

the State. A loyal North Carolinian, familiar with her history and conversant with the record of her people.

He was president of the Board of Directors of the Insane Asylum at Morganton, and a Trustee of the University at Chapel Hill. Pronounced in his opinion, he held his convictions with a strong and unyielding grasp, his superior judgment wielded an influence in the councils of which he was a member. His individual characteristics were manifest through the columns of his paper. Liberal, he gave unostentatiously; his private charities amounted to a large sum; the veriest tramp never appealed in vain, the gift often accompanied with expressions of his contempt for idleness. The poor will miss his generous hand. Simple in taste, plain in habits, he was intolerant of display and pretence; a good citizen, one whom the community will miss. The press of North Carolina has lost its oldest and most valued editor. Peace to his ashes. He was well suited for the times in which he lived. He died October 28, 1888.

#### SHERIFF MARSHALL ALEXANDER.

He was one of the most popular men of Mecklenburg county. He was a gentleman of the old school—never forgot the training he received in ante-bellum days; always cheerful, and ever ready to help an old Confederate.

In speaking of Mr. Alexander, we must say that there were in his life and career far more noble qualities than one would suppose who was not intimately acquainted with him. He was a man of fine intelligence, possessing a warm heart. At times he appeared rough and harsh, but it was because you did not know him. There was a vein of quaint humor running through his character that made him friends wherever he moved. He was a gallant soldier in the late war, and occupied the position of Lieutenant in Company B, Fifty-third Regiment, North Carolina Troops, Gen. Daniel's Brigade, Rode's Division. He was captured at Gettysburg

and sent to Johnston's Island, and not exchanged, but remained there till the war was over.

In 1872 he was elected sheriff of Mecklenburg county, which office he filled with entire satisfaction for 12 years. He made a faithful officer, always among the first to settle with the State; yet he was indulgent and the tax payers of this county speak of his administration of the office in the highest terms. It was a common saying on the streets that he was "the best sheriff the county ever had." (But the county has never had an inferior officer of any kind since the days of reconstruction.) He was cut down in the prime of life, when his usefulness was at full tide, his wife having preceded him some time. He was about 50 years old. Every one said "Marshall Alexander was an honest man." He was just and straightforward in all his dealings; he was always ready "to render unto Cæsar the things that belonged to Cæsar." He was a conscientious man and was as true to his convictions as the needle is to the pole. He was open and candid. Had no petty spites or harbored a mean revenge. He died peacefully and calmly. His life ebbed out like the fading light of day. The whole county feels the loss of a friend. But everything terrestrial must fade and disappear. He died in 1886.

DR. J. M. STRONG.

John Mason Strong was born in Newberry county, S. C., September 1, 1818. He was the only son of Rev. Charles Strong, of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and Nancy Harris Strong.

Charles Strong died July 20, 1824. His wife survived him until November 8, 1842. They had five children—but one son—the subject of this sketch. John Mason entered Jefferson College, Cannonsburg, Pa., in 1839; graduated in 1841 under the presidency of Dr. Matthew Brown. He read medicine under Dr. John Harris, of Steele Creek, and attended a course of lectures at Charleston, S. C., but gradu-