

University of Virginia.  
30. May, 1885.

Capt. J. Barron Hopt.  
Norfolk.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your graceful and touching Memorial Poem. It is stirring and appropriate. You have struck the chords with a gallant hand, and waked the sleeping music of un-forgotten dreams. There is living truth in the happy manner in which you have linked the sorrows of disappointed hopes and faded lives with the sober wisdom of the present, and the changed, but larger promise of the coming year.

There is but one jarring strain in this epic-dian hymn. This is formed by the paragraphs. I cannot call them stanzas - in which you enumerate the names of the slain, familiar to the ears, and fresh in the grieving memory of your auditors. The task was obligatoire; nevertheless, it made the

solemn flow of the elegy.

It may be doubted whether the enumeration of names would not be an unsuccessful effort in any hands, but those of Stormer and Linton. It may be conjectured that even they would have failed with the nomenclature of recent and unforgotten dead.

Sir Walter Scott and Campbell certainly did fail in such an endeavour.

Poetry is ideal, and beyond the sphere of time and actual place. Its airy flight is disturbed by too close connection with the fact and place of familiar existence, however elevated these may be.

It always gives me the liveliest gratification to hear of, or from you, directly, or indirectly, and to be assured of your kind remembrance and regard.

We were glad to learn the recovery of your daughter - M<sup>rs</sup> Holmes, my daughter, Isabel, and myself desire our best regards.

Yours Affly  
Geo. Fred Holmes.