

HISTORY
OF THE
AMERICAN NEGRO

NORTH CAROLINA EDITION

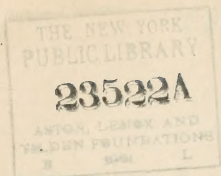
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fessors R. J. Crockett, R. J. Boulware and C. T. Hinton, to the Educational Convocation of the South Carolina A. M. E. Zion Conference and their work not only brought money to the denominational schools, but gave moral impetus to the educational work in the State.

In 1917 Prof. Hayes served on a committee of citizens which met a Senatorial Committee in Washington and appealed for a refund of the Freedmen's allowance to the older people of the race.

In addition to his term teaching, Professor Hayes has for the past several years been employed as an instructor in the summer school work in the State.

Robert P. Wyche

It's a fine thing to live so that one comes to be an integral part of the social, educational and religious life of the community in which he resides. It is one of the enduring satisfactions of such a life to watch the sown seed spring up and come to fruitage. Such has been the experience of Rev. Robert P. Wyche, A. B., A. M., D. D., the venerable pastor of the Seventh Street Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, where he has preached for nearly forty years. This is, in fact, his first and only pastorate. The good doctor has lived to see many of the boys and girls who early came into the church under his ministry grow up to manhood and womanhood, rear families who have in turn helped to strengthen the work. In some instances he has had the pleasure of baptizing the grandchildren.

Dr. Wyche was born near the old town of Oxford on July 13, 1854. So it will be seen that he was a boy nearly eleven years of age when freed by the close of the war.

His father, Norwich Wyche, Jr., was a carpenter, and was the son of Norwich Wyche, Sr. His mother, who before her marriage was Lucinda Bridges, was a daughter of Henry Bridges, a public spirited man whose counsel was sought by those who knew him.



ROBERT P. WYCHE

Dr. Wyche has been married twice. His first marriage was to Isabella Butler, of Salem. Mrs. Wyche was one of the most distinguished educators of the race and for nineteen years was principal of the Myers Street School, of Charlotte, one of the largest public schools in the State. She passed to her reward on August 13, 1906. On January 14, 1914, Dr. Wyche was united in matrimony to Sarah E. Long, a daughter of George and Susan Long. They have two children: Robert P., Jr., and Thomas Henry Wyche.

After the war young Wyche attended a private school at Henderson. He did his preparatory work at what was then Biddle Institute. For a time he worked in the day and attended school at night. When he completed the preparatory course, he secured a teacher's license and helped himself through College by teaching. He won his A. B. degree in 1877. He worked during the next year and then took up his Theological course, which he completed in 1881. Since that time both the A. M. and the D. D. degrees have conferred on him by Biddle University. He was converted and came into the work of the Presbyterian Church when about 15 years of age. He early decided to devote his life to the work of the ministry and for years been one of the prominent figures of his denomination. A book could and should be written about his work in Charlotte where he has labored so long. The Church of which he is pastor is the Mother of Biddle University. During his pastorate many notable things have been accomplished. The old church was several times repaired. Finally it was torn away and a modern brick house of worship erected at a cost of twenty thousand dollars, but now worth more. As an indication of the growth of the church it may be said that both the congregation and the Sunday School are more than five times as large as they were at the beginning of the pastorate. The church has sent two Missionaries to Africa and ministers and teachers to nearly every part of America. Many of the leading educators of the race are members of Dr. Wyche's church. He is a vigorous worker and devotes his whole time to the pastorate. Next after

the Bible his favorite reading consists of books of Travel and the standard works on Poetry.

Dr. Wyche has traveled extensively both in this country and abroad. In 1910, he toured Palestine and parts of Africa. Three years later he attended the Presbyterian Alliance of the World at Aberdeen and World's Sunday School Convention at Zurich. This gave him the opportunity of seeing much of Continental Europe as well as England and Scotland. He has been Stated Clerk of the Catawbe Presbytery for thirty-three years and has been Stated Clerk of the Synod of Catawbe for twelve years. For eighteen years he has been Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Biddle University. He is an ardent advocate of better educational facilities for the youth.

Such, in brief, is the story of a man who though beginning life as a slave, has found the largest freedom in a life of service for others.

John Sinclair Perry

Most men in both business and professional lines enter upon their work and then follow the routine of the beaten path. A few, however, dare blaze new trails and become pioneers. Among the young men of the latter class should be mentioned Dr. John Sinclair Perry, Supt. and Treasurer of the Mercy Hospital for colored people at Hamlet.

Dr. Perry has back of him some generations of successful ancestors and has himself won distinction in more lines than one, for in addition to his medical work, he is also an accomplished violinist who has been heard with pleasure in concert work in many parts of the country. He was born at Fayetteville, Sept. 9, 1885. His father, Dallas Perry, was a successful architect and contractor of Fayetteville. He (Dallas Perry) was a close student of the Bible and one of the most devout men of the age. On his mother's side Dr. Perry has much to be proud of, his mother before