

**A MEMOIR OF
ABNER W.
CLOPTON**

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A memoir of Abner W. Clopton by Jeremiah B. Jeter

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JEREMIAH B. JETER

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OF
NEW YORK
NEW YORK
ABNER W. CLOPTON, A.M.

*Pastor of Baptist Churches in Charlotte
County, Virginia.*

BY JEREMIAH B. JETER.

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CHAPTER I.

A. W. Clopton's birth—Parentage—Early dispositions and habits—Education—Religious instruction—Enters on business—Fondness for pleasure—Marriage, and divorce—Influence of this affliction—Commencement of his classical studies—Residence in South Carolina—Enters the North Carolina University—Appointed tutor—Freedom from temptation—Upright deportment—Graduates—Returns home—Studies medicine—Enters the Pennsylvania University—Conversion—Returns home—Joy of his father—Baptized.

ABNER WENTWORTH CLOPTON, the subject of the following memoir, was born March the 24th, 1784, in Pittsylvania county, Virginia. His father, Mr. Robert Clopton, a plain, industrious, and thrifty planter, has been for many years a pious, leading, and useful member of Shockoe Baptist church. He is now, at the patriarchal age of fourscore

years, in the enjoyment of vigorous health, the reward of sober and uniform habits. The maiden name of his aged and esteemed consort was Frances Anderson. She gave birth to ten children, six of whom are still living. Her second child was Abner, who proved to be, as his name signifies, the "lamp of his father."

Abner was distinguished, even in childhood, for an amiable and winning disposition. To the commands of his parents, he yielded a scrupulous and cheerful obedience. He early acquired the power of governing a temper naturally irritable. And even in the usual season of mirth and waywardness, he gave promise of the sedateness and stability which distinguished his mature years.

Mr. Clopton, possessing but a small estate, and knowing the dangerous tendency of idleness, compelled his son, while quite young, to assist in the ordinary labours of his farm. In these healthful employments, he began to form those habits of diligence and perseverance, which greatly contributed to his future usefulness and elevation. Parents and guardians would do well to receive instruc-