

Men of Mark in South Carolina

Ideals of American Life

A Collection of Biographies of Leading Men
of the State

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Column
J. C. HEMPHILL
Editor of "The News and Courier"
Editor-in-Chief

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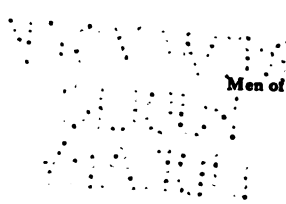
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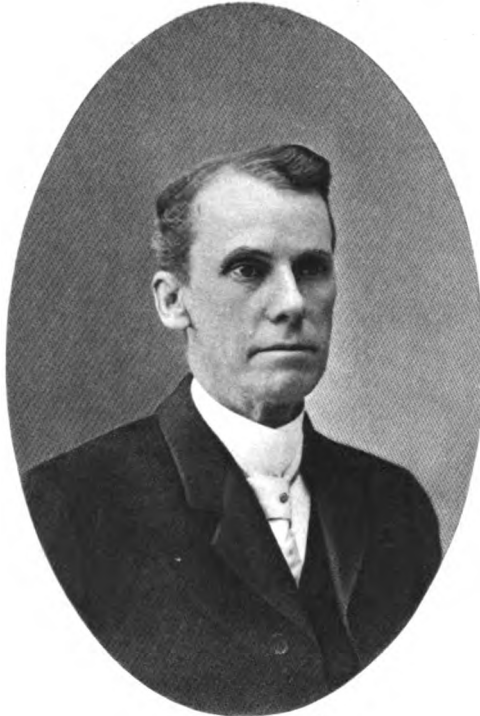
ALEXANDER SPRUNT

SPRUNT, ALEXANDER, D. D., Presbyterian clergyman, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, July 10, 1852. His father, Alexander Sprunt, a merchant, whose marked characteristics were rigid exactness and faithfulness to every trust committed to him, came from Scotland to Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1853, where he served as British vice-consul. His mother, Jane Dalziel Sprunt, was a woman of strong intellect, high morals, and great piety, and to a great extent she molded her son's character after her own. The family left Wilmington in 1862 and went to live on a farm in Marion county, South Carolina, where they remained four years. Of this, the hardest period of young Alexander's life, he says: "Though a mere child, I plowed many a day, but never regretted it in after years."

In 1866 the family returned to Wilmington and he again entered school. In 1869 he went to Upper Canada college, Toronto, Canada. He returned to the United States and entered Davidson college, North Carolina, from which he was graduated A. B. in June, 1875. Later he took a course at Union Theological seminary, Hampden-Sidney, Virginia, graduating in 1878. Davidson college conferred the degree of D. D. upon him in 1897.

He began his career as minister in Winchester, Virginia, in 1878, as assistant to Reverend H. M. White, D. D., pastor of Loudon Street Presbyterian church; the following year he became pastor of Augusta church, Augusta county, Virginia, where he remained until 1885, when he went to Henderson, North Carolina, to take charge of the Presbyterian church, remaining there until 1891. In 1891-92 he was superintendent of evangelistic labor in the synod of North Carolina; in 1892 he was the stated supply of the First Presbyterian church, Memphis, Tennessee, and from 1892 to 1901 he was pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Rock Hill, South Carolina. In the year last named he became pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Charleston, South Carolina, which position he still (1907) retains.

Doctor Sprunt thinks the most potent influences in his life have been his home and his contact with men leading active lives.



Mr. A. S. Sprunt

*Faithfully Yours
Alexander Sprunt*

He finds his most enjoyable and healthful relaxation in athletics, for which he acquired a love during his college days.

As so frequently occurs, "circumstances over which he had no control," and not himself, chose his profession, but he is composed of the stuff of which successful ministers of the Gospel are made. His faith is of the same sturdy and uncompromising kind that enabled the original Scotch Covenanters, among whom some of his ancestors may have been, in spite of the most bitter persecution, to uphold their church and increase its membership. He is what has been aptly called a "Bible-preacher," which means that he seeks inspiration for his sermons in the Scriptures rather than in sensational newspapers. Charleston is proud of him, both as a citizen and as a minister. No movement for the betterment of the city or any class of its people ever asks in vain for his moral support or his active personal assistance.

He was married to Ellen Richardson Peck, second daughter of the late Reverend T. E. Peck, D. D., LL. D., of Union Theological seminary, in Virginia, April 30, 1879. They have had six children, five of whom are now (1907) living.

His address is Charleston, South Carolina.