and R. Jordan (daughters), Mr. H. G. Jordan, of Wallingford (brother), and Miss Tilley (sister-in-law).

Those also attending included the Mayor of Newport (Mr. A. E. King, C.C.), Ald. J. C. Millgate, J.P., Mr. F. E. Whitcher, J.P., Ald. Mrs. E. R. Chandler, J.P. (also representing Mr. W. H. P. Chandler), Mrs. C. Abraham, J.P., Mr. G. C. Russell, J.P., C.C., T.C., and Mr. W. G. Sibbick, J.P. (editor of the "County Press"), Mr. P. W. Harman (representing Mr. H. R. Palmer, magistrates' clerk, and Mr. Edward W. Way), Messrs. E. Jordan, M.I.E.E. (president), and H. B. Fowler and F. Burton (vice-presidents), representing the Chamber of Commerce; Messrs. O. G. Day (president), J. F. Launder, T.C. (hon. secretary), J. Dufton, A. G. Harrison, T. Ross Pratt, J. H. Linington, and G. A. Purkis, representing Newport Rotary Club; Mr. C. Golding (secretary and agent, I.W. Liberal Association, also representing Sir Godfrey Baring, Bt., D.L., C.A., president, and Lieut-Col. S. Chatfeild-Clarke, D.L., V.D., C.A., hon. treasurer; Messrs. A. D. Callaway, P. Sullivan, W. J. Way, C. V. Cheverton, and L. H. Morgan (representing the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Odd-fellows), Police Inspector A. R. Bird and Sergt. Steer (representing I.W. Division of the Hampshire Joint Police Force), Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Pritchard, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Hayles, Mrs. F. J. and Miss M. Morris, Mesdames F. E. Whitcher, T. Ross Pratt, Vibert, Curtis (representing Mr. W. J. Whittington, J.P.), Stanley, H. Morris (representing the Newport District Nursing Association and also Ald. Blake, J.P., and Mrs. Blake), Harbourne, Gwilliam, and Frost, the Misses Gill-Martin, Oram, M. J. Purkis, Walden, Webb (representing Mrs. Webb), Reynolds (Newport V.A.D.), and H. Westmore, the Revs. J. M. Connor, D.S.O., T. E. R. Langridge (Congregational) and G. R. Buckley (Unitarian), Ald. J. J. Simmonds and Messrs. C. Morris Dabell (a governor representing Taunton School), J. A. Self, G. T. Harris, A. Mearman, W. Guy, E. J. White, O. Veness, W. L. Bright (also representing Mr. F. W. Bright), S. Daish (district Scoutmaster, representing the Central Wight Boy Scouts' Association), J. H. Burgess, of East Cowes (representing Mr. B. B. and Miss Urry), H. Lower, H. E. Harvey, T.C., F. W. Lock, G. Norman, C.C., W. J. Lower, L. H. Morris, E. F. Millgate (St. John's Ambulance Brigade), P. G. Jenkins (representing Messrs. Gould, Hibberd, and Randall and Mr. G. S. Hibberd), H. H. Gould, C. J. Smart (representing Messrs. A. W. Abraham and Co., Ltd.), H. E. Waterson (representing the director of education and the Newport County Secondary Grammar School), E. S. Clark, of Totland Bay (also representing Mr. H. Marfleet), G. H. Snellgrove, C. Chiverton, J. G. Truscott, G. E. Tomlinson, G. E. Mills (St. Thomas's Bible Class), H. W. Lincoln, T.C., H. S. Porter, W. Upward, F. H. Damp, A. A. Lewis, and I. Crutcher.

The I.W. Grocers' Council were represented by Ald. J. E. Jackson (president), Messrs. F. J. Wray (hon. treasurer), F. Chiverton (hon. secretary, also representing the National Federation of Grocers' Associations), E. W. R. Sherwood (hon. auditor), A. Kent (Shanklin), H. G. Jolliffe (Ryde), E. J. Downer and E. Lacey (Freshwater), E. S. Miller and A. L. Dore and Miss A. Colson (Newport), F. J. Biddlecombe and R. Bennett (Cowes), and J. Riddick (Bembridge). Messrs. Upward and Rich were represented by Mr. W. G. Cutmore (also representing Miss Rich), and Messrs. L. Caplehorn (also representing Mr. E. G. Taylor), G. Loveless (also representing Mr. H. J. Wise), and D. Dove. Messrs. W. H. Cure (Board of Trade Match Control Inspector) and W. H. Pearce (representing the Chiswick Polish Company) were also present, together with the former employees of Messrs. Jordan and Stanley; Mrs. Wyatt, the Misses Hondy, D. Hughes, N. Chandler, and K. Jolliffe, and Messrs. W. H. Cousins, H. C. Harbourne, F. H. Gwilliam, W. Woodford, G. Russell, P. Groves, F. W. Dukes, K. E. Miller, G. Cooley, and O. E. Long.

The interment followed at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

Members of the I.W. Grocers' Council who attended the funeral afterwards met in the board-room of Messrs. Upward and Rich, Newport, and the President and Messrs. H. G. Jolliffe, F. J. Wray, and W. G. Cutmore paid moving tributes to Mr. Jordan's work and worth. It was decided that the secretary should write to Mrs. Jordan and family conveying the sympathy of the members and their appreciation of Mr. Jordan's valued support in connection with the Island Wholesalers' War-Time Association.

#### **A TRIBUTE**

"Vectensis" writes: my friend Leonard Jordan was great in stature, heart, and mind. Many times, when I was a lad and he a full-grown man, have I seen him striding away over the Island downs which he loved; many times since have I been privileged to know of the greatness of his heart; and many times have I enjoyed hearing and reading the products of his well stored mind in speech and writing. His neatly phrased speeches, always lucid, never over-done, were pleasant to hear, and his writings, full of apt quotations from the masters of poetry and prose, were always uplifting to read. Many of my readers will remember the series of articles entitled "Walks and Talks - A Monthly Causerie." which he contributed some years ago to the "County Press" in the name of "John Leisure." They contained a wealth of appreciation of his Island home, and of sound philosophy as well. He was a great lover of poetry, and no mean poet himself. A verse of one of his poems entitled "The Dedicated Life," which is included in C. J. Arnell's anthology "Poets of the Wight," may well be quoted as his ideal:

"Not in some world apart but here and now  
In humble duties we may realise  
The higher self, the nobler self, and rise  
Godward: in storm and stress we must allow  
The daily common task, the simple vow,  
Once entered on to be accomplished. Skies  
Are distant, 'tis in them our heaven lies:  
The troubled sea of life is 'neath our prow."

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,  
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