



R. D. ALEXANDER, ESQ.

urging the members of Tryon Street church to honor the dead pastor by doing what he would have them do.

Rev. Dr. Bowman paid a most feeling tribute to his deceased brother. "A great man," said he, "lies fallen in our midst. He was great in the way the Master was great. We find in this man characteristics which were Christ-like. I am here to bear witness of his faithfulness, of his genial, kind heart and great efficiency. I have had the blessed experience of knowing consolation and comfort from him." May God give us grace to follow him and spend our energies as he did for the glory of God and the good of our fellow men.

Rev. L. C. Hoffman and Rev. Atkins and Rev. Turrentine also took part in the solemn services. Buried in Elmwood.

ROBERT DAVIDSON ALEXANDER.

To write of persons that you have known intimately for one-fourth of a century, it is almost like communing with the dead. Mr. Alexander was the third one of the fourteen children of Wm. B. Alexander, and a grandson of John McKnitt Alexander. The subject of this sketch was born in the old homestead, on the 9th day of August, 1796; was given a common school education that was built upon and improved during his whole life. He was not so fond of the fox chase, deer hunting, and the sports the young men engaged in; but rather would devote his spare moments to reading the *New York Christian Observer*, the *Intelligencer*, the great organ of the Whig party, and kindred literature. He was a well informed man on the great topics of the day, both civil and religious, and was fond of discussing important questions. It always afforded him pleasure to attend church, courts, presbyteries and synods. He was a Justice of the Peace for about forty years. In his day a man was appointed for life, or good behavior, unless he should desire to resign. He did pretty much all the business in his section of the county. For many years he was a member of

the county court; emphatically the peoples' court; many were the conveniences, in the first place it cost but a trifle, all small offences could be disposed of. This court could not try civil cases where large amounts were involved; but in criminal cases, except murder and arson and probably some others, they meted out justice without quams of conscience. Whipping, branding, stocks and pillory were the usual punishments, and the man so punished generally left the state.

He generally kept a fine orchard of all kinds of fruit; also kept enough of bees to furnish all the honey his family would consume.

Mr. Alexander married the youngest daughter of Rev. S. C. Caldwell, Abigail Bain, in 1829. He built a home ten miles from Charlotte, one mile northeast from the old homestead, where John McKnitt lived, and exercised such a healthful influence upon the patriot cause during and after the Revolutionary war. He built up a handsome competency from a well tended farm. Before the days of railroads, when everybody traveled horseback, or in a private conveyance, he was never known to refuse lodging to a traveler. He did not keep a "Hostlery," but took in and entertained people as a Christian duty. He had five children who lived to be grown; the oldest son, Rev. S. C. Alexander, D. D., is now living in Pine Bluff, Ark.; is an evangelist of the Presbyterian Church, has labored in many of the Southern States, and consequently is well known. A sister of his, Agnes, married Dr. W. B. Fewell, of South Carolina; raised an interesting family. She died in 1897, aged 65. She was an excellent Christian woman. Dr. J. B. Alexander practiced medicine in the northern part of Mecklenburg for the third of a century—was a surgeon in the Confederate army—in 1890 moved to Charlotte. In 1858 he married Miss Annie W. Lowrie, of this county. She died February 27, 1893. Bore him six children—but four are now living. Their second daughter was the first woman south of the Potomac that ever graduated in medicine—Dr. Annie L. Alexander.

She is located in Charlotte, and has succeeded equal to expectations. W. D. Alexander, Esq., lives in his father's old residence, and represents his father in his magisterial capacity, is an excellent farmer and wields a good influence in both church and State. His first wife was a daughter of Dr. J. G. M. Ramsay, of Tennessee. She left four children, who are now grown; the daughter married a Mr. Johnston, of Lincoln county; Dr. James R. Alexander has lately moved to Charlotte. The two younger sons, William and Lattimer, are both in Charlotte engaged in profitable work. Both are nice, well behaved young gentlemen. The youngest daughter of R. D. Alexander, Lottie, died soon after her education was completed in 1878.

Mrs. Abigail Bain Alexander was more than an ordinary personage; her parentage, and the exalted positions of her brothers in the legal profession, one, Walter P. Caldwell, of Greensboro, and Septimus Caldwell, of Granda, Miss. Both brothers were great lights in the profession of law; five brothers of no mean ability, as ministers of the Gospel, who early in life moved to the Southwest, where they exercised an influence for good that will extend through many generations. Mrs. Alexander, when married, took her youngest brother, Walter, then a small boy but four or six years old, and raised him as if her own child, his parents being dead. She was first in all cases of sickness or distress; she was welcome in every house where gloom had settled. She was broad in charity to other denominations, particularly to the Methodists. She often worshipped at old Bethasda. The people there were poor and ignorant, and had all confidence in her, and applied to her for help in their spiritual perplexities. This was a mutual pleasure for her to give and they to receive.

The young people were fond of her society; always cheerful and happy, there was a kind of contagion that young folks were fond of.

She was fond of horseback riding, and all her visiting among the sick or well in the neighborhood was on horse-

back. In the early years of the century all classes rode horseback. Women thought it no hardship to ride six to eight miles to church, and carry a baby on their lap. When the distance was not so great, they would take one also on behind, tied to the mother with a large handkerchief, or with a hank of yarn. The old-fashioned gig was used by the well-to-do classes. In the country many persons walked to church and rested their horses. Mrs. Alexander survived her husband nearly twenty years. In 1889 she entered her rest, being 80 years old. Her childrens' children were old enough and in after years with a full heart, called her blessed.

HON. R. P. WARING.

Capt. Waring was a native Virginian; came of the old English stock that believed it as essential to cultivate the mind as to train the body. His first wife was a daughter of Lewis D. Henry, of Raleigh, N. C. In 1850 he first moved to Charlotte; just before this he obtained license to practice law, and opened a law office here to grow up with the people, and to identify himself with the best interests of the county and State. Smallpox broke out here in 1851, when many people were affected, some died, and terror seized the whole county. The terrible scourge breaking out the next year after Capt. Waring's appearance, has served as a marker in the last half of the Nineteenth century. The disease has not been wanting here for the last six months, and the most nervous people have not lost an hour's sleep on account of the epidemic, it is so mild.

Capt. Waring commenced editing the *Democrat* in June, 1852. He was a success as an editor. If he had put all his time to his paper instead of attempting to run a law office at the same time, his success would have been complete. He was elected county attorney in 1855, and gave universal satisfaction. He was made elector in 1856 on the National Democratic platform for the election of James Buchanan president.