

SIMKENS, ETC.

"Man seems an apprenticeship at every trade - some censure, critics are ready made."

Simkins in his Pitchfork Ben Tillman, is a critic, not a biographer.

Having some talent he has used it to belittle or smother his betters. Coming from a home where impecunious conditions excited the sympathy of most people in Edgefield, and inheriting from his mother a bitter tongue, this young man who sought favors at my hands abused the privilege I gave him of examining the Tillman papers, to slander and change records, conveying entirely erroneous impressions and to publish falsehoods about dead men, members of my family. I should have known better than to trust him. His father ended his life in object poverty an inmate of the State Hospital for the insane. His mother was distinctly the shrew. I trusted him believing the cad and cowardice in his breeding had been trained out, but I have learned it can not be done. A silk purse is a silk purse, and a sow's ear is just a sow's ear.