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IN MEMORIAM.

Mrs. Artishia Gilbert Wilkerson,
A. B., A. M., M. D.

In the mountainous little town of Manchester, Ky., on the 2nd day of June 1868 was born Artishia Garcia, the pride of William and Amanda Gilbert; her parents. In her earliest years she had a love for books and was soon able to spell and read. In 1878 her parents moved to Louisville, where their child attended public school for three years. September 1881



ARTISHIA G. WILKERSON.

she became a Christian and united with the Green street Baptist church, pastored by Dr. D. A. Gaddie, who regarded her as one of his own children. The same year she entered State University under the Presidency of Rev. Wm. J. Simmons, D. D., finishing the Normal Department May 13, 1885, and from the College Department in 1889, as valedictorian. During these years she proved to be a bright pupil with clear insight, sound reason, retentive memory, and thorough in all. After school hours she taught here and there in private homes that she might help her mother to keep her in school. We might add here that no daughter ever had a mother more devoted than Mrs. Gilbert was to Artishia even to the last, and she often said "I owe all to mamma."

Mrs. Wilkerson was not only ambitious to be, but also ambitious to do. She worked in a little mission fostered by Dr. Simmons, on Ninth street, taught for years in the Sunday-school of Calvary Baptist church, was president of the Gleaners there a society for helping to bring in the unsaved. In her writings she was strong and logical and in her speaking she was convincing and pointed. She became instructor in her Alma Mater giving perfect satisfaction to the president and trustees, and many young men and women remember her as a worthy example. She allied herself with the Baptist Women's Educational Convention at its beginning as an active worker. She traveled and lectured through the state as its agent and organizer, and no woman was more highly esteemed by our Baptist ministry than was she, was a member of its board until last year; seldom missing a meeting. She was for several years on the Board of Directors of the Colored Orphans Home, giving faithful service.

Mrs. Wilkerson was also of a national reputation, having been identified with the National Baptist Convention almost since its organization, and at her death was the honored treasurer of the Women's Convention, Auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention, feeling that her life's work to be along the line of medicine, she entered and finished the course in the Louisville National Medical College there after taking a higher course at Howard University, Washington, D. C. Here also she met Mr. Wilkerson, a lawyer by profession, whom she married in 1896 and to whom she proved a devoted, loving wife. By their union are three beautiful children, B. O. Jr., age 5; Artishia Garcia age two and half; and a little boy two weeks. Mrs. Wilkerson was progressive, broad and liberal. She had indomitable energy and tact, and in all the many and honorable positions she held whether educational, religious or social, she conscientiously did her duty. She was eminent for rich and varied learning as well as for high attainment in all the graces

of true christianity and a yearning for the uplifting and saving of souls. She advocated woman's right to do what she could, was a lover of her race and denomination and noble embodiment of true womanhood. She died as she lived in the full triumph of faith, ready to go at her Lord's command, and having a desire to depart and be with Christ which she said was far better.

She died as the beloved President of the Baptist Women's Missionary Convention in which she had great pride. Among her last acts, was to give over the telephone to the corresponding secretary the day before her illness, her plans and urged them to be pushed at once. She was an active member of the Woman's Industrial Club, Woman's Improvement Club, Bell Embroidery Club, Woman's Federation Board, Sons and Daughters of the Morning, Sons and Daughters of Calvary and Ladies Union Band. She leaves a host of friends wherever she is known to mourn her loss, and all will feel themselves helped by having known her and may her mantle of the good deeds fall upon us; upon the young women of our race till every ear in this city, yea in this state hear the good news of great joy, and be ready to answer when Christ calls.

The funeral was largely attended at Green street church last Sunday afternoon when many were unable to gain admission. Rev. E. W. Reed, read 1 Cor. xv and Rev. W. Johnson, offered a most fervent prayer. Rev. E. P. Marrs, D. D., read the obituary and appropriate and touching remarks were made by Revs. C. L. Purce, D. D., President of State University and Wm. Washington, an aged friend. The funeral sermon was expected to have been preached by the venerable Dr. Gaddie, but he was so much affected by the death of Mrs. Wilkerson, that he refrained from that duty and delivered a most touching tribute to her memory. The choir of the church furnished appropriate music during the services.

Among the tributes of love and respect were resolutions from the Ladies Union Band, Sons and Daughters of the Morning, Sons and Daughters of Calvary, resolutions and a broken wheel from the Baptist Women's Mission Board, resolutions and a vacant chair from the Woman's Board of National Baptist Convention, resolutions from Faculty and students of State University, sympathy and beautiful designs from Industrial, Improvement, Embroidery clubs, brother letter-carriers, Greenwood Cemetery Company, Prof. and Mrs. C. F. Sneed, Dr and Mrs. W. E. Brown Indianapolis; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shackloford, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gibson, Mesdames Tinsley, Emma Frye, M. A. Taylor, Martha Atkins regrets and sympathy from Rev. J. H. Frank, Mrs. L. A. Fisher, of Danville, Ky., Rev. P. H. Kennedy and wife of Henderson, Ky. Peace to her ashes.

Mary V. Parrish,
Louisville, Ky.

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