

PASSING OF MISS A. F. WILSON.

...IT has been said, and truly too, that if the little Cherokee Nation should erect a Hall of Fame and place therein the busts of those who had accomplished some great and lasting

good for the Cherokees, that a likeness of Miss A. Florence Wilson would be among the first to be erected there. It is beyond the power of human ken to conceive the good that she has done in the years that are gone, and the influence of her life work will ever remain a monument to her as long as the life of those who have been entrusted to her care holds out—aye, even through all time, passing as it has and will from generation to generation and shaping for good what otherwise



might have been the doubtful destinies of dubious years, and too, this country is better she having lived in it. The solemn brood of care may plod on throughout eternity; the Cherokee Nation may become a part of a great state and the Female Seminary a University of a renowned commonwealth; the changes for the modern may be far superior to any ever known in history, yet, never, nay never, will there be one who will command a more profound respect and win the true love and receive the faithful obedience from the students of this institution than did Miss Wilson, and the secret of her success is attributed to the fact that each day she bowed in humble submission and fervently asked the guidance of an Almighty God.

Miss A. Florence Wilson was born near Cane Hill, Arkansas, and was educated principally at the splendid schools and young ladies' colleges for which Cane Hill has always been noted, and graduated at Granville, Tennessee. It was the excellent judgment of the late Dr. J. L. Thompson and John W. Stapler, and S. S. Stephens that first recognized the ability of Miss Wilson as a teacher, and through their influence she was appointed one of the first principals of the Tahlequah public schools, soon after the close of the war. She soon satisfied the Board of Education, at that time composed of such honorable men as William P. Ross, Rev. Stephen Foreman and Dr. J. L. Thompson, of her ability to conduct the highest grade of young ladies' colleges. She was appointed principal teacher of the old Female Seminary when the building stood near Park Hill and has occupied this position almost continuously since. As an educator, Miss Wilson is no doubt without a peer in the West as hundreds, nay thousands, of homes in the Territory can testify, and she has endeared herself to the hearts of the Cherokee people beyond compare, by her quiet, faithful, conscientious attention to the many trying and laborious duties devolving upon her as principal of the grandest monument that was ever erected to the high conceptions of the Cherokees—the National Female Seminary.

It will be remembered that as a testimony for her efficient services the National Council at its last regular session passed a bill unanimously appointing Miss Wilson principal of the Female Seminary for life. The bill was vetoed by the President of the

United States, but in no wise did the veto affect the sentiment and realization of duty well done among the people of this Nation. She has devoted thirty years of her life to the advancement and culture of the wives and daughters and has placed the crown of her success upon the womanhood of this country, and it was in obedience to the confidence of the mothers who unhesitatingly commit their daughters to her care that Council saw fit to pass such an act unprecedented in the history of American legislation.

To the girls she has almost assumed the role of a mother; their tears when in distress being her tears, and when recalcitrant her rigid rules and stern disciplinary ideas serving to allay any mutinous or rebellious feeling, and when nature has kissed them into sweet and modest womanhood; or when the cares of motherhood have come upon them they feel and appreciate the sterling worth of lessons learned under her care in happier days gone by.

It is understood that in view of the fact that the President refused to approve the bill appointing her for life that at the close of school this year she departed without applying for her same position, yet signifying a willingness to accept the position if tendered to her, and Miss Rider of Iowa, has been appointed by the Board of Education in her stead. Miss Rider is an estimable lady, highly cultured and no doubt well fitted for her new duties, and it is earnestly hoped by all, for all have the institution's good at heart, that her administration will be crowned by the success that has characterized Miss A. Florence Wilson's regime.