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*With the respects of Mrs. B. F. Perry.*

# TRIBUTE

TO

Benjamin Franklin Perry,

EX-GOVERNOR.

OF

SOUTH CAROLINA.

---

BORN  
NOVEMBER 20, 1805.

DIED  
DECEMBER 3, 1886.

---

“THE WORLD IS BETTER  
THAT HE LIVED.”

✻ DECEMBER 3, 1888. ✻

“IN HIMSELF WAS ALL HIS STATE.”

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FIRST EDITION, 3000.

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SHANNON & Co., Printers,  
Greenville, S. C.



COMPILED  
BY THE WIFE  
FROM THE MANY COMMUNICATIONS  
RECEIVED,  
IN MEMORY OF THE HUSBAND,  
ON THE  
SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF HER LOSS,  
DECEMBER 3, 1888.

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*"He was as firm as Cato,  
and  
As just as Aristides."*





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SANS SOUCI, THE RESIDENCE OF EX-GOV. PERRY.





## EX-GOVERNOR B. F. PERRY.

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### SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

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(This sketch of Governor Perry was written many years ago, during his life, and though not differing materially from other sketches written of him, the character of Governor Perry is portrayed in so true and vivid a manner, his wife has been tempted to put it in this Tribute to him, in order to preserve it in a durable form.)

This eminent and distinguished gentleman, so widely and favorably known throughout the United States, resides so near the city of Greenville that he is claimed as a citizen thereof, having, until a short time since, resided directly in the city. Governor Perry, although having retired from the active practice of his profession, is still daily seen at his old office, on Main street, his son, Col. W. H. Perry, being the active partner of the law firm of Perry & Perry.

Governor Perry retains still much vigor of constitution, and his firm tread and elastic step would indicate that he is a much younger man than he really is. Of large and commanding person, with striking intellectuality of face, he readily impresses everyone as being far above the mediocrity of men, and one of nature's true noblemen.

As a lawyer, he is distinguished, and regarded as one of the best and boldest advocates that ever practiced at the bar of the Western Circuit; is of great dignity of character, yet a most genial and agreeable conversationalist, and has brilliant literary attainments; the possessor of a large library, and a vigorous writer, he has contributed much to the historical literature of the country, particularly since he has retired from the practice of his profession.

The history of this distinguished man is so well known, that we do not propose to give it fully, but only to record

the pleasing fact that he has not, like many other distinguished men of the old regime, outlived their usefulness and shown an indifferent apathy to the future of the country; and, although not seeking any office himself, he has been free and outspoken in his condemnation of the despoiling band of plunderers and blatant politicians that have been spawned upon us by New England, and sought to have instituted such measures as would rescue the State and the whole South from this infamous crew, who have practiced so much of misrule, and given thus so much of anarchy in our midst. Governor Perry has always had great admiration for the Union as handed down by our ancestors, and when the popular mind was inflamed with the delusive idea that our sectional rights would be secured only by severance from the other States, and the formation of a government of our own, Governor Perry, first in the excitement of nullification, then a young man, came bravely forward, and openly opposed the policy of the State, and while he was triumphantly sustained in his own up-country, he was bitterly denounced in other portions of the State.

Again, when the secession spirit ran high, Governor Perry, true to his early convictions, that our true remedy for redress of grievances was in the Union, rather than out of it, again opposed the policy of the State, when it really required heroism and Spartan pluck to do so. His then predictions were singularly accurate, and demonstrate fully his great political sagacity and integrity. Although opposed to the policy of the State in inaugurating the war, Governor Perry, as a true son should always do, went with his mother, saying, right or wrong, come weal or woe, he would go with his State. He contributed liberally of his means for the prosecution of the war, as well as furnished a gallant son for the service. After the war, ere the smoke of war had fully passed away, he was solicited by the administration to visit the national capital for conference as to the best meas-

ures to be instituted for the rehabiliement of South Carolina as one of the component States of the Union. His people urged his acceptance of the invitation, and looked upon it as an earnest of President Johnson's good feeling to the South. Governor Perry went to Washington, and the greatest respect was paid him, and he was notified that he had been selected as the Provisional Governor of the State. This he accepted, and went immediately to work for the reconstruction of the State upon the basis agreed upon by President Johnson and other prominent men of the North. Universal joy, as well as increased confidence was felt all over the State at his succession to the chief magistracy of the State. He issued his proclamation, which was ably written, and enthusiastically received by all classes, and the light of the day of reconciliation and rescue from what was before regarded as absolute ruin, seemingly had dawned. Civil government, in the main, was at once restored, a convention of the people was called, composed of the ablest men of the State, many of whom had been all their lives antagonistic to Governor Perry's political action, but who were now seen rallying to his support, and ardent admirers of his proven statesmanship and high integrity. He became the most popular man in the State, and the first Legislature that met afterwards, without hardly a dissenting voice, selected him as one of the Senators to Congress from this State. But, unfortunately for the whole country, Governor Perry was never permitted to take his seat. Not long afterwards, a different policy to that of President Johnson sprung up at the North, and all that had been accomplished through such men as Governor Perry was effectually wiped out by the monstrous doings of the Congress of 1867-68, and which, under the blind teachings of Sumner, Butler, Stevens and others of the then dominant party in Washington, culminated in the enactment of the several amendments to the Constitution, which at once brought on confusion and antagonism between all classes at

the South, and which has resulted so disastrously to the material prosperity of the South. Governor Perry retired in disgust at this period from active participation in the discussion of what should be the policy of the South towards acceptance of these unconstitutional and infamous measures. Though he was free to express his convictions, he did so through his writings of their unconstitutionality and results.

But it will be impracticable in this article to detail all the valuable services Governor Perry has rendered his country, and the prominent positions he has so eminently filled. When the history of the present century of this country shall be fully detailed and embodied, Governor Perry will occupy a prominent position therein. His name will appear deservedly among the roll of great men this State has produced.







## COMMENTS OF NEWSPAPERS

ON

### "Biographical Sketches of Eminent American Statesmen."

(This letter is published as a suitable Introduction to the Editorials on the  
"Biographical Sketches of Eminent American Statesmen.")

NEWBERRY, S. C., *December 27, 1883.*

HON. BENJAMIN F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.:*

DEAR SIR: Allow me to say that as a Carolinian, I have long been an appreciative admirer of yours, and have regarded you with pride as the great Daniel Webster of the old Palmetto State, standing head and shoulders above all her other sons. I have read your various articles in the public prints with decided pleasure and avidity; and after many vain efforts to procure them in a collected form, I have resolved to write you on the subject and ascertain if you have yet gathered them together, from the various periodicals to which you have so long contributed, in any kind of book or pamphlet form. It would be a pleasure to have them treasured up in more convenient form, especially those very interesting and instructive sketches of "Eminent American Statesmen," and early historical narratives of the State. I have been so fortunate as to be able to collect a few (three in number, viz.: Choate, Ramsey and Chief Justice Marshall), which I have pasted away in my scrap book. Another article I also have, entitled "Joining the Republican Party," which, in brief, is the best and clearest exposition of Democratic principles I ever saw. You will please inform me if you have yet collected and published those articles; or, if not, whether it is your intention to give them to the public.

You will also oblige me by giving the counties, or districts, in which the South Carolina signers of the Declaration of In-

dependence lived. They were, I believe, Messrs. Rutledge. Heyward, Lynch and Middleton. In what sections of the State did they reside?

Please be so kind as to answer the above question for the information of one who is deeply interested in the history of the State and who desires a more perfect knowledge of the biography of her long and extensive roll of distinguished sons.

Soliciting an early answer, I remain, my dear sir,

Your admiring friend and obedient servant,

JEFFERSON C. DAVIS.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., *November 24, 1887.*

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: I have received your esteemed communication, and consider myself honored in the possession of your consideration.

I shall deem it a privilege to do the work requested, as I can do so with such a high appreciation of your deceased husband and your queenly devotion to his memory. I have in mind many evidences of Governor Perry's nobility of character, but the best is his widow's love and admiration. My duties as legislator and as editor keeps my pen busy with matters of State. But this Thanksgiving Day gives me some relief. I shall write this day a notice of your proposed volume, and it will be with me a task of friendship for the living, as well as consideration for your dead.

I have told my wife that I might consent to die, could I be assured of deserving at her hands a tithe of the love and honor that you lavish with youthful zeal upon your honored husband's memory. Surely he must have been a Brutus without the Roman's faults. Nor can I now fail to realize how in life he had his Portia to appreciate, and to be helpmeet indeed.

I have the honor to be,

Yours truly and respectfully,

JOHN P. THOMAS.

(The Columbia Daily Record, Friday, February 17, 1888.)

(Communicated.)

I ask the opportunity of calling attention to this recent South Carolina publication, so eminently deserving of public recognition. As we are informed in the opening pages of the book its appearance is due to the inexhaustible devotion of the honored widow of the deceased statesman. "This volume is compiled and published by the wife in memory of the beloved and devoted husband who, during a married life of fifty years, found in his character and life only what she could love, honor, and be proud of, and whose care it is that the memory of his virtues and the example of his noble devotion to his duty and his country shall be preserved for future generations."

As for the late Governor himself, while he felt that he had never forfeited, but had on the contrary always enjoyed, the respect and esteem of the best people of his native State, it was his purpose, as I know, to make a publication of his writings with a view of doing justice to his memory after his death. But this plan, for some cause, was not executed. Hence it will be seen that in her present wifely enterprise, Mrs. Perry is not only doing a good work for the State and the country, but is further carrying out her husband's wish, as embodied in a purpose conceived by him more than thirty years ago, and conveyed to his wife.

And well has her loyal design been executed. The volume is an attractive one—fit to adorn the library, and to be the ready source of high thought and patriotic inspiration; well calculated to invite, in its ethical spirit, the imitation of youth and to confirm the steady resolutions of age. The book contains 612 neatly printed pages. The frontispiece presents, in a finely executed photograph, the imposing bust of Governor Perry—upon whose ample front engraven-deliberation sits, and public care, and whose Atlantean shoulders seem fit, in Miltonic phrase, to bear the weight of mightiest monarchies. Then follows the graceful preface by Dr. Hext M. Perry, who, in behalf of his distinguished father's family, announces the spirit and the scheme of the present publication.



Next follows the appreciative introduction by Senator Wade Hampton, between whom and Governor Perry sentiments of mutual esteem existed—kindred souls in this, that in each we have illustrated—such as Sir Philip Sidney exemplified—“high thoughts seated in a heart of courtesy.”

An engraving of “*Sans Souci*,” the handsome residence of the deceased, next meets the eye, and suggests the type of a generous and refined home of a South Carolinian of the olden times.

The volume proper opens with a condensed outline of Governor Perry’s life by Mr. A. B. Williams, of the Greenville News. This is succeeded by a compilation of the notices of the deceased from the newspapers of South Carolina and its leading men; as well as from the State Legislature, and from the bar and the courts where he practiced for many years, and where he was most intimately known. This will show how in mouths of wisest censure his death evoked encomiums of highest character; and how amply has been fulfilled his prediction that his reputation would grow brighter after his decease—a faith expressed in the year 1857, when the antagonism that he had to meet in his devotion to his political creed was fiercest and strongest.

The addresses—political and literary—which Governor Perry from time to time delivered on various occasions—are all characteristic of the man; of the master of good English and of the independant, earnest and honest thinker; of him, the true son of up-country soil, who was as virtuous as Cato and as brave as Julius Cæsar.

One address by Governor Perry I notice omitted, which illustrates his sagacity and adds to his fame. I mean the speech which he made in the State Democratic Convention of April, 1868—a memorable convention, by the way. On that occasion Governor Perry, in connection with Gen. Chesnut, Col. D. Wyatt Aiken, and other discreet spirits, wisely declared for qualified negro suffrage, and helped to put the *post bellum* Democracy of South Carolina upon a prudent and just career, thus laying the basis for the great victory of 1876. Governor Perry continued thereafter in full accord with the conservative element of the State Democratic party, and was

ever true as steel to the State and the civilization of the State.

I come now to the main features of the book under review. This consists of biographical sketches of eminent American statesmen. The scope of these graphic sketches is as wide as was the catholic spirit of the author. They embrace distinguished men of the North and of the South alike. They will be read no less with profit than with pleasure. Nor is it possible for any candid reader to rise from their perusal without a high appreciation of the writer's discriminating powers, his strong mental grasp, and his sympathy with all that is good and true and noble as well in private as in public life.

Governor Perry's "Reminiscences of Public Men" and his "Sketches of Eminent American Statesmen"—as well as his political and literary utterances—all attest his high personal traits and his ardent patriotism.

Long after the granite monument erected to his fame shall have fallen into decay, will these lettered memorials remain to honor his memory and preserve his name.

It is gratifying to know that this volume—now for sale at Messrs. Bryan & Co.'s and at Mr. Duffie's for \$1.50 per copy—may be followed by another, containing a biography and extracts from the private journal of Governor Perry.

If the world is better because such a marked character—such a strong individuality—has lived, surely it is a wise and useful thing to put before the youth of the land the record of his life and his thoughts and his labors—to the end that, like other dead but sceptred sovereigns, he may rule our spirits from his urn.

J. P. THOMAS.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 16, 1888.

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(The Columbia Daily Record, February 28, 1888.)

In a review of the volume entitled, "Sketches of Eminent American Statesmen," by Gov. Perry, of South Carolina, I have referred to the omission of one incident which marks a signal episode in his long and eventful public life. I mean his part in the memorable State Democratic Convention of 1868.

This body of representative whites had met in the shadow of radical reconstruction deeper than the gloom of Appomattox. The issue involved was Anglo-Saxon supremacy or negro domination—the latter being for party ends aided and abetted by a powerful organization North. The South Carolina phalanx stood small in array, but composed and resolute and strong in the faith of a race upon whose brow God had implanted the symbols of sovereignty on earth. It was Sparta confronting Asian numbers.

Upon that high occasion—in that convention animated by the indomitable spirit of a commonwealth unconquered and unconquerable in soul, B. F. Perry, of Greenville, was found in full accord with the body. He was one of the number of those sagacious statesmen who placed the South Carolina Democracy upon tenable ground and paved the way to ultimate victory. Nor should it be forgotten that Mr. Perry was one of the first and foremost in opposition to Radical and negro rule in this State. He was the author of a strong, scathing, thorough review of the Radical Constitution of 1868, which was that year submitted to Congress for ratification. And it may be added that the force of this paper was so fully recognized in those disjointed times that when the State Central Executive Committee of the Democratic party of South Carolina—composed as follows: Wade Hampton, John P. Thomas, J. D. Pope, F. W. McMaster, Samuel McGowan, and W. M. Shannon—made to Congress a formal Remonstrance against the imposition upon South Carolina of the said Radical Constitution, the substance of Mr. Perry's analysis was incorporated in the memorial of the committee, and the extract was thus introduced:

“And first permit us to lay before your honorable body the following analysis of the said Constitution, prepared by the Hon. B. F. Perry, of this State—a pure man, an able lawyer, and a life-long, bold and outspoken Unionist. As a man who opposed nullification and secession you will perhaps not regard him as one whose views on the Constitution are apt to be pervaded by that disunion spirit which many members of your honorable body might deem sufficient to prejudice any paper emanating from South Carolina.”

In making up Gov. Perry's entire political record, his utterances and his services at this critical period of Democratic



resurrection and Anglo Saxon self-assertion in our "Prostrate State," as South Carolina then was, cannot, in justice to his memory, be passed by unnoticed. These make diamonds of first water in his civic crown. In that first struggle for our captured State—beginning in 1868 and ending in triumph in 1876—than which none more fateful has ever occurred in the rich history of this old commonwealth through all the phases of its eventful career, Governor Perry—no more for conscience' sake estranged from brother South Carolinians—was with us and of us—the swift current of his political sympathies mingling with ours and flowing freely in the new channel of the State's *post-bellum* Democracy. Ever devoted son and chastened mother came together, and lost in the harmonies of the present were the discordances of the past.

Thus it is that time, great leveler, makes all things even. Thus it was that peace and reconciliation came with honor. So it came to pass that, old feuds forgotten and his warfare ended, Benjamin Franklin Perry, of Roman mould and Christian impress, passed away esteemed and admired in a great State whose creed political he was wont to combat and whose public policy he had resolutely resisted. And now—mutation strange but happy—in South Carolina this man, who in all his long life was of firm and noble soul, is rightly deemed one of the State's sons of memory and heirs of fame.

Some men there are in this day of materialistic trend of thought who are inclined to minify mind and its resources in the disposition to magnify matter and its appliances—to dis-crown moral and mental forces before the power of steam and electricity.

But what a shallow philosophy is this!

South Carolina has need of all her developed wealth of soil and mines and forests and products of every kind. But more than all this does she need to bear in mind that mind and character constitute a State.

Not forgotten, therefore, should the duty be to heed the lessons and to honor the memory of those—the patriot sons of the State—who by their genius and nobleness and unselfish labors have contributed to the glory of the commonwealth.

J. P. THOMAS.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 28, 1888.

(The Greenville News, March 4, 1888.)

Mrs. B. F. Perry has given a valuable addition to permanent literature in a handsomely bound book of six hundred pages, published in Philadelphia under the supervision of Dr. Hext M. Perry, and entitled "Sketches by Governor Perry."

The volume contains a handsome portrait of Governor Perry, with an introduction by Senator Hampton, the sketch of the governor's life published in the Greenville News, and some extracts from the editorial remarks of leading newspapers on the occasion of his death.

The most valuable contents, however, are the speeches and addresses delivered by Governor Perry on several notable occasions and a series of sketches of eminent American statesmen prepared by him at different times during his long and busy life. The speeches and addresses should be treasured; they tell of the position and the sustaining reasons of the small band of Union men who opposed secession while standing fast by Democratic principles and the rights of the South, and are redolent of the highest patriotism, the purest integrity and clear understanding of the lessons of the past and the tendencies of differing systems of public and private action. The sketches are drawn with the free, strong touch characteristic of the author, and give for posterity, life-like, compact, invaluable histories of many men like James Otis, John Adams, C. C. Pinckney, Christopher Gadsden, Patrick Henry, Benjamin Franklin, Richard Henry Lee, John Randolph, Gouverneur Morris and David Ramsey.

The book is now on sale here by H. J. Felton and R. G. McPherson and should have a place in every library and collection—certainly in South Carolina. Price, \$1.50.

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(The New Haven Register, March 4, 1888)

Biographical Sketches of Eminent American Statesmen, with Speeches, Addresses and Letters. By Ex-Governor B. F. Perry, of Greenville, S. C. For sale by Judd, the Bookseller. Price \$1.50.

This substantial volume is a memorial of one of the staunchest Union men in the South before the war. Although Gov. Perry "went with his State," it was only after thirty years



of courageous defence of the Union. His stand was firmly taken at the age of twenty-six in a Fourth of July oration (included in the present volume), which was delivered as the Nullification troubles were beginning. He resolutely maintained his ground with a defiance of any time-serving and in the face of fierce opposition. At one time he proposed to establish a Union paper in Greenville, S. C., when friends told him if he did so neither his property nor his life would be safe. He replied: "I will go on with my paper if it sinks my fortune and sacrifices my life." But when the decisive step had been taken he felt he must go with his people. "You are going to the devil and I will go with you," he answered with a foresight of the result of a contest for slavery which few of his Southern friends possessed. After the war he was appointed Provisional Governor by Johnson, and later, 1866, was Senator-elect from his State, when the Senate refused to seat the Senators from South Carolina. Gov. Perry died in December, 1886. Leaving behind him a name respected by all. The present volume contains a clear and succinct account of his life with some of his literary remains. His speeches are of distinct historical importance. They defend with great strength the value of the Union to the South, and illustrate the varying moods of political life from 1830 to 1870. The address at the anniversary of the battle of the Cowpens in 1835 is an impassioned plea for preserving the integrity of the nation.

The larger portion of the present volume is composed of biographical sketches of upwards of forty eminent men of the revolutionary period and the following generation. While the most distinguished have been honored by suitable biographies many of their contemporaries, who were active in forming the government and shaping its policy, are comparatively little known to readers of the present day. Gov. Perry, drawing on his personal recollections and on those of older men whom he knew in early life, wrote out these narratives in the dark years of 1868-76. There is something pathetic in the picture of the old man, surrounded by the political disorder and ruin of his State that was to precede regeneration, occupying himself with the contemplation of the work and

character of the great men who founded the government. The frontispiece is a fine autograph portrait.

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(The Charleston News and Courier, March 5, 1888.)

The promised volume of biographical sketches of eminent American statesmen, with speeches, addresses, and letters of Ex-Governor B. F. Perry, of Greenville, S. C., has been published. It is a handsome volume of over six hundred pages, and is embellished with an admirable likeness of the lamented Carolina Statesman and a view of his mansion near Greenville.

The introduction to the volume is written by Senator Wade Hampton, who takes occasion to speak in the most exalted terms of Governor Perry. It is indeed high praise to be able to say, with absolute truth, that "every line that he wrote, every word that he uttered, on public affairs, was inspired by an ardent, patriotic desire to promote the best interests of his State, and, in the light of the great events which have transpired in the last quarter of a century, many of his utterances have proved as pregnant with wisdom as with patriotism." And, again, "the example of such a life as Governor Perry's, so pure, so unsullied in all its private and public relations, cannot fail to exert a wholesome and elevating influence wherever it is known, and in this view the following volume possesses great intrinsic value, for it gives the opinions, the feeling, the very thoughts of the writer, expressed with perfect frankness and with commendable impartiality."

The introduction is followed by a sketch of Governor Perry's life by Mr. A. B. Williams. It is thoughtful, discriminating and appreciative. Some of the articles published in the leading South Carolina newspapers at the time of Governor Perry's death are then given, together with the speeches in the Legislature on the sad occasion, and the memorial proceedings of the Greenville Bar.

Then the interested reader comes to the notable addresses delivered by Governor Perry. The first of these is the "Fourth of July" oration at Greenville in 1831, when Governor Perry was only 25. The appeal to the Nullifiers is

most touching. There are also the addresses delivered on the battlefield of Cowpens in 1835; the address before the Literary Societies of Erskine College in 1844, and the speech delivered in the House of Representatives of South Carolina in 1850 on the subject of the relations of the States to the Union. In this address the political opinions and principles of Governor Perry are set forth in superb warmth and cogency. The burden of the address is that he was in favor of "a rational and successful defence by the union of the South, which will redress our wrongs, secure our rights, and preserve the Union of the States." This speech, Governor Perry said, he left "as a legacy to his country and his children." Next comes the noble and notable speech of Governor Perry in the National Democratic Convention at Charleston in May, 1860. It is followed by his address to the Democracy of the Fifth Congressional District in 1860. Then comes his letter to the Charleston Courier, dated August 13, 1860, and his letter to "many citizens" of Charleston.

After the war, as is known, Governor Perry was elected United States Senator, but was denied his seat. In the volume before us is the unanswerable letter which he wrote upon that subject to the National Intelligencer of Washington. The next paper is a letter accepting the Democratic nomination for Congress in 1872, which is followed by his address to his constituency after he had been defeated by the negro vote.

Then comes the thoughtful and beautiful address on "The Ancients and the Moderns," which was delivered before the Cheraw Lyceum in June, 1876.

The remainder of the volume is occupied by Governor Perry's sketches of eminent American statesmen. Among these are sketches of John Adams, John Rutledge, C. C. Pinckney, Christopher Gadsden, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, John Randolph, David Ramsey, William Wirt, Henry Lee and Wade Hampton.

This description of the addresses and of the speeches can give but a faint idea of their value and their worth. They must be read in order to be appreciated. They must be studied in order that their fullness and depth may be under-



stood: They are rich in maxims, in judicious council, in happy phrase. But, rich as the published papers are, there is much more which has not been told.

Nowhere in the history of the United States is there a more heroic example of fortitude and devotion than is found in Governor Perry's public life. Loyal to the South, to his State, he held fast to the Union as the Palladium of our liberties, and would not consent to its undoing. As he writes in his journal, "After secession was accomplished, I sat in my office and cried like a child." The social and political pressure was enormous. To hold the opinions that he held and avowed was to close the door to public preferment. But he had faith always that time would bring him vindication and restoration. It came. When the war was over he was appointed Provisional Governor, under the Reconstruction procedure, and was of signal benefit to his people. So, too, he was elected United States Senator. So, too, he was invited to lead a forlorn hope as the Democratic candidate for Congress in his District. While his own people in South Carolina turned to him and depended upon him, the triumphant North, however, rejected him and looked upon him with distrust. Conscience and principle, not self-interest, had ever been his guide, and he could no more swerve from the right road for the sake of the victorious Union than to keep company with his own kith and kin in nullification and secession.

In a letter written to Mrs. Perry, in 1857, Governor Perry said:

"In regard to the abuse of me in South Carolina, it has not come from the gentlemen of the State. I do not believe there is at this time a distinguished man in the State who does not most cordially respect and esteem me. Such is their deportment towards me. I shall leave a reputation for my children which they may be proud of, and which will not injure their prospects at all. My reputation will grow brighter after my decease. It is my purpose to make a publication of my writings with a view of doing justice to my memory hereafter."

It was not a vain hope and belief. Governor Perry's reputation grew brighter year by year, and is brighter than ever before, now that, with unprejudiced eye, the people can look upon the steadfastness, the simplicity, the symmetry of his life.

Mrs. Perry discharges lovingly a tender duty towards her distinguished husband in preparing this volume for publication. Surely there is nothing more beautiful, more inspiring, than the wifely love which finds its highest pleasure in making known to his fellow-countrymen the patriotism, the foresight, the intrepidity, the unselfishness of the husband to whom she had been joined in her youth, and with whom she had lived in entire concord and content, in sickness and in health, until death parted, for a little while, the two who had been one in aim, in thought, in heart and desire, for long decades which mutual confidence and trust made all too brief. Mrs. Perry is a model of appreciation and devotion, as Governor Perry was the exemplar of constancy and truth.

The volume before us is neatly bound and well printed. It can be obtained at Hammond's, or of the Walker, Evans & Cogswell Company, in Broad street, and of E. Perry & Co., in Meeting street. Price \$1.50.

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(The Augusta Chronicle, March 14, 1888.)

The promised volume of biographies, sketches of eminent American statesmen with speeches, addresses, and letters of ex-Governor B. F. Perry, of Greenville, S. C., has been published. It is a handsome volume of over six hundred pages, and is embellished with an admirable likeness of the lamented Carolina statesman and a view of his mansion near Greenville.

South Carolina knew no more devoted son, no purer statesman nor more honorable man. No stronger voice than B. F. Perry's, inspired by loftier sentiments or more patriotic purposes, was ever heard within her borders in defence of the right or in championship of justice. His life's history will be a light in South Carolina annals for all time to come, and this volume of biographies will be treasured as commemorative of his services to his State and his upright and useful walk in life.

The publication is prepared by Mrs. B. F. Perry—"a loving and tender duty towards her distinguished husband." It is for sale at J. M. Richards. Price \$1.50.

(The News and Herald, Winnsboro, S. C., March 15th, 1888.)

This book has been before the public for some time. It is a handsome volume of six hundred pages and has an excellent photograph of Gov. Perry and a view of his dwelling.

Senator Hampton writes the introduction and a sketch of Gov. Perry written by A. B. Williams, of the Greenville News, follows. Then follows addresses delivered by Gov. Perry. The rest of the volume is occupied by Gov. Perry's sketches of Jas. Otis, John Adams, John Rutledge, C. C. Pinkney, Christopher Gadsden, Wm. H. Crawford, Alex. Hamilton, Patrick Henry, Benj. Franklin, John Randolph, George Washington, David Ramsey, William Wirt, Henry Lee and others prominent in our history.

The book is a most interesting one and cannot be appreciated unless fully read. Mrs. Perry prepared the volume for publication and it will well repay any one to peruse it carefully.

For sale by Messrs. McMaster, Brice & Kitchin. Price \$1.50.

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(The Anderson Intelligencer, Thursday, March 15, 1888.)

Mrs. Perry, the widow of the late ex-Governor Perry, has presented the Intelligencer with a copy of a book which she has recently published, and which is made up of biographical sketches of eminent American statesmen, with speeches, addresses and letters of her distinguished husband. It is printed in a very handsome style, contains six hundred pages, and is embellished with an admirable likeness of Governor Perry, and a view of his mansion near Greenville. The introduction to the book is written by Senator Hampton, who eulogizes the lamented statesman in the very highest terms. This introduction is followed by a biographical sketch of Governor Perry's life by A. B. Williams, editor of the Greenville News. The book is indeed a very valuable work, and should find its way into the home of every true Carolinian. It is sold at the low price of \$1.50, and can be obtained at Messrs. G. W. Fant & Son's book store.



(The Anderson Journal, Thursday, March 15, 1888.)

The exceptionally handsome volume of six hundred pages and over, just from the press, containing a brief biography, and press notices and public speeches concerning the late ex-Governor Perry, together with a number of his addresses and sketches from his trenchant pen, gives a clear insight into the life and character of that eminent South Carolinian now gone to his last rest. The volume at hand is compiled by the noble and faithful wife that still survives him. In the introduction, which is written by Senator Hampton, it is fittingly said that "the example of such a life as Governor Perry's, so pure, so unsullied in all its private and public relations, cannot fail to exert a wholesome and elevating influence wherever it is known, and in this view the following volume possesses great intrinsic value, for it gives the opinions, the feeling, the very thoughts of the writer, expressed with perfect frankness and with commendable impartiality." There is no one but can read this book with profit, but especially should it be in the hands of the younger generation now entering upon the activities and responsibilities of life. It is neatly and substantially bound, and is for sale by Geo. W. Fant & Son, Anderson, S. C.

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(The Daily Sun, Charleston, S. C., March 16, 1888.)

A copy of the biographical sketches of eminent American statesmen by the late ex-Governor B. F. Perry has been sent to The Daily Sun by Mrs. Perry, through the book house of Mr. Hammond, of this city.

The name appended to the title of the book carries with it such sentiments of high respect and warm appreciation of the author's character that one is strongly induced to look into its contents, for his life covered a period of most momentous consequences in the history of his State. His strong mental habits, culture, grace of expression, studious care, wide research, acuteness of vision in political matters and sincerity of purpose shine out conspicuously in these sketches, while in just and candid lines he portrays the characteristics of his subjects.

The book is a valuable contribution to the literature of the

South, a feeling memorial to the illustrious men of our beloved State, and an exposition of the pure patriotism that impelled their actions. To the youth of our State and country there is much to edify and exalt and encouragement to earnest application, manly and persistent effort in right, and determined resistance to what is conscientiously regarded as wrong. It is, too, of great historical value, containing the principal facts connected with the secession movement in 1860, and the National Convention in Charleston. Many who may not have been able to learn but scanty facts and circumstances relating to that most exciting convocation of freemen, will, in this volume, be able to see both sides as then considered by the author, a Unionist, and be able to draw conclusions as to facts presented.

The sketches of Revolutionary patriots cannot fail to interest the mass of readers, and we strongly commend the attentive perusal to the young of both sexes, but specially the boys, who thereby may light the torch of patriotism anew, at the altars where our forefathers caught their inspiration for constitutional liberty.

The book is very neatly and substantially bound. For sale at Hammond's, Walker, Evans & Cogswell and Perry's book stores. Price \$1.50 per volume.

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(The Carolina Spartan, Spartanburg, S. C.)

"Sketches by Governor Perry of South Carolina" is a valuable volume recently published. The revision and compilation were made by Mrs. Perry, the devoted wife of the Hon. B. F. Perry. The introduction is written by Wade Hampton who greatly admired Governor Perry's integrity, patriotism and ability. The sketch of his life is by A. B. Williams, editor of the Greenville News. The book contains about 600 pages and it is printed in good style and on good paper. There is a full page likeness of the Governor, as well as a picture of his elegant mansion, *Sans Souci*. After the introductory pages and the proceedings of various public bodies relating to the Governor's death, the first thing is a fourth of July oration delivered in Greenville in 1831. Then follows an address de-



livered at the fifty-fourth anniversary of the battle of Cowpens. This was January 17, 1835. There are very few persons now living that heard that speech. The people of this county should buy the book for that address. After the various addresses on important subjects are given which will interest and inform the student of our State history, about half of the volume is taken up with sketches of prominent men, which are most readable. Any young man interested in our recent history and the men who made it should buy this book. It will be money well spent. For sale at Messrs. Coffield & Petty's. Price \$1.50.

(Carolina Spartan, Spartanburg, S. C., Wednesday, March 21, 1888.)

(Communicated.)

A book recently issued, to be found at Coffield, Petty & Co's, is sketches by Governor Perry, of South Carolina. The title and table of contents indicate the rich store of unwritten history and biographical interest between these pages. The orations, addresses, speeches and sketches give an index of broad culture and high character of the author. After reading the introduction written by Gen. Hampton and the sketches of Governor Perry's life, by A. B. Williams, the reader is prepared to more fully understand the articles from the pen of Governor Perry, illustrating, as they do, the exciting period preceding the war between the States, and presenting a grand picture of the man who did and dared everything to preserve the Union of the States, until secession was accomplished, then as strenuously labored to secure the recognition of the Southern Confederacy. It has been forcibly said, "That he lost the honors of his State by being true to the Union, that he lost the honors of the country by being true to his State." In the clearer light of history he will at last receive the honors due to the man who never swerved from his integrity and patriotism.

To one wishing to inform himself, of the *casus belli* involved in the doctrines of Nullification, Secession and Union, no better exposition could be suggested. The fervid questions that agitated the nation are illustrated with great force in the

Fourth of July Oration, The Address at Cowpens, and other speeches contained in the volume. Governor Perry believed from his earliest manhood: "The Federal Constitution, the most perfect system of civil policy that the wisdom of men can ever invent." To preserve it, he contended in the arena, in editorial chair, the hustings, and in legislative halls for over thirty years. The speech made in 1850 in the House of Representatives, on State and Federal affairs, is a masterpiece of exhaustive study and close reasoning. When in 1860 the South Carolina delegation withdrew from the National Democratic Convention, Governor Perry would not act in concert with his colleagues, but remained in the Convention in the face of the vituperations of the press and people of the State. His vindication of his course, addressed to his constituents in an open letter, is a powerful summing up of the situation. He remained in the Convention, he declared, because he believed the highest interests of the State and country imperiled by withdrawal. He had the moral courage to stem popular opinion, and boldly declared: "There is much more consolation in being right than in being successful when wrong."

The paper on National Restoration, written, after the refusal of the U. S. Senate in 1866, to allow him to take his seat in the Senate, is an epitome of the attitude of the two sections at that time.

Perhaps to the general reader the portion of the book containing sketches of eminent American statesmen, would prove more attractive than the first of the volume. The clear analysis, the terse philosophy, give a charm to a sprightly style of narrative, relieving any suspicion of the dullness often attached to biography. The characters of General Washington, General Rutledge, General Gadsden, John Randolph, Gouveneur Morris, Benjamin Franklin, Lowndes, Drayton and others, are sketched with a force well nigh dramatic. The last of these is of Colonel Roebuck, a Spartanburg man who was one of "the Heroes of King's Mountain."

The whole volume is one worth the attention of the public, as a valuable compendium of pleasant as well as instructive matter.

CELINA MEANS.

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(The Carolina Spartan, Spartanburg, S. C., Wednesday, March 21, 1888.)

THE KENNEDY LIBRARY.—The trustees return thanks for the following donations through Mrs. Dr. Means.

Mrs. Gov. Perry gives a copy of the volumes she has recently edited, consisting of "Memoirs" written by her distinguished husband. This book has special interest for all Carolinians, who wish to be well informed, about the public men of this generation. These repeated proofs of the interest taken in our Library, by this venerable lady, living in another city, call for our special acknowledgement.

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(The Baptist Courier, Thursday, March 22, 1888.)

This admirable book has an especial interest for South Carolinians. it is a handsome volume containing more than six hundred pages, and is a worthy memento of the distinguished citizen of whom it treats and whose writings are herein embodied. Governor Perry was so widely known that scarcely any one need to be told in this generation of his noble qualities, and yet it is meet to have an introduction to this volume from the pen of one who knew so well the high character and unflinching integrity of the man, so that future generations may rightly appreciate his honorable career. General Hampton felt the force of his words in saying of his friend that "every line that he wrote, every word that he uttered on public affairs, were inspired by an ardent, patriotic desire to promote the best interests of his State, and in the light of the great events which have transpired in the last quarter of a century, many of his utterances have proved as pregnant with wisdom as with patriotism." The brief sketch of Governor Perry's life which follows the introductory chapter was written by Mr. A. B. Williams, editor of the Greenville Daily News, and is a careful and appreciative outline of the chief incidents in an eventful life. Following this sketch are a number of extracts from newspapers commenting upon the death of Governor Perry, to which is added the action of the Legislature, in which body he served so long and ably, and the memorial proceedings of the Greenville bar. Nearly two hundred pages of the book are next occupied with some



of the most notable speeches made by Governor Perry, beginning with a patriotic address when he was quite a youth, delivered on the 4th of July in the Greenville Baptist church, and ending with an ornate lecture before the Cheraw lyceum in 1876. The remainder of the volume is devoted to his sketches of American statesmen, including Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Randolph, John Adams, C. C. Pinckney, Christopher Gadsden, David Ramsey and others. Our space forbids further enumeration as to the intrinsic merits of this volume, which has been compiled and printed in honor of the dead patriot and statesman through the loving regard of his devoted wife. It can be bought at R. G. McPherson's, Greenville, S. C., and at Felton's. Price \$1.50.

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(The Keowee Courier, Walhalla, S. C., March 22, 1888.)

Mrs. B. F. Perry has our thanks for a copy of the volume recently published through her exertions in memory of the life, labors and eminent statesmanship of her lamented husband. The work contains over six hundred pages, and embraces, besides public speeches and sketches of eminent statesmen, a biographical sketch of the life and character of ex-Governor Perry, prepared by Senator Hampton. To our readers who knew Governor Perry personally, and who delighted to honor him for his pure and unselfish patriotism and devotion to duty in the most trying period of our country's history, the work needs no commendation. His success in life in the face of bitter political opposition, affords an incentive to the young to devotion to duty when clearly seen and carefully studied. The just tribute of wisdom and honor conferred on him by the present generation and by the light of events foreseen and forewarned is a pregnant lesson in sound statesmanship, which time can never efface. Studious, conservative, firm, his opinions on National politics have been verified by time. Equally broad and clear sighted in matters of State, the reforms, he expended the meridian of his life in pressing, have borne fruit in a fair and just equilibrium of power in the upper and lower sections of the State. Governor Perry was a model of manhood, a truly great man,

whose life and writings should be read and studied by the rising generation, especially the present work, which, mainly biographical, points out and comments on the character and services of the great men of the past generation and their path to greatness. The book, neatly bound, can be bought of Mr. T. E. Stribling, Postmaster at Walhalla. Price \$1.50.

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(Seneca Free Press, March 23, 1888.)

Mrs. Perry, the widow of ex-Governor B. F. Perry, has presented us with a pamphlet in memoriam to her noble and distinguished husband; also, with the address delivered by Governor Perry before the Literary Societies of Erskine College. Mrs. Perry has recently published a book made up of biographical sketches of eminent American statesmen, with addresses, letters and speeches of her husband. This book is sold at the low price of \$1.50.

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(Atlanta Constitution, March 24, 1888.)

Sketches by Governor Perry, the Ferree Co., Philadelphia. In this handsome volume will be found a biography of the Honorable Benjamin F. Perry, the Reconstruction Governor of South Carolina, with a collection of his speeches and addresses.

After the war, as is known, Governor Perry was elected United States Senator, but was denied his seat. In the volume before us is the unanswerable letter which he wrote upon that subject to the National Intelligencer of Washington. The next paper is a letter accepting the Democratic nomination for Congress in 1872, which is followed by his address to his constituency after he had been defeated by the negro vote.

Then comes the thoughtful and beautiful address on "The Ancients and Moderns," which was delivered before the Cheraw Lyceum in June, 1876.

The remainder of the volume is occupied by Governor Perry's sketches of eminent American statesmen. Among these are sketches of John Adams, C. C. Pinckney, Christopher Gadsden, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, John

Randolph, David Ramsey, William Wirt, Henry Lee and Wade Hampton. Price \$1.50.

For sale by Wilson & Bruchner, E. H. & J. Thornton, and S. P. Richards & Son.

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(The Cheraw Reporter, March 27, 1888.)

"Sketches by Governor Perry, of South Carolina," is the title of a volume recently published by "The Ferree Press," of Philadelphia. This book, as its name implies, is a volume of biographical sketches of distinguished men in South Carolina and other States—men whose lives and actions have contributed much to the make-up of the history of this country. In the perusal of the lives of such men as Arthur Middleton, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, John Randolph, Fisher Ames, Felix Grundy, John Marshall, Patrick Henry and John Adams, the reader must feel that he is reading the history of his own country. The lives of these men are so intimately associated with all the great principles and stirring events that came up for consideration in their day, they may be said to contribute largely to the history of the Republic of America.

In addition to the concise and interesting sketches of the lives and characters of those great men, the book contains much other valuable matter, such as lectures and addresses on various occasions. Among these miscellaneous pieces are the beautiful address to the students of Erskine College and the able and interesting lecture before the Cheraw Lyceum in June, 1876. We do not doubt that all who heard this lecture will be glad to read it in print. It is full of valuable information and is written in fine style. It is one of Governor Perry's best efforts.

We would think that every South Carolinian would wish to own a copy of this book, for from its pages he can at a moment refresh his memory as to facts in the lives of the great men of his State and country. Besides, it is pleasant to be constantly reminded that South Carolina numbered among her native born citizens as noble a man as Governor B. F. Perry.

This book is for sale at McCreight & Wannamaker's, at the very low price of \$1.50.



(Boston Advertiser, March 31, 1888.)

Biographical Sketches of Eminent American Statesmen, with Speeches, Addresses and Letters, by ex-Governor B. F. Perry, of Greenville, S. C. Introductory by Senator Wade Hampton. Prefaced by an outline of the author's life. The Ferree Press, Philadelphia, 1887.

"Many men have many minds," is a saying which strengthens in its truth and significance with the degree of the importance of the subject which illustrates it. Each addition to our stock of literature about our civil war, especially of volumes which disclose the opinions, characters and positions of our public men in it, Northern or Southern, adds to the variety and individuality of the views entertained about it and of the relations assumed towards it. The questions which are opened and which will be endlessly discussed about that war are such as these: Was it inevitable or avertible? Was it right or wrong? Was it hopeful of success in its primary object, or partially hopeless? Could men of equal intelligence, sincerity and integrity of character take opposite sides in it, or was there on one side a vitiating, on the other an ennobling, element indicating respectively the lack or the presence of the highest quality in wisdom or principle? And these alternatives might be multiplied indefinitely. As we have intimated, each successive biographical volume introducing to us the opinions held and the course taken by men in public station during the war gives us some varying illustration of the proverb which we have quoted. This statement finds a very striking confirmation of its truth in the contents of the volume now before us, and in the sketch of the character and the course of its subject.

Benjamin Franklin Perry became first known, and then favorably, in this section of the country in 1844, when, as a member of the Senate of South Carolina, he gave his solitary vote against a resolution offered in it for the expulsion from the State of Mr. Samuel Hoar, who had been sent there by Massachusetts to protest against the police law by which colored men, seamen, stewards, cooks, etc., were taken from Massachusetts vessels on their arrival and imprisoned, at the expense of the owners, till the vessels left port. This act, which subjected Mr. Perry to great obloquy, was significant

of the position which he assumed, and steadily maintained, as a minority of one, till the opening of the war, and which barred his public advancement in political life among his fellow-citizens.

There is a discrepancy between two statements which we find in this volume as to the ancestry of Mr. Perry.

In the biographical sketch of him we read that his father was a native of Massachusetts of English descent, of the same stock as Commodore Oliver Perry. The father went to Charleston, S. C., in 1784, and afterward removed to Greenville, where he was married. But the son, in one of his earnest speeches in the State House of Representatives in 1850, deprecating the secession spirit, said: "There is no tie that binds a man to his native State that I do not feel for Carolina. Here, sir, I was born and brought up. Here I have lived, and here I expect to die. Here, too, *repose the remains of my ancestors.*" (\*) Nor does it relieve the discrepancy much to state that his mother was a Virginian. But, however this may be, Mr. Perry was heart and soul a South Carolinian, proud of his birth-State, warm with the ardor and spirit of its people, intent upon upholding its local rights. In every public utterance made by him, including his impassioned appeal in the National Democratic Convention in Charleston in 1860, he avows his approval of slavery, his belief in the rightfulness and even blessed influences and workings of the institution as a method of civilizing Africans. He believed and warned his people that a disruption of the Union would bring the institution to an absolute extinction. He said of slavery: "I will be as ready as any one to defend it at the sacrifice of the Union itself, as much as I value the Union." Here certainly is a marked type of individuality in a man and in an opinion. Strong, however, as these asseverations were, they could not diminish the hostility and opprobrium which he brought on himself as his hearers *glared* on him while he argued and pleaded and protested against the blind-

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\* NOTE.—He should have said, "Here, too, repose the remains of my parents." It was what he meant.



ness, stupidity and folly with which they were rushing to their ruin. As he walked through the streets of Charleston, after the discussion in the Convention, he was *hissed* on account of the *noble* stand he had taken, (this one brave Union man), to prevent the breaking up of the Convention; which he knew would result in the *breaking* up of the *Democratic* party in the *United States*, and be *fatal* to the *South*.

He would not withdraw with other Southern delegates in the Charleston Convention when it broke into factions, but stood for his candidate for the Presidency under a storm of hisses, through which, however, he made himself heard. Again he fought secession in the Convention of his State to declare the dissolution of the Union in 1860. None the less he followed his State in its exit, pronouncing on it the benediction: "You are all going to the devil, and I will go with you." Being 56 years of age, he did not enter active service, being represented there by his eldest son, but was loyal to the Confederacy as Commissioner, member of the Legislature, District Attorney and Judge, and he spoke his full share of fiery oratory. At the close of the war President Johnson, with general approbation, appointed him Provisional Governor of his State. He was denied the seat in the National Senate to which he was elected, and failed of election when nominated to the House of Representatives.† He contemptuously opposed the carpet-baggers and the Reconstruction measures.

With strong friends and enemies, he was pure and exemplary in private life. It is pleasant to read that in his stormy career he enjoyed and occupied himself with literary pursuits in a well-furnished library. The fruits of his studies fill the larger part of this solid volume, in which, besides lectures, we have a series of sketches of eminent American statesmen all over the country, especially those of the Revolutionary period. These are written with ability, with appreciation and general impartiality. It is refreshing to read the strong and positive utterances of a man of such strength and independence of mind, backed by sincerity and integrity of purpose. He died in 1886 at the age of 81.

For sale by Damrell & Upham.

† He was defrauded of his election by the Radicals.

(The Daily Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, April 19, 1888.

One of South Carolina's most distinguished and most useful sons was the Honorable B. F. Perry. He did not agree with the dominant sentiment of the State, and opposed Nullification when it was the great issue, and was equally opposed to secession in 1860. But he was true and loyal to his State during the dark and dreary days of the war, and as soon as hostilities ceased was actively at work in the interest of the people. He was a powerful man with pen and voice, and no man ever had the confidence of those who knew him to a fuller extent. Recently a volume has been published containing a sketch of his life, together with his addresses and letters on important subjects. It is a very handsome book of over 600 pages and is embellished with an admirable likeness of the distinguished South Carolinian, and a view of his home near Greenville. Senator Hampton wrote the introduction to the volume, and it is certainly high praise to be able to say, as he does of Governor Perry, that "Every line that he wrote, every word that he uttered on public affairs, was inspired by an ardent desire to promote the best interests of the State, and, in light of the great events which have transpired in the last quarter of a century, many of his utterances have proved as pregnant with wisdom as with patriotism." And again, "The example of such a life as Governor Perry's, so pure, so unsullied in all its private and public relations, cannot fail to exert a wholesome and elevating influence wherever it is known, and in this view the following volume possesses great intrinsic value, for it gives the opinions, the feeling, the very thoughts of the writer, expressed with perfect frankness and with commendable impartiality."

This book is for sale in Montgomery by Mr. W. C. Holt.  
Price \$1.50.

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(Boston Post.)

The "Biographical Sketches" by ex-Governor Perry have been highly spoken of by leading newspapers. The reviewer of the Boston Post says:

"The late Governor Perry was for more than fifty years a

conspicuous figure in the politics and law of South Carolina. Born in that State in 1805 of New England descent, he was intensely provincial in his feelings, while at the same time, down to the breaking out of the Rebellion, he was ardently devoted to the Union. He regarded slavery as an undisguised blessing, and he saw very clearly what Calhoun and Jefferson Davis and the rest of them fortunately did not see—that if the Union were broken up, slavery would be doomed; and he therefore stoutly resisted both nullification and secession. But when his State tried to get out of the Union, he cast in his fortunes with her, and held several offices under the Confederate government. When the Confederacy went to pieces, he returned to his natural allegiance, but he brought out of the struggle an unaccustomed bitterness, from which he never recovered, though he lived twenty years longer. He died in December, 1886, having just completed his 81st year.

By far the most interesting and important part of the volume of his collected speeches and writings now before us, and one which has a permanent value, is that which relates to politics. It well illustrates one phase of life and thought at the South, both before and after the rebellion. It comprises the speech in favor of the preservation of the Union, delivered in the South Carolina House of Representatives in December, 1850; a short speech in the National Democratic Convention at Charleston, in May, 1860, giving his reasons for not withdrawing from the Convention with his colleagues; an address to his constituents in further explanation of his course, and a letter on disunion written a few months later; a letter to the *National Intelligencer* in 1866, on national restoration; and one or two other papers of lesser importance, besides incidental reference to the subject. These documents all have an historical value and they are well worth being put into a permanent form. They show the point of view and the course of argument adopted by a strong and able man, who as well as any one represented the opinions of the minority in the Southern States.

Besides these political papers there are a Fourth of July oration, delivered when he was 25, an anniversary address



in commemoration of the battle of Cowpens, of which the best part has a political bearing, and some other literary addresses which indicate taste and culture, but do not require special notice. The last half of the volume comprises a series of biographical sketches, written between 1866 and 1876, apparently for publication in the local newspapers. They are about forty in number, and include many of the most prominent men, North and South, of the Revolutionary era and of a later period. They are the fruit of study, rather than of observation; for Mr. Perry saw but few of the men whose lives he narrates, and there are, therefore, few personal reminiscences. But the sketches are well adapted to the purpose for which they were written.

For sale at Damrell & Upham's.

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(The Darlington News, Darlington, S. C., Thursday, May 17, 1888.

Biographical sketches of eminent American statesmen, with speeches, addresses and letters by ex-Governor B. F. Perry, of South Carolina, is one of the most valuable books recently published. It contains an introductory by Senator Wade Hampton, which is very fine in itself. Every family in the State should have a copy of this excellent work. This book is for sale at the News office. Price \$1.50.

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(The Times-Union, Jacksonville, Fla., July 12, 1888.

From the Ferree Press of Philadelphia comes a neatly bound and well printed volume entitled: "Biographical Sketches of Eminent American Statesmen, with Speeches, Addresses, and Letters by ex-Governor B. F. Perry of South Carolina." The book has been compiled and published by the wife of the eminent South Carolinian in memory of him and his life work. It contains over 600 pages, and is embellished with an admirable likeness of the late ex-Governor, and a view of his mansion, "Sans Souci," near Greenville.

The introduction to the volume is written by Senator Wade Hampton, who takes occasion to speak in the most exalted terms of Governor Perry. It is indeed high praise to



be able to say, with absolute truth, that "every line that he wrote, every word that he uttered on public affairs, was inspired by an ardent patriotic desire to promote the best interests of his State, and, in the light of the great events which have transpired in the last quarter of a century, many of his utterances have proved as pregnant with wisdom as with patriotism." And, again, "the example of such a life as Governor Perry's, so pure, so unsullied in all its private and public relations, cannot fail to exert a wholesome and elevating influence wherever it is known; and in this view the following volume possesses great intrinsic value, for it gives the opinions, the feeling, the very thoughts of the writer, expressed with perfect frankness and with commendable impartiality."

A sketch of Governor Perry's life follows and then the most notable of his public addresses, among them his famous Fourth of July oration of 1831, when he was only 25 years of age.

The remainder of the volume is occupied by Governor Perry's sketches of eminent American statesmen. Among these are sketches of John Adams, John Rutledge, C. C. Pinckney, Christopher Gadsden, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, John Randolph, David Ramsay, William Wirt, Henry Lee and Wade Hampton.

The description of the addresses and of the speeches can give but a faint idea of their value and their worth. They must be read in order to be appreciated. They must be studied in order that their fullness and depth may be understood. They are rich in maxims, in judicious counsel, in happy phrase. But, rich as the published papers are, there is much more which has not been told.





## LETTERS

EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE WRITERS

—FOR—

"The Reminiscences" and "Biographical Sketches of Eminent American Statesmen,"

By GOVERNOR PERRY.

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WINNSBORO, S. C., May 8, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

DEAR MADAM: You will permit me to thank you for a copy of the volume, "Sketches," by Governor Perry, just received. I shall value it very highly for many reasons, not the least among which is that it contains a slight memorial of the life and public services of its illustrious author. I will be glad when the full story of Governor Perry's life has been told by an historian worthy of the task—when his splendid example of heroic devotion to principle which is now the proud heritage of his countrymen shall have been made the common property of men in all time to come.

You will pardon me for writing so much at length, but I cannot pass very lightly anything which relates even indirectly to Governor Perry, whose character I admire above that of all the public men whom South Carolina has produced. It seems to me, as I look back over the history of the State for the past half century, that he towers a colossus above all of his cotemporaries, and I am persuaded that his example for good will be felt, and his words of wisdom heard when the noisy babble of his inferior but successful opponents shall have passed into eternal silence.

Thanking you again for the book, I remain

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

EDWARD B. RAGSDALE.

SANTA BARBARA, CAL., May 31, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

MY DEAR COUSIN: I had the pleasure of receiving recently (through the mail) the book you were so kind as to send me, containing the writings, &c., of your late husband, and, I may add, my highly esteemed friend. I am reading it with pleasure, from time to time, and the very interesting address to the students of Erskine College, (which in pamphlet form you formerly sent me), I sent, for the special perusal of my youngest son, Arthur P. Hayne, now at the State University, as inculcating very useful lessons of wisdom and instruction.

It was a pleasure to be thus remembered by my relatives, now living at so great a distance. While a sense of the duty I owed to my youngest sons led me to emigrate (at the terrible period of the "Reconstruction times") to this State, and thus to open to them a fair field for success, my heart will yet always turn with a sad but *loving remembrance* of my *dear old native State*. I have succeeded fairly in my new home, and my sons have, thank God, not disappointed my hopes.

We (you and I) are both of us now aged. We cannot expect our lives to be prolonged much longer; indeed, at our time of life we necessarily live much in the past, and it is a solace to our declining years, that for *both* of us, our past has been one which has *not* cast a *shadow* upon our *present*. The unfortunate civil war has, under the good providence of God, worked out for us such lessons of good as will tend to make us, I trust, wiser and better.

I shall always feel an interest in the welfare of all my relatives in South Carolina, and in none more than in you and yours. Please remember me kindly to my cousins, and believe me to be

Very affectionately yours,

W. ALSTON HAYNE.

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(The following is an extract from a letter.)

CHESTER, S. C., July 16, 1888.

MY DEAR MRS. PERRY: I have your letter of the 11th and answer it to-day.

In all my life I do not know that my heart has been ever more touched than in reading its contents. \* \* \* \* \*

I know as to this I write to one whose heart in this regard must be in sympathy and union with my own. Your love and veneration for Governor Perry, your devotion to preserving the memory of his usefulness and greatness, is one of the most beautiful instances of true affection which can be found anywhere. Yours has not been the mere conventional mourning of a widow for a kind husband, but it has been a loving purpose to rescue his name and fame from the oblivion which has followed the death of so many strong men at the South. Take two of Governor Perry's contemporaries, (older men however), Waddy Thompson and Warren R. Davis. They were both men of fine intellects and had been even more in public life than your husband. Their very names are almost forgotten. Not so with Governor Perry. The exertions of a devoted wife have given him a lasting and honored place in the history of our State and country. I hope to be able to visit Greenville about the last of August and have the pleasure of seeing you.

Yours most respectfully and gratefully,

S. PRIOLEAU HAMILTON.

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FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE, MONT EAGLE, TENN., Sept. 6, 1888.

MY DEAR MRS. PERRY: A short time before Vardry McBee's death I called on him in Greenville and we had an earnest and most pleasant conversation. When about to say good bye I noticed a copy of "Reminiscences by Governor Perry," and showing interest in the book I was urged by him to take it with me. Before I returned it he died, and Aunt Susan asked me to keep it in memory of Vardry, thus giving the book, which was already fully appreciated by reason of its intrinsic worth and the distinguished life of the author, a new value to me.

My brother, Dr. McBee, who is at present with me, has enjoyed the book exceedingly, and a few days ago handed it to Judge Lea, of Nashville, saying as he did so: "Judge, here is a book you will enjoy."



When Judge Lea returned it his language and enthusiasm were so pleasing that I asked him to put in writing what he had said to me, and on yesterday I received the enclosed letter, which it gives me great pleasure to present to you.

I often wished to express to you my estimate of Governor Perry, but the opinion of a distinguished man like Judge Lea is of so much more value, and he has expressed my sentiments with so much grace and strength, that I adopt his language and send it as my own.

Judge Lea was for a long time on the Supreme Bench of this State, and his opinions, I am told, are quoted more than those of any other member of that high Court. He is now the President of the Tennessee Historical Society and is the moving spirit in its great work.

You were kind enough to send me a copy of the letters received by yourself after Governor Perry's death, and because I have delayed expressing my pleasure at, and appreciation of, your kind consideration, I am sure you will not deny me the privilege of doing so now, nor the less appreciate my earnestness. I am with high esteem,

Most respectfully,

SILAS MCBEE.

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MONT EAGLE, Sept. 4, 1888.

SILAS MCBEE, ESQ.,

MY DEAR SIR: I return the book with my thanks and cannot refrain from expressing the great pleasure I have derived from its perusal. Of almost every one of the distinguished personages of whose lives Governor Perry gives such an interesting account, I had some general knowledge, and with eight or ten of them I enjoyed a personal acquaintance, having heard them speak in Legislative assemblies and converse in social circles; and Governor Perry has certainly succeeded in apprehending, and also, in expressing in a happy style and manner the strong and prominent traits, intellectual and moral, which mark and differentiate the respective characters of these eminent men.

The life of one person whose name does not appear in the

index of subjects has also been unwittingly and unconsciously written, and that is a life of the author. From what he so gracefully says of others, we can readily infer what could be truthfully said of himself. A man must possess more than ordinary strength and beauty of character, who for a long series of years stood firm on the weaker side, fought courageously for what he conceived to be the right, and yet retained the respect and friendship of those whom he strenuously opposed. The unaffected pleasure with which he sets forth the excellencies and virtues of his associates at the bar and in politics—his rivals—discloses a generous nature and perfect freedom from anything savoring of jealousy and selfishness. He must have been an admirable man—a loveable character.

Very truly,

JOHN M. LEA.

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MONT EAGLE, TENN., Sept. 15, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: On my return to my mountain cottage I found a copy of the Biographical Sketches of Eminent Statesmen, and the fly-leaf informed me as to whom I was indebted for the most acceptable and highly prized present. The reading of it will, I am sure, confirm and strengthen the impression which I already entertain of the worth, excellence and ability of the author.

Please accept my thanks and allow me to express the wish that health and happiness may accompany you through life.

With great respect,

JOHN M. LEA.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 15, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Sans Souci*,

DEAR MADAM: The book of sketches by your lamented husband, sent me by your own kind hands, with words of commendation and gratitude, reached me yesterday.

As a Carolinian to the manner born I claim in part whatever there is of greatness in the "dead but sceptred sovereigns" among us upon whom the mantle of high endeavor

has fallen. Surely among these Governor Perry's name will always be found.

But, Madam, an additional honor is mine. Not only do I possess this work of his own conception and execution, but I have received it at the hands of his widow, who sends it to me with kindest messages. For this additional compliment I am especially grateful.

Your brave, honest son fought a good fight and the victory remains with him. Columbia greets Greenville upon the occasion of his success, and if the people here knew how proud of him his noble mother is, they would, one and all, see another reason why Colonel Perry should have been returned to the halls of National legislation.

Very truly and respectfully,

ANDREW CRAWFORD.

UPLANDS,

BROOKLINE, MASS., June 14, 1888.

DEAR MRS. PERRY: I lost no time, after receiving your last letter, in purchasing a copy of "The Sketches" at Damrell & Upham's. From time to time I have read pages of it with great interest. But absence from home, on our customary spring journey, and engrossing engagements, since our return, have left me with a huge pile of unacknowledged letters, to which every day brings additions. I am at last established in our summer home, to which, however, I cannot give the name "Sans Souci." Indeed, cares and troubles beset us all, whatever names we adopt for our places. But I cannot longer postpone an acknowledgment of your kind letter.

I congratulate you on having issued so handsome a volume. The contents and the portrait give a most agreeable impression of Governor Perry, and will preserve his memory more securely than any monument. I doubt not that the volume will find its way into all our public libraries, and will meet the commendations which it merits.

Believe me, respectfully and truly yours,

ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

FLAT ROCK, S. C., Oct. 1, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

DEAR MADAM: The two books you were so kind as to send me came duly to hand and I hereby tender you my heartfelt and most sincere thanks for the true kindness and courtesy you have shown in sending them to me, a stranger to you, and I hope you will pardon this tardy acknowledgment of your kindness. I have not been very well for some days and I have also been so much absorbed in the perusal of the books that I have not been able to make an earlier acknowledgment. It will give me great pleasure indeed to show the books and endeavor to promote their sale. The people of South Carolina ought to buy the Governor's books, for our State never had a truer or more patriotic son than he. Undeterred by popular clamor and the threats of persecution, he bravely adhered and contended for what he believed to be the true policy for our State to pursue, and time has proven the wisdom of his doctrine. I once more tender you my thanks and will do what I can to sell the books. They deserve a large sale.

Hoping this may find you in the enjoyment of health, happiness and prosperity, I remain, dear madam,

Most sincerely yours,

D. G. LANIER.

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RECTORY,

AUGUSTA, GA., Nov. 5, 1888.

MY DEAR MRS. PERRY: As yet I have not been able to study the "Biographical Sketches," but coming from Governor Perry's head and heart, they must be subjects of fruitful study. I will take great pleasure in reading them. As a youth, with the long imaginary distance that stands between men and the young, I admired and revered your noble husband. Yet boys in their dreams and ambitions for the future have ideals; and one of my ideals was Governor Perry. Time has not changed that ideal, only bringing it out into clearer light, more distinct and marked setting. If I was a public man, a politician in the nobler sense of the word, no higher



aim would animate me than to be as Governor Perry in many traits of character. "He being dead yet speaketh." He shares that glorious immortality, the best immortality, living in spirit to mould and shape coming ages, future generations. His character and worth should be, *will be*, a study, an education to the young men, giving them high aspirations to yearn for, great qualities and firm principles to cultivate.

The noblest work of God is a man of principle; and a man of principle is the true follower of the Christ. I mean *the man* who, having clear, well defined principles of right, truth and duty; will never forsake, nor surrender them, who will stand like *granite* against calumny; popular opinion, attacks of enemies; desertion of friends; who would rather be *right* than a popular idol; who would rather be true to conscience and God, although solitary and alone and forsaken, than have the plaudits of the fickle crowd.

The sun moves on steady and unchangeable; so the man of principle lives on, governed by one motive, impelled by one force, loyalty and devotion to truth. He is not swept away by clamor, stirred by uncertain passion and enthusiasm. What can be nobler and grander? Would you compare the world's heroes with such a man? In all his life, *pre-eminently* in the National Democratic Convention of 1860 in Charleston, S. C., hissed, reviled, misunderstood, Governor Perry stands out as the man of principle, the hero of the unwritten history of God. Unconsciously he had caught and wrapt himself in the spirit of the Cross and its sacrifice, *devotion to truth, to conscience and God, though reviling and death follow close upon it.*

The man of principle is the prophet of his day—first, because he declares the eternal will to men, which is loyalty and devotion to truth, and, *secondly*, because he *predicts* what will be, as he knows *his principles* will be in the *end triumphant*, and that an adverse course will bring ruin and devastation.

Governor Perry was a prophet, warning the people and their leaders of their folly, and declaring the evil to come. He declared the truth and foretold the ruin which with the vision of a Seer he saw.

What our public life needs to-day, is men of principle and of strength and uprightness of character, and as an example in whom these qualities are combined and cemented by a noble heart and mind, I would hold forth to the young men. Governor Perry.

Believe me as yours very truly,

JOHN GASS.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., December 1, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

MY DEAR MADAM: Your note advising me that you had posted to my address a copy of the Biographical Sketches by your lamented husband, reached me simultaneously with the book. Please accept my grateful acknowledgments for it and for the kind words that you employ in transmitting it. I shall derive great pleasure from reading the book, for while I was too young to take note of politics at the time that Governor Perry was making his grand effort to save his country from the direful effects of an unsuccessful war, and moulding his reputation for wisdom, patriotism and boldness, yet I have gathered enough of his life to accord him a place second to none among the great men that South Carolina has produced. In the light that time has brought, even his enemies cannot deny him full credit for his noble effort in behalf of his country, and if I may be allowed to express a good wish for my State, it is that, at every critical juncture in her political affairs, she may be able to find a leader wise enough to comprehend the situation as Governor Perry did in 1860, and like him bold enough to advocate his convictions in the face of overwhelming opposition.

I observe that you persist in placing your son, Col. Perry, under obligations to me. Permit me to correct you again, by reminding you that what little I was able to do for Colonel Perry was most cheerfully done, and that in view of his constant and efficient services in pushing my claim through Congress, the balance of obligation still stands in his favor.

Thanking you again for the book, and with great respect,

I remain, dear Madam, very sincerely,

JOSEPH M. ENGLISH.

GREENVILLE, S. C., December 7, 1888.

Many, many thanks, my dear Mrs. Perry, for the volume containing the writings of your husband, compiled by yourself. It has a two-fold value and interest to me. First, as a token of your friendship, and then for the intrinsic worth and beauty of the contents. I read the volume some weeks since with great pleasure and profit. The lecture before the Lyceum of Cheraw is in itself a store of valuable information; the ending of it especially is touching and beautiful. But it is all so interesting that one cannot say which is most so. The orations, addresses, lectures and lives of distinguished men are given in a style of great purity and beauty, I may say grandeur of language, conveying to my mind an image of wisdom and all manly and moral goodness in the writer. Such a man was Governor Perry. Such was his national reputation. This and much, much more was he to you and to his children. What a priceless blessing for time and for eternity! "The memory of the just cannot die."

This volume is a most valuable addition to my library, and I will leave it to my grandchildren.

With love for yourself and Fannie, I am yours,

MARY THOMPSON.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,

BERKELEY, CAL., Dec. 12, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

MY DEAR MADAM: I hasten to respond to your esteemed favor of the 5th of December. The precious volume containing the writings of Governor Perry reached me safely; and I am quite sure that I sent you a prompt acknowledgment of its receipt before I had the opportunity of examining its contents.

Since that time, both Mrs. LeConte and myself have again and again perused the volume, and wondered at and admired the extraordinary wisdom and prescience, (almost amounting to divination), of your distinguished husband. And more than all, the manifestations in his writings of those rare attributes of human character which exalt and



ennoble humanity, are indeed, precious heritages to us, and to future generations. It is glorious to witness how the nobility of his character rose when the gloom and shadow of adversity of the "reconstruction times," overshadowed a humiliated people. The volume is one, of which you may, most justly be proud.

We can never forget the period of our residence in South-Carolina! As memory carries us back along the corridors of time, those thirteen years of sojourn in the "Palmetto State" constitute the happiest and most refreshing episode in the lives of both of us. No institution of learning ever had such a Board of Trustees as that which constituted the governing board of the "South Carolina College!" No body of men ever had a keener appreciation of genuine learning and culture, or manifested a deeper sympathy with those who were struggling to comprehend and to unfold the great principles of human knowledge. It was, indeed, a precious privilege to be associated with such a group of men; one of whom was your honored husband.

My devoted wife, I am grieved to say, is almost a confirmed invalid. Her power of locomotion is so much impaired, that she has been compelled to give up society, in a great measure. Fortunately, she is able to ride into Oakland (distant about four miles) in a carriage to visit our daughter-in-law, (the wife of our only surviving child, Julian,) and our three grandchildren. She is also able to walk about the house tolerably comfortably, and amuses herself very profitably in reading. Her condition of health is her excuse for not writing to you. She unites with me in the most affectionate regards to you.

Yours most sincerely,

JOHN LECONTE.





# NOTICE

OF THE

**Speech Before the Merchants, Mechanics and Business Men of  
Columbia, Delivered December 17, 1853, Thirty-  
Five Years Ago,**

**By HON. B. F. PERRY.**

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(The Greenville Daily News.)


A mighty leader of the people in the old days was Benjamin F. Perry, of this county. His thoughts were as free as the mountain air, his courage was as dauntless, his will was indomitable. In his long public career, in which he held the same position and stood without change for larger liberties and more consideration for the masses of the people as against the ruling few, he was opposed by powers so enormous that they would have crushed a weaker man, so aggressive that they would have frightened one less brave. Fiery, brilliant and dashing youth, staid, conservative and weighty old age, social and political influences and the outlying flunkies with the ready client smile who have waited to do the bidding of such in all ages of history, were united against him. He fought his fight with only the hearts of the people behind him—the plain, honest, lowly people who were many times fooled and driven and split, confused by fine words and cunning tricks to opposing their own interests. He lived to see many of the things he fought for done, to see many of the abuses he had bitterly and bravely denounced when they were entrenched in all the power of the State overthrown, to welcome many of the gallant gentlemen who in the blindness of loyalty to tradition and rearing had opposed his reforms and insulted and derided him, as fellow workers with him. He has gone to his reward.

On December 17th, 1853, Governor Perry delivered at Columbia an address “to the Merchants, Mechanics and Business Men of Columbia,” on the subject of “Popular Education.” It was preserved and has recently been printed in

pamphlet form by Mrs. Perry. The following extract from it fits so perfectly some of the reasoning now being advanced against the separate Agricultural College and harmonizes so well with the arguments offered by the friends of that institution that it might have been delivered yesterday: [As three thousand copies of the Speech have been printed and generally read, we omit the extract.—Mrs. B. F. P.]

This speech created a tremendous outcry at the time. Many good people believed then, as many good people believe now, that the foundations were about to be broken up. One by one the barriers in the way of real democracy, of actual rule by and for the people, which Governor Perry contended for for thirty years, he succeeded in breaking down. The parish system was abolished, a free school system has been firmly established and is making healthy growth; manhood suffrage has been obtained, and the people have a right to vote directly for all their officers. Men are represented in legislative bodies instead of dollars. \* \* \* \* \* Whatever more is needed to make the work perfect will be done in good time, if the people will hold to what they have and go right forward all together.





## LETTERS

Acknowledging the Receipt of the Speech Before the Merchants, Mechanics and Business Men  
of Columbia, S. C., Delivered December 17, 1853, Thirty-Five Years Ago,

By HON. B. F. PERRY.

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FURMAN UNIVERSITY,  
GREENVILLE, S. C., Aug. 22, 1888.

DEAR MRS. PERRY: It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of another of the excellent addresses of ex-Governor Perry, which you have so generously given to the public—that delivered before the merchants, mechanics and business men of Columbia in 1853. Although the author apologized for its rather hasty preparation, he gave his audience some of his maturest thoughts.

I have read the speech with interest; and it is gratifying to observe that the views of popular education which he then urged, but which were only partially accepted by leading men of the State, are now almost universally adopted; and in many parts of the State they find practical expression in well organized public schools. It was, perhaps, Governor Perry's misfortune to be born a half century too soon. His views were ahead of his times. The reproduction of these addresses of your late distinguished husband, will, at least, serve to remind us of a debt of gratitude we owe to a great and good man.

I have the honor to remain,  
With great esteem,  
Yours very truly,  
C. H. JUDSON.

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OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION,  
COLUMBIA, S. C., Aug. 29, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

MY DEAR MADAM: I cannot say too much in praise of the address of Governor Perry sent by you to me. The senti

ments are elevated and as wide as humanity, and the argument is true in every detail. In my work, I have tried during my time to impress just such views upon our people. I did not know that the Governor had made such a speech and I am encouraged to go on with my duties more diligently. His life was, however, so busy and so useful that he touched on almost everything and dignified everything he touched. Please present my respects to Mrs. Beattie and your household. With my great regard, very respectfully,

JAMES H. RICE.

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(From the Superintendent of Public Schools in Charleston, S. C.)

CHARLESTON, S. C., Aug. 31, 1888.

DEAR MRS. PERRY: On my return to the city this morning, I found your kind remembrances awaiting me. I shall read it with great pleasure and I am sure, with equal profit.

The Governor did a great deal for popular education, and now that he is gone, his utterances seem to have been prophetic. He was right, when he said long years ago, that "no people can sustain a Republic who have not Virtue and Intelligence," and again, when he said: "Education is of so much importance in a republican government, that it is the absolute duty of the Commonwealth to educate her sons."

It was a noble inspiration which prompted you to publish the sayings of your distinguished husband and to give to posterity the wisdom of his utterances. With many thanks for the copies sent me, allow me, dear Mrs. Perry, to subscribe myself,

Sincerely yours,

HENRY P. ARCHER.

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BENNETTSVILLE, S. C., Sept. 6, 1888.

MRS. B. F. BERRY,

DEAR MADAM: I had just finished "Sketches," by Governor B. F. Perry, when this morning I received by mail his speech on popular education, delivered in Columbia, 17th of December, 1853, recently republished by you, and a copy of which you have kindly sent me. Permit me to thank you




for it. I immediately read it, and am delighted with the sound and wise sentiments of the address. I always entertained for Governor Perry sentiments of esteem and admiration, but after reading his sketches and speeches, my admiration for him is greatly increased, and I regard him a *great* and *good* man. With sentiments of esteem,

I am, very respectfully,

J. H. HUDSON.





## LETTERS

### ACKNOWLEDGING THE RECEIPT OF THE SECOND EDITION OF "IN MEMORIAM."

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(As this Tribute is published more especially for the benefit of the children of Governor Perry, it is a pleasure to his wife to insert a few of the letters received by her after the publication of the second editions of "In Memoriam" and "Erskine Address," which she deems worthy of preservation )

(From Judge John M. Lea, formerly Judge of the Supreme Court of Tennessee and now President of the Historical Society of that State.)

NASHVILLE, TENN., Dec. 3, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: The first series of Biographical Sketches written by your lamented husband I read with much interest, and the last volume which you were so kind as to send to me a few weeks ago I have perused with equal pleasure. With some eight or ten of the distinguished personages whose lives are portrayed I enjoyed a personal acquaintance, and with some of them, I may say, an intimate association, and never in any history or biography were characters more faithfully and impartially delineated—in fact, mental and moral qualities are set forth as clearly and distinctly as the most accomplished artist could have represented on canvas the physical features of those distinguished men. These Sketches are not only a most valuable contribution to political history, but they serve as models for the style and manner in which biography should be written. All of truth and nothing of exaggeration can be found within the leaves of these books. Commendation does not savor of adulation, the just mean is preserved, and scrutiny fails to find one line of malice, or even a tinge of political ascerbity.

Your husband, my dear Madame, lived in a perilous time and occupied, on account of his political sentiments, a most delicate position, the duties of which he bravely and heroically discharged. The relation which he occupied towards

the leading men of South Carolina illustrates the fact, so honorable to human nature, that in minds truly generous and great, difference of opinion need not necessarily degenerate into personal dislike or hostility, and it is really delightful to read the tributes of respect which have been paid to his memory by those with whom he differed on questions involving the life of the nation. Seldom in ancient or modern times have we witnessed a spectacle so rare, the commentary on which is an honor to the people and to the public men of South Carolina.

The memory of so good and so great a man is a priceless legacy, and may the evening of your days, dark as they may be in your loneliness, be lighted up by recollections of him who was a comfort to you in his life. May health and happiness accompany you,

Very truly,

JOHN M. LEA.

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SPARTANBURG, S. C., Oct. 26, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

DEAR MADAM: I feel highly honored this morning upon receiving a copy of the Memorial of your late husband, and also a copy of the Address before the students of Erskine College. In my boyhood I was taught by my father to honor the name of Governor Perry, and since growing to manhood and learning for myself the history of his career, I have always admired his fearless integrity, as well as his profound foresight, which led him to see what we *now all* see—that *secession* would only bring *disaster* on our country. I regret very much that I did not have a personal acquaintance with him.

With many thanks for your kind remembrance, I am,

Very respectfully,

E. E. BOMAR.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 31, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Sans Souci*,

DEAR MADAM: Please allow me to thank you most sincerely for "The Memoriam" of your husband, the late Gov-

ernor B. F. Perry, and also the "Address" to the Literary Societies of Erskine College, in 1844. My *personal* acquaintance with the Governor was limited, but I knew him as *the man* of Upper Carolina, his *name* being synonymous of the *courage, honor and integrity* for which *that section* was so *characteristic*. I heard him in a public speech—I think it was in 1868—in our park, and could never forget the speech or the man. His was truly a *model* character and I am having both the Memorial and Address nicely bound for my son and only child, whom you may have seen in your city last year, as he was there under Captain Patrick. It may spring from selfishness in *me* to *regret* that the Memorial did not contain an *engraving* of his commanding, majestic form and noble brow, but I shall prize it none the less, and it shall be preserved with my name in your own hand, in my library for my children's children.

Most respectfully yours,

W. B. LOWRANCE.

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UNION, S. C., Oct. 31, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

MY DEAR MADAM: Permit me to acknowledge the unaffected, sincere pleasure with which I received from you, a day or two since, the Memorial volume of your distinguished husband, together with a copy of his Address before the Literary Societies of Erskine College, in September, 1884.

Governor Perry was much my senior, and it was not my good fortune to be personally known to him, but for many years I have entertained the most unbounded respect for his high, dignified and manly character.

The delicate and tender efforts of her with whom he had walked for fifty years of his life to keep fresh in the minds of his countrymen his commanding traits and virtues are, of themselves, the most beautiful proof of his greatness.

After all, the wife is the truest judge of the man, and if her voice declares that gentleness, nobleness and manliness are there, it must be so. But when the words of the wife simply corroborate the sentiments and opinions of the world, how abundant and how perfect is the testimony!



No one, therefore, other than yourself can so fittingly and effectually perform the noble work you have undertaken, and I cannot but believe that great good must surely result to all within its scope.

With the earnest hope that your life may be spared until you have finished your work, in a manner pleasing to you, and that coming years may bring you only gentle, unbroken peace, I am, my dear madam,

Most respectfully and truly yours,

E. R. WALLACE.

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WOODRUFF, S. C., Oct. 31, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

MY DEAR MADAM: Please accept my thanks for your kindness in sending me both "In Memoriam" and the Address of your lamented husband before the Literary Societies of Erskine College.

In reading the life of the Hon. B. F. Perry one can but be impressed with the fact that *truth, honesty and consistency* will receive their reward in the respect and admiration of men. So the many testimonies of esteem show the honor in which your husband was held.

Yours very respectfully,

W. W. SIMPSON.

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UNION, S. C., Oct. 31, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

MY DEAR MADAM: You will please accept my heartfelt thanks for your attention and regard in sending to me a copy of the "Memoriam" of your beloved husband, together with the address by him delivered before the Literary Societies of Erskine College in 1844; the appreciation of which language is almost inadequate to express. The address is certainly an unsurpassed masterpiece of its kind that it has ever been my pleasure and privilege to peruse. I have read this little pamphlet with profound interest, and find embodied in its pages wise counsel and tender admoni-

tion, worthy the heed and following of all—a condensed history of the life and character of many of the world's renowned men of all ages—the most illustrious of whom I can, with pardonable pride and propriety, compare the author; and my greatest regret is that I had not the privilege of the companionship and association of so great and good a man, whose devotion to private and public duty, fearless firmness and strict adherence to principle, commanded the respect and admiration of all—friend and foe. The address of itself, aside from the grand granite shaft, will as well tend to perpetuate his memory, and, as intended, benefit the young of future generations; and the noble work of disseminating it, should make your name a household word in every family that has children to rear and fit for the various vocations of life. With tender sympathy and great respect, I am,

Yours sincerely,

JOHN P. GAGE.

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COWPENS, S. C., Nov. 1, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: Please accept thanks for your kind consideration in sending me a copy of the Memorial volume so appropriately and neatly gotten up in memory of your deceased husband, Governor B. F. Perry; also, for a copy of his admirable and eloquent address before the Literary Societies of Erskine College, nearly a half a century ago.

I have read them both carefully, and, I trust, profitably. It was never my good fortune to know Governor Perry personally, though I had seen him a few times, I knew him only by reputation. And though my feeble pen can add nothing in the way of eulogy, I *must* and *will* say that in my humble judgment, Governor Perry was the most *honest, far-seeing* and *wise* statesman that South Carolina has ever produced, or in all probability ever will! Had his wise counsels been heeded, the noblest sons of our Sunny South would never have been so foolishly and cruelly sacrificed.

While we mourn our great loss in his death, we should be consoled by the fact that he lived to see his predictions lit-

erally fulfilled, and those who differed with him at one time in politics, ready to rise up and call him "blessed."

His memory will be cherished when the marble that towers above his grave has crumbled.

Sincerely yours, &c.,

JOHN DEWBERRY.

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UNION, S. C., Nov. 2, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

DEAR MADAM: It is a pleasure to me to acknowledge the receipt of the "In Memoriam" and the Erskine Address of your noble husband.

Others have said enough about Governor Perry's distinguished qualities. I must think that *you*, who have gone to such pains and expense to perpetuate his memory and to disseminate his words of truth among our people, must have contributed much to his great success.

Thanking you sincerely for including me among those you have honored, I am, yours sincerely,

B. F. BAILEY.

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DANVILLE, VA., Nov. 2, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

MY DEAR MADAM: I acknowledge with pleasure the Memorial and Address sent me, and have read with great interest the sketch of Governor Perry's life. Would that there had been more like him, for then we might have secured our rights in the Union without the loss of so many of our choicest lives.

Like him, some of my own people opposed secession, (as did General Lee himself, as late as January 23, 1861), and like him, had of course to abide by the State, and share in the miseries of her people.

I take the liberty of forwarding to you an address delivered last summer by my brother, Thomas Nelson Page, at Washington and Lee University, on "The Old South." Hoping that you may like the address, I am, with respect,

Your obedient servant,

ROSEWELL PAGE.

NO. 32 BROAD STREET,  
CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 5, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.,*

MY DEAR MADAM: I am in receipt of the pamphlet in memory of the late Governor Perry, and the copy of his address before the Societies of Erskine College in 1844.

I beg that you will accept my sincere thanks for both; and my assurance of my most profound respect for the memory of your late husband. It was my misfortune that my youth prevented my intimate association with him, but I have read of him, and heard of him, always with reverent regard for his virtues, and an earnest desire to emulate those virtues and his many accomplishments.

I remember very well that while on a visit to your city more than ten years ago, he spoke words of great encouragement to me. It was at the commencement of my professional life, and he made me feel that I had his best wishes for my success, and I then felt, and now appreciate very highly, of how much value those wishes were, as they were honest and genuine as his whole life, public and private, was sincere and faithful.

I shall read and keep these books as guides and helps to me, and I am, my dear madam,

Very respectfully and faithfully,

SIMEON HYDE.

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ABBEVILLE, S. C., Nov. 8, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.,*

DEAR MRS. PERRY: Please accept many thanks for your kind consideration in sending me a copy of the "In Memoriam" and also of the address delivered by Hon. B. F. Perry before the Literary Societies of Erskine College.

In every age it has been a few men who have given a country its renown and glory, and when we trace the pages of history we find no name that has cast greater lustre upon our country than that of your illustrious husband, whose loss was so keenly felt by us all.

In having the courage to express his convictions, under



any and all circumstances, he has set us an example which can but be admired by all those who love truth, bravery and honor. With great respect I am,

Yours very truly,

EUGENE B. GARY.

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ORANGEBURG, S. C., Nov. 10, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Sans Souci, Greenville, S. C.*,

DEAR MADAM: Permit me to thank you, and express my high appreciation of your kindness in sending me the "In Memoriam" volume of your husband, the late Governor B. F. Perry, and especially for his very able and instructive Erskine College Address, both of which have been read with no ordinary interest and pleasure.

Governor Perry was a *grand* man, and you have made this generation your debtor by preserving to them the sketch of a life that was the embodiment of *lofty patriotism, high principle and superb courage*. His name and fame are securely fixed in the hearts of his State, as well as in the history of her great men and achievements. With highest esteem and sincere thanks,

Yours very respectfully,

T. M. RAYSOR.

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COMPTON, S. C., Nov. 10, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

MY DEAR MADAM: Accept my thanks for the kind consideration that prompted you to forward to me a copy of the "Memoriam" and Erskine College address of your late honored and lamented husband. Though but a lad when I knew him first, and having since removed from near his home, I deem it an honor and claim the privilege of calling myself his friend and always admirer. My father, who was the Rev. C. P. Dean, was a warm friend of your great and good husband, and held him up to his children as one worthy of honor and emulation—and how well do I remember his stalwart form when in the court house in 1860 or '59—he first became known to me. It was during the great trial

between Cooley and Chapman, where he gained, I expect, his greatest triumph at the bar, and where his comparisons and invective drove his eminent opponent, Charles Sullivan, Esq., from the court room.

Though but fifteen years old, while a student at Furman University in 1860, and while all were wild with fanaticism, and the people had assembled to nominate candidates to the convention to dissolve the Union, there were none to stem the current save our esteemed and venerated friend. I was at *heart* with him, and I often wished for the temerity to approach him and tell him I was with him in his love for the Union. I had some hot words on several occasions with our boys when they were too rough in their expressions against him, but I, like him, fell into the current, and after Lee had surrendered found tears too willing to flow for the wreck of the "Lost Cause." Alas! who can tell what had been the result if his sound and sensible words had been heeded. But God is good. He works in us and through us, in ways we know not of, and we can thank Him heartily that He gave us such a noble man, for us to know and to love and to honor, and whose works and influence will live long years yet to come, and may He be more than a husband to you, and guide, direct and sustain you, giving you comfort and consolation each day as your declining years and strength may need, and at last meet you on the banks of the Beautiful River. Please accept my kindest and most sincere regards.

GEORGE R. DEAN.

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UNION, S. C., Nov. 15, 1887.

DEAR MRS. PERRY: Allow me to thank you for your kindness in sending me copies of the "In Memoriam" of your noble husband, my dear friend, Governor Perry, and of his address before the Literary Societies of Erskine College, both of which I shall preserve for the benefit of my children, to the end that they may learn all they can of the patriot and statesman who thought for himself, and boldly asserted his opinions, regardless of the numbers who differed with him.

I rejoice that I served with Governor Perry in the Legislature in the winter of 1864, where I had a good opportunity to behold for myself his nobleness of heart and soul, his steadfastness to principle, statesmanship and bravery.

Had a majority of the people of this State in 1860 entertained similar political views to those of Governor Perry, there would have been no secession—no war.

While visiting my son last week in the South Carolina College, your grandson, Perry Beattie, came up and spoke to me. How I appreciated his politeness, his thoughtfulness and kindness in speaking to me. I see in him a striking resemblance of his grandfather, Governor Perry.

Present my kind regards to Mrs. Beattie, and accept for yourself the sympathies of one who, like yourself, is acquainted with sorrow and grief.

Yours truly,

J. G. McKISSICK.

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(From H. L. Dawes, U. S. Senator from Massachusetts.)

PITTSFIELD, NOV. 19, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Sans Souci*, Greenville, S. C.,

MY DEAR MADAM: Please accept my thanks for a copy of the Memorial of your honored husband, and also an address delivered by him. Governor Perry has long been honored and respected by all those familiar with the life and character of our public men, as well on account of his great moral worth as his conspicuous *firmness of character and courage of convictions*. I do not call to mind at this time any one who has stood up so bravely in vindication of what he believed to be right, against strong current of public sentiment around him, as your husband. His name and character and example will prove in after times to be of great value to the rising generation of public men, and their influence will continue to be felt through many generations. Especially will his memory be cherished in Massachusetts, for the noble and courageous stand he took in behalf of one of the best of our public men sent to your State under circumstances

and upon an errand especially distasteful to your people.

Thanking you again for these Memorials of him, I am,  
with great respect and sympathy,

Your obedient servant,

H. L. DAWES.

NOTE—In 1844 Governor Perry was elected to the State Senate of South Carolina, and while a member of that body voted *alone* against the resolution ordering the expulsion from the State of Hon. Samuel Hoar, who was sent here by the State of Massachusetts to test the legality of a law relating to colored seamen. Every other Senator voted for it, but Governor Perry spoke energetically against it, and had his *solitary* vote recorded on the negative side, declaring that hostile majorities had no terrors for him while he was conscientiously performing his duty.

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AIKEN, S. C., Nov. 19, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: Allow me to thank you for the pamphlet "In Memoriam, Benjamin Franklin Perry," which reached me a few days since.

To do justice to the memory of your lamented husband would require a volume; indeed, a history of the State during that long period in which he was a leader in the councils. For a half century he stood among the ablest of that distinguished band of Carolinians who made this State great, beloved by its citizens and respected by the civilized world. In the providence of God he reached a ripe age, and honored, respected and beloved, he has passed from the toil of life, and enjoys the reward reserved for those who love and labor for their fellow men.

I trust, dear madam, that you will long be spared to your family and friends.

Very respectfully,

JAMES ALDRICH.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 20, 1887.

HON. MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

DEAR MADAM: Allow me to express to you my many thanks for the compliment conferred, by sending me through mail a copy of the "Memoriam" touching upon the character, life and services of your distinguished consort, now de-



ceased. In his character was combined in a remarkable degree all those elements of greatness, which command the respect and admiration of all thoughtful and honorable men. He displayed in no small degree that calm judgment, *finesse d'esprit* and sagacity so characteristic of a great statesman during our troubles amidst the clamors of an angry populace and the stormy periods of a revolution; and when the "tocsin" for the destruction of the Union was ringing from one end of the South to the other he stood up like a *great patriot*, at one time almost *alone*, and fought against frightful odds for the preservation of his country. He did not blindly follow the dictum of a few leading politicians, or take his political opinions from the views or abstract theories of some so-called *political philosophers*, but had his own standpoint, and being highly endowed intellectually, exercised his own individual judgment and reason in solving the political questions and problems of his day and time. One fact that the distinguished and lamented Mr. Pettigru said of Judge Berian, of Georgia, may, with great propriety, be applied to him, viz: "He was no politician, but a distinguished lawyer and statesman." It is a curious fact, but nevertheless one which history will bear out, that some of the most distinguished men of ancient and modern times were never appreciated until they had passed away—until they were dead. They were in some instances even persecuted during their lifetime from the fact that their ideas and opinions did not run current with the popular ideas and opinions of their day and time. Such was the case with Aristides, Socrates, the lamented Pettigru, and many others. Mr. Pettigru died unfortunately before the war closed, but your husband was more fortunate. He was permitted by a kind and divine Providence to see it end. Permitted to appear again upon the scene of action during the reconstructive era, and to assist in the building up of his country. Yes, permitted to realize the *fulfillment* of his *prophecies* and the *truthfulness* of his *utterances*.

"Truth crushed to earth, will rise again,  
The eternal years of God are hers;  
But error stricken, writhes in pain,  
And dies amidst her worshippers."

Please accept, madam, the assurance of my highest consideration.

J. G. SEABROOK, M. D.

CHICK'S SPRINGS, S. C., Nov. 22, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

MY DEAR MADAM: In thanking you for your highly appreciated present, to-wit, the address and life of my much honored friend, ex-Governor Perry, the date of that address carries me back to my first school-boy days, which was in a little pine log house in the middle of an old field, where now stands a nice residence, store and church known as Locust Hill, in the upper part of our County. It also brings to my mind how I used to, about that time, saddle up my horse on Saturday evening, and gallop off to the postoffice to get the nice, clean Southern Patriot, which was sent free to my father during the whole time of Governor Perry's connection with the paper, or this is my recollection at this time. It also reminds me of the fact that I voted for him from my first vote every time the opportunity was afforded. I can call to mind so much of his sayings and doings in the court house of our County, and at many other places, that I will read the address, and more particularly the life of the man I always thought so much of. Now, dear madam, allow me again to thank you, and wish for you many more days of happiness with your son, Colonel W. H. Perry; and for him I can only wish the mantle of his *honored father* to fall and cover him completely up. With this very imperfect acknowledgement of yours, and with my respects, I am,

Yours truly,

R. B. GIBSON.

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(From the Superintendent of Public Schools in Columbia, S. C.)

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 23, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: The admirable address of your distinguished husband and your Memorial volume to that *noble man* have been received and read with much pleasure and profit.

Truly is it, as he so well says: "Nothing can conduce more to the improvement of the young mind than the reading and contemplation of the lives of great men," and his life is an

illustration of the truth, in the good influence which its contemplation has already exerted. As one specially interested in education, I must thank you for preserving, for the imitation and emulation of the youth of our State and country, a record of the *labors, trials and triumphs* of a life whose watchword was *always* "Right," and *never* "Expediency," even under the most trying difficulties and discouragements. Many will surely be the better and stronger for reading what one of "Nature's noblemen" had the *courage to dare* and *do* in the *line of right and duty*. With great respect, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

D. B. JOHNSON.

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CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 3, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

DEAR MADAM: I have just received the Memorial of Governor Perry, together with his address to the Literary Societies of Erskine College, which I beg gratefully to acknowledge.

The fame of Governor Perry, and the eminence of his character and public services are a part of the inheritance of the State. They illustrate the history of our people. The example of such a life is a legacy to posterity. The address is a reflection of Governor Perry's individuality. Its sentiments flow naturally from such a source. Happy the man, young or old, who is able not only to appreciate, but to *practice* what he inculcates. I am, dear madam,

Yours most respectfully,

B. H. RUTLEGE.

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METHODIST RECTORY,

GREENVILLE, S. C., Jan. 12, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: Accept my sincere thanks for the Memorial of your lamented husband, and also for the copy of his able address at Erskine College. I have *greatly* desired these publications, but to receive them from *your hands* enhances their value.



From a child I admired Governor Perry, and my admiration increased to the end of his life, and still grows. I am sure that he more than deserved the high praises which followed him living, and which embalm his memory now. And I believe when posterity sifts the men and days past and passing, his honor and fame will be *greater* than they are *to-day*, albeit, our whole State and the informed of our country now mourn "a prince and a great man."

May the Divine Comforter sustain you and yours. Will you accept for yourself and convey to your family most heartfelt sympathy. From yours most sincerely,

JOHN O. WILLSON.

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LANCASTER C. H., S. C., Jan. 12, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

MY DEAR MADAM: I received the pamphlet, "In Memoriam," of your distinguished husband, the Hon. Benjamin F. Perry, which you so kindly sent to me the first week of the new year. I was away from home at the time the pamphlet came for me, otherwise it would have been acknowledged sooner. The Memoriam is a just tribute to the life, character, and public acts of your husband.

Governor Perry was a man of decided character. He not only possessed ability and integrity, but he possessed moral courage in a very high degree. He was a bold, forcible and impressive speaker. He was one of the leaders of the Union party in South Carolina, and the denunciations and frowns of party never caused him to shrink from the maintenance and defense of his principles. Although he differed from the dominant party in the State, yet he was always regarded as an honest politician, and true to his convictions of right and duty.

It was my good pleasure to know Governor Perry, and to receive from him acts of kindness.

Thanking you for your kindness in sending me the pamphlet, I remain yours very truly,

GEORGE M. C. WITHERSPOON.



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(From Bishop Stevens.)

211 BULL STREET,  
CHARLESTON, S. C., March 16, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: I return thanks for the compliment paid me by sending me a copy of "The Memorial Tribute" to your husband, Hon. B. F. Perry.

Though never having a personal acquaintance with Governor Perry, I have always regarded him with the highest admiration for his integrity of character and unswerving devotion to principle.

I shall never forget the splendid triumph of his *moral* worth, when in the Democratic Convention of 1860, in this city, he controlled the excited and opposing body, and *compelled* them to listen respectfully to views not one relished or agreed with.

Very respectfully,

P. F. STEVENS.

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LA GRANGE, S. C., March 27, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: Please accept my thanks for your kind remembrance of me in sending the Memorial pamphlet of your noble husband.

He obtained and justly merited the admiration of all the people of South Carolina. I have never heard his name mentioned except in the highest terms of regard.

No man could leave a greater legacy to his sons than the nobility of soul which seems to have characterized every action of your lamented husband. I shall always keep the Memorial of Governor Perry, and regard it as a just tribute to one of the grandest and most illustrious men that South Carolina has ever known. With sincere respect, I am,

Yours truly,

JOHN G. MOBLEY.

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LAURENS, S. C., April 24, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: I have the honor to acknowledge the re-

ceipt of a copy of "In Memoriam," your beautiful tribute to the memory of your distinguished husband, together with the address delivered before the Literary Societies of Erskine College, both of which I shall read and preserve with pleasure. It is indeed fortunate for posterity that you have preserved these evidences of the love and esteem in which he was held, for while the generation of to-day needs no reminder of him, they will serve to give his example to others *yet to come*. On several occasions it was my good fortune to hear him in public, and his words of wisdom have *never* been forgotten. His keen foresight in the councils of State and the independence of his course will not only make him *immortal* in American history, but will vouchsafe to his posterity the honor and respect which *his name* inspires.

Yours with the greatest esteem,

FRANK P. MCGOWAN.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., May 29, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

MY DEAR MADAM: I feel very much obliged by your kindness in sending me copies of the "Memorial" of your husband and of his address at Erskine College in 1844. I am very glad to have a permanent record of such a life as his has been. Ever since I have been able to form an opinion on such a subject, I have thought him one of the *wisest, bravest* and *most enlightened* men of our State. To the satisfaction of seeing the present honor done to his memory, I think you may well add a reasonable hope that posterity will do even more.

With the assurance of my sympathy in your great loss, believe me,

Yours very truly,

JAMES LOWNDES.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 17, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: Knowing that you would receive so many letters from the distinguished friends of your late husband,

the Hon. B. F. Perry, I felt reluctant to add my feeble tribute to his worth and eminent services.

I knew him for many years, and although I differed with him politically *before* the war, I always admired him for the boldness and independence of his character, his strength of intellect and his manly and noble bearing. When it was my good fortune to see him, as I often did in our Legislative halls, battling with all the force of his powerful intellect, singly and alone, in defense of what he believed to be right and best, with nearly the whole State against him, I felt that I was in the presence of a Roman who would do and dare all for his convictions.

After the war we were drawn nearer together because our sentiments were alike, and I have always regarded it as the greatest compliment ever paid me, when he arose in the Convention of 1876, and nominated me as a delegate to the National Convention.

You are engaged in a noble work in handing down to posterity the virtues and noble character of such a man, and permit me to say I honor you for it.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM WALLACE.

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GREENVILLE, S. C., Feb. 18, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*,

DEAR MADAM: Your valued favor of recent date was promptly received, as were also the "In Memoriam" and "Erskine Address." I had not seen the "In Memoriam," and with great pleasure, seated with the members of my family around the fireside, on the night of its reception, I read it to them, who were likewise greatly interested. I had read the "Erskine Address" twice before, but am much pleased to have it in pamphlet form. I have carefully filed it for future reference.

You will see from the enclosed list that I have executed your request. I have done so for four reasons: First—Because of the very great value of the Address. Second—Because I think those named would highly appreciate it.

Third—Because they possess good opportunities to distribute it amongst the children of our county, and a few, as you see, are in other Counties. Fourth—That you may have a full list of the trustees and white teachers of our County from which you can select.

From a boy, I was taught by my parents, who were great admirers of Governor Perry, to look upon him as a noble man, pure and upright in heart, brave and fearless when moved by convictions of the justice of his cause, honest in all opinions and dealings, just to all according to his judgment of the right, possessed of natural ability, by industry and perseverance a master of his profession, a statesman of high order, and familiar with the writings of all good authors. Added to this teaching, when yet quite a lad, I was given the opportunity, which I gladly embraced, of reading his “Reminiscences of Great Men” as they were published in the newspapers, and their good impressions were many and strong.

I shall never forget when I first saw Governor Perry. The occurrence made a deep impression on my mind. I was sent by my father with a note to him for some legal advice. On my way I had many thoughts and really wondered if I should indeed see him of whom I had read and been told so much. I entered his office and was received by him with as much civility and politeness as if I had been a *man*, though I was very much frightened at the thought of having to go into the presence of so great a man. He enquired my name, which I gave, and presented the note. Seeing that I was cold, for the morning was chilly and I had ridden some distance on horseback, he turned to make special arrangements for my comfort by the glowing fire. When I was seated he read the note and turned to his desk and wrote his reply. While he wrote, being somewhat behind him, I sat and gazed at him in perfect boyish amazement. When he had finished the reply he turned and handed it to me, and at once, to my very great astonishment, entered upon a general conversation about our neighborhood—the people. He seemed as familiar with their names as I was, their health, stock, crops, high



water, etc., to all of which I made the best answers I could. When I was ready to go I received from him the same kindness and courtesy as that with which he received me. When out of his office I soon became myself again. I was indeed a light-hearted, happy boy, for I had really seen Governor Perry. This taught me the lesson that no boy need ever fear to go into the presence of a *truly great* man, for he would receive nothing but the kindest treatment and consideration, such as I had received from Governor Perry. This lesson has served me well on many occasions since, and I shall never forget it. I apprehend a general distribution of this excellent Erskine address, such as is proposed by you, will sow many good seeds that will spring up and bear much good fruit as the boys into whose hearts they lodge, ripen into manhood, and throughout their lives will they reflect it.

I am, with great respect, W. D. MAYFIELD.

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BEAUVOIR, MISS., Dec. 28, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: I regret to find from your letter of the 5th instant that you have not received mine acknowledging your kind consideration in sending to me the biographical sketches of eminent American statesmen, among whom was your deceased husband. So far as he and I differed as to policy it did not prevent entire concurrence in feeling and wishes for the future of our section, and surely detracted nothing from my respect for his character and judgment. The consciousness of the rectitude of our own motives must always excite toleration for those who may not agree with us.

May God's best blessings rest upon you, is the sincere wish of yours,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.



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## Governor Perry in His Law Office and at Home, at "Sans Souci."

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(The following notice of Governor Perry by his attached friend, Hon. C. W. Dudley, gives so graphic an account of him that it is thought worthy of a place in this Tribute.)

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(We copy the following paragraph, in which Governor Perry is so kindly spoken of, from the last issue of the Marlborough Planter, published at Bennettsville, whose editor, Colonel C. W. Dudley, recently paid our city a visit.—*Enterprise and Mountaineer, Greenville, S. C., September 12, 1877.*)

But "*si ruat cælum*" our readers shall not pass over the fact that we saw in Greenville that noble Roman, Governor Perry, and his interesting family. He resides about three miles from the city, with a panorama of hills and mountains in full view of a splendid building now in process of construction and nearly finished, in which he proposes to spend the latter years of his life, in elegant retirement. It is not saying too much when we venture the assertion that Greenville has been built up around him. That he is the great centre post of the industries and the educational advantages now so prominent in that city. The world has not been mistaken in supposing that where such a man has so long been honored by the confidence of the people, they themselves love the principles which have adorned his life, and form a society in which it would be well to mingle. Consequently Greenville attracts visitors from every section of the country. It is in the direct route to Cæsar's Head, Flat Rock, and other points where health and recreation may be found, and is a resting place on the way, where the excursionist who ever knew Governor Perry rarely fails to call and pay his respects. He is punctual in attendance at his office every day, but has shunned the court house during radical rule as a pestilence. His son, Mr. W. H. Perry, is in active practice, and has relieved him from that duty. Governor Perry makes no compromises of principle, nor bends to any considerations of mere expediency. His lofty nature has felt nothing but scorn and con-

tempt for radical official fraud, and he has never failed to express it, in the most unmistakable manner. Hence, he has not bowed before their authority, nor recognized *them*, in court or out of it, except as objects of disgust and abhorrence. His law office, at the time we called, was like a crowded levee. After remaining there about an hour, enjoying the luxury of conversation, such as the most intelligent people like to indulge in and to hear, we bowed ourselves out and retreated to make room for others.

We could not help thinking that Governor Perry was like a great beacon light in the State, attracting by his high character the eyes of the whole population, and inviting them to stand upon the same pedestal he has always occupied. Just such men as he are moral disinfectants, and if it were in the order of nature, we would hope that he might never die, and never grow older.

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(This letter and description of *Sans Souci*, by Governor Perry's young friend, McDonald Furman, was received while this Tribute was being compiled, and is so much appreciated that it is thought proper to place it among the other valuable contributions to the memory of this great man.

RAMSEY, SUMTER COUNTY, S. C., Dec. 15, 1888.

DEAR MRS. PERRY: You will find enclosed an article which appeared in to-day's Sumter Advance, giving an account of the day I spent at *Sans Souci* six years ago. At the time I wrote the account in my diary I had no idea of ever publishing it, but since then I have thought that it would form an interesting article, so I have had it published. Governor Perry had many admirers in this section of South Carolina, and this account of his home will be of interest to them. This is, I suppose, one of the fullest accounts of *Sans Souci*, which has ever appeared in a newspaper. The day I spent at *Sans Souci* was one of the most enjoyable of my school life in Greenville, and it is a day which I will always hold in pleasant memory.

I hope you are in the enjoyment of good health. With



kind regards to yourself and the other members of your family,

I remain sincerely yours,

McDONALD FURMAN.

It is two years this month since the veteran statesman, Benjamin F. Perry, died. Governor Perry was not only a statesman, he was also a jurist and a man of letters. Several years ago the writer of these lines was a cadet at the Greenville Military Institute, and I used sometimes to visit Governor Perry at his law office and chat pleasantly with him. In June, 1882, I spent, by invitation, a day at *Sans Souci*, as the Perry mansion is named. It is situated about three miles from the city of Greenville. As it may be of interest to your readers to learn something about the home of this distinguished South Carolinian, I give below an account of the day I spent at *Sans Souci*. It is copied (and somewhat condensed) from a diary I kept at that time.

Perry Beattie (a grandson of Governor Perry) came for me in a buggy and drove me out. I found the ride very pleasant. At last we approached *Sans Souci*. Mrs. Perry met me at the door with a friendly smile. Her daughter, Mrs. William Beattie, was there, and she, Mrs. Perry and I were soon engaged in a pleasant conversation. Presently Governor Perry returned from his law office, accompanied by young Sam Townes, who also spent the day there. After partaking of some nice fruit, Perry Beattie carried Townes and myself into the cupola, on top of the mansion. The mountain view from this point is lovely, and it appears as if some beautiful picture was spread out before you. A person can see mountains in three States from the cupola, viz: South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

Next, Beattie carried us over the grounds and to the stable, which is a large and handsome brick building, and everything is most complete about it. Near the mansion is a small stream, with a tiny fishpond on it, in which are some carp.

*Sans Souci* is a large and beautiful brick mansion, and in some places pretty vines are being trained up its sides. The grounds are beautifully laid off. After rambling over them,



we went into the library, which is a most valuable and extensive one. It is contained in two rooms separated by folding doors. Governor Perry has a great many works relating to American history, which I looked at. Gentle reader, you who love books and delight to glance on the pages of history, you can imagine what a delightful time I had. While I was in the library I heard sweet strains of music which proceeded from a music box.

After awhile we went to dinner. After this was over, we returned to the library, where we engaged in pleasant conversation. The Governor did not remain long in the library; he appeared as though he felt fatigued. I presume he took an afternoon nap.

Later on in the afternoon Beattie took Townes and myself to the orchard, where we found a tree loaded with delicious cherries. After eating as many of them as we wished, Mrs. Beattie took us over the garden, which Governor Perry informed me he attended to. After our stroll through the garden, Townes and I said farewell and returned to Greenville.

I knew I should have a good time at *Sans Souci*, but I had a far better time than I even anticipated having. Governor and Mrs. Perry are so kind and hospitable; they have such a valuable library, and such a delightful place, that a visitor could not help but have a pleasant time at *Sans Souci*.

McDONALD FURMAN.

*Privateer Township, Dec. 1, 1888.*



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## GREENVILLE IN THE LONG AGO.

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### THE ORIGIN OF THE GREENVILLE FEMALE COLLEGE.

CHARLESTON, S. C., May 17, 1887.

DEAR MRS. PERRY: The copy of the Baptist Courier, published at Greenville under date of April 21, 1887, and containing the pleasing allusion to your lamented and distinguished husband have come safely to hand. I have read the article in it, entitled "Greenville in the Long Ago," and write to thank you for the privilege. I had always been under the impression that the Governor had been largely instrumental in securing the site for the Female College, but never before knew that he had rendered *professional service* in effecting a transfer of the Academy building to our Baptist friends. It is but another evidence of his large heartedness and catholicity, and I am delighted that the record of his many and unostentatious charities is being made in the public press. Governor Perry was *profound* and I feel that *too much cannot* be said of *him*.

With many thanks for your very kind remembrance, I am  
dear Mrs. Perry,

Respectfully,

HENRY P. ARCHER.

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(The Baptist Courier, April 21, 1887.)

(The recent death of Hon. Benjamin F. Perry brings to the recollection of the older citizens of Greenville many of the stirring events of his long and useful life, and among the reminiscences of his public services none deserve more grateful recognition than the part borne by him in securing the establishment of the Greenville Female College, with which his fellow citizens will ever link his name in grateful remembrance. As a testimonial of the services rendered, personally and professionally, for which he refused to accept pecuniary reward, the citizens of Greenville presented him with a pair of silver pitchers on the 22d of July, 1858, and the following report of the speeches made on that occasion will furnish the reader of to-day with interesting facts connected with the inception of an enterprise now so vigorous and flourishing. The account was published in the Patriot and Mountaineer, and is copied from Governor Perry's scrap book.—EDS. COURIER.)

## PRESENTATION ADDRESS.

The following are the remarks of Dr. Randell Croft, on the occasion of presenting to Hon. B. F. Perry, in the name of the citizens of Greenville, two costly silver pitchers:

*Maj. Perry:* The pleasing task has devolved on me of presenting to you these beautiful silver pitchers, as a small token from your numerous friends and fellow citizens of their high respect for your many public and private virtues, and in appreciation of your distinguished services in the various posts of trust which you have filled for many years past, and also in procuring the legal transfer of the lands of the Greenville Academies to the State Convention of the Baptist Denomination in South Carolina, for the establishment of the Greenville Baptist Female College. I am proud in being the chosen medium of conveying to you these testimonials of their respect and esteem. In performing this grateful office of friendship, believe me, sir, when I assure you that I not only concur most heartily in the tribute thus offered to your merit, but will always cherish the recollection of it as one of the most pleasing duties I have ever been called on to perform.

In every field upon which you have entered, your fellow-citizens have witnessed with just pride and satisfaction your devotion to their best interests, your noble integrity of purpose and thorough knowledge of the great questions which bear on the general weal of the nation. You, sir, have ever been foremost in any and every public-spirited work which has come in your way; with energy that never tires, and with skill and tact which seldom fails, you have been the Polar star to whom all eyes have been turned in every difficulty, and in whom all hearts have trusted in every emergency. Deterred by no danger, awed by no presence, and shrinking from no responsibility, you have ever moved as some grand embodiment of power. You have been instrumental in assisting to raise up the noble building in which we now stand, dedicated as it has been to Minerva and the thorough educating of our daughters and sisters; and though there may have been those who conscientiously and honestly



differed from you, those feelings are now buried and forgotten. and all are pleased to see this noble edifice rearing its broad frontlet to the sky, like a fairy palace here upon the swelling hill-top rising up in our midst, and is destined to reflect much light upon the fair daughters of Carolina and her sister States. I would not be discharging the duty which I feel incumbent upon me, were I to neglect mentioning the many valuable and efficient services you have rendered, not only our State, but our town. Ever alive to all schemes for the advancement of education, you have taken at all times a lively interest in our Female College, which, under its able and efficient faculty, is scattering broadcast the most perfect system of female education.

And perhaps there is no safer nor surer mode of diffusing knowledge and wisdom in a community than by the radical education of its females. Have educated mothers. Their influence over their offspring is constant and great. Commencing at an early date, her influence is steady and continuous; and being implanted in infancy, is never forgotten or rejected. Of all the blessings to a community, there are none which tend so well to elevate the standard of moral and intellectual worth, as religious and educated mothers. Thus it is a conceded point, that female colleges are of much intrinsic value to our State and the republic.

Greenville by her literary institutions has made herself the Athens of Carolina, and from having been a small, quiet village, is fast expanding into a large and populous town—her streets crowded with commerce, and her academic groves resounding with the teaching of science and the diffusion of truth and knowledge. To no one more than to yourself are thanks due for all these literary privileges and blessings.

Reared and brought up in this community, it has long since known your sterling virtues. You have wrung applause even from the reluctant, and gained lustre from your rivals. The still but steady intellectual and moral triumphs of your victories are emblazoned on the page of our history. Still you must not expect to escape attacks which your greatness has invited; for, “be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow.



thou shalt not escape calumny." At the Bar you have not only reached the highest standard of forensic power and mature erudition, but you have constantly and steadily kept in view the great ends of equity and justice, as of far higher importance than the mere triumphs of the advocate. In the Legislature you have, by a true devotion to the interests of Carolina, aided in enacting many laws of vast importance to the present and future generations. Nay, you have gone further. By your own forecast and wisdom, you have stamped your mark on the age in which we live in characters indelible. You have built for yourself an enviable reputation.

In politics always consistent, firm and true to your honest convictions, you have towered far above the ordinary level, and commanded the high respect and admiration of those who differed from you most. You have been ever recognized as the fearless and able champion of truth and justice—the firm and steady friend, the open and generous opponent. In every department of your labors, your character stands forth like some fair Corinthian column—majestic in its strength, just in all its proportions, resting on a base of broad dimensions, rising in perfect symmetry, surmounted with a capital of unequaled perfection and beauty, presenting to the eye a specimen of completeness and strength—the just embodiment of the truth that there must be wisdom to devise, strength to support, and beauty to adorn all great and important undertakings.

I might dwell longer on your valuable services to the cause of education, both in our own district and the State at large, but, sir, I am not here to eulogize. Your deeds are on record as a part of your country's history, and your virtues are enshrined in the grateful hearts of your countrymen. Both shall live long after you have been gathered to your fathers.

And now, in the name of your friends, allow me to present to you these pitchers, which I know you will keep and hand down to your children as an enduring token of the love and esteem of those who knew you long and well; and also as a beautiful and lasting memento of their father's identification with the cause of female learning and woman's happiness. I have only to add, sir, that along with this slight tribute I

now, as the organ of your friends, present you, wish to assure you of their continued interest in your welfare, and to convey to you their best wishes for your future happiness and prosperity, and that they join me in wishing you health, happiness and political distinction in time, and in eternity endless joys.

REMARKS OF HON. B. F. PERRY.

*Dr. Croft :* I accept, sir, with mingled emotions of pride and gratitude, the beautiful testimonial of my fellow-citizens of Greenville, so flatteringly tendered by you on the present occasion. No event of my professional life has impressed more strongly the feelings of my heart. To know that my services are valued and appreciated is a high consolation, but it is a much higher one to know that I have personally the respect and esteem of those with whom my life has been spent, and to whose service, professionally and politically, its best energies have been dedicated.

You and I, sir, were school companions, and an unbroken friendship of thirty-five years has existed between us. To this, sir, and the kindness of your nature and the warmth of your heart, ever alive to friendship and friends, more than to any merit of mine, must be attributed the complimentary terms in which you have seen proper to address me. My life has been an humble one, and my sphere of action very limited, but in my humble and limited way I have endeavored to discharge my duty faithfully and fearlessly. This is all the merit I have. It is true, the statesman, patriot and hero can claim no higher.

In procuring the transfer of the Greenville Academies for the endowment of a female college, my professional services were rendered freely, voluntarily and zealously, without the hope of fee or reward, except that most grateful of all rewards to an honorable mind—the consciousness of having done a public good. Throughout my exertions to accomplish this most laudable purpose, I felt that I was laboring in a noble cause—the cause of female education—whose importance you and others here to-day have so well illustrated in your brief remarks. What greater blessing can society

secure than the education of her daughters ? It appeals to the heart of every one.

The transfer of the Greenville Academies was a necessity springing out of the circumstances which surrounded us. Forty years ago, the citizens of Greenville, then a village composed of a dozen or two stragling houses and a population of a hundred and fifty or two hundred persons, determined, with a public spirit and liberality which reflects the highest credit, to have within their own little community the means of educating well their sons and daughters. They were unwilling to send abroad their children to be educated. They felt the importance of a child being under the constant care and watchfulness of the parent. They were also influenced by a more unselfish consideration than all this. They were anxious that those who had not the means of sending their sons and daughters from home to be educated should have access to classical schools within their own neighborhood. For this purpose the Earles, Thompsons, Cleveland, Toney, Blassingame, Sloan, Crayton, and others subscribed most liberally to the erection of two beautiful brick Academies in the village of Greenville. Vardry McBee, our worthy and public-spirited patriarch and landgrave who still survives to bless his country with his noble charities and munificent public donations, gave this magnificent site, with surrounding acres, for the location of these schools.

The Academies went into immediate operation, and flourished and prospered, disseminating a most benign influence throughout the district. I am gratified to see here, on this occasion, the venerable gentleman, Dr. Johnson, under whose care and management the Female Academy was so long conducted with honor to himself and the highest usefulness to his country, and to whom so many of the ladies of the up-country are indebted for a thorough and liberal education. A change came over the people. The spirit of education went abroad, and hundreds and thousands felt its influence who otherwise would have been destitute of its liberal advantages. Our little village grew and prospered, and became a place of fashionable resort in the summer months for the



wealthy and refined planter and merchant of the low country. The commerce of Greenville, its agriculture and mechanic arts kept pace with the progress of education. And now, sir, this mountain village ranks as the third town in the State, and next to the capital of the State—two miles in extent, with a population of three or four thousand persons. (\*)

The establishment of that noble institution in our midst, the Furman University, which is disseminating its influence all over the State, gave a new and higher impetus to the cause of education, and superceded entirely the necessity of the Greenville Male Academy. This induced the enquiry among our citizens as to the propriety of establishing a higher standard of female education in our community, and uniting the two Academies in the endowment of a female college, with liberal contributions in money on the part of the citizens for its support. A town meeting was called to consider the proposition. The ladies became interested in the question, as well they might. They honored us with their presence at our public meeting, and cheered us on by their smiles and approval. Fighting under such auspices and in such a cause, it is not strange that we were successful. The question then came up in the Board of Trustees of the Academies, and was carried. Every step taken was an ovation triumphal. In order to satisfy the consciences of the over scrupulous as to our legal right to make the transfer, we resorted to the Court of Chancery. Through all its history, this high Court has been the guardian protector of the rights of women and minors. Here again the ladies met us and graced the Court with their presence, and listened with seeming interest to legal arguments on trust and corporations. His Honor, the Chancellor Wardlaw, ordered the transfer to be made. An appeal was taken from his decision. It was argued elaborately before a full Bench of Chancellors. They decided that the Trustees could have made the transfer without the aid of the Courts. This was in conformity with the legal opinion I had first given.

But in order to make assurance doubly sure, we appealed

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(\*)NOTE.—In 1888 has a population of between nine and ten thousand



to the Legislature, late in the session and late at night as my friend and colleague, Perry E. Duncan, now present, well knows. The bill passed the House *sub silentio*. It was a march stolen on the enemy. But in the Senate their agents met it, and it was nobly fought through by our Senator, Col. Brockman, about 12 o'clock, who then retired to sleep on his laurels. We had now to carry the question in the Baptist State Convention, or all was lost. Here once more we were indebted to the influence of the ladies. They came to the discussion. During its progress, they influenced those who came to oppose to become its warmest advocates. They pointed out the beautiful location to the members, commanding a magnificent view of the mountains and over-looking the village. They spoke of the value of the property, the liberal subscriptions of their husbands and brothers, and its great importance to the community. All they asked was for the Convention to take charge of the valuable property and manage it for the education of their daughters. The transfer was made and accepted.

Now, sir, I appeal to the opponents of that measure, whether all that was predicted throughout the discussion has not been realized? What was then said at our public meetings and in our Courts as *prophecy* has now become the *truth of history*. The mothers here present and their fair daughters can rise up as witnesses for me. This beautiful structure, classic in all its proportions, dedicated as you have said to Minerva, at once the pride of our village and the ornament of the place, bears me witness. An able and learned corps of professors in every branch of female education, one which would do honor to any similar institution in the United States, is my best witness. The compositions read in our hearing to-day from the graduates would not only do credit to the graduating pupils of any college, male or female, but would do no discredit to the learned professors of those colleges for thought, taste or sentiment. Young ladies are sent here from every part of the country to be educated. Gentlemen with their families are settling here on account of our colleges, adding to the interest and pleasure of our society, and contributing their wealth to the growth

and prosperity of our town. The merchants, mechanics, farmers and boarding-house keepers are all reaping the rich fruits of their attraction, whilst our children are blessed to bless others with the great principles of learning, education and science

The most sanguine hopes of our citizens have been realized, and the Greenville Female College is established beyond contingency. Our beautiful village, with its noble scenery, fine climate, railroad facilities, and abundant surrounding agricultural products, will continue to attract hither the wealth and refinement of the country throughout its length and breadth. All are impressed with the importance of female education. Woman is recognized as the intellectual companion of man, and should be his co-equal in education. The influence of woman on society is more deeply felt than that of man. To her belongs the training of the child for good or evil, which he never forgets in after life. From the mother the son receives his early religious principles, his virtue, his sense of honor and propriety. Virginia's great orator and statesman, John Randolph of Roanoke, erratic in everything, once said, most beautifully and feelingly, that he would have been an infidel but for the remembrance of his mother's taking his little hands between hers in childhood and making him repeat every night before going to bed the Lord's Prayer.

If we will examine into history, we shall find that great men have always had great mothers. The mother of Lord Bacon, styled by the poet the greatest and wisest of mankind, was a woman pre-eminent for her intellectual endowments. The mother of Napoleon, whose genius overshadowed that of all others in ancient or modern times, was a most remarkable woman. Washington's mother was worthy of her illustrious son, and a higher compliment no woman can receive. So were the mothers of Jefferson, Adams, Clay, Calhoun and Webster.

In many of the higher qualities of our nature woman is superior to man. She possesses in an eminent degree that wisdom of the heart which never errs, and always brings her

to conclusions correct where man's reason and judgment may fail him.

There is one error in female education which is radical and pernicious, and should be corrected. Our sons never complete their education before they are near grown, twenty or twenty-one years old. How is it then possible for our daughters to be educated by the time they are fifteen or sixteen? Whilst such a course is pursued their education must be superficial. It is impossible for their young and tender minds to be thoroughly taught, and their education complete at such an age. When they quit school at nineteen and twenty, they will find that they have only laid the foundation of a good education, and its superstructure has yet to be built.

Happiness is the desire of all, and I know all are anxious to commence its early pursuit in this wide world. Let me here tell my young friends that they must search for it not only at home but within themselves, or they will never find it. God in His infinite wisdom, goodness and mercy, has ordained that happiness shall belong to no class, rank or position in society. Honor, wealth and distinction cannot give it. Nor is poverty, obscurity or humility a barrier to its possession: We must look to the heart, the mind, education and temperament, for happiness—nowhere else.


In conclusion, sir, let me return through you, to my fellow-citizens of Greenville, my most grateful thanks for their valued and unexpected present. Tell them, sir, that their kindness has filled my heart with feelings to which I cannot give utterance. Say to them that these costly pitchers, with their honoring inscription, are valued above all price, and shall be treasured with my life and honor. They shall descend to my children and to my children's children, to inspire their hearts with those feelings of respect and affection which I have always felt toward the people of Greenville. All that I am, all that I ever expect to be, I owe to their kindness and generous support, politically and professionally. In the darkest period of my life, amidst cruel abuse heaped on me for sustaining and defending the cherished political sentiments of the great heart of Washington and his dying legacy to his countrymen, they rallied around me and



gave me their entire confidence. And here I say, in their defence and in my defence, that my heart never felt nor my mind never conceived a feeling or sentiment towards my country which was not in accordance with every act and every word of the great Pater Patria. Brought up in the political school of Washington, I have made war against sectionalism all my life, as destructive of the best interests of the Republic, whilst I have defended with equal zeal the Federal Constitution, the rights of the States, and the true interests of the South. In my fidelity to the Union, I have not loved less but more the State which gave me birth and is my home. To her my first allegiance is due; but far above this feeling and stronger than this tie, is my love and devotion to Greenville, her people, her institutions, her mountains, and *everything that is hers.*







## S P E E C H

Before the Merchants, Mechanics and Business Men of Columbia, December 17, 1853,

BY HON. B. F. PERRY, OF GREENVILLE, S. C.

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FELLOW-CITIZENS: It is with great pleasure that I appear before you this evening to address the mechanics, merchants and business men of Columbia on a subject of so much importance, and so deeply interesting to all of us, as that of Popular Education. Your kind invitation yesterday morning, and the manifestations of regard which you have given me, have found a lodgment in my heart which neither time nor circumstances can displace. I regret, fellow-citizens, that the short notice given me, and my legislative duties since, have prevented me making that preparation which my respect for you and the importance of the subject demand. But such as I have I give unto you.

Every one who loves his country, and every one who loves his fellow-man, should feel and take a deep interest in popular education. What can give the heart of the patriot and philanthropist more real gratification than to see his fellow-man placed in a condition where he may acquire knowledge and virtue, religion and happiness and prosperity? Can any one be insensible to those means which are to elevate and dignify the human mind, which are calculated to raise the humble and lowly from vice to virtue and from ignorance to knowledge.

On popular education depends the stability and continuance of our Republican institutions. No people can sustain a Republic who have not virtue and intelligence. All history proves the truth of this assertion. Look at Mexico, in a constant state of revolution and despotism, and all the time struggling for a Republican form of government. Not one man in one hundred of that unfortunate people can read and

write. So rare is the capacity to write, that one meets in the streets of Mexico professional letter writers, with ink and pen, ready to be employed by the thousands who are uneducated and who may wish to correspond with a friend or a sweetheart. Look at France, with all of her science and literature, but still without popular education, pulling down her Republican form of government as soon as it is established!

Some years ago, when Louis Philippe was hurled from his throne and the French Republic established on its ruins, I congratulated the cause of human liberty and Republicanism on the establishment of a popular government in the centre of Europe, surrounded by kings and emperors. I thought the people of France capable of self-government, from the fact that their landed estates were divided into the smallest farms imaginable. I thought this would give the people an interest in government which would secure and perpetuate the Republic. But I did not reflect on the want of popular education in France. The great masses of people there are still unable to read and write, notwithstanding the science and literature of the chosen few.

In ancient Greece there was very little education amongst the masses, and the powers of government were in the hands of the educated few. Athens was a republic only in name. The people were governed absolutely and despotically, though voluntarily, by their orators and great men. In no country in the world, perhaps, had an orator more complete control of the masses than in Athens. He moved them and swayed them at his will. They came to hear him to get information, and in their ignorance were unable to controvert anything he said or did. How different it is in modern times, and especially in these United States, where popular education is so general. Here the orator addresses those on the same platform of knowledge as himself. The audience are his equals in education, in knowledge and in thought. The views he may express are the same views which have occurred to hundreds whom he is addressing.

In Rome there was more of popular education than in Greece, and more of self-government during the existence of

the Republic. But still, education was not general, as it is in modern times; and necessarily could not be, whilst the art of printing was unknown to the world. Books were scarce and costly whilst in manuscript. It was a labor to make a single copy of a history or philosophical work. Thanks to the art of printing, this is no longer the case. And a free press, whilst it disseminates knowledge and information, has become one of the great bulwarks of liberty and virtue. But a servile and slavish press, the mouth-piece of cliques and parties, is one of the greatest curses which can be inflicted on any country.

In the dark ages which ensued the fall of the Roman Empire, all the learning and education of the world were confined to the clergy. They, too, had all the power and political influence of Europe in their hands, showing that education and political power are inseparable. The kings and princes of Europe were, in the dark ages, under the control and influence of the educated priesthood. At the will of the Pope they were dethroned and made beggars in their own dominions! They were ignorant and so were their nobility. Reading and writing were rare qualities amongst sovereigns and lords. They had seals for the purpose of affixing their signatures to deeds and grants!

But, fellow-citizens, a great change has come over the world since those days. The tyranny and despotism of Europe have, in a great measure, been dispelled by popular education. As the human mind has been enlightened, the shackles of despotism have fallen from the hands of the people. All the governments of Europe have become freer and more liberalized, and the people have become more educated and more intelligent. In this respect the United States are peculiarly blessed, and have been since the first settlement of the Colonies.

The Pilgrims of Massachusetts were educated. They could read and write. Their education caused them to feel deeply their religious and political oppressions. Their minds were elevated, and they had imbibed a spirit and energy which forced them to leave their homes and their country and kindred, and seek a habitation in a howling wilderness rather



than submit their necks to the iron heel of the oppressor. They believed it to be their sacred duty to teach every one to read the Word of God. Popular education was thus handed down from sire to son amidst the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers. Its effects and consequences are now blessing all New England with religion, morality, literature, science, republicanism, wealth and prosperity.

The Roundheads and Cavaliers of Virginia also brought with them a love of popular education and a love of liberty which nothing has or can depress. So it was with the first settlers of South Carolina. Shortly afterwards came the Huguenots, who were French artisans and mechanics. They were educated and with their education had imbibed a spirit of freedom and a love of religious toleration. From these mechanics have descended many of the first families of South Carolina.

But, fellow-citizens, look these United States over and ask yourselves what this popular education, this half-education, the scorn of some, has done for the country, and the great men of the country. George Washington was no graduate of a college, and there was nothing thorough in his education. He had received only the common rudiments of an English education—such as the common boys of the country now receive at the commonest schools of the country. He was a good surveyor and wrote a fair and legible hand. With this small capital in the way of education: to commence with, he improved himself and rose to an elevation, in moral greatness, which no other man in the world ever did possess. He established a republic and achieved the independence of his country. Long may this great and glorious confederacy of sovereign and independent States endure as the monument of his virtue, wisdom and patriotism!

Dr. Franklin was another of those half-educated boys, who some would have us believe are rendered vicious and idle by a little school instruction. He was the son of a poor tallow chandler, and to say that he was half-educated is saying more than was true. He could read and write and cypher a little, and that was the extent of his education. But with this little smattering of knowledge, what did he do? He was



a printer's boy, and whilst others were idling away their time, he was using these implements, obtained at a common school, to unlock the whole range of science and make himself the most illustrious philosopher of his age! He became the friend of the great and the learned and the companion of nobles, princes and kings! His discoveries and inventions were the admiration of the world, and have proved him one of the greatest benefactors of mankind! What could he have been without the little education he received in childhood? Perhaps a good tallow chandler, though possibly a vicious and wicked man and a nuisance to society, instead of a patriot statesman, philosopher and philanthropist!

In passing through the upper part of the State some years since, I met an old lady, Mrs. Stephenson, who had been the school companion of General Jackson. She told me an incident in his life that I never knew before, but which I have since seen stated by his biographer. When a boy he worked at the saddler's trade, near the Waxahaw's, in Lancaster District, with a man by the name of White. His education consisted of a knowledge to read and write and cypher. But with this little learning, he made his way to the Presidency of the United States, and became the most popular Chief Magistrate since the administration of Washington.

Alexander Hamilton, perhaps the greatest intellect the United States ever produced, quit school at thirteen, with only the rudiments of a common English education. Clay, the greatest and most accomplished of American orators, had nothing more than a common popular school education. General Green was a blacksmith and received his whole education in the common schools of Rhode Island. But, having been taught to read and write, he procured books and improved his mind. He became a well informed man, and ranked, as a General, next to Washington. He reconquered South Carolina and restored her to the American Confederacy. Roger Sherman, one of the greatest men of the old Congress, was a shoemaker. Patrick Henry had very little education, yet he had enough to shake the throne of Great Britain to its centre and infuse into the minds of the American people

the seeds of a revolution which established their independence!

But one of the most remarkable instances of self-education in the United States is that of the present Governor of Tennessee. He was married early in life and his wife taught him to write after their marriage. He was a tailor, and traveled with his wife on foot from North Carolina, where he was born, into Tennessee. There he established himself as a tailor and for many years carried on his trade. Whilst a member of Congress he still kept his shop. He is now Governor of Tennessee! (\*)

I might mention very many of the greatest names of Europe, whose education was not superior to those I have already named. Shakspeare himself was of that class. Ben Johnson was a bricklayer. Burns, the great poet of Scotland, who sung to the human heart as no other poet ever did sing, was a ploughman and a common laborer—and but for his little schooling the world would now be without his poems!

Napoleon Bonaparte himself was no classical scholar or college graduate. He was the student of a military school, and was thoroughly taught the science of war as it was then understood. But he was thorough in nothing else. Yet he became, in the strength of his power and glory, the destroyer of the thrones and crowns of all continental Europe. Kings and Emperors were his playthings, and he moved them at his will, as if they had been on a chess board. Many of his field marshals had still less of education.

What is education, thorough or partial, but the means of opening to the human mind, the vast treasures of science and learning? Education is like a mechanic's tools. It is the instrument with which he acquires knowledge, power, wealth and happiness. A poor education may be likened to a poor axe, which requires harder blows and more of them, to cut down a forest tree. Still it is better to have a dull axe than none at all. But I am told a little learning is a dangerous thing! How can that be? There never was a greater falsehood per-

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(\*)NOTE.—Andrew Johnson, afterwards President of the United States.

petrated than is contained in this quaint saying. Is a little religion worse than no religion at all? Is a little charity worse than none? Is a little money worse than no money? Who ever heard of such a monstrous proposition? No, fellow-citizens, it is certainly best to have a thorough education, but it is much better to have a smattering than none at all.

We are so constituted by an all-wise God that we must have employment. Man cannot be idle. If not properly employed, he will be idly or viciously employed. The dandy has his employments as well as the mechanic. The fashionable lady who spends three or four hours every day at her toilette, is perhaps as constantly employed as the housewife who superintends her domestic affairs. Nor can we always be employed at the same pursuit. Variety is said to be the spice of life. So it is with the mechanic, the laborer, the lawyer, merchant and doctor. We all require relaxation. When the mechanic is tired of his labor he may seek and enjoy rest with a good book in his hand. In this way he improves his mind and his heart, and elevates himself by his recreation. But suppose he is without education and does not know how to read and write? He will have to seek amusement in some other way than by resorting to books. Perhaps he will indulge in some wicked sport.

But how inestimable is the value of knowing how to read and write, when the humblest man goes from home or moves into a strange land, and desires to correspond with his friends and relations. Is not a little learning, then, of value, and to be prized as contributing to the happiness of life? What would the condition of the mechanic be without the ability of keeping his accounts and making his calculations in regard to his trade? Popular education is properly attainable in four places, and all four are, in some measure, absolutely necessary to education in a republic. The school house, the church, the ballot-box and the court house. At school the boy learns to read and write. This puts the key of knowledge into his hands. With it he unlocks the treasures of philosophy and sciences and history. His intellectual faculties are expanded and his mind enlarged. At church he



becomes acquainted with the worship of his God, and his heart is improved and filled with the holy precepts of religion. In the exercise of the elective franchise he practises the duties of a republican citizen. He is made to think of politics and political questions, and inform himself in reference to them. They who would deprive the people of the right of electing their legislators and chief magistrates are unwilling to acknowledge the right of the people, or the ability of the people to govern themselves. Our members of the Legislature now think it is better *for them* to exercise the right of voting for Presidential electors, and that the exercise of this popular and constitutional right on the part of the people would be mischievous! They don't think it will do for the people to have so important an election as this in their hands. They are willing to dole out to them the minor elections, such as clerks, sheriffs and tax collectors. This is about the grade of their capacity! But it would never do for them to vote for President and Vice-President.

The other source of popular education is the court house, where the citizen meets and hears the laws of his country expounded and enforced, where he sits on juries and hears cases argued and illustrated. As a juror, he is a part of the government. This fits him for the exercise of popular rights. The trial by jury and the administration of justice according to the common law, is a great prop in republican government.

Education is of so much importance in a republican government that it is the absolute duty of the commonwealth to educate her sons. It is a duty that never should be neglected by the State. No matter what the cost may be, it should be performed faithfully and sacredly. This New England has done by means of her free schools. Rarely, indeed, can a citizen of those States be found who is not able to read and write. The whole country is divided into townships, and each township, has a free school in its centre.

The State of South Carolina has done much towards the education of her citizens, but I am afraid it has not been productive of as much good as it ought to have given to the country. For more than fifty years past an appropriation of twenty or thirty thousand dollars has been annually made



for the support of the South Carolina College. Thirty or forty thousand dollars have likewise been appropriated every year for the education of the poor. This fund ought to have been distributed according to white population, and not in proportion to *taxation* and white population. In many of the Districts it is thought that the appropriation is not productive of as much good as it might be, in consequence of mismanagement.

It has been said by those opposed to popular education, that the State has no right to interfere with the education of the people! This would defeat the appropriation for the support of the college. Surely, if the State can appropriate money and interfere for the education of the sons of the rich, she may do as much for the sons of the poor.

The South Carolina College is a *noble* institution. It affords the means of educating our sons at *home*, instead of sending them *abroad*, which would be a constant drain upon the State. It is proper, too, that young men should be educated where they expect to live.

The whole State ought to be divided into townships, as the New England States are, and in the centre of each township there should be a school free for all children, rich or poor. This school should be supported by the State, and then we should have free schools, and all would be educated. In towns and villages education is more easy, inasmuch as the children are more thrown together.

The wealthy have a deep interest in the education of the poor, if education tends to make the citizen wiser and more virtuous. It is something, and a very high consideration, for the possessor of wealth to know that his property is in the midst of a peaceable and virtuous community.

In conclusion, fellow-citizens, I will notice an opinion which prevails with some in South Carolina, as degrading and insulting to labor and the laboring classes as it is false to liberty and republicanism. This opinion has found favor in high places, and has been inculcated and enforced with talent and learning by some of the aristocratic few who are able to live without labor. It is said that education, and thorough education, is necessary to republicanism, but that they who

labor have no time for education and reading, and therefore cannot be educated, and consequently ought not to exercise the rights, and privileges, and duties of a republican citizen. Reference has been made to the Athenian Republic, where, according to Lord Brougham, in his *Political Philosophy*, there were three hundred thousand slaves, and only thirty thousand freemen. Hence, it is contended that slavery is necessary to republicanism, in order to afford the laboring classes who ought to be excluded from republicanism, and who are unfit to exercise the rights which belong to a republican citizen.

Such doctrines, in my humble judgment, are insulting to public opinion, founded in an utter ignorance of the whole subject of labor and education, and tending to tyranny over the laboring classes, disfranchising them and making them serfs and slaves! I deny that labor is inconsistent with education. I have already shown that they who have labored at the plough, in the blacksmith shop, as shoemakers, saddlers and bricklayers, printers and surveyors of lands, have been amongst the most distinguished poets, statesmen, philosophers, orators, patriots and warriors that the world ever produced, from its creation to the present day. I am now prepared to show that every laborer, whether in the field or in the mechanic's shop, has abundant time to read and improve his mind; and if he has been taught to read and write in his infancy, he is very apt to do so in a greater or less degree. No one does labor or should labor more than ten or twelve hours in twenty-four; very few labor so much. It is not necessary that anyone should, for his support. No one need sleep more than seven hours. This leaves five, or six, or seven hours for recreation and reading to every laboring man in the community. There is also one day in seven when no man works, in a civilized and Christian community. A portion of that day, after our religious duties in church and elsewhere are performed, may be devoted to the improvement of the mind by reading good books. Independent of all this, there is weather, and times, and occasions when the laborer in doors and out of doors is prevented pursuing his daily vocation. All of this time, or a portion of it, at least,

may be devoted to reading and education, and the improvement of the mind. The ploughman may read while his horse is eating, and the mechanic whilst he is resting from his labor, or waiting for it to commence.


Although they had slaves in Athens, and although they have slaves in the Southern States, yet there were free men in Athens, and there are free men in the Southern States, who have to labor for their daily bread, and who have shown themselves as fit to exercise the rights of republicanism, as the idle drones of society, who are consumers without being producers. From my knowledge of mankind, I would unhesitatingly rely sooner on the judgment of an educated mechanic or laborer in the affairs of State, than on one of these educated non-laborers. If I were called upon to deny the rights of republicanism to the one or the other, it should be to the idle, and not to the industrious.

In the Northern States and in the Northwestern States, and in a majority of the States of this Union where slavery does not exist, they have as much republicanism as we have in South Carolina, and have shown themselves as fit to exercise all the rights of republican citizens as South Carolinians. Their State constitutions, their laws, regulations and institutions prove their republicanism. Their wealth, their prosperity, their popular education, their free school system, their literature and general intelligence, their success in all the arts and sciences, and mechanic branches of industry, illustrate the virtue and wisdom of their republican system of government, and show that labor is not antagonistic to education and republicanism.

In parting with you, fellow-citizens, let me urge on the mechanics and business men of Columbia the propriety of establishing literary societies amongst you, where all who desire may have books to read. Although books are very cheap, yet few of us are able to purchase all that we may desire to read. Never forget that you are freemen, that you are republican citizens, as well as Christian men, and that you have a duty to perform to the republic, as well as to your God, and to your families.

FAREWELL.





## GOVERNOR B. F. PERRY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

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(This communication from Rev. Dr. H. Melville Jackson, of Grace Church, Richmond, Va., was received too late to occupy its proper place in this Tribute to his friend.)

(Southern Churchman, Richmond, Va., Dec. 20, 1888.)

This remarkable man and eminent statesman, who but a short time ago brought to its close a long and useful life, is, perhaps, owing to the privacy and seclusion in which he spent the closing years of his life, but little known to the younger men of the present generation.

And yet there are few men of our times whose lives are so well worth the knowing. The sterling integrity and strength of character, the firm adherence to principles, the undaunted courage of conviction, the manliness and self-restraint which he constantly displayed through stormy and turbulent times, constitute him a worthy exemplar of youth.

The recent publication of his Speeches, Addresses and Sketches of Eminent Men (\*) is the occasion of this paper. That publication is itself a graceful tribute to his memory by his wife, the noble helpmeet of a noble man, who has chosen the best products of his thought and pen, and given them to the world with the proud conviction that they establish his title to remembrance and fame.

The speeches which this volume contains are of great value to the historian and the student of the period in which they were delivered. Governor Perry occupied a unique position as the leader of the Union party in South Carolina, the political opponent of Calhoun, and the unwavering antagonist of the nullification and secession doctrines which resulted in civil war. As early as 1831, then a young man but twenty-

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(\*) Biographical Sketches of Eminent American Statesmen, with Speeches, Addresses and Letters, by ex-Governor B. F. Perry, of Greenville, S. C. For sale in Richmond by West, Johnston & Co.



six years of age, he foresaw the end, gave evidence of his truly wonderful political foresight, and began his predictions of coming events, which fell unheeded by the excited, exasperated and ebullient men of his time. In his Fourth of July oration delivered in that year, remarkable for its maturity of thought in one so young, he pointed out the evils which would follow upon a dismemberment of the Union, and declared that he was unwilling "on any account to put in jeopardy this Union, this government, our independence and our name as a people." This declaration is the keynote of his career, and consistently through his whole life he fought the spirit of disunion with a stubborn gallantry, with a political sagacity, and with a noble forgetfulness of self which distinguish him among eminent compeers as a great and good man. One cannot avoid speculating how differently history might have been written if his generation had but listened to the powerful and pathetic pleading of which these speeches are full, and had been guided by the wisdom which time has so amply justified.

We are accustomed to look in the annals of war for our exemplars of heroic conduct, and we are justified in this, if physical courage is to be rated higher than moral. But who does not know that moral courage is the quality which lifts heroism out of the animal and into the intellectual life and endows it with all the splendid attributes of the soul?

The man who is content to be maligned, misunderstood, hissed, scorned, jeered, scoffed for truth's sake, for the sake of his principles, is, after all, a nobler man and a grander hero than the defenders of the pass of Thermopylæ. A Luther calmly facing an angry council with the memorable utterance: "One with God is a majority," is a nobler figure than the trained gladiator of the circus whose courage is shared, and perhaps surpassed, by the brutes. It is always so easy to hedge and trim. It is always so easy to say the many are probably right. But the spectacle is superbly inspiring when a man who has reached a settled conviction of the right stands for it against his enemies, and, harder still, against his friends; stands for it through the weary years, contesting the tide of popular opinion, and voluntarily sac-

rificing his popularity, hope of preferment—political or other and the cherished ambitions of a lifetime upon its altar. Such a spectacle does the life of Governor Perry afford us. It is not for us to question whether he was right and the many were wrong. It suffices to recognize in his career a man who stood for his convictions with a stalwart consistency and rigid firmness, which neither seductive persuasion, the alienation of friends, the hisses of the rabble, the sense of isolation, nor the tremendous influence of popular furore and clamor could shake for an instant. I call this a valuable moral lesson, valuable to the young men of these times, and the life which contained and embodied it is worthy of all honor and remembrance.

Of his speech delivered before the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1850, in opposition to disunion, he said : “I leave it as a legacy to my country and to my children ;” and when it is remembered that he stood all but alone in that body advocating measures the most unpopular, and with his one arm endeavoring to stay the rush of a whole people, it must be confessed that no nobler heritage can man transmit. His sons can receive it at his hands as the attestation of the courage, fidelity and integrity of their sire.

It is not my purpose, nor have we the space, to analyze the speeches which this volume contains, or even to quote from them. They are the utterances of a man versed in political affairs, of which he was a profound student. Those which are literary in character show a wide acquaintance with the world of letters. They abound with elegant and instructive thoughts, expressed in choice language, often eloquent, but severe in its classic simplicity. While there are passages in these speeches which in rhetorical grace and diction, purity of style and cogency of thought may be truly styled eloquent; yet it is quite evident that his eloquence consisted rather in the tremendous moral earnestness of the man than in the arts of the rhetorician and the declaimer.

But we have left to ourselves too little space in which to speak of what, to the general reader, is the most interesting portion of this book. “The Sketches of Eminent Men,” which compose a principal part of the volume, have, indeed,

great literary merit. Almost every man prominent in American life is delineated in these pages with an accuracy of touch, a boldness of outline and a faithfulness of portraiture which leaves scarcely anything to be desired. The Sketches are enriched with a copious fund of anecdote, which lends its peculiar charm to the narration of facts, and leads the reader on, only to leave him at the end with the regret that there is no more. Otis and Pinckney and Crawford, Washington, Adams and Jefferson, Henry, Webster, Randolph and Choate, and many others distinguished in politics, in science, at the bar and on the bench are introduced to us in detail and made to us familiar personages in the history of our country. We cannot avoid expressing the opinion that it were better to have published these Sketches in a separate volume as a convenient handbook of American biography, in which form they would, no doubt, have attained a wider popularity.

And now this brief review must be brought to a close. It is at the dictate of a warm personal affection and regard for him whose literary remains are enshrined in this volume that I have ventured to write. If anything I have written shall seem strained or exaggerated, let it be set down to the high admiration I entertain for one of whom I have said elsewhere that he comes nearer to my ideal of a public man—a man of affairs—than any other I have known.

H. MELVILLE JACKSON



OFFICE OF WEST, JOHNSTON &amp; CO.,

RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 8, 1889.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*

DEAR MADAM: Thinking it may be some satisfaction to you, and perhaps useful in disposing of your book, we enclose a letter received by us to-day, from a gentleman to whom we had sold a copy of your book.

Very respectfully, etc.,

WEST, JOHNSTON & CO.  

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KABLETOWN, JEFFERSON CO., W. VA., Jan. 4, 1889.

WEST, JOHNSTON & CO., *Richmond, Va.*,

GENTLEMEN: I was the recipient, by the mail of last evening, of your letter of the 1st inst., accompanied by the volume containing the sketches of ex-Governor B. F. Perry, of South Carolina. It is unnecessary for me to comment upon the extraordinary ability, patriotism, courage and devotion to his convictions, which resulted from his deliberate and dispassionate consideration of the momentous issues with which he was confronted; and stood almost solitary and alone during the most stormy, critical and trying period of our national existence.

I cheerfully send a registered letter for two dollars, as it is difficult to send sixty-nine cents in change. In acknowledging the payment, you may send the change due me in stamps.

The volume is remarkably cheap, and I hope to be the means of enabling you to sell other copies as soon as I have an opportunity of exhibiting it to my neighbors.

In conclusion, I have no prefix or title to my name. Am a farmer of humble pretensions. Without appearing vain (I hope), I will add it has been my lot to fill quite a number of responsible positions within the States of Virginia and West Virginia. Was a Union member of the Virginia convention in 1871; recollect distinctly the trials Governor Perry underwent in opposing nullification and secession.

Very truly yours, etc.,

LOGAN OSBURN.



## EXTRACTS

FROM

Letters of Governor Perry to His Wife, Thirty-Nine Years Ago.

(The speech alluded to in this extract is the great one delivered by Governor Perry in the South Carolina Legislature, in 1850, and left by him as a "legacy to his country and his children," and published in "Biographical Sketches, of Eminent American Statesmen, Speeches, Addresses," etc.)

COLUMBIA. S. C., Dec. 12, 1850.

\* \* \* \* \* Yesterday I got the floor after Colonel Leitner had spoken. As soon as it was known that I had the floor, I saw persons begin to seat themselves; there was some anxiety or curiosity to hear me. It was known that I differed from the other members in regard to my views about the Union. Entire and profound silence prevailed over the House. I had spoken but a very short time before I saw the faces of the members turn pale. They seemed amazed at my boldness, yet felt deeply the force of my argument.

Professor Williams, of the South Carolina College, came to me this morning and said that he gave me his heart as cordially as he did his hand—that he was in ecstasy with my speech, although he did not hear it—his son did. I saw Colonel O'Hanlon sitting with a face beaming with joy, but I have not seen him since. Mr. Middleton said to me this morning that I had amazed the House with my ultraism and *boldness*. I thought so too. The newspapers have all spoken respectfully of my speech, but regret that any one should hold my sentiments. Colonel McGowan replied to me yesterday. Colonel Dargan (brother of the Chancellor) replied this morning, and Colonel Lyles, of Fairfield. They were all very respectful.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 7, 1852.

\* \* \* \* \* Monday I went to the commencement in the College, and was pleased with the performance. P. E. Griffin, of Society Hill, delivered a very fine poem, representing a conversation between Sir William Wallace and Bruce. In speaking of Bruce, he addressed *me* so personally as to attract the whole College. Governor Means said to me that Griffin had made *me* the *Sir William Wallace* of his poem. The first part of his address spoken by Bruce to Wallace, was very much like some of the abuse heaped on me by the Secessionists; *ambition, traitor, &c., &c.* But at the close of the poem, finding out the *real* sentiments of Wallace, Bruce says to him: "Now, I acknowledge you as a patriot, pure and devoted to your country."

## OFFICE OF SOUTH CAROLINA LUNATIC ASYLUM,

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 29, 1887.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: During the session of the Legislature its Committees keep me unusually busy, so that when your first letter came I ventured to postpone a reply until I could find time to make a satisfactory statement. The subject of your letters is of so much interest that I must even now have your indulgence a few days longer. The poem alluded to was my graduating speech. Believing that the attention it attracted was due more to its novelty as a commencement exercise than to its merit, I refused consent to its publication. I had therefore only the original manuscript, which was carried off by Sherman's burners when they pillaged my office at Society Hill. I have sometimes thought that I might be able to reproduce it, but my life has been so busy that I have not found time to attempt it. When I received your very complimentary letter I thought I would wait a short time to see if I could not recall my old College composition and send it to you. I can only promise that in a few days I shall send you at least a statement of my recollection of the incident, very distinct in my memory, of having selected *Governor*

Perry, then a *Senator* from *Greenville*, to personate *Sir William Wallace*, the hero of the *dialogue with Bruce*.

Trusting that you will allow me a little more time to refresh my memory, and thanking you for your kind allusion to Mrs. Griffin and to myself, and begging you to believe me one of your distinguished husband's most *enthusiastic admirers*,

I remain very sincerely yours,

P. E. GRIFFIN.



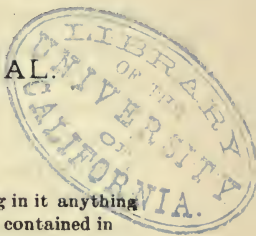






## PREFACE TO PRIVATE JOURNAL.

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(In compiling this Tribute to my husband, I had no idea of putting in it anything so personal to myself as this tribute of the husband to the wife, contained in the Preface writted in her Journal. But as I am endeavoring to set forth his nobility of character and his exalted virtues, I deem it not inconsistent to let this outpouring of his noble heart have a place in this tribute, as it proves more than anything else can his pure and noble nature.—Mrs. B. F. P.)

This little book is respectfully presented to Mrs. Elizabeth Frances Perry, by her loving husband, with the earnest request that she will appropriate it as her journal. In after life it will be a source of great satisfaction to refer to the remarks and comments which will here be made on the passing events of the day.

For several years past I have kept a journal of my life, in which I have recorded all the incidents which have happened to me during that time. I have told where I was and what I was doing; whom I saw and what they said. But even more than this, I have written the inmost secrets of my heart, the feelings and impulses of my nature. This afforded me great pleasure at the time, and has often given me much greater pleasure since, in reading and looking over it.

Let me, then, advise you, my dear wife, to begin your journal to-day. Make it a sort of diary. Set down in the evening what you have been doing that day, whom you have seen, what you have read, the work you have been at, whether the day has been pleasantly and profitably spent. When you travel or leave home, let this book be your companion, and write down in it all you see, etc. In doing this I do assure you that you will make a book of interest to yourself in after life. It will be a record of your feelings, opinions and views every day. In looking over this book years hence, it will give you great pleasure to compare your feelings and views at different periods of your life. You will

be amused at the honest changes you have undergone in your opinion of various persons and different subjects.

How interesting, how deeply interesting, it must be to me to turn to my journal and read over the remarks I made on first seeing you! How little did I then think that you were so soon to be my wife! I had, it is true, from our first acquaintance, secret aspirations and hopes, but there were fears and apprehensions, and I had almost given over the idea of changing a state in which I had enjoyed so much ease, tranquility and pleasure, free of almost all the cares and troubles of life. But that moonlight walk proved too much for my philosophy. Never was love more sudden than mine, and never was man better pleased with the object of his love, on becoming intimately acquainted with her.

You were then only seventeen years old; your person was slender, and might almost be taken as a model of symmetry; your weight was one hundred and one pounds, and you were of the ordinary height. Your features are of the Grecian cast—small, delicate and exquisitely formed; auburn hair, soft, blue eyes, high, smooth forehead, beautiful mouth, chin and nose. In your face there was a sweetness of expression and a mild, benevolent, Christian look which methought I had never before seen. Your complexion was fair and beautiful, and the bloom of health ever to be seen on your cheeks.

In disposition, I found you mild and amiable, and I have seen nothing since our marriage to alter the very exalted opinion I first formed of your good nature. Your manners were pleasant and engaging, though rather retiring and diffident, which endeared you the more to my heart. I found in your nature that modesty which is the highest trait in female character, and without which the most accomplished and brilliant of your sex are despicable in my eyes. In conversation, though unassuming and unpretending, you were lively and interesting. Your mind had been well cultivated for one of your age. You had acquired a taste for reading, which I hope will be cultivated with care and assiduity. In your dress, I found you were very tasteful, though never gaudy or splendid. I never saw anyone so simple, and yet so tasteful and particular. You wore then, as you do now, your hair in

curls, which gave you a peculiar, girlish and striking appearance. Your voice was the sweetest and softest I ever heard. You performed most charmingly on the guitar, and almost created within my bosom a fondness for music. It was thus, my dear wife, that you appeared to me when I first began to love you, and, although we have now been married nearly three months, you are still the same soft, lovely and beautiful being I have just described. If you have faults, they are not perceptible to me, and can only be the faults of youth and inexperience. Nor is it to be wondered at that you, possessing all the charms I have just given you, should have made so easy a conquest of my heart.

I had been from childhood of a sober, serious turn of mind. Devoted to books and study, I was never fond of company or society. I early imbibed a prejudice against the insincerity of the one and the heartlessness of the other. In my manners, I was plain and unpretending, and that proud nature God has endowed me with ever scorned to humble itself or act falsely. Hence, I was no courtier or Chesterfield.

But I forbear to give you a sketch of my own character in your journal. This I will leave for *you* to draw. I have done so in my own journal, and with an impartiality and correctness which might surprise you. My faults, which are many, are told with the honest frankness of one who feels and knows them, and who would gladly remedy them, but who cannot conceal them.

In conclusion, let me say that if you will only write one sentence every week in this book, for twenty years, it will, at the end of that time, afford you more interest to look over its pages than any other book in the world.


July 12, 1837.

B. F. PERRY.









## WILLIAM HAYNE PERRY.

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(It is not deemed inconsistent in this Tribute to the *Father* to publish a Sketch of the *Son*, written by a discriminating and appreciative friend at the time William H. Perry was first elected to Congress in 1884; also a few of the letters received congratulatory on his re-election to Congress for the third term, and published unknown to him.)

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William Hayne Perry, Congressman-elect from the Fourth District of South Carolina, was born in the city of Greenville.

He is the son and eldest child of ex-Governor Benjamin F. Perry and of Mrs. Elizabeth Frances Perry, a niece of Robert Y. Hayne, distinguished as the compeer of Webster in the United States Senate, and afterwards the honored Governor of South Carolina.

He attended the various and most approved elementary schools of his native city, and at a comparatively early age entered the Furman University, then recently established at that place, and remained for several years successfully pursuing his studies until he was graduated. After this he was sent to the South Carolina College at Columbia, an institution of great renown and usefulness and scarcely second to any in the land. Here he remained not more than five or six months in the junior class, the exercises of the College being suspended at this time in consequence of a rebellion among the students. His father then sent him North, where he entered the junior class at Harvard University, Cambridge. Here he remained two years, graduating with distinguished honors in a large class and being appointed fifth orator on the occasion of the commencement exercises of the university.

Upon leaving Harvard he and his friend, Mr. Memminger, of South Carolina, made an extended tour through Canada and many of the Northern States.

Upon his return home he at once began reading law, and after two years study was admitted to the bar at Columbia,

and commenced the practise of his profession in co-partnership with his father.

In a very short time thereafter South Carolina seceded from the Union, and he immediately volunteered his services as private in a troop of cavalry known as the Brooks Troop, afterwards incorporated into the Hampton Legion and commanded by the distinguished General of that name.

In this troop he served during the whole war under the leadership of Stewart, Hampton and Butler, with great gallantry and credit to himself in most of the battles fought by the army of Northern Virginia.

Although a private, such was his popularity with his comrades in arms, that at the reorganization of the troop to which he belonged he was elected first lieutenant of his company. Towards the close of the war, his company having been in the meantime attached to the 2d S. C. regiment of cavalry, he was transferred with this command to defend the sea coast of South Carolina, and was in various severe engagements with the enemy.

While on the coast he acted as adjutant of his regiment, and served in this capacity to the end of the war, and was with his command on duty in and around Wilmington, N. C., at the time of the surrender of the army under Johnston.

On several occasions his conduct was such as to elicit the special notice and commendation of his superior officers. In all the qualities of the soldier he had no superior. None more brave, none more modest.

After the surrender of the Confederate armies he returned home, and resumed the practise of his profession in connection with his father, and was immediately elected a member of the State convention at the head of the ticket, and shortly afterwards was elected a member of the Legislature, and participated with the Democratic party in all the political questions of the period of reconstruction.

In 1868 he was elected Solicitor of the Western Circuit by a majority of about two thousand votes over his opponent, and discharged the duties of this office for four years with great ability, firmness and fairness.

At the next election in 1872, the State government having

passed into the hands of the infamous negro and scalawag *regime*, Col. Perry lost his election by the negro vote of Abbeville, which County had been added to his Circuit for the express purpose of defeating him.

He then devoted himself to his profession with renewed energy and zeal, and had a large and commanding practise, his father having in the meantime in a great measure withdrawn from the practise before the courts in consequence of the disgust and prejudice which he entertained for the radical judges who presided in the courts with ignorance, impudence and want of principle.

In 1880 Colonel Perry was elected State Senator from Greenville County, and served his County for four years in this capacity. Declining a re-election for the same, his County without his solicitation by a unanimous vote for the second time presented his name to the congressional convention as a candidate for Congress, and, receiving the nomination from that convention, he was elected November the 4th, 1884, to represent the 4th Congressional District of South Carolina.

It will thus be seen that his native County has bestowed upon him nearly every office in her gift: member of the State Convention, Legislator, Solicitor, Senator and Congressman. He has also received favorable and flattering mention from various papers of the State, in connection with the governorship thereof. After the war he was appointed colonel of cavalry by Governor Orr, and in 1881 Governor Hagood made him one of his aides.

As a public man Colonel Perry has proven himself a wise and careful legislator, noted for his quiet, but active and practical usefulness. His public life inspires a just confidence in the soundness of his judgment and the integrity of his purpose. He has been a life-long Democrat, and has many of the attributes and "native virtues" of his more distinguished father; incorruptible integrity, conscientious and consistent to his convictions, "sustaining whatever he believes to be right with boldness and determination, and opposing with his whole nature what he conceives to be wrong," with that disregard for consequence, without which, as has been truly



said, nothing great, either in thought or action, can be accomplished.

Reared by his father in that school of political ethics and statesmanship to which he belonged and was a leader in the pure and better days of Carolina's history, he has none of the sordid and selfish arts of the demagogue and political trickster. It is this purity of character joined to the high qualities of a well-balanced mind that has enabled him to enjoy for so long a period the confidence and respect of his constituents.

As a professional man and practitioner he is honorable, fair and conscientious; never resorting to, or employing any of the more doubtful practises of the profession.

As an advocate, without being rhetorical, he has great weight and influence before a jury. His language is clear and condensed; his manner natural, earnest and impressive, and gives force to all he says. "He speaks for a purpose, and never for mere display, and seldom any display of elaborate preparation."

Without being a scientific lawyer, he is perhaps what is far better for himself and his clients, an admirable practical one.

In character Colonel Perry is manly, truthful and modest. He enjoys a personal character "which stamps a credit upon all he says," and is admired by all who know him for the purity and dignity of his private life.

He is reticent and unambitious, indifferent alike to honors and distinctions; and left to himself his friends believe he would prefer the retirement and more quiet life of a private station.

In his social life he is unobtrusive and retiring; simple in his tastes, habits and manners; honest in his dealings, sincere and truthful in his intercourse, a staunch and faithful friend. He is handsome and striking in person, with a countenance expressive of frankness, firmness and sincerity; in figure manly and stalwart, with no touch of effeminacy about it.

By judicious management he has acquired and has well in hand an ample fortune, and is a bachelor, but young enough to change his views and form new attachments.

In the full vigor and prime of manhood, with intellect



strengthened by experience, his friends, judging the future by the past, confidently predict for him an honorable and useful career in the new sphere of life upon which he is about to enter. In every position to which he has so far been called by the partiality of the people he has shown himself worthy of their confidence and respect. As a man he is without reproach, a patriot without stain, and a soldier without fear.

"In all his armor there is no flaw in which envy or malice may lodge a shaft of criticism."

Col. Perry lives with his father three miles from the city of Greenville, at his valuable country seat, "Sans Souci," a home of beauty, comfort and hospitality, with its spacious and beautiful residence surrounded with its ornamented and neatly kept grounds. Prettily situated on one of the outlying hills at the foot of Paris Mountain, the view is wide and expansive. Undulating over vale and meadow, hill and dale, it breaks itself on the eastern slopes of the distant Blue Ridge.


"Where distance lends enchantment to the view,  
And robes the mountain in its azure hue."

Here he enjoys relaxation from the cares of his profession, and leads the life of a country gentleman, surrounded by all those seductive charms of a home presided over by taste, culture and refinement.

"More sweet than all the landscape smiling near."

E. C.





## LETTERS

Received Congratulatory on William H. Perry's Re-election to Congress for the Third Term,

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UNION, S. C., Sept. 17, 1888.

MRS. GOVERNOR PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*

MY DEAR MADAM: Doubtless you have ere this received from many distinguished friends hearty congratulations upon the triumphant re-election of your son to Congress, and encouraged by the recollection of kindly courtesies received at your hands and from members of your family, I venture to hope that you also will accept this expression of my gratification at the happy result of the contest.

However much your son may have been indebted to the *devotion* of a noble brother and the *active zeal* of friends, it was, after all, his *own high character*, and the *rare ability* which characterized his *public utterances* during the canvass that won the victory.

I have never known any one (of whom our people of Union had known so little before) to inspire them with such enthusiasm as your son did in the late canvass. His *speeches* did the work, and the more they heard them, the better were they pleased.

Your friend, Judge Wallace, said when asked about William Perry's character and ability: "He is an able lawyer, a gentleman of highest honor and integrity, and there is no man in whom the people of *Greenville*, who know him *best*, have more implicit confidence in every relation of life."

Will you do me the kindness to extend my felicitations on the happy event to your daughter and daughter-in-law.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID JOHNSON, SR.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 19, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*

DEAR MADAM: Let me thank you for the kindly notice taken by you of my note of thanks acknowledging the volume of sketches recently sent to me by you.

In reply to your question, to whom could you send some mark of appreciation for the part they took in supporting your son's cause, I cannot pretend in a short note to make mention of one fiftieth of the deserving ones without giving rise to invidious distinctions. We all worked night and day. With your permission, however, I will give you a few names: Hon. John T. Rhett, Mayor of the city; Hon. John C. Seegers, Member of Legislature; Hon. F. W. McMaster, Senator from Richland; Hon. J. H. Pearson, Judge of Probate; Col. William Wallace, ex-State Senator from Richland; C. R. Arthur, Esq., Clerk of Court; Samuel W. Rowan, Esq., Sheriff; W. J. Cathcart, Esq., City Clerk and Treasurer; C. O. Marshall, Esq., ex-Representative; J. C. F. Sims, Esq., one of our largest planters; E. D. Gillmore, Esq., our largest land owner; C. A. Calvo, Jr., Esq., proprietor of the Daily Register; John W. R. Pope, Esq., editor of the Daily Register; Captain J. P. Meehan, of the Hook and Ladder Company; E. J. Brennan, merchant, Alderman, and prominent candidate for the Legislature; J. H. Davis, prominent merchant; Col. W. C. Swaffield, insurance agent; Capt. J. S. Leaphart, capitalist; Joseph M. English, one of our worthiest citizens; Wm. H. Lyles, Esq., distinguished member of the Columbia bar; D. C. Ray, Esq., attorney at law; A. W. Ray, Esq., attorney at law; Charles Narey, merchant; John A. Crawford, Esq., large factor and cotton buyer; John McMaster, Esq.; Col. T. J. Lipscomb, Superintendent Penitentiary; Dr. P. E. Griffin, Superintendent State Lunatic Asylum; J. M. Crawford, most progressive farmer here; Julius H. Walker, Cashier Loan and Exchange Bank.

A very large number of our most respected citizens voted for your son.

No one need be ashamed either of the support or of the supporters your son had in this community, for they came to his assistance from all the walks of life, each one of which

endorsed his cause as a public servant who had served all alike, faithfully and honestly.

The correspondent of the Charleston News and Courier, says: "Col. Perry had the support of a large majority of the artisans and clerks and the Penitentiary guards and Asylum attendants almost in a body. His campaign was quietly but thoroughly conducted by Capt. Pat Meehan of the Phoenix Truck Company."

No man could win higher praise than is conveyed by this criticism: He served all alike in his public capacity, and laborers, clerks, professional men and artisans—all being good Democrats—yielded him a ready support which has resulted in the overwhelming defeat of his opponent. Please add my name to your son's warm friends.

Very truly and respectfully,

ANDREW CRAWFORD.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 5, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Sans Souci*,

MY DEAR MADAM: Let me thank you kindly for the compliments you have again and again paid me by selecting me (out of the host of good and true friends Congressman Perry has in this community) to whom to express your appreciation of Richland's support of him in the recent campaign. I repeat that I have never known a more fairly conducted political campaign than the one in which he was victor, nor have I ever known higher bearing in a candidate than that exemplified by Colonel Perry throughout the ordeal culminating in his selection as the candidate of our party.

In publishing the letter alluded to in relation to your husband, I shall feel flattered to have you make use of anything emanating from me for the purpose of aiding in the depicting of a character upon which has fallen the mantle of history.

Yours truly,

ANDREW CRAWFORD.



LAURENS, S. C., Sept. 13, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: Allow me as an old friend of your noble husband and of your son, Colonel W. H. Perry, to tender my congratulations on the re-election of the latter to Congress. I think I can enter into the feeling of honest pride and pleasure which the news of his success must have given his mother; for there is nothing that more thoroughly gratifies a parent than distinction won by an honorable, gifted child.

Colonel Perry is the victor in a closely-fought contest, and has retained the respect of his opponents. This in itself is an achievement few men in political life have won. Mrs. Moseley joins me in these expressions. With the highest regard, I am,  
Respectfully yours,

GEORGE F. MOSELEY.

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UNION, S. C., Sept. 14, 1888.

DEAR MRS. PERRY: Accept my thanks for the beautiful copy of the "Sketches by Governor Perry, of South Carolina," which you kindly sent me. I appreciate the gift so much; the very correct likeness of your illustrious husband, contained in the book, increases my admiration for it.

Strange coincident, the book reached this place amid the booming of our cannon in honor of the re-election of your son, Col. William H. Perry, to Congress. Wishing you health and much happiness, I am,

Yours truly,

J. G. McKISSICK.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 14, 1888.

MY DEAR MRS. PERRY: I have rejoiced with you all over the victory of Col. Perry, and did all I could here, in my way, to secure it. It would have done you good to see how his friends worked for him on election day.

The Columbia correspondent of the News and Courier said the business men and merchants all voted for Duncan, but this is a mistake, for I know that many of our most promi-

ment men of business supported Colonel Perry on the business principle that his experience in Congress made him the more efficient man of the two. His speech here made him friends and supporters among thinking men who do not take part in active politics. He never could have carried the city of Columbia as he did, if men of influence had not given him their warm support. The vote in Greenville County was splendid and a great tribute, considering that it was the third time in a month the people had been called to the polls.

I am truly glad to learn that Perry is to come back here.

I think it a great mistake for our boys to change their teachers and schools. It has been the bane of my own sons, and has had much to do with their ill success at books. Let Perry stick to his own State and people, and after life will tell its worth to him. I want him to look upon our house as a home, where a hearty and loving greeting will always await him.

Love to dear Fauny. Kiss Emily for me.

Ever, my dear Mrs. Perry, your friend,

E. CAPERS.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 15, 1888.

DEAR MRS. PERRY: It is with great pleasure that I write you at this time, knowing that you are happy at the result of last Tuesday's election. And I assure you the friends of your son in Richland are more than delighted over his victory and the good work they did here. It was quite a surprise to both sides. The day before the election, Mr. Duncan's friends claimed that Richland would not give Perry one hundred majority. But when Tuesday came, and the Duncan friends saw how the Perry boys were working, they soon gave up all hope of Richland cutting Perry's majority down below one hundred. I was at the box in our ward, in the city, and it was soon seen that we would give Perry three to one, which we did exactly at our precinct, Duncan receiving 51 votes and Perry 153. The Rev. Mr. Capers voted at our ward, and when he came to vote, he picked up a ticket and said he wanted to vote for his friend Perry. I don't think

there ever was as much interest taken in an election here since the war, and when the result of Richland was known, you could see groups of Perry's friends on the streets with smiling faces, and the Duncan men, I must say, looked very sad. We know there are a great many who are sorry for what they did, but Perry's friends here are very forgiving, and in future I guess the defeated ones will come to us for advice—that is, if they want to get on the strong side, which is the side of justice and truth.

Now that it is all over, I want you to say to your son, Hon. W. H. Perry, that he should never forget Richland's interest in Congress.

I will now close, hoping this may reach you safe and find you in the best of health. With best of wishes for you and all the members of your family, I am,

Your friend,

GEORGE V. HENNIES.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 17, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

DEAR MADAM: Please accept my congratulations on the success of your son. He is the "right man in the right place," and you should be proud of him. With many kind wishes I am,

Very respectfully,

P. B. MCCOY.

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OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION,

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 17, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

MY DEAR MADAM: I certainly enjoyed reading your very interesting letter, and my sympathy was fully drawn out as I saw your natural mother's solicitude for the success of your son. I now hasten to congratulate you upon his very handsome election. He deserves it every bit, for Willie Perry is a genuine man, and I regret to say the world is not full of them. Having known him from an early age in many relations, I am gratified to speak knowingly, I never knew him to do

anything wrong except remaining single(\*). He is really too modest and does not count for all he is worth, for I am sure South Carolina has no truer man or more faithful public servant. Please accept my most hearty good wishes for this fitting up of his third term.

Very Respectfully,

JAMES H. RICE.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 17, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*

RESPECTED MADAM: You will please accept my many thanks for the very valuable pamphlets you thought I was worthy to have mailed to me. To have had this attention bestowed by you I certainly consider a very great compliment. It was never my good fortune to form the acquaintance of your distinguished and much-lamented husband, ex-Governor B. F. Perry, yet I knew him—knew him to honor and respect, for his learning, great thoughts and goodness. The address delivered by him in this city, in 1853 I had the pleasure of hearing. Rest assured, Mrs. Perry, that those pamphlets are highly prized by me, and will be treasured, often read and referred to.

I should have sooner acknowledged the receipt of those most interesting papers, but deferred that I might have the pleasure of extending at the same time my hearty congratulations for the success of your honorable son, Col. W. H. Perry, in again by a very large majority receiving the renomination for Congress to represent the Fourth Congressional District. This victory was won by true merit alone, and his many friends of Richland rejoice the more on that account.

Again, dear madam, accept my thanks for attention shown. May heaven's choicest blessings be showered upon you and your family, is the humble prayer of

Your most obedient servant,

CHARLES E. KIRK.

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(\*) Which "wrong" he corrected the following October 17, 1888.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 25, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*

MY DEAR MRS. PERRY: Thanks for a copy of the Greenville Enterprise and Mountaineer, recording the details of the handsome endorsement of your son and my esteemed colleague, at the late primary.

It was a deserved recognition of faithful and efficient service, and I beg you to accept my congratulations over a result which must have been eminently gratifying to yourself.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

SAMUEL DIBBLE.

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GREENVILLE, S. C., Sept. 27, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY: I think Prof. Morrison is the author of the review of the great speech of your distinguished husband and my dear friend, contained in the last number of the Southern Christian Advocate. Of this I am not quite sure, but will ascertain with certainty, who is the author and communicate the fact to you.

Let me assure you the triumphant election of your distinguished son could not have been more gratifying to yourself and family than to the writer hereof. The victory W. H. Perry achieved in the contest, shows, beyond all question what a grasp he has upon the affections and confidence of the people. He had a Greek to meet in his opponent, a gentleman of great personal popularity—a foeman worthy of his steel, and notwithstanding all this, your son's victory was a Waterloo defeat to his competitor.

Very respectfully,

JOHN M. STOKES.

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COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 1, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*

MY DEAR MADAM: I desire to return my sincere thanks for the copy of "Sketches by Governor Perry," recently received, and also for the other pamphlets previously sent me. My recollections of your distinguished husband are of the pleas-

antest, and I had great admiration for him, both as a man and a statesman. I therefore prize very highly the productions of his pen you have sent me, and shall recommend them to the careful perusal of my children. Your son, Hon. W. H. Perry, was as you know a Lieutenant in my Regiment, the 2d S. C. Cavalry, during the late war, and always acquitted himself with credit to his name and his State. I entertain the highest regard for him, and congratulate you and him heartily upon his renomination to the seat he has heretofore so worthily filled in Congress. I have taken occasion to tender to the young men in my employment the thanks you have so kindly expressed for the interest they took in the renomination of your son.

With much respect, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your friend,

T. J. LIPSCOMB.

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CAMPOBELLO, S. C., Oct. 21, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY,

MY DEAR MADAM: Your kind letter of October 18, is received and I take great pleasure in replying to the same, and not only to do this, but to acknowledge myself the happy recipient of the book you sent me containing Sketches, Speeches, &c., of your eminent, noble and patriotic husband, which is presented me in reciprocation for the small volume I sent you. I would have acknowledged this valuable gift sooner, but for the fact that it came to Landrum instead of this place (Campobello) where I receive most of my mail.

While I was expecting nothing in return from you, I can assure you that nothing you could have given me would have been more appreciated. I find myself constantly dwelling upon its interesting pages, and soon will have read it through. I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted personally with your husband while reading medicine with Dr. Earle in Greenville in 1866 and have not only admired, but idolized the purity of his exalted character and everything pertaining to the same. While engaged in writing some historical sketches for one of our county papers a few

years ago, I corresponded with him, and shall never forget his kindness in furnishing me such valuable information as enabled me to complete that which I had undertaken.

You are correct in stating that I am a friend of your son, the Hon. William H. Perry, and one of his main supporters in the recent Congressional election. We were together for three years in the same regiment in the army. I knew him pleasantly during the year I spent in Greenville, and have met him often since. We were both members of our State Legislature at the same time—he a member of the Senate and I a member of the House.

During all this time, I have admired him as a plain, upright, honest and patriotic gentleman, adorned with the dignity and intellect of his distinguished father. Without any sentiment of flattery, I can assure you that he is a representative man among the people, and although he may, from personal preference, decline re-election two years hence, I hear it already mooted by intelligent thinking ones, that the public interest will demand that he longer serve the people. Certain it is that he will not be allowed to remain inactive very long.

The times will demand that he be called into other important and responsible spheres of usefulness. Be this as it may, no one will look with more pleasure and pride to his continued elevation than myself. I have been, and will always remain, his humble friend and supporter.

We received the wedding card of invitation to which you refer, and, if it is not imposing too much on you, will request that you convey to the happy pair, for myself and family, our thanks for the compliment, and our kindest wishes for their future welfare, happiness and prosperity.

I thank you for your kind invitation to call upon you in person in Greenville, and hope at no distant day to be able to avail myself of that pleasure, and with many kind wishes, etc., I am, with the highest esteem and veneration,

Your friend and humble servant,

J. B. O. LANDRUM.



COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 8, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville, S. C.*

MY DEAR MADAM: I beg to thank you for the papers received yesterday, and for the photograph received to-day. I have always entertained profound respect for the memory of your distinguished husband, hence, his picture cannot fail to be fully appreciated. I have never had the pleasure of meeting you, but I shall value your picture as the wife of one of South Carolina's most distinguished sons, and as the mother of one who has rendered me service simply because I was one of a numerous constituency. To Col. William H. Perry I owe a debt of friendship and gratitude for substantial aid and for constant courtesies, in return for which any little service that I can render him will be wholly inadequate, and therefore his picture is in more than friendly hands. As the sister of two esteemed friends, I shall value Mrs. Beattie's picture, and hope some day to have the pleasure of knowing her, as well as yourself, personally. As for the picture of the sweet little sister of Mr. Beattie, I shall value it because I love children, and because the little face appears to beam with amiability—Nature's fairest ornament to her sex. So, you see, my dear madam, that, as a whole, the picture is thoroughly appreciated. You will be good enough to pardon my seeming familiarity in alluding individually to the faces in the picture; my appreciation of it could not be well attested otherwise.

With friendly greetings for your son, Mr. B. F. Perry, who, I suppose, is with you, and with sincere respect for yourself, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

JOSEPH M. ENGLISH.





GREENVILLE, S. C., Sept. 16, 1888.

MRS. B. F. PERRY, *Greenville City*,

DEAR MADAM: Please accept many thanks for the valuable book given me, and I assure you that "Sketches by Governor Perry, of South Carolina," occupy an honored and highly prized position in my Library. I appreciate the work because it contains his writings, likeness and impress, and was given me *by you* upon a day I shall long remember with great pleasure and pride. Now that the fact is fully confirmed and conceded on all sides, I desire to tender to you my most hearty congratulations upon the success of your distinguished son. It is a grand victory in which you do not share alone.

In him I feel that we have a public servant in whom may be reposed implicit confidence, and that in the Congress of the United States he will discharge the duties of that high office with credit to himself as well as great benefit and fairness to his constituents. It is a pleasure to me to know that every one of my name supported Col. Perry, and I sincerely hope the friendship which began with the fathers, will continue to augment as long as the names Perry and Gilreath are known in this land.

With me the name of Governor Perry shall be handed down to posterity as the *greatest* and *truest* man South Carolina has ever produced. May his sons, as they are doing, emulate his noble virtues and follow in his illustrious footprints.

Truly your friend,

HERMAN G. GILREATH.





## EXTRACT FROM A SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

Col, Henry D. Capers at the Mass Meeting at Greenville the Evening Before the Congressional Election,

SEPTEMBER 10, 1868.

I have not language to express to you the gratification that I, in common with others who were with me, experienced during the past winter when looking down upon the National House of Representatives in session I recognized the influence and the respectable caste of those who were there to represent the sovereignty of this grand old historic State; when from every Congressional District the people of this Commonwealth, distinguished from their earliest history through their representatives, in every department of social life, were recognized in the National Legislature as the peers of the best, from stilted New England or from reckless Illinois; when I met such men as Dibble, Hemphill, Tillman, Dargan, Cothran, and your honored and worthy representative, William H. Perry, illustrating in their personal influences their recognized characters as true men, their intelligence as legislators, and their virtues of citizenship, a sovereignty of manhood and of intelligence.

Among these your Representative was recognized by Democrats and Republicans as a man of the highest personal integrity, of a deliberate sound judgment, who in formulating the work of Congress in the Committee rooms was always at his post of duty and ready with reason and in sober judgment to exercise the functions delegated to him by his constituency and prove himself a safe adviser. My friends, it is a great mistake to suppose that the noisy member of any deliberative body, who is ever ready to display the periods of rhetoric and to secure the printed applause of a reporter, is either the man of influence or the safe director in public

affairs. Those who think the most are apt to speak the less.

Knowing his personal character for unimpeached integrity, his influence in the House of Representatives and before the Committees of this great legislative body, the respect he commands from all, whether of his party or of the opposition, furthermore, that he has to his acquired experiences in two terms of service to add the strength, soundness and balance of a mind just reaching its prime, in the strength of a vigorous manhood, I would, were I allowed so to do, for the good of the people and the honor of this Commonwealth, lay the burden of representing them upon William H. Perry—upon him who stands before his people to-day with a record clean of reproach, and with nothing to explain or to extenuate, but with much for you to commend and for you to be proud of.



