

Some Peculiarities of Speech in Mississippi

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(Laurence Littel)

SOME PECULIARITIES OF SPEECH IN MISSISSIPPI

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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 78 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.2in. An excerpt from the PREFACE: IN this paper, written as a thesis for procuring the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Mississippi, my object is to collect, and as far as possible to explain, those dialect words and phrases that are peculiar to, or very common in, the State of Mississippi. Many difficulties present themselves at the outset. No previous study of this special subject has, within the knowledge of the writer, been made, so that completeness is almost a matter of impossibility. The writer must depend upon the conversation of those with whom he is thrown, for whatever specimens of dialect he secures, and consequently must fall far short of obtaining all, or even a majority, of the dialectical peculiarities of his section. The derivation of nearly every colloquial expression is doubtful, and must be, for the most part, simply conjectural. In many instances, words have been so warped from their original forms and meanings, that even a guess at their origin is hazardous; but, on the other hand, a few readily disclose to the careful observer the various changes that occurred before they reached their present form in colloquial speech. In the discussion that follows, I have omitted those words and expressions that have been introduced into Mississippi by foreign immigrants, for the reason that the same peculiarities have been made known by them to every other portion of the United States. And while it doubtless would be interesting to discuss such additions to our speech, still they could in nowise be said to pertain especially to Mississippi. I have thought it best to leave out also the majority of the provincialisms that...

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