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THE^c OLD STONE CHURCH OCONEE COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

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COLUMBIA, S. C.
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JOHN BAILEY ADGER, D. D.

REV. JOHN BAILEY ADGER, D. D., was born of Scotch-Irish parentage, in Charleston, S. C., December 13, 1810. At the early age of eighteen he was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., and in 1833, at Princeton Theological Seminary. The next year he was ordained by the Charleston Union Presbytery and went out as a foreign missionary to the Armenians, under appointment of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. He continued in this service for twelve years at Constantinople and Smyrna, until the failure of his eyes and other circumstances compelled his withdrawal from the foreign field. During his missionary service he translated into Armenian the New Testament, Pilgrim's Progress, the Shorter Catechism, and other books, which translations are still in use among that people.

After his return home, Dr. Adger engaged in work among the negro slaves in his native city, and founded that noble enterprise which afterwards, under the efficient ministry of Dr. John L. Girardeau, developed into the magnificent work of Zion Church, which was interrupted and well nigh broken up by the effects of the Confederate War.

The failure of his eyes again drove Dr. Adger from this work, which he had espoused with ardent affection and unremitting zeal, and led to his settlement at Pendleton, where he devoted five years to farm life with its out-door exercise.

Upon the withdrawal, in 1856, of Dr. Palmer from the Chair of Ecclesiastical History and Church Polity, in Columbia Theological Seminary, to accept the pastorate of the First Church, New Orleans, Dr. Adger was elected his successor. And now that the trouble with his eyes had been relieved by rest and recreation, he accepted the position, which he filled with zeal and ability for seventeen years.

During his whole connection with the seminary, Dr. Adger retained his summer residence at Pendleton, where he de-

lighted to spend his long vacations, and where he kept his family much of the time during the Civil War and the dark days that followed. He had thus become very closely associated with Hopewell Keowee Church, located in that village, and had often filled its pulpit and served it as stated supply during periods of vacancy. When, therefore, he retired from the Seminary in 1874 and took up again his permanent abode at Pendleton, he became the regular supply, and in 1879, the installed pastor of this church. Though sixty-nine years of age, he was full of energy for work, zeal in preaching the gospel, and delight in pastoral service; and he entered upon this new field of labor with much of the enthusiasm of youth. His labors, too, proved most acceptable, and on the part of both pastor and people were reluctantly terminated at the age of eighty-four, only because of his growing infirmities, which hindered his preaching.

During this pastorate the new brick church, now used, was built and the old wooden structure turned over to the Colored Adger Memorial Church.

Dr. Adger was heard to say he would like to be a pastor just to realize the sweetness of the relation betwixt pastor and a devoted people. This he did realize, and for sixteen years held a powerful influence over his people, which influence still lives. He by his teaching drew them closer to the cause of Foreign Missions, as is shown by the following incident: He preached a sermon preparatory to the collection for that object which was to be taken up on the next Sunday, when each church was assessed for an additional sum by the General Assembly. The sermon was one never to be forgotten, from the text Ps. 74: 20, "For the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty." With keenest interest he inquired of the Deacon what amount had been raised and was told the desired sum was more than doubled.

There are those yet living who witnessed his adieu to the Synod of South Carolina, when, in view of his deafness excluding him from taking part in their deliberations, he

deemed it best to retire from their meetings, although to his last days he kept up an unabated interest in all their doings.

Dr. Adger, after the close of his pastorate, lived and labored four years, which time he spent in severe literary work, despite his deafness and approaching blindness, preparing the large volume, "My Life and Times," which valuable book he had nearly completed when, January 3d, 1899, the Lord called him to rest from his labors and leave his works to follow him.

By MISS SUSAN B. ADGER,
Pendleton, S. C.