

THE COMMERCIAL

Marshall & Baird, Union City, Tenn.

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FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1922.

Democratic Ticket.

For Sheriff—J. W. (Watt) Cherry
For Trustee—Armour Ratliff
For County Court Clerk—R. H. Bond
For Circuit Court Clerk—J. N. Ruddle
For Register—W. J. Edwards, Jr.

For Representative.

BRATTON—We are authorized to announce S. R. Bratton as a candidate for re-election as Representative from Obion County in the General Assembly of Tennessee, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

For Floater.

CHAS. CLAIBORNE.—We are authorized to announce Charles Claiborne of Dyer County as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for re-election as Floterial Representative for the counties of Dyer, Lake and Obion, subject to the August primary.

Governor McMillin's Address.

The address made by Ex-Gov. Benton McMillin to the City High School graduating class last Thursday night was along the lines appropriate to such occasions, however on this occasion considerably enlarged and augmented. Mr. McMillin spoke only once with reference to political affairs, and that was as Governor he was particularly a friend of education, furthering the interests of the people of Tennessee by forcing the enactment of the uniform text book law.

The remainder of the speech was on the value of good books. Commencement is a term that is little understood until the passing of years finds us taking a retrospective view of life. We look back on what we have made of the time. We realize then the importance of useful books or the misfortune in the lack of these things.

Mr. McMillin proceeded then with his review of a suitable library. First is the Bible, the greatest book ever written, compared with which all other works pale into the commonplace. In proverbs we have almost a universal education, as well as the inspiration which reveals the glories of life everlasting. No education is complete without the Bible and no life reaches its zenith without God. The prophecies, the proverbs, the revelations and the gospel dispensations are all an infinite conception in prose while the Psalms of David are poems supreme. The greatest logician of any age was Paul and his life and works are more vital and interesting to the human race than all other works outside of the Bible combined.

Mr. McMillin seemed to be especially familiar with the scriptures. He is also a student of other literature, but in his advice concerning English literature The Commercial would like to make a few suggestions. No doubt this class considered it a privilege to have so great a man as the speaker on this occasion to recommend a course of study and review. Therefore with the man, time and the place it is important that the proper recommendations and the proper impressions be made.

In the first place Mr. McMillin eulogized the works of Shakespeare, and in this he was undoubtedly correct. But as a great actor once said of a world-famed actress, "All is not pure gold."

If Lord Bacon is not the author of Shakespeare's works and Shakespeare is himself the author, then we must bear in mind the fact that Shakespeare was a strolling actor, so the commentators say, and that while he wrote imperishable and prophetic drama and verse he was of that class whose moral standards are not above criticism. This is not said to discourage the reading of Shakespeare, but to point out the fact to discriminating minds. It should not have moved us to make this suggestion but for the fact that Mr. McMillin was rather severe in the criticism of Dickens. True Dickens was profusely aggressive in his references to America after his first visit to this country. In Martin Chuzzlewit he has Martin and Mark Tapley marooned in a morass of swamp, which he sarcastically refers to as the Eden of America, while these visitors upon our shores pass thru the stages of swamp fever. Again, Dickens ridicules the early New Yorker as a provincial and a raw product of nature. But in after years he humbly apologizes. He is also censured for his conduct towards his wife, but how much of this is more than gossip none will ever really know. If we are to take these things seriously then Lord Tennyson should be excoriated for an ugly temper. It is said that Lord Tennyson was so rude to a visitor of the common ranks as to ask him to leave his house on the asseveration that there was nothing in common between them.

Mr. McMillin's favorite poet, Burns, was in his early youth a free

lover. So was Lord Byron a man of the world. Then why single out Dickens for castigation. Neither the works of Dickens nor any of the other authors mentioned should suffer for their personal delinquencies. The sensuality of these works is the subject of criticism. And here we have to make a comparison strongly favorable to Dickens. Dickens' mind did not seem to run to the weaknesses of the flesh. At least they were not reflected in his works. On the other hand he was probably the greatest character sketch writer of any period of English literature. But neither this, his humor or pathos, was the crowning star of Dickens' authorship. It matters that he did create living pictures of human character, but the great outstanding work of Dickens is the political and civil reformation of England—the banishment of the parochial school, the madhouse, the debtor's prison and all their concomitant evils. What Lord Protector Cromwell was to the government of England, Dickens was to the English people. Dickens was not only a literary genius but he was a benefactor to the entire English race.

But enough of comparison. We now wonder why Mr. McMillin's program of reading is not more varied. He mentioned, besides the Bible, Shakespeare, Byron, Dickens, Burns, Washington Irving—very complimentary, as he should have been, about the American author—but beyond these he said very little or nothing.

Advice to pupils about what to read embraces a large territory. Mr. McMillin did not profess to be familiar with modern literature, and the writer will have to admit extreme limitations along these avenues. The rule he laid down was that, unless a book received favorable comment from the reviewers, or unless it provoked a discussion of counter claims, it is safe to let the work pass unread. But to us it seemed, that a few more well known books should have been included in the address besides history and current literature. One of these books is Les Miserables. This book is a combination of fact and fiction, history and government. A master mind created the work. He was a man of letters, a student of government and above everything that is interesting to an American he was a democrat. He wrote about the French ideas of law that led to the French revolution, and in doing this he created one of the most remarkable characters in all fiction—Jean Val Jean. Robert Ingersoll once said that the greatest work of fiction, according to his judgment, was the Tale of Two Cities, by Dickens. This was also a work inspired by the French revolution. But in our opinion a court of literary judges would award the palm to Victor Hugo. No man, no matter how often he has read the book, ever reads again without some new impulse or respect for the author.

Another book quite different is John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. Where is there a child of God or a student who does not value this book? It is as fascinating as a standard work of fiction. At the same time it is an allegory of Christian experience more strikingly visualized than any other work of like character in existence.

Then there are others—there are many. But these are the more important. We might make a choice of a few of our own. We might suggest Hawthorne and Poe, also we might say something of the South's fine pens—Grady and Sidney Lanier.

But the discourse on Shakespeare by Mr. McMillin was indeed interesting. His reference to the fact that Hamlet had set scholars to contending, without solution, the manner of the Dane's conduct—whether there was method in his madness or that he was really overcome by the force of circumstances. The advice conveyed in this work and Hamlet's soliloquy were commented upon. This drama was probably made more famous in America by the great exponent of the character, Edwin Booth, whose reading of the soliloquy is never to be forgotten. By far the greatest sample of wholesome advice, seems to us, was that of Polonius to his son, Laertes, which runs this wise:

"Be thou familiar but by no means vulgar.
The friends thou hast and their adoption tried,
Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel;
But do not dull thy palm with entertainment
Of each new-hatch'd, unfledged comrade. Beware
Of entrance to a quarrel; but, being in,
Bear't that the opposed may beware of thee.
Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice;
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.
Costly thy habit as thy purse can

buy,
But not express'd in fancy; rich not gaudy;
For the apparel oft proclaims the man.

Neither a borrower nor a lender be,
For loan oft loses both itself and friend;
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.

This above all—to thine own self be true;
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not be false to any man."

Get the Axe.

We are reproducing a portion of Gen. G. T. Fitzhugh's speech. It is good reading. But we are taking all that we are able. It strikes home—goes to the very heart of things. General Fitzhugh seems to have come to a conclusion which Congress and official government have failed to realize. The government has a payroll of 917,000 people. General Fitzhugh proposes to cut this in half. This is fine for campaign purposes, but will Mr. Fitzhugh face the storm of ridicule and hisses that will certainly fall upon his head if he enters Congress and makes the attempt. Congressman Fuller, one of the biggest men in New York State, tried it and the whole House turned on him with withering sarcasm. Congressman Blanton, of Texas, called their hands and got a wholesale bath of profanity for his pains. Mind you, Democrats as well as Republicans are in the political fleshpots. President Wilson's administration was not free from this curse by any manner of means, notwithstanding he was a most distinguished President. The only President probably since the war who has made any appreciable effort to reduce administration and government activities was Grover Cleveland, and what they did to him everybody knows. All this high sounding stuff about centralization and State sovereignty is not easy for the masses to understand, but when you begin to talk shop they open their eyes. When you say cut out the hordes of cake eaters and grafters and reduce the taxes they know what you mean. When you say let five men do what ten men are hired to do it is easy to understand. When you say stop the organization of commissions and bureaus, the appointment of committees and the investigation of everything the opposing party does, and reduce those we have already to an economic working basis, then the constituents have an idea what you are trying to do. They don't care whether it is State sovereignty, centralization or what it is. They know that the more the government encroaches upon the substance and the rights of the people the less there is left for the people. They know that the increase of taxes at the present rate will soon become burdensome and confiscatory. We know that the government is following the lines exactly that have prevailed in old governments. First a free country and an agricultural independence; then a process of reducing the farming classes by the promotion of special interests and a taxing system which bears on agriculture; then tenantry, feudalism, serfdom, etc. and finally political chaos and national decay. The pork barrel and the fleshpots must go if democracy is to prevail.

Two Officers of New Land Bank.

Election of Lee Gibson as general attorney and of J. W. Brantley as secretary-treasurer of the Louisville Joint Stock Land Bank by the directors of that institution, recently organized, was announced.

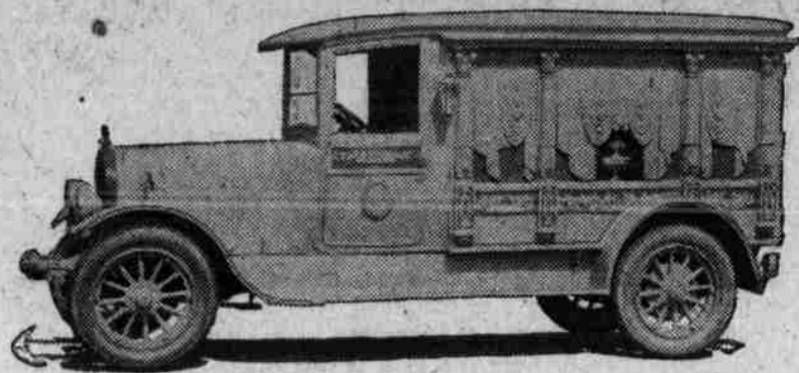
Mr. Gibson formerly held the same position with the Federal Land Bank of Louisville, while Mr. Brantley has been cashier of the Federal institution. The directors announced that completion of the organization and official personnel is being achieved rapidly.

The Louisville Joint Stock Land Bank was formed about ten days ago, but the institution already is functioning.

President Walter Howell, of the Louisville Joint Stock Land Bank, who resigned as president of the Federal Land Bank of Louisville to accept his new position, stated that the institution he now heads is in receipt of a great many inquiries about loans on farm lands from many points in Kentucky and Indiana. He said that there is every indication the farming element of these two States is taking a great deal of interest in Louisville's new bank and in the facilities which the new institution will afford the rural sections.

Mr. Brantley, prior to locating in Louisville, was engaged in the banking business at Troy, Tenn., for a period of fourteen years. He first was cashier of the Bank of Troy and later cashier of the Citizens Bank of Troy.—Louisville Post.

—Go to Corum's for the Coldest Drinks in Town.



ANNOUNCEMENT

New Motor Service for Funerals

In order to conduct our business with the most modern conveniences and equipment, and to offer you perfect service and the finest funeral equipage, we recently purchased a motor hearse.

The illustration will give you some idea of the rich beauty of this new funeral car. It has all the dignity, the refinement and the quiet elegance which the most solemn occasion demands.

The graceful hand-covered drapery—the clean, simple lines and the beautiful lustrous finish, make it unusually impressive.

This hearse was built for us by the Sayers & Scovill Co., who have long been known as the makers of the finest funeral vehicles in America.

We will be pleased to have you call and inspect this new addition to our equipment.

Harpole-Walker Furniture Co.

Funeral Directors Union City, Tennessee

Whitesell Harpole
Phone 354

J. L. Ranson, Jr.
Phone 432

Office Phone
99

NON-RESIDENT NOTICE.

Carroll P. Wilson et al. vs. R. L. Davis et al., Chancery Court, Obion County, Tennessee.

In the above styled cause appearing to the Clerk and Master from the bill of complaint, which is sworn to, that the defendant, R. L. Davis and Victoria Davis are non-residents of the State of Tennessee, so that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon them. It is therefore hereby ordered that the said above named defendants appear before the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court of Obion County, Tennessee, on or before the First Monday of June, 1922, that being a rule day of said Chancery Court, and make defense to the said bill, or the same will be taken as confessed by them, and the said cause set for hearing exparte as to them. It is further ordered that publication of this notice be made four consecutive weeks in The Commercial, a weekly newspaper published in Obion County, Tenn.

This May 1, 1922.
GEO. A. GIBBS,
Clerk and Master.
By Nelle F. Marshall, D. C. and M. Pierce & Fry, Sol. for Compl't.

Notice to Bidders.

Sealed bids will be received by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of Union City, Tennessee, at their office in the City Hall, until 7:30 P. M., Wednesday, May 31st, 1922, when they will be publicly opened and read.

The work will include;

- (1A) 31042 square yards concrete paving, 8870 cubic yards excavation; or
- (1B) 26350 square yards asphalt; or asphaltic concrete; or rock asphalt; or bitulithic paving; on concrete, or on macadam, or on telford, foundation.
- 4690 square yards water table, 9610 to 11090 cubic yards excavation; and
- (2) 9540 lin. ft. curb and gutter, 3286 lin. ft. drain pipe with inlets, manholes and junction boxes.

Plans and specifications for the above work can be seen at the office of the City Recorder in Union City, Tennessee, or at the office of the Engineer, J. H. Weatherford, 64 Porter Building, Memphis, Tennessee. Copies may be had from the Engineer for \$10.00.

Payments will be made in cash. Certified check or bidders bond for ten per cent to accompany bid. Construction bond full amount of contract.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

This May 17, 1922.

J. W. WOOSLEY, Mayor.
W. D. KEISER, Recorder.

Get Your Ticket
Now
Redpath
Chautauqua
The 100%
Program
7 BIG DAYS 7

Chautauqua Week
Here June 21-28

A Permanent Job.

Bergdol has discovered that, while there's such a thing as an ex-service man there's no such thing as an ex-slacker.—Nashville Tennessean.

Passenger Fares Reduced

For Week-End Tickets
Between All Points on

Mobile & Ohio R.R.

Tickets sold each Saturday and Sunday, beginning Saturday, May 6th, and Sunday, May 7th, during the months of May, June, July, August and September.

One and one-third Fare for the Round Trip, minimum \$1.00

Tickets limited returning to reach starting point by 12 o'clock midnight Monday, immediately following date of sale.

For tickets and further information apply to

W. W. LOVELACE, Ticket Agent.