

once entered with earnestness upon the work of the church and Sunday school. For almost fifty years she was a loving and devoted helpmate and companion to her husband. Her happy, cheerful disposition made the cabin of the pioneer preacher out on the frontier, as well as the more pretentious home of later years, the abode of happiness and contentment. In a volume of recollections published by Elder Brown near the close of his life, the title page bears the following: "In loving remembrance of my wife, Frances Lyon Brown, who for nearly fifty years shared with me the labor, trials and privations of pioneer missionary life, whose cheery presence made the humble log cabin on the western frontier the happiest of homes and whose sunny, hopeful disposition found for every cloud a silver lining, these recollections are affectionately inscribed."

For four years the Rev. Charles E. Brown was minister of the Baptist church at Norway and Warren, New York, both in Herkimer county, after which he had the opportunity of carrying out a long cherished desire of becoming a home missionary in the west. He was sent to the "forks of the Maquoketa river" in the territory of Iowa and for nine years continued his missionary work, preaching in log cabins, organizing new churches, making long journeys across the trackless prairies of that western frontier, and then on account of impaired health was obliged to return to the state of New York. He spent six years thereafter in preaching in various localities in central New York and was then again sent by the Baptist Home Mission Society to Iowa, where he was permitted to select his own field of labor. In July, 1857, he arrived in Howard county, which became the field of his future life work. In August, 1857, he located at Vernon Springs, organized the Baptist churches at Vernon Springs and Lime Springs and was pastor thereof for many years. His work extended all over Howard and adjoining counties and there are few of the old pioneer schoolhouses in which he did not preach and organize Sabbath schools. He was always deeply interested in the public schools and became the first superintendent of schools in Howard county and was one of the early teachers in the school at Vernon Springs. In the late '70s he was selected to represent his district in the state legislature and was a leader in every movement for public improvement and civic betterment. Throughout his life he was intensely loyal and patriotic, an uncompromising enemy of the liquor traffic, and he advocated his religious and political opinions with earnestness, sincerity and fidelity. He had the courage of his convictions and when his conclusions were reached upon any subject they were definite and positive. He was never known to compromise with what he believed to be wrong. He passed away July 23, 1901, in his eighty-ninth year, and was laid to rest by the side of his wife, who died in 1887, in the beautiful cemetery of Lime Springs. The legislature during the session of the following winter passed the following resolutions:

"WHEREAS Rev. Charles E. Brown, an honored member of the seventeenth general assembly of Iowa from Howard county, died in Ottumwa, July 23, 1901, and,

"WHEREAS The life and character of the deceased were such as to command our love and esteem, and his public services to the state and country were of such distinction as to demand the respect and gratitude of his fellow citizens; therefore be it

"Resolved, That in his death the state has lost an able, conscientious citizen, a man who suffered the inconvenience and hardships of pioneer life in the cause of religion, and state that we extend to his children our sincere sympathy in their affliction.

"Resolved, That these resolutions be entered in the Journal of the House and that chief clerk of the House be instructed to present engrossed copy thereof to his sons."

Amid the environment of a Christian home upon the frontier William C. Brown spent the days of his boyhood and youth, working on the farm in the summer months and attending the district school in the winter seasons. From 1857 the home of the Brown family was maintained in Howard county save for the years 1868 and 1869, during which Elder Brown was pastor of the Baptist church in Thompson, Illinois, and it was with keenest pleasure that William C. Brown returned to the scenes