

**BILDAD AKERS: HIS BOOK; THE  
NOTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF  
A QUAIN RURAL PHILOSOPHER  
WHO THINKS FOR HIMSELF**

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Bildad Akers: his book; the notions and experiences of a quaint rural philosopher who thinks for himself by Thomas N. Ivey

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**THOMAS N. IVEY**

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# **BILDAD AKERS: HIS BOOK**

THE NOTIONS AND EXPERIENCES  
OF A QUAINR RURAL PHILOSO-  
PHER WHO THINKS FOR HIMSELF.

EDITED BY

**THOMAS N. IVEY**

Editor Raleigh Christian Advocate  
and Southern Methodist Handbook



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## DEDICATION.

TO THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE LIFE CIRCLE WAS NARROWED GEOGRAPHICALLY, EDUCATIONALLY, AND SOCIALLY BY THE RUGGED FORCES OF A GENERATION NOW GONE, WHO BOAST OF NO HALL-MARK SAVE THAT OF HIGH CHRISTIAN MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD, BUT WHO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, SOBER INDUSTRY, AND SIMPLE RECTITUDE, AND THROUGH THE RICHNESS OF THAT LEGACY RECEIVED FROM ANCESTORS OF PURE BLOOD AND A SOUND CONSCIENCE HAVE BECOME THE REPOSITORIES OF A WISDOM WHICH BELONGS TO THE BEST AND LARGEST LIFE.

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## EDITOR'S STATEMENT.

There have appeared from time to time, during the last six years, in the Raleigh Christian Advocate, organ of the North Carolina Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, a number of letters written by one who signed himself "Bildad Akers"; also editorials embodying interviews with the quaint old philosopher of Biblical name. Bildad Akers at once became a favorite with the readers of the Advocate. His sayings were quoted far and wide. Great curiosity as to his personality and abiding place was evinced by many. The editor deems it sufficient to say only that our philosopher is Bildad Akers.

So many requests for the publication of the articles and letters in book form have been made that the editor feels that he has no right to deny the request. He presents "Bildad Akers: His Book" to the reading public. In doing so he feels that he is presenting a book which, neither fiction nor biography, and by no means belonging to what some call "high literature," is nevertheless one of the most serious books that can be written. For in the heart of almost every paragraph there lies a valuable lesson for some one. Let no one suppose for a moment that Bildad Akers is frivolous. The editor can testify that

EDITOR'S STATEMENT.

every line of the book was written from the standpoint of a high moral purpose. May the book serve to brighten the eye, illuminate the mind, and strengthen the heart of the reader.

THOMAS N. IVEY.

RALEIGH, N. C., Nov. 10, 1909.

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