

JUDGE WM. CHRISTIE BENET.

The following sketch was prepared some time ago by Chief Justice Eugene B. Gary, for a Northern newspaper, which at the time was running a series of articles on "Scotchmen who have made good in America."

The sketches of those who came from the "Land o' cakes and brither Scots," and have obtained prominence in America, would not be complete without mentioning the subject of the present sketch.

In 1868 William Christie Benet, a young Scotsman of handsome mien, commanding personality, glowing with robust health, and splendidly equipped intellectually, for the battle of life—having just graduated from the University of Edinburgh—came to America to make it his new home.

While he was attending the University, he became acquainted with a number of students from America, and, between him and them there arose warm and lasting friendships. The conclusion to leave his native country, was influenced in large measure, by these friendships, and by the vivid descriptions his American friends gave of their country. Several of these students were from the town of Cokesbury, in the State of South Carolina. He went directly to that town, and the people were at once deeply impressed with his kindly nature, intellectual attainments, and varied accomplishments. In fine, he seemed to have magnetized the community, and was willingly accorded leadership in all matters, literary and social.

Shortly after his arrival, he was elected principal of the high school for boys; and, here we may say, begins the first chapter of his career, in his adopted country.

The school opened under auspicious circumstances, and with enthusiasm on the part, both of the teacher and the pupils.

He continued to teach this school for three years, without an assistant, although the attendance was very large.

It may be said, without exaggeration, that this was a model school, due principally to the fact, that the young Scotsman was a born teacher. There is no doubt, that teachers like poets, are born, not made. He did not believe in the use of the rod, but in cultivating a high esprit de corps, among the boys, who on all occasions, were placed on their honor. During the hours when the school was not in session, the utmost freedom existed, between him and the boys. He entered into their sports, and even rendered them every assistance, in planning their amusements and pastimes. The boys regarded him as a companion, and as one of their most cherished friends. He was their idol, and there was not a boy who would not have risked his life for this friend. It is only natural that, with such relations existing between teacher and students, they should have been able to do fine team work. He realized that the instructor does not fulfill the duties of his high and sacred trust, when he merely supervises the training of the students, to the extent that they will be able to recite the lessons from the books, prescribed by the regular curriculum of study, to his satisfaction. He knew that there was a marked difference, in imparting information by hearing the daily lessons from books, and the constant training by word of mouth, in the ways of wisdom, as the occasion arises from day to day.

He knew that while it is true, God does not give to any of us, the same talents; and, that necessarily, our opportunities for attaining to greatness or achieving success, are not the same, nevertheless, there is no reason why, under proper training, should not be made equally efficient, in so far as his natural talents will permit. He knew that in order to achieve the highest state of efficiency, it is not only essential, that every faculty, whether of mind or body, should be trained through the proper avenues. That there should be a sound and strong body; that there should be a mind in unison with the body; that the moral principles should be founded upon a rock; that the manly spirit should be of the highest type, as well as all the ideals necessary, for a moral manhood. The fact that more great men are graduated from colleges characterized by their esprit de corps and moral atmospheres, than from other colleges enjoying equal advantages in other respects, but without these characteristics, can not be questioned. Many of those who were so fortunate as to receive instruction under the young Scotsman were afterwards elected United Senators and Congressmen, Governors, Lieutenant Governors and Speakers of the House of Representatives, State Senators and members of the House of Representatives, high military and municipal officers, Delegates at Large to National Democratic Conventions, Chairmen of State Democratic Executive Committees, Presidential Electors at Large, National Democratic Committeemen, Presidents of

Constitutional Conventions, Chief Justices, Associate Justices, and Circuit Judges, as well as many other who were elected to offices of honor, profit and trust. There is no doubt that these achievements were due in large measure to the efficient training of their teacher.

We proceed to speak of him in other fields.

In 1888, he was elected to the Legislature, and served one term. It was while he was a member, that the question arose, whether the State of South Carolina, should accept the property willed to it, by Hon. Thomas G. Clemen (at one time Minister to Belgium), on condition that the State should build an agricultural and mechanical college on lands formerly the home of John C. Calhoun, South Carolina's greatest statesman. A bill was introduced providing for acceptance by the State on the prescribed conditions. There was much opposition to the acceptance, and feeling ran high. Mr. Benet was selected to lead the forces in favor of the acceptance. Many speeches were made on both sides, but the speech made by Mr. Benet was unquestionably the ablest that was made in favor of acceptance. The bill was passed and became a law, and the State built the college, which is now in a flourishing condition, and the pride of the State. Thus it stands as a monument to the wisdom of Mr. Benet, and those who voted with him for the passage of the bill. The same wisdom characterized his legislative career on other occasions.

As a lawyer, Mr. Benet ranked among the foremost of the State. While at the Bar, he had a large practice, and was unusually successful, in both the Supreme and Circuit Courts. Many interesting questions of law were settled upon his initiative. His practice extended into different parts of the State and even into other States. As an orator he was very eloquent, and his arguments before the Supreme and Circuit Courts, were carefully prepared, logical and able. His oratorical powers, and scholarly attainments caused him to receive a great many invitations to deliver addresses in his own and other States.

We proceed lastly, to speak of Mr. Benet as a Judge. In 1893, he was elected Judge of the First Judicial Circuit, which then included the city of Charleston. At the expiration of his term of office, he was re-elected but after serving a second term declined to offer for re-election as he did not care to spend the length of time from home, which his judicial duties required.

As a Circuit Judge his ability was unquestioned, and he was regarded as one of the ablest in the State. His charges to the jury were lucid, succinct, and applicable to the case; and were regarded by many throughout the State as models. In his decrees, he took a broad and comprehensive view of the law, and they reflected common sense and natural justice, stripped of technicalities, as far as possible. During his incumbency as Circuit Judge, he sat as an Associate Justice, several times by special appointments, and wrote several opinions in behalf of the Court. At least two of these are justly regarded as leading opinions. One is the case of Norris vs. Clinkscales, 47 S. C. 488 construing the section of the Code of procedure, relative to the testimony of a party co a ransaction or communication, between him and another party then deceased.

The other case is Babb vs. Sullivan, 43 S. C. 436, relative to the doctrine of laches.

It is seldom we meet anyone so well endowed as Judge Benet, for giving us pleasure as well as instruction. ESTATE OF JOHN G. SMITH, D'ced. Notice of Settlement and Application for Final Discharge. Take Notice that on the 23rd day of July, 1917, I will render a final account of my accounts and doing as Administrator of the Estate of John G. Smith, deceased, in the office of Judge of Probate for Abbeville County at 10 o'clock a. m., and on the same day will apply for a final discharge from my trust as such Administrator. All persons having demands against said estate will present them for payment on or before that day, proven and authenticated or be forever barred. Roy C. Gilmer, Administrator.

6-27-2. Roy C. Gilmer, Administrator.

ESTATE OF JOHN G. SMITH, D'ced. Notice of Settlement and Application for Final Discharge.

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Roy C. Gilmer, Administrator.

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Magnolia Balm

LIQUID FACE POWDER and use according to simple directions. Improvement is noticed at once. Soothing, cooling and refreshing. Heals Sunburn, stope Tan. Pink, White, Rose-Red. 75c. at Druggists or by mail direct. Sample (either color) for 2c. Stamp. Lyon Mfg. Co., 40 South Fifth St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

Statement of the Condition of

The Farmers Bank of Abbeville,

located at Abbeville, S. C., at the close of business June 20, 1917.

RESOURCES. Loans and discounts \$219,996.97 Overdrafts 6,283.61 Bonds and Stocks owned by the Bank 4,100.00 Furniture and Fixtures 848.00 Other Real Estate owned Due from Banks and Bankers 19,567.08 Currency 2,030.00 Gold 417.50 Silver and Other Minor Coin 1,067.97 Checks and Cash Items 836.73 Other Resources, viz: Gold Certificates 1,000.00 Total \$262,856.86

LIABILITIES. Capital Stock paid in \$75,000.00 Surplus Fund 18,000.00 Undivided Profits, less Current Expenses and Taxes Paid 4,944.75 Dividends Unpaid 127.00 Individual Deposits subject to check 73,242.75 Savings Deposits 71,224.43 Time Certificates of Deposit 9,865.00 Cashier's Checks 281.73 Bills payable, including certificates for money borrowed 10,000.00 Reserve Fund carried on general individual or Savings Ledger 221.20 Total \$262,856.86

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, County of Abbeville, ss.

Before me came F. E. Harrison, President of the above named bank, being duly sworn, says that the above and foregoing statement is a true condition of said bank, as shown by the books of said bank.

F. E. HARRISON, Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of June, 1917. ALBERT HENRY, Notary Public.

Correct Attest: C. C. GAMBRELL, W. H. WHITE, P. B. SPEED, Directors.

Statement of the Condition of

The Peoples Bank of Abbeville,

located at Abbeville, S. C., at the close of business, June, 20, 1917

RESOURCES. Loans and discounts \$213,030.20 Overdrafts 4,807.39 Furniture and Fixtures 1,200.00 Banking House 3,000.00 Other Real Estate owned Due from Banks and Bankers 14,924.42 Currency 6,942.00 Gold 185.00 Silver and other Minor Coin 2,332.40 Checks and Cash Items 3,257.59 Total \$250,379.00

LIABILITIES. Capital stock paid in \$21,800.00 Surplus Fund 21,800.00 Undivided Profits, less current expenses and taxes paid 3,497.13 Dividends Unpaid 24.00 Individual Deposits subject to check 134,705.33 Savings Deposits 35,000.00 Time Certificates of Deposit 3,178.67 Cashier's Checks 373.87 Bills payable, including certificates for money borrowed 30,000.00 Total \$250,379.00

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, County of Abbeville, ss.

Before me came W. F. Nickles, Cashier of the above named bank, who, being duly sworn, says that the above and foregoing statement is a true condition of said bank, as shown by the books of said bank.

W. F. NICKLES, Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of June, 1917. ALBERT HENRY, Notary Public.

Correct Attest: S. G. THOMSON, W. E. OWEN, G. A. NEUFFER, Directors.

Statement of the Condition of

The Branch Bank of Mt. Carmel,

located at Calhoun Falls, S. C., at the close of business June 20, 1917.

RESOURCES. Loans and discounts \$16,938.61 Currency 1,407.00 Gold 12.50 Silver and other Minor Coin 40.11 Checks and Cash Items 15.00 Expenses paid 608.68 Total \$19,021.82

LIABILITIES. Due to banks & bankers \$4,753.71 Individual Deposits, subject to check 13,295.57 Savings Deposits 55.42 Cashiers check 30.00 Exchange 23.84 Discount 863.28 Total \$19,021.82

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, County of Abbeville, ss.

Before me came H. W. Lawson, Cashier of the above named bank, who, being duly sworn, says that the above and foregoing statement is a true condition of said bank, as shown by the books of said bank.

H. W. LAWSON, Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of June, 1917. JOSEPH HICKS, Notary Public.

Correct Attest: P. F. MADDOX, J. W. MORRAH, R. F. MIMS, Directors.

Statement of the Condition of

The Bank of Donalds,

located at Donalds, S. C., at the close of business June 20, 1917.

RESOURCES. Loans and Discounts \$88,759.10 Overdrafts 512.27 Bonds and Stocks owned by the Bank 1,000.00 Furniture and Fixtures 1,483.30 Banking House 1,094.99 Other Real Estate owned Due from Banks and Bankers 3,243.92 Currency 1,979.00 Gold 119.50 Silver and Other Minor Coin 306.64 Checks and Cash Items 227.00 TOTAL \$101,272.09

LIABILITIES. Capital Stock Paid in \$25,000.00 Surplus Fund 6,000.00 Undivided Profits, less Current Expenses and Taxes Paid 2,513.48 Individual Deposits subject to check 33,430.55 Demand certificates of Deposit 3,492.41 Time Certificates of deposit 30,527.66 Cashier's chks. 279.88 67,730.50 Reserve Fund carried on general individual or savings ledger 28.11 Total \$101,272.09

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, County of Abbeville, ss.

Before me came B. H. SMITH, Cashier of the above named bank, who, being duly sworn, says that the above and foregoing statement is a true condition of said bank, as shown by the books of said bank.

B. H. SMITH, Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of June, 1917. L. J. DAVIS, Notary Public.

Correct Attest: J. C. MARTIN, C. V. MARTIN, W. R. DUNN, Directors.

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WE will give you a VALUED POLICY insuring you against loss by FIRE or THEFT at the same rate that is usually charged for fire only and with a non valued policy. This policy is backed by a company with large surplus and cash capital of \$1,000,000.00.

Cars listed around \$1500.00 rate 1 1-4 per cent.

Cars listed around \$1000.00 and less including Fords, 1 1-2 per cent, no minimum charge made.

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TALK IT OVER WITH W. L. PEEBLES, MANAGER OF

Abbeville Insurance & Trust Company

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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