

# Memorial service to our late minister, M. C. R. Paravicini

Autor(en): **W. D.**

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## MEMORIAL SERVICE TO OUR LATE MINISTER, M. C. R. PARAVICINI.

Held at the Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

On Tuesday, November 18th, 1947, the Swiss Church was filled almost to capacity with members of the colony who had come to pay their last tribute of esteem and affection to their late Minister, who had guided them over so many years. It was a large and representative gathering of both sexes, amongst which the older members of the Swiss in London were particularly numerous, doubtless due to the fact that they had known M. Paravicini already during those years, when he was attached to the Legation in the capacity of Secretary and Counsellor. It was then that he began to endear himself to his compatriots by his unflinching courtesy and great charm of manner, but when he returned to London as Minister, he became known to a still larger circle of his countrymen and countrywomen, who learnt to admire and esteem him for his many great qualities. The senior members of the Legation were nearly all present, to do honour to their late chief.

At 12.30 p.m. a small procession entered, headed by M. le Pasteur M. Pradervand, followed by Lieut.-Col. Vincent Paravicini, the son, Mme G. Mc. Murtrie Godley, elder daughter, M. le Ministre Paul Ruegger and Mme Ruegger, and Dr. Escher, Counsellor of Legation, whilst the organ pealed forth the ever impressive and moving strains of Chopin's funeral march.

M. Pradervand then led the congregation in prayer, after which followed the Hymn "Consolez vos cœurs qui pleurent." The readings from the Scriptures com-

prised the 121st Psalm, the Epistle of St. John, Chap. 14, verses 1—4 and 15—21 and lastly the First Letter of the Corinthians, Chap. 15. M. Pradervand then addressed the assembly, stressing that, whilst all who had known the dear departed, deplored and mourned his passing, there was also reason for Christian joy and gratitude. A rich and full life had come to a peaceful close; a life not lived for selfish ends, but in the service of his beloved country and devoted to his fellow countrymen; a shining example to follow.

The congregation then listened devoutly to a beautiful soprano solo: "God shall wipe away all tears." Amidst an expectant hush the Swiss Minister, M. P. Ruegger, rose to pay his tribute to his late and revered chief. He was greatly moved and said that only those who had served under M. Paravicini could fully gauge the loss they had suffered, which Switzerland had suffered and what a great void his passing left behind. The Minister mentioned the great tasks his predecessor had so nobly fulfilled, at home and abroad and particularly during his long and distinguished tenure of office in London. Even after his retirement from the Diplomatic Service, during the last great war, the Swiss Government frequently sought the advice of M. Paravicini, whose unrivalled experience was invaluable to them and who gladly assisted them with his great knowledge of men and affairs.

After the Minister's sympathetic peroration there followed another Hymn: "Nous sommes au Seigneur et non point à nous-même" and a beautiful concluding prayer, spoken by the Rev. H. K. Blum.

M. Pradervand pronounced the benediction and then the large congregation filed slowly out from the little Church, so dear to every Swiss, and on this occasion so beautifully decorated with white and bronze chrysanthemums, into the cold November air, but uplifted by the thought that a moving and worthy tribute had been paid to one who had deserved so well of his country and the stirring times in which he spent his great and busy life.

His memory will live amongst all who were privileged to know him; may he rest in peace!

W.D.

TO :

### THE SWISS COLONY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Deeply touched by your most kind messages of sympathy in my grievous loss and by the magnificent wreath from "Die Schweizer Vereine, London," I beg you on behalf of myself and on behalf of my children, to accept our profound gratitude.

God, in His mercy, granted my dear husband a painless and a sudden death.

Since we returned to our beloved country, his affection for the Colony and interest in its welfare remained unchanged and he was full of admiration for and took pride in the heroism of his countrymen in Great Britain during the war.

My husband was so pleased when he heard that the interests of the Colony in the United Kingdom were to be placed in the able hands of his dear friend Minister Ruegger.

With the renewed assurance of our heartfelt thanks, I remain, dear Friends, yours gratefully,  
*Lilian Paravicini-de Watteville.*

Oberhofen,  
Lac de Thoune.

Gang lueg d'Heimat a!  
Va revoir ton beau Pays!  
Va a vedere il tuo Paese!  
Va a vera teis Pajais!.....

.....and tell your English friends making holiday plans of the warm and sincere Welcome awaiting them in Switzerland.

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