

JOHN M. SPEED.

John M. Speed, son of John H. and Susan M. Speed, of Mecklenburg county, Va., was born on the 5th of May, 1815, and died on the 1st of November, 1866, at the age of fifty-one. He completed his education at William and Mary College in the year 1839. He soon after married Catherine Page Waller, daughter of Wm. Waller, and located at Lynchburg, where he engaged in the practice of the law, and resided until his death. He died of diphtheria, in Washington City, to which place he had gone on business. He was a lawyer of distinguished ability and wide reputation, as the notices of his death in the papers of Lynchburg and other places fully attest.

The Lynchburg *News*, speaking of the death of John M. Speed, said :

“The void created in our community by this melancholy event can scarcely be realized by any one not a citizen of the place. Few men have been more honored, loved and trusted than he. For twenty-five years or more he had lived and moved amongst us, honored by the important trusts which have been repeatedly confided to his keeping, loved for the purity of his principles, the geniality of his disposition and the high-toned honor which pervaded his every action, and trusted with implicit confidence in matters involving alike the dearest and most delicate interests of private life, and the most important, onerous and responsible duties of public station.”

The Lynchburg *Virginian* said :

“The death of Mr. Speed is a severe blow to Lynchburg. He was one of our most useful citizens. In various capacities he had served her with fidelity and ability. He had at different times filled the position of Representative in the Legislature, member of the State Convention, President of the City Council, Bank President, Canal Director, and was always found equal to any duties devolved upon him, and a wise, judicious and zealous public servant.”

This paper also speaks in the highest praise of his attainments as a lawyer and his eloquence as an orator. It says he was a Whig in politics, a leader of his party, always cautious, yet bold in the expression of his sentiments :

“But, admirable as Mr. Speed was in his public relations, it was in his private and personal character that he excelled and shone