"Rather be yours the generous ambition to shine only in the pure excellence of virtue and refinement. * * * Go forth, then, into the world and meet its trials and dangers, its duties and pleasures, with a firm integrity of heart and mind, looking ever onward and upward, and walking erect before the gaze of men, fearless, because without reproach. When the glad sunshine is upon you, rejoice and be happy. When the dark hours come, light them with a gentle patience and a Christian faith.

"* * * This above all: 'To thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.' "

THE GEORGE DAVIS MONUMENT.

By Mrs. William M. Parsley.

Several years after the death of the Hon. George Davis, the Cape Fear Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy conceived the idea of erecting a monument to the memory of this beloved statesman of the Cape Fear. It was not, however, until January, 1904, that the financial condition of the chapter enabled the members to make even a beginning in the cherished undertaking. At that time a small balance of $50 in the treasury was placed in bank to the credit of the George Davis Memorial Fund, and a committee of five ladies was appointed to take charge of the matter. The members of this committee were Mrs. William M. Parsley, chairman; Mrs. Martin S. Willard, president of the chapter, Mrs. James Carmichael, Mrs. Gabriel Holmes, and Miss Mary Calder. Later, the number of members was increased to ten, and Mrs. Jane D. DeRosset was elected chairman, with Mrs. John C. James, secretary.

The first action of the committee was to notify all chapters of the Daughters of the Confederacy and camps of Confederate Veterans throughout the State of the plan, inviting their coöperation and support; but these organizations were busy with their own local work, most of them with inadequate means, and, though expressing the heartiest approval, they were able to contribute but little.

The first voluntary contribution—a ten-dollar gold piece—was made by Mrs. Henry Rehder, who, though not a Daughter of the Confederacy, admired and revered Mr. Davis. Another lady made a contribution of $50—the proceeds from work by her own hands. The Wilmington Light Infantry gave a dramatic entertainment for the benefit of the fund and realized $90. The ever loyal and faithful George Davis Children's

Chapter sent several gifts of $10 each. But the fund grew slowly, and the committee, feeling its inability to cope with the matter, had almost decided to return the amounts subscribed and abandon the hope of erecting the monument. At this critical time, however, one of our leading business men, whose personal admiration for Mr. Davis gave him enthusiasm for the cause, subscribed $1,000 and persuaded a friend to contribute a like amount. Later, he raised the remainder of the $5,500 needed, and the committee was at once enabled to carry out its plans.

The design of the memorial is a portrait statue in bronze on a base of North Carolina granite, executed by Francis H. Packer, of New York City—a chaste, beautiful monument, with a wonderfully accurate likeness of Mr. Davis, standing with his face towards the Cape Fear River and reaching forward in a characteristic gesture of the right hand, while the left rests lightly upon the flag to which he was true to the end of his life.

On October 14, 1909, the cornerstone was laid with imposing ceremonies, Col. A. M. Waddell making the address; and on April 20, 1911, the monument was unveiled by four of Mr. Davis' grandsons—Robert Cowan Davis, Heiskell Gouverneur, George Rountree, and Donald MacRae, jr.

The address of Judge Henry G. Connor in presenting the monument to the city was heartily enjoyed by every one in attendance and was an able and brilliant review of the life of Mr. Davis, scintillating with touches of local history and memories that are ever dear to every patriotic Wilmingtonian. Following Judge Connor, the acceptance on behalf of Wilmington was by Mayor MacRae, who spoke in his characteristically happy, but brief manner, as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen and United Daughters of the Confederacy: It is my duty for the mayor and aldermen, and for all that is best in Wilmington, to receive this monument. It commemorates the virtues of one of our own fellow-citizens who, through a long life as a great lawyer, never bowed the knee to Baal, never lowered the standard of Right, never stood for anything which his conscience did not approve, never permitted any motive of selfish gain or advancement to move him from his integrity. Though he has crossed over the river, he still survives in the best and broadest sense; for the life that he lived is an inspiration to all. The beauty of righteousness is still crimson in his cheeks and on his lips and Death's pale flag is not advanced there.

If there be any ambitious young men who feel disheartened and discouraged when they see mean men promoted and base actions applauded, let them take heart again and go forward with renewed courage. Be-