



MISS MARGARET A. LOWRIE.

James Torrance, who added largely to his estate—both in land and negroes. He was married three times, had a large family who have scattered off, till now but two, the youngest sons, live in the county. The old county seats that have been in the family from the time the lands were first entered, are now fast passing into the hands of strangers, and will soon be unknown to the children of the original owners. Richard and John, two of the youngest of the third generation, are now among the oldest men of the county, and will soon have passed from the land holders of the county. As there is now a craze for all the educated classes, and the property holders to move to towns, where they can have the advantages of schools and society. Mr. Richard Torrance and family now live in Charlotte, but cultivates his farm with tenant labor. For more than one hundred years our lands have been cultivated by slave labor, but for nearly forty years freed labor, or free labor, has been depended on, which has been so unreliable that the best element on the farms, with the employers, have moved to the towns.

MARGARET ALEXANDER LOWRIE.

Without an effort on her part there were but few women in the county who exercised a more healthy or helpful influence. When a young lady, rich and beautiful, came of a family of great culture and influence, she was looked up to and courted by the many for her smiles of approbation. Her company was always sought for. She never considered any one an inferior who supported a good name and was careful to preserve it. She was a daughter of Judge Samuel Lowrie, who was a native of Delaware, and was a son of Robert and Elizabeth Lowrie. When a child his parents moved to Rowan county, and he was educated by Rev. James Hall in Iredell county.

• In 1804, 1805 and 1816, he was elected a representative in the Legislature of North Carolina. In 1806 he was

elected judge of the Superior Court, which position he held until he died, which was in 1818.

He married Margaret, daughter of Robert Alexander. The fruit of this marriage was Robert, Samuel, Polly (married Dr. Dunlap), Lilly (married Brawley Oates), Eliza and Margaret. In 1811 he married Mary, daughter of Marmaduke Norfleet, of Bertie county, N. C. From this marriage there was but one daughter, Rebecca, who married Rev. John Robinson, an Episcopal minister, who located in Huntsville, Ala. But few of the family are now left to speak of their history. Miss Margaret Lowrie was a great favorite with young people, and always had a crowd to visit her. Her sister Eliza, who was never strong, lived with her. She was a great reader just for her own pleasure, and let Miss Margaret do the housekeeping and the entertaining of visitors. In her old age she never forgot that she was once young, and had much charity for the young, and sometimes in a sly way would tell how the boys would come "a-courting." It always appeared to furnish her pleasure to tell about Speight McLean and Joe Alexander coming on Cupid's errand. She received offers of marriage when she was quite old, but she would laugh and say: "It is time now to turn these little episodes over to our juniors." In these prosaic times it would be well to have some of the "old issue" to come along again.

SAMUEL J. LOWRIE, ESQ.

He was one of the most brilliant lawyers that Mecklenburg county ever produced. He was the son of Dr. Robert Lowrie, and he a son of Judge Samuel Lowrie, of Mecklenburg county. He was born to an inheritance of legal talent. The women possessed literary talent of a high order, connected with grace and beauty of person. Mr. S. J. Lowrie's father died quite young, had but two children, Samuel and Robert. Their mother married a second time, and Samuel J. Lowrie came to Charlotte to live with his aunts, maiden