

on my list of friends. His contribution to the history of the late war I consider very valuable.

JOHN S. JETER, SOLICITOR.

Mr. Jeter was born about seven miles south of Edgefield Court House, on the 20th of June, 1779. Edgefield was then part of the District of Ninety-Six. He was educated at Dr. Waddell's School at Willington, in Abbeville County. He read law with Abram J. Dozier, at Cambridge, and was admitted to practice in Columbia in 1811. He practiced at Edgefield with good success. In 1814 he was married to Miss Sabra Simkins, daughter of John Simkins, Esq. In December, 1824, he was elected Solicitor of the Southern Circuit, and in 1820 he was re-elected. In December, 1828, the State was divided into five instead of six circuits, and Edgefield and Newberry, which were part of the Southern Circuit, were thrown into the Western, of which Mr. Earle was Solicitor, and Mr. Jeter's solicitorship ceased.

He was a good Solicitor, making no fuss nor parade, but working faithfully for the dispatch of business. He served as a member of the House of Representatives, and was elected Senator in 1838, and again in 1841. At the next election, in 1846, he was not a candidate, and Nathan L. Griffin was elected to succeed him.

He died April 14th, 1847. Two daughters survived, one Sarah, wife of Mr. Harris, who removed to Columbia; and Caroline, the wife of Rev. Mr. Walker, a minister in the Episcopal Church.

EDMUND BACON.

Edmund Bacon, one of the most brilliant members of the Bar Edgefield ever had, was a native of Georgia, born at Augusta on the 17th of April, 1776. His father was a Virginian, but he had removed to Georgia sometime before the great struggle between the colonies and the mother country began. He was left an orphan at an early age by the death of his father; but his guardian, General Glascock, who was also his brother-in-law, did not neglect his duty, but placed him at one of the best schools in the State, and afterwards at the first academy in Augusta. His taste led him to the study of the ancient classics, to letters and to polite learning, with a de-

cided repugnance to the study of a profession. In this he was encouraged, perhaps unwisely, by his guardian, as his fortune was not very large. But a circumstance, altogether unlooked for and unexpected, caused him to choose the profession of the law as his calling for life. Early in the year 1791 General Washington took his Southern tour, and in May paid a visit to Augusta. All the beauty and chivalry of the city was collected to receive and honor the hero. Mr. Bacon, young as he was, only about fifteen, was chosen by the academy of which he was a member, to give the address of welcome on the occasion. This delicate and honorable task was so well performed that it attracted the special notice and attention of the great man, and induced him to give the youthful orator a handsome present of several law books. This decided his future calling, and with the consent of his guardian he entered the then celebrated Law School of Litchfield, Connecticut, where he industriously applied himself and graduated with honor.

After graduation he settled at Savannah, in which city he was very successful. He was here induced to undertake the management and settlement of the estate of General Greene. This labor he did well; but his health, which had begun to fail before, had by this time failed so much that he thought it prudent to retire, at least for a time, from his profession. To this end he purchased a plantation on Beech Island, on the Savannah river, in which pleasant spot he hoped to regain his health and pass his time in those literary pursuits, which were most congenial to his tastes. This dream was rudely broken and dispelled. His house was destroyed by fire; his farming interests were neglected by his overseer, who was the only gainer by his farming investment. He was compelled to resume the practice of the law. This he did at Edgefield Court House. He here built him a handsome dwelling house, into which he moved, but which he did not occupy a great while before it too was consumed by fire. In this fire he lost his whole library, including the books which had been presented to him by Washington. It was also with great difficulty that his infant child was saved from the conflagration. He rebuilt near the same place, resumed the practice of his profession and soon became eminent at the bar.

He was married to Eliza Fox at Augusta, Ga., January 29, 1797. He left at his death four children, John, Edmund, Sarah, and Thomas. Thomas, who was so long Clerk of the Court at Edgefield, is the only one this writer ever knew.

Dr. Laborde once a Professor in the South Carolina College thus writes of Mr. Bacon: "Between the years 1822 and 1825 I was a law student in the office of Messrs Simkins and McDuffie; and Mr. Bacon being there in the practice of his profession, it was my fortune to witness the happiest efforts which he made during this period at the Bar of Edgefield. * * His natural endowments were extraordinary. His person was commanding, his face and head uncommonly fine, his voice chorde musical, and of wonderful power. His style of speaking was highly finished, and I think I am justified in saying, that, as a model of graceful and eloquent elocution, the Edgefield Bar cannot present another entitled to equal praise. Let it not be supposed, however, that his merit was that of a mere rhetorician. When the occasion demanded it, no one exhibited a livelier sensibility or a deeper feeling; or was more apt to awaken a sympathetic emotion in the bosoms of others.

"I remember when quite a boy that I was much moved by a speech from him in behalf of a man who was on trial for his life. His whole soul seemed melted by compassion—the tears were flowing freely down his face, and he urged the acquittal of the unfortunate man, with a natural earnestness and eloquence which touched every heart. His appeals to the sympathies of the jury were those of a man who was pleading for his own life; and when, after sketching most touchingly, the picture of human passion and infirmity, the sad heritage of the man—he called upon every member of the jury to adopt for himself the sentiment of the Universal Prayer.

'Teach me to feel another's woe,
To hide the fault I see,
That mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me.'

"The effect was electric, and all could see that the prisoner was soon to be restored to his family and friends."