



REV. M. P. HALL, D. D.

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

of

**Mansel P. Hall**

By Himself



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*The Introduction was written by Rev. E. R. Roberts, D. D.,  
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THE STORY OF THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR IS TOLD  
WITH THE HOPE OF INSPIRING THE YOUTH  
OF HIS RACE TO CRY EXCELSIOR

Slave of Daniel Hall Sr.  
Fairfield County, S. C.

## AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF M. P. HALL.

### Parentage.

My father was the late Rev. Thomas Hall; my mother was the late Mrs. Eliza Hall. They belonged to a Mr. Daniel Hall, a rich planter, who lived near Rocky Mount, Fairfield County, S. C.; Mr. Hall was the owner of a very great number of slaves. In some respects, he was much better to his slaves than most owners. Mr. Daniel Hall; or as he was called by the servants, "Marse Daniel," would never allow a man and his wife to be sold apart. I have often heard mother say that Marse Daniel never would allow a man and his wife to be parted. So my father and mother were Mr. Hall's trusted servants. They both managed to gain some knowledge of books, especially some knowledge of the Bible. When they were young they both confessed faith in Christ and became members of the Methodist Church, and later on they joined the Baptist Church. They were both among the most devout Christians that I have ever known. So, long before I was born, my father was the preacher for the many slaves of Mr. Hall. He attended to performing the marriage ceremony for them. Mr. Hall had a son by the name of Mr. Thomas Hall. Some time in the early fifties Mr. Thomas Hall, called by the slaves "Marse Thomas," was married to a Miss Sarah Hardin, daughter of the late Mr. Peter Hardin, near what is now Richburg, Chester County. My father and a number of Marse Daniel's slaves came up to Mr. Peter Hardin's, and stayed there nine weeks. Mr. Hall owned a plantation five miles east of Chester Court House. So Mr. Thomas Hall and Miss Sarah moved on the plantation five miles east of Chester, known by the Halls as the "Black Jack Place." My father, mother, and a number of other slaves came with Mr. Thomas Hall to the Black Jacks. This was said to be twenty-two miles from Marse Daniel's home. My father was Mr. Thomas Hall's trusted servant. My mother waited in the big house on Miss Sarah. My father's father was a native African. His mother was said to be remotely akin to an Indian. Mother was a mulatto. It was on this plantation that my only living sister, Mrs. Laura (Hall) Lewis, a brother next to me, Rev. J. Hall, another brother, Rev. T. W. Hall, and I were born in a little frame house in the yard on this Black Jack Place. I was born on the 8th of May, 1859, just in time to escape the horrors of slavery. My father taught me to spell and read a little. At ten years of age I was sent to the county schools, and there I continued till I was about 17 years old. I then entered Brainerd Institute, of Chester, S. C., under the Principalship of Rev. S. Loomis. He had associated with him his wife, Mrs. Loomis, and his son, Prof. Leverett Loomis. I soon became a student teacher in Brainerd. Later on I stopped going to Brainerd and went back to one of my old teachers. So I continued in the different schools till I was 20 years of age. In the summer of 1879, I professed faith in Christ and joined the Black Rock Baptist Church, five and a half miles east of Chester. I was baptized in the old Chisholm mill-pond, by Rev. L. Featherstone, who was, and is still, the much-beloved pastor.