



# 4

REV. WILLIAM P. THOMPSON

The Rev. William P. Thompson, a son of the late Mrs. Rosalie Thompson was born in Baltimore in the year 1840.

He attended the little Saratoga Street School for a few years; was converted under the influence of the then noted Rev. Noah Davis under whom he studied and attended Wayland Seminary for a period of two years. He was an active member of the Saratoga Street Church and along with that congregation, joined the Union in 1866, where he became active in the Sunday School work.

He was licensed to preach in 1868 and upon the death of Rev. Wm. Williams, was ordained Sept. 12, 1869 at the Union Baptist Church, and called immediately as her minister. He was regarded as a great young preacher and maintained the fine standard set by his former pastors. He gave rise to great promise when he contracted the illness which finally claimed him. The first Sunday in January 1872, he preached from a Text, which in his case proved prophetic, "This year thou shalt die." He died on the 24th of this same month and with fitting honors was laid to rest just within the gates of Laurel Cemetery where a grateful congregation erected a small but suitable stone. He was only thirty-two years of age at his death.

Rev. Thompson while in school was

employed as colporter for a few months and in 1871 founded a church at Forest Hall in St. Mary's County. He was married early to a Miss Sarah Wood and from this union there were six children, viz: Mary Julia, Samuel W., Rose E., Thomas II., Sarah and Noah Davis Thompson. The latter was named for his former pastor, benefactor and friend and while several of the offspring have made marks in life the most noted was the late Noah D. Thompson, a former business manager of "Opportunity" magazine.

From "History of the Union Baptist Church and the Ministers who made Her Famous" by A. B. Koger  
H. Th. pastore