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The Battle of Athens

O A. Garretson

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Mr. Lewelling, who had a peculiar way of introducing a "d" sound in some words, replied, "It don't make a bit of difference, Mr. Garretson, I want you gudn." Needless to say he got the weapon, and so the little old bird gun went to the defense of Iowa, carried by a Baptist preacher who had been reared a Quaker.

No event in American history ever produced such antagonism between the people of different sections as the secession of the South from the Union of States. Men have differed in religious thought and quarreled over religious principles; they have been divided into political parties and differed widely on policies of government. Each group has, nevertheless, usually recognized the patriotism of the other. But when the blow was struck that would sever the Union and destroy the government of the Fathers, anger knew no bounds. Trust and confidence gave way to uncurbed hatred and revenge, and the different forces rushed to the conflict. Even now, after the lapse of more than sixty years, these fires still burn in the hearts of those who took part in the conflict.

O. A. GARRETSON