

THE
Danbury Reporter.

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IN MEMORIAM.

"So long thy power hath blessed me, sure it still
Will lead me on
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone,
And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.
Since the last issue of the Reporter, we have stood at that most solemn of all places on earth and witnessed the closing of the tomb forever upon the forms of two friends. Today we offer these simple tributes—our tears and sweetest remembrance.

JOSEPH W. PRATHER.

The funeral was conducted from the home by Rev. Mr. Winecoff, of the M. E. church. In the parlor the coffin lay embanked with the most exquisite and costly floral offerings, testimonials of the love in which the deceased was held. The choir sang "Lead, Kindly Light," and other favorite hymns of the departed. Not a dry eye was in the assemblage which filled the rooms, the halls, the porch, and every available standing place. The minister's remarks were very touching.

Then came the tearful moment when the dead man was to be borne away forever from his loved home. With bared heads, the Masons carried their brother sadly out through the gate under crossed lances. The sun shone with splendor, though the air was cold. The Blue Ridge, snow-crowned, scintillated with brightness. The muffled tread of the hearse horses, the silent march of the Masons, the subdued voices of the funeral directors, the bowed heads and the tears of the relatives and friends, the long line of slow-moving carriages, and the other various incidents of the occasion—how they shall linger in our hearts!

At the grave the Masonic ceremonies were beautiful and touching, among which was the locked circle and the march around the casket, each member dropping upon the coffin a sprig of evergreen with these sad words: "Alas! my brother! Thy soul we surrender to God, thy body to the tomb."

Joseph W. Prather was born at Mount Airy September 10, 1852. He professed religion and joined the M. E. Church South at Pine Bluff, Tenn., in 1872. He had a high sense of honor, was a loving husband, an affectionate father, a true friend.

The sincere sympathy of the writer goes out to those who knew him best—knew all the noble qualities of his character, and who weep for him with a grief which only time can allay.

CAPT. S. B. TAYLOR.

The funeral of the late Capt. S. B. Taylor was conducted from the M. E. church, Thursday A. M. at 11 o'clock by his pastor, the Rev. J. T. Rattledge, assisted by the Rev. J. H. Robertson. "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "Nearer, My God to Thee," and "How Firm a Foundation" were softly and sweetly rendered by the choir, after which the body was laid to rest by the side of his wife, who preceded him to the grave several years ago.

The pallbearers were the four sons who survive—Messrs. S. H., Jno. M., J. Spot and Roland C. Taylor.

Capt. Taylor was one of the Reporter's most valued friends, and was often a contributor to these columns. His reminiscences of old times, his war stories and history sketches, published several months ago, were very entertaining and instructive and we hope to re-print them at an early day.

There under the whispering pines where he lies may his spirit sleep in peace, within the shadow of the old church he loved so well.

Letter from William.

Mr. Editor:

Having promised you that I would write again, and dogs being on my mind at present, I would like to write a word or two about the way my neighbors raise their dogs.

Of course, they want to do the thing that's right by them, for it's not an uncommon thing to see nearly as many dogs at preaching as you see people. There are people in this neighborhood that has been carrying their dogs to prayer meeting and Sunday school and preaching for years, and I can't see that their dogs get any better. I don't believe that those dogs understand the Gospel, for they won't sit down and be quiet and listen while the preacher is preaching like good dogs ought to do, but they are continually growling and snapping and fighting all the time of service. I don't believe they will ever be converted. So I think it would be much nicer to leave your dogs at home. Oh, they say that they can't make old Trip stay at home. Well I have heard it said that if you feed one about two ounces of shot out of a double barrel shot gun that it would stop the most unruly dog that there is from going to church. Try it neighbor, and get the good will of the people, and besides save lots of cold bread for the pigs.

Some years ago I raised a hound and he followed me to church one Sunday, but I don't believe he enjoyed the sermon for he left before preaching was over, and he was never known to go to preaching after that.

Now, if John Smith goes to church with about three doses of Walnut Cove hallelujah and happens to say anything wrong he is indicted, but if Jim Blank and Jake Jones carries their dogs to church and they get into a fight and have the women and children playing leap-frog over the benches and there is nothing said about it. Oh for a dog-killer in truth and indeed for this part of the moral vineyard.

With best wishes to the Reporter and its readers.

WILLIAM.



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Winston, N. C.

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Wilhelmina Soren
Treasurer, Portland Economic League

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