

SOUTHERN LIFE AND TRUST CO.

GREENSBORO, N. C.

SOLID! SOUND! SUCCESSFUL! THE REASONS



SOLID

- 1. Its organization was the natural outgrowth of an already established and successful business.
2. Being on a 3-1-2 per cent. legal reserve basis, and having an actual surplus to policy-holders of \$405,441.21, it affords protection that protects.
3. It has as its Actuary one of the most eminent insurance experts in America. It makes no contract that it cannot carry out. It makes no provision that it cannot fulfill.

SOUND

- 1. The policy-holder's interest is the one consideration in its management.
2. It does not spend the surplus on your policy to get big business, but gives it to you as a dividend.
3. It realizes that one satisfied policy-holder means more ultimate success than a dozen disappointed ones, and that the mission of an insurance company is one of trust and service.
The Actuary of the State Insurance Department has checked up every security of the Company and the Insurance Commissioner has evidenced his satisfaction at the result as follows: 'I wish to congratulate you on the condition of your company as shown by this report as well as the efficient and conservative policy under which it is conducted.'

SUCCESSFUL

- 1. It has made a record that has seldom been equaled, having increased its surplus to policy-holders in three and a half years over 100 per cent., while the yearly increase in insurance written has averaged over 60 per cent.
2. It is conducting its business with unprecedented economy, as shown by the above results.
3. Its plan of operation and facilities for investment give it the largest net rate of interest on its holdings of any Life Insurance Company in the country.
As a result of the policy outlined above the Southern Life and Trust Company has taken its place at the head of the dividend paying companies of America.

"GET THE BEST---IT IS ALWAYS THE CHEAPEST."

OFFICERS:

- E. P. WHARTON, President.
A. W. McALISTER 1st Vice Pres. and Manager.
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Civilian Leaders of the Confederacy

By John Goode, Former Member of the Confederate Congress.

JUDAH P. BENJAMIN.

My acquaintance with this highly gifted and remarkable man commenced when he was transferred to the position of Secretary of War as a member of the Cabinet of Mr. Davis in 1862. The first time I met him we discussed the practice of law, and in the course of the conversation he asked me what we considered a good fee in my part of the country, to which I replied that we considered \$500 a respectable fee. He smiled and said: "When I practiced law in New Orleans, if a man employed me I charged him a retainer. If he came about the office much I charged him a retainer; when I had done some work in the case I charged him a retainer, and when it was all over I charged him a retainer."

AN ENGLISH JEW.

He was born in St. Croix, West Indies, August 11, 1811. His parents were English Jews, who, when on their way to New Orleans, were landed at St. Croix. His boyhood was spent in Wilmington, N. C., to which place his father removed. In 1825 he entered Yale College. He studied law in New Orleans, and was admitted to the bar in 1832. He taught school, and in 1834 he published a digest of Orleans Territorial and Louisiana State court decisions. His rise in the profession was exceedingly rapid, and in 1840 he was admitted as a member of the firm of Silldell, Benjamin & Conrad. He was elected as a Whig to the Constitutional Convention of Louisiana; was attorney for the commission to investigate Spanish land titles in California in 1847, and on his return to his home was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Louisiana. He was presidential elector at large in 1848, and in 1852 was chosen as a United States Senator. He was re-elected to a second term, and remained a member until February, 1851, when he withdrew from the Senate.

He was, as I have said, a Whig in politics, and affiliated with the Southern wing of that party, and supported the Kansas-Nebraska bill of Mr. Douglas in 1854. After the fall of Richmond he escaped from the coast of Florida in an open boat to the Bahamas; from thence he went to Nassau, and arrived in Liverpool in September, 1865. He immediately applied himself to the study of the English law, and in the summer of 1866 was admitted to the English bar as a practitioner. Afterwards he published a book on "The Law of Sale of Personal Property," which became at once the recognized authority on that subject in England. He acquired a large and profitable practice in the English courts, and in June, 1872, was made Queen's counsel. In 1857 he retired from practice on account of failing health, and was given a farewell ban-

quet in the Inner Temple in London in June, 1882. He went to Paris, at which place he died in May, 1884.

LAWYER, AUTHOR, DIPLOMAT.

Mr. Benjamin was unquestionably great as a diplomatist, great as an author, great as a lawyer, and great as an orator. His diplomatic correspondence while Secretary of State in the Cabinet of Mr. Davis is equal to any that has been published, and marks him as a man of extraordinary attainments. In this connection, reference is made particularly to his diplomatic correspondence with General William Preston, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Mexico; to his diplomatic correspondence with Hon. John Silldell, minister at Paris; to Hon. A. W. Mann, minister at Brussels; to Hon. James M. Mason, minister at London, and to others. As an author, as I have already said, he occupied confessedly the front rank. In his treatise on the law of sale of personal property, with references to the American decisions, and to the French code and civil law, he furnished to the profession a book which has been universally recognized as of the highest authority by the House of Lords and by his professional brethren of the bar throughout England. If he had done nothing else throughout his eventful career but produce this book, that alone would have earned him a high position with immortality. It almost staggers belief how he, arriving in England as an exile from his home penniless and unknown, could, in so short a time, have carved his way to a great fortune and linked his name with those who stand pre-eminent for their genius, talent and learning.

As a lawyer, he seemed to understand the most difficult and intricate subjects as if by intuition. When quite a young man he was sent as an attorney to the commission to investigate Spanish land titles in the State of California, and upon his return to his home was admitted to practice at the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, and in that great forum his success was phenomenal. He walked across the corridor leading from the Senate chamber to the Supreme Court room, and with utmost ease, translated Spanish and unraveled the most difficult land titles submitted to him. Perhaps no lawyer of his day occupied a higher position as a practitioner before the bar of the highest judicial tribunals.

A WONDERFUL ORATOR.

As an orator, as I have said, he was pre-eminent. His voice was music itself, and as you listened you felt enchained by the charm of his delivery and inclined to cry out, as did Mr. William Pope did, in the county of Fluvanna, in Virginia, on a similar occasion. It is said that William Wirt was once employed by Mr. Pope to assist him in the trial of an important will case. Mr. Wirt made a great speech, occupying three and a half hours, and when he sat down the entranced multitude stood listening to catch the last receding tones of his voice as it died away in the court

room, as if they were listening to tones of far-off music. Just then a little county court lawyer, who had been waiting impatiently for an opportunity to address the court, jumped up, and in a shrill, squeaking voice said: "If the court please, I desire to take judgment on a delivery bond."

Mr. Pope could not restrain himself, but seizing a law book and throwing it at the young man's head, exclaimed: "Kill him, plague-on him; kill him." The last time I ever heard Mr. Benjamin make a speech was on a very exciting occasion at the African church in the city of Richmond. The commissioners to the Hampton Roads conference had returned and reported their failure. They had made known the fact that the United States authorities declined to accept any terms of negotiation except unconditional submission. A great meeting was called to consider the situation, which was addressed by Mr. Jefferson Davis, Hon. Judah P. Benjamin and Hon. Gustavus A. Henry, the eagle orator of Tennessee. The audience was wrought up to a very high pitch, and it seemed as if the members were willing to do so until my brain shall fail to perform its functions.

TRIBUTES TO BENJAMIN.

In an article entitled "Judah P. Benjamin, Statesman and Jurist," published by Max J. Kohler, of New York City, the writer says: "Odious as comparisons usually are, and unscientific as characterization in superlatives is commonly found to be, I venture to describe Judah P. Benjamin as the most distinguished statesman, orator and lawyer that American Jewry has produced. It is primarily as a statesman that Benjamin will live for posterity, for the lawyer seldom lives in history apart from the jurisprudence he may have aided in developing, while the fame of the orator is most evanescent and fleeting, and rarely is more than a memory for subsequent generations."

A few of the many sober characterizations of Benjamin as a statesman, published now, when time has given us a fair perspective, are therefore of particular interest. Mr. Justice Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, recently said of him: "Benjamin was called the brain of the Confederacy, and in aptness of intellect he probably surpassed most men of his time." Mr. James Schouler, in his "History of the United States," said of him: "Contemporaries have said at the outset that Toombs, of Georgia, was the brain of the Confederacy; but that little, as events developed, belonged rather to Attorney General Benjamin, the ablest, most versatile and the most constant of all Davis' civil counselors."

from which he retired in 1852 as its acknowledged leader, in the possession of an income of over \$100,000 a year, and the author of one of the ablest law treatises of our English jurisprudence. The late J. L. M. Curry, one of his most scholarly associates at the helm of the Confederacy, in writing of him in 1901, says: "In the Supreme Court of the United States he could fifty be compared with Wirt, Pinckney, Carter and Choate, and a learned Scotch judge, Lord Sharna, told me some years ago in Seville, that he stood at the head of the English bar."

THE DRED SCOTT CASE.

He is included as one of the world's masters of oratory in both Professor Guy Carlton Lee's "The World's Best Orators" and in Mr. Justice Brewer's "The World's Best Orations." Mr. Curry says of him: "His magnificent speech in the Senate in reply to Senator Sumner on the Dred Scott decision, a masterpiece of polemic discussion, and placed him in the foremost rank of the parliamentary orators of our time. Calm and courteous in manner, with a voice as musical as silver bells, with a marvellous lucidity of statement and power of analysis, with minutest acquaintance with every detail of facts and principles, with merciless logic exposing sophistry in precise language, charging misrepresentation, evasion and perversion, every sentence a rapier thrust, bringing blood, holding auditors, friends and foe, in breathless attention, he added a new lustre to the great council chamber, where, for fifty years, has been the theatre of oratory and statesmanship."

Henry L. Dawes has well classed him with Sumner and Beecher, Wendell Phillips, Yancey and Breckinridge, as having stirred multitudes, aroused passions and fired the public heart in terms not eloquent than the loftiest productions of Fox or Pitt, of Patrick Henry or John Adams. Dr. Lee adds concerning him the following: "A master of easy, fluent English, he was at his best when, in philosophical discovery, his rounded period and sequent thought, eminently fitting him for this department of oratory. Prominent as he was, as a lawyer, as an occasional orator, he was yet more brilliant, and it is in this manner that he is best remembered in his native State."

One of the most important of his early cases was connected with a historic international question between the United States and Great Britain, known as the "Creole Case." A vessel, while engaged in the coasting slave trade, was taken possession of by a number of slaves on board, who murdered some of the officials, and took the vessel into the British port of Nassau. Here the British authorities released all the slaves on board, except such as were actually charged with murder, on the plea that slavery could not exist on British soil. Our government made demands on England for damages, which were finally adjusted by the treaty of 1842.

PITTED AGAINST BLACK.

Mr. Benjamin was admitted to practice during the October term of 1848 before the Supreme Court of the United States. Senator Vest of Missouri, in a recent biographical sketch, mentions the fact that Judge Jeremiah S. Black was Mr. Benjamin's adversary in his first case before the

Supreme Court, and that Mr. Justice Field had told him that when the court took its recess after Mr. Benjamin had stated his case, Justice Field said to Judge Black as he passed him: "You had better look to your laurels, for that little Jew from New Orleans has stated your case out of court." Senator Vest says that Dennis Murphy, the official reporter of the Senate for forty years, told him at the commencement of his term, in answer to an inquiry who was the ablest and best equipped Senator he had known, that it was Judah P. Benjamin; not that he meant that he was the greatest political leader of statesmen whom he had known, but that he believed him to be the most accomplished and best equipped public man he had ever met. Senator Vest says of him also: "In one respect he was the most remarkable man I have ever known. He was capable of performing the intellectual labor of a dozen ordinary men, and told me once that he had never known what it was to be fatigued by professional or official duties."

It is known that when his rule during the war to go to his office at 8 a. m. and remain there, with only short intervals of rest, until 1 or 2 of the next morning, James G. Blaine, in his "Twenty Years in Congress," has most aptly summarized Mr. Benjamin's political activities in describing him as the author of the doctrine that the Federal government is called upon to protect slave property. Almost all of Mr. Benjamin's political speeches, from the time of his advent to the Senate, were connected with the question.

HIS DISINTERESTED PATRIOTISM.

As an illustration of his unselfish, disinterested patriotism, the story is told that, as is well known, he was severely criticized for his conduct of the campaign around Roanoke Island in 1862, while Secretary of War of the Confederate States, though President Davis had done public opinion by promoting him to the position of Secretary of State at the very time that he retired from the war portfolio in consequence of the seizure of a congressional investigating committee.

Long after the event Mr. Benjamin, in a private letter to a friend, explained the circumstances. He had found that he could not justify himself before the committee without betraying the unknown death of an ammunition which the Confederate forces suffered from at the time and the discovery of which would have been quite certain to have reached the ears of the enemy, so Benjamin, with the consent of Davis, sacrificed himself and withheld evidence which would have cleared him before the commission and the country.

Again, it is well known that in order to prevent much heart-burning and criticism, one of his last acts before the government left Richmond in April, 1862, was to destroy the bulk of the secret service papers of the Confederacy.

HIS DESEOTION OF WHIGGERY.

An illustration of Mr. Benjamin's style of senatorial eloquence, the following extract of a speech made on the Kansas question, delivered in the Senate May 23, 1856, is herewith furnished. It will be observed that in the speech he gives his reasons for joining the Democratic party. It will be remembered that he had been therefore a Whig.

with what propriety, can a party thus divided, on a critical principle, claim for itself the title of 'national'? The continuance of its organization can do no good. It is powerless for aught but mischief. If it succeed now in subserving the purposes of promoting the interests of that party, whose acknowledged leaders on this floor are the honorable Senator from New York, and the two honorable Senators from Massachusetts—it can subserve no other purpose.

"And now, sir, when the struggle is narrowed down to a contest between the Democratic and Republican parties, I should be reluctant to my trust—recrude to every principle of duty and feeling of patriotism—if I allowed my conduct to be influenced by the memory of past party ties, or past party prejudices. On that question, whose paramount importance, overshadowed all others, the Democratic platform is identical with that of the old Whig party; and in declaring my adhesion to the former, I but change name, and principle. I, sir, therefore, declare my purpose to join the Democratic party. I declare my intention to use the utmost efforts of my feeble abilities to insure its success. In its triumph—as a triumph of my country, I should be reluctant to my trust—the Constitution of my country will be secured from dangers with which it is menaced; kind and brotherly feelings amongst the people of all sections of the Confederacy will be restored; religious intolerance will be rebuked; the equality of the States, the keystone of the arch of the government fabric, will be preserved intact; and peace, prosperity, and happiness will smile upon the land."

HIS FAREWELL TO THE SENATE.

Upon the retirement of Mr. Benjamin from the Senate in February, 1861, he closed his address with the following touching and beautiful sentences: "And now to you, Mr. President, and to my brother Senators, on all sides of this chamber, I bid respectful farewell; with many of those from whom I have been radically separated in political sentiment, my personal relations have been kindly, and have inspired me with a respect and esteem that I shall not willingly forget; with those around me from the Southern States, I part as men part from brethren on the eve of a temporary absence, with a cordial pressure of the hand and a smiling assurance of the speedy renewal of sweet intercourse around the family hearth."

"But to you, noble and generous friends, who, born beneath other skies, possess hearts that beat in sympathy with ours; to you, who, solicited and assailed by motives the most powerful that could appeal to sensitive natures, have nobly spurned them all; to you who, in our behalf, have bared your breasts to the fierce boistings of the storm, and made willing sacrifice of life's most glittering prizes in your devotion to constitutional liberty; to you, who have made our cause, and from many of whom I feel I part forever, what shall I can I say? Nought, I know and feel, is needed for myself; but this I will say for the people in whose name I speak to-day, whether prosperous or adverse fortunes await you, one priceless treasure is yours—the assurance that an entire people honor your names, and hold them in grateful and affectionate memory. "But with still sweeter and more touching returns shall your unselfish

devotion be rewarded. When, in after days, the story of the present shall be written; when history shall have passed her stern sentence on the erring men who have driven their unoffending brethren from the shelter of their common home, your names will derive fresh lustre from the contrast; and when your children shall hear repeated the familiar tale, it will be with glowing cheek and kindling eye, their very souls will stand a-tiptoe as their sires are named, and they will glory in their lineage from men of spirit as generous and of patriotism as heart-hearted as ever illustrated or adorned the American Senate."

Why Are Scotchmen Red-haired.

London Tit-Bits. Some wag has declared that it is the heat of Sandy's temper which imparts the red hue to his locks. This assertion, however, has been indignantly repudiated, and the explanation offered that the reason why there are something like 24,000 red-haired Scotchmen for 5 per cent. of the total population in Cal Caedonia, to-day is simply because umbra hair is a racial feature, just as we find a predominance of blondes in Germany and Sweden and brunettes in Italy.

Scientists seem to give no lucid explanation of these peculiarities of national characteristics beyond connecting different color hair with different colored skins. Whatever the real explanation might be however, it would seem that the farther North one goes in Scotland, the more red-haired natives are to be found. North of the Grampians red-haired Scots are almost as numerous as the petals on the heather, while, alas and ack! there in Scotland the more red-haired natives in the lunatic asylums of the north-east of Scotland.

An Air Ship of 1709.

London Answer. In these days of dirigible balloons, air ships, and aeroplanes, the following account of an air ship, taken from the Evening Post for December 23, 1709, is of interest: "Father Bartholomew Laurent says that he has found out an invention by the help of which one may more speedily travel through the air than by any other way, either by land or sea, so that one may go 200 miles in 24 hours. The air ship, which was to accomplish this astonishing feat, had at 1000 lbs weight with the air is to be divided, was a rubber, to direct the vessel's course, and the body was formed at both ends scalloped, so the cavity of each is a pair of bellows, which must be blown when there is no wind." Two Londoners, some large number heads and various member items, all had some mysterious part to play in this attempt to traverse the air. This is perhaps the most extraordinary of all things mentioned on record.