

ORMOND STONE—1847-1933

Professor Ormond Stone, founder and first editor of the *Annals of Mathematics*, was instantly killed by an automobile on January 17, 1933, while he was walking along the road near his home not far from Fairfax, Virginia.

Professor Stone, who was eighty-six years old, was retired on the Carnegie Foundation in 1912, after serving twenty years as Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Leander McCormick Observatory at the University of Virginia. Before coming to the University of Virginia he had been an assistant at the U. S. Naval Observatory and afterwards Director of the Cincinnati Observatory. He observed the total eclipse of the sun in Iowa in 1869; was in charge of the Naval Observatory eclipse expedition to Colorado in 1878, and of the McCormick Observatory expedition to South Carolina in 1900. While he was at the Cincinnati Observatory he played an important part in bringing about the adoption of the standard time belts.

A number of Professor Stone's former students and assistants at the Leander McCormick Observatory now hold prominent executive and scientific positions in the United States. Among them are: Edgar O. Lovett, President of Rice Institute, Houston, Texas; Heber D. Curtis, Director of the University of Michigan Observatory; Charles P. Olivier, Director of the Flower Observatory, University of Pennsylvania; Herbert R. Morgan, U. S. Naval Observatory; Ralph E. Wilson, Dudley Observatory, Albany, N. Y.; G. F. Paddock, Lick Observatory; and T. McN. Simpson, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Va.

While at the University of Virginia Professor Stone was actively interested in the development of secondary education in the state, and was a member of the first Board of Visitors of the State Normal School at Harrisonburg.

Undoubtedly his major contribution to mathematics was the founding of the *Annals of Mathematics*. Soon after coming to the University of Virginia Professor Stone fulfilled a long-cherished desire to establish a journal of mathematics. He felt that the *American Journal of Mathematics*, newly founded at Johns Hopkins University by Sylvester, while admirably supplying a needed opportunity for publishing advanced work, did not furnish a vehicle for the publication of papers of intermediate difficulty and more popular character, and that there was a real need for such a publication. In 1884 he founded the *Annals of Mathematics*, supporting its publication financially from his private income for about twelve years. He succeeded in sustaining this journal in a creditable and dignified manner. He was assisted in the editorial work by a number of mathematical friends, among whom latterly was Professor Maxime Bôcher, of Harvard University. He was profoundly and unselfishly interested in his journal and it was with much distress that he was finally forced to withdraw his financial support.

The University of Virginia then undertook to support it financially for two years; but, that aid being withdrawn, the *Annals* was given to Harvard. After meeting there the same fate as at Virginia, it finally found a permanent home at Princeton. It was at this time of his relinquishing control of the *Annals* that the New York Mathematical Society, and its *Bulletin*, were established, to be