

To  
Thomas S. Whitted  
from

J. D. McDowell.

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A MEMOIR

OF THE

REV. ELISHA MITCHELL, D. D.,

LATE PROFESSOR OF

CHEMISTRY, MINERALOGY & GEOLOGY,

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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REV. ELISHA MITCHELL, D.D.

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY, MINERALOGY AND GEOLOGY.

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

*E. Mitchell*

Eng<sup>d</sup> for the Philanthropic Society in the University.

# A MEMOIR

OF THE

REV. ELISHA MITCHELL, D. D.,

LATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY, MINERALOGY & GEOLOGY

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA :

TOGETHER WITH

THE TRIBUTES OF RESPECT TO HIS MEMORY, BY VARIOUS  
PUBLIC MEETINGS AND LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS,

AND

THE ADDRESSES DELIVERED

AT THE RE-INTERMENT OF HIS REMAINS,

BY

RT. REV. JAMES H. OTEY, D. D.,

BISHOP OF TENNESSEE,

AND

HON. DAVID L. SWAIN, LL. D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

CHAPEL HILL:

PUBLISHED BY J. M. HENDERSON,

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# MEMOIR.

BY PROFESSOR CHARLES PHILLIPS.

ELISHA MITCHELL, D. D., Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology in the University of North Carolina, was born in Washington, Litchfield County, Connecticut, on the 19th of August, 1793. He was the eldest son of ABNER MITCHELL, a respectable farmer of that township, whose wife, PHEBE ELIOT, was a descendant in the fifth generation of JOHN ELIOT, the celebrated "Apostle to the Indians." Dr. MITCHELL was thus a member of a family now very widely spread over the United States, and reckoning many who have exercised much influence in Commerce, Politics, Science, and Religion. He possessed many of the characteristics which marked the ELIOTS, especially of the earlier generations. The Rev. JARED ELIOT, M. D. and D. D., minister for many years at Killingworth, Connecticut, was Dr. MITCHELL's great-grandfather. He was distinguished in his own times for his knowledge of History, Natural Philosophy, Botany, and Mineralogy, while as a theologian he was sound in the faith and delighted in the doctrines of Gospel Grace. Among his correspondents were Dr. FRANKLIN and Bishop BERKELEY, and in 1762 he was honored by the Royal Society of London with a gold medal for a valuable discovery in the manufacture of Iron. This ancestor Dr. MITCHELL closely resembled in many peculiarities of body and soul. Both were men of large stature, of great bodily strength, of untiring activity, of restless curiosity, of varied and extensive attainments, of a quaint and quiet humor, of persevering generosity, and of a well established piety. This desire for excellence in things pertaining to the mind was a prominent feature in Dr. MITCHELL's character from early childhood. When only four years old he acted a spirited part in an exhibition of the school he then attended, greatly to his own satisfaction, and to the delight of his friends. As he grew older, he was never so well pleased as when his playmates would gather around him to hear him tell what he had read in his books, and explain the pictures they contained. His preparation for college was completed by the Rev. AZEL BACKUS, D. D., who maintained

for many years a classical school at Bethlem in Litchfield County, and was afterwards the first President of Hamilton College in New York. Dr. BACKUS was famous in his day for skill in training boys. He exercised a very strong control, over even the vicious, by his genial disposition, his good common sense, his keen wit, his unsleeping vigilance, his long suffering patience, his respectable attainments in Science, and his devout deference to the will of God. Those who knew Dr. MITCHELL will readily perceive that many of his excellent peculiarities, as a man and as a Professor, must have received an important developement by his association with Dr. BACKUS.

Dr. MITCHELL graduated at Yale College in 1813, along with the Hon. GEORGE E. BADGER, Dr. OLMSTED, President LONGSTREET, Mr. THOMAS P. DEVEREUX, the Rev. Mr. SINGLETARY, and others who have been of note in various walks in life. Among these he was counted as one of the best scholars in their class, being especially distinguished for his knowledge of English Literature. He was very popular with his College mates, and the younger members of the Institution especially delighted to do him honor. The College Society to which he belonged depended on him to gain it credit on public occasions. His fine physiognomy, the dignity of his person, the originality of his discussions, and the humor that enlivened them, rendered his orations acceptable to his audiences, and secured him respect from men of taste and education. It was not till the Senior year that he became thoughtful on the subject of Religion. The kind and gentle persuasions of a classmate—a man of humble powers of mind but of exemplary piety—had great influence in leading him to that serious examination of his life and hopes, which resulted in his conversion.

On quitting College, Dr. MITCHELL taught in a school for boys, under the care of Dr. EIGENBRODT, at Jamaica, in Long Island. Afterwards, in the Spring of 1815, he took charge of a school for girls in New London, Connecticut. Here he formed an acquaintance with Miss MARIA S. NORTH, who was the daughter of an eminent physician of that place, and became his wife in 1819. Experience has shown the wisdom of this choice, inasmuch as for nearly forty years this lady presided over his household, so as to command his entire esteem and confidence. In 1816 Dr. MITCHELL became a Tutor in Yale College, and while so engaged he was recommended to the favorable notice of the Trustees of the University of North Carolina. This was done through Judge GASTON, by the Rev. SERENO E. DWIGHT, a son of President DWIGHT, and at that time Chaplain to the Senate of the United States. Ever since 1802 one of the most active and judicious of the Trustees of the University, Judge GASTON was at that time a member of the House of Representatives, and on terms of intimacy with Mr.

DWIGHT. Because of this recommendation, in 1817, these gentlemen were appointed each to a professorship in the University of North Carolina—Dr. MITCHELL to the chair of Mathematics then vacated by Dr. CALDWELL's elevation to the Presidency, and Dr. OLMSTED to the chair of Chemistry, then first established at the University. After spending a short time at the Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts, and receiving a license to preach the Gospel from an orthodox Congregational Association in Connecticut, Dr. MITCHELL reached Chapel Hill on the last day of January, 1818, and immediately began to discharge his duties as a professor—a labor from which he ceased only by reason of death. In the discharge of these duties he exhibited an energy, a vigilance, an intelligence, a good common sense, a self denial, an attention to minute particulars, and a success rarely surpassed or even equalled. During the thirty-nine-and-a-half years of his connection with the University his absences from his post on account of sickness, visits to the seat of government, attendance on ecclesiastical bodies, and from all other causes, did not occupy, on an average, more than three days in a year. Indeed, it may be safely stated that, throughout that entire period, his days and his nights, in term time and in vacation, were devoted to his professorship. No one of the hundreds of Students who have been connected with the University during the last generation will be able to recall the memory of his absence from morning and evening prayers but as a rare exception to a general rule.

Dr. MITCHELL preached his first sermon in the College Chapel shortly after his arrival there, and his last in Salisbury, North Carolina, when on his way to the scene of the labours that cost him his life. He was ordained to the full work of the Christian Ministry by the Presbytery of Orange in Hillsborough, North Carolina, in the fall of 1821. During his long ministry there were very few weeks in which he did not declare to his fellow men the will of God for their salvation. He always and most heartily acknowledged that this Kosmos, with whose varied phenomena he was very conversant, was created and controlled by a personal God, whose wisdom, power, goodness, and holiness he set forth with no little skill, and often with a very striking originality. This he did during a time wherein too many of his associates in the investigation of Nature indulged in speculations, and clothed them in language, that ignored the existence of an authoritative revelation concerning Creation and Providence. His minute acquaintance with the Archaiology and Geography of the Holy Scriptures rendered his exposition of them at times luminous in a remarkable degree, and, most deeply interesting. For the redemption of the one race of mankind, from the abyss of sin and misery into which the fall of Adam had plunged it, he looked only to the mystery of the Cross inwrought by the

Holy Ghost and received by Faith into the heart of each individual, and he rested his own soul thereon with sincere and deep felt emotions. During his eventful life he was ever an attentive observer of the signs of the times, being a great reader of newspapers and other periodicals. In these he had noticed so many associations for the reformation of the evils in humanity, skilfully organized and vehemently recommended, and after all, superseded by their original projectors, that while he did not oppose schemes, which, devised by man, relied on the organization of his fellow men for the attainment of reformation, he was not disappointed when these attempts failed; and he persevered in the old way of presenting to his hearers the necessity of a prompt and persevering dependence on the power of personal and revealed religion to regulate the affections and the daily life.

But it was as a professor that Dr. MITCHELL displayed the most energy and accomplished the greatest results. Until 1825 he presided over the department of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. During this period the doctrine of Fluxions, now called the Calculus, was introduced into the College curriculum, and the degree of attainment in other branches of Mathematics was elevated considerably. In 1825, when Dr. OLMSTED accepted a situation in Yale College, Dr. MITCHELL was transferred to the chair thus vacated and left his own to be filled by Dr. PHILLIPS. The pursuit of Natural Science had always been a delightful employment with Dr. MITCHELL. Even while a Professor of Mathematics he had frequently indulged his taste for Botany by pedestrian excursions through the country around Chapel Hill. After he took upon himself instruction in Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology he extended and multiplied these excursions, so that when he died he was known in almost every part of North Carolina, and he left no one behind him better acquainted with its mountains, vallies, and plains, its birds, beasts, bugs, fishes, and shells, its trees, flowers, vines, and mosses, its rocks, stones, sands, clays and marls. Although in Silliman's Journal, and in other periodicals less prominent but circulating more widely nearer home, he published many of his discoveries concerning North Carolina, yet it is to be regretted that he did not print more, and in a more permanent form. It would doubtless have thus appeared that he knew and perhaps justly estimated the worth of many facts which much later investigators have proclaimed as their own remarkable discoveries. But the information he gathered was for his own enjoyment, and for the instruction of his pupils. On these he lavished, to their utmost capacity for reception, the knowledge that he had gathered by his widely extended observations, and had stored up mainly in the recesses of his own singularly retentive memory.

But it was not only for accuracy and intelligence as a personal observer, that Dr. MITCHELL was famous, marked as his exertions were by a wonderful activity of body, patience of labour, and insensibility to fatigue. He read greedily all that he had a chance to read on the subjects directly or indirectly concerning his professorship, and on many other things besides. So that he well deserved the name of "the walking Encyclopedia." There were very few subjects on which men of polite literature, or of abstract as well as natural science converse, wherein he was not an intelligent and appreciative listener, or an instructive teacher. His knowledge of Geography was wonderful. It was a constant amusement for him to read the advertisements in a large commercial newspaper, to learn what things were bought and sold in the markets of the world, and then to sit down and find out where the things were manufactured. Such was his reputation for these acquisitions that when any one wanted some rare information on a Historical, or Geographical, or more strictly Scientific matter, it was a common thing to say, "Go, ask Dr. MITCHELL." He also kept himself supplied with periodicals and magazines in which the Sciences he taught were developing; for he loved to have his knowledge fresh, and would not wait for others to winnow the true from the false. He took pleasure in running the pure metal from the crude ore for himself. His large library contained something on almost every thing. But it was in such a form, and obtained in such times, and at such prices that in the market it never would have brought any approximation to what it cost him. The Sciences he taught were developing while he taught them, and he felt it incumbent on him to have at the earliest moment whatever treatise he heard of as likely to secure him the best and latest information. Much of what Dr. MITCHELL had to read is not now necessary, and many of his acquisitions may seem to others useless, but he thus provided that no one of his pupils left his laboratory without having an opportunity of learning all that was of interest or of use to him on the subjects there discussed. Nor were his remarkable accomplishments as a professor confined to his own department. In the Ancient Languages he was frequently ready and able to help a colleague who was prevented from discharging his own duties. In the Mathematics he would often, at public examinations, propose such questions as showed that his earlier love still retained a hold on his attention and affections. He was a good writer, and in the department of Belles Lettres he was a well-read and instructive critic. When it was known that he was to deliver an address before the North Carolina Agricultural Society, a friend, who knew him well, exclaimed, "I'll warrant that Dr. MITCHELL begins at the garden of Eden." And so he did. But by the time that, passing through Egypt and Canaan, Greece

and Rome and Great Britain, he got to Chatham County in North Carolina, he furnished, as usual, an essay full of rare information, judicious suggestions, peculiar humour, and excellent common sense.

As a teacher, Dr. MITCHELL took great pains in inculcating the first principles of Science. These he set forth distinctly in the very beginning of his instructions, and he never let his pupils lose sight of them. When brilliant and complicated phenomena were presented for their contemplation, he sought not to excite their wonder or magnify himself in their eyes as a man of surprising acquirements, or as a most dexterous manipulator, but to exhibit such instances as most clearly set forth fundamental laws, and demanded the exercise of a skilful analysis. Naturally of a cautious disposition, such had been his own experience, and so large was his acquaintance with the experience of others, that he was not easily excited when others announced unexpected discoveries among the laws and the phenomena which he had been studying for years as they appeared.—While others were busy in prophesying revolutions in social or political economy, he was quietly awaiting the decisions of experience. He constantly taught his pupils that there were times wherein they must turn from the voice of the charmer, charm he ever so sweetly. His influence on the developments of Science was eminently conservative, for he loved the old landmarks. As a disciplinarian he was vigilant, conscientious, long suffering, firm, and mild. Believing that the prevention was better than the cure of the ills of a College life, he was constantly watching to guard the Students from a violation of the rules of morality and common propriety. When offences were committed, to the offender he set forth his conduct in its true light, and often with very plain language. But when punishment was to be inflicted he generally proposed that which appealed to the culprit's better feelings, and left him a door open for a return to a better mind and an earnest attempt for his reformation. Many cases are known where such unwearied and unostentatious kindness has produced the happiest results. How widely extended it was no one can tell now for it was almost always shown to the receiver alone. It sprang from a love to man and fear of God, for Dr. MITCHELL never feared the face of his fellow.

Dr. MITCHELL enjoyed being busy. Neither laziness nor idleness entered into his composition, so that he always had something which he was doing heartily. Besides being a Professor, he educated his own children and especially his daughters to a degree not often attempted. He was a regular preacher in the College Chapel and in the village Church, the College Bursar, a Justice of the peace, a Farmer, a Commissioner for the village of Chapel Hill, and at times its Magistrate of Police. What-

ever plans he laid were generally sketched on a large scale, and when executed, they were commonly well done. Although a man of strong feelings, his excitement rarely lasted long, and he did not harbour resentment even when he had to remove unjust suspicions, or forgive unmerited injuries. His generosity was abundant, and was often appealed to again and again. No friend of his ever asked him for help without getting all that he could give him. In this he often swore to his own hurt yet he did not change.

Such were the leading characteristics of Dr. MITCHELL who loved God and every thing He has made; and now, while his colleagues mourn for one who counselled with wisdom and executed with vigour—while men of Science miss the co-operation of a learned associate members of the Cabinet and Ministers to foreign countries, with Senators and Representatives in Congress, Governors of our States with their Judges and their Legislators, Ambassadors from the Court of Heaven, and men of renown in the professions, learned Professors, with famous School-masters, and thousands of other pupils in more retired positions rise up in all parts of our country to do their revered preceptor high honor. His bow abode in strength to the last, neither was his natural force abated. He died as Abner died, and because they loved him unlettered slaves as well as mighty men followed his bier weeping.

Dr. MITCHELL perished on Saturday, the 27th of June, 1857, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. He attempted alone to descend Mt. Mitchell the highest peak of the Black Mountain which is in Yancey County, North Carolina. But a thunder-storm detained him on the mountain, so that it was evening and dark as he was groping his way down the mountain's sides. Not far from nineteen minutes past eight—for his watch marked that time—he pitched head-long some forty feet down the precipice into a small but deep pool of water that feeds the Sugar Camp Fork of Caney River. At the bottom of this pool he was found on the 8th of July by Mr. THOMAS D. WILSON, who with some two hundred other mountain men were looking for Dr. MITCHELL in every glen on the sides of that fearful mountain mass. This was the fifth visit that Dr. MITCHELL had paid to the Black Mountain, the others being in 1835, 1838, 1844, and 1856 respectively. His object at this time was partly personal, and partly Scientific. He wished to correct the mistakes into which some had been led concerning his earlier visits, and to so compare the indications of the Spirit Level and the Barometer, that future explorers of mountain heights might have increased confidence in the results afforded them by these instruments. His untimely end left both parts of this work to be completed by the pious hands of others.

Dr. MITCHELL was buried in Asheville, North Carolina, on the 10th of July, 1857, by the side of one of his College mates. But at the earnest solicitation of many friends, and especially of the mountain men of Yancey, his family allowed his body to be removed and deposited on the top of Mt. Mitchell. This was done on the 16th of June, 1858. There he shall rest till the Judgment Day, in a mausoleum such as no other man has ever had. Reared by the hands of Omnipotence, it was assigned to him by those to whom it was given thus to express their esteem, and it was consecrated by the lips of eloquence warmed by affection, amidst the rites of our Holy Religion. Before him lies the North Carolina he loved so well and served so faithfully. From his lofty couch its hills and vallies melt into its plains as they stretch away to the shores of the eastern ocean, whence the dawn of the last day stealing quietly westward, as it lights the mountain tops first, shall awake him earliest to hear the greeting of

"WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT."

### THE SEARCH FOR PROFESSOR MITCHELL'S BODY.

From the Asheville Spectator.

*Messrs. Editors*—Having spent a week at the scene of this memorable calamity, in search of the body of Dr. Mitchell, and assisting in its removal after it was found, I have been requested by sundry citizens to give to the public a sketch of the deplorable event. In accordance with their request, I now take my pen to give you all I know of the accident, which has caused so much sorrowful excitement in this region, and which I doubt not will unnerve the public feeling to its centre throughout the State when the sad tidings shall be generally known.

It is known to all who have felt interested in our State Geography, that there lately sprung up a dispute between the Hon. T. L. Clingman and Dr. Mitchell, in regard to one of the high peaks of the Black Mountain put down in Cook's map as Mt. Clingman. The former alledging that he was first to measure and ascertain its superior height to any other point on the range, and the latter gentleman asserting that he was on that same peak and measured it in the year 1844. After several letters, pro and con, through the newspapers, Dr. Mitchell announced last fall his intention of visiting the mountains again for the purpose of re-measuring the peak in dispute, taking the statements of some gentlemen who had acted as his guides on his former visits, &c. Sometime since, about the middle of June, I think, he came up, in company with his son Chas. A Mitchell, his daughter, and a servant boy, established his headquarters at Jesse Stepp's, at the foot of the mountain, and began the laborious task of ascertaining the height of the highest peak by an instrumental survey, which as the former ad-measurements were only barometrical, would fix its altitude with perfect accuracy. He had proceeded with his work near two weeks, and had reached to some quarter of a mile above Mr. Wm. Patton's Mountain House, by Saturday evening, 2½ o'clock, the 27th of June, at which time he quit work and told his son that he was going to cross the mountain to the settlement on Caney River for the purpose of seeing Mr. Thomas Wilson, Wm. Riddle, and I believe another Mr. Wilson, who had guided him up to the top on a former visit. He promised to return to the Mountain House on Monday at noon. There was no one with him. This was the last time he was ever seen alive. On Monday his son repaired to the Mountain House to meet his father, but he did not come. Tuesday the same thing occurred, and though considerable uneasiness was felt for his safety, yet there were so many ways to account for his delay that it was scarcely thought necessary to alarm the neighborhood; but when Wednes-



day night came and brought no token of him, his son and Mr. John Stepp immediately started on Thursday morning to Caney River in search of him. On arriving at Mr. Thos. Wilson's, what was their astonishment and dismay to learn that he had neither been seen nor heard of in that settlement! They immediately returned to Mr. Stepp's, the alarm was given, and before sundown on Friday evening companies of the hardy mountaineers from the North Fork of the Swannanoa were on their way up the mountain. The writer, happening to be present on a visit to the Black, joined the first company that went up. About eighteen persons camped at the Mountain House that evening, and continued accessions were made to our party during the night, by the good citizens of that neighborhood, who turned out at the call of humanity as fast as they heard the alarm, some from their fields, some from working on the road, and all without a moment's hesitation. Early on Saturday morning our party under the command of Mr. Fred Burnett and his sons, all experienced hunters, and Jesse Stepp and others who were familiar with the mountains, struck out for the main top, and began the search by scouring the woods on the left hand or Caney River side of the trail that runs along the top. We continued on this way to the highest peak without discovering any traces whatever of his passage, when our company became so scattered into small parties that no further systematic search could be made that day. But directly in our rear as we came up the mountain was Mr. Eldridge Burnett with some more of his neighbors, who had come from their houses that morning; and hearing a report that Dr. Mitchell had expressed his intention of striking a bee line from the top for the settlements without following the blazed trail way to Caney River, they searched for signs in that direction, and soon found a trail in the soft moss and fern that was believed to have been made by him, and followed it until it came to the first fork of Caney, where it was lost. Nothing doubting but they were on his track, and that he had continued down the stream, they went several miles along the beat of the river, over inconceivably rough and dangerous ground, until dark, when they threw themselves upon the earth and rested till morning. Mr. Stepp, Mr. Fred. Burnett and others made their way to Wilson's on Caney River to join the company that was coming up from the Yancey side, and the writer and many others returned, gloomy and disappointed to the Mountain House. Thus ended the first day's search. During almost the entire day the rain had poured down steadily, the air was cold and chilling, the thermometer indicating about 44° at noon, whilst the heavy clouds wrapped the whole mountain in such a dense fog that it was impossible to see any distance before us. It seemed as if the genii of those vast mountain solitudes were angered at our un-

wonted intrusion, and had invoked the Storm-God to enshroud in deeper gloom the sad and mysterious fate of their noble victim.

Sabbath morning came, but its holy stillness and sacred associations were all unregarded, and the party camping in the Mountain House, now largely augmented by constant arrivals from the settlements, plunged again into the gloomy forest of gigantic firs, and filing through the dark and deep gorges struck far down into the wilds of Caney River. Mr. Eldridge Burnett's party returned about 2 o'clock, bringing no tidings and seeing no further trace whatever of the wanderer's footsteps. Still later in the day Messrs. Fred. Burnett and Jesse Stepp and party returned with some twelve or fifteen of the citizens of Caney River, having traversed a large scope of country and finding still no trace of the lost one. The rain still continued to pour down, and the gloomy and ill-omened fog still continued to wrap the mountain's brow in its rayless and opaque shroud. Just before dark the remaining party came in, unsuccessful, tired, hungry and soaking with water. A general gloom now overspread the countenances of all, as the awful and almost undeniable fact was proclaimed, that Dr. Mitchell was surely dead, and our only object in making the search, would be to rescue his mortal remains from the wild beasts and give them christian sepulture! It could not be possible, we thought, that he was alive, for cold, and hunger, and fatigue, if nothing worse had happened to him, would ere this have destroyed him. Alas! we reasoned too well. By this time the alarm had spread far and near, and many citizens of Asheville and other parts of the country were flocking to the mountains to assist in the search for one so universally beloved and respected. On Monday the company numbered some sixty men. New routes were projected, new ground of search proposed, and the hunt conducted throughout the day with renewed energy and determination, but still without avail. On Tuesday the company of Buncombe men separated into three squads and took different routes, whilst Mr. Thomas Wilson and his neighbors from Caney River, took a still more distant route, by going to the top of the highest peak and searching down towards the Cat-tail fork of the River. They were led to take this route by the suggestion of Mr. Wilson, that Dr. M. had gone up that way in his visit to the high peak in 1844, and that perhaps he had undertaken to go down by the same route. They accordingly struck out for that point, and turning to the left to strike down the mountain in the prairie near the top, at the very spot where it is alleged that the Doctor entered it thirteen years ago, they instantly perceived the impression of feet upon the yielding turf, pointing down the mountain in the direction indicated of his former route. After tracing it some distance with that unerring woodcraft which is so wonderful to all

but the close observing hunter, they became convinced that it was his trail and sent a messenger back some five miles to inform the Buncombe men, and telling them to hurry on as fast as they could. The writer with Mr. Charles Mitchell and many others were in a deep valley on the head waters of another fork of the river, when the blast of a horn and the firing of guns on a distant peak, made us aware that some discovery was made. Hurrying with breathless haste up the steep mountain side in the direction of the guns we soon came up and found the greater part of our company watching for us, with the news that the Yancey company were upon the trail we had been so earnestly seeking so many days. After a brief consultation, two or three of our party returned to the Mountain House for provisions, and the balance of us started as fast as we could travel along the main top towards our Yancey friends, and reached the high peak just before dark. Here we camped in a small cabin built by Mr. Jesse Stepp, ate a hasty supper and threw ourselves upon the floor, without covering, to rest.

About 1 o'clock in the night, just as the writer was about closing his eyes in troubled and uneasy slumber, a loud halloo was heard from the high bluff that looms over the cabin. It was answered from within and in a moment every sleeper was upon his feet. Mr. Jesse Stepp, Capt. Robert Patton and others, then came down and told us that the body was found. Mournfully then indeed those hardy sons of the mountain seated themselves around the smouldering cabin fire, and on the trunks of the fallen firs, and then, in the light of a glorious full moon, whose rays penciled the dark damp forest with liquid silver, seven thousand feet above the tide-washed sands of the Atlantic, the melancholy tale was told. Many a heart was stilled with sadness as the awful truth was disclosed and many a rough face glittered with a tear in the refulgent moon-light as it looked upon the marble pallor and statue-stillness of the stricken and bereaved son, and thought of those far away whom this sudden evil would so deeply afflict.

It was as they expected. The deceased had undertaken to go the same route to the settlements which he had formerly gone. They traced him rapidly down the precipices of the mountain, until they reached the stream (the Cat-tail fork), found his traces going down it—following on a hundred yards or so, they came to a rushing cataract some forty feet high, saw his foot-prints trying to climb around the edge of the yawning precipice, saw the moss torn up by the outstretched hand, and then—the solid, impressionless granite refused to tell more of his fate. But clambering hastily to the bottom of the roaring abyss, they found a basin worn out of the solid rock by the frenzied torrent, at least fourteen feet deep, filled with clear

and crystal waters cold and pure as the winter snow that generates them. At the bottom of this basin, quietly reposing, with outstretched arms, lay the mortal remains of the Rev. Elisha Mitchell, D. D., the good, the great, the wise, the simple minded, the pure of heart, the instructor of youth, the disciple of knowledge and the preacher of Christianity! Oh what friend to science and virtue, what youth among all the thousands that have listened to his teachings, what friend that has ever taken him by the hand, can think of this wild and awful scene unmoved by the humanity of tears! can think of those gigantic pyramidal firs, whose interlocking branches shut out the light of heaven, the many hued rhododendrons that freight the air with their perfume and lean weepingly over the waters, that crystal stream leaping down the great granites and hastening from the majestic presence of the mighty peak above, whilst in the deep pool below, where the weary waters rest but a single moment, lies the inanimate body of his dear friend and preceptor, apparently listening to the mighty requiem of the cataract!! Truly "Man knoweth not his time, and the sons of men are entrapped in the evil, when it cometh suddenly upon them."

Upon consultation it was thought best to let the body remain in the water until all arrangements were completed for its removal and interment; judging rightly that the cold and pure waters would better preserve it, than it could be kept in any other way. At day light a number of hands went to cutting out a trail from the top of the mountain to where the body lay, a distance of three miles, whilst others went to Asheville to make the necessary arrangements. Word was also sent to the coroner of Yancey, and to the citizens generally to come and assist us in raising the body on Wednesday morning. At that time a large number of persons assembled at Mr. Jesse Stepp's and set out for the spot, bearing the coffin upon our shoulders up the dreary steeps. We had gone near ten miles in this way and had just turned down from the high peak towards the river, when we were met by Mr. Coroner Ayers, and about fifty of the citizens of Yancey, coming up with the body. They had got impatient at our delay, and enveloping the body in a sheet and fastening it securely upon a long pole, laid it upon the shoulders of ten men and started up the mountain. And now became manifest the strength and hardihood of those noble mountaineers. For three miles above them the precipitous granites and steep mountain sides forbade almost the ascent of an unincumbered man, which was rendered doubly difficult by great trunks of trees, and the thick and tangled laurel which blocked up the way. The load was near two hundred and fifty pounds and only two men could carry at once. But nothing daunted by the fearful exertion before them, they step boldly up the way, fresh hands stepped in every few moments, all struggling without inter-

mission and eager to assist in the work of humanity. Anon they would come to a place at which it was impossible for the bearers to proceed, and then they would form a line by taking each others hands the uppermost man grasping a tree and with shouts of encouragement heave up by main strength. In this way, after indescribably toiling for some hours they reached the spot. Here was afforded another instance of the great affection and regard in which the deceased was held by all. These bold and hardy men desired to have the body buried there and contended for it long and earnestly. They said that he had first made known the superior height of their glorious mountain and noised their fame almost throughout the Union, that he had died whilst contending for his right to that loftiest of all the Atlantic mountains, on which we then stood, and they desired to place his remains right there, and at no other spot. It would indeed have been an appropriate resting place for him, and greatly was it wished for by the whole country, before its being told them that his family wanted his remains brought down. They reluctantly yielded, and the Buncombe men proceeded to bring the body slowly down the valley of the Swannanoa. Before leaving the top, the writer took down the names of all present, and will ask you to publish them to the world, as men who have done honor to our common humanity by their generous and disinterested conduct on this melancholy occasion. I am no flatterer, Messrs. Editors, but I must confess that the labor which these mountain men expended and the sacrifice they so willingly and cheerfully made, is worthy of all praise and admiration. May God reward their kindness; I feel sure, the numerous friends and pupils of the dear deceased would rather read the list of these men's names than the "ayes and nays" of any Congressional vote that has been recorded in many a day.

## FROM YANCEY.

Nathaniel B. Ray, I. M. Broyles, Joseph Shephard, Washington Broyles, Henry Wheeler, Thomas Wilson, Jas. M. Ray, D. W. Burleson, G. B. Silvers, J. O. Griffith, E. Williams, A. D. Allen, A. L. Ray, Thomas D. Wilson, E. A. Pyatt, D. W. Howard, W. M. Astin, James H. Riddle, Dr. W. Crumley, G. D. Ray, Burton Austin, James Allen, Henry Ray, T. L. Randolph, John McPeters, W. B. Creasman, S. J. Nanney, Samuel Ray, E. W. Boren, Rev. W. C. Bowman, J. W. Bailey, Thomas Silvers, Jr., Thomas Calloway, Henry Allen, J. L. Gibbs, Jesse Ray, James Hensley, Robert Riddle, W. D. Williams, J. D. Young, William Rolen, G. W. Wilson, John Rogers, James Allen, Jr. J. W. Ayres, J. F. Presnell, R. A. Rumble, W. J. Hensley, D. H. Silvers, R. Don Wilson, Jas. Calloway.

## FROM BUNCOMBE.

S. C. Lambert, William Burnett, R. H. Burnett, R. J. Fortune, Ephraim Glass, J. H. Bartlett, B. F. Fortune, A. N. Alexander, James Gaines, J. E. Ellison, John F. Bartlett, F. F. Bartlett, Elijah Kearly, E. Clayton, A. Burgin, Jesse Stepp, D. F. Summey, T. J. Corpning, Harris Ellison, T. B. Boyd, A. J. Lindsey, Joshua Stepp, William Powers, R. P. Lambert, Tisdale Stepp, Daniel Burnett, Thadeus C. Coleman, A. F. Harris, W. C. Fortune, Fletcher Fortune, Capt. Robert Patton, Cooper, servant of Wm. Patton, John, servant of Fletcher Fortune, Esq.

A. J. Emmerson, Chatham County, A. E. Rhodes, Jones County, H. H. Young, and Moses Dent, Franklin County; all students of Wake Forest College.

This list does not comprise all who assisted in the search, as much to my regret I did not take a list of any but those present at the removal of the body. I believe, however, that the names of all are recorded on the register of Mr. Patton's Mountain House, where the friends of Dr. Mitchell can see them when they visit (as I have no doubt many will) the scene of his death.

This ends my brief sketch of this melancholy affair. As to any eulogy upon Dr. Mitchell's character I feel myself unequal to the task. I trust that it will be appropriately pronounced by some one of his learned and devoted fellow laborers of the University. My feeble pen could add nothing to his moral and intellectual stature. I will only say, that I loved him as sincerely as any one in the State. I am gratified to be able to state that unusual kindness and respect was exhibited by every citizen of the country throughout the whole transaction.

Yours truly,

Z. B. VANCE.

A FUNERAL SERMON,  
DELIVERED IN THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT ASHEVILLE,

ON THE TENTH OF JULY 1857.

By the REV. ROBERT HETT CHAPMAN, D. D.,

A SON OF THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

MAN KNOWETH NOT HIS TIME: \* \* \* THE SONS OF MEN ARE SNARED IN AN EVIL WHEN IT FALLETH SUDDENLY UPON THEM.—Eccl. chap. 9, v. 12.

What words of truth are these? and how fearfully have they been realized in the incidents which have convened us here to-day! The doctrine of the Text is, that there is a dreadful uncertainty respecting things terrestrial—that trials, and changes, and death are our heritage here—that in our calmest, and even apparently in our safest hours, we are but short sighted and frail—all exposed and in peril; and know not what a day may bring forth! Children of clay, and inhabiting a globe of graves, we are in peril every hour! It is true the Almighty upholds, and we are in His hands! His Providence is over us, but whether it shall be afflictive, or benignant—whether of the issues of Life, or of Death we cannot tell! The future is all before us, but shadows, clouds, and darkness rest upon it! its issues, and its events are alone known to the Infinite! To the Christian, and in his conception there are no accidents—nothing fortuitous—the hand of God is in it all; and so it is in point of fact *with us all*; whether we realize it, or not—God telleth off your days and mine, and those of the entire race!—as an hireling we shall each accomplish our day, and then pass on and up to the Judgment of the great God! Then should we not watch? ought we not to be ready? lest suddenly coming He find us sleeping!

Man knoweth not his time! but certain it is, that here, on earth, wherever found he is all incident to suffering—exposed to calamity and danger—the sure victim of coming dissolution, aye the certain trophy of Death! His leaden fingers shall be laid upon you and me, chilling the pulsations of life—His arm of power shall be by us felt, breaking the golden bowl at the fountain!—we shall all experience his wasting influence, changing

the countenance and bidding us pass from Earth to the Spirit Land! but when these trials shall reach us:—when we shall each in our lot go down before the puissant arm of him, who breaks the sword of valor, and takes the diadem from the brow of kings—when the veil shall part before your spirit's eye and mine, and the gales of eternity shall freshen upon our souls, God alone knows! Sometimes danger and death show themselves in the distance, and with slow and steady step gradually approach, letting us know, that they aim at us and ours, and that their office and work is with us; at other times they draw nigh with steady tread—noiseless, silent, unperceived they gather round; their presence is but recognized in their attack—in the marks of their desolation—in the affixing of an unchanging seal which cannot be mistaken, and which can neither be blotted out, nor broken! All may be quiet without, and calm within; and there may be no sense of danger, and no fear—but Death is there, and sudden destruction. The veil of Eternity sometimes parts as in the twinkling of an eye and the soul without sign or token, or note or warning, is in the spirit land, summoned to the presence of God, its Infinite Judge! Ah, Friends! the text is true, "Man knoweth not his time." The sons of men are oftentimes snared in sudden calamity; there is an awful, a fearful uncertainty as to what is before us, when we shall be called on to lay aside these vestments of mortality, and to stand before Jehovah God our Judge! Then is it not wise?—would it not be well to have our preparation work well and early done, that we may stand ready, and waiting for the coming of the Son of Man? "Man knoweth not his Time—as the fish are taken in a net, as the birds are caught in a snare, so are the sons of men snared in an evil when it falleth suddenly upon them." My Text has been selected, and the train of thought just indulged in, suggested, by one of those fearful incidents of life which alike startle and appall! Tidings of them fall not listlessly on human ears, they fail not deeply, and painfully to affect human hearts! It is no ordinary death scene that we chronicle; nor is it the departure from the scenes of time of any ordinary man, that we have met in the Sanctuary to meditate upon! ELISHA MITCHELL! the loved and venerated—the astute and wise—the man of God and Christian Minister, lies low in death! He is no more of earth, for God hath taken him up to the scenes of the spiritual, and caused him to mingle in the realities of the eternal world! His family are bereft of their Head—no more shall he guide them by his counsels, nor at morning and evening lead their devotions;—the temple of Science has had extinguished in him one of its living lights, and taken down and removed is one of its stalwart pillars! The Church of God and its courts have in him lost an advocate—a judicious counsellor, and prized presbyter! His seat

at the family table, in the hall of Science, and within the Sanctuary of God, have alike been vacated by the sad event which has convened us, and which we are endeavoring spiritually to improve! His agency as father, friend, and instructor, and Christian Minister has ceased; and no more shall we enjoy his converse, weigh his counsels, or go with him up to the House of God! Ye reckon it in days since some of you enjoyed his sunny smile and kind hearted converse, and communion! When last with him, aye when last seen of mortal vision, he was full of life—as buoyant with hope, and had as bright promise of future years and usefulness, as had any of you, or your race! but he is not—his summons was sudden—fearfully sudden! Yours may be as sudden, and not as safe! He died emphatically alone! Neither wife nor brother nor son nor friend nor man was near! Amid mountain fastnesses, under laurel shades, and with unceasing sound of moaning pines and rushing waters, furnishing an appropriate requiem, alone and without human aid or sympathy, he breathed out his life. Except for efforts the most patient and untiring on the part of the community, his death as to its place, and means, and time would have remained a mystery; his grave would have been unknown and his body unseparated. There is something, at once grand and fearful in such a death! Far from human habitation—amid the solitude of nature—her works there on the grandest scale—it brings up those mounts of God mentioned in the Scripture, Pisgah and Nebo, and suggests the death scene of the “Ruler of His people” as connected therewith—Angels performed the dying offices of the one, nor is it vain speculation to suppose that in needful form and sympathy they were present with the other; this sure Word of God informs us that they minister to the heirs of salvation!

I have said Dr. Mitchell was alone in his death—I speak of earth and of man—I except angelic influences, and the presence of his covenant God and Saviour! He who stamped grandeur on those mountains, and marked out a channel for those pure and crystal waters did not in that hour desert His servant but was near him and around him! Do I say too much? what says the Scripture? “as the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so Jehovah is round about them that fear Him”—What says God himself? “Fear not! I am with thee, be not dismayed! I will never leave thee nor forsake thee!” Tell me not of accidents! Speak not to me of second causes! God’s hand was in the startling event, as it is in all events. He designs that we should feel it, and lay it to heart, and wisely improve it. From that mountain side and seething pool where they found him there cometh a voice deep, thrilling, and loud, addressing itself to you, and me, to all! Its language is “prepare to meet thy God!” Who can fail to realize, if he will throw around the scene one lingering thought,

that amid these frowning precipices and impervious shades and wildly dashing waters, and with death at hand, it was far more important to have been the humble child of God, the devoted follower of Christ, than to have been the man of gold, or of distinction and fame, or even a sceptered king, with destitution of this grace! Ah! the well earned fame, the distinctions of our departed friend and brother, have here no power in imparting joy and comfort to those who loved him in life, and to whom he is doubly dear in death!—their hope, and joy, and strong consolation is based on the simple fact that Dr. Mitchell laid all his honors, and loved to lay them, at the feet of Christ and around His Cross!—that there he hung his hopes of Heaven—that there he planted his expectations of Life Everlasting! He was an humble child of God, and a Christian! In that fact there is comfort, joy, strong consolation! When father, or mother, or child, or brother, or friend passes from earth, let me know they are in Heaven, and among the blood-bought and ransomed, and I cannot unduly grieve! Who would call them back from their rapt scenes of angelic joy, and again attach the chains of sense, and affix the stains of sin to their freed and pure spirits? Earth is fleeting and mingled are its scenes—its joys are at best but transient! there is no treasure worth securing, save that which is laid up in Heaven! Moral victories are alone worthy the effort, and the energy of the deathless spirit of man!

“Man knoweth not his time and the sons of men are snared in an evil when it cometh suddenly upon them!” This is Truth, and it teaches us that evil oftentimes comes upon us in an hour when we least expect its approach! The future is all before us, and we must meet it; but its scenes are with the Deity—an impenetrable veil covers it from your vision and mine—we tread at best but a darkened path, and know not our time of trial! It may occur in our happiest hours, and amid scenes of gushing joy; the cloud may gather and loom up, and burst within an hour! What reverses have been witnessed in this changing world between the rising of the sun and the lengthening of its shadows! What, as in the present instance between the going down of that orb of light and the breaking of the day! Death often steals on dying men unheralded—no note of warning precedes his approach! Some whilst pressed with care, engrossed with business, and all unprepared, are hurried away—others engaged in the pursuit of pleasure, and with no sense of danger, suddenly feel his touch, stilling the pulsations of life, and bidding them up to the Judgment! Some in life’s morning and the hey-day of their being, as they fondly fancy, with the world all before them! Others with hoary locks, and shortened steps! some prepared with armor on—with loins girt about, and their lamps trimmed and burning! Others amid their course of folly

—the love of sin unslain, and depravity burning its deep and corroding brand within the soul! Ah! it is the suddenness of scenes like these—it is their unexpectedness to the individual, which makes them so awful and fearful! Prepared for death—girded for the judgment, and clad in those robes of righteousness, which alone can bear its living light; a sudden death is not to be deprecated—with the love of God within the soul, and the living everlasting Saviour at hand, a solitary death is not to be deplored! But unprovisioned for eternity how fearful! unprepared for the solemn interview with God, which must then ensue, how tremendously awful is a sudden death! Who would appear before his Maker with the love of sin uppermost in his soul—who would thus appear, even united to Christ, with the world clustering around, and clasping the affections of the heart? Not so! Oh, not so, would he that is wise die! How lightly, friends, should we esteem the thing of time, and what priceless value should we attach to the interests of the deathless soul! And yet poor man, in his blindness and sin, reverses all this! God stoops, and invites us to his arms, and to his heavenly home, but too many busied with the vanities of earth, and eager in its pursuits, slight those rich treasures and everlasting joys—turn away from these offers of life, and seek an heritage for time!

Other thoughts, friends, crowd upon me, but I must hasten! I trust you see and feel the teachings of the text, enforced as they are by the fearful incident which convened us together. We are but pilgrims on the shores of time! Sojourners on the earth as were our fathers! Here we have no abiding place—passengers at the best, we walk in darkness, under perils and in great suspense—the future is all hidden—we know not what a day may bring forth! Do you esteem the picture dark and gloomy? and ask what can be done? I answer, trust in the Lord and do good! thus may you fill up your lives with acts of usefulness, and deck them with deeds of Christian honor! Thus passing away, piety shall give you the tribute of tears; and the bosom of virtue shall send forth sighs at your decease! Do you still ask, as to what can be done? I answer, make Jehovah God in Christ your refuge, and trust, and then it shall be well with you, well with your soul! “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” It is your privilege so to live, and so to bind the hopes of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the heart, that you may dread the grave as little as your bed! Here is the Bible of God—the great moral light which teaches Jehovah’s will—presents the provisions of His mercy; with its truths received—with its remedies embraced—with its Saviour believed in, and trusted on, you have a stay which shall avail amid the conflicts of time—more! it shall cheer you as you go down under the power of Death’s arm—light-

ing up the grave and dispelling forever all its fearful shadows! Earth is changing! but Heaven is stable and sure! Fix your affections there! and now from that solitary place in the wilderness where my Brother breathed out his life, and passed from earth; aye from that bier on which now lie his mortal remains, there cometh a voice addressed to you, to me, to all present—and yet it singles us out and addresses us each, and its language is, “Be ye also ready for the coming of the Son of man! prepare to meet God!” Obey this voice, and your death scene shall be peaceful as are angelic slumbers, and your eternity shall be passing happy, and supremely blissful as of the riches of Jehovah’s grace! Thus prepared and panoplied, when you come to walk through the valley of the shadow of death you shall have the rod and the staff, the presence of Him, who is the Resurrection and the Life.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

### MEETING AT ASHEVILLE.

From the Asheville News, July 16.

It having been announced in Asheville, on Wednesday morning, 8th July, instant, that the dead body of Professor Elisha Mitchell, of Chapel Hill, had been discovered in the vicinity of the Black Mountain; pursuant to a short notice, a large meeting of the citizens of Buncombe county and many others from a distance, met in the Court House at 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, when, on motion of Z. B. Vance, Esq., Rev. Jarvis Buxton was appointed Chairman of the meeting.

Mr. Buxton, on taking the chair, made some feeling and appropriate remarks, explanatory of the object of the meeting, and upon the services and character of Professor Mitchell in his relations to the University, also as a man in his social and domestic relations, and as a christian gentleman. He said he knew the deceased well, having been a member of his household while a student at College, and that to know him was to love him.

On motion, John D. Hyman was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

W. M. Shipp, Esq., after prefacing with a few remarks, in which he bore testimony to the exalted character of Dr. Mitchell, and his eminent services in his devotion to Science and Education, offered the following resolutions, expressing a desire that they would be adopted:

1. *Resolved*, That we have heard, with the most profound regret, the announcement which has just been made, of the sad and melancholy death of the Rev. Dr. Mitchell, of the University of this State.

2. *Resolved*, That in the death of Dr. Mitchell, the University has lost one of its most tried friends; the Faculty one of its most zealous votaries; and the church of God one of its most faithful ministers.

3. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this meeting, it would be highly appropriate—should it meet the approbation of his family—that the remains of the deceased be deposited upon some eligible point of the Black Mountain; a place with which his name has been connected for many years, as the first to call public attention to its superiority in height to any point in the United States, East of the Rocky Mountains.

4. *Resolved*, That, in our opinion, no more suitable testimonial of respect to the memory of the deceased could be given, than the erection of

an appropriate monument upon the mountain, with which his name and sad fate are so intimately associated; and, to carry out this purpose, we ask the assistance of all good citizens of the State and the friends of education and science generally.

5. *Resolved*, That to the family of the deceased we extend our heartfelt condolence, and the Chairman of this meeting appoint a committee of three persons to convey to them a copy of these resolutions, and express our sympathy in their bereavement.

6. *Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be forwarded to the President of the University, with a request that he convey to the Faculty and Students our deep sympathy in the great loss they have sustained in the death of their oldest member and most experienced instructor.

7. *Resolved*, That the Chairman appoint a committee of six to take such steps as they may think advisable to carry out the object of the 4th resolution.

8. *Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be published in the Asheville papers, and that the papers of the State generally be requested to copy.

Hon. Thos. L. Clingman said he approved of the resolutions and hoped they would be adopted. He added his testimony to the eminent services of Professor Mitchell in his explorations of this section of the State, both in regard to its topography and geology.

Rev. Dr. Chapman made some eloquent and touching remarks in relation to the sad calamity that had called the meeting together.

Z. B. Vance, Esq., being called upon, narrated the circumstances, as far as they had been ascertained, that attended the death of Professor Mitchell. He also said that great credit was due to a large number of gentlemen, principally persons residing in the vicinity of the Black Mountain, for their untiring exertions to recover the body of the deceased.

On motion the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

In accordance with the 5th resolution, the Chairman appointed the following gentlemen as the committee: Rev. Dr. Chapman, Wm. M. Shipp and James W. Patton, Esq's. On motion, the name of the Chairman was added to the list.

In pursuance of the 7th resolution, the Chairman appointed the following committee: Messrs. A. S. Merrimon, David Coleman, Z. B. Vance, John A. Dickson, W. M. Shipp, and James A. Patton.

On motion of A. S. Merrimon, Esq., the Chairman appointed twenty persons to superintend the conveying of the body of the deceased to its place of burial. The following persons were appointed: Z. B. Vance, A. S. Merrimon, J. A. Patton, R. M. Henry, Thadaeus Coleman, G. W. Whitson,

James Gaines, D. F. Summey, A. Burgin, W. M. Hardy, W. A. Patton, J. E. Patton, J. D. Hyman, S. C. Bryson, W. Morrison, T. A. Corpening, and T. B. Boyd.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

JARVIS BUXTON, Chairman.

JOHN D. HYMAN, Secretary.

### MEETING AT CHAPEL HILL.

From the Chapel Hill Gazette, July 13.

UPON Friday the 10th instant very painful rumors of the sudden death of the Rev. Dr. Mitchell, on Black Mountain, reached Chapel Hill. On Saturday these rumors received some confirmation, and upon Sunday evening all doubt was removed by intelligence that his body had been found floating in the Cat-tail Fork of Caney River, in the county of Yancey, at a point where the water was about twelve feet in depth; circumstances rendering it very probable that he had fallen some forty feet, from a precipice overhanging the river. His hand still clasped a broken branch of Laurel.

Dr. Mitchell had been busily engaged for several days in making Barometrical and Trigonometrical observations upon Black Mountain. On Saturday, the 27th of June, he had nearly completed these labors. During that day he separated from his son in order to visit Caney River Settlement, making an appointment to meet him the next Monday at the Mountain House. He was not seen again, and it was only after several day's search by many citizens in that vicinity, carried on with ardor and sympathy which do them great honor, that his body was found on Tuesday evening, the 7th of July, as is above described. It is understood that he was interred at Asheville on the 10th instant.

Upon receiving the above intelligence, the citizens held a full and solemn town-meeting in the University Chapel. On motion of David L. Swain, Edward Mallett, Magistrate of Police, was called to the Chair, and Jones Watson, Esq., was appointed Secretary.

The Chairman announced that in anticipation of such a meeting, he had appointed the Rev. Dr. Hawks, who providentially was with us upon this occasion, together with Samuel F. Phillips Esq., a Committee to prepare resolutions for the consideration of the meeting.

Dr. Hawks then arose, and gracefully alluding to his own deep interest in the community amidst which he had received his early education, continued in a few eloquent and touching observations upon the occasion

which had called forth this display of feeling, and then submitted the following preamble and resolutions:—

“WHEREAS, It has pleased our Heavenly Father, in His wise Providence, to take unto Himself the Rev. Elisha Mitchell, late Professor of Chemistry and Geology in the University of North Carolina; we the inhabitants of Chapel Hill, convened in town meeting, for the purpose of testifying our respect for the memory of a good man, who has gone to his reward,—leaving it to his associates to render their appropriate tribute to his well known scientific character, desire to speak as his fellow citizens, and bearing our willing testimony to his worth as a man, have

*Resolved*, That in the death of Dr. Mitchell, our whole community has sustained a loss not easily repaired, in the removal of one who, resident in this village for forty years, has, during that period, fulfilled all the duties of an enlightened, public-spirited citizen, with the most exemplary propriety, illustrating in his daily walk and conversation the christian principle by which his life was regulated.

*Resolved*, That in no one particular has his example been more striking than in his universal kindness to the poor and suffering. Ever ready to help his fellow creatures, and mindful that his Master went about doing good, while he ministered to the spiritual wants of the blind and erring, he was no less prompt in alleviating bodily misery: and the poor of Chapel Hill and its vicinity, who have been partakers of his silent and unostentatious benevolence, will especially have cause long to treasure up the memory of their departed friend and benefactor.

*Resolved*, That our whole community, of all classes, gratefully recognizing the worth of an eminently good man now removed from among us, and submitting, in humble faith to the dispensation of the Gracious God who has seen fit thus to visit us with sorrow; do tender our Christian sympathy and love to the bereaved family of our departed friend; and mingling our smaller sorrow with their more grievous and heavy affliction, do commend them in our prayers to the merciful goodness of that everlasting God whose chastenings to his children are but proofs of his affection.

*Resolved*, That the individuals composing this meeting will, as a mark of respect for the memory of Dr. Mitchell, wear the usual badge of mourning, on the left arm, for thirty days.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions, duly certified by the officers of this meeting, be communicated to the family of Dr. Mitchell.

These were seconded by President Swain who dwelt in terms of strong eulogy upon the long public services of the deceased, lamenting over a loss which to himself, he added, was irreparable.

Other remarks, appropriate to the occasion, were made by Messrs. S. F.



Phillips, Sidney Smith, Charles Phillips and Jones Watson. Thereupon the Resolutions were passed unanimously.

Upon motion of S. F. Phillips, the persons present went in procession to the residence of Dr. Mitchell, in order to present in person to his family, the resolutions that had been adopted. This having been done, the meeting adjourned.

All the stores and other places of business of our town were closed and all business suspended, during the meeting.

### MEETING AT FAYETTEVILLE.

From the Argus, July 18.

#### DEATH OF PROF. MITCHELL.

THIS great man is no more. By his death the cause of science has sustained an irreparable loss—Chapel Hill one of its strong pillars—and North Carolina one of her noblest sons.

As will be seen below, he came to his death among those mountains which had so long been the subject of his investigation—a martyr to science.

Prof. Mitchell has occupied the position of Professor in our University for thirty years or more, and has during that period, established his reputation as one of the very first scholars in the country.

We learn from the *Standard* that a peak of the Black Mountain has been selected for the burial of Dr. Mitchell. This we are rejoiced to know. No place could be more fitting for the last resting place of the illustrious dead, than those grand and magnificent Mountains that were so long the object of his study. No more suitable monument could be reared to his memory which must endure as long as Mountains stand.

We append the following Resolutions which were passed in this town, by the resident graduates of the University of North Carolina.

A meeting of graduates of the University of North Carolina residing in and near Fayetteville was held on Tuesday, July 14, 1857, W. J. Anderson, Esq., presiding, and Mr. Geo. H. Haigh acting as Secretary.

The Chairman having announced the melancholy intelligence on account of which they had been called together,

Messrs. W. B. Wright, John Winslow, W. A. Huske, W. H. Haigh, J. C. Huske, R. P. Buxton, P. M. Hale, R. H. Sandford, and B. Fuller, representing different classes, were appointed a Committee to prepare resolutions suitable for the occasion.

WHEREAS, Almighty God, by a painful and most melancholy act of his

Providence, has brought to a sudden and sad end the life of our former respected preceptor and friend, the Rev. Dr. Elisha Mitchell, Professor in the University of N. C.:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That we have received intelligence of this most mournful event with feelings of pain and unmingled sadness.

*Resolved*, That as in his life we have been made debtors to him by his faithful instructions and by his unwearied devotion to our best interests, so now in his death we cherish his memory in our hearts.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. Elisha Mitchell, by his great and varied learning, by his indefatigable zeal in the pursuit of knowledge, his spirit of invincible perseverance in whatever he deemed to be right, by his devotion to the duties of his profession, whether as a teacher of science or as a teacher of the religion of the Gospel, by his devotion to the interests of his pupils, to the interests of the University of which he was so distinguished a Professor, and by his devotion to the interests of the State at large, and in a word, by a long, honorable, and useful life of incorruptible integrity and fidelity to duty, has made himself to be an ornament and an example to his profession and to his fellow men in general.

*Resolved*, That in view of the eminent services which he has rendered the State, *directly*, by the prompt and faithful discharge of particular duties assigned him, and less directly, but not less effectively by his devotion to the cause of education, the deceased has entitled himself to a public testimonial of respect to his memory; and we hereby pledge ourselves to assist in any measure tending to that end.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, with an expression of our sincerest sympathy and condolence; and also, that a copy be sent to his brethren of the Faculty, and to each of the Literary Societies at Chapel Hill, with the request that they be filed in their archives.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

W. J. ANDERSON, Chairman.

GEORGE H. HAIGH, Secretary.

### MEETING AT GREENSBORO.

From the Times, August 23.

A MEETING of former pupils and friends of Dr. Mitchell, resident in Greensboro and vicinity, was held in the Court House on Monday evening last, for the purpose of giving public expression to their feelings of grief and sympathy, excited by the painful intelligence of his death.

Hon. James T. Morehead was called to the Chair on motion of John H. Coble, and on motion of R. M. Sloan, Jr., Charles E. Shober, Esq., was appointed Secretary.

On taking the chair, Mr. Morehead addressed the meeting appropriately and feelingly upon the mournful subject which had called it together. He was a student at the University when Dr. Mitchell first became connected with it, and had known him intimately ever since. He was therefore well qualified by length of acquaintance to speak of him.

On motion of Rev. C. H. Wiley, the chairman appointed a committee, consisting of Ralph Gorrell, Esq., R. P. Dick, Esq., Jesse H. Lindsay, Sr., W. L. Scott, Esq., J. A. Long, Esq., and Rev. C. H. Wiley, to prepare resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the meeting. The committee retired, and after a brief absence, reported through their chairman Rev. C. H. Wiley, the following Preamble and Resolutions:

WHEREAS, we have heard of the recent death of the Rev. Elisha Mitchell, D. D., late Professor in the University of our State, under circumstances peculiarly sad and startling, and well calculated to excite the tenderest interest and sympathy on the part of every lover of science, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we have received the tidings of this melancholy event with emotions of profound sorrow, cherishing as we do a lively recollection of the many amiable qualities, of the great and varied acquirements, and of the long, laborious and useful services of our lamented friend and instructor.

*Resolved*, That we regard the death of Prof. Mitchell as a public calamity, long identified as he has been with the progress of science and scientific improvements in North Carolina, devoted to her interests and her honor, and for many years an invaluable member of the Faculty of her University, which is greatly indebted to his zeal, his learning and his industry for its eminent success and illustrious character.

*Resolved*, That we cordially respond to the suggestion that some fitting and lasting monument to the memory and character of the deceased should be erected among those stupendous scenes amid which he fell a Martyr to the cause of Science, and that, to this end, we will contribute of our means and influence.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased with the expression of our sincerest condolence and sympathy, and that copies also be sent to the Faculty of the University and to each of the Literary Societies, with a request that they be entered on the records of the University and filed in the archives of the Societies.

Mr. Wiley accompanied the report of the resolutions with a few remarks mainly explanatory of the manner of Dr. Mitchell's death as he

had received it from a resident of the region of country where the painful casualty occurred, and then the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

On motion of Julius Gorrell, Esq., the newspapers of the town were requested to publish the proceedings of the meeting, and then, on motion, it was adjourned.

JAMES T. MOREHEAD, Chairman.

CHARLES H. SHOBER, Secretary.

### MEETING AT WILMINGTON.

From the Wilmington Herald, August 5.

ACCORDING to previous notice, a meeting of the Trustees, former Students, and Alumni of the University of North Carolina was held in the Court House in the town of Wilmington on the 29th of July, 1857.

On motion Dr. Thomas H. Wright was called to the chair, and John D. Taylor requested to act as Secretary.

The object of the meeting was explained in a few feeling and appropriate remarks by George Davis, Esq., who also moved the appointment of three to draw up suitable resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. Whereupon George Davis, Esq., Rev. Dr. C. F. Deems and Eli W. Hall, Esq., were appointed by the Chair.

The Committee through their chairman, Dr. Deems, submitted the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS, the whole State of North Carolina has recently been called to mourn the sudden and violent close of the life of Rev. Elisha Mitchell, D. D., Senior Professor in the University, and whereas no other section of the State can furnish a larger proportionate number of those who have enjoyed the acquaintance of the eminent deceased, therefore

*Resolved*, That the Trustees and former Students and Alumni of the University of North Carolina, and the friends of science and of the late Prof. Mitchell, assembled in Wilmington, do sincerely sympathise with the general grief which his death has spread over the country; that his great abilities, vast acquirements, and indomitable industry, while they combined to present in him a model to the young men of the land, did much towards the elevation of the University of our State to that lofty position which it maintains among the very first institutions of learning in America; that his contributions to general science have given him a respectable place among the most learned, and his special devotion to the development of all the physical resources of North Carolina has laid the State under obligations which the gratitude of many a generation will scarcely avail to cancel.

*Resolved*, That we will unite in whatever plan the authorities of the University may adopt to perpetuate the excellent memory of him whose devotion to the interests of the Institution through more than the ordinary time of a generation has entitled his name to be held in reverential remembrance.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the family of the late Dr. Mitchell, with the expression of the most sincere and tender sympathy of this assembly.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be furnished to the President and Faculty of the University of North Carolina, and our condolence with them at the great social and official breach made in their ranks by the recent dispensation of Divine Providence.

*Resolved*, That these proceedings be published in all the papers in Wilmington.

Dr. Deems, after offering the resolutions, paid an eloquent and touching tribute to the memory of Dr. Mitchell, testifying from his intimate association with him as a colleague, friend, and neighbor, to his many generous traits of character and kindness and benevolence of heart.

On motion of James C. Smith, Esq., the meeting then adjourned.

THOMAS H. WRIGHT, Chairman.

JOHN D. TAYLOR, Secretary.

## TESTIMONIALS OF RESPECT.

### RESOLUTIONS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

RALEIGH, July 4, 1857.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Trustees of the University, at the Executive office in this City on the 4th inst., the following proceedings were had:—

His Excellency Governor Bragg having officially communicated intelligence of the recent, sudden, and melancholy death of the Rev'd Dr. Elisha Mitchell, late Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology in the University, the Executive Committee, in view of his character as a Christian gentleman; of his arduous, long continued and inestimable services in the Academic corps, and his distinguished position for the last forty years as a member of the Faculty, in the administration of the affairs of the College; in view of his eminent attainments in literature and science; his ardent patriotism and public services; consider the present a fit occasion to express their unanimous sentiment of true condolence and sympathy with the widow and family of the deceased, with the officers and members of the College, and the people of the whole State, at the sad and overwhelming bereavement which we have all sustained; and in the name and on behalf of the whole body of the Trustees of the University, this Committee will cordially unite with other associations and individuals in paying enduring honor to his memory.

*Resolved*, That the half year's salary of the professor, for the residue of the present fiscal year, be paid by the acting Bursar of the College to the widow of the deceased, and that her family be permitted (if she so desires it) to continue the occupation of her present residence until the close of this year.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing proceedings be placed in the hands of the widow of the deceased.

In consideration of the vacancy occurring by the death of Dr. Mitchell, in the Professorship of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology, and the Bursar's Bureau at the beginning of the session just commencing:

*Resolved*, That to enable the Board of Trustees to fill these places permanently, with judgment and discretion, the President of the University, Gov. Swain, be authorized and requested, with the concurrence of the Faculty to distribute the various duties of these several offices among such