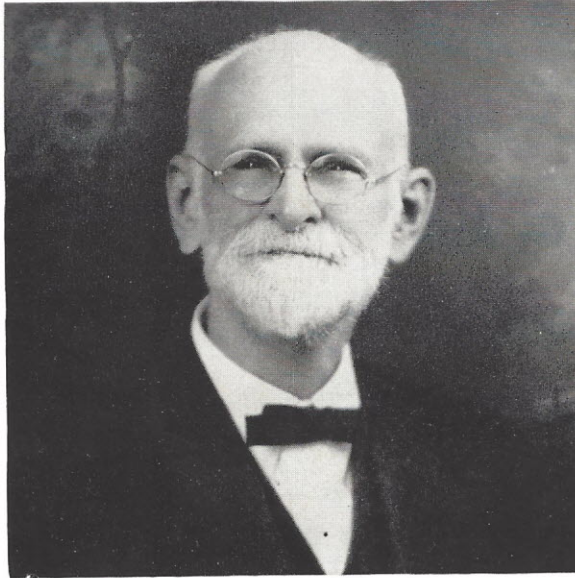


Mount Zion Institute



DR. PATTERSON WARDLAW
University of South Carolina
Former Superintendent of Mount
Zion Institute.

The Meaning of Mount Zion

What is the meaning of Mount Zion—its spirit? What picture does the name bring to mind?

It means a background of God-fearing, brave, intelligent men and women, who believe in education for knowledge and for righteousness.

It means a noble struggle by a state-wide Society, to bring all the people of South Carolina together—to unify sections and sects.

It means a brave adventure, during the hardships and terrors of the Revolution, to provide for the people the education that independence would demand.

It means generations of unswerving loyalty to the principle of seeking first the things of mind and soul, of subordinating all things, even parental partiality, to the highest good of their children.

It means one of the greatest preparatory schools of its day, sending to the colleges future leaders for the whole state.

In its later function—humbler but nobler—of teaching “all the children of all the people,” it has meant, in town and county, a folk of remarkably high intelligence and character—a character shaped by the fear of God applied to the common affairs of life.

It means numbers of worthy and efficient young people, out of all proportion to the size of the town, filling positions throughout South Carolina—and “making good.” It is related that Dr. James H. Carlisle was asked, “What made Winnsboro and Fairfield men notable?” He replied, “That light on the hill,” meaning Mount Zion.

The Mount Zion of today means the powerful instrument that this same strong stock is employing to fit its children, not for the times of their forbears, but for tasks confronting them in the days soon to come.

And what of the future? As in the past it has striven to meet the needs of the age in which its pupils were to live, so the Mount Zion of tomorrow must, with equal breadth of mind, dare to face the inconceivably wonderful changes thrust on us by the approaching years, and fit our youth to “be bigger than anything that can happen to them.”

Mount Zion is historic, but *not old*. Let us will that she shall be a vigorously developing youth, having the prowess to meet new onslaughts with weapons ever freshly forged.

And so, finally, Mount Zion means HOPE.

Patterson Wardlaw.

