

Bjornstjerne Bjornson.

Bjornstjerne Bjornson died last Tuesday, 78 years old.

In the death of Bjornson one of the most remarkable men of modern times passed away. Few men have left a deeper imprint upon the sands of time than he.

Primarily, Bjornson was the lyric poet; as such he has few equals, ancient or modern. But he was nearly as great as a dramatist, and as a writer of novels and short stories he ranks very high. He has enriched the literature of Norway as no other man has done.

But Bjornson did not confine his activities to the production of literary masterpieces. He was intensely interested in everything regarding the welfare of the common people and in the progress of liberal reforms both in his own and in other countries. He was easily the greatest orator of his country and he was ever ready with his pen or on the platform to take active part in the discussions of all questions, great or small.

Now his pen and his tongue are still. For over fifty years he was the storm center, the dynamic force in all agitation for reforms in his native country. He has sung the loves of his people, and given their longings poetic expression; he has chastised their vices; he has charmed them by his songs and stories; aroused them by his orations; he has torn down old standards and built up new ones. Always he was the fearless agitator, causing new adjustments and fruitful growth.

Norway and the world at large owe a great debt to Bjornstjerne Bjornson.