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MILES, William Porcher, tenth president of South Carolina College (1880-82), was born at Walterboro, Colleton co., S. C., in 1822. His ancestors on his father's side were English, and some time before the revolution settled in South Carolina, where they had extensive plantations. On his mother's side, he was descended from the Porchers, a Huguenot family, who emigrated to South Carolina at the revocation of the edict of Nantes. He finished his education at the College of Charleston, the oldest institution of higher education in the state, being graduated with highest honors, and then

studied law, but was never admitted to the bar, having become tutor in mathematics at his alma mater. Afterward he was chosen assistant professor, and while thus engaged was elected mayor of Charleston; but before the expiration of his term of office was elected to the U. S. house of representatives, at the beginning of Buchanan's administration. In 1858 he was re-elected, and served until the secession of his native state in 1860, when he resigned. During his first term he was a member of the committee on commerce, and during his second of the committee on foreign affairs. He was a member of the secession convention of South Carolina and of the provisional Confederate government

that met at Montgomery, Ala., where his services were so efficient that he was elected to the Confederate congress, which convened later in Richmond, Va. Service as voluntary aid at Manassas, and later, on Gen. Beauregard's staff, gave him a knowledge of the conditions and requirements of the army that was put to use by Pres. Davis, who appointed him chairman of the committee on military affairs. For many years after the war he engaged in planting tobacco and wheat in Nelson county, Va.; then removed to Charleston, and took up the practice of law. In October, 1880, after a period of political strife and turmoil, during which B. B. Babbitt and A. W. Cummings served as chairmen of the faculty, and only twenty-three degrees were conferred, South Carolina College was reopened as the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, and Mr. Miles was elected its president. The members of the intermediate class were allowed to take their diplomas after a year's study, forming the class of 1883. Two years later the higher institutions of the state were organized as a university, the branch at Columbia retaining its old name of the College of South Carolina, and at that time family exigencies obliged Pres. Miles to remove to Louisiana. There he took charge of the thirteen large sugar plantations of the Miles Planting and Manufacturing Co., in Ascension and St. James parishes, his wife's inheritance. He became the second largest sugar producer in the United States. An old-fashioned Jeffersonian Democrat in politics, Mr. Miles voted for Palmer and Buckner in 1896. He adorned every position he filled, and fully deserved the respect and admiration accorded him for his culture, for the nobility of his character, and for the single mindedness with which he performed every duty entrusted to him. He died at his home in St. James parish, La., May 13, 1899.



W. Porcher Miles