

JOHNSON'S ISLAND.

DEATH OF THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE ITS OWNER.

Recalls the Dark Days of the Early Sixties—Place of Confederates' Captivity.

With the death in this city of the venerable Leonard B. Johnson, a man passed away whose name is, by the circumstances of war, inseparably linked with the history of his country, says a Sandusky correspondent in the Chicago "Chronicle." Mr. Johnson was the owner of the famous island that was made historic by its occupation by the Federal Government during the rebellion as a military post for the detention of Confederate prisoners of war.

Mr. Johnson was born in County Wexford, Ireland, in 1807, and removed from there with his parents to Montreal, Canada, in 1822. He lived there until 1852, when he came to Sandusky and remained here until his death. He acquired by purchase in 1852 the island which bears his name, and was the owner of the greater portion of it at the time of his death, having city recently sold fifty acres of it to the Fifth Regiment, Ohio National Guard, for use as a permanent camping ground. The Government endeavored to obtain possession of the island at the close of the war for the purpose of establishing a military post there, and offered Mr. Johnson \$100,000 for it, but he declined to part with it.

Johnson's Island is located at the mouth of Sandusky Bay, overlooking the Lake Erie, and is about a mile long and a mile and a half wide. It is an ideal spot for a prison post. No prisoner was ever known to escape from it. The grounds were inclosed within a fence twelve feet high, with a platform top, upon which sentinels paced day and night. The island is a long, narrow strip, about a mile long, and stretches away for fifty miles, on the east, separated by three miles of water, lies Sandusky, while west and south of the island are broad stretches of Sandusky Bay.

Viewed from the deck of a passing steamer in the summer the island looks like a huge emerald in a setting of blue, the picturesque effect being heightened as the waters, gently stirred by the breeze, break in ripples on the long, low sandy shore or, lashed to fury by the gale, rushes with sullen roar against the beach. To-day the snow-capped island, bound by icy fetters, looks bleak and dreary, and the biting winter winds that come in fitful gusts across the broad expanse of frozen waters sigh mournfully through the barred branches of the trees.

The island was used almost exclusively as a prison for officers, the total number confined there from first to last aggregating over 15,000. The first prisoners were taken there in April, 1862, and in September, 1867, the last of them were sent to Fort Lafayette, and Johnson's Island was abandoned as a prison post. The men confined on Johnson's Island represented the flower of the chivalry of the South. They were largely professional men and planters, among them being many who were prominent in science, literature and art.

These men were treated during the period of their imprisonment as befitted men of their station in life, so far as circumstances would permit, of course. They were given comfortable quarters, houses, provided with suitable clothing, and their tables were furnished with an abundance of the substantial and many luxuries. They were subjected to no petty tyranny, but, on the contrary, were granted privileges enjoyed by prisoners in other military posts in the North, an exception being made in their case, because as a class they were considered superior to ordinary prisoners, and were put upon their honor in many instances where it would have been impossible to have the men with less scrupulous regard for their words.

BETRAYED BUT ONCE. This trust was never betrayed but once, and that was through outside influence. It was when Jacob Thompson, formerly Secretary of the Interior, then Buchanan's C. H. Cole of the Fifth Tennessee Confederate Regiment, Major Thomas Hinds of Bowling Green and several others hatched a conspiracy for the liberation of all the Confederate prisoners in the North. Their object was to have the man-of-war Michigan, which was at that time on Lake Erie, seize the steamer Philo Parsons, running between Sandusky and the islands, at the head of Lake Erie, and release the 25,000 Confederates, of whom 4,000 were on Johnson's Island, at Camp Douglas, near Chicago, 9,000 at Camp Morton, near Columbus, and 4,000 at Camp Sherman, near Indianapolis. Then with the aid of over 10,000 other Confederates and Northern sympathizers who had congregated at various points to aid in the consummation of the plot, they hoped to strike a fatal blow at the Union at a time when, according to the calculations of the conspirators, General Early was to lay siege to Washington, and it was impossible for the Federal Government to send troops to the points to be attacked.

A part of the programme was carried out. Colonel Cole, who had been deputed to capture the Philo Parsons, did so, and sailed away with her. But the conspiracy to seize the Michigan and liberate the 25,000 Confederates failed, and Cole and his men were captured. Their betrayer was Colonel Johnson of Kentucky, a prisoner on Johnson's Island, who, seized with remorse for the act, committed suicide shortly afterward.

GENERAL LEE WILL NOT BE RECALLED.

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as peremptorily. The concession of the withdrawal of Lee would leave an inference of censure on the part of this Government, and that the people could not afford to do, inasmuch as General Lee, in all his acts, has met the entire approval of the President. Spain has requested the withdrawal, and the President has refused. Spain will probably dismiss Lee immediately, and send him home. If the President feels offended in the spirit of Spain's action, he need not send any one in Lee's place. This comes pretty near being an open rupture between the two Governments. So far as the sending of the ships with supplies for the starving subjects of Spain is concerned, a change of plans is not to be considered for a moment. Spain, having consented, that she should now, in a sort of hysterical effort to please her own subjects, seek to withdraw that consent and try to dictate the means of transportation by which supplies should be sent, is not to be accepted. If Spain has done what is alleged, it looks as though she was seeking a quarrel, and that she was seeking it at a time when she might possibly cover up the disclosures of the report of the commission now investigating the cause of the destruction of the Maine. Nations have been a great deal nearer blows than we are with Spain and war has been averted. In one of our earlier experiences, when Adams was President, the country was nearer to war with France than we are now with Spain. Even entirely and imperfect development was avoided without loss of honor to either Nation, and it probably will be the case again."

Representative Heatwole said: "I think the President is to be commended for declining to recall General Lee."

Representative Dingley said: "I prefer to wait for official information, not knowing on what grounds Spain has demanded General Lee's recall, I cannot form an opinion of the probable outcome."

Representative Perkins—If General Lee's recall has been demanded by the Madrid Government it will produce a very acute state of affairs. We ought not to accede to the demand.

Senator Frye, a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, said: "If Spain has requested that relief supplies be sent in merchant vessels, and not in armed warships, I think it might be regarded as an intervention in the affairs of Cuba, and therefore an unfriendly act. I have confidence in General Lee. As far as I have been acquainted with his official conduct in Cuba, I entirely approve of it. The reports have not been published, and, of course, all the facts are not before us, but I approve of the course of the President in retaining General Lee at Havana as well as in sending the relief in warships."

"If Spain gives General Lee his passports what course will be left open for us?" was asked.

"As far as I can see we could only accept the situation. I do not think that it would be a casus belli. I cannot comprehend the reason for such a request as General Lee's recall," said Senator Fairbanks, "and the President should refuse to comply. I am opposed to war, except when the rights of our citizens and national honor are involved."

Representative Hilborn of California, the ranking Republican member of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, believed that the request for General Lee's recall and the subsequent refusal could not be made a cause for war. There were precedents where our Ministers of high diplomatic officials abroad had become unacceptable to the country to which they were accredited. The most this country could do, Judge Hillborn thinks, if Consul-General Lee's term is brought to an end by Spanish act, is to refuse to appoint another in his place. "I believe we have a right to send relief to Cuba in any kind of vessels we wish," declared Judge Hillborn. "We might armor merchant vessels, if they were transporting this relief to Cuba, and Spain would have no right to object, unless there was a treaty with this Government such as exists with England, regarding vessels on the Great Lakes, against arming such vessels."

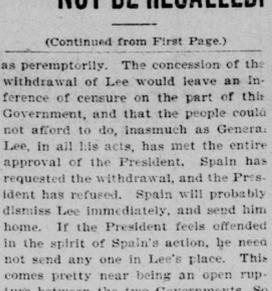
"It would be a great mistake," said Representative Swanson, "to recall General Lee at the present time. He has performed the duties of his position ably, manfully and vigorously. He has been discreet, judicious and successful, and the administration did what was right in declining to meet Spain's demands, if the demand was made."

DISQUIETING NEWS. Said to Have Been Received by the President From General Lee.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—President McKinley has very disquieting news from Lee. It came in the shape of a confidential telegram addressed to the President and was read by him alone. He has spoken of it to very few persons, and to these he spoke in most guarded terms. He did not enter into details, but expressed his extreme anxiety over the gravity of the situation. The news was of such a startling nature that he was afraid to make it over the subject of a discussion at a Cabinet meeting.

The information was in regard to the Maine disaster. It is said it removed any doubt as to the cause of the calamity, and proved conclusively that the blowing up of the Maine was due to a plot. More serious charges are contained in the communication, and it is for this reason that the President was so extremely troubled over its receipt. Spain's purchase of warships is regarded as the most probable outcome of the most ominous action of the Government of Madrid since the disaster at Havana. They considered it a warning that Spain is preparing for war, and a declaration from Spain is now regarded as the most probable outcome of the difficulty. During the past two or three months the State Department has been in possession of information that

ROYAL MAKES THE FOOD PURE, WHOLESOME AND DELICIOUS.



Spain was preparing for any emergency. The news of the direct purchase of the ships, however, was startling.

The officials are now expecting almost any serious outbreak in either Havana or Madrid. This condition is known to the authorities at the Spanish Capital quite as well as it is recognized in Washington. The Administration is shaping everything toward a proper preparation for the worst that may happen.

An extended conference was held at the White House this afternoon between President McKinley, Secretary Long and Congressman Hilborn of the Committee on Naval Affairs. The President is said to have decided to appeal to personal friends abroad to co-operate with him in this emergency. The fear that Spain has secured an ally and financial backing that heretofore seemed unobtainable for her has stimulated the impulse.

OLD MONITORS. Being Put in Condition for Active Service.

PHILADELPHIA, March 6.—Work was begun on the old monitors which for years have been lying at the League Island Navy Yard. There are eight of these old fighters—the Nahant, Lehigh, Jason, Montauk and Catskill, each of 875 tons displacement, and the Canonics, Mahopac and Manhattan of 2,160 tons displacement. Men were placed at work in the interior of the monitors. The machinery of the vessels will need but little attention.

It is said that the monitors will be hauled out into the main channel, so that it can be ascertained just how they will respond to the working of their machinery. While this test is being made the turrets will be turned and the guns put in operation. In the turret of each monitor are two 15-inch smooth-bore guns, capable of throwing a 500-pound projectile.

PHILADELPHIA, March 6.—To-day was a repetition of last Sunday in the general activity of the League Island navy yards. Workmen were busily engaged upon the cruiser Minneapolis, the monitor Miantonomah and the ram Kathadin. In addition work was going on in the mould loft, and several forges were in operation in the blacksmith shops. The utmost reticence prevailed among the officers, sailors and workmen at the yard, and it was impossible to obtain any information as to the detail of the work going on. It was evident, however, that all work was being pushed as rapidly as possible.

The work on the Minneapolis and Miantonomah was all below decks, and was said to consist of repairs and inspection of the machinery. On the Kathadin the standards for the rapid fire guns were being erected and some small repairs were going on below. The work in the mould loft consisted of attention to small boats and spars. The immense crowds which flocked to the naval station last Sunday were largely increased to-day, but no one was allowed to get close to the warships.

Sentries were posted at the entrance to the wharves, and only workmen and those on business were allowed inside the lines. The old single turret monitors in the back channel, relics of the late war, were an attraction to the thousands, and their decks were crowded all day.

It was reported that five of these will be taken from their berths as soon as possible, and modern guns put aboard. These now in the turrets are of the smooth-bore kind. The information as to the standards for the rapid fire guns were being erected and some small repairs were going on below. The work in the mould loft consisted of attention to small boats and spars.

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Advertisement for Wasserman, Davis & Co. featuring a woman in a hat and the text: 'THE OPENING DAY AND EVENING, Tuesday, March 8th. Our MILLINERY DEPARTMENT has been enlarged and our Milliner has returned from Fashion's Center. Everything is in readiness for the Reception. You are invited and also your friends. The gathering in this line is superb. Patterns from Paris—the rarest ever shown; also patterns from home designers—then, the hundreds from our own workroom, copies and creations which we may say with pride vie with, if not eclipse, those patterns. There will be novelties and attractions here which you will not find elsewhere. Concert by Neale's Full Orchestra in evening at 8 o'clock. WASSERMAN, DAVIS & CO.'

THIS MAY BE TRUE. But a Great Many People Will Doubt It, Just the Same.

"There's nothing like a woman at an auction, excepting another woman. This was most strikingly verified a day or two ago." The auctioneer put up a silver-plated baking dish. "Now, look at that, ladies. Just see it carefully. There isn't a jeweler in this town that ever sold a duplicate of it for less than \$12, and if you were to buy them by the gross from the manufacturer they would cost you \$8 each. Bid spy, now."

"Two dollars," said a meek woman, who was new in the business. You could tell that by her timidity. "Two dollars. Two, I'm bid. Who says a half? Thank you. Do I hear three? Three it is." It was the timid woman who bid the three.

"Three I'm bid," said the auctioneer. "I can't tell it so to that. Make it three and a half." And the timid woman said, in her subdued way, "Three and a half."

"Three and a half. It's a shame to stand here asking for bids on a piece of ware like this. Give me a bid of \$4. I can't sleep to-night if I sell this lessen \$5." The timid woman felt in deep sympathy for the poor auctioneer, and she showed it in a practical way by bidding \$4.

"Four dollars I hear. Four dollars for this magnificent silver baker. If you don't want it you can leave it. It's worth a \$10 bill anywhere. Four dollars. Make it four and a half." This remark was made in a pleading way to the timid woman, and she kindly bid four and a half.

"Four and a half. If I set another bid I'll sell the article. Make it five, and we're done. Do I hear five?" He did, and the bid was from the timid woman, who was generously bidding against herself all the time.

"Sold," said the auctioneer, "to the woman near me for \$5."

She had run the baker up on herself, but she will know more the next time she goes to an auction.

A Rabbit-Hunter's Ingenuity. As every one knows, Marshal Young is a great rabbit hunter. Last winter he was known to have bagged as many as seventy in a single three hours. He has been at his old trick again this season. The other day he went out and so many that a committee was sent to investigate and report what method had been used. After tramping about three miles they discovered the secret. Being unable to shoot the frisky rabbits, and having nothing but a bird dog, he had resorted to stratagem. He had blackened the end of a log so that it appeared to be hollow. Then he had chased the rabbits toward the log, and they, mistaking the black spot for a hole, had knocked their brains out. His method is commended to any who wish to try the experiment. — Fort Dodge Messenger.

President Kruger on Office-Seeking. A good story of President Kruger is told in an article on "Ministry and Politics in the Transvaal," in the February number of the "National Review." Some of the President's young relations applied to him for office. He considered awhile, and said: "I can do nothing for the high offices of the state are in firm hands, and for little clerkships you are too stupid."

One Hand of Humor. "Is he a Catholic?" "Well, he certainly considers himself one." "Why do you think so?" "He puts enormous feet on all his men." — Chicago Post.