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ROBERT JAMES BOULWARE

PROFESSOR ROBERT JAMES BOULWARE, President of Clinton College, of Rock Hill, ranks high among the educators of his denomination in the State. He is a native of Fairfield County, having been born at Flint Hill, Nov. 12, 1866. His father was Robert Lee Boulware and his mother, before her marriage was Rosseline Goodwin.

Beyond his parents, he knows nothing of his ancestry on account of the absence of records and the confusion which prevailed in the changing of names during, and just after, the slavery period. His father was, at one time, a big farmer at Flint Hill, Fairfield County.

Professor Boulware was married Sept. 4, 1901, to Miss Roberta A. Blackwell, of Franklinton, N. C. Mrs. Boulware was educated in Boston, and is an accomplished teacher. In fact, she was teaching in Rock Hill before her marriage. They have four children: Catherine J., Theodore T., Anna P., and Robert M. Boulware.

Young Boulware attended the rural schools of Fairfield County and later the Brainerd Institute at Chester, where he completed the grammar grades. When ready for college, he entered Biddle University, winning his Bachelor's degree in 1896. Two years previously, he had begun teaching in his home county. Later, he taught in the North Carolina public schools for five years, and was called to the principalship of Clinton Normal and Industrial College in 1901. In 1908 he was elected President. This school has prospered under his administration and has grown to an enrollment of nearly 500 with a faculty of nine. In addition to this, he runs a night school and carries on a small farm in connection with the school. Professor Boulware is in position to sympathize with the boy who has to make his way, as it was necessary for him to work his own way through both Brainerd and Biddle. Having been brought up on a farm, he developed a sturdy body and was never afraid to work with his hands.

He is chairman of the Trustee Board and Preacher's Steward of Mt. Olivet A. M. E. Zion Church, of Rock Hill. He has never been active in politics, but is identified with the Masons, being Senior Warden of the local lodge. In the church and the school, he is doing what he can to promote Christian education and believes that the progress of his race depends on that more largely than upon anything else, when coupled with industry and economy.

Professor Boulware takes an active part in everything looking to the welfare and development of his people, and has made for himself a prominent place among them in the social and professional life of Rock Hill.