MEMOIRS

OF

DECEASED ALUMNI

OF

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, ANNAPOLIS,

BY

JOHN G. PROUD AND JOHN S. WIRT,
HISTORIOGRAPHERS.

COMMENCEMENT DAY, 1878.

BALTIMORE:
1879.

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NECROLOGY.

REVERDY JOHNSON, LL. D.	J. G. PROUD.
FRANCIS THOMAS, A. M.	
NINIAN PINKNEY, M. D., LL. D.	J. S. WIRT.
JOHN WALTER LYNCH, L. B.	
RICHARD SWAN, ESQ.	
JOHN RIGGS BROWN, A. B.	PROF. HOPKINS.

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MEMOIRS.

On the last occasion of memorial remembrance of our departed Alumni your attention was called to notices of two of our number then recently removed by sudden death. Both were taken in the prime of life and in the midst of active duty—but in both an insidious disease had long been sapping the vital functions, only at last to claim its victim with a suddenness that was truly startling.*

Now, our attention is arrested by providential visitations still more impressive. Two others of our Alumni, full of years as of honors, robust in constitution, vigorous in body and mind, with every prospect of years of continued activity, without a moment's warning, were both mysteriously cut off, within twenty days of each other, by an instantaneous and violent death.

You have already anticipated that reference is made to the deaths of Reverdy Johnson and Francis Thomas.

It is proposed to ask your attention to a brief summary of the leading incidents in the life of each in turn.

*Dr. John Thomas Hall.
Judge Wm. Sprigg Hall.

REVERDY JOHNSON, LL. D.

REVERDY JOHNSON, eldest son of John Johnson, the first Chancellor of that name, was born on the 21st of May 1796, in the City of Annapolis, within a stone's throw of the spot where he met his lamentable end. Almost his entire education was received at St. John's, having entered the Grammar School when very young, but it is doubtful whether he ever took his degree. The time at which he would have completed the ordinary course of collegiate study, was embraced in the unhappy period in the history of the College, when, by the unlawful withdrawal of its funds, it was reduced in strength and shorn of academic honor. No commencement trophies illumined the darkness of those melancholy days. Not a few of our Alumni, since eminent, left her halls during the interval without the customary tokens of her regard.

Mr. Johnson is said to have withdrawn from College at sixteen—it is quite certain that he began the study of the law at an unusually early age, under the direction at first of his distinguished Father, and afterwards, for a time at least, in the office of Judge John Stephen, of the Court of Appeals.

I have heard from contemporary authority that he early became familiar with the atmosphere of the Court, and during the whole progress of his

preparation for the Bar attended the trial of causes with remarkable regularity:—thus imparting to the theory of the science a reality and practicalness in application, which afterwards gave him that clear perception and ready mastery of the principles of the law which excited the admiration alike of the Bench and the Bar. His passion for it was hereditary, and was manifested by a devotion which was prophetic of success.

He was admitted to the Bar and began practice at Upper Marlboro, Prince George County, in 1815, when only in his twentieth year. Not long after he was appointed by the Attorney General of the State, his deputy for that Judicial District, and performed the duties of the office with energy and credit.

In November 1817 he sought a wider field for the exercise of his talents, and removing to Baltimore, entered upon the brilliant career which has made him one of the most eminent lawyers of his country. His rise in his profession was rapid and steady, with no backward step, until the topmost round of the ladder was reached.

It was not till 1821 that we see his name for the first time, connected with public duties other than those of his profession. In that year, when only twenty-five, he was elected to the State Senate for a term of five years, and at its expiration was re-elected for another term. Of the latter, however, he served only two years, and resigned the office to devote himself more exclusively to his practice.

In 1845, he was elected to the Senate of the United States, where he at once assumed a leading

position, and took a prominent part in the discussion of the important questions which then engaged the attention of Congress and the country. This position he resigned in 1849 to accept the appointment of Attorney General in the Cabinet of General Taylor. Perhaps no official position could have been more congenial to his habits and tastes, but he held it for little more than a year, retiring, with most of the Cabinet, on the death of General Taylor and the accession of Mr. Fillmore.

He now devoted himself to his practice almost exclusively, until the outbreak of the unhappy civil war which convulsed the land. His earnest efforts were exerted to avert that calamity. He was one of the delegates from Maryland to the "Peace Convention" which met at Washington to make a last attempt to compromise our sectional difficulties.

In that convention he boldly repudiated the doctrine of secession, and avowed himself an unconditional Union man. When therefore all measures for that purpose failed and the strife became inevitable, Mr. Johnson, as is well known, defended the use of the military power of the General Government for the maintenance or restoration of the federal Union. While continuing to sustain this position, he strove by every means in his power to allay the bitterness of local feeling, and watched for the first opportunity for conciliation and for terminating the horrors of fraternal strife.

In 1861 he accepted a seat in the House of Delegates from Baltimore County;—and in the winter of 1862–63, he was again elected to the United States Senate,—resuming his seat in that body in

March 1863, after an interval of fourteen years. About this time he was deputed by President Lincoln as a special commissioner to visit the City of New Orleans and revise the decisions of its military commandant (General Butler) in regard to some important questions involving our relations with other Governments. He found it necessary to reverse those decisions, in which his course received the approval of the Government. While in the Senate he voted for the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery—having, in common with his great predecessor Wm. Pinkney, and other of the older statesmen of Maryland, deplored the existence of that institution. He participated largely in the debates of the period, and evinced that perfect independence in the formation of his opinions upon public measures and in the advocacy of them, which was so marked a trait in his char acter. Always decided in his views, as a public man he often found himself in conflict of opinion with leading men of the party with which he acted. The liberality of his mind and his habit of bringing every subject to the test of calm reasoning and cool judgment, would have always prevented him from becoming a bigoted partisan.

We come now to an important event in the public life of Mr. Johnson. This was his appointment as Ambassador to England, with special reference to the differences with that country, particularly those growing out of what were known as the "Alabama Claims." He was now to appear in a new character, that of a diplomatist.

Coming as a minister of peace and with a reputation of the highest distinction for ability, upright-

ness and candor, he was met by a reception, both from government and people, never before accorded to an American minister. So general and so marked was this sentiment, that Lord Clarendon declared, in a letter to a friend in America, that "Mr. Johnson was the only diplomatic representative which had ever brought out the true friendly feeling of the British people for those of the United States." There was about Mr. Johnson a personal magnetism which drew and charmed the English mind, and his blended geniality and dignity of manner was calculated to confirm his influence. Entering upon negotiations with a mutual feeling like this, it is not surprising that in the course of a few months a treaty was framed that embraced the main points in dispute.

As is well known, however, the Senate refused to ratify it. It does not befit the occasion to consider the reasons assigned for its rejection. There was at the time a condition of popular and party feeling unfavorable for calm judgment, and quite sufficient to account for the senatorial action, without disparaging either the merits of the treaty, or the skill and ability of the negotiator.

There are not a few unprejudiced men who think that the subsequent treaty (which was ratified) did not differ very essentially from the former, as to the value of the principles established or the material advantages gained.

Mr. Johnson returned home in June 1869, and resuming practice in the higher branches of his profession, continued it, with unabated ardor, down to the very day of his lamented death.

On the morning of that day the 10th of February 1876, he had come to Annapolis to argue, at the opening of the Court of Appeals the next morning, the first case upon the docket. Dining, with other distinguished guests at the Executive mansion, his life was terminated suddenly, in the evening of that day, by the melancholy accident, the incidents of which are too well known to need repetition here.

Apart from a natural shock at its character and violence, there would seem to be a happy fitness in the place and the occasion of his death. Full of years and full of honors, he had returned to his native city to engage in another forensic contest in the same old Statehouse which had been one of the principal theatres of his fame, scarcely a hundred feet distant from the spot where he fell. Still nearer, on the right, stands the ancient mansion where his life began and his youth was nurtured, and a few hundred yards distant in another direction, rise the classic halls of his Alma Mater, where his education was received and he put on the intellectual armor which was to fit him for professional attainment.

At the height of his fame, in the full possession of his faculties, with the devoted love of many kindred, the affection of numerous friends, and the universal esteem of his countrymen, he passed out of life, without the pangs of sickness or the infirmities of decay,—by a painless death.

In the calm retrospect of such a life, the associations of its close seem in fitting harmony with its history—the quiet sunset of an almost cloudless day.

Mr. Johnson's earthly life was an eminently successful one, and to outward observation a happy one.

Of calm and placid temperament, his disposition was not easily ruffled by the troubles of the world. Resolute in will, patient of results and of unusual self-control, he seemed to possess the faculty of overcoming difficulties, and of shaping events to a happy issue. High-minded and honorable in all his dealings, he never stooped to an unfairness. With the instincts of the perfect gentleman, his professional bearing was uniformly courteous and respectful. Amiable and kind-hearted, he was gentle and considerate towards all men. In all the relations of life he was exemplary. His heart was the home of pure and noble impulses, and he passed through life without a stain upon his reputation.

Mr. Johnson always manifested a high sense of the obligations of religion, and was a regular and reverential attendant upon its services. It was natural, therefore, and necessary to the completion of such a character, that in his later days, he should yield obedience to the requirements of the Church by a hearty reception of its ordinances.

To my mind there is no more touching incident in his history, than that which witnessed the approach of the great lawyer and statesman, leaning on the arm of his son, to the chancel-rail of St. Paul's, and kneeling there with bowed head to receive from the Bishop "the laying on of hands" in the holy rite of Confirmation.

That was the consummation, the crowning glory of his life; and from the spirit of humility and the testimony of faith which inspired and accompanied it, may his friends derive sure hope and consolation in his departure.

NOTE.

Mr. Johnson's death was caused by a fall, the precise circumstances of which are unknown. Dining at the Executive Mansion, he left the table before the other guests and was conducted by the Governor to the parlour for a short repose, as was his custom after dinner. About a half hour afterwards he was found lying on the pavement near the side of the house, bleeding and lifeless. It would seem that he had gone out alone in the dusk of the evening, and misled by his imperfect vision, had strayed from the path and fallen down an area connected with the building, striking his head against a projection of the basement wall.

Mr. Johnson had for several years been gradually losing his sight, making it unsafe for him to walk out alone, and occasioning his friends no little anxiety by his venturesomeness. For a long time he had been unable to read a line, and was wholly dependent upon others for the examination of authorities in the preparation of his arguments. But his increasing blindness was borne with uncomplaining submissiveness, his cheerfulness of spirit seemed never to leave him, and his conversation was full of characteristic pleasantry and humour to the last.

There is another subject of which mention should be made. Mr. Johnson took a deep interest in the welfare of his Alma Mater, which was shown in various ways. For several years past he rarely omitted attending the exercises of Commencement, and his presence and speeches made the most attractive feature of the Alumni banquet. Those who were present will not soon forget the occasion, upon which he alluded in touching terms to a visit, while in England, to St. John's College, Oxford; and how, as he wandered through its ancient Halls, his thoughts reverted to his boyhood days and to his own Alma Mater so far away, until he gave utterance to his feelings and told them of his indebtedness for intellectual culture to another St. John's College in his native land.

FRANCIS THOMAS, A. M.

FRANCIS THOMAS was born on the 3rd of February 1799 in Frederick County Maryland, where the larger portion of his life was passed except when absent in public duties.

He obtained his collegiate education at St. John's and is credited on the records with having received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, but in what year, and with what class, does not appear upon the books. This, and other similar instances of omission, would seem to indicate a lamentable carelessness in keeping the records of the College at that period.

He at once entered upon the study of the law and was admitted to the bar in 1820 when twenty-one years of age. Of fine personal appearance and agreeable manners, having a rich voice and a ready command of the best language, he possessed in a remarkable degree the outward qualifications for the orator. With a mind of great vigour improved by high cultivation and varied reading, he had the power to make his influence felt among all classes of the community. He became at once an unusually attractive speaker and a successful advocate. Not confining himself to his practice he soon engaged in politics, and was sent to the Legislature in 1822, and by successive re-elections represented his district in the House of Delegates till 1827. Returned again in 1829, he was chosen its speaker.

In 1831 he was elected to Congress and continued a member of the House of Representatives for ten years, withdrawing from that body, or declining a re-election, when, in 1841, he was elected Governor of the State. Previous to this period, in 1839, he was made President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

It was about this time that the domestic trouble occurred which shadowed all his after life with sadness. This was a difference between himself and his wife, (a daughter of a distinguished citizen of Virginia,*) which at last terminated in a divorce. It attracted much attention and variety of opinion at the time, and much feeling was manifested by the friends of the parties on either side. The general impression, however, among disinterested persons was that there were no circumstances in the case which a spirit of mutual forbearance and conciliation might not have reconciled, and thus have prevented the lamentable result, affecting the happiness of both, a final separation.

This event produced a lasting influence upon the character and the pursuits of Mr. Thomas. A morbid sentiment took possession of his mind which crushed the impulses of ambition within him, and caused him to withdraw from public life.

From this retirement he was re-called by the excitement which preceded the late civil war. He entered at once into the contest, and his popular addresses in defence of the Union revived the recollection of the eloquent efforts of his early days, especially a speech of great power and brilliancy delivered before a large meeting in the City of Baltimore.

*Governor McDowell.

His activity was not confined to popular appeals. By his personal efforts and influence he early raised a considerable force, numbering at least a full regiment, the honour of commanding which he declined for the reason that he had no knowledge of military tactics, and was therefore unwilling to assume such responsibility.

He soon after became a candidate for Congress and was returned to the House of Representatives, by successive elections, from the year 1861 to the year 1869. The crisis aroused all his energies and he participated largely in the debates in the House, advocating with great earnestness the leading measures of the Government and voting for the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

His speeches always commanded marked attention and were characterized by a breadth of view, and a statesmanlike comprehension of principles, which went beyond the exigencies of the hour. All his contemporaries bear testimony to the graces of his oratory. In commanding presence, in voice and tone and gesture, and in power of thought and nervous elegance of language, he was unquestionably one of the most accomplished orators that Maryland has produced, and in whose fame, therefore, his Alma Mater may justly take pride. And yet he himself seemed to attach but a subordinate value to the reputation, in comparison with acts and results. As he said to a fellow member, when a vote was about to be taken upon a measure of transcendent importance, in the defence of which he had taken a prominent part,—"Words die as men die; but the vote you are about to give will

be recorded for all time, on the side of right or against it."

In 1869, after the close of the 40th Congress, Mr. Thomas was appointed by President Grant, Collector of Internal Revenue for the Fourth District of Maryland, which included the place of his residence; a position which he held till April 1872, when he resigned it to become Minister to the Republic of Peru. This was the first diplomatic post, and the last public office, he ever filled. Returning from this mission in the summer of 1875, he told a friend that he intended to take no further part in politics, but to retire to his "mountain home," and spend the rest of his days in peace and tranquility.

But alas! his pleasant anticipations were doomed to be suddenly extinguished. He did, indeed, resume the agricultural pursuits so congenial to his tastes on his farm in Alleghany County, but not to continue them long. Absorbed in his plans of improvement, he was one day walking from one part of his estate to another on the line of the Rail Road, when, perceiving a train approaching, he stepped, to avoid it, on the other track, without observing that another train was coming from the opposite direction. All unconscious of his danger, he was in a moment struck by the engine and violently hurled several feet from the track. A small contusion on the back of the head and a larger bruise upon the shoulder were the only marks of the violence of the blow—but he was found to be insensible, and was not known to have spoken afterwards. Thus terminated, on the 22d of January 1876, the life of Francis Thomas, lawyer and

statesman, just nineteen days before that of his compeer and friend, Reverdy Johnson. How strange the coincidence by which two aged men, both eminent in the councils of their state and country, during the same period of rare historic interest, should meet their end by a fate so similar!

In the case of Mr. Thomas, death came at what appeared to be a turning point in his career. Years of mental depression had passed away, pecuniary embarrassments, which to a proud spirit like his, sensitive to every obligation, must have been peculiarly irritating, had given place to a condition of comparative prosperity and he was relieved from future anxieties. He had brought with him from Peru a stock of Alpaca sheep, with the hope of being able to introduce the breed extensively, and had formed various plans connected with agricultural pursuits, which he fondly expected would employ his energies of mind and body for yet many years of vigorous life. And thus we purpose, day by day, "whereas we know not what shall be on the morrow."

Mr. Thomas was well fitted for rural enjoyment; he had been a close observer of men and things, had seen much of the world and realized its hollowness. Fond of reading and retaining what he read, his memory was stored with facts and incidents, that made him a delightful companion to the few intimates whose society he preferred to general intercourse. To such he was wont to pour forth, in fluent words and animated manner, the flood of recollections which came welling up as from a copious fountain. Nor were these mental traits merely the charm of private

life; they exerted a potent influence over men o independent thought and action,—and men i high official station not unfrequently took counse from his well-trained and thoughtful mind. Ever President Jackson himself is known to hav yielded him warm attachment and unbounde confidence. Like him, too, Mr. Thomas was man of imperious will, and as a politician h sometimes manifested an arrogance of manne which contradiction aroused into vehemence. Holding it as a maxim that a leader should brook no opposition to his sway, he assumed absolute control over the inferior men of his party, and when such claim naturally excited revolt, he did not hesitate to ostracise the offender.

Decided in his own convictions, he was often intolerant to the opinions of others. As a consequence of this lofty bearing he was perhaps more generally feared than loved. There was no question, however, of his integrity in word and deed. He believed what he asserted, and carried his belief into act. His conscientiousness was in some things pushed to an extreme. It is said that he would never accept any gift, however trifling, as a recognition of public service. John Quincy Adams himself was not more severely scrupulous in this respect. A similar instance in the life of each illustrates this characteristic of both. Some friends of Mr. Thomas procured a costly cane as a token of their appreciation of his public conduct—which he respectfully declined! And the writer was present when Mr. Adams refused to receive a cane, made from an ash-tree cut at Ashland by Mr. Clay himself, which "the Young

Whigs" of Maryland had prepared as a mark of regard to "the old man eloquent," then a member of the House of Representatives. It may be well to add that the cane afterwards found a fitting recipient in Mr. Johnson, who had (he assured us) "no conscientious scruples against its acceptance."

Notwithstanding the peculiarities of character to which allusion has been made, Mr. Thomas had many warm personal friends, who cherish the better qualities of the man while they admire the ability of the orator and statesman. His long public services will be held in grateful remembrance by his native State, and his name will ever live in her history as of one of the most eloquent and gifted of her sons.

NINIAN PINKNEY, M. D., LL. D.

Medical Director NINIAN PINKNEY, of the United States Navy, the second son of Ninian and Amelia Pinkney, and nephew of the celebrated lawyer and statesman William Pinkney, was born in Annapolis, Maryland, on the 7th day of June, 1811. At an early age he entered St. John's College, and graduated with honor in the class of 1830. Upon leaving college he decided to adopt the profession of medicine, and after spending some time in the office of Dr. Edward Sparks, who was at that time Professor of Ancient Languages in St. John's College, young Pinkney attended a two years course of lectures at the Medical College in Baltimore, and then removed to Philadelphia, where he entered the Jefferson Medical College, and during his whole course of study at that institution, was noted for his enthusiastic love for his profession, as well as for his patient research and original investigations. He graduated with high honor from that institution, and soon after received an appointment in the Medical Corps of the Navy, where he quickly rose to eminence in his profession; the records of the Navy showing many instances of his skill as a surgeon, to which none but those learned in surgery are competent to do full justice. It is sufficient to say here that Surgeon Pinkney amply fulfilled the promise of his early professional life, and

when retired from the service at the age of sixty-two, in the full possession of all his powers, he had been promoted to the rank of Medical Director,—the highest grade in the service.

It was at this time that he received a letter from Medical Director Johnson, which is given below as showing the estimation in which Dr. Pinkney was held by his professional brothers, and as explaining his connection with an important invention in surgery during his residence in Lima in the early years of his professional career. The letter bears date January 11th 1873, which was about the time of Dr. Pinkney's retirement.

"My Dear Doctor:

I cannot allow you to retire from the active service of the Navy without expressing to you the high estimate I place on your skill as a surgeon.

In 1843 it was my pleasure to be present when you removed a portion of the lower jawbone from a young man in Lima. The fleet surgeon of the French Fleet was present on the occasion. The question arose as to the mode of the operation. The usual plan, as laid down by eminent surgeons as Sir Astley Cooper and Velpeau, was to make an incision along the lower portion of the jaw, and then carrying the incision to the corner of the mouth. I recollect well that you did not approve of this mode of operation, for two reasons: First, that the operation would be unseemly. Secondly, the division of the seventh pair of nerves would mar the expression of the face and leave an ugly scar. For the first time in surgical history you made a curvilinear incision below the lower border

of the jaw and extended it to the middle of the chin. By this mode of operation there was no disfigurement, and the operation was performed in a manner which elicited commendation at the hands of the French Fleet Surgeon, who had been a pupil of the celebrated Velpeau of France. The palm of originality was accorded to you, and you richly deserve it.

(Signed,) WM. JOHNSON,
Med. Director, U. S. Navy."

During the whole of his professional career, Dr. Pinkney took a deep interest in the Medical Association, of which he was one of the founders. He was at one time Vice-President of the Association, and on two occasions was called upon to represent it abroad, at Leeds and Florence, the second time as chairman of the delegation from this country, and his report excited general interest on account of its exceptional ability and thorough carefulness.

But not alone as a professional man is Dr. Pinkney deserving of our respect and admiration, for there are abundant proofs that he was possessed of that scholarly culture which graces the highest stations in life, enlarging and strengthening the intellectual powers, while it tempers the energies of the mind with "sweetness and light." A prominent clergyman of the Episcopal Church the Rev. Dr. Hutton, himself a scholar of no small attainments, and who was intimately acquainted with Dr. Pinkney, says of him: "I can speak from my own knowledge of his noble characteristics, and from personal experience of his many kindnesses to me

and mine. I had a high estimate of his great and varied powers—of his vast erudition in medical science—of his extraordinary learning outside of his profession, even to a large compass of constitutional law and political philosophy—of his special gifts of oratory—and not least, of those genial qualities which rendered him so delightful in the social circle and made his presence so enjoyable to his friends, whether at his own hospitable mansion or elsewhere. I can never forget his kindnesses, his marked characteristics, his almost marvellous powers and capacities." The Hon. Reverdy Johnson also entertained a very high opinion of his knowledge of constitutional and international law, as well as of political philosophy.

In 1873 Dr. Pinkney delivered the Annual Address before the Societies of St. John's College, and on Commencement day the degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him. This was the second address he had delivered at the College, having already filled the position of orator before the Alumni some years before. He was an enthusiastic believer in the future of St. John's College, and a frequent and most welcome guest at our Commencement Exercises, which he enlivened with his ready wit and genial companionship. Among the students of the College he was the most popular of all the older Alumni, and the annual banquet would have been to them at least a dull affair, without the toast to the Army and Navy, and Dr. Pinkney's stirring and eloquent response. I remember that on the evening of Commencement Day 1872, when a large number of the students had collected in front of Hum-

phrey's Hall for a final jollification, that Dr. Pinkney being on the College green and hearing our College glees, came up and joined us. We all called upon him for a speech, and after some persuasion, he mounted a chair which some one had provided and made a short address to the boys, who crowded around him. Never could he have had a more appreciative audience, and the shouts of laughter evoked by sallies of wit, were followed by cheer after cheer from lusty lungs which made the campus ring with merriment. This incident of which the writer was a witness, is mentioned as indicative of what he conceives to have been a prominent trait in Dr. Pinkney's character—his ready sympathy with the young. Surely there is no better proof of the existence of a kind heart than that this grey-haired veteran sympathized with the aspirations of youth, and loved the companionship of the young, and could participate with as keen a zest as any of us in the joyous mirth of our College life. The social qualities of Dr. Pinkney were indeed remarkable, and there are those present to-day who can bear better and fuller testimony than mine to his possession of many qualities which made his companionship fascinating to all who knew him.

By thus dwelling upon his social characteristics it is not intended to imply that he was deficient in those more serious attributes which dignify and ennoble manhood. During his long service in the Navy Dr. Pinkney made hosts of friends among his associates, many of whom held high rank, and his character was not only such as to win their love, but to compel their respect and admiration.

His old friend and messmate Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers, expressed a general opinion, when he said of him that he "was as true as steel and as brave as his own sword."

Upon his retirement from active service Dr. Pinkney took up his residence on his beautiful estate near Easton, Maryland, where he spent the remaining years of his life. It was here that he died on the 15th of December, 1877, in the sixty-seventh year of his age, in the full communion of the Episcopal Church, and in the full possession of all his powers.

[N. B.—I regret my inability to make a more perfect sketch of Dr. Pinkney's life, but those of the Alumni who desire a more detailed account are referred to a very full and appreciative sketch prepared by his brother the Right Rev. William Pinkney, which has been largely used in the preparation of this memoir.

J. S. W.]

JOHN WALTER LYNCH, L. B.

CLASS OF 1872.

JOHN WALTER LYNCH was born in Richmond, Indiana, on the 13th of January 1833, and at the age of eight years, removed with his family to Washington, D. C., his father having received an appointment in the Post Office Department. In the early part of 1869 Mr. Lynch entered St. John's College as a member of the Freshman Class, and soon showed that he was endowed with intellectual gifts of a high order. He was thoughtful beyond his years, and in all his studies he displayed originality and independent criticism. His classmates soon learned to love his quiet gentle nature, to appreciate his intellectual worth and to admire his frank and manly character. He was one of the best writers in College, and on one occasion he read an essay on Tennyson which Prof. Corson considered a most admirable critique, and one which displayed remarkable originality, as well as a keen sympathy with poetic feeling and expression.

At the end of his Sophomore year, he felt compelled to return to Washington, where for nearly four years he held a position in the City Post Office. He always manifested a deep interest in the welfare of the College, though the duties of his position often forbade him the pleasure of returning to take part in our celebrations and re-

unions. During his residence in Washington in 1873 and 1874, and while he held his position in the City Post Office, he studied law, graduated at the law school of the Columbian University, and at the April Term 1874 was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

In the summer of 1876 he went to Indianapolis, furnished with excellent letters and animated with bright hopes of success in his profession. Shortly after his arrival there his health, which had not been strong for sometime before, began to give way, and in the very beginning of his professional career he was obliged to lay aside his books. From this time he grew steadily worse until in April 1877, he went to the Sanitarium at Asheville, North Carolina, where his sufferings were ended by death on the 18th of July 1877.

RICHARD SWAN.

THE materials for a biographical notice of RICHARD SWAN are very meagre, though an effort has been made to acquire more exact information.

Richard Swan was a Virginian by birth, and when quite young removed with his family from his native place, Alexandria, to Annapolis. It appears from our Catalogue of the College, published in 1874, that Mr. Swan attended College from 1830 to 1832, but did not graduate. During this period of his life he lived with his brother, who kept the City Hotel in Annapolis, and sometime afterwards he became proprietor of the hotel; together with James Iglehart. In those days the position was one which brought him into contact with many leading men of the State, with whom he was deservedly popular. Many lawyers from all parts of the State would spend two or three weeks at a time in Annapolis, waiting for the argument of their cases in the Court of Appeals, as the present custom of assigning a certain number of cases for each day of the term did not then prevail.

It was probably during this time that Mr. Swan laid the foundation of that popularity which he possessed in after life. He was very much respected by the community in which he lived, and was honored by his fellow-citizens with several positions of public trust. He was Mayor of the

City of Annapolis, and served several terms in the City Council. He also represented Anne Arundel County in the lower House of the Legislature, and for a number of years filled the position of State Librarian. During many years of his life he was a director of the bank in Annapolis, and in 1850 he was appointed Commissary of the Naval Academy, and discharged the duties of the position with fidelity, until his death on the 7th of May, 1877. In all these positions of public trust Mr. Swan was faithful in the discharge of their duties, and his conduct was such as to win the respect and esteem of all who knew him. A good citizen and public-spirited man, he was equally respected in private life as a man of integrity and generous impulses.

JOHN RIGGS BROWN, Jr., A. M.

For the third time are we called upon to chronicle the death of a member of the Class of 1859. The first was that of Richard R. Goodwin of Annapolis, the second of James Edgar Richardson of Anne Arundel County; and now we have to add to the roll that of John Riggs Brown, who was born at Ellicott City, Howard County, on the 14th of November, 1840, and died November 19th, 1877, in the 38th year of his age. He was the son of John R. Brown, a prominent farmer and highly esteemed citizen of Howard County, and a member of the House of Delegates of Maryland during the sessions of 1860–1861.

At an early age young Brown evinced a studious disposition and a decided fondness for books, and after having received a good elementary education at the primary schools of the County, he was sent to St. John's College, entering the Freshman Class in 1856. His course at College was a very creditable and successful one in all the studies of a full academic curriculum. But especially in linguistic studies and in general literature was his proficiency worthy of note. His attainments in these branches won the respect both of Professors and of Students; so that, although his class-standing at graduation was not so high as it would have been, had he chosen to devote more time to mathematical and

scientific studies, his literary culture, we are assured, was superior to that of any of his classmates, and his æsthetic faculties in general had received a development quite unusual among college graduates.

Three years after leaving College, namely in 1862, he joined the Confederate Army, enlisting in Company A, First Maryland Cavalry, in which he served until the close of the war. He then returned to the residence of his father near Woodstock, Howard County, and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1869, when he removed to Ellicott City and founded the "Ellicott City Times," a weekly newspaper, which he published with marked ability until his death.

A friend and brother editor says of him: "Mr. Brown was endowed with far more than ordinary ability and intelligence. He was a keen observer of passing events, and always clothed his thoughts in graceful, pleasing and forcible language. For the profession of journalism he was peculiarly adapted, possessing, as he did, quick perceptions, true intuitions, varied information, and a just appreciation of the requirements of the people for whom he always wielded an able pen. He was a a young man of excellent judgment, and all that emanated from him was read with careful attention by the community for whom he wrote. His editorials were always seasoned with wholesome humor and sparkling wit; and, when provoked to recrimination, his caustic pen was used with telling effect. His talents gained him the respect and admiration of all who knew him even but slightly, while his genial disposition and rare per-

sonal fascination endeared him to all who knew him well. He was generous to a fault, sincere and ardent in his friendships, warm and impulsive in his sympathies, and always gentle, courteous, kind, and frank."

[From notes of his class-mate Prof. Hopkins.]