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HONORABLE JOHN CAMPBELL DANCY MOURNED

DR. W. H. GULER'S MATCHLESS EULOGY.

Friend of Many Years Pays John C. Dancy Suitable Tribute and Delivers Profound Sermon.

Dr. Guler's sermon and tribute to Dr. Dancy (a friend of many years), was characterized as adequate, discriminating, pathetic and eloquent. His text was from the 4th verse of the 39th Psalm: "Lord, teach me to know mine end, and the measure of my days what it is, that I may know how frail I am."

He began by saying human life alternates between sunshine and shadows. The spring of laughter is placed hard by the fountain of tears. The merry music of marriage bells is soon followed by the dirge of death. Today from the heights of hope, from the consciousness of present blessings and pleasing prospects, we sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. . . . My cup runneth over." Tomorrow from the valley of despondency, disappointment, bereavement, misfortune and sorrow, we recognize the soul cast down and disquieted, and bid it seek relief and solace by hanging its hope on God.

He showed that this petition of David did not imply, and it should not be inferred, that David desired to know how long he should live on the earth, or what should be the circumstance or condition of his removal. The interpretation should be rather: Lord impress upon me the brevity, the uncertainty of human life; and inure me to make the preparation for that after-life which awaits me—which awaits all.

He then went on to show that while death is solemn, it is also natural. God has appointed to all once to die; that so far as death concerned the separation of soul and body it mattered little, but since there is a life after death, since death does not destroy, and since, that after-life is to consist in pain or felicity according to the tenor of our lives here, it is of the greatest importance, how we use our time, our talents, our opportunities here. We should give the diligence which makes for a safe calling and a sure election. We are told there is no repentance in the grave nor pardon offered to the dead.

After discussing fully and freely the fact that death does not destroy, and the bountiful provisions that God has provided in that better world, he went on to show that there is a silent power in the life of a good man, the influence of which is not confined to his immediate surroundings, but is exerted upon the age in which he lives and the ages following. We have lived our lives in vain, if at its close we discover no substantial good done; if we have contributed nothing to the favorable memory of men; if we have bound up no broken heart; if we have dried no weeping eye; if no word from our lips has lifted a drooping head; if our hands have never ministered to suffering nor "plucked from the heart a rooted sorrow." The life just closed was full of deeds of mercy, of sympathy and love. John C. Dancy first saw the light in Tarboro, North Carolina in May, 1857, in the cruel slavery days, born in bondage, yet, thanks be to God, so near the close of the vile system as to have little or no influence on the life of this talented boy. He was born under the favorable surroundings of a Christian home. His father was a humble, honest, upright church-going man, his mother a rare example of Christian piety. They early instilled in his youthful mind, those principles, which subsequently developed that manly bearing, that strong character, that geniality and pliability of disposition, that sweetness and evenness of temper, that elevation, dignity and beauty of soul, which captivated those who came within the circle of his acquaintance, and made him everywhere a favorite. He was always and easy the centre of our gatherings, our safe, strong and able representative. He was early identified with the Church, sought and found salvation in the crucified Redeemer when a child, joined the church and served it faithfully to the day of his death, not only as a resourceful and forceful lay member, but as our brightest and most accomplished representative in various circles.

Others are to tell you how distinguished he was in letters, how he paved his way in politics, what distinguished places of honor and trust he held in the state and general government, how creditably and with what fidelity he filled them, what an entrancing orator he was, how sweeping, convincing and logical were his arguments, etc. But his greatest distinction is that he was a good man, and that goodness was nowhere more manifest than in the tenderness of his heart, in his devotion to friends and in his love for the Church. See how this devotion to God and duty acts and reacts; see how contagious is this influence and example: every member of his family is an active and useful member of the church, some holding places of prominence and trust in distant states. His own life was busy and active.

But in the midst of his busy activity and usefulness disease

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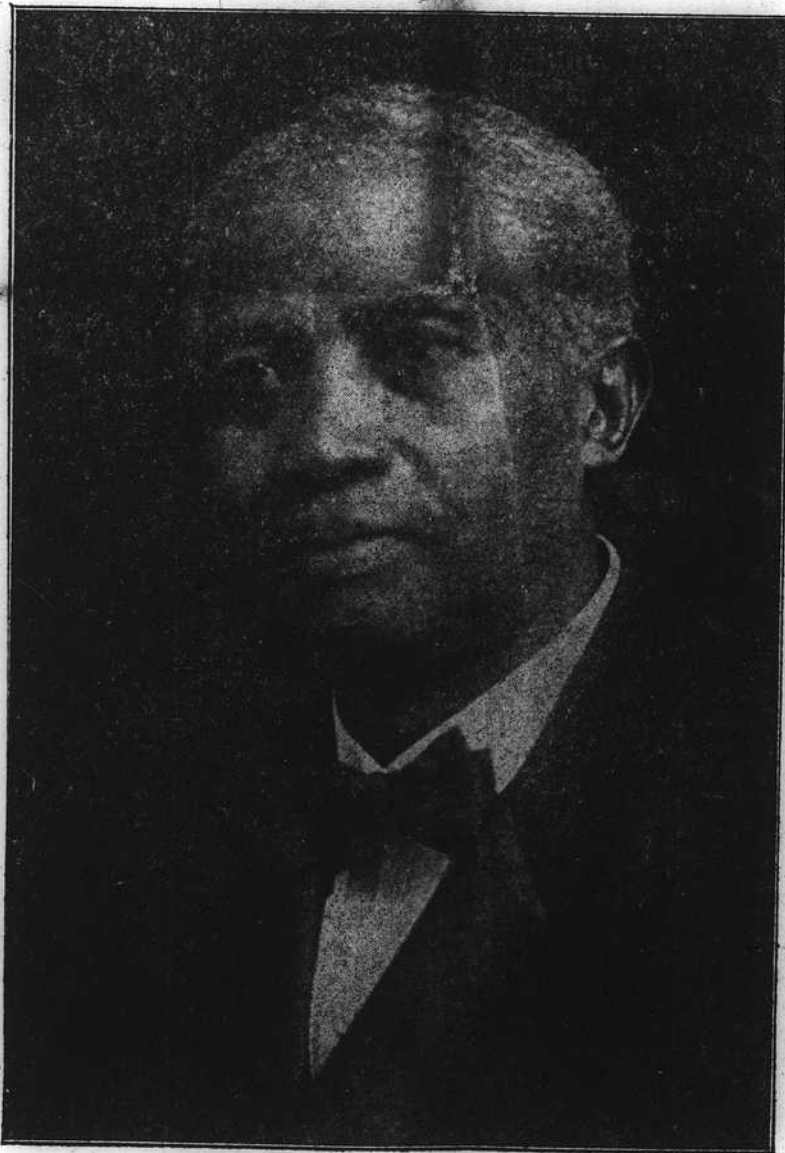
THE FAMILY'S TESTIMONIAL.

The family of the late John C. Dancy wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the relatives, friends, church organizations and societies for their many kindnesses, sympathies, and beautiful floral tributes, at the death of our beloved husband, father and brother. Our earthly circles seem to be growing smaller and our Heavenly circles broadening rapidly; and were it not for Faith in the gospel and the promises of eternal life we could never keep up and carry our burdens here on earth. During the last days of his illness he thus expressed himself to some devoted friends: "I have fought and won out here, and I expect to win out there." His beautiful life and many good deeds will linger forever in our memory.

His wife,

Florence V. Dancy.

Washington, D. C.



JOHN C. DANCY AS A GENERAL OFFICER.

By W. J. Walls.

Sunset is the omen of a sunrise, falling blossoms announce the taste of coming fruit, the breaking egg opens the way for the song of the lark, and the death of a great man is the shake of the liquids of life's deeds into the solid of an immortal influence. "Their works do follow them."

There are many phases of greatness in the life and character of John C. Dancy; but in his religion he was at his best. In faith he was as simple as a child, in churchmanship "he seemed at home where angels dwell." For forty years he was intimately associated with the Connectional matters of the A. M. E. Zion Church and for thirty-six years he was a general officer. In 1885 when he was chosen Editor of The Star of Zion by the Board of Bishops, with Dr. J. C. Price he formed that great "duo" of the first general officers who went on the field to aid in establishing the general departments. To him and Dr. Price is justly accorded the credit for giving his Church its first great impulse towards Connectionalism against Localism. With the bishops and heroic souls they lead out in connecting many links of material and moral resources into a chain of scientific spirituality and an expanded and specified application of Christianity under Ethiopia's stewardship.

His travels throughout Europe and America, his fellowship at ease with the masters of learning, with the captains of statecraft, and wise intimacy with eminent apostles and humble disciples of his own race and of all others, prepared him to

HON. J. C. DANCY PASSES AWAY.

W. J. Trent.

One by one they take their way across the great divide and we are left to mourn their loss and cherish their contribution to the race's standing in the great wide world. When the news was flashed over the wires that Hon. J. C. Dancy was no more, men and women who have known him intimately for many years, felt sad at heart in the passing of a true friend. It was the writer's privilege to have known Mr. Dancy for many years. He was a student at Livingstone College, Salisbury, when Mr. Dancy was first appointed collector of customs at the port of Wilmington, N. C., and was present at the big reception given him in the college chapel. This was in 1890 during the administration of President Benjamin Harrison.

Mr. Dancy was of that group of men who gave much time to politics. Some people call them politicians, and here of late years a set of thoughtless people among us delight in putting all the woes of the race at the door of this group of men. How often have I heard some would-be leader begin his address on the race problem by attacking the Negro politician on the whole, how they have run us in the ditch and caused all of our rights to have been denied us. This is not true. I dare say that there has been no other group of men that has stood up for the manhood of the race in places where they could have easily crawled, than this same set of men we call politicians. Some make the charge that these men are after positions in the government. Why not be after them? Is it a crime to aspire to high positions of trust and preferment in the government? If so, then the Negro is not the only man who has committed the crime. Why should he not aspire to the positions of a government he has helped save and make with his muscle, brain and blood? We ought to begin to think for ourselves some time.

Mr. Dancy was a Christian and loyal churchman to the day of his death. Some men, when unknown to the world and without influence in it, hasten to the church and sit close in the "amen corner" and are willing not only to make a financial contribution, but to serve in any way possible the forces of righteousness, but when they get up in positions of honor and trust in the world, and feel that they can walk alone, then it is "goodbye" church, and "goodbye" to righteous and correct living. They think they can leave God out of their program and get by; but just turn over a few pages of history—either sacred or profane—and find the sad answer. It comes forever ringing down the centuries, "in the long run it is ill with the good, in the long run it is ill with the wicked." The man of whom I write attended every General Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church during his lifetime, and helped make its laws. Not only did he do this, but was active in the local church of his choice. And the people did not forget this. He was the first layman editor of The Star of Zion, the chief organ of the denomination. He was for many years editor of the Quarterly Review, and, at his death, was a general officer in the Connection.

He was recognized by the national leaders in the Republican party. Upon occasions, during the National Republican conventions, he seconded the nominations of Gen. John A. Logan at Chicago in 1884, and that of Hon. John Sherman in 1888. Hon. Fred Douglass declared his speech seconding the nomination of Mr. Sherman as one

of the best he had heard; ex-Governor Foraker, who also spoke, declared it "timely, able and brilliant."

Mr. Dancy was twice appointed collector of the port of Wilmington, N. C., the last time serving under President William McKinley. He had for a number of years the position of recorder of deeds in the District of Columbia. He was an orator that had the oratorical temperament. His rich tenor voice could fill the largest auditoriums and sway the most cultured audience as well as the masses. He and Dr. J. C. Price, that prince of orators, toured England together and now he is no more. The race has lost a real Christian leader and the Church a trusted friend. He was born in Tarboro, N. C., May 8, 1857.

They speak out their hearts' last word on whatever subject he chose to discuss. The confidence which he inspired in every rank of the ministry and laity was concretely manifest in that he was chosen for twenty-seven years successively to serve the Church as an editor.

Bishop Hood's history says of him: "When he took charge of The Star of Zion it was an obscure sheet, but the brightness of his Editorials soon brought it into National prominence, and today it is considered one of the leading journals of the race. In 1872 he resigned to succeed Rev. G. W. Clinton as Editor of the Quarterly Review who succeeded him as Editor of the Star of Zion. As Editor of the Quarterly Review he sustained his reputation of being naturally adapted to journalism."

While Mr. Dancy was an expert at the pen and a master of English, and was gifted in a voice and personal magnetism that made him an idol of the race and an object of admiring

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