

Jesse Franklin Graves was born in Surry County near the town of Mt Airy Aug 31st, 1829. His father Solomon Graves was an able lawyer, and his mother was a Miss Mary Cleveland Franklin, daughter of ^{John} Jesse Franklin who had served his country as United States Senator and governor of North Carolina. His boyhood and early manhood were spent amid the tranquil scenes of country life, and here was implanted that deep love of nature and reverence for God, as revealed in the world about him, which was always, one of his ^{marked} characteristics. Graceful flowers, and waving grasses sprang up at his feet, majestic forests crowned the hills, and the grand blue mountains encircled the homes in "the hollow," and from all these the thoughtful boy learned many lessons, not taught in the little country school-house. Later he attended school in town, but he was to learn early in life the lesson of self reliance, for just as he was ready to enter college his father's comfortable property was engulfed by the misfortunes of a friend. Obtaining a school he taught for some time and was thus enabled to enter Emory & Henry College Va.; and, alternately imparting and receiving instruction he completed his college course. A few extracts from a book written about this time containing some precepts and rules of conduct for his own guidance, may aid in forming

some estimate of the young man's character at the close of his college career. He had chosen the law as his profession but had not then entered a law ^{school}. On the first page of the book are written the ten commandments, then follow the precepts a few of which are quoted.

- 1 Never to deceive wilfully
- 2 When I hear a person evilly spoken of to tell on proper occasion all his good traits and deeds
- 3 To treat all with respect but to make none as friends until they are tried and found true

Be perpetual in all things even in small matters
Be strict in adherence to truth and every virtue, to approve and denounce vice even when I must respect those who are guilty of it. Concluding he writes "I shall strive to perform these divine commands and wholesome precepts". Principles based upon immutable law formed a fitting foundation for the character of one who was to make the law his profession. He read law with Judge Pearson and was admitted to the bar in 1833.

Of his public life we have given a brief picture, yet without a glimpse of the man in his home relations and among his friends.

Married to Miss Mary E. Porter, a true helpmate the picture would be incomplete. ^{Happily} Married to Miss Mary E. Porter, daughter of Stephen Porter of Hyde Co Va., a true helpmate, their home was almost an ideal one, and here was best revealed the nobility of his character.

Chieftains in his devotion to his wife, tender wise and loving in the guidance of his children, genial and hospitable to his friends, he was the embodiment of a truly good man.

Beneath his dignified bearing he possessed a pure fund of fun and genial humor and among his legal brethren of the East, he was long ^{famously known as} ~~long known as~~ "Uncle Remus". Among ^{his closest} friends were men of broad intellectual culture and ^{prominent} ~~high~~ standing, and from a friendship dating from the time when both were members of the Governors Council during the war, there were none more dear to him than the late Hon. Gen. Harriot W. Among ^{of his chosen} friends were men of broad intellectual culture, whose names were identified with the highest interests of the state and among them none were more highly esteemed than the late Hon. Gen. Harriot W.