

### A Georgist Writes His Memoirs

PLANTATION LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI,  
*by W. E. Clement. Pelican Publishing Com-  
pany, New Orleans. 1952. 212 pp. \$3.75.*

Reviewed by MARSHALL CRANE

This little book is an adventure into one of the many by-ways of American history. It is the story, or rather, a series of stories, of Iberville Parish and of the planters who were, and to some extent still are, the central figures in its society. Iberville is in the Sugar Bowl section, between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

The author, who was born and brought up in those parts, draws a rather nostalgic but charming picture of "the good old days," seasoned liberally with thumbnail biographies of the early settlers and their descendants, and with accounts of a great variety of events of both local and general interest. The stories of the Jackson-Dickinson duel, which took place in the neighborhood, and of the Battle of New Orleans, in 1815, are particularly interesting and present a picture of Old Hickory which may surprise many of those who have only a textbook acquaintance with him.

This is not a detailed description, nor a history, properly speaking, nor an analysis of the plantation society or economy, but the author does succeed very well in recreating the mood, the atmosphere of his subject, which, I think, was his intention when he sat down at his typewriter. His inclusion of several dozen well-chosen pictures, mostly portraits and half-tones of plantation architecture, contribute greatly to a work of this sort.

In his final word, he calls attention to the fact that the settlement, growth and former prosperity of Iberville and the country around it, were principally due to the efforts of individual men and women, who, while they faced unfavorable conditions of many sorts, were yet working in an economy which was comparatively free (for the white man, that is; his own recollections date from the eighties, about twenty years after the Thirteenth Amendment). He points out the evil effects of the rural economy of government controls and subsidies, and closes with an appeal for the return of what he very aptly calls Responsible Individualism.

A book worth reading.