

HON. HOWARD E. W. PALMER of Atlanta, Ga., has lead an active life, which is now at the beginning of its prime, with the promise of increasing usefulness. His ancestors on both sides came to Georgia from Virginia and the Carolinas. His paternal grandfather was Edmund Palmer, a planter of Burke county, Ga., and his grandmother was Jane Allen of Richmond county, in the same state. Prof. James E. Palmer, his father, was educated at Emory college, Oxford, Ga., and graduated with distinction. After his graduation he established a boarding school at his home in Burke county known as Grove Mount, and which some called "Rugby." After conducting this school awhile Prof. Palmer was elected to fill the chair of Latin in Emory college, in which he displayed the abilities of a true educator until December, 1861, when his highly useful life was cut short by death, when he was only about thirty-three years of age. The mother of Judge Palmer was Mary M. Weaver of Greensboro, a descendant, in the paternal line from the Weavers and Daniels of North Carolina. Her connections, by blood and marriage, extended among the Mounger, Wingfield, Eve and Grimes families of Georgia, forming a very wide and influential relationship. His mother is still in life and graces the home of her son as a member of his family. Judge Palmer was born in Burke county, Ga., Oct. 19, 1854, but on the election of his father to the professorship of Latin in Emory college, the young family moved to Oxford, where the father died; and after this bereavement, Judge Palmer's boyhood was spent in Greensboro and Burke county, Ga. At Greensboro, when but a lad he learned the printer's trade in the office of the Greensboro "Herald." His education was secured in Emory college where he was graduated in the class of 1872, and afterward he taught school for two years. This was followed by his entering the law office of Judge P. B. Robinson as a law student, and his admission to the bar in the superior court at Greensboro during the September term, 1874, Judge George T. Bartlett being then the presiding judge. His first office and practice as a lawyer was in Greensboro, where he was admitted, but in 1876 he moved to Waynesboro, Ga., and in 1877 was appointed when only about twenty-two years of age to the office of judge of the county court of Burke county by Gov. Colquitt. After discharging the duties of this honorable position nearly a year, he resigned in order to form a law partnership with his uncle, by marriage, Judge S. A. Corker, under the firm name of Corker & Palmer. His course of life was changed a few years later when, in 1883, he accepted the voluntary tender to him, by Gov. McDaniel, of the position of secretary of the executive department, and moved to Atlanta, where he has remained to this date. This important position was held for nearly five years, and terminated by his resignation and appointment as assistant United States district attorney for the northern district of Georgia, during the first administration of President Cleveland. This office, however, he resigned after holding it about a year, to accept a responsible and new position as the southern manager of the Thomson-Houston Electric company, which he held for several years. The electric business was then somewhat of a novelty, but Judge Palmer entered with his natural, enterprising spirit into the work, and to him is due the credit of a pioneer in establishing the electric system, which is now in such general operation in Atlanta. The Edison company and the