

want by the devastating march of Sherman. He contemplated the ruin, but greatest ruin of all, he laid down his life September 4th, 1865, at the early age of forty-two, leaving a widow, three sons and a daughter, to mourn their irreparable loss; of that once happy circle, his widow alone remains. Two grandchildren survive the oldest son.

At the time the war divided this country, Mr. Boylston held the office of grandsire of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of United States of America. Among the proceedings at the meeting of the grand lodge of the United States held at Baltimore, in September, 1865, is found the following tribute to his memory:

"P. G. Sire Boylston possessed social qualities of a high order. Few could resist the warmth of his cordial, genial manners, or the charms of his conversational powers. Still fewer of his contemporaries could resist his power in debate—clear, logical and convincing; to admit his premises was to adopt his conclusion, and yet, such was his urbanity of manner, that though he seldom went out of debate except as a conqueror, no instance is remembered in which his defeated opponent ever took exception to what he had said. It seemed as if nature, in the prodigality of her gifts to her favored son, had denied him no qualification to make him eminent in every walk of life.

"But he has gone! We revere his memory, we lament his death. He lies in his untimely grave, beneath the soil of his own loved South Carolina, and the evergreens, through which the winds of heaven whisper their sweet requiem, wave over the mouldering remains of no purer or nobler spirit than of Robert B. Boylston."

ALEXANDER S. DOUGLASS.

Few men have attained a more substantial success at the bar of Fairfield county, S. C., than the Hon. Alexander S. Douglass. Mr. Douglass is a native of Fairfield county, having been born there, on the 25th of December, 1833. The family is one of the oldest and most influential in that portion of the state. His father was Alexander Douglass, who was also born and reared in Fairfield county, where he spent an honorable and active life as an agriculturist. He was the son of Alexander Douglass, who settled in South Carolina, about 1799, having come to this country from Ireland, and was of Scotch descent. He was a planter, and came to be recognized in the community as an able and intelligent man. Alexander Douglass, Jr., married Jennette Simonton, a daughter of Mr. John Simonton, of Fairfield county, and a relative of Judge Simonton, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Her mother was Martha Strong, who was closely related to Jane Gaston, a South Carolinian, who distinguished herself for valor and patriotism during the Revolution. Seven children were born to the union of Alexander and Jennette Douglass. Of the two sons born to them, our subject is the youngest. He was reared upon his father's plantation, and, in the

neighboring schools, laid a solid foundation for the exhaustive study of later years. In 1853, at the age of nineteen, he graduated from Erskine college, at Abbeville, S. C., and immediately thereafter entered the law office of Ex-Gov. B. F. Perry, at Greenville, S. C. Subsequently entering the University of Virginia, he completed a law course there, and after several months' study, under R. B. Boylston, at Winnsboro, was admitted to the bar, by the law court of appeals, at Columbia, in 1855, and by the equity court of appeals, in 1856. In the meantime, Mr. Douglass had become a resident of Spartanburg, and here, in January, 1857, he became associated with John H. Evins, in the publication of the *Spartanburg Express*. Early in the year 1859, he purchased the office and plant of that paper, and continued its publication until 1861, when he laid aside his business interests to take up arms in defense of his state at the outbreak of the Civil war, having at that time become a junior second lieutenant, in Company C, Thirteenth South Carolina volunteer infantry. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, and was with the great Lee at Appomatox, having served through all the years of the struggle with faithfulness and valor. In 1866 Mr. Douglass resumed his profession of law, having taken up his residence at Winnsboro, S. C. In political faith he has always been a staunch democrat, and, as such, has been honored by his party with different offices of honor and trust. In the years 1882-3, he served as a member of the state legislature, and his career in that body was marked by the same fidelity to the people as has ever characterized his life. Not seeking political favors, he has not been in office to any great extent, preferring to devote his time and best energies to his calling, in the law.

In 1860, Mr. Douglass was first married to Miss Mary E. Byers, of Union district, S. C., who died in 1867, leaving, as the issue of the marriage, two sons, one of whom is associated with his father in the practice of law. In 1878 he was again most happily married, to Miss Sallie M. McCants, of Winnsboro, S. C., and three surviving children are the issue of this union. The family are valued members of the Presbyterian church, and are held in the highest esteem by the community at large.

REV. LAUGHLIN McDONALD.

The Rev. Laughlin McDonald was born in Elbert, now Hart, county, Georgia, October 3rd, 1810. He was graduated from Miami university, Ohio, in the fall of 1836, and under the Rev. E. E. Pressly, D. D., of Due West, was fitted for the ministry, receiving his license to preach in Laurens county, S. C., October 5th, 1838, by the second presbytery of the Associate Reformed synod of the south. On the 15th of October, 1839, he was transferred from the second to the first presbytery, and was ordained at Tirzah church, York county, S. C., December 10th, 1839, and was installed as pastor of Tirzah church and Union congregation, in Chester county, at the same time. October 4th, 1851, on account of failing health, he resigned from Tirzah