

"They are without fault before the throne of God."

"They rest from their labors."

"With Christ, which is far better."

REV. JOHN PINCKNEY ROBERTS.

REV. J. T. HUMPHRIES.

BRO. J. N. SAVAGE (Lientiate).

DEACON MATTHEW W. LUNDY.

"Though dead, they speak in reason's ear,
And in example live;
Their faith and hope and mighty deeds
Still fresh instruction give."

Memorial Sketches.

Since the last meeting of the Association Bro. John Pinckney Roberts has been called from his earthly labors to the life beyond. "He has finished his course, he has kept the faith," and has left as a precious heritage to his family and brethren the record of a well-spent life.

The writer of this brief tribute to his memory was intimately associated with him in his earlier days. We served in the ranks together during the late war, we suffered together in a Northern prison, and when we were paroled a short time before the final surrender we passed through the lines and made our way home together, much of the way on foot, through the Carolinas and Georgia, then recently devastated by a hostile force. His old comrade bears willing testimony to his courage in danger, his patience under suffering, his fidelity to his friends, his devotion to duty. A brother could not have been kinder or more helpful at a time when kindness and aid were needed and appreciated. The ties then formed grew stronger as we grew older, and it was a delight and pleasure to each of us in the after years to talk over these stirring events of our early manhood.

Bro. Roberts was born in Marion District, South Carolina, April 13, 1843. In early life he removed to Wakulla county, Florida. When the war began he was but 17, but he cast in his lot with his people, and was among the first to volunteer his services as a soldier when Florida seceded from the Union. He enlisted in Capt. D. L. Frierson's company, which was mustered into the Confederate service at Fernandina in August, 1861, as Company D of the Third Florida Regiment, commanded by Colonel William S. Dillworth, which was afterwards a part of the Western Army under Bragg, Hood and Johnston. There is not sufficient space in this brief memoir to give a continuous account of

P 25

P 21

his military career. Suffice it to say that he bore his full part in the labors and hardships and honorable deeds which brighten the pages of our Southern history during those "days which tried men's souls."

Soon after his release from imprisonment the war ended, and he returned to the peaceful pursuits of home life. He made a public profession of religion September 14, 1869, when he was baptized and united with Mount Bezor Baptist Church in Wakulla county. Later in life he was called to the Christian ministry, and was ordained August 27, 1869. He served the following churches as pastor at different times: Mount Bezor, Lake Ellen, Mount Elon and Crawfordville in Wakulla, Aenon in Leon, and Bristol in Liberty county.

The circumstances of his early life had debarred him from the higher educational advantages, but this did not deter him from the field of usefulness he had marked out for himself. He based his theology on the Holy Scriptures, and they were his constant study. In his modest, earnest way he went about trying to do good, and practiced in his daily life the lessons he taught from the sacred desk. Eternity alone can disclose the good that is done in these humble fields of labor by the men of God who go about to preach the word with limited means, trusting in the Lord for their support, after the manner of the early disciples.

With other responsibilities resting upon him, he was not unmindful of his duties as a citizen. Among the positions he held was that of postmaster at Bristol in Liberty county, whither he removed in January, 1892. In the last year of his life he was chosen by the people of his district to represent them in the State Senate, but on the 18th of February last, before the Legislature met, the final summons came, and he closed his eyes to earthly scenes, looking confidently forward to a blessed immortality.

Bro. Roberts was married March 11, 1867, to Miss Ella Bostick. She was his loving companion and helpmeet in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, for thirty years. She survives him with five sons and two daughters. It has

also been the privilege of his venerable mother, Mrs. Arcadia Revel, to witness the life of her beloved son. These dear ones have been deprived of their chief stay and comfort, and earth can offer them no consolation in their deep sorrow and sore bereavement, but there is a life eternal beyond the dark river, where parting and sorrow are unknown, and there may mother and son, wife and husband, children and father be reunited, to go no more out forever.

Bro. James Townsend Humphries was born near Halcyondale, Ga., August 8, 1841. He united himself with the Macedonia Baptist Church in July, 1855, with which denomination he continued until his death. He was studying theology when he joined the Confederate army, in which he served four years; was wounded five times, one time very severely in the right lung, which ultimately caused his death. He began preaching when 17 years of age, and was called "the boy preacher," but was not ordained until October 27, 1867. He was ordained at Middle Ground Baptist Church by W. S. Moore, H. E. Cassady and William Lee.

In 1872 he constituted the Red Bluff Baptist Church, where he served as pastor for nine consecutive years. During this time he served also at Macedonia and Antioch, and constituted several churches and baptized many converts.

In 1882 his health began to fail, and he resigned from the ministry. In 1887 he came to Florida for his health, and until 1894 would not accept the care of any church, but often assisted in revival meetings. In 1894 he accepted the pastorate of Olive Baptist Church and also the Greenville Church. The former he served two years. His principal work was preaching to churches that had no pastor and to people who had no churches.

Just two weeks before his death he was seized with a hemorrhage before going into the water to baptize a convert.

Bro. Humphries was happy in his family relations. He was married to Miss Valeria Moore on the 25th of April,