

# THE NORTONS

OF

RUSSELLVILLE, KY.

REMINISCENCES.

BY

<sup>o</sup>  
DAVID MORTON.

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## FORE WORDS.

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It is not the purpose of the writer to furnish an extended history of the Norton family, nor even lengthy biographical sketches of its members, much less to enter into a philosophical disquisition concerning the causes that have led to their phenomenal development and success in the lines of professional and business effort to which they have addicted themselves. But he proposes to record in simple phrase such reminiscences as come from a life-long acquaintance, and are likely to be entertaining and useful to the younger scions of the stock.

Writing with this end in view, and at the bidding of a genuine friendship for those of whom he speaks, he will aim to narrate those incidents which to him are most interesting, and to delineate those traits which first attracted and then attached him to the persons whose story he tells.



## PREFATORY NOTE.

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REV. DR. MORTON is peculiarly fitted for the pleasant task of preparing this volume. His father was for a good many years cashier in the bank of which George W. Norton was president, and he himself was school-mate to several of those whom he has here described. The brief and attractive sketches will not only interest and profit the numerous representatives of the Norton family, but it will be a great blessing if very many others should read them; for the story of these lives will strikingly show that intelligence and integrity, force of character and fear of God, do indeed have "promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

JOHN A. BROADUS.



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# THE NORTONS.

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## OF KEYSTONE STOCK.

WILLIAM NORTON, the head of the family, was born in Harrisburg, Pa., September 2, 1781, and about 1806 came to Kentucky, stopping for a time at Lexington, and afterwards, about the year 1810, settling at Russellville, where, on the 11th day of April, 1813, he was married to Mary Hise.

She was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., March 12, 1797, was the daughter of Frederick and Nancy Hise, and was brought by her parents to Lexington, Ky., about 1802, and to Russellville about 1810. She came of a sturdy German stock, distinguished for their mental vigor and great capacity for intellectual work.

William and Mary Norton journeyed together as husband and wife for nearly forty-five years, until they became so thoroughly assimilated as to think, talk, and even look alike. A happier couple in their conjugal relations I have not known in a lifetime. To them were born nine children, who

lived to maturity,—six sons, George W., John L., Presley E., William F., Elijah H., and Eckstein, and three daughters, Mary, Susan, and Sarah.

My recollection of these venerable people and their household runs back to very near the beginning of my life. They were then living on the main street of my native town of Russellville, Ky., in what was esteemed one of the best residences of the place. It was a well-built two-story frame house, neatly finished and furnished, standing on a large lot and having most of the conveniences usually found in such residences in the inland towns of Kentucky.

Mr. Norton had prospered in business and was in easy circumstances, and, though past the meridian of life, kept his blacksmith-shop and iron store in full operation, and also cultivated a crop each year on his farm about two miles from town.

He was by trade a maker of nails, these useful articles, when he began business in Russellville and for many years after, being wrought out by hand from bars of iron which were shipped from Pennsylvania in keel-boats to Shawneetown, Ill., and hauled in wagons from that place to Russellville, a distance of more than a hundred miles. His nails, which were of a superior quality, were much in demand in all that region of country and sold readily for seventy-five cents a pound.

Bruce and Shelby, two colored servants, for

many years worked in the shop which stood on the back street at the rear end of his residence-lot.

Mr. Norton gave his personal attention to the store. This business was conducted in an old two-story frame house about the centre of the town and on the principal street, where for about forty-five years he might always be found during business hours. He sold iron by wholesale and retail in bars and rods, and other useful articles made in the shop, such as tongs, shovels, picks, hoes, rakes, crow-bars, chains, clevises, and plough-shares, as well as iron castings and salt. His sign-board was a plank about six inches wide, one inch thick, and fifty inches long, painted white, on which, in neat black letters, was inscribed his full name and nothing else. This sign for about thirty years was over the outside front door, but was afterwards taken down and hung inside the store-room, as he said everybody in the county then knew where he could be found, and the sign would be better preserved from the weather inside the house than out.

As a farmer, he was somewhat of an amateur. The farm was not very rich nor very large, and was retained and worked after he had lived upon it but a single year, more because it was then considered the proper thing for a man making money above expenses to have and work a farm than for any other reason.

Aunt Phillis, the superannuated cook of the family, lived for many years in a cabin on the farm, and prepared dinner for the hand or two engaged in its cultivation and looked after the poultry-yard, which was kept up for the benefit of the family in town. The farm hands consisted of one colored man, who worked there through the crop season, and the sons of the family, who aided him on Saturdays and when out of school in summer.

Tom, the colored farmer, was a character in his way. He weighed about one hundred and seventy pounds, was as black as ebony and very dignified in his bearing. His voice was a deep bass and his demeanor very like that of a clergyman,—in fact, he believed himself called to preach, but could never obtain license to do so from the colored Baptist Church, of which he was a member. I recall, among the other servants of the family, Shelby's wife, who succeeded Aunt Phillis as cook, and Sally and Celia, the housewomen. A humane regard for the comfort of these servants was one of the most commendable traits of the entire family.

After awhile, when Phillis was dead and the sons were men and Tom had grown old, Mr. Norton sold the farm at a very low price on long time and at small interest to a neighbor boy who was just beginning the world; and one branch of his business was ended. Then Bruce and Shelby were

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gathered to their fathers, and the anvil no more rung out its chimes, and the shop was finally closed. This was soon followed by the shutting up of the store, after which the proprietor was seldom seen on the streets, and a feeling of genuine sadness pervaded the whole town when the dear old man ceased to be a factor in its business life.

By these simple processes and without ever having been extensively engaged in business, he secured a competency upon which himself and wife subsisted in comfort, not to say luxury, and brought up to honorable and useful lives a family of nine children, giving to each, as they reached maturity, something on which to start in business, and bequeathing to them on his decease a good estate.

In politics, he was a sterling Democrat, though he lived in a community where, for perhaps thirty years, there were not as many as thirty men of his way of thinking in this matter, and, though in a county and Congressional District whose majority against his party was counted by thousands, he never swerved from his political faith. The boys at school used to tell it on him that he knew every Democrat in the county, and made a business of searching out their descendants in order to show them special attention. It was said that he always had a bit of candy for the daughter and

a piece of choice tobacco for the son of a Democrat when he met them on the streets.

He was a devoted Freemason, and in his prime attended the Lodge meetings with great punctuality. For years after, when so old as to halt feebly along the way, needing the support of a brother's arm to hold him steady as he tottered, he was constantly in the processions that buried the brethren. The ritual of the Order and the symbols of the Craft had a charm for him to the end of his life.

Born a Quaker, he grew up with an exalted conception of the purity of life which is begotten of spiritual communion with God. He abhorred all the grosser forms of vice and was absolutely free from intemperance in all its phases. He was full of kindly interest in his fellow-men and ever mindful of the rights of others. Cut off from association with the church of his choice, he never ceased to esteem as best the simplest forms of worship and to place upon the mere externals a very low estimate. A converted man for many years, he was not identified with any church until a short time before his death, when he cast in his lot with the Baptists, as all his family were of this faith and order.

I was not living at Russellville when he died in January, 1858, and am not advised of the particulars of his last illness and death, except that,

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as might have been expected, he came to the end gracefully and peacefully, and expressed among his last requests the desire that his only epitaph should be, "He resided in Russellville forty-eight years." The modesty of this wish was equalled only by the genuine worth of the man, and did not hinder his neighbors from declaring that among all the dwellers in their place there was never a gentler, kinder, honester, or more upright person than William Norton.

Mrs. Norton was more robust in body and mind and more vivacious in temperament than her husband. She did her own thinking, had well-defined opinions and expressed them freely, loved to talk and talked well. A model housekeeper, she rose up while it was yet night and gave meat to her household, nor did her candle go out by night. She ate not the bread of idleness, and her children called her blessed; her husband also praised her. Much of the energy and financial skill evinced by her sons was derived by inheritance from her.

A pronounced Baptist, she impressed her denominational predilections upon all her children, and was withal a devout Christian, supporting cheerfully and liberally the institutions of the church. In later life, she was very fond of reading and distributing religious books and tracts. Only a few days ago I picked up one of her tracts

with this endorsement in her own handwriting, "Enclosed I send you for your serious reading and consideration. When you have done with it, you may do good by handing it to others."

She lived twenty years after the death of her husband, spending her time chiefly with her son George, and at the ripe age of eighty-one years fell asleep, and was buried with her kindred in the old town so long her home.

In her last will she did not forget the two colored servant-women, Celia and Sally, who had been reared by her, and were so faithful and kind in their attentions to herself long after their emancipation by the war. These women are to-day living in comfortable homes of their own, purchased with money bequeathed by her for the purpose.



## FOR FINANCE FORMED.

WHEN I first knew George W. Norton, the eldest son, he and his brother, John L., two years his junior, both young and unmarried men, were conducting a general store at the town of Russellville, in a small rented house on the east side of Main Street, about midway between Centre and Bank Streets.

The front room of this store was about twenty-eight by eighteen feet in size, with a ten-foot story. The walls, after deducting the space occupied by two doors and a window, were covered from floor to ceiling with shelves and drawers, into which were packed as closely as they could be dry goods of all kinds, from the coarsest cotton cloth to the finest woven silk, together with hardware, queensware, a light stock of books and stationery, and a small assortment of family drugs and medicines. Along two sides of the room extended a counter about three feet high, under which were stored sugar, coffee, window-glass, putty, saleratus, spun cotton, gunpowder, dye-stuffs, etc. On these counters were piles of broadcloth, jeans, blankets, and other heavy fabrics for men's wear, and a

show-case in which were displayed to the best advantage a miscellaneous stock of pins, needles, brushes, combs, pocket- and table-knives, spoons, and such novelties as were of the finest finish and latest style. On a large rack pendent from the ceiling were to be found brooms, brushes, curry-combs, loaves of sugar in blue paper, tinware, and such other articles as were too long to put under the counter or on the shelves. Between the counters were kegs of nails of different sizes, boxes filled with boots, shoes, hats, etc., while at the door on the front pavement was a pyramid of grindstones, through the holes in the centre of which ran a chain whose ends were fastened with a padlock. In the cellar, goods were kept in bulk, and here were to be found hogsheads of sugar, barrels of molasses, crates of queensware, and bales of domestic, together with kegs of tar and tierces of rice.

The rear room, about twelve by eighteen feet, with a fireplace at one end, served for office and sleeping apartment. The partners lodged in a bed in the corner behind the door. The wash-stand, usually an upturned empty keg, was surmounted by a tin pan, over which hung a flax linen towel and a small looking-glass, to which were fastened by a chain a horn comb and a hair-brush. The remainder of the furniture consisted of a few split-bottom chairs, a small table, and an iron safe,—

the first I ever saw,—near which stood a desk with racks for their account-books and pigeon-holes for their paper. The wardrobe of the proprietors was kept in trunks under the bed, and the room was warmed with a wood fire and lighted with tallow candles on tin candlesticks.

In these humble quarters were learned those lessons of practical experience and were formed those business habits that laid the foundation of all his success in after-life. He sold at good profits to reliable customers, and had the reputation of being a fair-dealing merchant, whose goods were what he represented them to be.

He was then a discriminating and careful reader of books bearing on his business, and, while many of his neighbor merchants were on hot days and in dull times playing checkers in their back rooms or lounging about the doors engaged in political discussions, he was devouring such books as Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," Hunt's "Merchants' Magazine," or closely studying sheets showing the prices current in the markets of Philadelphia and New Orleans. By the same process of study he became familiar with banking operations and finance, and from public documents and newspapers, of which he was always an omnivorous reader, he learned much of the extent and outlook of our vast public domain. He could tell you on a moment's notice where were to be

found the largest bodies of fertile lands, and, with a ken that was almost prophetic, suggest the probable location of the great arteries of travel and commerce and of the immense cities that have since sprung into existence upon them.

It is hardly necessary to say that with these habits business grew on his hands, and in a few years he was established in a large house, owned by himself, on the most eligible corner in the town, and was conducting a trade amounting to many thousands of dollars per annum. The surplus which he had by this time accumulated and was all the while increasing was used to a limited extent, and in a very cautious way, in speculations in tobacco, while much the larger part was employed in the purchase of cash securities or invested in real estate. Before he was thirty-five years of age, he had already become one of the rich men of the town, and was known throughout the country as a sagacious and energetic business man, well prepared to conduct almost any large business enterprise.

About this time the Southern Bank of Kentucky was organized under a charter granted by the Legislature of the State, with the mother bank at Russellville. Mr. Norton was one of its first board of directors, and by this board was elected the first president of the bank, with M. B. Morton as cashier and J. R. Payne as clerk. The bank

began business in 1850, with a paid-up capital of one million five hundred thousand dollars, of which the State of Kentucky owned six hundred thousand dollars, and continued without intermission to do a general banking business as a bank of issue, with four or five branches located in different parts of the State, till December, 1863; and during nearly the whole of these years paid large semi-annual dividends to its stockholders, and, besides, accumulated a handsome surplus, which was employed in enlarging its business or paid out in extra dividends. When the present national banking system went into effect, it was believed by those who had the interests of this institution in hand that it could not successfully cope with the national banks in view of the unusual favors shown these by the Federal government, and liquidation was resolved upon as the best means for the protection of the stockholders. So that this admirably-managed bank, at the end of the thirteenth year of its history, by authority of the Legislature of the State, went into liquidation, and its existence as a bank of issue ceased. The most prompt and energetic measures were at once adopted to wind up all its affairs.

All the liabilities of the bank were provided for, and the State and other stockholders were paid in coin one hundred dollars on each share, which was the par of the stock, and besides, were paid

on each share twenty-three dollars and twelve and one-half cents in United States legal tender notes.

The six hundred thousand dollars of stock owned by the State had been paid for in the six per cent. bonds of the State issued to the bank, and on this six hundred thousand dollars of stock, the bank, while actively engaged in business, paid from time to time into the treasury of the State in dividends, over and above the interest on said bonds, the sum of two hundred and ninety-seven thousand and five hundred dollars. The State sold the six hundred thousand dollars of coin received by it from the bank when in liquidation for about nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars in United States legal tender notes, and also received from the bank in legal tender notes, as its share in the final division, one hundred and thirty-eight thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars. So that the Commonwealth of Kentucky, after redeeming the six hundred thousand dollars of its bonds issued to the bank, realized a clear profit of nearly eight hundred thousand dollars on its stock. The operations of the bank were equally profitable to the individual stockholders.\*

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\* For the figures given above, I have not relied upon my memory, but have referred to the books of the bank and to Mr. Norton's official report as president to the Legislature of Kentucky, as well as to other reliable sources of information.

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When it is remembered that this bank and all its branches were located in a State that was the theatre of just such warlike operations as were most unfavorable to the safe and prudent conduct of its affairs, and that the liquidation was effected at a time when the financial interests of the country were in a condition bordering on chaos, it is doubted if there is a parallel to its history in that of any similar institution that has ever existed in the country.

There was an eminent fitness, therefore, when final report had been made to the Legislature of Kentucky, in the adoption by that body of the following:

*“Resolved*, by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That the affairs of the Southern Bank of Kentucky have, in the liquidation through which said bank has passed, been managed with fidelity, promptitude, and ability. Its officers are, therefore, entitled to this expression of the General Assembly, and which is now tendered to them as a compliment.” *“Approved 9th of March, 1867.”*

But this great financial victory was not won without some hotly-contested battles, the details of which may not be without interest.

The election of the gentlemen who constituted the first officers of the bank was a great surprise to many, and was severely criticised by some whose wishes had not been met. It was simply a war of the outs upon the ins, and yet, for a time, it seemed that serious results would follow. Cer-

tain parties, upon the ostensible ground that the clerk, though a native of Russellville, had been for several years a resident of Tennessee, procured a public indignation meeting, at which inflammatory speeches were made and some very radical measures were proposed. But the whole affair was so palpably the result of the keen disappointment which some of the defeated office-seekers were experiencing, that it fell still-born as soon as the meeting adjourned. In a little while the mistake made by those who held this meeting was apparent, and before the year had gone by the directors were everywhere congratulated for the wisdom of their choice.

The panic of 1857 caused a run upon the bank, and anxious patrons came to its offices in troops to claim their deposits. Brokers and other dealers in money, who held its notes, hurried in public and private conveyances, by night and day, over some of the worst roads in the State, to demand at its counters the redemption in coin of these promises to pay. Every demand, however, was promptly met; not a dollar was lost by any one to whom the bank was indebted, and its stock was never depreciated.

During the existence of the "Provisional Government of Kentucky," one of the products of the civil war then raging, the bank passed through the greatest crisis of its history.



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This "Provisional Government of Kentucky," whatever may have been its merits in other regards, was an impecunious organization, and was just then in sore need of money. The acting governor, having secured one of the published statements of the condition of the bank and having conferred with persons presumably well informed on the subject, came to the conclusion that a large sum of money was in its vaults, and determined to negotiate a loan for the entire amount. Mr. Norton, the president, was sent for, and on reaching the governor's office at Bowling Green, was promptly interviewed by that official, and soon found that his information was accurate and full. After an inquisition, which lasted for several hours, compelling Mr. Norton to resort to all the arts of diplomacy with which he was acquainted to ward off the assault that would inevitably have resulted in the disintegration of the bank, he was allowed to depart, with the intimation that he might expect to be recalled. Hurrying home, he convened the directors and gave them the facts in the case. After a protracted consultation, which was marked by the most anxious solicitude, it was agreed that he must protect the interests of the bank as best he could, and to this he assented upon the condition that he might secure the co-operation of one other man, and that they were not to be interfered with or questioned by any director or

any one else. He named M. B. Morton, the cashier, as the man whose assistance he desired, and the choice was approved by the board. After arranging for the conversion into sterling exchange of about five hundred thousand dollars in cash and cash items, which was effected with great difficulty, as these items were at different places and partly within the Confederate lines, he set about devising a plan by which the one million dollars, then in the vault at Russellville, might be cared for. It was, in small parcels, by himself and Mr. Morton, removed to a safe place outside the vault and stowed away. It required about two weeks to accomplish the removal, as great caution must be observed not to betray the secret. When all had been safely deposited in the hiding-place, it was hermetically sealed, and remained so until all danger was passed, when the money was brought back, and not a cent was found to be missing. No questions as to where it had been were ever asked, and only a few persons, to this day, know the place of concealment. Such implicit confidence has seldom been reposed in two men with a result so fortunate.

When the Southern Bank of Kentucky was wound up, it was succeeded at Russellville by the banking house of Nimrod Long & Co., in which Mr. Norton retained an interest. Mr. Long had, from the beginning, been a very efficient director

of the Southern Bank, and was one of Mr. Norton's most devoted admirers and friends. This confidence and attachment brought about the most cordial and intimate relations between the two men, which lasted as long as both were alive.

Away back in the '40's, John L. Norton and Nimrod Long became interested in a young man of Logan County, who had been recently licensed to preach in the Baptist Church, and who seemed very anxious to secure a good education. He went to the Baptist College at Georgetown, and his bills were paid by Norton and Long. While there he married, and moved to Missouri. In the spring of 1868 three men stepped into the bank at Russellville and proposed to sell a bond which they exhibited. Mr. Long examined it, and, finding some irregularities in its issue, declined to buy. They then produced a large bank-note and asked that it be changed, but the note was believed to be spurious and the change was not given. The men then told Mr. Long that they were cattle-buyers and would be some days in the county, and left the bank. In a day or two they called again, and after this again, each time making some pretext for their visits, but never transacting any business.

On the 20th day of March, about two o'clock P.M., when both the clerk and the cashier were gone to dinner, these men again entered the bank,

leaving a fourth man at the door and another on horseback in the street. Approaching the counter rapidly, they again demanded the change for their spurious note, and were again refused by Mr. Long, who was the only officer in the bank. Upon his refusal, they drew pistols, two of them leaped over the counter, and Mr. Long ran into the back room, only to be met by the other man who had just entered that room from a side door. This man shot him, and, leaving him for dead, joined his companions in the front room and robbed the bank of about nine thousand dollars, with which they and their companions on the outside made good their escape. Mr. Long was only stunned by the shot, so that he was quickly on his feet and gave the alarm on the street, but not in time to secure the capture of these bold freebooters. Jesse James, the leader of this gang, was the son of Robert James, the young preacher who was educated by Long and Norton. Mr. G. W. Norton, though then living in Louisville, sustained his part, too, of the loss occasioned by the son of the man whom his deceased brother had befriended.

In 1867, Mr. Norton transferred his business head-quarters and removed his family to Louisville, Ky., where he continued to reside till his death in July, 1889.

In partnership with his brother, William F.

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Norton, he conducted a private banking house in Louisville till 1885, when they both retired permanently from business and devoted their entire time to their private affairs. This step was rendered necessary by the delicacy of his health and the large increase in his possessions. The sagacity evinced by him in his early ventures and the skill and prudence of later years had borne their legitimate fruit, and his estate, which is believed to have been the largest ever earned by any one man in Kentucky, needed his undivided attention.

Much of his time, however, during these last years of his life, was given to his friends and to churches and other corporations who sought his counsel as to investments of trust and other funds.

His advice in these cases was almost unerringly right, and the comfort of many families as well as the prosperity and solidity of several important eleemosynary institutions are due largely to his wise, intelligent, and interested attention to their affairs.

He was for a long time the Treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention, and for several years the Chairman of the Financial Board of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

For the success of the latter he felt the deepest concern, and gave it the benefit of the very valuable information and the consummate skill he always possessed as to investments, and, besides,

made suggestions and devised rules for the future management of its affairs which have already conferred great advantages, and must inure to its profit in all time to come. Nor did he confine himself to imparting information and giving advice and formulating plans, but contributed largely and intelligently to its funds. Just how much he gave it is difficult to tell, as in these contributions he acted in accordance with his life-long practice of keeping his own counsel, and left traces of what he had done that are hardly discernible. Not long before his death, and after his will had been written, he entered into a written agreement with the widow of his brother, William F., that they would unite in erecting a building for the Theological Seminary at a cost of sixty thousand dollars, provided the Seminary should first raise an additional one hundred thousand dollars for endowment, which he knew to be needed. They would thus not only confer the benefit of their own gifts, but stimulate others to a like liberality. By such far-reaching methods as this he was wont to keep his pound at work and his talents employed. How much they have gained will not be known till the reckoning of the last day.

## THE INNER VIEW.

G. W. NORTON never sought at the hands of the people any office, and never filled any public official position. With a few exceptions, he was never an officer, nor even a director, in any secular corporation, preferring to be untrammelled in the management of his business, and having a special aversion to disclosing the number, character, or amount of his operations. These he confided, as a rule, to those only who were jointly interested with himself, or whose services were required to effect his ends. He was absolutely free from every vestige of purse-pride, or of disposition to parade his wealth before the public, or even to talk of it with his most intimate friends.

He had the courage of his convictions, and did not hesitate to declare and act upon them whenever occasion demanded. His political and religious views were well defined. Whether he inherited the one from his father and the other from his mother, I shall not undertake to say, but I know that to his party and his church he was unswervingly loyal.

He was a man of much fortitude. For many

years he suffered great physical pain, which was borne without complaint, and often without any intimation to those around of the pangs he was enduring. With equal facility he could undergo intense mental anguish without any display to others of his troubles and without a murmur at the fate that had befallen him. He would not allow grief to bow him down till his elasticity was gone, but rose as quickly as he could after the storm of sorrow was past, and responded with hopefulness to the calls of daily duty.

He felt great interest in young men, and found much pleasure in aiding in their development. A gentleman who has won national reputation, and stands to-day at the head of his profession in the United States, told me that when he was an untutored youth working on a farm, Mr. Norton devised the plan and loaned him the needed money for securing his professional education.

A distinguished minister, one of the foremost men of his denomination in the country, says, "G. W. Norton gave me my first money; it was twenty-five cents for some pieces of cloth from my father's tailor-shop, and he advised me to spend it for a book or something useful." How admirably even this quarter of a dollar was made to serve as an inspiration to this struggling young man!

To the son of an old friend who was trying to



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secure a home for his family, Mr. Norton wrote, "It will give me pleasure to lend you the ——— as suggested in your favor of the ninth." The sum was afterwards more than doubled, the note renewed oftener than once, and, upon its final payment, he positively but politely refused to accept any interest upon the loan.

In social life he was companionable but retiring. Modest almost to diffidence, he shrank from the great crowd and the fashionable gathering, but was fond of his friends, and loved to be with them and have them at his home. When they came, singly or by scores, he received and treated them with a cordiality that could have been born only of genuine gratification at their coming. He displayed a generous hospitality in the entertainment of his kindred, and, besides, was ever ready to give hearty welcome to God's ministers, who were not only fed and lodged, but whose necessities in other respects were often relieved in a manner so dexterous that it was hardly discernible by the beneficiary himself.

Always affable and courteous, he moved among business men a pattern of good manners, and even left in good humor with him those he was compelled to disoblige.

His attachment to particular friends was strong and true and lasting. He loved very warmly those whom he did love, and was never known to

betray one who confided in him. To the end he clung to those whom he had reason to regard as deserving of his friendship. He read with eager interest the weekly newspaper issued in his native town, and kept himself well informed in the history of his old friends and their descendants. He seldom failed, when I met him, to inquire when I had last been to Russellville, whom I saw, and what was going on. In the most quiet way, without intimating to any one what he was about, he ministered to the relief of many of these old friends whose circumstances were straitened. Two or three years ago I received a letter thanking me profusely for twenty-five dollars which the writer, a purblind octogenarian living in a little cabin many miles in the country, had received, as he supposed, from me. Knowing that I had made no such donation, I was for a moment puzzled to understand his letter; but a few minutes' thought suggested the solution, and, when I dropped the letter a day or two later on Mr. Norton's desk, remarking as I did so, "This must be for you," he looked up and said, touchingly, "Thinking that the old man might suffer for something to keep him warm this winter, I made this remittance, and hope it will serve its purpose." To another friend, who was not so prosperous in later life as he had been when they were intimately associated, he made remittances every year, and sometimes

oftener, as long as his old friend lived, accompanying them with letters that not only breathed a spirit of genuine friendship, but were couched in language so delicate that the recipient was almost left to conclude that the donor, and not himself, was the obliged party in the transaction.

In this unostentatious way for a number of years such deeds were constantly done by him, and the great day alone will reveal the good thus accomplished. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Mr. Norton was married in Louisville, Ky., by Rev. E. P. Humphrey, D.D., March 3, 1847, to Miss Martha Stuart Henry, daughter of Mr. Matthew Winston Henry, then deceased, but once a resident of Bowling Green, Ky.

She survives him, and is the mother of his seven children,—Ernest J., who died in Minneapolis, Minn., July 22, 1874; Juliette, wife of Dr. J. B. Marvin; Minnie, widow of Mr. William B. Caldwell, Jr., who died in Louisville, Ky., September 30, 1880; Susan, wife of Mr. John Coleman, and Lucie U., Martha A., and George W., Jr., still unmarried. The entire family, including Mrs. Ernest Norton and her two bright boys, Caldwell and Ernest J., Jr., still reside at their various homes in Louisville.

The death of his eldest son and of his son-

in-law afflicted him deeply. His letters to my father when the former died, and his talks with me upon the demise of the latter, revealed an affection for them strong, tender, touching.

During the twenty years of his married life spent at Russellville, his home was an abode of peace and plenty, over which his wife gracefully presided, and in which he and she bestowed upon their children that careful training which is the best preparation for useful and happy lives.

After the removal of the family to Louisville, more elaborate preparations were made for the instruction and entertainment of the children, and they were favored with every facility for right development and rational enjoyment.

In fine, he was a model husband and father, and his was a happy Christian household. His fealty to his wife and children did not express itself in mere sentiment only, but led him to devote his life in large measure to their welfare, and to make at its end such provision for them as he believed would prove of most lasting benefit.

Mr. Norton, when a mere youth, made a formal profession of religion, and connected himself with the Baptist Church, of which he remained a member until his death. In the earlier years of his church-life he was quite active, taught in the Sunday-school, looked after the financial af-

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fairs of the church, prayed in public with fervency and power, and took an active interest in the religious development of the young. Once, when I was a little boy, a merchant next door to him gave me a lump of sugar, which I eagerly devoured, much to the gratification of the giver. On the same day Mr. Norton gave me a book, and, after seating me upon his knee, explained to me that by reading it I would learn what would be of service to me when a man. These two gifts were a very fair index to the traits of the givers. The first was chiefly concerned for the physical comfort of himself and friends, lived luxuriously and died young. The second sought for himself and others improvement of mind and heart, and labored for permanent results ; he built on a sure foundation a solid structure, and attained to more than man's allotted age.

In the distribution of the Bible he took great delight, being for many years an active officer of the local Bible Society. When I was but a youth, he put me to work to supply the needy and the destitute, including the inmates of the jail, in the old town where he lived. He paid for the Bibles and I delivered them.

During the past few years he and I were frequently together, and have had many and protracted conversations on the subject of religion. As he grew older, he seemed to become more interested

in his own religious experience and in that of others than ever before, and talked with great freedom and intelligence on these points, showing that he not only enjoyed constant communion with his Maker, but much desired that others should be like partakers of the benefit. About a year and a half before his decease, I visited him one afternoon while on a sick-bed, from which he did not then expect to be raised. He spoke without reserve and with great calmness of what he then regarded as the imminency of his end, and declared himself to be thoroughly assured of his readiness to go. As he descanted upon the goodness of God exhibited to him through all his life, his eyes were filled with tears, and in a voice tremulous with emotion he spoke of the joy which then filled his heart, and which he accepted as an earnest of his title to the inheritance beyond the river. To the reading of the Scriptures, engaged in at his request, he gave interested attention, and to the petitions of the prayer that followed he responded with Amens hearty and refreshing.

Though he lived nearly eighteen months after this, he was never well again, and it soon became apparent that he was steadily declining. His enforced absences from his office were longer and more frequent, and he found it necessary to make more protracted visits to health resorts in quest of the repose his failing strength required.

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But at last the summons came somewhat unexpectedly. He was in his office on Saturday, unwell on Sunday, unable to leave the house on Monday, in bed on Tuesday, and died on Wednesday. The funeral services, very simple and appropriate, were conducted at his residence by Rev. Dr. Broadus, whose just and thoughtful tribute was published in his church paper, and is given as an Appendix to these sketches. I was denied, by absence from home, the privilege of attending these services and of following his remains to their beautiful resting-place in Cave Hill Cemetery beside the dust of his sleeping boys, but am favored in having the opportunity to honor the memory of one whose counsel and example were an inspiration to me in youth and manhood, and whose association and sympathy were a benediction to my father in his middle and later life.

“Thine own friend and thy father’s friend forsake not !”

## DEAD ERE HIS PRIME.

JOHN LEONARD was the second child, and was born in Russellville, October 11, 1816. I am not informed as to his boyhood. He was a grown young man when I first knew him, tall and well proportioned, with a handsome face, of fine address, and naturally sprightly and vivacious. He was then in partnership with his brother George in the store before described, and remained so till his death, which occurred September 4, 1843. Though less than twenty-seven years of age at his death, he had already evinced the same aptitude for business and the same ability as a financier which has since distinguished all his brothers.

Notwithstanding he began business when still in his teens, he continued to read and study until he attained to no mean scholarship by dint of systematic and persistent self-culture. His native gentleness of spirit, refined by taste for music and love of flowers, combined with his consistent walk and his noble charities, developed a type of excellence as rare as it is comely.

On the 14th of February, 1843, he was married to Miss Lucinda Brown of his native place, the union being the outgrowth of a mutual affection fostered by their almost daily association at home



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and school and church from their childhood to their nuptial day. Only about seven months of wedded life had been vouchsafed them, when, after a few days of severe illness, he died. The shock occasioned by the suddenness of his demise did not so disturb the community as the pathetic circumstances of his end. The smitten widow and the posthumous son, strongly resembling his father and bearing his name, were for many years objects of special interest to all their neighbors. And after the lapse of nearly fifty years, the older people of the town will tell you that with the ebbing of that life there departed one whose promise of usefulness was scarcely equalled by that of any other man ever born in their midst.

His last will and testament, made during the night before his death, excited much interest among his friends and neighbors and throughout the whole town, when it was first published just after his decease.

His bequests to the church were more numerous and much larger than any that had been previously made in that whole region of country, and evinced a discrimination that put to silence any thought that he was not fully aware of what he was doing.

He commenced by giving five hundred dollars towards buying or building a parsonage for the pastor of his church; then he gave another five hundred for Indian Missions and another for the Bible

Society; then two hundred towards finishing the incomplete church edifice in which he had worshipped; and, lastly, five hundred to the American Baptist Publication Society, thus showing a wise discernment of the local and general interests of the church and a clear appreciation of both the present and future needs of the cause of Christ.

To a widowed aunt, battling with adversity and yet struggling to educate her five sons and two daughters, he gave five hundred dollars to aid her in this work, and to each of his father's family servants fifteen dollars, a token of good will which they must have enjoyed, as well as they did the little comforts which it provided.

Then to wife and son he gave one-half of the remainder, and to his parents and brothers and sisters the other half, directing that each sister's share should be five hundred dollars more than that of the brothers.

These latter bequests were an important contribution to the capital with which the fortunes afterwards made by the other brothers, especially the younger, were earned, and this fact was recognized in a substantial way by more than one of them in after-years.

The closing scene was transcendently beautiful, and has not to this day lost its inspiration upon those who were present or have heard it described by eye-witnesses. It was a fitting finale to such a

life. When only about sixteen years old he had embraced religion and joined the Baptist Church, living for the remainder of his days an humble, active Christian, beloved by the church and respected by the world. He was a fine singer, and usually led that part of the exercises in the congregation with which he worshipped. My father was with him in his last hours, and I well remember, though I was less than ten years old at the time, the account given by him to my mother of what occurred. Friends were surrounding his bed, and he, fully aware of his condition, expressed himself as ready to go. After speaking in rapturous terms of the blessed future awaiting him, he addressed most tenderly all about him, especially his young wife, and then asked my father to join him in singing the hymn in which occurs the couplet,—

“ And when I close mine eyes in death,  
O Lord, remember me !”

My father began, and the dying man, in a clear, sweet voice, joined and sang till the hymn was ended, and in a few moments breathed his last. The sun was just coming up over the eastern hills as his spirit took its flight to the regions of eternal day, and he doubtless realized with the Psalmist,—

“ I shall be satisfied when I awake with Thy likeness.”

## HE LOVED HIS MOTHER.

PRESLEY EVERMONT was the third son. Like his older brothers, he was a merchant, employed first as a store-boy and afterwards taken in as a partner, and later succeeding to the business at Russellville, which he conducted on his own account and in his own name for some years, making money slowly but surely, and investing his surplus in cash securities chiefly. His subsequent connection with the successful firm of Norton, Slaughter & Co., of New York, brought him large gains, and these with other accumulations made his fortune ample.

He was small of stature, fond of dress, a person of lively temperament and mischievous disposition, and was warmly attached to a small circle of friends with whom he generally companied, and who were much devoted to him. He was an extensive reader of histories, biographies, and books of travel, and kept well up in the current periodical literature. Twice or oftener he went abroad, and by extensive travel in the Old World greatly enlarged his store of information and added much to his personal enjoyment. On these trips he did not forget his special friends, but usually brought home with him some little article which he thought they might need or prize. In the selection of these

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souvenirs he always evinced exquisite taste and genuine good will.

He was his mother's pet, not only when a child but for fifty years, and when she left the old family home and daily association with her was no longer possible, he turned his attention to marriage, and found in Mrs. Lilly Greenfield—*née* Hope—a congenial spirit, to whom he was united in the holy bonds in June, 1872. From this date the years went swiftly and sweetly by till his death, which occurred in 1878, near the time of his mother's, and in the sixty-first year of his age. The mother and son sleep side by side in the village cemetery of his native town. Late in life he joined the Broadway Baptist Church of Louisville, and remained a member of the same till he died. His widow and their only child, Evermont Hope, survive and live in Gloucester County, Virginia.

## METHOD AND RARE DISCERNMENT.

I DID not know the fourth son, William Frederick, till he was about twenty-seven years old, and then only slightly till he was near sixty. For the last seven years of his life I was somewhat intimate with him. My acquaintance and association led me to conclude that in this case, as in many others, the boy was the father of the man, for my father used to say that he was the steadiest, most industrious, and conscientious boy he ever saw. He began business on his own account when only seventeen years old, conducting a store at a well-known country tavern and old-time stage-stand in Logan County, Ky., called Yost's. He continued at this place about two years, and when only nineteen years old, in 1839, went to Paducah, Ky., to engage in business with James Larmon, a few years his senior, who was born and brought up within three miles of his native town, Russellville, and whom he had known all his life. They had a general store, conducted on a strictly cash basis, and in a few years added the purchase and sale of real estate in both town and country, and constantly expanded their business till the dissolution of their partnership in 1845. Mr. Norton then

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formed a copartnership with a former clerk, Mr. Thomas W. Brandon, and continued in business with him for about four years. He sold his interest in that firm to his brother-in-law, Mr. Edward L. Anderson. In 1851 he formed a copartnership with his brother, Mr. Eckstein Norton, and they continued in business for several years. In 1855 he commenced business as a private banker, and about three years after, his younger brother, Eckstein, became his associate in the business, and the firm was known as "Norton Brothers" until 1867, when Mr. Eckstein Norton ceased to be a member of it. Mr. W. F. Norton, in 1868, sold his interest in this business to Mr. B. H. Wisdom and removed to Louisville, where he formed a partnership with his oldest brother, and they, under the style of "G. W. Norton & Co.," conducted the business of private bankers till January 1, 1885, when they permanently retired in order to find time to look after their large personal estates.

As a banker he evinced the same sagacity and skill which had characterized him in other lines of business, and he reaped a rich harvest by methods that were strictly legitimate. In his dealings he was courteous to all, obliging to his patrons, and mindful of the rights of the necessitous.

Only a few weeks ago, a gentleman, now a successful and prosperous financier, told me that he

once, when in a great strait for money, went to Mr. Norton for a loan, but was promptly denied, as the request, if granted upon the terms named, would involve a departure from the established usage of well-managed banks. But so anxious was Mr. Norton to see him relieved, that he managed to secure for him, through an outside party, the needed help, and thus he was tided over shoals on which he was nearly stranded.

Of his regular customers he was always considerate, and they, in turn, were warmly devoted to his interests. On one occasion, during a run on a neighboring bank, the lady manager of a large benevolent institution, who had been often obliged by him and was his strong friend, became apprehensive that the alarm might prove contagious, and similar pressure be brought to bear on his bank, and so for weeks she gave to the long list of her employés, whom she had been accustomed to pay every Saturday with checks on this bank, instructions to come direct to her for the money and not to congregate about the doors of the bank, lest their presence might be suggestive of a panic. Then hunting up all the funds she had outside the bank, including certain hidden treasure, she not only managed to keep well up with her pay-roll, but had a surplus, which was at once deposited in order to aid the bank in preparing for any emergency which might arise. This action, coming



from a church institution belonging to a denomination not on the best terms with his own, was a high tribute to his integrity and a most felicitous expression of the gratitude which is always born of generous dealings with others in the time of their need.

Successful as he was as both merchant and banker, he was more so in his real estate transactions, for which he seems to have had all through his business life a strong penchant and decided genius. He commenced buying and selling ground at Paducah in connection with his first partner, Mr. Larmon, and, later, was associated with other gentlemen in the purchase and sale of many lots in that city and of large bodies of land in the adjacent country. About 1846 his brother George and himself began an extensive system of investments in real estate, which was continued for about forty years, and resulted in the acquisition and disposal of many hundreds of thousands of acres of land in Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Texas. These transfers were effected generally by William, who, in doing so, made long and perilous journeys on ponies and in birch-bark canoes with Indian guides through all the country bordering on Lake Superior and the upper Mississippi River, and equally laborious and hazardous trips in other

sections of the country. The profits on these sales and the lands still retained by them at the time of their death constituted a large part of the wealth of the brothers.

In his purchases he always made three inquiries,—"Is the property desirable? the price fair? the title sound?" When these were answered satisfactorily, he bought, and, as soon as opportunity offered, sold enough to reimburse him for his investment and held the remainder, which, being all profit, could be safely retained till a remunerative price was offered. This enabled him, too, to sell on long credits, and to indulge, when the necessity arose, dilatory or unfortunate buyers, with whom he soon became popular, as he was never known to oppress a debtor who was making an honest effort to pay, nor even to dun one who was suffering from misfortune. For these reasons he could always sell more readily and for a better price than any one in the same market.

This brief outline of his methods of business as merchant, banker, and real estate operator suggests the processes by which success was achieved; but the secret of his triumph lay in the fact that he was possessed of a vigorous and well-trained mind in a robust and energetic body. His brain was a ceaseless workshop, in which he discussed and matured all his contemplated transactions, as to their inherent qualities and as they stood re-

lated to other men. This habit of fixed attention and thorough investigation made him a discriminating and sagacious judge of men and business. He did not hastily discard first impressions, and yet he carried them to the bar of deliberate judgment before deciding, and when once a conclusion was reached, he let no obstacle prevent its prompt execution. The result was that he seldom committed blunders or suffered the evil consequences of inactivity or delay.

Mr. Norton had profound respect for the law, to whose requirements he yielded implicit obedience himself and advised others to do the same, believing, as he did, that in this way, better than in any other, individual rights and the public weal would be conserved. He demonstrated his devotion to these views, and furnished a fine illustration of his courage on one occasion, by facing a furious mob which was on the eve of lynching a wretched Indian guilty of a nameless crime that had thrown the whole community into a fever of excitement. Mounting a horse, he rode into the midst of the infuriated people, whose hands were already on their victim, and succeeded in persuading them to let the law take its course.

One who knew him intimately for many years writes, "His moral example was all that could be desired. His language and deportment were always circumspect. His words were ever void of

offence to even the most exacting. His face was firmly set against all dissipation."

He was often called on to act as arbitrator in the settlement of business matters about which there was disagreement, as well as to adjust domestic disputes, and he seems to have possessed the rare faculty of being able to heal such breaches without involving himself. He usually reduced to writing these agreements, and when the compact had been signed, filed it among his papers. These constitute a curious and interesting record, showing the frequency with which he was called on in such cases and his adroitness in their manipulation. Doubtless he is now, by Divine award, receiving his share in the beatitude, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

He was married December 15, 1846, in Simpson County, Ky., to Miss Ann Eliza Morton, daughter of Gabriel J. and Winnifred B. Morton. They lived together until his death, October 20, 1886, about forty years, in conjugal felicity as nearly perfect as usually falls to human lot. The widow survives, and with their only child, William F. Norton, Jr., lives at the family home, 817 Fourth Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

A noteworthy feature of his domestic life was his devotion to his wife's kindred. Her father was dead before his marriage. For her mother he entertained the profoundest veneration. Her brothers were his confidential friends and business associ-

ates. Her sisters he treated as his own. Of the wives and children of her dead brothers, and of her widowed sister and children, he was tenderly considerate,—a beautiful example of the incorporation of families well-nigh as complete as that of the husband and wife, when they twain were made one flesh.

He was the soul of hospitality. Nothing afforded him more pleasure than to have his friends under his roof and around his family board. Not unduly ceremonious, he was observant of the proprieties on such occasions, and spared no effort to contribute to the comfort and entertainment of his guests, and did so in such a way as to make them feel that they were doing him a favor by accepting his courtesies.

When quite a young man, Mr. Norton united with the Baptist Church, and ever after advocated ardently its doctrines and supported freely its institutions.

During his residence at Paducah he contributed largely to the building of the handsome edifice known as the First Baptist Church of Paducah, and he and his brother, Eckstein, donated the valuable lot and parsonage belonging to that church. He was also at this time a zealous worker in the Sabbath-school, and made a standing offer to donate a library to any church or neighborhood in the bounds of the Association that would organize a Sunday-school. Memoranda found among his

papers show that in meeting this obligation, as well as in helping in other ways needy schools, he paid out large sums of money. He also paid liberally to the maintenance of the pastors of the church of which he was a member, and with both land and money aided in the erection of many church edifices belonging to the Baptist and other denominations.

Mr. Norton's largest benefactions, however, were made later in his life.

To Bethel College, in his native town, he gave at one time five thousand dollars, and on other occasions enough to make the total about ten thousand dollars.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., received from him before his death about thirty thousand dollars, and to it he bequeathed in his will ten thousand more. Besides, his wife, since his death, acting as it is supposed in accord with his wishes, has made arrangements to pay an additional sum of about thirty thousand dollars, making a total to the Seminary of about seventy thousand dollars.

To the Louisville Baptist Orphans' Home he gave in his will ten thousand dollars, after having paid before his death a large sum towards the erection of the building. He was also a regular annual contributor to the current expenses, his gifts for this purpose amounting to thousands of dollars.

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Of the latter, he was for a number of years a manager and Vice-President of its Board of Control, and to it he gave not only the large sums named above, but much of his valuable time. He took great interest in the judicious management of its invested funds, and was especially concerned in the proper disposition of the children when they left the Home. His theory was that the Orphanage ought to be only a temporary stopping-place for them, where they could be kindly cared for until permanent homes in private families could be provided. Children, when thus put out, in some instances were adopted as wards and in others as heirs-at-law of the families to whom they were committed. The charter of the Orphanage conferred upon it the right of legal supervision over the children even after they were incorporated into these families. It was understood that Mr. Norton inspired, if he did not draft, most of these regulations, and he was scrupulously exact in requiring conformity to them, never losing sight of the comfort or interests of the children from the time they came under his notice till they were grown and able to care for themselves. The amount of good done by him through these channels would be difficult to compute.

For two years or more before his decease it was apparent that the seeds of death were already sown in his system. He realized it himself, and spoke

oftener than once to me on the subject. No fear was expressed by him nor any special regret. He had been successful and useful, was beloved by his family and esteemed by his acquaintances; in fact, was in good repute with all who knew him, and had reason to thank God for the life he had been allowed to lead. I did not see him in the earlier stages of his last sickness, but nearer the end I was with him, and found him calm and trustful, ready to commit his all for time and eternity to the God whom he began to serve when only a youth, and relying implicitly upon His Son Jesus Christ for present and eternal salvation. The last time I was in his sick-chamber he suggested devotional exercises, and when I kneeled at his bedside to pray, he took my hand in his, and to the petitions of the prayer responded by a gentle pressure, oft repeated, which gave assurance that he was fully conscious and entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion.

Death did its work a few hours later, and his remains, after a simple service in his own house, were carried to Russellville, and by the loving hands of old friends and neighbors were laid to rest in the family lot of the cemetery. Thus was gratified his long-cherished and oft-expressed wish to be buried beside his father and mother and in the soil of his native town.



## THE ERMINE'S SPOTLESS WHITE.

ELIJAH HISE, the fifth son, was born in 1821 on the farm, during the only year the family ever resided there. He received a classical education, and afterwards, in 1843, graduated from the Law Department of the Transylvania University at Lexington, Ky., obtaining at the same time a license which admitted him to the bar as a practitioner of his chosen profession.

After a brief stop in his native town, he went west in quest of a location, and in January, 1845, settled at Platte City, Missouri, where he has ever since resided.

Although there were at the time of his location thirty-five lawyers in Platte County, he soon commanded a lucrative practice, and in 1852 was elected, without opposition, Judge of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, regarded at the time as the most important circuit in the State except that embracing the city of St. Louis. Some of the ablest and most noted lawyers in Missouri resided there, and yet the race for re-election was in 1857 conceded to him, and he was again made judge for a term of six years.

During his second term he was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Congress in a district

composed of thirteen counties, and was elected in August, 1860, over his Whig competitor by a majority of seven thousand, the largest ever given any candidate.

In February, 1861, a convention was called by the Legislature of Missouri to consider the relations of the State to the Federal government, the object being to take the State out of the Union. As a member of this convention, Judge Norton opposed and voted against the ordinance of secession.

He also took his seat as a member of the called session of the Thirty-seventh Congress, convened by President Lincoln on the 4th of July, 1861, and served in both the regular sessions of the same Congress till the end of his term, 4th of March, 1863.

I heard him make a speech in the summer of 1861, while on his way home from the extra session, and from what I recall of that speech and reliable data gathered elsewhere, I think I represent him correctly in saying that, while he opposed the secession of Missouri, he was also opposed to making war upon the States that had already seceded. In contemplating war, he saw nothing but death, destruction, and demoralization, from which the country might never recover. He really believed that it would be better for all concerned to let the seceding States depart in peace, assured, as he was, that a few years' trial would

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prove the folly of attempting to maintain two governments separated only by imaginary lines, and would result in the formation of another union, from which the disturbing issue of slavery would be eliminated by providing for its gradual extinction. This, he thought, would be followed by colonization of the freedmen in some suitable locality under a government of their own, thus solving the race problem which is still a threatening factor in our national politics.

Judge Norton was also a leading member of the convention which in 1875 framed a new constitution for the State of Missouri, and wielded such a controlling influence in the formation of that instrument that it is not infrequently called "Norton's Constitution."

In 1876 he was appointed by the governor to fill a vacancy on the supreme bench of the State, and, after serving in this capacity for over two years, was in 1878 nominated by acclamation as the Democratic candidate for supreme judge, and elected for a term of ten years, over two opposing candidates, by a plurality of more than ninety thousand votes. Declining in 1889 a re-election as judge, he was urged to make the race for governor, when only his consent was necessary to his election as chief magistrate of his State, but he felt constrained to decline this also, and has since resided quietly on his farm near Platte City.

As a speaker, when engaged in the regular practice of law or in political discussion, he was practical, lucid, and cogent. The strong points of a case in court or of the issues which divided parties were readily seen and promptly seized by him, and stated with such clearness and force as to carry conviction to his hearers and win them to his side. Hence his success at the bar and upon the hustings. His speeches in legislative bodies and his opinions from the bench evinced a wide range of information, careful study, superior powers of analysis, and transparent honesty; so that even those who were compelled to differ in opinion from him did not hesitate to accord to him both ability and probity. No man perhaps ever enjoyed more fully the confidence of those who knew him best.

By judicious investments of his professional earnings and official income, he has always been in easy financial condition, and enjoys in his retirement with his family and friends a fortune every way adequate to his demands.

For many years he has been an exemplary member of the Baptist Church.

Judge Norton has been twice married,—first, in May, 1850, to Miss Melinda Wilson, who became the mother of his five sons, Presley, John, William, Charles, and Ernest, all of whom are promising business men now living in Missouri. Their two

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daughters—Margaret, wife of Hon. B. J. Woodson, a leading lawyer of St. Joseph, Missouri, and Annie, wife of Mr. H. W. Huiskamp, a prominent business man of Keokuk, Iowa—are also still living. His second marriage, in October, 1878, was to Mrs. Missouri Marshall, who is still living.

## FITTED FOR GREAT ENTERPRISES.

ECKSTEIN, the youngest son, and myself were school-fellows during our teens and intimate associates before we were grown.

We worked together in the Temperance Reform, when about fifteen, as members of the Juvenile Branch of the Sons of Temperance, and organized, in connection with Philander W. Barclay, the first temperance society among the colored people of which I ever heard.

When I was yet in school and he had gone to work in his brother's store, we formed a partnership for the sale of religious books, our capital being four dollars, one-half of which was contributed by each partner. The books were bought of the American Tract Society and were kept at his brother's store, where he sold what he could, while I, after school-hours and on Saturdays, peddled them around the town, going to every house where I thought a book could be sold.

He says I drew up a contract, to be signed by each of the partners, long enough and strong enough to have been used in the creation and conduct of a business requiring hundreds of men and thousands of capital. The existence and

details of this document have both escaped my memory, but I shall not challenge his statement.

Before the end of thirty days our books were all sold, proceeds were collected, and we found ourselves the happy possessors of twelve dollars, just three times as much as we began business with. This to my boyish mind was a remarkable achievement, and it seemed to me that we had discovered a veritable gold mine. Judge of my surprise, then, when my partner, after we had counted up our money, said he wished to quit the business, and took out his six dollars. I thought him crazy, and perhaps told him so, and averred my purpose to put my money, all of it, into books again, twitting him for his want of judgment, and told him that in another month I would have as much as we both then had and he would have only the same he then had, or less. But he knew better than this. By a sort of intuition he even then understood the law of supply and demand. The market was glutted, and he had sense enough to know it, but I did not. He kept his money and I put mine in books, but could never sell one of them. If I ever made a sale after our dissolution, I do not now remember it. The outcome was that I had some good books and he had all the money, and in about this relation we have stood ever since.

He commenced business in Russellville early in 1850 with Joshua Knowles, the firm name being "Norton & Knowles," and continued with him till September, 1851, when he removed to Paducah and formed a copartnership in general merchandising with his brother, William F. Norton, whose interest in the business he bought in 1853. In 1854, Mr. Richard Fowler and himself formed a copartnership, and entered into a contract with the Illinois Central Railroad Company to receive and forward all its freight at Cairo, Ill., the southern terminus of their road. They leased a small wharf-boat, and Mr. Fowler opened the business the same year. Mr. Norton remained at Paducah that year, closing up his business there and superintending the construction of a large floating dock to be used at Cairo, and joined his partner at the latter place early in 1855. They bought a lot fronting the levee, near the place where their dock was anchored, and built a house which was used as a boat-store and wholesale grocery. Early in 1857, Mr. Norton sold out his Cairo business and returned to Paducah, where he joined his brother William in the banking business, under the style of "Norton Brothers," of which firm he remained a member till 1867, though he had in 1864 removed to New York, and in connection with his brother, Presley E. Norton, of Russellville, Ky., Thomas J. Slaughter, of St.



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Louis, Mo., and B. H. Wisdom, of Clarksville, Tenn., organized the firm of "Norton, Slaughter & Co.," which engaged in the commission and banking business, and from the start enjoyed a large and profitable patronage.

Their consignments consisted entirely of cotton, tobacco, and provisions, and their sales of these articles the first year amounted to nearly ten millions of dollars.

This was the last year of the civil war, during which the fluctuations in gold were extreme, ranging all the way from 157 to 285. The prices of the commodities in which they dealt were governed by the price of gold. Cotton, for example, sold sometimes as high as one dollar and ninety cents and sometimes as low as thirty cents per pound; and though they handled a large amount of it, making advances on all, the firm did not have a single reclamation.

It is doubted whether there was another house in the United States or in Europe that dealt as largely in cotton on commission as they did which did not sustain heavy losses. Their immunity from these Mr. Norton always attributed to two causes: first, the wise counsel of his older brothers, George and William, with whom they freely consulted; second, to their close adherence to the two rules adopted by them on the day the firm was organized, to wit, not to speculate, nor to take a risk

in order to make a commission. Just when Mr. Norton's connection with this prosperous firm ceased I do not know.

In 1870, with two or three friends, he bought the New Orleans and Ohio Railroad, whose northern terminus was Paducah, and which extended about sixty miles south. This road was reorganized and called the Paducah and Gulf Railroad, and Mr. Norton was elected president of the company. In 1871 the Paducah and Gulf Railroad was consolidated with the Mississippi River Railroad, and the name changed to the Paducah and Memphis, and of this new company he was elected president. In 1872 and 1873 the road was extended about forty miles. His connection with this road continued till 1881, when it and the Paducah and Elizabethtown Railroad were sold and afterwards consolidated, and now form the Chesapeake, Ohio, and Southwestern, running from Louisville to Memphis.

In July, 1884, Mr. Norton was elected a director of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, and in October of the same year its vice-president. In October, 1887, he was elected president, and by three subsequent annual re-elections was continued in the latter office.

This great corporation, with its original termini only 185 miles apart, has been extended till the grand total of roads owned, leased, and controlled

by ownership of stock on June 30, 1890, was 4107 miles. The comparatively small amount of stock and bonds necessary to build and equip the original road has been increased, till a single issue of \$13,000,000 of stock was made in 1889-90, and the "Unified" mortgage of the company for \$75,000,000 was authorized in 1890, about \$42,000,000 of the latter being reserved to retire all prior liens, and the balance set apart for improvement, extensions, etc. These securities, vast as is their sum, are being used to advantage by the company in the great work it is doing and proposes to do.

At the time Mr. Norton became connected with the management of this property, the credit of the company had been seriously impaired, the stock had declined to a very low figure, and many thought that the road would go into the hands of a receiver. To-day it is classed among the dividend-paying roads of the country, and its credit and standing are the very best. This is demonstrated by the readiness with which the \$13,000,000 increase of stock was all taken by the old stockholders at eighty-five cents on the dollar, and by the manner in which all the other recent issues of securities of the road and its branches have from time to time been received in the market. This result has in a great measure been brought about by the business capacity, intelligence, and integrity of Mr. Norton in conducting its affairs, in which

he has always had the hearty co-operation of the directors and officers of the company.

On the 12th February, 1891, Mr. Norton tendered his resignation as president of the company, urging that it be accepted. This step was a surprise to many, especially to the directors, who insisted that he withdraw his resignation; but he declined to do this, stating that he desired to devote more time to his family and private business. The duties of the office had required great mental labor and close confinement, sometimes much to the sacrifice of his personal interests, which are large, and upon their solicitation he had promised his friends to relieve himself of the cares of the office so soon as the credit of the company was fully restored and the property raised to a dividend-paying basis. This was accomplished, and his friends experience great satisfaction in regarding what he has done. His work, so far as human foresight allows us to judge, bids fair to exert a far-reaching and permanent influence in the development of the material resources of all the region reached by the widely-extended lines of this road, as well as to contribute much towards shaping the policy and increasing the usefulness of the great railroad systems of the country which have become so important a factor in our civilization. The directors of the road, in accepting his resignation as president, adopted a series of resolu-

tions according to him great credit for his work, while the newspapers along the entire length of the various lines spoke in the highest terms of his management. Seldom has a resignation elicited such expressions of universal regret.

In social life Mr. Norton is genial and popular, has many friends, enjoys their company, and loves to entertain them at his home and elsewhere. He has always felt a lively interest in his native town and boyhood friends, and in return is much beloved by them. He was the first of his family, I believe, who, after leaving Russellville, made large donations to the colleges which were the outgrowth of the town schools at which himself and his sisters were educated. The gifts subsequently made by his brothers were most probably suggested by what he had already done.

Until after his removal to New York, Mr. Norton had been from early manhood a member of the Baptist Church. He then became and is still a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. His contributions to church and charitable objects have always been large and freely given. He is the priest of his own household, and in the services of the sanctuary takes an active part when occasion requires.

He was happily married in August, 1864, to Miss Lucy Peyton Moore, of Christian County, Ky., who has borne him six children,—Elizabeth

Peyton, wife of Mr. A. G. Outerbridge, of Staten Island, N. Y.; William Presley, Lucy Moore, Eckstein, Jr., Mary Hise, and George Frederick. With his wife and unmarried children, he resides in a commodious and elegant home at 811 Fifth Avenue, New York.

## THEY HAD INHERITANCE AMONG THEIR BRETHREN.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM NORTON had the same number of daughters as Job, and, like the patriarch, these parents "gave them inheritance among their brethren." They were justly proud of their boys and yet tenderly considerate of the girls. The father made careful mention of them in his family record, and the mother, in all their sickness, spared not herself if their comfort could be promoted by the sacrifice of her own. This kindly regard was not only manifested by them in the ordinary amenities of life, but expressed itself in the provision made for their maintenance while they were children and when they were grown and married.

A like chivalric sentiment seems to have actuated the brothers in their association with their sisters and in the gifts and bequests which they made to them and their children.

I recall but little of the eldest, Mrs. Mary Anderson, wife of Mr. Edward L. Anderson, as her marriage and removal from Russellville occurred when I was only a child. I remember that her figure was slight, her features delicate, and her general appearance that of a person in

feeble health. She married young and died early, leaving six children, Norton B., John L., William S., Irene, Mary, and Edward L. Her husband survived her several years and was again married. He was an amiable and intelligent gentleman and a successful merchant, an efficient and liberal member of the Methodist Church, greatly beloved by friends and neighbors. He lived for a time at Russellville and also at Allensville, and died at Paducah, which had been his home for several years before his death.

Mrs. Susan Morton, wife of Thomas W. Morton, was more robust than her elder sister, and when first grown was of a lively, cheerful disposition. She also married young and died early. Two children, Mollie and Gabriel, survived her, and one was buried in the coffin with her.

Long-continued ill health brought on total blindness several years before her death, and the resignation to her fate and patience in her affliction, which distinguished her during the years of this eclipse, were so noteworthy as to be observed by all who knew her. She would sometimes sit for a great while and pass her hands gently over the smooth tresses of her little girl, or run her fingers through the curly locks of her little boy, while they gazed with a strange wonder into her sightless eyes that rained showers of tears into their faces which she was no more to behold. I



have thought it a special kindness shown by her Heavenly Father that the babe born to her in her blindness was allowed to go with her to the spirit world, where she could with undimmed vision behold its angel beauty forever.

Her husband's tender, careful attention to her in her affliction was a beautiful exhibition of conjugal affection. He had a sunny spirit that would not be darkened by the shadows of even this great sorrow, but served to allay the grief of the sufferer as well as to mitigate his own distress. A charming companion, an urbane gentleman, a happy Christian, he brightened every circle in which he moved, and the world is better that he lived.

Sarah, the youngest daughter, was a bright girl, always among the foremost in her classes at the village school, and lively and entertaining at the juvenile social gatherings of the town.

As she grew up, she was debonair in manner, well informed on general topics, and a brilliant conversationalist.

Her extensive reading, coupled with discriminating taste and sound judgment, made it necessary for the young man who sought her company to be ready for something else than chit-chat if he expected to receive or impart edification by his visit.

If it should be thought that I have spoken somewhat freely of a living person, this freedom,

I trust, will be condoned by the assurance that the recollection of the school exhibition, the candy-pulling, and the picnic of the Auld Lang Syne has revived so many pleasant memories that I have regarded a little unconstrained utterance not inadmissible.

She was married early to Mr. James W. Ryan, a merchant of Russellville, and afterwards of Paducah. He was the friend of my boyhood, a rollicking, jolly fellow, never addicted to any vice, but fond of fun. He was the leader of every group intent on harmless mischief, and possessed a genius for planning and executing schemes of merriment that was the marvel of all his acquaintances. But, despite his good habits and gayety, the germs of disease were early sown in his body, and he was cut down before he had reached manhood's middle day.

Mrs. Ryan and her interesting daughters, Mary and Maud, are living in New York City. Her promising son, James W., is living in Texas.

## APPENDIX.

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### ADDRESS AT THE FUNERAL OF G. W. NORTON.

BY JOHN A. BROADUS, D.D.

JOB xiv. 14: "All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come."

The image is that of warfare. The soldier will wait until his term of service expires, faithfully performing his duties, till the time comes when he shall be transferred to another service. Very dim ideas the patient patriarch had concerning that other and higher existence. But for us, Jesus Christ has brought life and immortality to light in the Gospel. And so the Christian soldier may faithfully toil and wait until his change comes. He who has just passed away from among us took this view of life and death. He was fond of repeating the old saying, "A man will not die till his time comes." This is a very different thing from fatalism. The Christian's trust in Providence does not make him negligent as to the conditions of preserving his earthly existence; and he knows that his time has come to die, only by finding that he cannot longer keep alive. Thus viewed, it is a great and sustaining truth that a man will not die till his time comes.

We often remind ourselves, at the death of many a foremost and honored citizen, that this was "a self-made man." But, in truth, every man is self-made who is ever really made at all. There is a difference in early advantages, but a far greater difference in the power of using one's advan-

tages to the best purpose. When a man has performed great things in the world, you may be sure that it is no accident,—that the causes of his success may be found in his character and early surroundings, if these be sufficiently well known.

Our lamented friend was born and reared in Logan County, on the southern border of Kentucky. It was the year 1814. His father's family had come from Pennsylvania, and bore one of the fine old English names, which have numerous honored representatives. His mother's brother was an eminent Congressman, probably the most distinguished statesman of that region. I have often gazed long at the faces of the father and mother, which hang in another room of this abode, both of them strong, clear faces, indicating marked character and intelligence. The father is said to have been remarkable for calm self-control, the mother for untiring energy. One of the most interesting things we observe in biography and in life is the not infrequent case in which a person inherits from both father and mother, and the diverse traits are combined in nature's own harmony. In the same room may be seen a picture of that quiet home in the country, from which went forth a circle of brothers that have filled important positions and achieved great things in the world, all showing high intelligence, thorough integrity, remarkable force of will, and all those elevated qualities which alike in every human calling and pursuit bring success and honor. This, the oldest son, was sent to the best schools the neighborhood afforded, and of late years his grandchildren have sometimes been told how anxious he was to learn, and how hard he worked at his lessons. But at the age of fourteen it seemed right that he should seek employment, which he found at a store in what must have been the small village of Russellville. Character soon began to show itself. The boy's salary for the first year was twenty-five dollars, and

he saved it all, being doubtless clothed by his mother. The second year it was fifty dollars, and again he saved it all. So, with the gradual increase of salary and careful economy and investment, by the age of eighteen he had nearly a thousand dollars, and determined to establish a small store of his own, the money then having a much greater purchasing power than at present. He went to Philadelphia by stage and steamer, but the stock of goods purchased was lost in returning by the explosion of a steamboat on the Ohio River. He had not failed to insure, and was prompt to purchase again. Very often in the history of those who have effected great things in business, we find such incidents of early disaster, which failed to hinder the successes of a bright and resolute spirit. He associated with him in business the next brother, John, to whom he was tenderly attached, and the day of whose death, some years later, has often been commemorated by him down to recent times in the family correspondence. The two slender and pleasing lads of eighteen and sixteen years attracted custom by their very youthfulness, and held it by thorough acquaintance with their business and engaging personal qualities.

Some time later Mr. Norton became connected in business with Nimrod Long, who remained in Russellville, a highly-prosperous and honored citizen, until his death a few years ago. In this connection and otherwise Mr. Norton gradually combined with merchandise a general trade in the staple products of that region, the establishment of a bank, and, at a later period, important operations in railroading. The Southern Bank of Kentucky, of which he was president, though located at a village on the border, was at the outbreak of the war the strongest bank in the State, having connections in New Orleans and New York. The directors trusted everything to him, without even knowledge on their own part, and he preserved all

the funds of the bank uninjured in a region overswept by armies, and notwithstanding attempted exactions from military authorities on both sides.

Soon after the war Mr. Norton removed to Louisville, and with a brother, who had been doing business in Paducah, he formed the well-known banking house of G. W. Norton & Co. It was observed that he would never engage in speculation; but while taking interest in various kinds of property, he was wise in foreseeing, and very skilful in promoting, an increase of value.

Our honored friend was very remarkable for penetrating insight into personal character and into the intrinsic nature of business operations. He also exhibited extraordinary soundness of judgment. A gentleman of distinguished position here has more than once voluntarily said to me that he thought Mr. G. W. Norton the wisest business man in Louisville. There are many who could testify how often they have sought his judicious counsel, and how much they afterwards rejoiced in having followed it. Ah, me! only two weeks ago it was so easy any evening to pass just two or three doors, to meet a cordial welcome, and upon any practical question, great or small, to note the quickest comprehension, and obtain the wisest advice; and now, nevermore! Perhaps his most remarkable trait of character was quiet persistence. This was sustained by the courage of his convictions, the self-reliance which springs from combined intelligence and force of will. And his persistence was made available by a singular fertility of resource. If one means failed, he would quietly try another, and yet others, always thoughtfully, judiciously, with calm patience. He had very great power of clear and convincing statement, based on complete sincerity, and a thorough acquaintance with the subject in hand, and supported by an unusual command of language, in the way of conversation and of careful writing. The

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many business documents he drew up, and his business correspondence, were models of clearness and cogency; and he took an obvious and unaffected pleasure in such forms of written composition. In conversation he was singularly attractive and engaging, his varied knowledge being enlivened by quaint humor and by sympathetic and cordial reciprocity. Without apparent effort he impressed his convictions upon others, and had singular power of extracting from others the information he might need. He travelled widely in his latter years, both at home and abroad, everywhere quietly observing and reflecting. He read not a little, especially in the way of information as to current events and business affairs.

A beautiful love of children was manifest to the end. How the faces of grandchildren would brighten whenever he came near! what a delight he took in many little devices to give them pleasure! Quite noticeable also was his love of flowers. Many of us must have observed, with tender respect, that the venerable gentleman, always so neatly arrayed, would seldom appear on the street in the morning without a button-hole bouquet, sometimes fastened there by loving fingers, but often gathered by himself from his favorite flowers. In wild flowers also he would often, when travelling, show special interest. Ah, friends, when a man of large business labors and great practical wisdom and force shows at the same time a love of flowers, and also a love of children, and a love of poetry, you have a character rarely tempered and worthy of high admiration. Mr. Norton's love of poetry was especially shown by his singular delight in hymns. He had many favorites among hymns of the sanctuary; and he collected many other hymns and religious poems, some of them carefully copied in his own delicate handwriting, like the one already read during this service by the assistant pastor of the church to which he belonged.

This may lead us to remark upon his religious history. When Mr. Nimrod Long died a few years since, a neighbor of Mr. Norton's, before leaving for Russellville to take part in the funeral service, came over to ask him questions about their early days together. He and Nimrod were already friends in Russellville at the time when he engaged in business on his own account, and were together interested in the preaching of a Presbyterian minister, Dr. Blackburn. Soon after, they attended a series of meetings at the Methodist Church of the village. It is fitting to remark upon the debt of gratitude which one Christian denomination owes in this matter to two others. Mr. Long was convicted first. The other thought it strange, and tried to put the matter away, but was soon deeply convicted himself. After some days of much inward conflict and distress about his sins, he was enabled to trust all to the Saviour, and rejoice in Him. Then hurrying to his friend, who was still without light and hope, he tried to tell how he felt, and broke out with the words, "Oh, Nimrod, can't you see it? can't you see it?" Such mental struggles in the process of conversion are not always necessary, as was once supposed, but with many persons they are very natural, and they often issue in a robust type of piety. It may be gravely questioned whether we do not err at present in going to the opposite extreme, and habitually regarding the process of conversion as quite easy. The two young friends, soon rejoicing together, presented themselves to the Baptist Church in Russellville, and were baptized together on December 25, 1832, which might well be called a notable day for the Baptists of Kentucky, when it is remembered how much they two accomplished in the way of personal usefulness, and what monuments of their benevolence will abide through the ages to come.

Mr. Norton was through life a man of decided religious convictions and earnest experiences. He was well ac-



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quainted with the Bible, and satisfied that it gave unmistakable support to his denominational opinions. He was a remarkably good listener to preaching, his face lighting up with animated interest at any earnest statement of essential Gospel truth. He took an active part in church work and church life. Until the infirmities of later years prevented, he was an unfailing attendant upon the prayer-meeting, which is a well-known token of religious earnestness. It is said that his prayers, both there and in the family worship he always maintained, were remarkable for devotional interest and heart-felt realness. As an officer of the church for many years, he was ready with his best judgment and his personal exertions, as also with liberal contributions. He likewise took a generous part in all the general mission work of his religious denomination. He gave large assistance in building several churches, and one of his latest acts was an increased contribution for erecting a new church upon this street. He is represented by extensive gifts to Bethel College, at Russellville, and recently made a donation to Georgetown College. To the Theological Seminary in this city he was one of the largest contributors, and in many ways manifested his profound interest in its prosperity and usefulness. His private benefactions were exceedingly varied, and numerous beyond the knowledge of any one among us, perhaps of all combined. These manifestations of benevolence were often spontaneous, and so delicately considerate as greatly to enhance their value. In many ways, in all ways, he showed the courtesy and thoughtful consideration of a true Christian gentleman.

Of late years, his life has not been without sorrowful experiences. From his marriage in 1847, and on through the years that were brightened by the coming of children, his home had every reason to be a happy one. But there are many of us, whom men call heads of families, who

content ourselves too easily with praise of a good wife and sweet children, and too readily leave to them all the matters which pertain to constituting a happy home, forgetting that the husband and father has in that respect very high responsibilities. We are sure it was quite otherwise with him; and that amid all business toils and anxieties he gave pleasure and received pleasure, day by day and year after year, within the walls of home. But what a loss it must have been when from such a fond father was taken away by death his eldest son, a man of rare qualities, widely loved and lamented, and whom the toiling father had doubtless often thought of with pride, as the probable successor to his business responsibilities and achievements! Some years later there entered his family circle another young man, quite remarkable for the combination of scientific attainments with practical talent, and who soon made for himself a position in which he seemed likely to accomplish great things; but presently he too was taken away. A few years ago died the brother with whom he had so long lived side by side, and walked side by side on the street towards and from their joint place of business. These were heavy losses for so loving a nature. But trials come to us all if life be prolonged; and he found great consolation in his personal resources of character and employment, in the remaining members of his family circle and those that joined it, and in Christian submission and hope. What a comfort it must have been also, that his youngest son, but a child at the time of the elder brother's death, grew up under his loving eye to walk several years of maturity by the aged father's side, sharing his counsels, acquainted with his affairs, catching his spirit, gaining his confidence!

With singular prudence and painstaking care he had for a dozen years maintained the conflict against the encroachments of what was known to be mortal disease. Delicate

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looking, apparently frail, but with a tenacity of life akin to his force of will, he bore up and calmly pressed onward, anxious to live, and enjoying life's employments, while ever it might be permitted, and yet quite ready, whenever his time should come, to pass away, sustained by "the everlasting consolation, and good hope through grace." He would sometimes speak of this to some near relative or intimate friend. One evening he said, "You see the clock marks ten minutes to ten; well, if my time should come at ten o'clock, all right; I shall not be distressed." Yet all the time he was enjoying life, and active in brightening it for others. Some things came to pass in the end quite as he wished. He once said ten years ago, "I should like to live, if it be God's will, to the age of seventy-five,—not any longer." He would have been seventy-five in two months more. Last winter, one of his brothers asked, in the course of a loving conversation, how he would prefer to die; he answered, "If I had my way, I should prefer to fall asleep, and not wake up." And so he did.

To us, friends, to all of us, this is a great, an unspeakable loss. But it is no loss to him. And we too must recognize, amid our grief, that here has been a life well rounded in its achievements, well completed in its development of character, and rich in the memories it leaves behind. All the days of his appointed time he has waited till his change came. We too must wait, and be ready when our time comes to follow.

THE END.

