



DIED, at his residence, Laurens C. H., S. C., on the 1st of May last, in the eighty-second year of his age, JOHN GARLINGTON.

The subject of this notice was so well known to the community in which he lived, that no published record of his life and character is needed to perpetuate his memory. From boyhood to a ripe old age, he lived where he died; and the people amongst whom his long life was spent, will never forget his name and his virtues. But the writer in offering an humble tribute to his memory—a token of affection at his grave—feels that he is only paying a debt of gratitude to a deceased friend and relative.

JOHN GARLINGTON was the last survivor of seven brothers, who emigrated with their father from their native State, Virginia, about the close of the last century. The father, Edwin Garlington, settled on Saluda river, Laurens District, where he died, and John at Laurens Court House, where he began life as clerk in the store of his relative, Robert Creswell; afterwards, he began business himself in the mercantile line, which he carried on successfully for some years. In 1806 he was appointed Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for Laurens District, succeeding Elihu Creswell in that office. The tenure of his office, under the law then in force, was for life, and the deceased continued its exercise until his death. Feeling the effects of declining years and failing health, he tendered his resignation by letter to Gov. Magrath, in March, 1865; but it is supposed that his letter was not received, as it was never acknowledged by the governor, who was soon afterwards superseded in office by order of the military authorities of the United States.

As a public officer, it is not enough to say of the deceased that he was faithful in the discharge of his duties. During his long official term his office was a model in its arrangements and the correct manner in which it was kept. In open court he ever bore himself with dignity, courtesy, and with a self-possession which shewed a perfect knowledge of his duties. In the discharge of official business he was regular, exact and systematic. No slight cause prevented him from being at the post of duty. As an instance of his singular punctuality and rare physical preservation, the fact may be stated, that during sixty years he never failed to attend court, except at the late Spring Term, held during his last sickness. We doubt whether the annals of the courts can furnish another such example. His relations with the bench and the bar were of the kindest character, and of many of the brightest ornaments of both, he was the intimate friend.

The deceased never held political office, but his ardent nature would not allow him to be an idle and indifferent spectator to passing events. He felt a deep interest in all that concerned the public welfare, and always took an open, decided stand upon political questions, which he deemed important. In early life he was strongly attached to the Union of the States, but he lived to see the day when he regarded the separation of the North and South as a political necessity, and devoted his energies and means to secure that end. His last years were saddened by the sacrifice of two noble sons to the cause which he so earnestly espoused.

It was, however, in other relations of life than those of a political character, that the virtues of the deceased were most conspicuous and most deeply felt. As a friend, neighbor and private citizen, his true character was exhibited. Warm in his impulses, strong and steady in his friendship, confiding, it may be, to a fault, he never took a friend in prosperity or adversity; without affectation or concealment, plain and frank, bold and fearless, there was never room to doubt his