

The Bamberg Herald

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Thursday, April 6, 1922.

Beginning today we have with us "Hambone." The meditations of Hambone are choice morsels of humorous philosophy which are read by millions the country over. Don't miss reading Hambone's meditations.

Too unimportant to be dignified by classing as ridiculous, it is only amusing when a little two-by-four says Henry Ford would go bankrupt if the government were to sell him the Muscle Shoals plant. Henry Ford knows more about money and industry in five minutes than some of the so-called experts do in a year. Added to Ford's own opinion is that of Thomas A. Edison, who says Ford's plans can be carried out successfully. Yet a man, whose name we never saw in print before, says it can't be done. It is rather a peculiar circumstance, too, that the fertilizer people are against the Ford proposition. If the Ford plan cannot be put over, the fertilizer people would be the very ones to want to see it tried. We confess our utter ignorance of such matters, but if Henry Ford and Thomas A. Edison say it can be done, we believe it can.

Unity of effort has received a great impetus during the past few years. The same united front that has been presented by various business industries is now being put into effect in other lines, particularly marketing of farm products, and the results already attained have proven beyond question the vast importance and benefits of such a unity of purpose.

Religion is the biggest business in the world, and has probably been marked by the greatest lack of business methods; but united efforts are now being injected into religious activities. In Augusta last Sunday, by pre-arrangement, all of the Protestant churches began revival services, with the exception of one church which could not make the necessary arrangements and which will hold its revival a few weeks hence. These meetings are outgrowth of the Gypsy Smith meetings last year. The good that is accomplished through cooperation in meetings such as are conducted by Gypsy Smith, Billy Sunday and other great evangelists cannot be measured. The devil is the common enemy of all Christian people, and if he is to be put under subjection it will require a united effort to do it. This does not mean that all churches should be enrolled under one banner, for we have no patience with so-called church union. Each denomination has its own peculiar functions to perform in the great scheme, but a spirit of cooperation and oneness of purpose is the spirit that should prevail.

One hundred years ago the town of Hamburg, South Carolina, was a thriving place. The city of Augusta was then a small and unimportant town. Hamburg was the mecca for the business of a large portion of this state. Hamburg strikingly illustrates the fate that can befall a town or city. One passes through Hamburg now on the Southern railway to Augusta, but unless it were called to one's attention it would probably not be known when the town is passed. There are now only a few shacks standing, and only some ruins are there to suggest a once hustling city. When the old Charleston and Augusta railroad decided to span the Savannah river with a bridge and enter Augusta, the doom of Hamburg was spelled. The fate of Hamburg is recalled by the following paragraph from the files of the Charleston Courier of April 3, 1822:

"The town of Hamburg contains upwards of one hundred buildings, and a steam boat, purchased by Mr. Schultz, has already gone on a third trip with a full freight from Charleston. Can it be doubted for a moment that the enterprise of Mr. S. deserves the encouragement of South Carolina? There are certain obstacles to be removed in the inland navigation between this place and Savannah. Wappoo Cut requires to be deepened and widened and Bull's Cut also. This could be accomplished in the ensuing summer with less than \$20,000 and Mr. S. would contract to have it done. Will not the wealthy and enterprising citizens of Charleston devise a scheme which shall express their good opinion of this undertaking and their readiness to assist in its accomplishment?"

The Herald has heretofore referred to the fact that, in its opinion, the state government of South Carolina is running away with expenses. It is a matter to be deplored that there is such a general apathy on the part of the people. The people howl about high taxes, and few of them offer any

remedy. Results have not, in our opinion, multiplied in the same ratio as the expenditures have. This, we have pointed out, is because the "commission" form of government has taken hold in Columbia. Within the past few years commission after commission has been added. Where duties used to be performed by one man, they are now performed by a half dozen, lessening the individual responsibility, and at the same time increasing the expenses. There is no end to this commission business. When one is established, it seems to call for two others. Each board must employ a host of assistants, traveling representatives, imported "experts," numbers of secretaries and bookkeepers. Thus salaries are multiplied, much red tape is resorted to, and the state is deluged with huge expenditures. The legislature, we are informed, is overrun occasionally by lobbyists from the boards and commissions, each interested far more in the preservation of his job than in the welfare of South Carolina. We have advocated in the past, and still advocate, the doing away of practically all boards and commissions, and taking a new start with a simple and efficient state government manned by individuals who can be held individually and severally responsible for the conduct of their own duties. As it is now, responsibility can scarcely be placed; the head of the board can lay the blame to his assistant, the assistant to the secretary, the secretary to the bookkeeper, and there you are. It gets nowhere. And it costs money. When the people cry out against the downward trend of income and the upward trend of taxes, the taxes are just shifted from the howlers to some others and the spending goes right on. It is time to readjust things to a sensible basis.

HAMBONE'S MEDITATIONS

ONE DESE HEAH HAN'-
PALMISTS WANTED READ
MAH HAN' T SEE HOW
LONG AH GWINE LIVE,
BUT SHUCKS! AH TOL' 'IM
MAH LIFE IS IN DE GLE
'OMANS HAN'!!

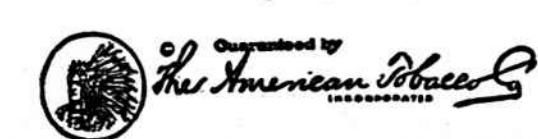


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The attendance committee of the Baptist Berean class for last Sunday reports an attendance on the class of 50 members and 36 visitors, a total of 86 present. This was a most satisfactory showing, and the class is now striving for an attendance of 100 next Sunday, which the new committee hopes to achieve. All men not attending any other class or Sunday school are cordially invited to be present. An attractive programme has been arranged.

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SKETCH OF WILLIAM GILMORE SIMMS.

(Continued from page 1, column 4.)

had no place in poetry literature. This visit to his father was the milestone in his life. He at length returned to Charleston as the lure of the pen was too strong to be resisted. He knew that the wilds of the frontier life was no place for an author. His return was a great shock to his father as he thought when his son had once tasted the joys of a frontier life he would not want to go back to hidebound Charleston.

Simms practiced law for one year after his return and made \$600. So, encouraged by this wealth, he married, his wife only living a short time, leaving him the care of an infant daughter. About this time the dear old grandmother passed away. On top of this came the news that his father had died. This was the beginning of his adversities which fate seemed to hand out to him at every turn of his path through life. After these losses he decided to devote himself entirely to literature, a daring determination in that day. About this time he was offered the editorship of a new magazine in Charleston, which lasted only four years.

Simms then bought a Charleston newspaper, "The City Gazette." About this time the nullification troubles were brewing. Simms took the union side and threw all his influence through his paper into the struggle. Simms had to give up his paper and exile himself in the north. In a few years he became one of the most popular American authors. He made many fast friends and became a great favorite in the literary world. His keen sense of humor, his wealth of anecdote and deep kindness of heart made him always acceptable in any company. He was spoken of as the Walter Scott of the south.

In 1834 "Guy Rivers," one of his works, appeared, a tale of Kentucky. Encouraged by its success "Yemassee" was published the following year. This is considered Simms's masterpiece. The entire story is laid out of doors—a story of the Indian. After this many books followed. His books were read over the entire country and were translated into foreign languages. In the full tide of his success he returned to Charleston. As the nullification troubles were forgotten he was given a welcome. He soon married Miss Chevillet Roach and with her came into possession of an old family estate, "Woodlands," where he was to spend the happiest days of his life. On account of this ease in finances he was able to gratify his love for entertaining and Woodlands was gay with guests the year round, who came from all parts of the country. Simms's works were read so much abroad that many foreign celebrities visiting the United States came with a visit to Woodlands. William Cullen Bryant would come from the north in his carriage and spend weeks with Simms on his plantation. We can imagine what a joy it was to Simms after so many years of hardships to come at last into his own. He had his town house in Charleston and there with Timrod and Hayne he formed a literary coterie which was the fountain head around which all the young aspirants gathered for inspiration. In his success he did not forget his own lean years and great

was the aid that he gave to struggling southern authors. Woodlands, his country home, he loved. It was a beautiful spot and Simms loved the life of a country gentleman. He was fond of horses and had many thoroughbred ones on his plantation. He also had his gardens and became quite an aesthetic landscape gardener.

War clouds now began to gather and with them hard times and bitter griefs came to Simms to accompany him to his grave. Simms lost his two small sons both with yellow fever on the same day. Putting aside this dreadful blow, Simms threw himself into politics, writing hundreds of political letters and lecturing all over the state of South Carolina. He also went north on a lecture tour. Not following the advice of his friends his opening night he gave his views on slavery and state rights. The north was in no mood for such views and all his engagements were cancelled. He said to a friend in New York, "If it comes to blows between the north and the south, the south will crush you as I would an egg." Little did he foresee the outcome of the horrible struggle.

Simms was too old to fight, but he sent his oldest son, Gilmore. In the third year of the war he was shocked by the death of his wife. For days his reason was despaired of but there was so much strength in the man that he pulled through and began his march again. In 1865 he moved

to Columbia, where he took the editorship of a daily newspaper.

Sherman now began his march to the sea. Simms, having a vast library, moved a few of his books to Columbia; his library was burned at Woodlands after a union lieutenant had watched the place for three days. The day after he left a squad came along and burned the house to the ground. Simms saw the burning of Columbia and published a graphic account of it in his paper—so graphic that he was ordered to appear before the military command out of town for trial.

From Columbia Simms was able to help many a Confederate soldier to his home after the surrender at Appomattox. After the war, his home burned, his wife dead, his library gone, and his health greatly impaired and no market for his writings, he lived only a few years. At his own request he was buried in Magnolia cemetery, Charleston, the city

consenting that he should lie under a very beautiful tree which he had particularly loved.

There has been a revival of interest in his works and it is to be hoped that some of his books will not be long in coming from the press. At the present time there are none of Simms's books in print. He has given to the south a legendary history. He has portrayed the Indian in his wars, love, hate and superstition. He has preserved the tales of the revolution and has imparted the love of the partisan to every boy and girl who has read them. One cannot read him without a deeper realization of our woods, our trees, swamps, the coast country and the mountain country. And one cannot read him without a deeper thrill of pride in the history of our state and draw the conclusion that none of the original states has a broader or more just foundation for such a pride than South Carolina.

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