

**A LIFE OF MR. GARLAND
OF
ARKANSAS: A THESIS FOR
THE MASTER'S DEGREE**

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A Life of Mr. Garland of Arkansas: A Thesis for the Master's Degree by Farrar Newberry

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FARRAR NEWBERRY

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

This is intended to be a brief or compendium of a larger volume on Mr. Garland which is to follow at some later date, when the author may have the time and money to hunt out other records, and write up still other phases of the great Arkansan's noble life.

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A Life of Mr. Garland

OF ARKANSAS

A Thesis for the Master's Degree

By FARRAR NEWBERRY, A. M.

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Dedicated

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE
1908



A.H. Garland,
Little Rock,
Ark.

1890

AUGUSTUS HILL GARLAND.

SECTION I

It is not the province of the biographer to indulge in exorbitant praise—still less that of the thesis-writer to employ excessive flattery. The writer is not unaware that the written history of a man, whose life exhibits no adventures, save of an intellectual kind, is seldom read with that enthusiasm which is generally called forth by the story of a chieftain. Readers at large are more fond of tracing the progress of action than of thought, although the latter is the source of the former. They can gaze with rapture upon the beauty or magnificence of the stream, without caring to understand the mysteries of the power by which the fountain spray is thrown up from its secret home. The achievements of the great intelligencies of the age are too little regarded. If mankind would but mark the gradual unfolding of the principles, powers, and passions of the great master spirits, as indeed they are coming more and more to do in our day than ever before, each generation could be furnished with an amount of moral power by which it might elevate itself into a nobler sphere of being, and leave behind it a long train of glory for the illumination of posterity.

The most fitting monument in honor of a public man is a faithful record of his public acts. If these acts be worthy, and the record simple, time, which destroys all things but good deeds and lofty thoughts,

will embalm them for eternity. If they be base, "eulogy adds a lie to their deformities," and they must perish of their own disease. In the spirit of this truth we address ourselves to the task before us, seeking but to write a plain and simple record of a plain and simple life.

Augustus Hill Garland was born in Tipton County, Tenn., June 11, 1832. Both his parents were from good families, and dated their ancestry back to Revolutionary times. His mother's people, the Hills, were from Franklin County, near Louisburg, and his father had been christened Rufus by his Revolutionary sire, in Virginia, who was from a highly respectable family.

An incident happened a few months after the birth of Augustus H. Garland that probably determined the parents to come to Arkansas, and hence to give to that State the great man about whom this book is written. This incident, otherwise trivial, will bear noting here. Rufus and his good wife had a fine farm in Tipton County, and were doing well. However, he had his fault—a grievous one—but one that hurt himself more than anyone else. He, in common with other Tennesseans, went to the County Seat every monthly county court, and, after all business was over, indulged himself too freely with the juice of the corn. Rufe Garland sober was the pink of courtesy and manhood; but drunk, he, like most others, was anything but that. The home-keepers of Tipton soon came to know his ways, and in the late afternoon of all county court days every door went shut and stayed closed until he was out of town.

He was cured in a peculiar way. One Saturday evening, he started home, and at about the half-way point, he passed a place where a body of campers had built their night fire. Riding violently through the camp, he became engaged in a broil with a young

man, and, in an infuriated state, stabbed him. When Garland saw him fall, he was sobered—he was Rufe Garland, the gentleman. He did all he could for him, and was much grieved over the affair. He was arrested, however, and put in the Tipton jail, and the injured young man lingered between life and death. It was a terrible punishment for him. He employed his time in making all kinds of tin instruments; and chiefest of them, he constructed a tin fiddle, and with it he entertained the citizens of Tipton with his music, which, it is said, was really entrancing. The young man whom Rufe had cut got well, and became a listener to his fiddling. It so impressed him that he forgave him, slipped out into the great world and rejoined his people in Missouri, saying that he would never prosecute a man who could make music like that.

Garland was released, but he came out of jail a changed man. He then, feeling the necessity of moving away from this scene, sent his wife and young son, Augustus, then a year old, together with Elizabeth, John, and Rufus King, the other children, to Arkansas, with the assurance that he was done with whiskey—a resolution which he actually lived out during the remaining few years of his life. When he had sold all the possessions, he followed to Arkansas, and is said to have made one of the best citizens of his section. They came to a place on Red river, near what is now Garland City. In a short while the father died, and the family moved to Spring Hill, in Hempstead County. Upon the boyhood of Gus Garland, we shall not dwell at length. His father died a few years after they came, and his mother, strong both mentally and morally, gave her son an elementary education at home. They continued to live at Spring Hill until Augustus was twelve years of age, when they moved to Washington, Ark. As a small boy he was prepared