

B. JULIAN LEE CRAFT RUMLEY, son of Denard and Mary Perry Rumley, was born at Beaufort, N. C., June 14, 1870, and died at Farmville, N. C., February 1, 1928. He gave his heart to God when only a boy and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Feeling impressed with the call to preach, he set out to prepare himself for the largest service possible. To this end he entered Trinity College, Randolph County, and in due time graduated with distinction. He joined the North Carolina Conference at Goldsboro in 1892. He was married to Miss Mamie L. Hasket of Greenville, N. C. on February 28, 1900. Brother Rumley faithfully served the following charges: Littleton, 1893; Plymouth, 1894-95; Hertford, 1896; Edenton, 1897; Murfreesboro, 1898-99; Plymouth, 1900; Oriental, 1901-02; Wilson Circuit, 1903; Robersonville, 1904; Elm City, 1905-06; Fairfield, 1907-10; Nashville, 1911-14; Farmington, 1915-18; Farmville, 1919-22; Maxton, 1923-24. At the end of this year he took the superannuate relation and, at the invitation of many warm friends, took up his residence in Farmville, where he was the recipient of many kindnesses. But for a serious physical breakdown in his early ministry, this gifted son of Methodism would doubtless have filled many of our leading appointments. But in spite of delicate health he gave to the Church a genuine service the influence of which will abide. Brother Rumley was a gifted speaker and a fine sermonizer. He reasoned well, he was well grounded in the Bible; he was deeply spiritual; he was a man of warm sympathies, thoroughly in love with God and men and deeply consecrated to his work. As a pastor he was faithful and diligent, kind and thoughtful. He knew how to comfort the distressed and how to point them to the source of peace. We shall miss his brotherly greetings at our annual gatherings, but we know he rests from his labors and is forever with the King. A devoted wife, four sons, and one daughter survive.—S. A. Cotton.

FRANCIS BRAGG MCCALL, son of Hugh and Sarah McCall, was born in what is now Scotland County, N. C., February 26, 1858. His mother, a noble Christian woman, taught him to love and reverence the Church. When he was but a little lad, she would take a lunch, for it was four miles to their church, St. John's, and she and the boy would walk to church. The effect of such training was manifest. Out of that home went three into the itinerancy: the subject of this memoir, his younger brother

(John Calton McCall—poet, preacher, and saint); and his sister (Mrs. J. A. Hornaday). Early in life Brother McCall joined St. John's Church as a seeker under the ministry of Rev. T. W. Guthrie. When later he was soundly converted, a call to preach came with conversion. A clipping from the *Pee Dee Bee* of March, 1879, says: "At the last Quarterly Conference of the Laurinburg Circuit, M. E. Church, South, license was granted to preach the gospel to Mr. F. B. McCall, son of Hugh McCall, Esq. We are pleased to hear that he acquitted himself very creditably in his examination. He is talented, well informed, and bright, and with the budding promise of hope starts out with the prospect of doing good." He joined the North Carolina Conference at its session in Wilson that fall. He received the following appointments: 1879, Onslow Circuit; 1880, Columbia Circuit; 1881, Pamlico Circuit; 1882, Straits Mission; 1883-84, Monroe Circuit; 1885-87, Clear Creek Circuit; 1888-89, Bladen Circuit; 1890-92, Lumberton Circuit; 1893-94, Tar River Circuit; 1895-98, Gates Circuit; 1899, Fremont Circuit; 1900-03, Carr Church and Branson; 1904-06, St. John's and Gibson; 1907, Roper Circuit; 1908-10, Rowland Circuit; 1911-12, Laurel Hill Circuit; 1913, Snow Hill Circuit; 1914-15, Mount Olive Circuit; 1916, Scotland Neck; 1917-18, Bertie Circuit; 1919-20, Fairfield. While I had known Brother McCall all my ministry and had had for him an ever-deepening admiration, I learned to know and love him afresh during the two years in Fairfield when I was his presiding elder. At the end of his second year there, at his request, I very reluctantly requested his superannuation. After a year of rest he again entered the active work as preacher in charge of the Lumberton Circuit. But this trial convinced him that he must give up the effort. The remainder of his life was spent in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Usher, at Laurel Hill. In these last years he occupied himself with home duties, spent much time with his beloved books, and was happy except that he yearned ever for the privilege of proclaiming the glorious gospel of the blessed Lord. Brother McCall was twice married. On April 24, 1877, he was married to Miss Fannie Simons, of Anson County, who died the next year when her son, Eugene Calton McCall, was only three weeks old. On March 16, 1881, he was married to Miss Ella Bell, of Onslow County, who survives. To this union were born three boys and six girls. The son of the first wife and five of these daughters still live: Mrs. R. B. Mullen, of

Warrenton; Mrs. B. F. McColman, of Faison; Mrs. Nina Lipscomb and Mrs. Lula Usher, of Laurel Hill; and the youngest, Mrs. F. E. Tomlin, of Socoow, China. His summons came suddenly and unexpectedly. The afternoon of April 12, 1928, the family went for a little rest, leaving him lying on the davenport in the sitting room. They heard no sound, but when they came down they found him lying dead near the back porch. There was no sign of struggle. He probably went for a drink of water, and in a moment, without pain, passed from life here to life eternal. They laid him to rest at Gibson, the service being conducted by J. B. Thompson, assisted by E. H. McWhorter, H. C. Ewing, O. W. Dowd, J. G. Johnson, W. C. Merritt, W. J. DuBois, T. G. Vickers, R. F. Munns, and L. E. Sawyer. A large concourse gathered to do him honor.—N. H. D. Wilson.

SAUL ERASTUS MERCER, son of Miles V. and Elizabeth (Russ) Mercer, was born at Howardsville, N. C., April 2, 1867, and died in Lumberton Hospital July 25, 1928. He and members of his family had been to Beaufort for an outing and while on their way to the old home in Robeson County to a family reunion he was stricken ill and was hurried to the hospital where, after a few days of suffering, he died. Brother Mercer was converted in early life and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He was educated at Trinity College. Soon after his graduation he entered the work of the ministry. He joined the North Carolina Conference at its session in Raleigh in 1897. He was ordained deacon in 1899 and elder in 1903. He served the following charges: Snead's Grove Circuit, 1897-1900; Richmond Circuit, 1901-02; Red Springs Circuit, 1903-05; Agent for Carolina Institute, 1906; Clinton Circuit, 1907; Weldon Station, 1908-10; Maxton, 1911-12; President of Carolina College, 1913-15; Central Church, Raleigh, 1916; Burlington, 1917-18; Calvary (Durham), 1919-20; Weldon District, 1921-24; Washington District, 1925 to the time of his death. A casual glance at these appointments will show that our brother touched the life of the Church at many points. He knew by experience the hardships of the itinerant's life, and he knew the responsibilities of the man in difficult situations. Whether as pastor, college president, or presiding elder, S. E. Mercer gave to the work of the Church an unflinching allegiance and devoted service. Possessed of a strong mind, a commanding personality, and an iron will, he ranked as one of the leaders of his Confer-

ence as well as one of the substantial citizens of the State. As a preacher he was simple and direct. There was always the evidence of sincerity. He relied on the truth rather than on the arts of the speaker. His soul loathed affectation and cant. He believed the gospel was the power of God unto salvation and that it was the only remedy for the social and moral ills of man. As an executive he was strong. He had a genius for organization and the ability to secure the coöperation of others. Men loved to work with him because his hard sense and fine judgment inspired confidence in his leadership. He loved his brethren and demonstrated that love in all his relations with them. He was peculiarly thoughtful of the young men, and they gave him their confidence and devotion in return. He was chosen as a member of our last General Conference, which met in Memphis, Tenn. There, as elsewhere, he proved his worth by fidelity to the duties imposed on him by his Conference. Brother Mercer was twice married. The first marriage was on September 25, 1900. His bride was Ethel Waldo Thompson, daughter of J. E. Thompson, for many years an honored member of this Conference. Sister Mercer was a most capable and devoted wife and added much to the ministry of her husband until her health failed. She was an invalid for fourteen years, much of the time helpless. She entered into rest December 5, 1924. No man, perhaps, ever displayed deeper devotion to an afflicted companion than that shown by Brother Mercer. He left nothing undone to make her declining years as peaceful as possible. To this union were born four sons and two daughters: Almon E., Linwood E., Seymour E., John, Jane, and Ethel Poe. Brother Mercer's second marriage was on December 12, 1925. The bride, who survives, was Miss Ethel Crouch, of Johnson City, Tenn. Here again this itinerant found an ideal wife who brought to the altars of the parsonage a trained mind, a charming personality, and a devoted heart. Our brother has gone on before us. We miss him to-day, but hope to join him in that better brotherhood in heaven. Many of his brethren followed his body to its last resting place in the beautiful cemetery at Durham.—*S. A. Cotton.*

GEORGE BASCOM PERRY was born in Chatham County, N. C., August 7, 1851, and laid down his armor at Princeton, N. C., August 7, 1928 (his seventy-seventh anniversary.) Right vigorous he looked that morning and the smile was still on his

face when he slipped away soon after the breakfast hour. He went as a good soldier would like to go. There were no weary days of suffering, no long waiting for the chariot. When he was full dressed and just starting the work of another day God called him home. Those who knew him needed no assurance of farewell words that it was well with him. The funeral was held from the Methodist Church in Princeton, conducted by J. H. Shore, S. A. Cotton, and the writer. Something like a score of Methodist preachers joined the membership of the Princeton charge and other friends to pay tribute to his memory. He was buried in the cemetery at Smithfield, D. E. Earnhardt and A. S. Barnes reading the Church service. On August 13, 1873, Brother Perry was married to Miss Josephine Pugh, of Chatham County, who survives him. The living children are: Mrs. Mozelle Perry Allen, G. Marvin Perry, A. Olin Perry, Mrs. Mamie Davis, Mrs. Jennie Moore, Mrs. Josie Highsmith, Mrs. Rena Blackburn, and Mrs. Laura Mauney. The youngest son, Carl Pugh Perry, died in his twenty-first year. Brother Perry's record as a Methodist itinerant reads as follows: Joining the North Carolina Conference in 1885, he served that year at Smithfield; Uwharrie, 1886-87; Rutherfordton, 1888; Uwharrie, 1889-90; Mount Gilead, 1891-93; Northampton, 1894; Oxford, 1895-97; Franklinton, 1898-1901; Burlington, 1902; Gibson, 1903-04; Littleton, 1905-08; Snow Hill, 1909-11; Zebulon, 1912-14; Roper, 1915; Bailey, 1916-18; Kittrell, 1919-20; Selma, 1921-23; Princeton, 1924-28. Thus from the Catawba to the Roanoke, at one time among the hills and mountains, and then on the plains of the east he went forth to preach the "glorious gospel of the blessed God." He did not seek what men call the high places. He began his ministry in those days when it was considered a privilege to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ in any place. For the most part he preached to the countryside, whence comes the backbone of our Methodism and where the most of our preachers receive their call to the ministry. Our friend delivered a simple gospel message in a plain, direct, practical way. He felt that it was his mission to tell the people of the Christ who had redeemed him from sin—planted his feet on the rock and put a new song in his mouth. He left it to others to wander in the bypaths, to indulge the embellishments of speech, to proclaim earthly philosophies. That was not his task. This man stood under the cross and cried to the congregation: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of