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1916

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## VII MEMOIRS

### REV. GEORGE W. CALLAHAN

George W. Callahan was born in Sweetwater, Tennessee, in 1838, and was 77 years of age at the time of his death. He was educated in the schools of his day, and attended Hiwassee College, for a season. He was converted while still a youth, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, within whose communion he remained an ever true, loyal and faithful member until he went to his heavenly home on the 12th day of December, 1915.

He felt the call to preach as a young man, and was admitted to the Holston Conference at Marion, Va., in 1857. During the war he was appointed Chaplain in the Conference army, and served with his regiment in North Carolina and other parts of the field.

After the war he served as pastor in various charges in Holston including Rheatown, Sweetwater and Bristol, but in 1880 transferred to the North Carolina Conference, and served in various charges. When the Western North Carolina Conference was organized in 1890 he continued his membership in it, and served as an itinerant faithfully and well until his superannuation in 1907.

In his early ministry he married Miss Annie Summit of Newton, N. C., with whom he lived happily until her death in 1912.

It is not possible for the writer to give the exact roster of his appointments while with us but he was stationed during his ministry, at Greensboro, Morganton, Marion, Hickory, Randleman, Taylorsville, Burkhead-Winston, Granite Falls and Gastonia. It was from the last named place that he took the superannuate relation in 1907, and removed to Berkeley, California, where he and his good wife lived out the remainder of their days in peace, in the loving care of their son-in-law and daughter, Rev. J. A. B. Fry and Mrs. Fry.

Brother Callahan was proud to be one of the "old guard" of the Church, and often referred to the fact with pleasure, that he was ordained Elder by Bishop Early, for whom he cherished warm personal regard. He was a firm believer in education, and many living can give grateful testimony to his kindly encouragement, and even financial aid, to fit them for their life work.

Of his long years of consecrated service in the fields we have mentioned, of what use is there to speak? or who shall be able to tell what he accomplished? Only in the Lamb's Book of Life, in the great assizes of God, shall it be known, how, by kindly word, loving sympathy, and faithful preaching, he became the

helpful pastor of many weary and hungry souls. Verily, of this faithful servant it can be said, "his works do follow him."

Though not physically able to preach after coming to California, he at once allied himself with all the vital concerns of the Pacific Conference, and soon became known and respected by the entire conference as though one of its very own. He was a veritable "father in Israel" to the congregation of Epworth Church, Berkeley, with whom he held his local affiliations.

His general health and mental strength continued very good up to the death of his precious wife who was the joy and pride of his manhood, and the consolation of his old age, and from the time she died in 1912 he seemed to gradually lose his hold on this world. A cloud passed across his mental vision, and for a long time before he was called home he knew little of life, and had no satisfaction or joy in things earthly.

There were two children, a son and a daughter. The son preceded his parents to the heavenly world many years, dying in the first blush of his young manhood. The daughter, Mrs. J. A. B. Fry, and one grandchild, Mrs. Donald Metcalf, of Berkeley, California, survive him.

C. P. Moore.

### REV. WILLIAM MONROE BILES

William Monroe Biles was born in Stanly county July 24th, 1871, and died in Canton August 5th, 1916. He joined the Western North Carolina Conference in 1901 and served the following charges; Southside, Winston, 1901-1904; Spray, 1905; Kernersville, 1906-1908; Burkhead, 1909-1911; Newton, 1912-1915; Canton, 1916.

On May 16th, 1905, he married Miss Ollie Theessa Allen, of Winston-Salem, who, with six children, survive him.

He took advantages offered by the public schools of his native county, spending some time also at Trinity College. Besides, he sat in rapt attention at the feet of Mother Nature and listened to her varied voices rolling up from the raging narrows of the Yadkin river. The call was for a life pouring itself out in constant, heroic service, and the soul of W. M. Biles responded. The sterling character of his parents, the fidelity of the citizenship of the community where he was reared, added greatly to the education of his soul.

He was born among the common people and loved them. He knew their prejudices and limitations and sympathized with them. He knew their language and used it in telling them how to obtain eternal life. These facts explain his popularity and efficiency as a pastor and preacher. The human note was pronounced in his preaching and for this reason "the common people heard him gladly."\*

Modesty was one of the dominant traits of his life. He never pushed himself forward nor complained if he thought he had been

treated with inconsideration. His criticisms were few and always softened with a spirit of consecration and a smile. A compliment worthily bestowed upon him invariably brought to his face the blush of modesty.

He was loyal to his church and its doctrines. To him the church was the bride of Christ, and her tenets His voice. His last effort as a preacher was to advance the cause of the church, for on his desk near an open Bible was a well prepared sermon from the subject: "The Building of the Church." The subject had been announced in the local paper, and a large congregation was eagerly waiting the time when the Sabbath bell would announce the arrival of the hour for service. The hour came; the bell tolled a solemn requiem; the congregation assembled—sembled to pay last respect to a beloved pastor, for in the meantime he had been promoted and crowned and made a member of the Church Triumphant.

Christ was all and in all both in his preaching and in his life and that consciousness settled every other relation of his life. His preaching was evangelistic, and for this reason his services were sought in protracted meetings. In his preaching he always referred to Christ as "My Lord," an expression which illustrated the attitude of his soul to Jesus Christ.

Measured by any standard he was not lacking. Pure in life, high in his aspirations, unselfish in his service, kind in disposition, charitable to his brethren, careful and painstaking in his plans, dutiful to death in his work. He was a good preacher, a faithful pastor, a loving husband and father, a devoted friend and brother to us all—and we will miss him.

W. L. Hutchins

#### REV. THOMAS SETTLE ELLINGTON

Rev. Thomas Settle Ellington was born February 28, 1845, in Rockingham county, N. C., was a brave soldier in the Confederate army and two years after the war was married to Miss E. C. Blair of Mecklenburg county, who survives him and was a true helpmate through all the after years of his useful life. Two children were born to them, a son and daughter. The daughter died in infancy. The son, Mr. Settle Ellington, and mother live together in Mecklenburg county.

Brother Ellington was licensed to preach in 1874, and was a local preacher eight years. In 1879 he was appointed to Charlotte Circuit where he served three years as a supply. He joined the North Carolina Conference in 1882, at Raleigh. When the Western North Carolina Conference was formed in 1890, he became a member of this conference. He served the following charges, after he joined conference: 1883 Clear Creek Circuit, 1884-87 Monroe Circuit, 1888 Clear Creek Circuit, 1889 Stanly Creek Circuit, 1890 Rock Spring Circuit, 1894-96 Norwood Cir-

cuit, 1897-1900 Uwharrie Circuit, 1901-03 Ramseur Circuit, 1904-06 Bessemer City Circuit, 1906-09 El Bethel Circuit, 1910-12 Cottonville Circuit, 1913-14 Salem Circuit, 1915 Henderson Circuit.

At the conference of 1915, held at Reidsville, N. C., he took the superannuate relation. After a severe and lingering sickness he died in a hospital in Charlotte September 16, 1916. His body was buried at Mint Hill. His funeral was conducted by Revs. L. A. Falls, E. L. Bain, J. W. Moore and A. R. Surratt. His last messages were triumphant in faith. It was well with his soul and he was ready to go home to God.

Brother Ellington gave thirty-six years of his life, in continuous service, to the active ministry. It was a service of high quality. He analyzed the subjects of his sermons and made them clear to the minds of his hearers. He never bungled and confused an idea. He was a philosopher in his conception and presentation of truths. His style was deliberate. He took time and put such clear analysis into his sermons that the listener knew the sermon when it was closed. This made him an instructive preacher. He taught the people knowledge. He was a profound student of the Scriptures and a sound interpreter of their doctrines. He was a benediction to the people he served. His command of Scripture, and his settled faith in God and his Christ-like compassion for the people, made him an effective comforter in time of sorrow. He knew what to say to the broken-hearted to revive their hope and rekindle the sinking life. I never knew him to indulge in idle conversation. His nature was serious, but not melancholy. My personal association with him was full of pleasure and profit. His faith was solid. I am sure that wherever he went the people caught some measure of the stability of his faith and character, and were helped. He was an effective man, and accomplished much good during the years of his ministry. He seldom reported his work through the Advocate. His ministry is replete with good done. He built and repaired churches and parsonages where such work was needed. He looked carefully after all the details of the work of his charge.

Brother Ellington never complained. If real or apparent hardships came to him he put his trust in God and kept silent. It may be said of him as of Barnabas, "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith; and much people was added unto the Lord."

His home life was beautiful. There was a deep mutual devotion between him and his wife. They both had the true itinerant spirit. She was a helper in all of his work. She did what she could and all she could to make his ministry effective. She comforted him in his troubles and nursed him tenderly in his sickness. She is heart broken over his departure, and we all share with her the sadness of bereavement, but this is a sorrow that heaven will heal.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

J. C. Rowe.