

Grandfather went back full of indignation, and ordered the young men to go to bed. Next morning he rode into town and denounced all such alarms as the work of mean masters, who mistreated their slaves and were afraid of them. Never again did he allow himself to be disturbed by a report of an expected "uprising."

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THE statement is made in the preface that this book is intended for the family, and not for public circulation. With that idea in view, the preface contained some general remarks concerning the characteristics of the Speeds. With that idea still in view, the following additional comments on the same theme are made :

It may not be possible in all cases to discern, perceptibly, through the lapse of many years, and the course of several generations, the continued existence of family characteristics, but it is believed this can be done in the Speed family. The children of John Speed, of Mecklenburg, Va., had many traits in common which they inherited from their ancestors and transmitted to their descendants.

Under the training of their excellent and honored parents, they grew up well educated, intelligent and practical, and imbued with those principles of virtue which made them valuable citizens. The men were robust, manly and independent. The women were gentle, affectionate and refined. They were all people of character and substance, and they occupied a high position among the families of old Virginia.

The six brothers were all much alike. They were true to each other, and devoted to their parents and sisters. Their correspondence shows that they had a peculiarly affectionate feeling for each other, which had been cultivated in the home at Mecklenburg. They were men of that mold which commanded respect, and caused them to be recognized as leaders among those with whom their lives were cast. Their position, intelligence and character called them to bear responsibilities of more than ordinary magnitude, and this gave them reputation and influence.

They were practical men. They did not assume to be