

Men of Mark in South Carolina

Ideals of American Life

A Collection of Biographies of Leading Men,
of the State

J. C. HEMPHILL

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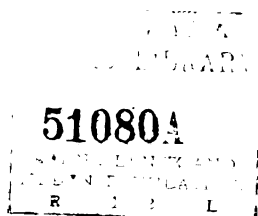
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RICHARD CLARK REED

REED, REV. RICHARD CLARK, D. D., was born in Harrison, Hamilton county, Tennessee, January 24, 1851. He is the son of Rev. James L. Reed, of the Presbyterian church, and his wife, née Elizabeth Jane McRae. The marked characteristics of the father were a strong will, persistent energy, with an uncompromising fidelity to his convictions of right and duty.

An early ancestor in America on the maternal side was the Rev. Thomas Craighead, who was born in Scotland and studied medicine there, but soon became a minister of the Gospel and was settled for ten or twelve years in Ireland. His name appears first in this country in 1715 among the ministers of New England. Mather, in instructing the people at Freetown, about forty miles south of Boston, to encourage Mr. Craighead in his work describes him as "a man of singular piety, meekness, humility and industry in the work of God." Removing to Pennsylvania in 1733, he became a member of Donegal Presbytery, which had a peculiar love and veneration for him and always spoke of him as "Father Craighead." He was very active in planting and building up churches in that region. On the 17th of November, 1737, he accepted a call from the people of Hopewell, whose place of meeting was at the "Big Spring" near Newville. His pastorate there was brief. He had become an aged man, though his earnestness and power remained unabated. Under his impassioned discourses his hearers were often melted to tears. Near the close of April, 1739, while pronouncing the benediction in the pulpit, he waved his hand, exclaimed "Farewell! Farewell!" sank down and expired. His remains are said to lie, without monument, under the cornerstone of the present house of worship at Newville, Pennsylvania.

Rev Alexander Craighead, the fourth son of Rev. Thomas Craighead, removed from the Presbytery of Donegal to Augusta county, Virginia, from whence he was sent by Hanover Presbytery to Rocky River, North Carolina, in 1757, to labor among the Cherokee Indians. A monument has recently been erected to his memory in Charlotte, North Carolina, on one face of which is

inscribed: "Inspirer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence." Others of the family in blessed labors in the Presbyterian ministry have been Rev. Thomas B. Craighead, son of Rev. Alexander Craighead; Rev. John Craighead, and Rev. James Geddes Craighead, D. D.

In childhood and youth the physical condition of the subject of this sketch was always good. His early life was passed in the country, on the farm of his grandfather, in Tennessee on the Tennessee river. He records that he "kept the lead in the field" when a boy, and that he spent all his leisure hours in the river. He formed habits of industry and correct ideas of manual labor; developed his physical constitution, and, he says, learned how to wait on himself. His mother dying when he was only two years old, he was reared in the family of his maternal grandfather.

The War between the States, coming when he was a lad, closed the country schools, and lack of means and poverty deprived him of a good preparation for college. He did not neglect books, however, and those which he found most helpful in fitting him for his work in life were the standard English poets, which exercised much influence on his early life in kindling the imagination and in stimulating worthy aspirations. Since then theology and history have been his principal studies.

He attended King college, Bristol, Tennessee, and was graduated therefrom, in 1873, with the degree of A. B. He subsequently took a course of professional study at Union Theological seminary in Hampden-Sidney, Virginia, and was graduated in 1876. He married, October 19, 1876, Miss Mary Cantey Venable, daughter of Thomas F. and Mary P. Venable, of Virginia, of the highly distinguished family of the name. To this union have been born seven children, of whom six are living.

He determined on the Gospel ministry as his life-work through personal preference. Innate ambition to excel made him the oratorical medalist and valedictorian in college. In the more serious contests of life a sense of duty has been the impelling motive to the success which he has attained, since directed always by the "sense of God in heart and conscience."

He commenced the active work of his life as a minister in the Presbyterian church in Somerville, Tennessee, in 1876. He then served successively as pastor in Smithville, Virginia, 1877-85; in Franklin, Tennessee, 1885-89; in Charlotte, North Caro-

lina, 1889-92; in Nashville, Tennessee, 1892-95, and in 1898 was elected professor of church history in the Presbyterian Theological seminary, of Columbia, South Carolina, which chair he continues to fill. For some years he was associate editor of the "Presbyterian Quarterly," the leading journal of the Presbyterian church in the United States. At present he is associate editor of the "Presbyterian Standard," published in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The honorary degree of D. D., in recognition of his attainments, was conferred on him by King college in 1891, and that of LL. D. in 1906. In 1907 he was elected to membership in the American Society of Church History. His written and published works are held in high esteem. They are: "The Gospel as Taught by Calvin," 1897; "History of the Presbyterian Churches of the World," 1904; "John Knox—An Address Before the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States," delivered at Fort Worth, Texas.

He would commend as most helpful to young Americans as the principles and habits most highly contributive to the strengthening of sound ideals of American life and which will most help young people to attain true success in life: "A definite aim, a worthy aim, and earnest consecration to that aim; temperate habits; methodical habits; industry; perseverance; pluck; putting supreme value on character; recognizing that true success is rather a condition of the inner than the outer life."

His address is Columbia, Richland county, South Carolina.