

preacher among our brethren in the South, and was called by Henry Clay "the past-master of eloquence who shows us all the way." Other members of the family have attained high distinction. His mother, whose maiden name was Simms, belonged to a family which numbered among its members at least one prominent educator.

His early life was thus spent in a home where Christian influence was strong and intellectual stimulus abounded. These were supplemented by the training of the country school and the influences of a church blessed with godly and able pastors. To both he proved responsive. Evidence was given in boyhood of uncommon gifts, and his thirst for knowledge was shown by an extensive course of private reading; but better than that, whilst still in his teens, he was soundly converted to God, entered upon active Christian work, and reached the conviction that God wanted him in the ministry. With that object in view, after some experience in teaching public school, he entered the University of Virginia in 1846.

His career there was a remarkable one in several respects, and has remained a model ever since. "A rage for knowing," to quote his own phrase, possessed him. He was already pretty well matured, and therefore conditioned to get the most out of the more difficult subjects of college study. The University of Virginia, by its perfect elective method, affords exceptional freedom in the choice and order of studies. This method recognizes the different aptitudes and attainments of men, adjusts itself readily to their needs, and so gives freer play to the development of the individual. Dr. Broadus was an enthusiastic advocate of it all his life. He chose the stock subjects, but in a somewhat unusual order. Moreover, he took more time than was really necessary to cover the work for the M.A. degree, being determined to do his work with the utmost thoroughness. He looked rather to real strength and future usefulness than to immediate honors, in accordance with the counsel given afterwards to his students: "Young brethren," said he, "*think; acquire knowledge; ripen into maturity. Aim at a life time of usefulness. Treat your probable life as a whole.*" A striking feature of his course is that until his first vacation he had never touched Greek, in which he was destined to achieve such eminence. Two years