

He was a sincere and earnest Christian, a member and elder in the Presbyterian church. His house was always open to his friends, and it was a custom for the preachers to stay at his house. Among those whom I remember being there, were Doctors R. J. Breckinridge, N. L. Rice, E. P. Humphrey, W. W. Hill, T. L. Hoyt, Wm. Mathews, and many others of his own and other churches.

Bardstown was about half way from Louisville to Danville, and before the railroads were built it was the custom of the various relatives at Danville and Lebanon and other interior places to stop at his house and stay all night. They were always welcome.

The principal feature in the character of Thomas S. Speed was his sincerity, and devoted adherence to what he believed was right.

The following incident will illustrate this: He was advised that a decoction of certain herbs and whisky would relieve his rheumatism. He found it did, but gave up the use of it. He said he would not use whisky even as a medicine; that he had a family of boys and he would suffer his pains rather than do anything that might possibly set them a bad example. He was fond of reading and was a great student of the Bible. He gave all his children a good education, and was able to assist them himself in their studies.

In his later years it was a custom for his sons to visit him on his birthdays. On his seventieth birthday there was an unusually large gathering, which gratified him very much. He did not show age. His smooth-shaved face and only slightly gray hair gave him a youthful appearance. Among the things presented on that occasion were some lines written by one of his sons, which showed how a God-fearing man, who walks in wisdom's ways, lengthens his years, and while blest himself, he blesses others.

The following stanzas from the poem illustrate his character:

Such is a life of God's own care,
How pleasant its surroundings are;
Like fertile valleys spreading wide,
Like gardens by the river's side.