

**LILLIAN SIMMONS
OR THE CONFLICT OF
SECTIONS: A STORY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649182022

Lillian Simmons or The conflict of sections: a story by Otis M. Shackelford & William Hamilton

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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OTIS M. SHACKELFORD & WILLIAM HAMILTON

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Lillian Simmons
or
The Conflict of Sections

A STORY BY

OTIS M. SHACKELFORD, A. B.

Author of, *A Dream of Freedom Realized, Seeking
the Best, and Other Essays and Poems.*

ILLUSTRATED

by

William Hamilton

BURTON PUBLISHING COMPANY
Publishers and Book Sellers
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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by
OTIS M. SHACKELFORD

To a departed father, to a beloved mother,
to devoted sisters and, brothers; is this volume
lovingly dedicated by,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE

In our travels, North and South, we find among our people certain social evils and false notions of life, which need to be corrected. Unity of action, and of opinion, in all sections of this country, is absolutely necessary, if we would progress in social and business uplift. And in order to call attention to many of our short comings and things which tend to stunt our growth, as a race, or nation, we write this story of "Lillian Simmons" or "The Conflict of Sections."

It is based upon some of the vital questions and problems of the day.

It is a love story which creates interest and claims the attention, and at the same time touches upon the various phases of the race problem in a pleasing yet subtle way. Separate schools, the "Jim Crow Car," segregation in its many forms, and other things pertaining to the welfare of the race, are discussed in turn.

Our characters are clear cut, and are portrayed in an intensely human way, representing types not only of our own colored race, but they

are typical of the entire human family. They are true to life. And we would be happy could their names live forever.

But for this we do not hope. We do hope however, to inspire others of our race who are literarily inclined, and to show forth the great possibilities in this new field of endeavor. We as a race want a place in Literature. We want to be heroes in song and story. We want to play leading roles on the stage and in book. We want to stir the emotions of men. We want to provoke laughter, tears and applause. We are tired of playing the foolish, silly, insignificant part as given to us by the literature of other races. And we think the time has come for us to take this line of work in hand.

The soil of the Negro literary field is indeed rich and abounds in vast tracts, from which material for history, song, and story may be gathered.

We hope this effort will inspire the boys and girls of our race, who are being turned out of our High Schools and Colleges each year, and who have literary taste and inclination, to write along various lines. We would ask them to use the grammar, the rhetoric, and the correct English which they have mastered, in the making of a literature and a history for their race, in

creating characters and heroes, that will live long after they are dead.

Take the stories from the lips of the old grandfathers and mothers, and with the skill which many of the young people possess, polish them up.

They will make interesting reading and in a few years from now, when the lips of the old are forever sealed, and the chance for obtaining much authentic history is forever gone, they will be of great value.

We hope that much good will come from our effort. We invoke the good will and sympathy of our readers. May our purpose inspire and please them if the story does not.

We wish to thank the Burton Publishing Company for suggestions and favors shown, and the good will that it has always extended to us. We highly recommend them to others who may have work like this to be done.

We also wish to thank Mr. William Hamilton, one of Missouri's best colored artists for illustrations. With his talent there is much good that he can do for his race.

And last, but by no means least, we wish to thank Mrs. Eva L. Lewis, of Paducah, Ky., for copying our manuscript in so beautiful a hand