

THE NEWS AND HERALD

THE PASSING OF DR. THOMAS G. DOUGLASS

On the 6th day of June at his home in Fairfield County Dr. Thomas G. Douglass passed away after an illness of some days. At the time of his death he was 71 years of age, and nearly all his life had been spent in Fairfield County. He was born near Jenkinsville; he enjoyed good school advantages, such as country boys of his time had, and graduated in medicine at the Charleston Medical College.

Not long after graduation Dr. Douglass practiced medicine with the noted physician, Dr. Thomas Furman, who lived about three miles south of Monticello. The Furmans were a rich family, of the best standing in the state; and Dr. Thomas Furman's reputation as a physician was of the highest order in Fairfield County. And Fairfield County was in those days rich and beautiful. Splendid homes nestled in great clumps of evergreens and flowering bowers. The prevailing type of architecture was colonial--large wooden structures with heavy pillard porches, painted white with green shades.

When the war came on Dr. Douglass was practicing medicine with Dr. Furman. It was no doubt of incalculable advantage for a young doctor, fresh from college, to be associated with a physician of Dr. Furman's skill and standing.

For a few years after the war Dr. Douglass practiced medicine in Chester County, not far from his brother in law, Samuel McLurkin, who was himself, or came to be, a physician of unusual skill.

Later, Dr. Douglas came into possession of a bachelor uncle's estate nine miles northwest of Winnsboro, and here for more than thirty years he lived and followed his profession. The Brice community was settled by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, a people of fine energy and thrift; and this section came to be the richest farming section in Fairfield fifteen or twenty years after the war. This was partly due to the fine quality of the land for cotton growing, partly to the management of a people of fine gifts.

For many years Dr. Douglass was very prosperous in his profession. My own brother, Charles Rabb, who graduated in Charleston, assisted Dr. Douglass for a time in his practice, which reached from the Charlotte railroad on the east to Broad River on the west, from Monticello on the south to the Chester line on the north. My brother often spoke of his association with Dr. Douglass with great pleasure, for besides their being brothers-in-law, they were always warm friends. Later, brother Charles practiced by himself in the Feasterville community, where he died in 1894.

Dr. Douglass was called in the most serious cases of fever, meningitis, accident, pneumonia, in consultation with other physicians; or families realizing that loved ones were near death frequently turned wholly to his skill. I may say that Dr. Douglass was a splendid physician.

I desire to call attention to a few points in his life and character which are worth emulation.

He was a great worker. Dr. Douglass seldom, in his active career, rode in a buggy; he was in his saddle day and night at times. He usually rode a fine horse with a good easy gait, and seldom went out of a moderate gait, even in serious illness. He

was a nervous man, so nervous at times as to be unable to express his thoughts; but he was always in possession of his powers at the bedside. He did not hurry, but went with the decision of a hard worker. No man can tell what an amount of work Dr. Douglass accomplished in the past forty years. He frequently went to the very limit of his endurance.

He was a student. Dr. Douglass was always ready to put aside the old for the new, if he was persuaded that the new was better. He read much in his profession, and succeeded in a marvelous way in keeping abreast of the times. In company with other doctors, or even intelligent lay hearers, he was extremely fond of dwelling on new developments.

In the latter part of 1868, he removed to the place where he died, and continued in the active and successful practice of medicine, inspiring confidence in his skill and affection in the hearts of his numerous patients and patrons. About two years ago, on account of his failing health, it became necessary for him to give up, to a certain extent, the active practice of his profession, and to leave the principal part of the work of attending to professional calls and administering to the relief of sick patients to the skill and active energy of his son, Dr. J. E. Douglass, who for many years has been associated with him in the practice of medicine.

His father was Charles Douglass, who died in 1851, when the subject of this sketch his eldest son, was sixteen years old. His mother was Sarah Crosby, who survived her husband many years. Three sisters predeceased him, and one brother, David S. Douglass, who was a member of Co. F, 12th S. C. V., and died from wounds received in the battle of Gines Mill on the 27th day of June, 1862.

He was buried in the cemetery of New Hope Church, of which church he was a member for many years; and many, whose hearts had been drawn to him as their beloved physician, came along distances to pay their last sad tribute to his memory.

He left surviving him his widow, Mrs. Lottie Douglass, a daughter of Mr. Jonathon Rabb, deceased, and four sons, Dr. J. E. Douglass, T. J. Douglass, Chas H. Douglass, and Dr. J. W. Douglass, and one brother, Charles B. Douglass, and two sisters, Mrs. Mary A. Chappell and Mrs. Martha McMeekin, wife of Mr. Joseph McMeekin.

"Ye sorrow not, even as others who have no hope."

"The pains of death are past;
Labor and sorrow cease,
and life's long warfare closed at last,
his soul is found in peace."

A. S. D.

