

Another writer asserts that in the Great Debate, "Senator Hayne — whose speeches were not remarkable — was put forward to deliver the prologue, but Calhoun was the prompter behind the scenes." No authority is cited for this assertion. It is made, moreover, in spite of the fact, easily ascertainable, that in the first and greatest argument ever made by Calhoun for nullification, and published but little more than a year after the debate, one of Hayne's main contentions is flatly contradicted. If Webster considered the contention untenable, an even greater opponent of nullification, Edward Livingston, declared that it was unassailable.

Of course there are some writers who have treated him more fairly. Cicero W. Harris pays a fine tribute to the South Carolinian in his "Sectional Struggle," and Woodrow Wilson in his "Division and Reunion" accords juster treatment than is usually rendered to him in the Great Debate; while Meigs, in a later and more careful life of Benton than that which appears in the "American Statesmen" series, if he singles Hayne out for no especial eulogium, at least exhibits some discrimination in his comments and refrains from belittling references. Yet the usual estimate of the man can only be described as slighting; and so distinctly has this impressed itself upon me that I have attempted to comply with the suggestion that I should prepare a sketch of Hayne's life.

In arriving at conclusions, it has been my aim to be influenced as little as possible by commentators, but to leave the reader to form his own opinion from the facts. The occasional discovery that my own estimate of any matter was in accord with that of eminent individuals was of course most pleasing, and in no case more so than in the characterization of Hayne's great speech on the tariff of 1824 in the "Life of Martin Van Buren," by Edward M. Shepard of the New York Bar.

In the endeavor to picture the man, I have deemed it essen-