

PROFESSOR JONATHAN C. TORRENCE.

No history of the educational interests and advancements of Richland county would be complete without the history of Professor Jonathan C. Torrence, who for four years was connected with the schools of Mansfield. While the influence of the instructor upon his pupil is immeasurable, the world generally recognizes its great force. It has been an important factor in shaping the course of many a life, and in this way Professor Torrence contributed largely to the world's good.

He was born in Pennsylvania, on the 17th of July, 1839, and was a representative of one of the most aristocratic Scotch families of the Keystone state. He came of an ancestry honorable and distinguished, embracing among its members many teachers, ministers and lawyers, men of strong mentality and marked individuality. Professor Torrence was a graduate and teacher of one of the leading colleges of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and in 1873 came to Mansfield to accept a position in the public schools here. For four years he remained in this city prosecuting his work and then went to Indiana, in response to a position offered him, and for seven years remained in that state, after which he became allied with the educational work in Pennsylvania, continuing his professional labors there until his death.

In the year 1876 Professor Torrence was united in marriage to Miss Joanna M. Knapp, a native of Mansfield and a daughter of John N. Knapp, who located in Mansfield about the year 1838, coming to Ohio from near Philadelphia. Both himself and wife were of German ancestry. The mother died in 1898, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. She spent her last days in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Doll, now of Cleveland, and retained her mental faculties unimpaired until the last.

In her girlhood days Mrs. Torrence enjoyed the privileges afforded by the public schools, and before her marriage she successfully engaged in teaching. She entered the school-room as an instructor in 1860 and for many years devoted her energies largely to educational work. She had the ability to maintain discipline and impart readily to others a knowledge of the branches of English learning taught in the public schools. At her home in Mansfield, in 1876, she gave her hand in marriage to Professor Torrence, who was then the principal of the Hedges street school.

Professor and Mrs. Torrence held membership in the Presbyterian church and Mrs. Torrence is still identified with that denomination in Mansfield. She has two sons, Bartley M. and Carl F. Torrence, who are holding good positions in the business world in Mansfield, while Etta Torrence, a daughter of the Professor, is living in Mansfield with Mrs. Torrence. In March, 1894, she was called upon to mourn the loss of her husband, with whom she had traveled life's journey for eighteen years. He was a man of high intellectuality, broad human sympathies and tolerance, was imbued with fine sensibilities and clearly defined principles. Honor and integrity were synonymous with his name, and he enjoyed the respect, confidence and high regard of all with whom he was associated.