

ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE, O.M.

The death at the ripe age of 90 of Alfred Russel Wallace ought not pass unnoticed in Darwin's University. To avoid the strain of much handshaking he was obliged to decline the invitation to be present in Cambridge four years ago when the scientists of the whole world assembled to do honour to Darwin's memory. But his absence was felt. At the banquet his name was greeted with acclamation, and a message of enthusiastic greeting was telegraphed by the distinguished company to the man who would have made that company complete. Fearless, simple-minded, disinterested, a fighter for (though perhaps sometimes a little over-credulous) truth, and a constant defender of the oppressed, Wallace will be long remembered. The manuscript of his address to the Linnean Society, delivered fifty years after the reading before that Society of the papers by Darwin and himself which first announced the theory associated with their names, has been placed on exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum, with autographs of Darwin, Lyell, and Hooker. It is one of the most magnanimous utterances in the whole history of science.