

OUR score and two years of as nearly correct life as mortal man can live on this earth of service to his Master and his fellow man and of devotion to duty may be said truthfully of **Major George Wythe Macrae** now rounding out sixty one years in Memphis, widely known as financier and philanthropist, gentleman of the old Virginia school of classical education, wide reading, congenial disposition respected by the entire community and loved by all who know him.



Born May 28 1838 in Fauquier County Virginia the son of Bailey W. and Sarah j. Stuart Macrae he was educated at the Academy in Warrenton Virginia and finished his course at Stewart College Clarksville Tennessee, now the Southwestern Presbyterian University of which he has been a director for nearly forty years and which he now is actively engaged in trying to

move to Memphis and expand into an institution worthy of Presbyterianism.

He came to Memphis sixty one years ago and he and the late Dr. D. T. Porter formed the wholesale grocery and cotton factoring firm of Porter & Macrae. Save for an interruption on account of the Civil war in which Major Macrae enlisted as a private this firm stood for nearly forty years surpassed by none in this section for honesty and efficiency. For nearly thirteen years following 1894 he was the president of the Memphis National Bank and the Memphis Savings Bank. For about twenty years he was the president of the Chickasaw Cooperage Company which from a small beginning has become one of the leading concerns of its class in the United States. During these years of active business Major Macrae acquired many excellently located pieces of business property but during the time that liquor was currently sold in Memphis and the rental from its dealers was the best Major Macrae steadfastly declined to lease any of his property for that class of business. He did not believe that the saloon was good for the community from a moral standpoint and had the courage of his conviction in that line as in every other. His duty to his God his family and his fellow man was ever uppermost in his mind. His business acumen was great enough for him to make a fortune every dollar of which is clean. For years he has been president of the Cossitt Library for a quarter of a century a director in the Second Presbyterian Church Inc and for nearly half a century a ruling elder and a teacher in the Sunday school of that congregation. He has never entered politics save for the exercise of his influence and suffrage for the side of right decency and honesty.

Major Macrae has been married twice first in Clarksville Tennessee on September 13 1866 to Miss Fannie Morris of Kentucky. Their only child is Mrs. Walter White. On March 2 1881 he and Miss Blanche L. Avent daughter of the late Dr. B. W. Avent were married. Five children were born of whom Mrs. R. B. Lacey, Mrs. F. M. Crump and Mrs. B. A. Bogy survive.