The Smile That Never Came Off

Claude Bell—for many years a contributor to the Nashville Tennessean, recently wrote a very beautiful tribute to Dr. J. G. Deupree and Judge Taft. Many citizens of Jackson and of Mississippi will remember with pleasure Dr. Deupree's genial manner and pleasant smile under all conditions and everywhere.

Dr. Deupree was for many years Professor of Pedagogy at the University of Mississippi and probably contributed as much to the building of the public school system of Mississippi as any other one man.

The State Building Commission, in recognition of his long and efficient service at the University, has recently named Deupree to the honor of his long and efficient service at the University, has recently named Deupree to the new building there by his short.

This action on the part of the thousands who knew Dr. Deupree personally, will read with pleasure Claude Bell's tribute, which follows:

"While traveling in Mississippi on school business some years ago it was my good fortune to win the friendship of Dr. John Greer Deupree, one of the instructors in the University of Mississippi. He was one of the finest characters and most lovable men I have ever known. He was constantly looking for the good in those with whom he came in touch.

Although he was a faithful and earnest church worker and an ardent Democrat, he was utterly devoid of partisan bias. He was too immodest, too liberal, and too just to criticize anyone who did not subscribe to his religious or political creed. In reality, he "loved his brother as himself" and he made many good men out of bad boys. To know him well was to love him.

Dr. Deupree worked continuously, day and night, a smile so sincere and so expressive of heart overflows with love for his brother, and this love won the hearts of those with whom he talked and of those to whom he talked.

Once I asked a man who had known Deupree many years if he left off that smile when he was asleep. He said: "No, for during his waking hours his mind is filled with such happy thoughts that he has only happy dreams when he sleeps and his face is radiant with smiles during those hours."

The Deupree smile touched the hearts of thousands of people, making many of them better and happier.

Another great man who filled for many years some of the most important positions in this country and who was imbued with the Christ-like spirit of Dr. Deupree, has just passed to a higher existence, and his death brought real grief to an entire nation. The death of Judge William Howard Taft is in reality a national calamity, and his passing will be mourned by many good people throughout the entire world. The Taft smile was not only national, but international. He loved the whole human family regardless of race, nationality, political or religious creed. His smile was never left off. He never wrote or spoke one word of bitterness or hatred against any individual or party, or those who did him harm. I am sure that in his heart he said, "I forgive you, go and sin no more."

Who could not and would love such a man? His life and work made the world better.