

IN MEMORIAM.



Benjamin Harvey Hill, Georgia's Illustrious Son.

SUCCINCT ACCOUNT OF HIS REMARKABLE CAREER.

The Steps By Which He Ascended the Path to the Temple of Fame.

THE HENRY OF NAVARRE IN POLITICS.

**Quotations from His Eloquent Speeches--
In the Shadows of Death--Tender Tributes in Prose and Poetry to the People's Tribune--The Hill Monument Association.**

Benjamin Harvey Hill, Georgia's illustrious statesman, was born in Jasper county, Georgia, September 14, 1823. He graduated at the University of Georgia in 1844; studied law and commenced practice at LaGrange. He was a member of the House in the State Legislature in 1851. As a member of the Georgia Convention in 1861, he advocated the Union until the ordinance of secession was adopted. He then made the cause of his State and of the Confederacy his own, was elected a delegate to Confederate Provisional Congress, and subsequently became a member of the Senate of the Confederate States. After the surrender, in 1865, he was arrested by the Federal authorities and imprisoned in Fort Lafayette. He was twice elected to Congress as a member of the House, and in 1877 was elected to the Senate of the United States.

friends placed in his pathway, the struggle strengthening his character, quickening his intellect and ripening him for the grand career which Providence had prepared for him.

He worked between the plow handles on his father's farm with his five brothers, his sterling father believing in hard work and instilling in the minds of his sons respect for honest labor and love for the toil on which the spirit of independence is born and the dignity of genuine manhood is alone attained. The boy was blessed with the divine gift—a gentle, loving, earnest, Christian mother, whose influence in shaping his character and instilling into his soul the love of the true and the beautiful and reverence for religion, was clearly visible throughout the remainder of his great and brilliant life.

Through fortunate circumstances young Hill was enabled to enter college. He became a pupil in the State University at Athens, in 1841, graduating with distinction as already said, in 1844. He was already noted for his oratorical ability, his readiness in debate, his studious habits, and for the proof he gave of ability which would carry him into the front rank of eminent men.

Hill in Politics.

When Benjamin H. Hill appeared for the first time in public life in Georgia he met the most formidable opposition and fought the most bitter battle of any young man in our country's history. He became the rival of, and was antagonized by, such masterful and dominating men as Toombs, Stephen and Brown, who then ruled the politics of the State. They were the fountains of power, and while Toombs and Brown did not admire each other, they shared the dominion with a considerable degree of harmony. Young Hill was poor; with no other wealth than a rich and splendid brain and the resources of a courage which never faltered, but rose to heroism when the circumstances called for that divine quality. He could not be put down. Speaking of young Hill at the time, the lordly but chivalrous Toombs remarked:

"You may bury him under a mountain that will overtop Pelion and make Ossa a wart, and he would rise again more formidable than ever and more ready for the conflict. He is bound to succeed. He was born to excel."

Hill was a fighter by nature, and that best of all fighters, an aggressive one. Secure in Gibraltar, he would have scorned to receive an attack, and would have left his fortress and in placid sea or mountain wave fought his adversary on equal terms. On the other hand he never paused to reconnoiter his enemy. Though the pass were Thermopylae and the defenders Spartans, he never halted or hesitated, but attacked with all the impetuosity of his nature, and never ceased the struggle while an enemy was in sight. That was Ben Hill, the statesman, and that was Ben Hill, the man.

He was elected to the State Legislature as a Union man, and served in that body with conspicuous ability, declining reelection in order to devote himself to his profession, in which he was rapidly gaining both fortune and fame.

In 1855 he entered the race for Congress and became the candidate of the American "Know Nothing" party, as it was called, although he was never a member of that order. The late eminent Judge Hiram Warner was his opponent in the race as the candidate of the Democrats. It was a famous campaign and the extraordinary power of Mr. Hill as an orator and debater exhibited itself in a remarkable manner. His influence was evident from the fact that he reduced the usual Democratic majority of the district of two thousand to twenty-four, despite the most strenuous exertions of the powerful and well organized opposition.

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