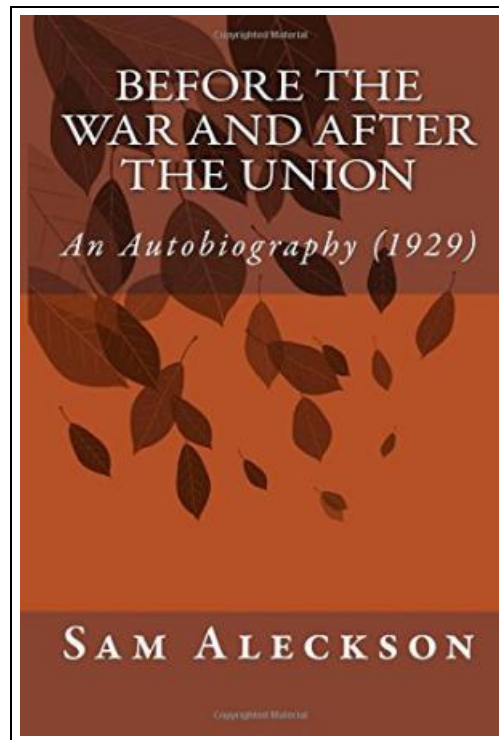


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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Through this text Aleckson attempts to suggest that African Americans are neither objects of pity for the north, nor tools to be used in labor by southern slaveholders, but something more. He places the black community in a hopeful and triumphant light, informing the reader that you may disfranchise the Negro, you may oppress him, you may deport him, but unless you destroy the disposition to laugh in his nature you can do him no permanent injury. All unconscious to himself, perhaps. It is not solely the meaningless expression of vacant mind, nor is it simply a ray-It is the beaming light of hope-of faith. God has blessed him thus. He sees light where others see only the blackness of night (p. 51). African Americans, Aleckson suggests, have been uniquely blessed by God to be able to persevere and overcome in the face of trials and adversity that implicitly would have destroyed others. Aleckson demonstrates in his narrative the spirit he points to. While undoubtedly exposed to great evil as a young slave and in his military service during the Civil War, Aleckson overcomes and perseveres, finding love and happiness in life despite his participation in a trying time in American history. The conclusion of the narrative reflects this optimistic spirit. Aleckson closes with a passionate post-racial appeal for all people to move past slavery and for both whites and African Americans to reconcile their differences and unite as a single people. His only fears, he explains, are for the American nation, for, I feel as an American, and cannot feel otherwise (p. 171). Hyrum Palmer.



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