

ment of the session of 1833-'34, such was her rapid increase in population during that ten years, gave her two more members, and at the election in August, 1834, the following gentlemen were the successful candidates: Augustus B. Wooldridge, Henry Sossaman and Lincoln Clark.

Augustus B. Wooldridge, Esq., removed from Georgia to Pickens county in 1821. He was and is a planter and now resides in Texas. He represented Pickens but once, was a gentleman of fair intelligence and good sense, sound and practical, easy, affable and popular in his manners, and of fine address and appearance. He left here in 1839 or '40, for a permanent residence where he now lives. He paid a visit to Pickens in the fall of 1855.

Henry Sossaman, Esq., colleague of Mr. Wooldridge, removed from Tennessee, first to Greene, thence to Tuscaloosa and afterwards to Pickens. He was a carpenter by trade, afterwards a merchant at Carrollton. He was builder and proprietor of the "Carrollton Hotel," now kept by Messrs. McCauley & McAllister. The present landlady, the wife of Mr. McCauley, is sister-in-law to Mr. Sossaman, although nineteen years have intervened since the latter sold out and removed to Mobile.

The Honorable Lincoln Clark, a member of the XXXIId Congress, from the State of Iowa, and but recently Judge of the Circuit Court of Alabama, was born in Hampshire county Massachusetts, in the year 1800. He is the son of one of those plain New England farmers, whose chief pride is to gain an honest and independent livelihood—for themselves and families, out of the sterile soil of their native hills, literally compelling nature, amid a bleak and rugged region, to yield the recompense due to the sweat of the brow.

The writer has heard Mr. Clark remark of his parents, that they realized the blessings of Agur's petition, for they had neither poverty nor riches, and were as far removed from vanity and lies. Surely this is sufficient pedigree to boast of. His mother was a lineal descendant of the Rev. Jas. Keith, a celebrated Scotch divine, who came to America in the 17th century; a man, according to tradition, of talents, learning, and influence. His paternal grandfather was a Cape Cod whaler, who removed to Conway, the town of Mr. Clark's nativity, in western Massachusetts, during the revolution. He there died and was buried, and there many of his descendants lived, died, and were buried after him.

In his youth, Mr. Clark labored at the same

occupation with his father, and there are not many kinds of work, incident thereto, in which he did not engage, including the *swingling* of flax, making maple sugar, and laying stone wall. Being the oldest son, his tasks were not light, and when at the age of eighteen the subject of a college education came to be agitated in the family, his father could ill spare from the farm so important an assistant; but appreciating the advantages of education, he soon made up his mind to make the sacrifice. He was himself a man of much reading for his occupation, and truly coveted the blessings of knowledge for his children. But notwithstanding a ready consent to release and to aid young Lincoln, the problem as to the *means* still remained to be solved; nor did either father or son see any way to solve it, save by the eye of faith. The latter embarked upon the enterprise pretty much as Abraham left his country, "not knowing whither he went." He did not, however, put out so far to sea during the two first years of his preparatory studies, that he could not return home to assist his father in the busy season of summer. This he cheerfully did, as a matter both of economy and necessity. Up to this period, the candidate for college honors had shared only the common educational advantages of the district school of New England.

Before our youthful student entered college, he went to the State of New Jersey and taught school nine months at Patterson. He was there a member of the family of the Rev. Samuel Fisher, D.D., which was in itself an excellent school for him. The Doctor was a man of great talents, extensive learning, a powerful orator, and in all respects a good model for a young man. Young Clark's acquaintance with this distinguished man was without doubt a great advantage to him, and some compensation for the loss of time. But to be thus compelled to teach school, as he did every winter of his preparatory years, and the four years of his subsequent college course, greatly retarded his progress. In a letter to a young friend on the subject of struggling against discouragements in the acquisition of knowledge, Mr. Clark affords us a glimpse of his own experiences:

"I was twenty-one when I entered college, and twenty-five when I graduated. It was almost more than I could do to accomplish my course. During my junior year I was on the point of abandoning my *Alma Mater*, solely for the want of money, but a distant relative furnished me a small sum on my father's security, and afterwards more money was borrowed in the same way. I was thus enabled to complete my

course, but came out of college with a debt of \$500 upon my hands." Judge Clark is an *Alumnus* of Amherst, a college located in his native county of Hampshire.

Such was his setting out in the world, loaded with a debt of \$500, to be paid as speedily as possible. His most available resource was that of many other young men in like circumstances, to bring his hard-earned education into practical use in imparting his knowledge to others. Judging that a southern State would afford the best encouragement, and having a friend in the upper part of North Carolina, he repaired thither, and was soon installed as principal of the Germanton Academy, Stokes county, in that State. He relinquished this situation at the end of one year, and the next took a class of young gentlemen in Greek and Latin, meanwhile reading Blackstone, Coke, and Chitty. He had no regular instructor, but found here a friend in the Hon. Nathaniel Boyden, who furnished him with law books, and occasionally opened to the solitary student a little of their mysteries. He subsequently went to Virginia, where for three years he combined the two laborious pursuits of teaching and studying law, as best he could for the advantage of himself and pupils. And now considering himself prepared to begin to practise his profession,

at the end of this period he departed to the then distant State of Alabama, with that purpose.— When he reached his destination he found that his expenses thither, after having paid his college indebtedness, purchased a small law library, and the horse by which he travelled, had exhausted every dollar of his late earnings. He had the world before him, and he had it to begin anew. He sold his horse, and hung out his sign!

His prospect there was not encouraging; month after month wore away, and no clients darkened his office doors. Without money, and without patronage, a stranger in a strange land, he was, as once before in college, almost tempted to yield up the race in despair! But it was hard to do this; he resolved to succeed or die! He made another removal; he selected another county where less competition seemed to insure more immediate success. Pickens was then a border county, and its court-house town but just laid out; the stumps were fresh in the middle of its streets, and there were in it but three offices which deserved the name: these were already occupied by other members of the legal profession, at a rent of five dollars per month! How fortunate, thought Mr. Clark, are those fellows who are able to pay five dollars a month for a

respectable office! He was obliged to take a rude log hut at two dollars!

"There is a tide in the affairs of men"—a summit-level, where the waters begin to flow two ways, or cease to flow against the traveller who is advancing upward. There is an apex to misfortune and disappointment, above which the tears of anguish cannot rise; and, in the lives of most men of the right stamp, it is when matters have come to about this point, that the tide of their affairs takes a favorable turn. It was so with Mr. Clark. He here found one friend who thought he saw in him something worth cherishing; he soon found many friends. He was elected Justice of the Peace, an office in Alabama of considerable fees, sufficient of itself to afford him a support. He now began to be noticed as a lawyer, and, at the end of two years, had a fair practice. About this time he was elected to the State Legislature, as a Jackson Democrat, in a canvass in which the issues were *Union and Nullification*. One of his acts at the ensuing session was to vote to invite the Hon. Gabriel Moore, then United States Senator, to resign because he had become obnoxious to the Democracy of Alabama.* Mr. Clark was re-elected the ensuing year.

* The writer does not undertake to express his own

During this session, that is, in the winter of 1834-5, an effort was made in the Alabama Legislature, which was largely democratic, to present Hugh L. White, of Tennessee, as the *democratic* candidate for the Presidency. This movement Mr. Clark strenuously opposed, on the ground that it was premature, and that Judge White's leanings were against the Democratic party. White's friends however persevered, and at the very next session were compelled to admit the correctness of Mr. Clark's course and to retrace their steps. Another act of that session, which he took much pleasure in performing, was the opportunity to vote for the late lamented Vice President, the Hon. William R. King, for the Senate of the United States. It is his pleasure and good fortune to have been always honored with the confidence and friendship of that distinguished man.

In the year 1836, Mr. Clark, for the first time, it is believed, since his residence south, and after many years of absence, paid a visit to his father and brethren in Massachusetts. He was still a bachelor, but during this visit was married to an

opinions upon this, or other political acts of his personal friend, Judge Clark. What he states are facts either within his own knowledge, or which have become matters of history, and, as such, are left to speak for themselves.

accomplished young lady of the same neighborhood where he was himself born and reared, who is still the partner and pride of her husband, as she has been the counsellor and faithful companion of his subsequent life.

On returning to the South, he was invited by the Hon. E. Woolsey Peck of Tuscaloosa, the then seat of government of Alabama, to a copartnership with him, which he accepted, and with whom he continued ten years, enjoying a lucrative and honorable practice. In Chancellor Peck he found a partner of the very highest order of talents, and profound legal learning; a friend whose kind regard had never abated. To accept this copartnership it was necessary for him to remove to the State capital, having resided in the county of Pickens about four years. Describing his residence here, he says:

"I saw much of the strife, riot and bloodshed which often prevail in frontier localities: I saw men shot and wounded—men shot and killed. Convictions for murder could not then be had, but there is a better state of things now."

In 1839 Mr. Clark received from Governor Bagby the appointment of Attorney General of the State of Alabama. In 1845 Governor Fitzpatrick (now United States Senator) conferred upon him, without solicitation, the office of Judge

of the Circuit Court of this State. To accept this appointment, he resigned his seat in the House of Representatives, to which he had been just elected for Tuscaloosa, by a respectable majority, although a Whig county. His labors that summer were of the most arduous nature. During the brief space of six weeks he was required to canvass for the Legislature, and also attend to a large practice in the Supreme and Chancery Courts.

In the spring of 1846, Judge Clark was urged by his political friends to permit his name to be used in the Democratic Convention of the Fourth Congressional District, as a candidate for Congress—a district where such a nomination was equivalent to an election. He did not consent, but was balloted for against his consent, and frequently received a *majority* of the votes cast, two thirds being required to nominate. The county of Fayette, the residence of the present member, and the strongest Democratic county in that district, was not represented in the Convention. The leading Democrats of Fayette, for reasons not necessary to be here disclosed, would not send a delegation, unless Judge Clark would consent to become a candidate. Had Fayette been represented, he would have been nominated by the requisite two-thirds upon the first ballot.

For some time previous to 1846, Judge Clark had been seriously contemplating a removal and settlement upon the Mississippi river, that great commercial artery of the country. This design was hastened by the removal of the seat of government from Tuscaloosa, the city of his residence, to Montgomery, on the Alabama river—a removal which took with it the most important Courts, thus materially decreasing the business of the profession, and affecting the general importance and interests of the place. Deeming this to be a fit time for him to carry out his intention of establishing himself upon the "great father of waters," after a tour of exploration, Mr. Clark, in 1847, removed to the Northwest, and located himself at Dubuque, a flourishing city of Iowa.

There, in the young State of his adoption, it was not long before honors began to crowd thick upon him. The very next year, the presidential election coming on, the Judge was put upon the Democratic ticket as elector, and canvassed the State for "Cass and Butler." Iowa having cast her vote for these gentlemen, he was selected by his electoral colleagues to carry the vote to Washington. During this canvass the question of political abolitionism had to be met.—Judge Clark attacked it as heretical and mis-

chievous; it tottered to its fall, and has not since troubled Iowa elections.

In 1850, Judge Clark was nominated for Congress without the slightest knowledge that such a thing was in contemplation, and was elected by a majority of 1000—more than double the majority ever before given to any of his predecessors in that district. Having served through this (32d) Congress with honor and credit, he was re-nominated in 1852 by the regular convention of his party. The nomination was not unanimous. For the first time in his life, having never been a seeker of office—all his honors hitherto having been thrust upon him rather than sought—the Judge found himself in the awkward dilemma of belonging to a house divided against itself. The division was of a local character—that most fatal of all political distractions. He received the majority in the convention by a strictly local vote. No less than four railroad schemes had been projected in the district, each in antagonism to the other; jealousy and rivalry ensued, and defeat was the consequence. The subject of railroads became the chief element of the canvass, from the desire to obtain for the rival schemes grants of land from the general government.

Having, for the most part, confined our re-

marks to a simple narration of the prominent incidents in the life of Judge Clark, we leave them to speak for themselves. The narrative might have swelled into a volume, but the writer preferred to present a connected chain of facts without comment or embellishment. We have seen him struggle on through all the gradations of toil as a boy-student, then a school-master, next a college student and pedagogue alternately—a graduate, still teaching to pay off that \$500 debt, studying law *ad interim*, and next with his sign out! Now intervenes a dark hour of despair, away in distant Alabama, at the age of thirty, still battling with poverty, and the battle has been a terrible one!

Lo! a bright spot in the sky!—"One friend!"—other friends—is elected Justice of the Peace!—What a God-send! Then, in quick succession, come elections to the Legislature—business—co partnership—marriage to a beautiful, lovely, and accomplished young lady—Attorney Generalship—Judgeship—Electorship—oratorical honors, and election to Congress. Let such a beginning and ending speak for themselves!

Judge Clark's manner of speaking is grave, dignified, and impressive. He is a serious-minded, and we may add, a religious man. He has for many years been a professor of Christianity,

and while he is a scrupulous observer of the forms, and a sincere believer in the tenets of his church, he is liberal and tolerant to all. There is a tendency to scriptural illustrations and quotations in his public addresses and speeches, and an aptness therein which sometimes almost smack of the clerical. No man has less of cant or hypocrisy, and if a familiarity with the best of books enables him to illustrate and enforce great truths, he is not the first American orator whose productions have been enriched from the same source. It shows the *timber* he is made of, the sober New England origin grafted upon the old Scotch ancestry—an original ancestry not the worst in the world.

Judge Clark is not a professed politician; he has devoted but a small portion of his life to politics. That office has sought *him*, rather than he it, has been seen; when it has come in his way, he has considered it well enough to accept it, whenever he could without any sacrifice of his principles or too much sacrifice of his interests. He has made his political aspirations subservient to his professional standing and character as a lawyer. The law is his *forte*, what the struggle of his life has been to cherish, follow, and master, and upon which to found a reputation.

As a lawyer, Judge Clark is not so remarkable

for great readiness, as for correctness and soundness. He is an honest and safe counsellor, an eloquent and powerful advocate. One of his maxims for his law students is, "Never advise a suit you ought not, or cannot gain." No lawyer ever practised the profession more conscientiously, or felt deeper anxiety for the interests of his clients, and few have been more successful in gaining causes for a series of years, in a responsible and laborious practice.

As a man, a neighbor, or a member of society, Mr. Clark is full of kindness and charities. He is a man for counsel for those in need of friendly advice, to be sought by such as need protection, to be supplicated by those needing alms—they will not go away empty. His kindness and urbanity towards young members of the bar, contrast strikingly with the crabbedness of some old practitioners, who keep up their dignity and importance by a frowning brow and sour aspect towards "juniors." Mindful, perhaps, of his own early struggles and trials, and prompted by a kind and benevolent heart, Mr. Clark delights to take the novice by the hand, and to aid him in various ways—by gratuitous counsel, by an encouraging word, by inducting him into one of his own cases, and helping him onward in a maiden speech with points of law.

Upon his return from Washington, at the close of the thirty-second Congress, Judge Clark resumed the practice of his profession, to which he is devotedly attached, and which he still pursues with zeal and energy unabated, and as with the success of former years when he was our familiar acquaintance. Indeed, it is said, he has accumulated a large property.

The members of the House of Representatives from this county, at the next session, beginning the first Monday in December, 1835, were Hon. Lincoln Clark, Rev. Charles Stewart, and Charles Coons, Esq.

The Rev. Charles Stewart was born in Chatham county, North Carolina, August 27th, 1794, and removed with his father's family, at seven years of age, to the State of Tennessee, in which State he received his education. In 1818, he came to this State, first to Perry county, where he remained three years, and thence to Pickens, in 1821, where he has since resided. Mr. Stewart is now about 61 years of age.

PARSON STEWART—Such is the manner by which he is commonly designated, was elected tax-collector of Pickens in 1830, '31, '32 and '34, the latter being the year before his election to the House. For a year or two prior to this time, what politics there was of a party character, had

been that growing out of the question of nullification. Mr. Stewart ran and was elected as an Andrew Jackson democrat, which he always was, as was natural, hailing as he did, from the State of Tennessee. He generally participated in the views, and co-operated with his friend and colleague, Lincoln Clark. He has never held any political or other office since that session, but has devoted himself as a public man exclusively to the duties of Pastor of the Big Creek Church. This is a very large society, and their meeting house being located at a sort of half way ground between Carrollton and Pickensville, in a thickly settled neighborhood, "Big Creek," is a central point, where assembles to this day, the most numerous, respectable, and intelligent congregations, of that or any other persuasion in this county, to attend upon the ministrations of their worthy Pastor.

Charles Coons, Esq., the other colleague of Messrs. Clark and Stewart, came from the State of Tennessee to Tuscaloosa county and thence to Pickens at a very early period, and settled upon Bear Creek, where his widow and family still reside. He died in 1836, being the next year after his election to the Legislature. The cause of his death was a rather singular one.—He ate imprudently of unripe chestnuts and died

very suddenly away from home. He was a popular man, a plain farmer, of a happy, genial temperament. He died much lamented, and his memory is held in respect and esteem by many to this day. Mr. Jacob Coons, brother of the deceased, still lives in the northern part of Pickens county. His name has also been spoken of as a candidate for the Legislature. The Coons family are whigs. Mr. Coons left other relatives in Pickens, who still reside here, forming an extensive and respectable connection.

Col. Joseph Martin, Col. Thomas Williams and Samuel G. Cochran, represented Pickens at the session of 1836-'37.

Major Joseph Martin came from Union District South Carolina at an early period in the history of Pickens county, with his father's family, the late Alexander Martin, of Yorkville, being then but a stripling. He began business as a merchant as one of the well known firm of Davis, Martin and Humphrey's, in Yorkville, Pickens county. In the early part of 1836, he volunteered for the Seminole war and went to Florida as Captain of a company from Pickens county where he served three months under General Scott. Having acquired some military character, he was elected a Major of militia on his return home. He is said to have been one

of the most popular men of his time in Pickens county, and deservedly so from his noble and frank honesty of character. He was re-elected to the General Assembly in 1837, and in 1838, the last time, by an overwhelming vote, being larger than any man ever received in Pickens county for any office, before or since. The day of his last election was the day of his death. He died at Nelson Crawford's, in Pickens, of a fever which he contracted in the canvass, and his death therefore, occurred on the first Monday in August, 1838. In politics, Mr. Martin was a whig.

Col. Williams was born in North Carolina, on the 9th day of July, 1787, but removed to Georgia with his father's family while a child. He came to Alabama in 1818, settling first in the county of Tuscaloosa, where he resided about sixteen years before he settled permanently in Pickens county in 1837. Col. Williams died on the 16th of September, 1853, in Pickens county, after a very brief illness, aged 66 years. We quote from a notice of him published at that time.

"Col. Williams has taken no inconsiderable part in public life, having represented in the Georgia Legislature, the county of Warren and the counties of Tuscaloosa and Pickens, for several sessions, in Alabama. A very large circle

of children, grand-children and great-grand-children are left to mourn his virtues—five sons, three daughters and the children of four deceased sons.

"Col. Williams was justly esteemed in all the relations of life; as a christian he was exemplary in the performance of his duties; as a father and a husband he was kind, affectionate and generous; and as a citizen, he never faltered in his obligations to the laws and to society. His mental faculties were clear and undimmed by age, and retained their vigor to the very moment of dissolution."

Comprehensive and eulogestic as is the above it is not extravagant. Col. Williams was an ardent Democrat, who, like Parson Stewart, was of the Andrew Jackson school. L. Clark, another Democrat of the same stripe, and who thoroughly understood the Colonel's character, once thus advised his intimate friend: "Never get into an argument with my friend, the Colonel, you think one way, he another—you don't conceive how strong is his democracy—*his politics are almost his religion!* You may make a friend of him—a true and useful one, for he has always been a good friend of mine from the first."

Dr. Cochran resides on Sipsev, in the south part of Pickens, where he has lived many years.

He is by birth an Irishman. He is so well known as one of our most respectable and intelligent citizens, that to extend our remarks would be superfluous. Politically a Democrat; we believe he has never been over anxious for office—was elected on this occasion, and a candidate but once afterwards, and is one of those men who has the good sense to enjoy the fair property an industrious life has accumulated. The Doctor has been much interested in his industrial pursuits of planting and milling, for the latter of which he has a strong *penchant*. The man who exercises his skill and ingenuity in introducing into a newly settled country the improvements of machinery is more of a public benefactor than the mere politician or the legislator. Dr. Cochran's failure of a subsequent election did not greatly trouble him. But as the Doctor is not much past the years of middle life and is enjoying the benefits of a sound mind in a sound body, he may hereafter receive the suffrages of his political friends for places of honor and trust. The unsuccessful candidates in that year were Messrs. Wooldridge, Hibbler, Middleton and Coons.

The members of the House from Pickens county at the next session, were Dr. Jephtha Spruill, Col. Thomas Williams and Major Joseph Martin. Dr. Spruill will hereafter be noticed with the

Senators of Pickens. Other gentlemen who ran with Messrs. Martin, Williams and Spruill, were Thomas H. Wilson, C. G. Coons, F. C. Ellis, Thomas Gore, J. Y. Shaw and the late Judge G. B. Frierson.

For the next session B. H. Neely, Fred C. Ellis, and Joseph Martin were chosen to represent Pickens county in the popular branch of the Legislature, but the latter dying as above narrated, William S. Jones, of Yorkville, was elected to fill the vacancy by four votes over Amos Davis.

William S. Jones, Esq., was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and removed to Pickens county, as we learn, about the year 1828, and settled near Yorkville, where he resided until his death, in 1855. He was about sixty years old. He was an intelligent planter, and a man well informed upon public affairs—in politics was a whig. A gentleman in his manners, he was hospitable, social and fond of society, and was well fitted to mingle among his fellow-citizens. He was elected but once—was a candidate the next year and received a respectable vote, leading his party, (the whigs were all beaten in that year,) but he was never a candidate afterwards for that or any other office.

B. H. Neely, Esq., came from South Carolina

to Pickens in 1832 or '33, and remained here till 1840, during which time he was once elected to the Legislature. He was a lawyer by profession and a whig in politics, of fair ability, and is now one of the Circuit Court Judges of the State of Arkansas. The unsuccessful candidates in the canvass of that year, were J. M. Pettigrew, Dr. Cochran, C. G. Coons, Rev. C. Stewart and Amos Davis, the latter, brother to William H. Davis, lacking as above stated only four votes of an election.

At the session of 1838-'39, Col. Nat. Smith, Curtis Williams and Dr. Joel E. Pearson represented Pickens county in the lower House. The latter will be more appropriately sketched as one of the Pickens Senators, hereafter.

Col. Smith came originally from the State of Tennessee to the county of Madison, Alabama, where he resided a number of years, and while there he twice represented that large county in the Legislature. He was also once a candidate for Sheriff of Madison and lacked but sixty votes of being elected. Before he settled in Pickens he planted a crop or two in Mississippi, and then settled upon Magby's Creek in Pickens county, where he lived until 1849, when he removed to Harrison county, Texas, which is his present home. The Colonel has been dealing a little in

politics since he has been in Texas, having been a candidate for the Legislature as a *Union* man in 1851, and although unsuccessful he led his side of that question. At the present time (1856) he is a member of the Texas House of Representatives, elected as an American, or Know Nothing, was the democratic candidate in 1841 for the Senate against Dr. Peyton King, at a time when the whig majority was conceded to be between two and three hundred, and the Colonel then ran up to within a little less than a hundred votes of his opponent. It is said to have been an animated race, notwithstanding Col. Smith cannot cope with Dr. King in ability and intelligence, yet, he is a remarkably shrewd electioneer, and quite a remarkable man, considering his early opportunities. It is said to be a common boast with him that he could not write his name when first married. Take this fact in connection with his brief history as above so barrenly narrated! Col. Smith must now be upwards of sixty years of age, yet he is vigorous and hale as ever. He represented Pickens county several times in the House, and as late as 1845-'46 for the last time the memorable removal session, and also memorable for winding up the State Banks.

Mr. Curtis Williams, now deceased was a son of Col. Thomas Williams, and was so well known

in Pickens as a respectable, unpretending, intelligent and useful citizen, that our sketch of him will be brief. He was born in Warren county, Georgia, and was the eldest child of his parents—was married in Tuscaloosa county, whither he came in early life with his father's family, and subsequently removed to Jefferson county in this State, where he resided six or seven years. He became a resident of Pickens in 1832, and in his fortieth year, on the 28th day of July, 1845, at his residence in Pickens county he departed this life. He was an exemplary man in all the relations of life, was popular as a public man, but more so as a conscientious, religious man. He was never a candidate except on the occasion of his election, though often afterwards, solicited to run for the Legislature by his party friends, which his retiring habits, and especially his feeble health for the last four or five years of his life, induced him to decline.

It will be seen that the successful candidates in that canvass (1839) were all of the democratic party—for the first time since parties had become organized under whig and democrat. The unsuccessful gentlemen were all whigs, namely, Messrs. Jones, Ellis and Chamberlain.

Frederick C. Ellis, was born in the city of New Haven, in the State of Connecticut, in 1806, and

there resided till twelve years of age, at which period he went to North Carolina to reside with his half-brother, Major Cook, a gentleman well known in, and now a resident of Pickens. In 1828, the two brothers removed to Tuscaloosa, where they established, and for several years carried on an extensive house as merchant tailors. While a resident of the then capitol of the State, Mr. Ellis was once elected by the Legislature, a Director of the Branch Bank at Tuscaloosa, being then about twenty-five years of age. In 1832, he removed to Pickens county and settled on the site of the present town of Fairfield, being in fact, the pioneer of that then border settlement, and the owner of the land upon which that village was built. In the year 1837, as has been stated heretofore, Mr. Ellis was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives, his colleagues being B. H. Neely, and Wm. S. Jones, all of the whig party. Mr. Ellis was an active and useful member. He was an agreeable gentleman, an industrious and enterprising business man, and a good citizen. In the general business disasters of 1838, he became involved by some unfortunate speculations, like many other good and honest men, from which he did not live long enough to recover. Mr. F. C. Ellis

died at Fairfield, in 1841, aged thirty-five years. He was a bachelor.

Dr. Jephtha Spruill, James Peterson and Wm. McGill, were members of the House in 1840, being all of the whig party. Their opponents were Col. Nat. Smith, Dr. Beckett and William D. Lyles, all of opposite politics.

Mr. James Peterson left Pickens county some five or six years since, and now resides in Chickasaw county, Mississippi, near Palo Alto. He came from Lawrence District, South Carolina, and settled in Pickens county, at a very early period, and was for many years a respectable and influential citizen; holding several minor offices and discharging the duties thereof with satisfaction to the public. He is about fifty-five years of age, is a plain, industrious planter, and a clever man.

Mr. William McGill came from Kershaw District, South Carolina. After residing several years in Pickens, he removed to Mississippi about 1842, where he died some three years ago.

At the session of 1841-'42, J. M. K. D. Wallis, Reuben Gardner and Dr. Spruill, all of the whig party, represented Pickens.

The unsuccessful candidates were James B. Owens, B. G. Sims and James B. Gladney, all democrats.

J. M. K. D. Wallis was born in far-famed Mecklenburg, North Carolina, in the year 1814. He was the eldest son of Elijah C. Wallis, late of Pickens county, was grand-son of the Rev. Jas. Wallis, of Providence, North Carolina, and great-grand-son of John McKnight Alexander, whose name appears conspicuous in the celebrated Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Mr. Wallis came with his father to Morgan county, Alabama, in 1820, at the age of six years. He was educated in this State, and in 1836, at the age of twenty-two, he graduated at our State University; two years afterwards he settled in Pickens county, in the town of Memphis, where he engaged in agriculture; that most independent and honorable of all the pursuits of life. He, too, like his predecessor, Ellis, was one of the pioneers upon the rich soil west of the Bigbee, and joint proprietor of those lands where now stands the flourishing village of Memphis. He died at that place, in 1843, two years after the expiration of his term of service in the Legislature, aged only 29 years, in the midst of his career and usefulness, respected and lamented. He left, besides his aged parents, a widow, son and twin infant daughters, to mourn their early bereavement.— His mother, the accomplished Mrs. Elijah Wallis, still lives and resides with her son, James M.

Wallis, of Memphis. This estimable lady is still enjoying a green old age as a sort of preserved specimen of those old-fashioned days when women were useful as well as ornamental. It is well to contemplate occasionally, the mothers as well as the fathers of Pickens. The widow of J. M. K. D. Wallis, was recently married to the Rev. Mr. Boyd, a Baptist clergyman.

At the session of 1842-'43, Col. Nathaniel Smith, Col. Thomas Williams, and Reuben Gardner, represented Pickens, all of whom had been previous members of the House.

The unsuccessful candidates in that canvass, were R. T. Johnson, James Peterson and S. B. Moore.

Reuben Gardner, Esq., had been a member of the House in 1841-'42, and was re-elected for the session of 1842-'43. Mr. Gardner was another of the fathers of Pickens county. He came out from Kershaw District, South Carolina, at an early day, and was a public man in some capacity, from 1826, when elected one of the Commissioners of Roads and Revenue, till the day of his death. In 1830, he received the Executive appointment for county Court Judge, but did not accept the office. Efforts being made to secure the office for another individual, Governor Gabriel Moore was written to, not to appoint till

the people had time to express a choice, and the result was Mr. Gardner's selection, without his knowledge or solicitation. A well known book of sketches, by Stephen F. Miller, editor of the Tuscaloosa Monitor, entitled, "Heads of the Alabama Legislature, at the session of 1842-'43," thus mentions the death of Mr. Gardner:

"Mr. Gardner," (of Pickens,) "was in ill health at the beginning of the session, though he was punctually in his seat, even in weather which rendered exposure dangerous to him, until he obtained leave of absence about the last of December, to visit his family. The next intelligence was his death on the 12th of January.— His colleague, Mr. Williams, announced the mournful event in the House, on the 16th, and passed a feeling eulogy on the virtues and character of the deceased. After which, the usual testimony of respect was voted, and the House adjourned without doing business that day.

"Mr. Gardner was an intelligent planter, upright in all his relations, and commanded the esteem of his fellow members, as well as his acquaintances generally. He was a whig, and was in the forty-seventh year of his age at the time of his death."

The Flag of the Union, a Tuscaloosa paper,

takes the following notice of the proceedings in the House on this occasion:

“MONDAY, January 16, 1848.

After the Journal was read, Mr. Williams, of Pickens, rose and addressed the House as follows:

“Mr. Speaker—It has become my painful duty to make known to this House, the death of one of its members—my colleague. Reuben Gardner, Esq., died at the place of his residence, in Pickens county, on the 12th of this month.

“In making known this melancholy event, I cannot take my seat without expressing my great regret, that he has been taken from among us; and without bearing witness to his worth as a man, his upright deportment as a citizen, his kindness as a neighbor, a husband and a father.

Mr. Gardner was a native of South Carolina, and emigrated to this State at an early day. He has resided in Pickens county about fifteen years, has several times been honored with a seat on this floor, as one of its Representatives, and when he died was about 47 years of age. He was beloved by his neighbors and friends, who will deeply feel the blow. But sir, all of this is nothing, when we think of the afflictions it has brought upon his bereaved family; I feel unable, and

shall not attempt to draw a picture of their sufferings.”

Col. Williams closed his remarks with the usual resolutions, and the House adjourned, as a testimony of respect for the departed.

In the Pickensville Register, of February 11th, 1848, appeared an obituary notice of Mr. Gardner, which is doubtless more accurate as to dates than the above sketches, a part of which we copy, as further evidence of the estimation in which he seems to have been held by all.

“We are called on to record the death of Reuben Gardner, Esq., who departed this life the 12th of January, at his residence in Pickens county, aged 52 years, one month and three days.—He removed from South Carolina, his native State, to Alabama, in 1820, where he has lived until his death. As the head of a family, he was devoted to their interests and welfare, and endeavored to train his offspring in the way they should go, and he has left them a safe and sound example, and good name, which is more precious than silver or gold. For a number of years he filled the office of Magistrate for his neighbors, and three times he was sent by his county to represent them in the State Legislature, and so far as we know, he gave no great cause of complaint to his constituents, neither by an abuse of the

powers conferred on him, nor by a neglect of their interests committed to his care. As a neighbor, both in his private and official capacity, he was a peacemaker and a safe counsellor.

For some ten years, he had been a regular member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in which he filled, for nearly all the time, the office of Ruling Elder, by the unanimous vote of its members. We are satisfied that no man could have given more general satisfaction, nor could, with his continued feeble health, and various other official duties, have been more devoted to their interests and spiritual welfare. As a private christian, he was firm in the faith, not of his party to the exclusion of others, but his faith was in the Lord Jesus Christ. * * * *

Mark the end of that man! His last expression was, "I quietly submit." He came from Tuscaloosa on a visit to his family, expecting to return again to fill his seat in the Legislature, but instead of that, he was, as we trust, transferred into brighter scenes, and now fills a seat with the General Assembly and Church of the City of the living God.

At the session of 1843 and 1844, Robert T. Johnston, John D. Johnson, and Dr. J. Spruill, represented Pickens county in the lower branch of the Legislature.

John D. Johnson, Esq., is the eldest son of Dr. James Johnson, of Randolph county, North Carolina, where he was born the third day of July 1798. He was educated at the Moore county Academy under the care of a celebrated Presbyterian clergyman, by the name of Mc-Millon. In his youth, Mr. Johnson taught a school two years in his native State. He afterwards emigrated to Jones county, Georgia, with a next older brother, and there taught school two more years—a very good beginning is it to start in life as a school-master. He married a Georgia lady about this time and betook himself to the occupation of farming, at which he was raised. In 1829, he removed to Harris county, near the city of Columbus, Georgia, and settled there as one of the pioneers of that then entirely new country, where he lived about two years. Here, again, Mr. Johnson taught a school. In 1833, Major Johnson removed to Pickens county and has resided here since that time. In the summer of 1843 he was elected to the House of Representatives, and such was his course as to secure the confidence of his constituents. He was re-elected in 1844 and, as most of our readers know, was a member of the session of 1853-'54, as a colleague of Messrs. Henry and Lee, the latter as Senator. Dr. P. King, was Senator at

his first term of service and Dr. Spruill at the second.

Major Johnson is a plain, intelligent planter, or perhaps he would prefer to be called a *farmer*—a pursuit he is fond of, proud of and thrifty at. He is fond of agricultural societies, knows all about sub-soil, hill-side and all other plowing. He has both the practice and the theory, and now and then, takes up the *pen* as well as the *plow* or *hoe*. He believes in beautifying the homestead and staying upon it, and though he has made several removals, he is now so pleasantly located that, unlike his colleague, Senator King, he is not seeking for any "better place" in this world.* He is a prominent member of the Baptist church, a profession he has never dishonored, and we dare say it is now his highest ambition to continue to be a good neighbor, a good citizen and good christian. He has no doubt, had enough of political honors to appreciate their full value, and has seen enough of political life to be tolerant to opponents. Being now aged but fifty-six years he is not so old as

* This is a reference to Dr. Peyton King, now residing at Sageville, Mississippi, who, in contemplation of removing from Pickens, advertised his residence and plantation for sale as the *Better Place*.

to preclude all idea of participation in public life.

Robert T. Johnston, Esq., was born in Fairfield District, South Carolina, on the 18th of September, 1816, being descended from an Irish parentage. His father, the late David Johnston, of Tuscaloosa, a worthy and well known citizen of that county, was a native of Ireland, removing thence to America when a boy. Mr. R. T. Johnston came to Tuscaloosa with the family in 1818, before he was two years old, and settled on the site of the present city of Tuscaloosa, and is therefore an Alabamian in his raising. Mr. Johnston is a graduate of Center College, Danville, in the State of Kentucky, and an honorary A.M. of the Alabama University. Like his colleague, Major Johnson, he began life as a schoolmaster, opening a private school in Lowndes county, Mississippi, in 1836, where he taught one year. He then came to Pickens county and opened a school in the town of Pickensville, where he taught until 1844. He had married a Pickens county lady in 1840, a daughter of the late John W. Terry. He became the editor of the Pickensville Register in 1842, which he conducted for about two years. Thus, at the age of twenty-five, we find that he had assumed several responsibilities of no trivial character—a school,

a wife and a newspaper. He also twice ran for the Legislature during this time, the last time successful. At the August election in 1845, he was again a candidate, and again successful.— This was the last annual session, and the last one held at Tuscaloosa, that being the Legislature at which removal and biennial sessions were coupled and passed in the same bill. He was a member of the House again, two years afterwards, at the first session held in the city of Montgomery. In the canvass of 1851, Mr. Johnston was the candidate of the whig and Union party for Senator, in which canvass he was not successful, but the writer will avoid entering into the whys and wherefores of that arduous struggle. Pickens was thoroughly canvassed by Mr. Johnston, in conjunction with Judge L. A. Gilkey and Major O. Eastland. Dr. Pearson, the democratic candidate for the Senate, did not appear in the field as a speaker.

In the various capacities in which Mr. Johnston has acted his part for some fifteen years as a private and public man, and mostly in the latter character, he has shown himself a useful and public spirited citizen. For the last eight or nine years he has devoted himself to the practice of the law, in which profession he has attained to a respectable position. Beginning here as an

unpretending teacher of youth, a poor young man, we have seen him steadily progressing in the world. His knowledge of political subjects is shown in the columns of the *Pickensville Register*, during the two years he was its responsible editor, at a period when party excitement ran as high as at any other period of American history, during the presidency of John Tyler. Though a firm and decided whig, he was courteous to his opponents, preferring argument to denunciation and abuse, but he was also severe and sarcastic upon occasion. The questions we find upon the tapis about that time, were bank, tariff, distribution and internal improvement in the national politics, and in State matters; white and black basis, State banks, &c., &c.; all of which he evinced a thorough acquaintance with.

Latterly, Mr. Johnston has been much occupied with the subject of railroads. He has frequently addressed his fellow-citizens in behalf of a road through Pickens county, of which he is a Director. The subject of agriculture also engages his attention both practically and as the President of the Pickens county Agricultural Society. Education is another interest of our county which makes demands upon his time and attention. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, like his protestant Irish father before

him. Without entering upon an eulogy of Mr. Johnston, it is enough to say that he is ever found among the foremost in all those social, moral and physical enterprises which characterize the times. His age is about forty years—being thus in the prime of manhood, after so many years of youthful service in the cause of the public, we may look upon him as destined, if life is spared to fill a wider career of usefulness.

The unsuccessful candidates for the lower House in that year, were Nathaniel Smith, S. L. Austel and Col. Thomas Williams, all of the democratic party.

The members of the Legislature elected at the August election of 1844, were John D. Johnson, Thomas J. Clark and Henry Stith.

Hon. Henry Stith was briefly noticed among the list of County Court Judges. He was a native of Virginia, resided many years in North Carolina, and it is no disparagement to state that he rose from an artisan to become a highly respectable lawyer, a good Judge, a useful legislator, and last, but not least, an industrious and able editor. Judge Stith was the opponent of Governor Moore for the old County Court Judgeship of Pickens, residing at the time in Greene county, for which he was supported before the

Legislature by the then whig members from Pickens, Dr. Peyton King being Senator. He lived here some seven years, leaving in 1846 for Holly Springs, Mississippi, where he still resides. He there established a press, of the Southern Rights stamp of politics, which he conducted with ability for some time; but growing tired of a business so perplexing and arduous he has again returned to the practice of the law. The Judge is a bachelor still—the last time we saw him, some year since, he was maintaining as youthful a look as ever.

Col. Thomas J. Clark resides in Pickens. He is one of our most respectable and intelligent planters, and from his late remarks in our Agricultural Society, of which he was chairman, he is not over anxious to become anything else but a Southern planter. On that occasion he stated that politics was a dirty stream, he had tried it and found that to be the case. The Colonel takes a deep interest in our Pickens Railroad, of which he was lately chosen a Director. He is also a champion in the good cause of temperance; he lives upon his plantation near Bridgeville, in the southern part of Pickens county. He has been a member of the Legislature but once, but we notice in the Pickensville *Register* a call upon him to run the year previous to his election in

1844, which he then declined on account of the recent death of a beloved companion, leaving two young children. Col. Clark has recently married as his second wife, an accomplished lady of Pickens county, daughter of Samuel W. Hood, Esq.

Col. Clark came from Elbert county, Georgia, about the year 1835 and permanently settled here. He is aged about forty-five years, yet he has, by no means, so old an appearance. He has a robust and commanding person, takes the world as it comes, enjoys life and society, and, as stated above, does not vex himself about politics and office.*

Col. Thomas Williams, W. B. Jordan and Samuel D. Linton, were the unsuccessful candidates of that year.

R. T. Johnston and Col. N. Smith were elected to the Legislature at the August election in 1845, both of whom have been noticed heretofore. The unsuccessful candidates were H. Stith and Samuel D. Linton. The latter gentleman was a whig, and for two successive years lacked but a few votes of being elected. He has returned to his native State of Georgia and now

*It may be remarked, that the notices of both Judge Stith and Col. Clark were copied without any change of verbiage from the *Pickens Republican* newspaper.

lives at Augusta. He is a gentleman our society could ill afford to loose.

This year Pickens lost one of her three members by the new apportionment. She had not only decreased comparatively in population, but actually; that is, if her census was correctly taken.

At the next *biennial* session, being the first at the new Capitol, in 1847-'48, R. T. Johnston and Dr. Joel E. Pearson represented Pickens in the lower House. The unsuccessful candidates were Judge Stith and Orville Eastland.

At the session of 1849-'50, Lewis M. Stone, Esq., and Absolum L. Neal represented Pickens in the House.

The unsuccessful candidates were Messrs. Gilkey and Henry.

Lewis M. Stone was born in Milledgeville, Georgia, and came to Alabama during infancy. He passed his youth in acquiring a liberal education. He is an *Alumnus* of the Alabama University, having graduated in 1839, with honor and credit. It was then the custom to select a valedictorian from the younger class to address the graduating members of the literary Societies, and this honor was conferred upon him. In January, 1840, Mr. Stone, then about nineteen years of age, entered the law department of Har-

vard University at Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he remained two years, completing the course of legal studies and graduating in 1841. The next year he located in the city of Mobile, and commenced the practice of the law. He remained in Mobile three years, during which time he was elected Attorney for the Branch Bank at that place, as copartner of Judge Linsley. In 1845, he returned to Pickens county, where his father's family had resided for several years, residing most of the time at Bridgeville, engaged in the practice of his profession. He was a candidate of the Democratic party of Pickens, for the Legislature, and as stated above, was elected on the same ticket with Mr. Neal.

The same year Mr. Stone was elected Anniversary orator by the Alumni of the State University, and delivered the usual address, August 1849, at commencement. The effort was highly commended at the time by the Press of Tuscaloosa, and by his refined audience. At the election in August 1851, Mr. Stone was again successful in a canvass for the House of Representatives, running on the same ticket with James Gladney. The period here spoken of, is not so remote as to require much detail. The gentlemen on the "States Rights" ticket that year

were far ahead of their whig opponents, Messrs. Gilkey and Eastland.

In 1852, Mr. Stone was placed upon the State electoral ticket by the Democratic party and canvassed this Congressional District for the present President of the United States. In 1853, he was a candidate before the people of Pickens for the State Senate, but was not successful. In the spring of that year he was married to his present amiable and intelligent lady, who was the widow of the late Gershom Kelly, and has since become a permanent resident of the town of Carrollton. Mr. Stone is aged about thirty-five years. In the spring of 1853, he was announced as a candidate for Congress, but after being sometime in the field with the general approbation of the Democratic Press and party of the District, he withdrew from the canvass to run for the Alabama Senate. Mr. Stone is a good speaker, has a good knowledge of the political party questions of the day, to which he has paid much attention. His manner is animated, and his style both argumentative and declamatory. He is sociable, affable, courteous and popular, with no personal enemies.

Absolum L. Neal, Esq., is a native of the State of Tennessee. He came when a mere youth with his father to Morgan county, North Alabama,

where the family resided until about 1838, when they removed to Pickens and settled in the North-western part of the county. Mr. Neal is a planter, in good circumstances, and follows the business of agriculture solely. He is an intelligent gentleman, social, hospitable and fond of the society of his friends. He represented Pickens county as the colleague of Mr. Stone at the session of 1849-'50. Mr. Neal is an ardent Southern Rights, States Rights Democrat. He is about thirty-seven or eight years of age, is a man of family, and being now in the prime of life, bids fair to remain still many years, as he now is, a useful and influential member of society. Although he has represented Pickens only once, he was a candidate again, for a brief period in 1855, but voluntarily withdrew from the canvass, soon after its commencement; nevertheless he stands as fair a chance of again representing Pickens county as any man of his party.

At the session of 1851-'52, James B. Gladney and Lewis M. Stone represented Pickens. Mr. Gladney is a merchant and a planter, and quite successful at both. He resides at Reform, Pickens county, but also plants in Mississippi. He is an energetic business man, is well informed on the subject of Agriculture, and has a fondness for subjects of commerce and political economy.—

He is an ardent Democrat, a clever man and an useful member of society. He has never but once represented the county, but was a candidate once or twice, before successful.

The data is not at hand to furnish a more satisfactory sketch of Mr. Gladney. He is about forty-five years of age, and has been many years in Pickens county.

At the session of 1853-'54, James Henry and John D. Johnson, represented Pickens county in the lower House. The unsuccessful candidates were Messrs. Turnipseed, Clitherall, Carver and Hix, all Democrats.

James Henry, Esq., was born in Hanover county, North Carolina, in 1822, and came to Pickens with his father's family in 1822 while in infancy. Mr. Henry is a farmer, a man of ordinary educational advantages, but he is a reading man, possessing a disposition to improve himself and make up by reading for the deficiencies of early education. He has ever been an industrious planter and has not been unsuccessful in that pursuit. In 1848 he was elected commissioner of Roads and Revenue and served out his time of office as a useful member of that Court. When he ran for the Legislature in 1849, he was beaten only twenty-three votes by Mr. Neal, above spoken of, who resides in the same

end of the county. In 1853 he ran in some 300 votes ahead of his highest competitor. Mr. Henry was a useful member, was always in his place and very attentive upon the business of the House, as the journals show. This completes Mr. Henry's history as a legislator, but it might be added that in 1855, he became a candidate for Congress, at the earnest solicitation of his friends and subsequently withdrew and again was a candidate for the Alabama House of Representatives. He was unsuccessful—that being a disastrous year for his side of the House, nor was he alone in the political mishaps of that race. It has been already stated that James B. Sherrod, Esq., was beaten that year. Mr. Neal withdrew, but of other gentlemen who ran out that canvass Messrs. Joseph Cook and N. F. Smith, shared the same fate with Mr. Henry.

Mr. Henry is a strictly moral man, a member of the Methodist church, a good citizen and neighbor. It need hardly be said his politics have always been whig, and that he is now warmly attached to the American party. His age is about forty-four years.

At the last session of our State Legislature, (1855) Pickens county was represented in the lower branch by Col. Samuel Williams and Z.

L. Nabers, Esq. The latter gentleman has been noticed under another title.

Col. Williams is a son of Col. Thomas Williams, deceased, who has been spoken of above, at considerable length, as a member of the House, and he is also brother of Mr. Curtis Williams, deceased, who likewise represented Pickens as has been stated. Col. Samuel Williams is a plain planter, a strictly moral man, a man of fair intelligence, a social, friendly and urbane gentleman. His history is that of the other members of his family already noticed.

There is no necessity, nor indeed propriety, in attempting to present a political history of this county, in addition to what may be gathered from these sketches of prominent persons. It would not be found to vary much from the history of any of the surrounding counties, and would agree generally, with Alabama and Southern sentiment upon public questions. It has been seen that this county has been nearly balanced between the two great parties of the country, since the days of Andrew Jackson. Sometimes she sent democrats, sometimes whigs, and sometimes both, to the same session of the Legislature. It has been made a matter of remark, that the parties alternated with one another, every two years, or elections favoring first one side and then the other.

Pickens county voted for Gen. Andrew Jackson, twice. She cast her vote in favor of General Wm. H. Harrison, in 1840; by some 250 majority over Martin Van Buren. In 1844, Mr. Polk received about 75 majority over Mr. Clay. Gen. Taylor carried the county by over 100 majority of votes over General Cass, in 1848. Again in 1852, General Pierce beat General Scott, some two or three hundred votes in this county. Thus is it seen, that for the highest office known to our form of Government, Pickens county has voted no more uniform, than for a member to the State Legislature. So also, will her county offices be found to have been filled at the same elections by men of opposite political views. For example, a democratic Clerk is chosen by the side of a whig Sheriff, or *vice versa*.

These facts are stated as affording a clue to the political cast of the people of this county. The voters are not all partisans. There is a floating or balance of power vote, which is so uncertain, that no political party has a right, or at least, safe data, to claim a preponderance. It is as decidedly one way this year, as it was the other last. If it may be inferred from this, that the people are not fixed in their political sentiments, it may also be argued from the same ground that they think for themselves, that they will not be controlled

by the politicians, that they are open to conviction, and are seeking to do right, instead of voting a blind or prejudiced vote. The latter is the most charitable construction, and, as the writer believes, the most correct.

It may not be improper to add, in this connection, that the people of Pickens have ever by their suffrages evinced a warm and strong regard for the *Union*. It is stating but facts to remark that even in days of South Carolina Nullification, numerous as were the chivalrous sons of that State, within her borders, Pickens was true to the *Union*. Perhaps her admiration for Gen. Jackson, caused her to feel and act as she would not have done, had there been no such character as Jackson to dazzle her eyes. However this is, or was, the "Union" candidates were wont to prevail as long ago as 1832-'33-'34, in this county.

CHAPTER XIII.

GENERAL VIEW OF PICKENS COUNTY.

M. P. Blue, Esq., one of the industrious proprietors of the *Advertiser & Gazette* newspaper, at Montgomery, contemplated, in 1854, the publication of "a large and handsome volume, to be

entitled—*Historical Sketches and Statistics of Alabama.* He issued a circular, setting out the character of the proposed enterprise, which he addressed to such gentlemen in the several counties of the State as he thought willing and able to aid him, in which he speaks thus of his designs :

The plan of the work embraces everything of local and general interest in our State. It will be a history of the different counties—of their settlement and progress: and at the same time, whatever is connected with their wealth, resources and circumstances will be, so far as practicable, presented in a regular and methodical form. The object will be to collect and arrange the important facts in the growth of Alabama since 1820; to show her advancement in Property, Agriculture, Manufactures, Internal Improvements, Education and all other matters of leading interest. Sketches of the prominent men of Alabama will also be given.

The circular was accompanied by blank forms so arranged under different heads as to include every possible matter of interest, within the scope of his enterprise. One of these was received by the writer, with a request to fill out the blank pages in matters relating to Pickens county, which request was duly complied with. The

following brief summary of "important facts" may be appropriately embodied in this volume, which is done in this chapter under the heads prepared by Mr. Blue.

ORIGIN OF THE COUNTY—Name Derived—Incidents in History of the Individual.

Pickens was named after Gov. Israel Pickens, who was Governor of Alabama, the year after the organization of said county, and a prominent man in the State. (I need not refer you to the three last pages of the Second Volume of Pickett's History, for a full sketch of Governor Pickett, because you yourself, know where to find it.)

RIVERS AND OTHER WATER COURSES—Embracing Creeks, Ponds, &c.—Any thing peculiar in their source, formation, course, water, &c.—The Tombeckbee runs out of Mississippi into Alabama, about sixteen miles below Columbus, Mississippi, passing through the south western corner of Pickens, having two flourishing villages upon its west bank, and some one hundred and twenty voters. Some of the best prairie plantations in the South, are on that side, within this county.

The Sipsey river rises in Marion county, flows through Fayette into Tuscaloosa, and the southern part of Pickens, in a corner of Greene county, to the Tombeckbee.

Bear Creek is one of the largest streams in the county, rising in the north of Pickens, and running nearly parallel with the Sipsev, and emptying into the Bigbee at Vienna.

Lubbah, or Lubbub, is a large stream, rising in Fayette county, flowing nearly south, running within one mile of Carrollton, on the east, and uniting with Bear Creek, seven miles below that place.

Cold-fire rises in Fayette and passes South-westerly, within seven miles of Carrollton, emptying into the Tombeckbee, above Pickensville. This is a large and useful creek, having six or seven mills upon its banks in this county. There is a tradition as to the way that this creek got its name. At a very early period, some Tennessee movers forded it in mid-winter, on an exceedingly cold day. They were cold when they entered the stream with their teams—colder while in it, but became warm soon after they got over. The passage through the cold water produced a natural reaction and warmth, or heat was the consequence. They, therefore, called it cold-fire, and so it has been called to this day.

Kincade runs out of Fayette across the North-west corner of Pickens, and empties into the Tombeckbee.

McBees creek rises in the county of Fayette and empties into Kincade.

Big creek is a very circuitous stream, rising some four miles north of Carrollton, running a distance of half the length of the county, passing within a mile of Pickensville and emptying into the Tombeckbee below that place some three miles. Big Creek Church, of which Rev. Chas. Stewart is pastor is named from this stream.

Beaver and other smaller creeks water the county. On the west of Tombeckbee, Boguechitta, (Creek-Big,) flows out of Noxubee county, Mississippi, in that same great receptacle of all the streams of Pickens.

NAMES OF TOWNS—Describe chief ones—Statistics of each—Distances from county site.

Carrollton, is situated 172 miles from the city of Montgomery, county site; laid out in 1830, for the Court-house town, as the exact centre of the county; six hundred inhabitants; a growing and flourishing place—eleven miles from Pickensville, the old county site, on the Tombeckbee, a pleasant town located in a wealthy section; has a fine, flourishing female institution, and an Academy for males also; three hundred inhabitants.

Bridgeville is situated twelve miles south of Carrollton on the direct stage road from Colum-

bus to Montgomery. It is a small village like Vienna, six miles from it on the Tombeckbee. Memphis and Fairfield are two towns on the west of the Tombeckbee, some six miles apart, situated on the best cotton lands.

Yorkville is one of the oldest villages in this part of the State, being settled by people from the northern Districts of South Carolina. It has formerly been a place of much business, and has still two churches, two or three stores and as many physicians.

Franconia is a beautiful village ten miles south of Carrollton upon the Bridgeville road, with churches and schools. The other villages and central points of business are Reform, Gordo, King's store and Olney. The distance from Montgomery to each of these towns is easily ascertained from their distances from Carrollton, above given.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY—Nature of the soil—production—value of land—any thing peculiar in the mode of improving the soil—markets for productions.

The general face of the country in Pickens is not hilly but rolling, and the soil being sandy except on the rivers and streams, is liable to wash. The uplands were timbered, originally, with about equal parts of pine and oak, with a

variety of all sorts. The bottoms and plains are equal to any land in this State for productiveness. Cotton, corn, wheat, rye and oats are the staples; sweet and Irish potatoes, and a great variety of vegetables.

The agricultural resources of the county remain yet to be developed, especially along our numerous creeks and bottoms, which are yet to be drained and cultivated. While there is much government land unentered, this county contains much land worth thirty dollars per acre, and many large plantations of upland worth from five to fifteen dollars; also much poor worn out lands, old-field, &c.

The later modes of culture, such as side-hill and sub-soil plowing, ditching, &c., are receiving attention; have a flourishing Agricultural Society; principal market, Mobile.

ROADS—common, plank, railroads, McAdamized, turnpike, &c.—bridges, toll or otherwise—ferries, &c., location, name.

There are ferries over the Tombeckbee at Fairfield, Vienna, Memphis, Jackson's, Pickensville, and Nashville; a bridge over Lubbub at Bridgeville (toll) and one or two bridges and several ferries over the Sipsey.

There are two turnpikes thrown up across Lubbub bottom, or swamp; one on the Tusca-

loosa road from Carrollton, originally made by Robert Jemison at considerable expense, for a stage road, but never used by him. It is now kept up at the county's cost, and shortens the distance to Tuscaloosa from the Carrollton Court-house to thirty-three miles. The other turnpike is ten miles above Carrollton, at Reform, on which there is toll.

RELIGION—Sects—history of each—location of churches—statistics of each denomination—earliest preachers—short sketches of them.

Presbyterians, (old school, new school and Cumberland,) Baptists, Methodists, a few Campbellite Baptists, or Christians, and a few Episcopalian; Presbyterian churches at Carrollton, Pickensville, Reform, Franconia, (2) Bradford's, over Sipsey and Sipsey turnpike.

Baptists at Carrollton, Pickensville, Big creek, Garden, Unity, Mt. Zion, Bethlehem, Spring Hill, Hebron, Liberty, Oak Ridge South Carolina, Fellowship, Mt. Moriah, New Salem, Arbor Spring, Providence, Enon, Hop well, Ebenezer, Mt. Pleasant and Bridgeville, the locations of which are nearly all indicated by the name.

Methodists at Carrollton, Pickensville, Yorkville, Reform, Union Chapel, Bridgeville and Memphis.

Ebenezer Heine was the first Methodist preach-

er, now called "Father Heine," then a young man, well known all over Alabama at this day; came from Tennessee in 1819. The first Baptist preacher was Elder Crocker, Parson Stewart was next. Henry Stanton was an early Methodist preacher. The Presbyterians had preachers in this county at an early day.

MANUFACTORIES OF ALL KINDS—name and location and age of each—description of work turned out—capital—statistics—prominent enterprising men—water or steam power.

We have nothing in this county worthy the name of manufactories, unless producing the raw staple may be so considered; a few small tanneries and one or two water-power wool-carding machines constitute the sum total under this head.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE INHABITANTS, morally, socially, intellectually—what most prevailing occupation—any thing in which they excel.

Decidedly a religious community; many professors of religion; hospitable and social, free and easy. There are few men of highly cultivated minds, but most of the leading characters are men of ordinary education, plain, yet intelligent; many good business men, some connected with Mobile houses. The preachers of the Gospel are

not generally men of highly cultivated minds, but many of them are respectable preachers notwithstanding.

The numerous schools and Academies now springing up in this county, have begun to raise the standard of intelligence, especially, among the youth. Pickens sends more than her quota to the State University, annually, and one of her sons is now a professor there.

If the people excel in anything, it is in being a peaceable, law abiding community, when let alone by demagogues.

The most prevailing occupation, it scarcely need be remarked, is agriculture; corn and cotton; more cotton to purchase more land and negroes to raise more cotton.

MINERALS—metals—name, location, extent and description—analysis of them—result—by whom—mineral or medicinal properties—location—public resorts, &c.

Nothing in the way of minerals. There are many copiously flowing springs along Lubdub bottom, strongly impregnated with iron, or Chalybeate springs; very cold and clear and refreshing in the summer; two or three of these are near Carrollton, and are much visited for the water and recreation.

ANTIQUITIES—location—description—scientific

fic examination—classification—tradition in relation to them, &c.

Pickens county was neutral ground between the Creeks of Tuscaloosa and the Choctaws, but I know of no mounds, graves or monuments of the aborigines in her borders.

I refer you to my sketches in the *Pickens Republican* for proofs that both Desoto and Bienville, with their warriors, visited Pickens, or the territory now so called.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES—mentioning name, location, and present condition of the principal schools—earliest school advantages—any individuals peculiarly identified with the matter.

Two Academies at Carrollton, male and female, two at Pickensville, male and female, the latter called "Pickensville Female Institute;" is one of the best female schools in this region of country, now under the charge of Robert Bradshaw, lady and daughter, besides two or three female assistants and a superior professor of music, two at Franconia, male and female, one at Olney, called Senaka Academy, taught by an Alabama University graduate, besides one at Spring Grove, under the charge of Rev. Matthew Lyon. There are several schools in townships, whose 16th section funds keep up the same the whole year; pay a classical teacher, and every

township but one, some twenty-five, held elections and organized under the new Public School Act.

For several years, Richard Gladney, a Presbyterian clergyman, of talents and learning, taught a high classical school near the residence of Dr. Peyton King, he was assisted by Robert Johnston, Esq., some twelve years ago. Mr. Gladney is principal of a young ladies' Seminary, at Aberdeem, Mississippi, and Mr. Johnston is a well known citizen of this county, to this day. Within the last ten years several young men of this county, and others from abroad, have done much to raise the standard of education and give an impetus to this good cause.

TIMBER—fruit trees—mountains, course, extent—any thing peculiar about them—advantages—fruit—animals peculiar to county, &c.

Apples, peaches, pears, plums, figs currents and grapes are cultivated, but *could be* to a greater extent. I am inclined to think the long-legged, lean, long-snouted, hedge-hog looking swine which have such a *penchant* for the woods are descendants of the hogs which Bienville left among the Indians; the latter had large droves of hogs in early days, but the hog is not a native of America. Where, then, did they get their hogs if not from the Spaniards some one hundred

and fifty years ago? The breed left here by the aborigines, are still extant among us. The Choctaws owned large numbers of wild hogs.

CHAPTER XIV.

GENERAL VIEW CONTINUED.

A Brief Prepared for Mr. M. P. Blue.

NEWSPAPERS—history of the press—names of papers, &c., now published—circulation—political or religious cast of each, &c.—pioneers in this work.

The first Press ever established here, was the *Pickensville Register*, by Dr. W. D. Lyles, in March, 1840, being twenty years after the formation of the county, or about fifteen years ago. It was located at Pickensville, and was conducted by its founder as a Democratic paper. Dr. Lyles is a gentleman well known in this part of the country. He still resides in the contiguous county of Noxubee, Mississippi, where he is a leading politician. He sold out the *Register* in March, 1841, after one year's experience as its editor.

William Chalmers, Esq., purchased out Dr. Lyles and commenced publishing the *Pickens-*

ville *Register* as a Whig paper in 1841. Mr. Chalmers was an able editor and an excellent man. Having recently deceased, we will quote a notice of his death from the pen of R. T. Johnston, Esq., who was connected with the *Register* a portion of the time while Mr. Chalmers remained its chief editor.

It is with feelings of sadness that we announce the death of William Chalmers, at Mansfield, Louisiana, on the 9th April, instant.

The deceased was born in Scotland, in the year 1806, and emigrated to this country early in life, and landed in Virginia. He then went aboard a United States man-of-war, on a cruise to the Mediterranean, and while in that service, was stricken with paralysis, which rendered him, to a great degree, a cripple for life. He was relieved from service and revisited the land of his nativity. He shortly after returned to this country and took up his residence in Pickensville, in this county, where he became widely and favorably known, and universally respected for his high intelligence, sterling integrity, urbanity of manners and proptitude in business. He had the entire confidence of his neighborhood, and so long as he remained among us, he discharged the duties of Justice of the Peace, and Post-mas-

ter, and Mayor of the town of Pickensville, to the satisfaction of all.

He edited the Pickensville *Register* in the years 1841-'42, discharging the duties of the editorial chair, with great facility, with satisfaction to his party, and credit to the cause he advocated. By his energy and business habits, with a due regard to economy, he secured a very fair and competent share of the good things of this world and dispensed them with proper liberality, on such subjects of charity and public spirit, as he deemed worthy.

He removed to Louisiana in the year 1851, and engaged in business, where he died.

Thus has passed from earth, one who served his day and generation, with energy, promptitude, integrity and amenity; and the writer of these lines is not the only one who will recur, with affectionate regard, to a reminiscence of the many virtues of the deceased, of his wise counsel and warm friendship.

Robert T. Johnston, Esq., having been as above stated, a frequent writer for the *Register*—bought out Mr. Chalmers in 1842, and assumed the chair editorial. I refer you to the sketches sent at your request for a rather lengthy notice of the active public career of Mr. Johnston. Mr. Matthew Lyon, purchased the press in November,

1853, and in his hands the *Register* again changed its politics. Mr. Lyon is a practical printer and had been the foreman of the office from nearly its first existence. Mr. Lyon resides still in this county, and is at present the Principal of the Spring Grove Academy, a flourishing school, under the charge of himself and lady. I hardly know whether to class my friend as "Esq.," or "Rev." and therefore adopt plain "Mr." but he has acted in many capacities during the fifteen years of his residence in Pickens county. First a printer, then editor, next a lawyer, and Register in Chancery, as well as editor of the "*Register*," afterwards a clergyman and now a teacher, though still a preacher. I may add he is one of the most acceptable preachers of the Baptist persuasion among us. His education is mostly the result of self-culture, being a man of sound judgment and inquiring mind. That he is a ready writer, his late correspondence in the *West Alabamian*, during a trip to the North, from which he has just returned, will show.

Mr. Lyon published the *Register* until the spring of 1845, when it ceased for the want of support, another Press having been established at the Court-house which naturally received the burden of the official patronage. Subsequently, Messrs. Lyon & Tremble re-established the Reg-

ister Press at Carrollton under the title of "Democrat," but it was discontinued after a few months.

The *Pickens Republican* was established at Carrollton, March 20th, 1845, as a whig Press, which character it has ever since endeavored to maintain. The present editor having written to J. M. D. Slade, Esq., of the Tuscaloosa Monitor, for a press, or for information as to the procuring of a press. Mr. Slade placed the letter into the hands of James M. Norment, one of his journeymen, at that time, the result of which was that Mr. Norment brought the present press on which the *Republican* is printed, into the county. At the expiration of ten weeks, ten numbers having been issued, Mr. Norment offering to sell out, at the urgent desire of their friends, the late S. T. Porter and J. Marston, purchased the press, and under their joint charge, Mr. Marston as editor, and Mr. Porter as publisher, the paper was conducted with ability and success for over four years.

Jeremiah Marston, Esq., is a native of New Hampshire, a graduate of Dartmouth College, a ready and forcible writer and a sound whig.— He came to this place from Tennessee with the recommendation of James K. Polk in his pocket as a teacher, and under his auspices the present

Male Academy was founded. He still resides in this village, engaged in the practice of the law as copartner of Judge Revis. He is a bachelor, that is to say a *young* bachelor, as well as Bachelor of Arts, by virtue of his College Diploma.

The present editor of the *Republican* bought Mr. Marston's interest in May, 1849, not with a view of becoming editor, but in a short time circumstances made it necessary for him to ascend the editorial tripod. For the two next years it was conducted by him, Mr. Porter still remaining publisher or joint proprietor, at the expiration of which time Mr. Porter bought the entire interest, and for two years longer Mr. Porter conducted the *Republican*, receiving some occasional aid from his friends.

Mr Samuel T. Porter, was from first to last, connected with this paper eight years. He had been employed in the office of the Pickensville *Register* for much of the five years of its existence, as journeyman. He was a good printer, industrious, temperate, without the faults which too many of his craft possess. Mr. Porter was a candidate for Sheriff in 1853 in this county, but unsuccessful. It is not necessary to say he was a whig. He died at his father's in Choctaw county, Mississippi, the 11th day of April, 1854, of dropsy, which disease had been developing

itself for many months previous, and for which he visited Cooper's Well, a celebrated remedy for that complaint; but not being benefitted, he was on his return home at the time of his death. Mr. Porter's long connection with the press of this county, together with the circumstance that no appropriate obituary notice has ever appeared of him, owing to a want of the requisite knowledge of his early history; being permitted, I here take pleasure in embodying into this sketch an extract from a letter from Mr. Porter's father, J. M. Porter, of Huntsville, Mississippi, under date of 1st September, 1854, written to the widow of the deceased at Carrollton. The father having been previously applied to for information of the life of the son replies thus:

"S. T. Porter was born February the 18th 1819, on the north side of the Warrior river near the town of Tuscaloosa, but was partly raised in South Carolina, Abbeville District, I having moved from Tuscaloosa back to South Carolina. In his 9th or 10th year I moved to Madison county, North Alabama, in 1829. In his 12th or 13th year, I put him in the office of the Huntsville Democrat with Phillip Woodson to learn the printing business, with whom he remained two years. When I removed to Noxubee county, Mississippi, he came with me and shortly

after he went to Columbus, this State, and worked there for some time in one of the printing offices. He afterwards went to Tuscaloosa and worked in a printing office there quite a length of time, and from the time he left Tuscaloosa until he finally settled in Carrollton, he worked at his business as a journeyman printer at Macon, Mississippi, Pickensville and Tuscaloosa. During the war between Mexico and Texas he joined a company of emigrants from Tuscaloosa and went to Corpus Christi, and served seven months under Col. Jere. Clemens, of Huntsville. Without being furnished by the Government either rations, clothing or pay, the men were disbanded in the wilds of Western Texas, and Samuel had to make his way home as best he could without money, his clothes worn out and bare-footed. He, however, met with friends that furnished him shoes and others that gave him some clothing, and after a time he reached home. His Texas trip put an end to all his wild and rambling notions."

Smith and Eastland bought the Republican office, to take possession the 1st of January, 1853, and conducted it as Editors and Publishers, for a little over a year, when Major Eastland sold out his interest to the present Proprietor.

Major Orville Eastland is a gentleman well and

favorably known—a man of little early education, but often a very forcible writer, a planter, lawyer, formerly a merchant, worked in a printing office when a lad. Major Eastland resides about three miles from Carrollton, on his plantation, but comes almost daily to town, where he keeps his office for professional business. The Major was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina, and is about forty-nine years of age.

Modesty forbids the present Editor of the *Republican*, to say much about himself, or his unimportant history. He was born during the present century, (at what particular figures, his being yet unfortunately a bachelor, forbids him to tell,) in Greene county, New York, upon the Catskill Mountains; was graduated at Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut, in 1840, came to the South that year, and lived in the States of Kentucky, Mississippi, and Alabama, as a pedagogue, some three years, reading meanwhile a little law. Studied law under the advice of Judge Ormand, over a year, was admitted to the bar by Circuit Judges Chapman and Baylor, in October, 1844, and took the oath to support the Constitutions of the United States, and of Alabama, and to be faithful to his clients. At the first subsequent sitting of the Supreme Court of Alabama, was relicensed upon examination before Justices Collier, Ormand, and

Goldthwaite. Having settled at Carrollton, in the fall of 1844, he has now been a resident of this place ten years, this present month of October, with the exception of some fifteen months absence in 1851 and '52, to Europe, during which time he was a cosmopolite. As regards his connection with this paper however, he has been its Editor four of its ten years existence, and written for it more or less all the time, after his poor fashion.

The *West Alabamian* was established at Carrollton, by Major Robert A. Eaton, as a democratic paper, in April, 1849. Major Eaton died the 5th day of October, 1853, aged 42 years. As the deceased filled an important place as an Alabama Printer, I will quote from a notice of him in the *West Alabamian*, of that date, that press having been sold by Major Eaton, a short time before his death.

"Major Eaton was born on the 2d of July, A. D. 1812, in Lancaster, Pa. He learned the profession of printing, in the office of the Lancaster *Intelligencer*. He removed to Alabama, in 1836, and located at Bellfonte, Jackson county. At that place he established the *North Alabama Star*, which he conducted with marked zeal and ability. In 1836, he removed to the city of Tuscaloosa, where, jointly with Samuel A. Hale, Esq.,

he conducted the *Flag of the Union*, for several years, then the leading democratic journal in the State; and at the same time published *The Southern*, a monthly periodical, devoted to Southern Literature. In 1842, he returned to Bellefonte, and established the *Jackson County Democrat*, but in the winter of the same year, he went back to Tuscaloosa, and established the *Gazette*. From 1841 to '49, he was often employed in printing the Supreme Court Reports, and was elected State Printer by the Legislature, five successive years. He was elected Mayor of the city, which office he resigned. In April, 1849, he removed to this place, and established the *West Alabamian*. Deep thought and sound sense always characterized his leading articles in this paper. He frequently set his editorials in type without having written copy. The press had not a better or neater workman in the State."

Judge Zachariah L. Nabers, was the successor of Major Eaton, in 1853. He is a Lawyer, and late legal copartner of B. W. Huntington. He is you probably know, a very ardent Democrat, is a native of South Carolina, was educated in Georgia, married in Pickens, a Miss Linton, and has made a competency by perseverance and industry. See sketches for further particulars.

• Judge A. B. Clitherall, was connected with the

West Alabamian as contributor, and during one or two canvasses, as Editor, I should not omit to state. This latter gentleman writes with much fluency and point. But you do not need to learn from me the history of "Alex."

To bring down the history of the press to the present time, requires but a few more sentences. The *Republican* remains in the hands of Mr. Smith, as sole Editor, Proprietor, and Publisher.

The *West Alabamian* passed into the hands of Messrs. Croxton & Hill, in the winter of 1835, from Mr. Nabers. Soon after, Mr. Hill retired, after disposing of his interest, when Mr. A. Henry, became a copartner of Mr. Croxton. Mr. Croxton came from North Alabama. He is a practical Printer, is personally a clever gentleman, and a bachelor. William Mark Hill resides at this place with his mother, and is at present engaged in the Republican office, upon this work jointly with Mr. N. G. Brooks, throwing off together about fifty pages a week. He was raised as a Printer in the West Alabamian office, under Major Eaton, along with Mr. Andrew Henry.—Both are good Printers. Such is the whole brief account of the Press of Pickens county, and it will thus be seen, sixteen years after the first Press was founded at Pickensville, after no little change and vicissitude, no little talent having been at

times engaged upon the papers of Pickens county, that two presses are now, to all appearance, permanently established at Carrollton, the county site—*Macte virtute.*

RECAPITULATION.

- WM. D. LYLES, a man of good education.
- WM. CHALMERS, a classical scholar.
- ROBT. T. JOHNSTON, a graduate of Danville College, Ky.
- MATHEW LYON, a good self-made scholar—a practical printer.
- NELSON F. SMITH, a graduate of Yale.
- JERE. MARSTON, a graduate of Dartmouth.
- SAMUEL T. PORTER, a practical printer.
- ORVILLE EASTLAND, had few educational advantages—in a printing office one year when a lad—well informed.
- R. A. EATON, a practical printer.
- A. B. CLITHERALL, has a good academical education.
- Z. L. NABERS, a graduate of Athens, Ga.
- E. J. CROXTON, a practical printer.

CLIMATE—peculiar local diseases—local causes for them—remarkable cases of longevity, if any—any very remarkable visitation like pestilence or epidemic to man or beast.

The climate of Pickens, varies little from that of other interior portions of Alabama in the same latitude. The local diseases are those arising chiefly from miasma—intermittant and remittant fevers; certain forms of neuralgia; typhoid fever also seem local, and to some extent produced by miasma; in summer, fever, in winter, pneumonia; the latter being connected frequently with remittant fever, the result, perhaps, of miasma imbibed the previous summer. In 1851-'52-'53 and 1854, pneumonia assumed an epidemic character, and in the summers following epidemic dysentary prevailed and was very fatal.

The chief local cause of disease in this county is miasma, arising from the extensive creek bottoms, pools and ponds, filled with decaying vegetable matter, interrupted by rafts, causing frequent overflows in the wide swamps, which dry up in summer, except the pools above spoken of, where the water become stagnant.

Three-fourths, or more, of the area of Pickens furnishes free-stone water of an excellent quality; the other portions rotten limestone, such as is generally found in the prairies.

EARLY SETTLERS—sketches of each—any now living—remarkable facts or enterprises, if any, &c. The first pioneer was Josiah Tilly, 1817, lives in Texas with the Choctaws, and has an Indian

wife; aged about seventy; Jonathan York was the second settler here, the first birth of a white child in his family; he died here. Others are S. P. Doss, still living in Pickens. The Sherrods, Balls, Coxes, now numerous in this county, came in 1818; several are now living who came into Pickens prior to 1820.

EMINENT MEN IN EACH DEPARTMENT—name, class and deeds—present position—location, &c.

The prominent men of Pickens have received such copious notices in this volume, that it would be but needless repetition to copy from the brief under the above title. If this county has not produced any characters entitled to be called "eminent," she has raised, and still may boast among her citizens, gentlemen of talents and information, much above the average of many who are considered the "Heads of the people." Several persons who once resided here are now leading characters in other States.

Some remarks might be appended to the above general view. It is the sincere desire to state facts as they exist, presenting reliable statistics, such as can be hereafter depended upon by enquirers for the truth.

The meagre account of the religious denominations might be somewhat extended, yet after

the most industrious research, it has been found impossible with the writer to give as satisfactory an account of the early preachers as was desirable. The first white man who preached in the county was undoubtedly "Father Hearn," as stated above. Ebenezer Hearn came to Pickens from Tennessee, a young man, unmarried, as long ago as 1819. He is said to have solemnized the first nuptials within the county, between Lewis Christopher and Elizabeth Cox, in the month of February, 1820. Elizabeth was a daughter of Daniel Cox. Had it been in the power of the writer to have lain his hands upon an interesting sketch of Father Hearn which appeared in the New Orleans Christian Advocate, some time ago, it would have been embodied substantially in these pages.*

Henry Stanton was a very early preacher in this county, and also a Methodist.

*But the Rev. Ebenezer Hearn, preached in the Bear-Meat Cabin, and this must have been in 1816 or '17. This was the first religious address ever delivered in Blount.—*History of Blount County.*

If Mr. Powell is correct in his date, then is our informant mistaken. But Mr. Powell does not appear positive. He uses the phrase *must* have been, as if he was making a deduction, rather than stating a well ascertained fact. May it not have been that Mr. Hearn preached in the Bear-Meat Cabin on his way from Tennessee to this county? He was, however, an itinerant preacher, and in the habit of taking extensive excursions through the early settlements.

The first Baptist Church formed in this county was founded by Elder Crocker, at Yorkville within the few first years of the earliest settlements in Pickens. The Parson lived to an advanced age and died in Pickens.

The next minister of the gospel entitled to notice is the Rev. Charles Stewart, the present Pastor of Big Creek Church. The following public record will indicate the long standing of Parson Stewart in our community. It seems to be the register in Pickens of a certificate of authority to administer the ordinances of the gospel which was received in Tuscaloosa county:

STATE OF ALABAMA,

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY.

This is to certify that Charles Stewart, a minister of the Gospel, and a member of the Baptist church of Christ at Big Creek, hath been this day set apart by Robert Portwood and Thos. Baines, a presbyter called for that purpose. Wherefore, the said Charles Stewart is ordained a minister of the Gospel in legal order, and is hereby authorized to administer all the ordinances of the New Testament.

Given under our hands this the 24th day of
May, 1823.

ROBT. PORTWOOD,
THOMAS BAINES.

December, 13, 1823.

Mr. Stewart located in Pickens in 1823; but so extensive a sketch of him appears in another place as a member of the legislature, and as acting in other official capacities that no more need be here said of this worthy gentleman.

The second Baptist congregation within this county, was gathered together at what is called the "Garden." In 1831, the Rev. William R. Stansel removed to Pickens from Georgia, and was the regular Pastor at the Garden Church for many years. He still resides in that neighborhood, is a highly respectable planter and a good citizen. Mr. Stansel is father of Judge M. L. Stansel, of Carrollton.

The Presbyterians had, also, some early Churches and congregations established in Pickens:—Their first preachers were not permanent here; but their places of worship were supplied by itinerant preachers, as missionaries.

It has already been stated that the original settlers, as well as the present inhabitants of Pickens county were, and are, moral and religious. Such is the testimony of those old persons who are entitled to speak on this point. It was but recently asserted by one who is reliable authority that "the times were more moral, quiet and peaceable with the first settlers than they are now." That "people seemed to get along much

better in those old days," and says the same authority—"we would have nothing to do with a bad man. If a trifling, worthless character came among us, we said nothing to him, but if his conduct became intolerable, we got rid of him. We told all such to leave us, and we just made them clear out."

FRUITS, &c.—It is doubtful whether as much attention is paid to fruit raising in Pickens county at this time, as was in early times. There are evidences around all the old houses and old fields, of much care having been devoted to fruit trees, especially peach-orchards, by the early settlers of this county. There does not seem to be as much attention given to this or any other kind of fruit as formerly. Is it not strange that the land owners of Pickens are not more zealous in planting all sorts of fruit trees? Nature has given us a soil and a climate most propitious for the production of superior peaches. It has been found by actual experiment, that apples in abundance, and of excellent varieties, can be raised here.—Pears can be also raised. Quinces—this is their exact latitude and longitude—are a fruit which can be more speedily and abundantly grown here, than in any other country. It is an ubiquitous fruit, but here it is almost indigenous. Plums can be cultivated by the requisite care and atten-

tion. Grapes flourish among us of rare qualities. Why then do the planters deprive themselves and their families of the delicious luxuries of these agreeable and wholesome fruits?

The sixteenth section School fund of Pickens is about forty thousand dollars.

The annual revenue raised by taxation has varied from forty to fifty per cent. on the State tax and averaged nearly four thousand dollars. The available funds of the county amount to about five thousand and five hundred dollars.

Pickens county has been divided into from twenty to twenty-five election precincts for over the last twenty-five years.

The following presents a few interesting statistics of the county, gathered from the latest census, (1855):

White males under 21 years,	2891
White males over 21 "	2119
White females under 21 "	3064
White females over 21 "	1971
<hr/>	
Total Whites,	10,045
Insane, (none sent abroad,)	12
Slaves, (no free negroes,)	10,515
<hr/>	
Total of inhabitants,	20,560
Academies,	11

Number of Common Schools,	20
Number sent to School,	1,148
White children between eight and sixteen years of age,	2,431

Only two counties, Dallas and Macon, have more Academies than Pickens, several have more Common Schools. Three, Chambers, Lowndes and Russel have ten Academies each, and but two others have more than six each.

The Cotton crop of Pickens may be estimated at this time at between twenty and twenty-five thousand bales. The wheat crop at between seventy-five and one hundred thousand bushels, and it may be set down that ten bushels of corn are raised to one of wheat.

The following statistics gathered from the report of the State Comptroller, in 1854, by the writer, and at the time published, will present a further view of the resources of Pickens county, in comparison with other Alabama counties:

Pickens State tax, \$13,620; Wilcox, \$15,873; Russell, \$17,710; Chambers, \$17,757; Sumter, \$19,885; Lowndes, \$20,573; Perry, \$21,873; Macon, \$22,171; Barbour, \$22,848; Madison, \$23,639; Marengo, \$24,173; Greene, \$28,373; Dallas, \$33,325; Montgomery, \$43,756; Mobile, \$55,946.

Thus it appears that Pickens is the fifteenth,

in importance as regards wealth, being ahead of Tuscaloosa, but falling below her two nearest neighbors, Greene and Sumter. There are some curious expositions of *articles* taxed more or less, in different counties and localities, such as gold and silver watches, fobs, chains, Bowie knives, revolving pistols, cards, raffles, jewelry, &c.

Gold watches, 143, taxed \$72 50; silver watches, 146, taxed \$36 50; chains, fobs, &c, 68, taxed \$17 00; Bowie knives, and revolvers, 16, taxed \$32 00; cards, packs, 36 taxed \$3 60; studs and jacks, valued at \$5,190, taxed \$25 95. No raffles reported. School fund due Pickens, \$41,217; money loaned in Pickens, \$157,304; gross income of Pickens Lawyers and Doctors, &c., \$36,575; value of Pickens libraries, \$2,340.

This last item is very far below the value of taxable and not taxable property of this kind, for the Carrollton libraries alone are worth more.

Tuscaloosa has 220 gold watches, 7328 slaves, 1250 white males, six bowie knives and \$8,420 value in libraries.

Washington, the county where the old Territorial Capital once stood, now has six packs of cards and four bowie knives, besides 20, gold, and 9 silver watches, her real estate, being valued at \$201,635.

Mobile has 1074 white males, that is, less than

Pickens; 820 gold, and 202 silver watches; 51 free negroes and mulattoes, over seven millions of real estate, still Pickens has \$1,708,000, in real estate.

CHAPTER XVI.

SENATORS OF PICKENS.

The State Constitution provided for the taking of the census in 1820-'23 and 1826, and for an apportionment of Senators, &c., by the next legislature after each enumeration. Under the first appointment, Tuscaloosa and Pickens was constituted one Senatorial District, Pickens then including Fayette within her boundaries, so that the area now embraced in these present counties of Tuscaloosa, Pickens and Fayette, composed said District, and had one Senator and three Representatives, the ratio for a member of the House of Representatives at that time, being 1730. There must have been, therefore, at least 5190 inhabitants within those three counties in 1820, and 1821.

The name of the Senator first elected in the District thus composed, the writer has not been able to learn, after two years inquiry—the infor-

mation could not be had in Montgomery, and the "oldest inhabitant," has as yet failed to communicate it. He was undoubtedly a resident of Tuscaloosa, that being the most populous and oldest county.

The next apportionment changed considerably the geography of the District to which Pickens was attached. It was composed of Fayette, Marion, Pickens and Walker. The first Senator chosen from this District was the late Judge Jesse Van Hoose, of Northport, Tuscaloosa county.— He was born in Montgomery county, North Carolina, in 1788, and was the son of a revolutionary soldier. In 1817, he settled in Franklin county, this State, and married there. He was elected the first Clerk of the Circuit Court of that county under the Constitution, an office of great importance and much desired, the duties of which he discharged with credit, but resigned before the end of the term, though he might have retained it, having been almost unanimously elected. From Franklin he removed to Fayette and was there soon after appointed Judge of the County Court, in which office it devolved upon him to aid in organizing that county, which he did greatly to its benefit.

In August, 1825, Jesse Van Hoose was elected Senator for the District to which Pickens be-

longed. This gentleman held many other offices of honor and trust, during his long and useful life. He was for many years, a Trustee of the State University. In 1841, he removed his residence from the county of Fayette to Northport, Tuscaloosa county. He departed this life on the 23d day of March, 1852, aged sixty-four years, highly respected and deeply lamented by all who knew him. He had been for many years a consistent member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He left a widow and three sons, of whom, one, Albert E. Van Hoose, Esq., now resides at Carrollton and is the present Solicitor of the Seventh Judicial District. Another son, James Van Hoose, Esq., is a resident of the city of Tuscaloosa, the legal copartner of Hon. F. Woolsey Peck, and it may be added the Secretary of the Historical Society of Alabama.

The notice of Judge Van Hoose which here follows is from the pen of the Hon. Joshua L. Martin, kindly prepared for these pages, but it breathes such a sincere and appreciative spirit on the part of the Ex-Governor, as the friend of the deceased and an admirer of his many virtues, that it is appropriated, as written, and the liberty taken to name the author :

JESSE VAN HOOSE.—In the list of Senators from the District composed formerly of the coun-

ties of Pickens, Fayette, Marion and Walker, the name of Jesse Van Hoose, stands prominently forth. He represented those Senatorial Districts during the most important period of the Legislation of the State. Under the Constitution adopted by the Convention at Huntsville, in 1819, provision was made for a gradual change from a territorial to a State Government. Some of the most important acts of organization were left to be completed at the session of the Legislature to be held in 1825, among which were the establishment of a more stable judiciary, and the permanent location of the seat of Government.

The session referred to was admitted by all, to be next in importance to the Convention itself; and hence in looking around for Senators and Representatives, the attention of the people was directed to the selection of the wisest and most reliable of our citizens. In the District mentioned no other difficulty presented itself, than that of obtaining the consent of Mr. Van Hoose, to serve them. Modest and retiring, the solicitations which brought him forth, as a candidate, were of the most urgent character, from every portion of the District, and his triumphant election showed the estimation in which he was held by his fellow-citizens. It was almost unanimous. In the memorable session referred to, Mr. Van

Hoose was prominent. Although he did not mingle in the debates which occurred, his high character for honesty and a sound and upright man, rendered it only necessary for him to express his views upon any question, to carry with him the best members in both branches of the Legislature, where he was honored and beloved by all.

Unambitious of political preferment or official distinction, having no other end in view than a faithful performance of the duties arising out of the emergency which called him forth, he served but two sessions of the term, for which he was elected. Having at the first session located the seat of Government at Tuscaloosa, the second, which was held at that place, he considered unimportant, in getting the State Government underway at its new seat, and as among the duties required of him by his constituents, the performance of which he had undertaken, hence he continued to serve them to the end of the second session of his term. He then resigned the honor conferred on him, in order that he might enjoy the more congenial position of private life in his happy family, and in the society of his numerous friends. He had finished all that he had undertaken to do, and now received the plaudit "well done good and faithful servant." After the re-

tirement of Mr. Van Hoose, he was not like most of the politicians at the present day, forgotten, or his influence unfelt. Although he was not a noisy man on the hustings, and seemed to take but little interest in elections, still he continued to wield an influence and control over them, totally irresistible. As an illustration of this, I may mention, that a candidate for Congress in his District declared, "that his efforts were vain until Mr. Van Hoose expressed a wish for his success, and then his days were like May morning, and his stream to success, without a ripple." While he was prudent and cautious in all his transactions, his friendships were warm and enduring, and in the service of a friend "his eye never winked and his wing never tired." He never deserted a worthy friend, he had charity for his foibles, and forgave them, but the dishonest or dishonorable man, found in him an unyielding opponent.

No man enjoyed a larger share of unmixed friendship from his neighbors than Mr. Van Hoose. Firm and decided in his sentiments, and bold in their avowal, he gave cause of offence to no one. Careful of the rights of others, he was always ready to take care of his own. It has been said, and correctly too, "that his integrity was proverbial, it was unassailed and unassail-

ble. No one dared to speak evil of him, for a disparaging remark of his honor, integrity or goodness, would have recoiled with scathing effect upon its author."

Judge Van Hoose, having, as stated by Gov. Martin, resigned, his successor was Gen. James Moore, of Marion county, of whom little is known by the writer. He was a planter, was opposed by one John Duke, of the same county, whom he beat, and was himself beaten when again offering in 1829 or 1830, by Rufus K. Anderson, and was *again* beaten in 1832, by Anderson.— Mr. Moore is still living, and is said to reside in Monroe county, Mississippi *

*The absence of records, and the discrepancy in the collections of persons, put it beyond the power of the writer, to furnish the exact dates of the elections and terms of service of the Senators prior to 1829. We have the authority of Gov. Martin, that Judge Van Hoose was elected in 1826, and served two sessions, and then resigned. This brought his successor's election to a period subsequent to the third apportionment under the State Constitution, or after the canvass of 1826, which apportionment could not have been made before the session of 1826 or '27 which must have brought on a new election for all the Senators in the State, in August, 1827. It is, therefore, not probable any election took place, to fill out the unexpired term of Judge Van Hoose, since the general election for all the State Senators, was coming on in August, of 1827, the same year of the resignation of Judge Van Hoose, according to Governor Martin.

The Senators at that time, were arranged into three classes, so that one-third would go out and come in every year,

Rufus K. Anderson, Esq., was elected to the Senate from the District composed of Marion, Fayette, and Pickens, at the August election, as is believed, of 1829. He was a son of Col. William P. Anderson, who removed from one of the western counties of Virginia, to Franklin county, Tennessee. Wm. P. Anderson, was the intimate personal friend of General Jackson, who is said to have once saved his life at Winchester Court-house, from an infuriated crowd. In the Washington Daily Globe, of January 1st, 1855, in a rather severe criticism of Baldwin's "Party Leaders," mention is made of the matter here alluded to, as follows:

The affair of Patton Anderson furnishes a remarkable instance of Jackson's sense of justice, and a readiness to take on himself its vindication, at whatever hazard. Anderson was a *

* * * * of great prowess, who had inflamed, by some violence, a body of men, who determined to punish him in their own way, in defiance of the law. Anderson pointed out to General Jackson, from a booth, where they casually met, on some public occasion, the approach of armed men, whom he knew to be those who

and they drew by lot for the terms of 1, 2, and 3 years, but the writer is ignorant whether Moore, less than the longest period of three years.

had threatened to take his life. General Jackson leaped upon the table, spread from one end of the booth to the other, pulled out his iron tobacco-box, as he clattered along the table, snapped it in his hand, making a noise like cocking a pistol, and, with a look of resolute passion in his face, brought the lynching party to a stand, at the remote end of the booth, while Anderson escaped at the other end amidst the consternation. General Jackson's mode of taking the quarrel on himself, in the mean time, brought on a parley, and so it ended. In this case, the appearance of violent passion was put on to save a doomed man from a fate which he had, in some degree, provoked, and which his pursuers knew the public would not have punished.

Rufus K. Anderson, came to Pickens about 1823 or '24, and settled at Pickensville, and was for several years a prominent character in the county. He was, from all representations, a man capable of the strongest attachments to his friends, whom he bound to himself, as with hooks of steel, and who always had bitter enemies—is spoken of as overbearing and imperious, yet gentlemanly and courteous where it suited his purposes or his feelings.

In 1828, Anderson left Pickens county, to go to Tennessee, and to kill one Tall, his brother-

in-law, for abusing his sister, which purpose he took no pains to conceal, but proceeded to Winchester, Tennessee, and accomplished his intention, openly in the day-time. He was arrested, bailed, returned to Pickens again, went to Tennessee, was tried, defended by Felix Grundy and acquitted. Governor S. B. Moore, always his warm personal friend, accompanied him to Franklin county, Tennessee, where the trial took place. The next year Anderson was elected Senator; and in 1832, was re-elected. He is said to have been an efficient and faithful Senator, for the four or five years of his service.

It is not necessary to our purposes to detail, very minutely, any personal difficulties of a tragic character. Yet some notice must be taken of the manner of Mr. Anderson's death. In 1833, Rufus K. Anderson inflicted so severe a chastisement upon a negro woman, his slave, that she died. A warrant of arrest was issued against him by L. Clark, who was then Justice of the Peace, at Pickensville. Anderson was afterwards presented by Benjamin N. Glover, as Solicitor. The Grand Jury found a true bill for murder, upon which Anderson was tried and acquitted. Gideon B. Frierson, who occupied the same law-office with Clark, had expressed himself as to the killing in an imprudent manner.—

It came to the ears of Anderson, and he became so much exasperated at Frierson, as to threaten his life. Soon after the acquittal, in the town of Pickensville where both resided, Anderson armed himself and proceeded towards the office of Clark and Frierson, who occupied one and the same room, as an office, making open declarations of hostility and conducting much as has been narrated of his course towards Thomas P. Toll.* Frierson seeing him approaching the office, with weapons in his hands, and hearing his threats, stepped into his office at the back door, took up his gun, went through his office to the front door, and, as Anderson came up, discharged the gun upon him but without effect. Thereupon Anderson advanced upon his antagonist with his pistol, exclaiming, "now G—d—m you, I have got you," and at the same instant, Frierson rushed forward out of the front door of the office and dealt such a crushing blow upon his head with the gun-barrel as to lay him prostrate, and cause his instant death, literally splitting open his head. Frierson was a tall, powerfully built man, weigh-

* Senator Wilson is my authority for stating that the Assistant Clerk of the last Alabama Senate was Micah Tall, a son of Thos. P. Tall.

ing over two hundred pounds. He was not prosecuted.* Thus died Rufus K. Anderson, the third Senator of Pickens county, on the 29th day of May, 1834, aged thirty-five years. He was born June 19, 1801. It was a tragic end yet his death was not unlike his life of recklessness and violence. His remains were deposited in the grave yard of the Martin family, near Yorkville. About 1828, he had married the widow of Dr. Bruton, of Fayette, and daughter of Alexander Martin, sister of Capt. Joseph Martin, the present wife of Col. Nathaniel Smith, of Texas, persons well known in Pickens. Upon his tomb-stone, "erected by the husbands of his three surviving daughters," is the following appropriate and just inscription:

"In memory of Rufus K. Anderson, Esq., born June 19, A. D. 1801, died May 29, A. D. 1834. Warm and enthusiastic in his feelings, and ardent in his attachments, he possessed ma-

* Judge Frierson died in 1855, on his way removing to Texas with his family. He was Solicitor for many years and for six years Judge of the Sumter County Orphans' Court.

B. N. Glover now resides in Demopolis and is a distinguished member of the bar.

L. Clark lives at Dubuque, Iowa, and has probably received more distinguished honors than any man who ever lived in Pickens.

ny friends, and for several years represented Pickens county in the State Senate."

Of the "three surviving daughters," the eldest could not have been over five years of age at the time they were left orphans. The eldest became the wife of the Rev. Thomas Brooke, a Presbyterian clergyman, who lived several years in Pickens, but removed to Texas, a few years ago, and there soon after died, leaving three children. The second daughter married Rev. Jesse Ray, a Baptist minister, now living in Texas. The third and youngest daughter was born some months after her father's death. She became the wife of Dr. John J. W. Payne—before spoken of in these pages, as the Senatorial candidate of the American party, in 1855—and now resides with her husband at "Grove Cottage," near Yorkville. It is a pleasing relief to turn from the record of the father's tragic fate to the happy fortunes of those "surviving daughters," whose three husbands have shown such a delicate appreciation of what was due to good taste and a proper filial regard, to say nothing of filial duty.

Samuel B. Moore, was elected to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. Anderson, in August, 1834. He was re-elected the next year and served the full term of three years, or until 1838, when he was defeated by P. King.

Gov. Moore came originally from Franklin county, Tennessee, to Jackson county, this State, and was elected State Senator from that county before he came to Pickens. In 1830, at the session which convened at Tuscaloosa on the third Monday in November, 1831, he was chosen to preside as President of the body of which he was a member. Gov. Gabriel Moore being elected to the United States Senate by the Legislature of 1830-'31, he became the acting Governor of Alabama. After he removed to this county, and became the Senator of Pickens instead of Jackson, he was elected President of the Senate for the session of 1835-'36, and he is said to have made one of the best presiding officers that was ever honored with that responsible position. He was possessed, in his better days, of much personal dignity, was courteous and gentlemanly in his manners and dealings with his compeers, and had a good knowledge of parliamentary rules.

During the time which Gov. Moore held a seat in the State Senate he was elected by the Legislature, Judge of the County Court of Pickens, and continued to hold both the offices of Senator and Judge from the period of his election to the Judgeship, till the expiration of his Senatorial term in 1838. He has already been mentioned among the Judges of Pickens.

Dr. Peyton King was born at Halifax Courthouse, Virginia, in 1795, but his parents removed to Georgia while he was an infant. In the latter named State he received his education, academic, and partly medical, studying medicine with Dr. Wells Pope. In 1817 and 1818, he attended medical lectures at the Pennsylvania University, and in the fall of 1818, removed to Alabama and settled in Jefferson county, where he followed his profession about ten years, and then retired from the practice.

In 1833, Dr. King came to Pickens and purchased the plantation now owned by Judge Henry Stith, and resided there till quite recently. The Doctor has filled several important offices and trusts in his time. He was appointed by the Legislature in 1827, one of three Commissioners to classify the University lands in the counties of Greene, Tuscaloosa, Jefferson and Shelby. In 1828 or 1829, he was elected by the Legislature one of the board of internal improvement for the State, which board met two or three times, and caused certain surveys to be made, but before they had time to carry out any well regulated scheme of improvement, the Legislature repealed the law creating the board.

In 1830, he was elected to the Legislature from Jefferson county, and served in the session of

1830-'31. During that session he supported a bill appropriating money sufficient to purchase seventy-five or one hundred negroes to be employed under proper superintendents in working the leading roads of the State in winter, and in removing obstructions from the navigable streams in winter. This was the favorite measure of the Doctor's before mentioned, which he states was lost in the House by the obstinacy of the then member from Pickens, John C. Kilpatrick. At the same session he was one of the earnest supporters of the bill establishing the first Supreme Court of this State.

Dr. King was elected to the State Senate from Pickens in 1838 over Gov. Samuel B. Moore, and in 1841, was re-elected over Col. Nathaniel Smith. During the six years he was Senator from Pickens, he assisted in many important measures, among which may be named the winding up of the State Bank and its Branches. To the latter measure he gave his whole influence. He aided, also, materially the laws enacting a penal code, and establishing the Penitentiary.— Twice he caused bills to pass the Senate making a handsome appropriation for cleaning out the Tombekbee above Demopolis to the State line of Mississippi, but they were lost in the House.

Dr. King is a whig, and laterly a member of the American party.

The simple mention of the above public acts would seem to render unnecessary much comment upon a course so active and useful. Dr. King is more than a mere public character. His private life and example is pure and unsullied by the least taint of meanness or unworthiness. He is a most excellent citizen, friend, neighbor, and counsellor. He is a consistent professor of religion, being a member of the M. E. Church, and a pillar in that church, and as a man and a christian, he has been looked to as a foremost man in all religious, charitable and benevolent enterprises. He was President of the Pickens County Bible Society for many years. It is the high estimation in which he was held in Pickens in his character, as here feebly set forth that causes his loss from this county to be so much felt by the good and virtuous who remain. He sold his beautiful residence, the "better place," at which he, for upwards of twenty years, dispensed the hospitalities of a Southern planter, and in the spring of 1855, removed from Pickens to Lauderdale county, Mississippi, settling on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad near the Post-office of Sageville. For three or four years past, he has been engaged with his son-in-law, Major Lewis,

in the business of commission merchant at Mobile, which house is still kept up with the firm name of "Lewis & King." Dr. King has only one son, and now only surviving child. He was lately called to mourn the death of his only daughter, Mrs. Marietta Lewis, an accomplished and amiable woman. Mr. Thomas P. King, is the only relation of Dr. P. King, now residing among us of the name.

Dr. Jephth Spruill succeeded Dr. King at the August election of 1844, the latter having voluntarily retired from political life. Like his predecessors, he has been so prominent a man in this county, that his biography cannot be dispatched in a brief paragraph. He was born in Abbeville District, South Carolina, in the year 1808, and emigrated to this country with his father, the late George C. Spruill, in 1820, settling, first, some nine miles south of Columbus, in what was then called Mississippi Territory.— He is one of six sons and four daughters. The family removed to Pickens in 1825, and settled in the northern portion of the county on McBees creek. He was educated in part, at Columbus, under the Rev. David Wright, a Presbyterian minister, varying his scholastic pursuits between the duties of pupil and teacher, himself, resort-

ing to the latter as a means of defraying his expenses.

In 1830, Dr. Spruill being then twenty two years of age, visited the State of Kentucky, and there took up his residence for a time with Dr. David McFall of Paris, Bourbon county, and during portions of the years 1830-'31 and 1832, attended the lectures of the Transylvania University. In the summer of 1831, he returned to Alabama and practiced medicine as copartner of Dr. Richardson Owen, keeping their office at Carrollton, in the counting-room of the store now occupied by Wilson & Mustin, but a year or two later, became located in the neighborhood of his father on McBees creek, where he steadily pursued his profession for several years.

In 1836, Dr. Spruill married the daughter of James Bonner, and soon after settled near Bonner's Mill, in Pickens, where he remained about five years before he removed to the plantation where he now resides. It is some two miles from Dr. King's well known residence, so that he was the neighbor of his senatorial predecessor for many years, and Pickens county was, for nine consecutive years, represented by two gentlemen living on adjoining plantations. It is a beautiful spot, situated six miles east from Pickensville, and about the same distance from Car-

rollton. The Doctor continued the practice of his profession with unabated energy until 1852, and then retired from it with more than ordinary success, both as a physician and as a means of acquiring property, having had an extensive practice for over twenty years.

In 1834, Dr. Spruill was a candidate for the legislature on the nullification ticket and was defeated by a large majority.

In 1836, Dr. Spruill volunteered as a common soldier for the Florida war, but was employed professionally most of the time during the several months he was with the army. The division in which he served, was commanded by General Lindsay, Gen'l Crabb, of Tuscaloosa, being Lieut. Colonel, and the late Joseph Martin of Pickens, spoken of above among the list of Representatives, being Captain of Dr. Spruill's company, from Pickens county. The Doctor saw some hard soldiering in those few months. He was with the forces sent from Tampa Bay across the Peninsula to meet General Scott's division from the East, but failing to meet Scott, and being detained some time at Fort Chisolm, their provisions gave out, and it is probable that the Doctor could give a sad tale of famine, hunger and the usual resorts in such cases, to the most revolting food, and also, a story of Indian treach-

ery, and of poor soldiers dying of hunger fatigue and sickness. In this march, died Winter, of Tuscaloosa.

The South Carolina regiment had left many sick at Tampa Bay, without medical aid, and here Dr. Spruill found them, far from home, in an enemy's country, and his sympathies were aroused for these brothers of his own native South Carolina, and he volunteered to attend them, receiving an appointment to do so from General Scott himself. He found it a position of great care and responsibility, besides great labor and fatigue, causing him many a sleepless night!

In 1837, Dr. Spruill was, for the first time, a member of the Legislature. He was again a member of the House in 1840-'41, also in 1841, '42 and in 1843-'44, being thus elected to four Legislatures and never beaten after the first trial before the people on the question of nullification. He took a very active and prominent part upon the floor of the House on several important occasions, particularly, during the called sessions of 1837 and 1841. He obtained considerable notoriety in the session of 1837 by his long speech, protracted through a day and a night with a view to stave off the election of United States Senator, until certain members could obtain instructions from their constituents, on that

occasion, evincing great ability as a debator, and as a skillful tactician in foiling his political adversaries. Indeed, the Doctor obtained a celebrity over the State by his effort on this occasion, and demonstrated a power and ability as an orator, and debator which could have been cultivated to a degree to cope fully with the most able and powerful.

In 1844, Dr. Spruill retired, voluntarily without consultation with, and against the wishes of his numerous friends and admirers. He was then earnestly solicited to run for re-election, and has since been frequently urged to become a candidate for office. He has been spoken of for Congress in other counties than Pickens, but he resists, as yet, all these importunities, and remains inflexibly determined to continue to enjoy the sweets of domestic life, and to avoid the perplexities of political warfare. He writes himself down, politically, at the present time as "a decided native American—formerly a most notorious whig." His age is about forty-eight, tall and erect in person, rather fleshy and would weigh at least one hundred and eighty pounds! He has three sons and three daughters. His lady is an intelligent woman, and what is as valuable an accomplishment, she is a planter's daughter, who knows how to make a good, domestic

planter's wife, with whom, and his family and friends, her husband, the Doctor, enjoys the full fruition of a Southern planter's life. It may be remarked of Dr. Spruill that, were his ambition as great as his ability, he would yet become considerably more distinguished. He seems to feel a disinclination for the strifes of politics; while when once enlisted, he bears himself right valiantly, and pushes his antagonists to the wall with a zest and zeal which looks little like flinching from the fight.

Dr. Spruill's biography might be extended to much greater length. He has been an active and consistent member of the Baptist church for several years.

Dr. James M. Beckett was elected to the State Senate in August, 1847, by ninety-eight majority, over Dr. Henry W. Rhodes, the candidate of the whig party, after one of the most exciting canvasses ever witnessed in Pickens. The sole question at the time, was the policy of the creation of stock Banks in the State, in addition to the only one then in existence, the Bank of Mobile. Dr. Beckett opposed that policy against his highly respectable opponent, who was the projector of the new scheme. During the term of four years for which he was elected, and served in the Senate, the Doctor opposed by all his

influence, which was not inconsiderable, the passage of the bill through that body, establishing another Stock Bank at Mobile, which inaugurated the system of Stock Banks now in operation, one of which has been chartered at every subsequent session.

Dr. Beckett made a highly useful and efficient Senator, taking an active part in the discussions in the Senate, and showing himself able to cope with the best debators. He felt much interest in the change effected in the Probate Court, which was reorganized during his term, the old County Court being abolished. He was a defender, at all times, the defender of the interests of the State University, of which he was also Trustee.

In the Cass and Taylor canvass for President of the United States in 1848, Dr. Beckett was placed upon the Democratic ticket as elector for the fourth Congressional District, and as such addressed the people on many occasions. He is a fluent and ready speaker, and an able debator. It has been already stated, that the Doctor was an unsuccessful candidate for the House of Representatives in 1840, on the Democratic side, along with Col. N. Smith and Wm. D. Lyles, and against Messrs. Spruill, Peterson and McGill.

Dr. Beckett's term expired in 1851. In 1853 he removed out of the State to Mississippi, where

he now resides, as a planter. He has not practiced his profession for several years, indeed, not since his first residence in Alabama. He came to Pickens in 1836, from the District of Fairfield, South Carolina. His age is about fifty-two, is of a robust and healthy appearance, still in the prime of his manhood and with a fair prospect for yet many years of life and usefulness. Dr. Beckett is strictly a moral and religious man, connected with the Presbyterian Church and an Elder. He is a man of classical education, and of thorough professional endowments, but his *Alma Matres* are unknown to the writer.

The next Senator was Dr. Joel E. Pearson, elected on the first Monday in August, 1851, over his honorable competitor, Robert T. Johnston, Esq.

Dr. Pearson was born in Fairfield District, South Carolina, September 18, 1802. He was prepared to enter the Sophomore class of South Carolina College by the late Judge Paul, of Alabama, who died at Montgomery, but it being rumored about the time he intended to apply for admission, that the then President, the celebrated Dr. Astley Cooper, was an unbeliever in the doctrines of christianity. Young Joel's parents determined not to send their son to the College for which he had been fitted. The re-

sult was he never received the regular classical education intended for him. He, however, soon settled on a course of reading and study of his own choice, which was diligently pursued for some time before he made choice of the profession of medicine.

Dr. Pearson read medicine with Dr. James Davis, of Columbia, attended Dr. Cooper's lectures on Chemistry, heard Dr. De Leon lecture on anatomy, and in 1826, attended lectures in Charleston, was soon after licensed by the Board of Physicians in Columbia, South Carolina, and entered upon the duties and labors of his profession, which, however, he relinquished long enough to return to Charleston, in 1829, and receive his Diploma.

Dr. Pearson practiced medicine in South Carolina until 1836, when, owing to bad health he determined to abandon the practice and remove to Alabama, hoping to restore his health by an agricultural life. He reached Pickens the day after Christmas, 1836. The two succeeding years he performed some professional service, chiefly among old friends and acquaintances.

In the years 1839-'40, the Doctor met with some pecuniary misfortunes which compelled him to resume his profession in the regular way. Speaking of his embarrassments, he has been

heard to remark:—"That he found it quite fortunate to have a profession which verified the advice of Dr. Franklin—'give your son a trade or a profession, they may take away his wealth, but they cannot deprive him of these.'

In 1839, Dr. Pearson was elected to the Alabama Legislature, Col. Nat. Smith and Curtis Williams being his colleagues, all elected on the same ticket and upon the same issue of the Bank question.

Just ten years afterwards, Dr. Pearson was again elected to the Legislature, Robert T. Johnston was the other member. This was the first session after the removal of the capitol from Tuscaloosa to Montgomery.

In 1851, as above stated, Dr. Pearson was elected to a seat in the Senatorial branch of the General Assembly. Writing to a friend more than a year ago, Dr. Pearson thus speaks of his political career and success:

"I always attributed this, more to the kindness of friends than otherwise, as I never had any desire for political distinction or any preferment out side of my profession. The latter I have aimed to honor and advance, and I feel proud to say that I never have disparaged the science by abuse of its rights, nor have I failed

to relieve suffering humanity when in my power, whether indigent or wealthy."

Dr. Pearson resides at Vienna, in Pickens county, in his well known, beautiful residence, the grounds around which are adorned with shrubbery of much variety in the most tasteful manner. He is a very hospitable gentleman, taking much delight in entertaining his friends and enjoying their society, and there are few men of more amiable or agreeable manners. The latch-string is always outside at Dr. Pearson's.

It need hardly be repeated here, that the Doctor is attached to the democratic party in his political views, and has been elected as the candidate of that party in every instance.

John J. Lee was chosen by the people of Pickens for their Senator at the biennial election of 1853.

Being applied to for some dates and incidents of his life, his reply to the writer was:—"Born in Union District, South Carolina, in January, 1814, came to Alabama in 1837, and elected Senator of Pickens in 1852."

This is characteristic of the man. He is a "plain, blunt man," with no superfluity of words, hardly sufficient for compliment. Not that he is at all abrupt, or unmannerly, for upon the contrary he is entirely amiable and decidedly soci-

able. Col. Lee is an industrious, energetic thriving planter, who has thriven by his own industry and energy, solely, and who bears the impress of an honest and independent soul upon his face and in his personal appearance. Up to a late period he has resided on Robert Jemison's Garden plantation, in Pickens county, cropping together with Mr. Jemison by some arrangement by which Mr. Lee furnished the hands and the latter the lands, and perhaps a part of the slaves, Mr. Lee not having been, until recently, an owner of real estate. Out of this circumstance, and the fact that Mr. Jemison represented Tuscaloosa county in the Senate, some of our wags took the liberty to joke Senator Lee, after his election.—They said—"Bob Jemison wanted his *overseer* with him in the Senate," to which Lee replied with his usual blunt pleasantry, "he had had a good deal to do with Bob, but had never yet let Bob Jemison get ahead of him, and did not mean to."

Mr. Lee is now aged forty-two. He still resides near the Garden, is a consistent member of that church, is a man of family, and a useful member of society. It is hardly worth while to state, in addition to the above, that he does not make pretensions to literature, to speech-making, or to anything more than what he is. He is,

however, an intelligent gentleman, shrewd, practical and a man of sound judgment. It may have been noticed that he is the only Senator since Gov. Moore, who was not a *Doctor*, and the only one since Moore, of Marion county, not a professional man. It is a curious fact that not only all the Pickens Senators for twenty years have been physicians, but even the defeated candidates have been Doctors, as Dr. H. W. Rhodes and Dr. J. J. W. Payne, may be named to show. Indeed, it is said to be a matter of pleasantry at Montgomery, the honorable Doctors of Pickens. The next Senator upon the tapis will be also found to be a *Doctor*.

Dr. Benjamin F. Wilson is the last and present Senator from this county. He was born the 15th of May, 1822, and it is his boast that he first saw the light on Cold-Fire creek, in Pickens county.

Dr. Wilson is the oldest son and child of William and Martha Wilson, who are among the earliest pioneers of this region, and who came to Pickens in 1819, the same year of their marriage, which took place in Tuscaloosa county. His parents have both been named in this volume—his father in connection with John C. Kilpatrick, his mother as the present wife of Mr. James Gunter. William Wilson was born in Moore county, North Carolina, in 1894, removed to Tennes-

see, and thence to Tuscaloosa. When a young man in Tennessee, he volunteered in the war of 1812-'15, and was at New Orleans, under Gen. Jackson, as a common soldier. As an intimation of the resolute character of the man, it may be stated that on his return home, he sold his horse, and with the proceeds and his soldier's pay, purchased a negro boy and, with the boy walked home to Tennessee. The same slave, Surry, is now in the possession of the family, and considers himself much of a soldier and hero.

Removing to the north of Pickens, from Tuscaloosa, William Wilson and his youthful bride, found the celebrated Cold-Fire stream so swollen by the rains, that they had to camp six weeks upon its banks, which they did, at a point one mile east of the present residence of James Gunter, said to be the same by tradition, where that notable creek got its name. This locality, was Dr. B. F. Wilson's birth-place.

The paternal Grand-father of Dr. B. F. Wilson, also came from Tennessee to Tuscaloosa, with his son William, in 1818, and there died, over thirty years ago. His maternal Grand-father, Culliver Clements, came from Georgia to Tuscaloosa, in 1818, and to Pickens the next year—settled the place where now lives John L. Guyton, and subsequently removed to the present

residence of Dudley Pruitt, where he died in 1840. Jesse Clements, named on page 28, was his son. Both these ancestors were soldiers of the Revolution—Wilson was at Guilford Court-house battle—Clements was a South Carolina partisan soldier, in the trying times of Marion and his whig comrades. The descent is said to be Scotch-Irish on both sides.

Dr. B. F. Wilson was raised and educated in Pickens. He attended Liberty Academy, a good school in this county, twenty-five years since, taught by one J. M. L. Smith, a classical scholar. In 1840, the Doctor entered the office of Dr. Sidney T. Ower, as a student of Medicine. In 1841 and '42, he attended two courses of lectures at Transylvania, Kentucky, graduating in the early part of 1843. In the latter year he married the second daughter of the late Gen. F. W. Bostick, and until recently, has pursued the practice of his profession, at Carrollton. For the last three years he has been engaged in merchandising, at the same place. He is now, in conjunction with his mother-in-law, a proprietor of the Phoenix Hotel.

Such are the highly respectable antecedents of the subject of this last biography of a Pickens Senator. It has been a matter of regret, that more could not have been learned of the ancestry of others, of their early pioneer life, privations

and sojournings at that incipient stage of our society, as it would have added much to the interest of these pages. Dr. Wilson is the only Senator of this county, born and raised in it. His age is now about thirty-four.* He is a Democrat in political sentiment. He makes a fair speech from the stump, in point of style and manner, but does not claim to be an orator. His late course in the Senate was modest and unobtrusive, like that of his predecessor, Lee. His competitor before the people last August, was Dr. John J. W. Payne, of Yorkville, already spoken of as a son-in-law of Senator R. K. Anderson, and a more courteous and pleasant canvass was never before known in this county. Dr. Wilson's term expires in 1857, and he will not therefore go again to the State Capitol as Senator, upon the present tenure of his office, unless there be a called session.

*See Appendix.

APPENDIX.

The following communication from Hon. A. B. Meek, a portion of which appears in the forepart of the volume, bears date Mobile, March 18, 1856, and consequently was received after it was too late to use any of its interesting contents, where they more appropriately belonged. Judge Meek writes:

“As to the enquiries you make in your letter, concerning the christian name of YORK, whom I mention in my Historical Address, as one of the first settlers at Tuscaloosa, I can only answer as follows: My father removed to Tuscaloosa, in March 1819, when I was an infant; but I have a vague recollection of hearing sometime after, that the house in which we lived for some time, (a hewn log one,) was erected by ‘York, the first settler,’ at that place. In 1836, Mr. John W. Prewett, a worthy and intelligent man, who settled in Rice’s valley, north of the Black Warrior, in the fall of 1816, (according to his own statement,) and who was still residing in that vicinity, told me, (as I find from memoranda made at the time,) that ‘the first white settlement at Tus-

caloosa was made by a man named YORK, who raised a crop there in 1816.' He must consequently have been there in the spring of that year. As to his christian name, or origin, I had no information until last July, when I went to Tuscaloosa, to deliver my address. There I met Mr. Powell, the Blount historian, and he told me that he knew the said York, well; that his christian name was EMANUEL; that he and John Barton, a blacksmith, were the first settlers at Tuscaloosa; that they came from Tennessee, and that they moved to Jones' Valley, (Jefferson,) two or three years after, and continued there. He was positive that York's name was EMANUEL. I communicated, verbally, these facts to Judge Moody, who had been making preparations for a history of Tuscaloosa, but he persisted in thinking that York's name was JONATHAN. I preferred following in my address, the opinions of Mr. Powell, as it purported to be *original*, while the other was but *derivative*. Your investigations, however, throw increased doubt on the subject. May it not be, that two Yorks,—EMANUEL and JONATHAN, resided at Tuscaloosa in its first days? Your information shows that there were a Jonathan York, his father Thomas York, Josiah Tilley, and a Patrick Scott at Tuscaloosa, sometime in 1816, and that Jonathan and Tilley

married P. Scott's daughters, there, in that year. Of none of these people did I ever, from any other quarter hear except of Jonathan, as I have stated. You also, 'credibly' learn of an Emanuel York, and John Barton, in Jones' Valley, about 1817-'20, which corresponds with Mr. Powell's statement that they went there from Tuscaloosa. It also appears that Jonathan was a South Carolinian, and Emanuel a Tennessean. We learn from Mr. Powell's 'history' that the Tennesseans were the *first* to enter the country, and that the South Carolinians did not come until 1817 *via* Tennessee. The Tennesseans had become acquainted with the region, from invading it under Jackson and Coffee—the latter's troops having made an excursion towards the *Black Warrior towns*, as we learn from histories of the war. But I am inclined to believe that Emanuel and Jonathan were brothers (the Jewish similitude of their christian names somewhat indicates that,)—that they were both originally from South Carolina, coming by Tennessee, as was then common, (see Powell,) and that they were sons of Thomas York, (but of him?) Emanuel, I conjecture, was the pioneer, and induced the others to follow. By the way, I *think* (tho' I am not certain) that Powell told me that Emanuel York and Barton were brothers-in-law, and

that Barton, (like another Gretna-Green blacksmith,) performed the first marriage ceremony at Tuscaloosa. Perhaps this was for one of Paddy Scott's daughters. I am anxious to learn something of those two 'fair young ladies,' which your own statements show connubialized at Tuscaloosa in 1816. It is not likely that any record was officially made of the nuptials, as all the region was then nominally in Washington county, Mississippi Territory, and the Court-house was near St. Stephens, more than two hundred miles off, through a savage wilderness.

These speculations as to 'The House of York,' are scarcely as dignified and important as Clarendon's and Hume's upon a branch of the same subject; but they are not unworthy of our investigation. I trust you will settle them satisfactorily. Powell and Moody, and perhaps Jemison may aid you. I have no access to information here. I do not know Powell's Post-office, but suppose it is Blountsville."

It may be thought out of the province of the writer to solve the mooted question who was the first settler of Tuscaloosa, and is of less importance, doubtless, than, as Judge Meek suggests, the York Dynasty to an English antiquarian. But our "credible" authority are two witnesses now living in Pickens county, namely, Isaac Taylor

and William Lang, two as highly respectable men as need be called upon the stand. The statements of these gentlemen made to the writer in each others presence, sustain to some extent, the suggestions of Judge Meek, and nearly satisfy the interested inquirer. Mr. Lang states that he knew both Emanuel York and John Barton in Jones' Valley (Jefferson) where he himself lived before he came to Pickens, but did not know of his being any "kin" to the Jonathan York of Pickens. Mr. Taylor states that he (Taylor) lived in Tuscaloosa, and was then well acquainted with Jonathan York, (the Pickens Jonathan,) and his father Thomas, that he never knew any Emanuel York in Tuscaloosa, and that he does not know of old Thomas York having such a son. He thinks that if the Jones' Valley and Tuscaloosa, or Pickens Yorks were related, so they must have been distantly so.

It will be noticed by turning to those pages where Tilley and York are mentioned, that there was another brother-in-law, John G. King, who married into the Patrick Scott family, in Tuscaloosa, and all came to Pickens. All these early nuptials were celebrated in the years 1816-'17, or 1818, because all brought their young brides when they came to Pickens, and Tilley came in

the spring of 1817; later, Patrick Scott, the bride's father, removed to Pickens county.

It must be considered as settled by the positive testimony of Mr. Powell and Mr. Lang, that there was an Emanuel York in Jones' Valley, and equally well settled by the testimony of Mr. Isaac Taylor, that Jonathan York of Pickens was the son of Thomas York of Tuscaloosa, and that there was no *Emanuel* in that family. Mr. Taylor well knew Thomas York—he was a Tennessean.

Judge Meek's suggestion as to the Jewish christian names of Jonathan and Emanuel were suggested to Messrs. Taylor and Lang by the writer, and also the fact that so uncommon a surname as York rendered it probable the Jones' Valley and Tuscaloosa Yorks were relatives. In conclusion, thirty-nine, or forty years ago, is not so remote a period as to prevent this question being yet settled to the nicest degree of exactness, as it is hoped it will be.

Dr. Jephtha Spruill is one of the gentlemen who has laid the writer under obligations for manifesting an interest in this history. Referring to the period of 1820, when he came with his father to this country, he states:—That “there were

but three white families in his acquaintance, namely, Ezekiel and Abner Nash, John McGowen and W. H. Cravens. There were many Indians remaining in the Territory, supporting themselves by hunting and fishing and amusing themselves with ball plays and the bottle.— Mills were so numerous as to be found at every cabin, not the old fashioned water-mills, but made by attaching a pestle to one end of a long sweep, supported by an upright post, and the pestle, by means of a pin through the end of the pole, was brought by physical power forcibly into the mortar. The latter was generally a pine stump with a hollow burnt in the top, and thus the corn was beaten until a portion could be obtained through a coarse scive, leaving the “grits” behind to be boiled for the “desert,” the whole contrivance being called “Armstrong Mills.”— Corn was scarce at first, worth two or three dollars a bushel, too scarce to feed to the plow team. After laboring all day, the team was hobbled and turned into the woods to graze on the wild pea vine, or the luxurious grass which abounded at that early day. Deer, turkeys and foxes were plenty, and for several years,” continues the Doctor, “we had fine sport in hunting and in the fox-chase, particularly.”

Some facts and anecdotes furnished by Mr. Jemison, are too valuable, as well as amusing, to be lost. The following extracts are literal :

The anecdote of "Old Sol," on page forty-four not only came under my own personal observation, but I was an actor in that scene, being one of the "Land Sharks," who shared the hospitalities of "the first Judge of the County of Pickens," who was an old Georgia acquaintance, and friend of my father, through whom I first made the Judge's acquaintance, while looking at the lands just previous to the sales. We were accompanied by the Judge in an examination of his own lands, as well as most of the lands in the neighborhood. At that time, 1824, he must have been over sixty, I think not under sixty-five years old, which would have made him near or quite ninety at his death.

I was present and privy to the arrangement between the old Judge and the speculators. The plan was originated with my father—was suggested by him at his own fire-side while his old friend was his guest, the night previous to the commencement of the sales. There was not, at that time, the most friendly understanding between the land sharks. Sims, Lane, Scott and others formed one party; my father, my brother, myself and some other friends another. On ac-

count of the long standing acquaintance and friendship between my father and the old Judge, as well as his recent hospitality, our party were disposed to favor and aid him in procuring his lands on the best terms, hence, my father conceived and suggested the plan adopted and carried out with the other party, in substance as you have related, but the plan was not original with "Old Sol," nor could he ever have carried it out without the aid of some one who knew more of the ways of a land sale, than himself.— He had, as was known to my father and myself, money enough, and more than enough to pay for the tract where he resided, at government price, but he did not pay for all, as he had intimated he would not have the money to do so: he paid the 100 per cent on one piece. With the balance of his funds he entered lands in the neighborhood; I entered and sold him the whole of the Chinacobogue tract, at 100 per cent, by which operation he made a better profit than I did.

Are you not mistaken as to the county in Mississippi, to which he first moved, after leaving Pickens? He may have died in Panola, but first settled in either Lauderdale or Neshoba. Mr. Jemison gives the following, as the true version of "the people's choice."

"The then Sheriff, was wanted to testify in a case pending before the Court, and the bailiff being directed to call him, stepped to the door of the little log Court-house, (it was before your present Court-house was built,) and called out, "Henry White," who, at the time, lay asleep behind the crowd, on a bench, in one corner of the Court-room, and waking up answered the second call of the bailiff, at the top of his voice—"here." The Court, knowing his dark and heavy brow, most sternly replied, "yes! the people's choice is always here." Henry came forward to be qualified, and the Court refused in his condition to permit him to be qualified. This is the origin of the "people's choice."

The subjoined anecdotes of one of the older Judges of the Pickens county Court, could not well have been embodied in the biography of any one of those notable personages. They are too good to be accredited to a particular Judge, and must be shared by all their honors together, being first allowed to say, that the subject thereof is still living, and a highly respectable gentleman. They are given on the most reliable authority, and in the same graphic language in which they were received from the pen of "a contributor."

"Of Honorable _____, there are some

anecdotes worthy of preservation. The Judge, as was then the almost universal custom, indulged in his potations, and was sometimes not quite "as sober as a Judge." At one of the regular terms of his Court, he was in this "fix," and the term was about to fail entirely, on that account. A personal friend got him to his room, and watched over him through one day and night, by which time he was pretty well sobered off, but while his friend was at breakfast, some parties defendant, deeply interested in having no Court, managed, through the window, to give him a good supply of the "ardent," of which he made free use, while his friend was breakfasting. The parties defendants, elated at their success, retired to the grocery, to rejoice over it, and themselves were soon gloriously drunk. The friend of the Judge, (who by the way, was no other than the writer,) not disposed to have all his pains for naught, continued to watch over and nurse him, and by free use of red-pepper tea, warm soup, and pickles, by dinner time, had his honor sober enough to open Court—call the docket, and render judgment in cases not defended, so that the parties who had celebrated their success by getting drunk themselves, were sadly disappointed when they learned next morning, judgment had gone against every one of them!

On another occasion, his honor being a little drowsy, from too free indulgence, laid himself down for a sleep on the trunk of a large tree that had been felled in clearing off your public square. His neck being a little limber, allowed his head to roll to and fro, which was noticed by an old Billy Goat, well known in the early history of your village, by the name of *Hoosen John*. Billy took the strange motion of his honor's head as a banter, bowed his neck, and came full tilt at the slumbering Judge, taking him, fortunately, between the shoulders, and tumbling him off the log. Jumping up and looking round to see who, or what, had so unceremoniously and rudely disturbed his slumbers, he beheld *Hoosen John* prepared for another onslaught, if he should dare shake his locks at him again."

The last anecdote embodied in these pages, will be the following of Dr. Silas H. Cox, of Yorkville, a son of Robert Cox, one of the three brothers mentioned among the first settlers of Pickens. The Doctor has unintentionally committed an error in leading the writer to state, on page 43, that he is "the oldest survivor among us of white children born in Pickens." A few weeks since, the writer was standing with Dr. B. F. Wilson, the present Senator, in the passage of

the Phoenix Hotel, engaged in conversation upon general topics, and among others, the history of Pickens, when Dr. Cox, (who is one of the regular preachers of this—M. E. U.—circuit,) rode up to the Hotel.

"You see there," says the writer, "the oldest native resident of Pickens."

"No you don't," quickly replied Dr. Wilson, "I am the oldest myself."

"Well, so *he* says, and that is my authority," was the rejoinder.

Meanwhile Dr. Cox was quietly dismounting, and hitching his horse.

"What story is that you tell? Are you older than I am?"

"I am thirty-two."

"And I am thirty-four."

"Then you are the man I have been wanting to see, but never been able to find before. I give it up; that is, if you were born in Pickens," replied Dr. Cox in his usual good natured manner.

"I was born on Cold-fire, in 1822, and must claim my birth-right in this case, Doctor, of being not only a 'native,' but the oldest native of Pickens," said Dr. Wilson with equal good humor.

By this chance circumstance, the writer was able to correct his error, yet after diligent enqui-

ry, lest he might be led into another, as bad, by even his friend, Dr. Wilson, another candidate for the contested honor appears on the stage,—James Fullerton by name, son of William Fullerton, residents, both father and son, of Pickens county, to this day.

The first murder committed in Pickens county was by a slave, Ben, who killed his own children and stabbed his master, for which he was legally tried and convicted, and was hung on the 15th day of May, 1830, at Pickensville, by Henry White, sheriff.

The second killing within Pickens county took place at Carrollton in 1831; one Richard Reed, a saddler, a peaceable and industrious man, was imposed upon by a man temporarily here from Jefferson county, by the name of John Adams, who was a sporting gentleman and a quarrelsome character. Reed, without much ceremony, took his gun and shot Adams dead, for which he had a regular trial and was acquitted. It had been said that Reed was partially deranged, at times.

About the same period, one Ezekiel Lancaster, killed ——— a son of Peter Williams, at Parker's (Dunaho's) mill, in a suddenly sprung difficulty, while fishing, by striking him with a fish-gig; Lancaster escaped.

In the fall of 1833, Joe Pruitt killed Berry

Arnold—a quarrel arising at a neighborhood cider-drinking, in which Pruitt got badly beaten, went directly to a house, took down a loaded gun, against the wishes of the lady at home, who feared mischief, laid wait for Arnold and shot him dead as he passed. Pruitt fled to Texas and was there killed some years afterwards while a member of a Regulator-company—on the side of law and order—and his murderer was killed by his (Pruitt's) son, a youth of seventeen years.—The gun with which Arnold was shot may be still seen at Dudley Pruitt's.

In the spring of 1834, Senator Rufus K. Anderson was shot dead in the town of Pickensville, by the late Gideon B. Frierson, Esq. The latter was not prosecuted, as it was an act of pure self-defence. This occurrence is fully noticed above, with attending circumstances.

The killing of Dr. William Wilson, in 1835, is referred to on page 126.

That year or the next one, James Fernandez killed Henry Gillam, at Yorkville, in a momentary quarrel, begun in a good humored scuffle, and the playing off of practical jokes among the crowd. Finding himself stabbed with a knife, Gillam said—"you have cut me, Jim, bad," and at that Fernandez supported him across the street all the time expressing sorrow at what he had

done and protesting that he did not mean it.—Gillam laid down and died in a few minutes, and thereupon Fernandez became distracted, wept, tried to kill himself, but his friends took care of him and that night he fled to Texas.

It is worthy of particular remark, that no murder was committed in Pickens within the long period of the twelve first years after its first settlement!—to be taken in connection with the fact of its being a border region, a new county, peopled or liable to be peopled with every variety of character. This goes far to prove what is heretofore stated, that those days were more peaceable and moral than ours.* Nor do we

* It might be noted in connection with the few murders committed in Pickens county, that some time ago, human bones were found, under mysterious circumstances, in the north part of Pickens. The skull is now in the possession of Mr. Elmore McCrary. The writer is not informed as to all the facts, but here refers to the rumor with a view to institute inquiry which might lead to the discovery of a dark and foul tragedy.

The Pickensville Register, of November 7th, 1843, says: "A short time since, there was found about eighteen miles north of this place, a human skull, with other bones belonging to the human frame. These bones were found a short distance from what is generally called the upper Columbus and Pascaloosa road, in a situation showing that they were intended to be concealed. The skull is fractured, and it is thought by the neighbors, that there has been a foul murder committed by some unknown hand, upon some unfortun-ate traveller. There are slight suspicions, however, resting upon an individual, who left that neighborhood some

learn of much vice and immorality, or rowdianism, in those days. There is said to have been little resort to knives, pistols and other bloody weapons. If, at the gatherings, such as a muster, an election, or a log-rolling, any two of the bardy yeomen—the "b'hoys" of the times—happening to get a little too far under the influence of the good creature, fell out and felt pugnacious, they would take a round of regular old fist-and-skull, to each others satisfaction, and let that be the last of it.

There have been as few bloody acts committed in Pickens, up to the present time of its history, as in any of the most moral communities, the

few years ago, but it would be wrong to publish the name inasmuch as there is not sufficient evidence as to amount to any thing like certainty.

The note here appended, was found about twelve months ago, in the road, within a short distance from where the bones were found, and perhaps this note may have belonged to the individual who was murdered, and from the names upon its face, it might lead to information to the friends of the individual, who lost his life in this mysterious way.

Yours, &c. E.

P. S.—The skull is at this time, in possession of Dr. J. M. McCrary, within two miles of the spot where it was found."

"One day after date, I promise to pay to Wm. Johnson, \$100 and 22 cents, for value received of him, the 10th of July, in the year 1842, and drawing interest from that date,

GEORGE PENN, &
MAYBON JONES."

laws have always been enforced, crime has been punished by the law, and never has there yet been an instance of the people wresting the business of the legal tribunal from the proper forum.

The following statistics may gratify the curious reader :

The first stray within the borders of Pickens, was a white horse, taken up by William Parker, and posted before Jacob Danby, Justice of the Peace, April 30, 1821, and appraised to \$80 by the old pioneer, Jonathan York, and by William Addington.

The first ferry was granted to "Old Sol" Marshall to keep in 1821, over Lubbur, "where the road across said creek leads from Columbus to Demopolis, until the sale of the public lands in that part takes place."

The first will probated was that of Dudley Hargrove, father of the present Daniel Hargrove, it being a nuncupative will, the testator having been suddenly killed in 1828, at the raising of his own gin-house. James D. Lowe, Esq., together with Peter and his son, Benj. Williams, proved the said will as witnesses.

The first letters of administration were grant-

ed to Henry Anderson and Elizabeth Profflet, on the estate of Robert Profflet, in October, 1822.

The first deed recorded is made from Jordan Oldham, to his son, Aaron Oldham, dated 26th day of August, 1822; of twenty-five head of cattle, described as "ear-marked, crop and a half crop in the right ear and a swallow-fork in the left—branded with a three cornered pen with a *Jag* turned to the end of it; one bay mare branded as above, and twenty-four head of hogs marked as above," besides other articles of kitchen furniture and farming tools. Said deed warrants title to all these valuables and is witnessed by S. L. Perry and S. P. Doss before James Newman, J. P.

It had been designed to insert a chapter in the foregoing pages devoted to THE LAWYERS OF PICKENS. But it was perceived by the writer, as it will be by the reader, that such a chapter could have been but little more than a mere repetition of what had been said of the same individuals, acting in other capacities, either as Judges, Legislators, or Editors. Indeed, of all the lawyers of the past, but a few names are recollected who have not been mentioned in this volume.

Mr. Isham Kelley came to Pickens county from Jefferson about 1839, and died here in 1844,

He married the daughter of Mrs. Herbert of Tuscaloosa, about 1840, and left her a widow with two children. He was a good lawyer and a highly respectable man; was a brother of the late Gershom Kelley.

Robert O. Mauphin, John E. Brown, R. K. Chamberlayne, John M. Cameron, Samuel L. Austell, and Thomas P. Crawford, are the only other lawyers, of a late day, of any note in Pickens, who are known to the writer.

Samuel L. Austell came to Pickens in 1837, or 1838 from Spartanburg District, South Carolina, and located at Carrollton and formed a legal copartnership with Gov. Samuel B. Moore, which continued till 1845, when they dissolved and Mr. Austell and Lemuel A. Gilkey entered into a copartnership in the practice of the law. In the latter part 1844, Mr. Austell left Pickens and removed to the State of Arkansas, where he now resides, in St. Francis county, and where he has twice been elected, and is now, State Senator for the District composed of his own and several other counties. When he lived in Pickens he ran (1843) for the Legislature, and lost his election by a few votes, owing to a split in his party. He was then a very strong Democrat, but he is now as ardent a member of the American party. He has always manifested a fond-

ness for politics, and has the art of pleasing the crowd, a very important qualification for a politician. He is not yet too old a man to aspire to greater honors.

Mr. Austell was the brother-in-law of the late Walter W. Gilkey, and is the maternal uncle of the present Judge of Probate.

Thomas P. Crawford, Esq., son of Hon. Thos. Crawford, of Bibb, came from that county to Pickens in 1843, and located at Pickensville.— He was then about twenty-one years of age, just from the office of his father, well read as a lawyer. In 1841, he graduated from the Alabama University with high honors. He is a man of talents and of a commanding personal appearance. In 1844, he married Miss M. E. Gilkey, of Pickens county, daughter of Walter Gilkey, and removed to Carrollton, where he remained until 1851, when he left Pickens and the State to try his fortunes in the still further South-west. He now resides in Bossier Parish, Louisiana, where he has an extensive and lucrative practice in his profession.

OFFICERS OF PICKENS COUNTY.

LEMUEL A. GILKEY, *Judge of Probate.*

C. B. SANDERS, *Clerk of Circuit Court.*

T. P. DUNCAN, *Sheriff.*

J. T. TERRY, *Register, &c.*

JAMES T. BURDINE,

WILLIAM GIBSON,

FERGUS McDOWELL,

WILLIAM MCCRACKEN,

County Commissioners.

LEMUEL A. GILKEY,

JAMES M. WALLACE,

JAMES SUMMERVILLE,

School Commissioners.

DAVID E. WOODS, *Tax Assessor.*

ELVIN HORTON, *Tax Collector.*

T. N. COHEN, *Treasurer.*

C. R. McCADLEY, *Coroner.*

The Lawyers and legal firms at the present time are as follow:

ALEXANDER B. CLITHERALL, Carrollton,

HARDY H. DUNN, Pickensville,

ORVILLE EASTLAND, Carrollton,

LEMUEL A. GILKEY, "

ROBERT T. JOHNSTON, Pickensville,

JEREMIAH MARSTON, Carrollton,

ZACHARIAH L. NABERS, "

HUMPHREY H. SHELTON, Pickensville,

NELSON F. SMITH, Carrollton,

MARTIN L. STANSEL, "

ALFRED E. VAN HOOSE, "

JOHN T. TERRY, Carrollton.

Of the above, *Johnston & Terry* are associated. Also, Mr. Marston is associated with Judge Reavis, of Gainesville, Alabama.

Mr. Stansel is associated with Stephen F. Hale, of Eutaw, Greene county, Alabama.

Messrs. *Eastland & Smith* are associated at Carrollton in the practice of the law.

AFTER-THOUGHTS.

The impulse which historical investigation appears to have received of late, is not confined to Alabama. It is coextensive with *our Country*.—After seventy-five years, Americans begin to think there must have been a *past*. They feel a yearning towards that past. Having been all that long period progressing so fast as to have taken little account of passing events, save only to hurry over them, we begin now to look back upon our course with a view of taking some reckoning. We cast back the eye over the track of our progress, and find it much to resemble the fast fading wake of a ship, and promising almost as little permanency. We, therefore, begin to wish we had kept a better log-book.

We are a great people! We have achieved miracles, done a vast deal in a brief period—*multum in parvo!* We see ourselves, to-day, the most prodigious development of national greatness ever produced by human energy, in thoughts and actions. We begin to find some leisure for retrospection. What are we? What did we

spring from? Had we a mean or respectable origin? These are pregnant themes, which ought to be satisfactorily answered.

There is a feeling abroad in the land that it is of some value, *per se*, to be an American citizen—an American by birth and education—to have had American ancestors—revolutionary sires, whose lives, fortunes, struggles, deeds and virtues have identified them and their children with the history of this proud country. This feeling manifests itself many ways, but in none more naturally, or properly, than in an increasing anxiety to gather and to treasure up all valuable associations of the past, to cherish the memories and reminiscences of the forefathers. Like dutiful children, the Young Americans are evincing more filial regard for the fathers. It is well! In some of the older States of this Union, the spirit of historical inquiry is so much aroused, that companies are being formed to carry on investigations abroad into the origin of families. Agents are employed to prosecute them in the parent country, who are industriously and earnestly searching among the records of cities and towns, courts, parishes and church-yards, for names, dates and valuable insignia. And, in like manner, as the American, who begins to feel the value of his birthright, goes back to the other side

of the Atlantic for memorials of his ancestors,—so, also, are the descendants of those hardy pioneers of the western American forests, now going back to the older States, in quest of their forefathers' histories. The sons and grandsons of those who found but little leisure to look after the 'household gods,' amid the toils and privations of border life and strife, now discover a vacuum in their past, an 'aching void,' which they desire to fill. Many an enquirer is seen, now-a-days, visiting the ancient homesteads in search of public and private records, for the precious sought for knowledge. It is well. It is natural. It is a new phase, a pleasing development, a welcome evidence of the revival and growth of *Americanism*. The idea is expansive. Love of family, parents, home, birth-place, state, and country. The idea expands into patriotism—it lays the foundation for true love of country. It matters not how much this American, *home* feeling intensifies and expands into a true and broad nationality.

There is, indeed, latterly, a very general interest manifested for historical research. In some sections of the country, especially in the northern States, the press, particularly, the country newspapers, evince much ardor in this good cause, devoting their columns to the histories of

counties, townships and villages, to revolutionary reminiscences, sketches of the old soldiers, heroes and patriots, investigating the genealogies of families, and seeking after whatever is worthy of a niche in the archives of history. It is a commendable enthusiasm, to attach the people to the land of their sires, their altars and their homes, reviving the sentiment which inspired the poet to enquire after the man—

With soul no dead, -
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land.