

“Dr. Speed, at an early period of his life, became an ardent supporter of that great scheme of benevolence—the colonization of emancipated slaves—which has resulted in the establishment of a growing republic on the coast of Africa. Originally a slave-holder himself, he clearly saw the whole evil of slavery and the necessity of its earliest practical extinguishment. He likewise entered with great zeal and efficiency into the temperance movement from its very commencement. The success of this cause within this State was mainly owing to his untiring efforts with pen and purse, word and deed, in connection with comparatively few kindred spirits, who cordially appreciated each other's views and motives. His essays and correspondence on the subjects of colonization and temperance would form a volume of great interest. His thoughts were, however, by no means confined to these subjects, but embraced a great variety of topics, and he invariably clothed them in a pleasant and fascinating garb.

“The subject of this sketch was a gentleman in the true sense of the term; dignified in his deportment, he possessed an intuitive sense of what was due to others, and was keenly indignant at anything which bordered on meanness or injustice. He possessed extraordinary powers as a controversialist; fair, honorable and courteous when his adversary, was worthy of him, but unsparing of the lash in a case proper for its infliction.

“His education was highly finished. His literary taste possessed too much severity to allow him to be an orator. He was quick to detect the use of inappropriate words common to fluent speakers, and this quality may have discouraged any effort on his part in popular assemblies. But this severity of taste enabled him to wield a powerful pen. His style of composition was chaste and polished, and, as the servant, an instrument of great power.

“He was so perfectly a master of language when committing his thoughts to paper that he could play with his subject at will. However dry or abstrusive the subject, he invariably presented it in a drapery so attractive as to keep up the interest to the end. His mind was remarkably sociable and communicative. Nothing delighted him more, when leisure permitted, than to correspond with particular friends on subjects connected with literary criticisms in a humorous, playful manner. He kept up with the intelligence of the age in which he lived and made himself an agreeable and instructive companion to the young as well as the aged.

“Dr. Speed was warm in his attachments. His friends could not help loving him. His intercourse with them exhibited all the confiding tenderness of childhood. His confidence once bestowed could not easily be shaken, and he took pleasure in showing it was unbounded. In this respect he united the simplicity of the child to