

MRS. MARY DARTHULA CALDWELL.

Mrs. Mary D. Caldwell departed this life January 27, 1919, in Jacksonville, Ala., in the ninety-fourth year of her age.

She was born in Fayetteville, Tenn., August 26, 1825, and came to Alabama in 1848, soon after her marriage to Colonel John H. Caldwell, who died in 1903. She leaves, besides several grandchildren, two sons, Colonel Ed. G. Caldwell and John M. Caldwell, Esq., to mourn their great loss.

Here in Jacksonville the Colonel and Mrs. Caldwell taught school for a number of years, with noted results, many of their pupils still living to honor the memory of these beloved instructors. In later years Colonel Caldwell was a successful practitioner of the law; and in the war between the states commanded Company A, Tenth Alabama Regiment, and was promoted to the Colonelcy.

Their home was a center of influence and uplift, to an unusual degree, for many years; and numbers of their friends and former pupils rejoiced to count them as their best counselors and safest guides.

No more beautiful hospitality could be found anywhere than that which marked their lovely home.

Mrs. Caldwell's life was one of unusual activity. Her work in the home, in the school room, and in the community at large was largely dominated by her religious life. Her church work she regarded as a sacred trust, apparently increasing the stress upon its prominence as her years advanced.

Her home life had two conspicuous marks, an invincible spirit of good cheer, and a loyal devotion to her friends.

Endowed beyond most of us with a clear mind, a firm will, and a kindly heart, she had, as if unconsciously, gained broad sympathies, including every one known to her. Adapting herself to the humblest, or ranging on a level with the highest position anywhere, she had held through the years the place of mentor and leader in the community, with a perfect poise, and an unquestioned success.

Her church work was conspicuous in her many lines of activity. For the length of an ordinary lifetime she devoted her unusual powers of leadership among young people to her Sunday school work; and thus there grew up around her a generation of boys and girls who regarded her as a sort of pastor and guide in the Christian life. The very house of worship itself was in her eyes a hallowed place, from which she was never absent at any service for many years.

So, as a hospitable home-maker, a friendly neighbor, a wise counselor, a public spirited citizen, as well as a devout member of the Christian Church in one of its communions, her influence upon the community has been a noble heritage, an esteemed privilege to know.

And how she is gone into the larger life, what a joy it would surely be to her to know that her legacy to a multitude of friends and admirers should prove to be a manifold of her impress upon the community's life and thought; that her going should give greater emphasis to her highest ideals in every mind and heart that she has known.

Shall we not make it so, by an increased devotion to all in life and duty that she held so dear?

"O, the gladness of the going,
When the faithful travel home!
O, the rapture of the welcome,
Where their feet no more shall roam.
O, the beauty of the mansion,
Which for them is all prepared;
And the bliss their souls inherit,
Who in Jesus' love have shared.
O, the joy 'neath Heaven's dome,
When the faithful travel home.

"From their trial to their triumph
Is a sure and high exchange;
All the secrets of the ages
Are the fields they swiftly range.
In the love of friends beloved—
In the fellowship of Christ—
In the Father's gracious favor—
Thus they keep the Spirit's trust;
O, the joy 'neath Heaven's dome,
When the faithful travel home."

R. T. L.