

The City Itemizer

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OFFICE PHONE. 256,
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WATER VALLEY,
YALOBUSHA COUNTY, MISS.

S. S. PRENTISS.

What He Said in a Speech in 1844 is Applicable Now.

In this day when the time server and the demagogue is going up and down the country trying to keep the people stirred up to divide them into classes according to employment and the property owned, it might be well to study what that great apostle of honest government, S. S. Prentiss, said in a campaign speech in 1844. The State of Mississippi never had one greater than Prentiss. He came to the State from far away Maine poor, and carved out for himself a name and a fame worthy of the emulation and the ambition of every youth of the land. His voice almost speaks back to us on the matter of the "demagogue" as from "across the river." Listen:

"There are demagogues among us who tell the poor man, in the very spirit of the arch-fiend that the 'rich man is your enemy,' and yet how often do we see the employer of today become the laborer of tomorrow, and the laborer changed into the employer. This is the legitimate result of our free institutions, and how, in the face of such facts, dare any man to inflame the bad passions of the different classes of society by teaching that there is a natural hostility between them? The sons of the poor man have actually the better chance in the race for wealth. As a general thing, they first reach the golden eminence. Stephen Girard began life a poor boy, and so did John Jacob Astor. They were the architects of their own fortunes. They acquired their wealth by their superior enter-

prise. The son of the poor man is more likely to prosper, because honest industry, perseverance, and hope are most likely to be his portion, and these are the mainsprings of success in life.

"There are those who in public speeches refer to the 'toiling masses,' as the cant phrase is, just as if poverty in this country were their destiny, a sort of fate from whose decree there is no escape. But poverty is in this country no such Procrustean bed nor is labor here subject to any such hard necessity. Our institutions are illustrated in the race-course, where every horse is put upon his mettle. The slowest cannot win the prize; it belongs to the fleetest. We train our sons like young eagles, to soar aloft, not to flutter about like owls. I say to every man who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow, you have the same chance before you that Benjamin Franklin had. The path of success is as free to you as it ever was to the thousands and tens of thousands whose industry and enterprise have raised them to affluence, independence, stations, and honor in the community.

"I never hear these infamous appeals to popular envy and prejudice without being reminded of Satan tempting our mother Eve. As the arch-fiend.

'Squat like a toad at the ear of Eve, Assaying by his devilish art to reach

The organs of her fancy,' so do the demagogues approach the laboring man, inspiring venom and rising 'distempered, discontented thought, vain hopes, vain aims, inordinate desires' Nor can I ever witness these attempts of passion and satanic cunning without wishing that I possessed the spear of Ithuriel, that I might touch and unmask the monster."

Were Prentiss living today is there anybody in Mississippi to whom he would apply "the spear of Ithuriel?" How long—how much longer—will our people lean their ears to the voice of the man who talks of "classes" in good old Mississippi?—Grenada Sentinel.

Miss Celia Byers is over from Eupora for a three weeks' visit to homefolk.

Mrs. B. F. Tatum left last Friday morning for Memphis to be with her sister, Miss Minta Mitchell, of Wynne, Ark., who is there in the Baptist hospital for Medical treatment.

Miss Lillie Hartwell left last Friday morning to attend the Girls' Missionary Conference in Vaiden, which will be in session there three days.

Mrs. J. K. Dunn was up from McComb for a few days' visit to Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Dunn last week.

Miss Florence Smith left last Thursday for a ten days' visit to friends in Greenwood and Greenville.

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