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OBITUARY

DIED -On the 9th inst., at the residence of Major Starke, near Columbia, Mrs. Martha L. Peay, wife of Col. N. A. Peay, of Fairfield District.

It is difficult to do justice to a character like Mrs. Peay, without being charged with exaggeration; yet the voice of the community in which she dwelt, and of which she was so bright an ornament, cannot withhold its mournful, though brief tribute to her excellence. Nurtured in the most refined circles of society, and married at an age when splendor has its highest attractions, she ever maintained a beautiful simplicity in the exercise of an elegant and widely extended hospitality, in the gentle ministry of an unostentatious charity to the poor, but especially in the quiet duties of life. In untiring devotion to the happiness of husband and children, her generous nature found ample exercise for mind and heart. During the eleven years of her married life, never once did an unkind word pass between her and her husband; and when we add to this the remark of one who was long an inmate of the family, that she was never known to speak a harsh or unkind word to a servant it may well be said hers was a truly lovely spirit, nor was she wanting in firmness and energy of character, these were manifest in the systematic regularity of her domestic arrangements, and in the judicious discipline of her children. In the character of a tender but faithful mother, earnest and prayerful in the religious training of her children, the writer knew her best, and in this, few could claim higher praise. She trusted not alone to the instincts of a mother's love, but sought anxiously by reading and by counsel with those who might instruct, to know a mother's duties and the surest modes of discharging them.

Such in a brief outline of one who, with all that love and friendship could throw around home and an extensive social circle, has passed away, and we feel assured, to a holier home and companionship. Her life exhibited much of the Christian spirit, and her last days gave assurance of that faith that triumphs over death.

Mrs. Peay died in the 31st year of her age, leaving six children.