

RICHMOND DURING THE WAR.

A SOUTHERN WOMAN'S STORY.

Interesting Revelations—Scenes and Incidents in the Rebel Capital. Under the title of "Richmond during the War: Four Years of Personal Observation; by a Richmond Lady," there has recently been published an interesting volume which reveals more of the inner life of Richmond from 1861 to 1865 than any other publication that has yet appeared.

On Sunday, the 21st of April, occurred the first of a wonderful succession of Sabbath day excitements. The services had proceeded until, just at their close in some of the churches, and in others during the last prayer, the preliminary sound of the bell on the Square disturbed the solemnity of the hour, and awoke the people to a dread sense of danger.

The gala days of the war in Richmond, and the gathering of the troops in and around that city in 1861, are described in vivid colors. "The dre realities, the sickness, the mutilation, the sufferings, the miseries," says the writer, "were yet unknown; only the glory which might accrue was shadowed forth."

The battle of Bull Run gave the South an extravagant idea of its own power and of the weakness of the Federal Government; but our author confesses, in a later chapter, that the "enemy's elasticity was not understood by us at the South; but we were soon taught to understand the mistake we made in our estimate of the energy of the Northmen, operating through a Government as determined as themselves on the subjugation of the daring Rebels."

The narrative of McClellan's Peninsula campaign opens with this statement:—"From General Magruder himself we learned that, with his little force of eight thousand, he so deployed his men that he kept at bay the enemy, who brought against him an army of perhaps a hundred thousand, until the arrival of reinforcements from the army of General Johnston covered the retreat from the Peninsula."

Of Grant's battles in the Wilderness a stirring account is given, and the following story is told:—"A Confederate officer, in speaking of one of these battles, remarked:—'I never witnessed such destruction of life. One day after a battle,' said he, 'my own horse being exhausted, I borrowed one to ride to a position of the field a mile or two distant. On passing a company of soldiers, I asked, 'Are there any Yankees in this direction?' they replied, 'Yes; thousands, and in line of battle.' 'Well, then,' I rejoined, 'I must retreat; this horse is a borrowed one, and however little I may care for my own capture, I do not wish my friend to lose his horse.' I had turned my horse to ride back, when they shouted, 'Halloo, soldier, but they are all dead!'

The effect of Sherman's march to the sea is thus described:—"We hardly dare to refer to the sufferings endured by the people of that section of the South over which General Sherman drew the

trail of war. Enough to say that desolation was written on almost every foot of ground, misery on almost every human heart. * * * The fall of Savannah greatly increased the dependency in the Confederacy. Calculations of failure now took the place of calculations of success in the minds of many. The morale of the Georgia troops of the Army of Northern Virginia was unhappily affected by it, and desertions became frequent among them. They seemed unable to endure separation from their families, placed in such cruel distress by the devastations of the enemy that ravaged the territory of Georgia. The people began to count the cost of the sacrifices of the war, and to estimate of the terrible depletion that had taken place in the armies of the Confederacy during the campaign of 1864. The causes of the extraordinary depletion can easily be made apparent. During the year that was fast drawing to a close, the prosecution of the war against us had been more vigorous, a greater number of severe battles had been fought; and consequently the casualties had been more numerous. There were, in our armies, as in all large armies, a great number of stragglers; and as our situation grew more unhappy, and provisions for the sustenance of soldiers more scarce, desertion was most unworthily encouraged by our enemies.

The most striking passages of the book are those which tell the story of the suffering in Richmond during the war. We copy a few paragraphs:—"The markets were so ill supplied [in 1862] that they had almost as well been closed. The meats were so indifferent as scarcely to be fit for food, and fish became the staple article. To secure these it was necessary to send to market for them before the break of day, and frequently then the crowd that pressed around the fish market was so dense that many were compelled to leave without anything for their meals, except potatoes and poor beef, and the marketmen declared the people might 'starve!'—they would bring in no more supplies until the tariff was withdrawn, or the sale of imported articles regulated in a manner to protect them likewise from imposition. They argued, if they were forced to pay the exorbitant demands for sugar, tea, brandy, and other articles from abroad, they had a right to charge similar prices for their meats, poultry, butter, and vegetables, or they would not sell them. The greatest inconvenience arose from the want of such articles of food as were in the power of hucksters to control. Butter and eggs were never seen, and the fishmongers grew tired of the annoyances to which they were continually subjected by their hungry patrons, and refused to keep up a supply. Finding our situation so deplorable, and soliciting relief, through a committee of citizens appointed to wait upon the Provost Marshal, the tariff was raised, and the merchandise of the hucksters again flowed into our markets. From that time until the end of the war we were entirely at their mercy. Being wholly dependent upon them for so much that was essential to existence, they charged what prices they pleased for their merchandise, and we were forced to pay them or abstain from many necessary articles of food altogether. As if to recompense themselves for time and money lost to them while the tariff was enforced by military authority, they doubled the old prices on their merchandise, and where the people groaned under the extortion before, they found the burden so much increased that the groaning was doubled in proportion. Fishmongers ran up the prices of the piscatorial tribe to such a degree, that it became no longer profitable to send a servant to market before the dawn of day for a pair of shad or a rockfish for dinner, for so few could afford the luxury that the supply was greater than the demand. Butcher dealers tempted the appetites of their customers with huge rolls of golden, fragrant butter, at the moderate price of one dollar per pound, increased from forty cents before the tariff existed. We were amazed to see a suspicious-looking old gentleman put on his spectacles and peer curiously at a beautiful print of butter, as it stood on the table of a dealer. After a satisfactory investigation of the choice article, when asked by the polite merchant:—"Will you take this, sir?" he replied, "Oh, no, no! I only wished to see what kind of butter it could be to worth one dollar per pound." Two and a half years later the delicious article would have readily commanded twenty-five dollars per pound!

Another revelation is that of the so-called bread riot which occurred in Richmond in the spring of 1863. This event was hinted at in the despatches and letters of the time, but no particulars were given; the Richmond press suppressed the facts. Our author says:—"The rioters were represented in a heterogeneous crowd of Dutch, Irish, and free negroes—of men, women, and children—armed with pistols, knives, hammers, hatchets, axes, and every other weapon which could be made useful in their defense, or might subvert their designs in breaking into stores for the purpose of robbing. More impudent and defiant robbers were never committed than disgraced, in open light of day, and on a bright morning in spring, the city of Richmond. The cry for bread with which this violence commenced was soon subdued, and instead of articles of food, the rioters directed their efforts to stores containing dry goods, shoes, etc. Women were seen bending under loads of sole leather, or dragging after them heavy cavalry boots, brandishing their huge knives, and swearing, though apparently well fed, that they were dying from starvation—yet it was difficult to imagine how they could masticate or digest the edibles under the weight of which they were bending. Men carried immense loads of cotton cloth, woollen goods, and other articles, and but few were seen to attack the stores where flour, groceries, and other provisions were kept. This disgraceful mob was put to flight by the military. Cannon were planted in the street, and the order to disperse or be fired upon drove the rioters from the commercial portion of the city to the Capitol Square, where they menaced the Governor, until, by the continued threatenings of the State Guards and the efforts of the police in arresting the ringleaders, a stop was put to these lawless and violent proceedings. It cannot be denied that bread was at this time too fatally true, but the sufferers for food were not to be found in this mob of vicious men and lawless viragoes, who, inhabiting quarters of the city where reigned riot and depravity, when followed to their homes after this demonstration, were discovered to be well supplied with articles of food. Some of them were the keepers of stores, to which they purposed adding the stock stolen in their raid on wholesale houses. The real sufferers were not of the class who would engage in acts of violence to obtain bread, but included the most worthy and

connected with the all-engrossing topic of the war. Histories of titles and sieges, of successes and defeats, of dangers by land and sea, were those with which the Confederate reader was usually entertained. But in our miseries and misfortunes we were frequently cheered by merciful visits from the Muses, who, picking their way through the blockade, and running the gauntlet of lines of battle, and ignoring whizzing balls and bursting, crackling shell, would sing a lullaby to anxious fears, or inspire strains of patriotism. The war poetry of the South would do credit to and would be proudly claimed by any nation. Romance was little indulged. There was neither the time nor the means for it. The appearance of "Macaria," from the eloquent pen of Miss Evans, of Mobile, was a welcome exception to the literature of the times. A few books straggled to us through the blockade. "Joseph's Up Second and Last Part," and Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables," afforded us the most pleasurable recreation and enjoyment, and added a charming variety to our reading. A few original novelettes appeared, but there was little literary endeavor. Mental improvement was pursued under difficulties well-nigh unconquerable.

Our style of living was quite as simple as our dress. Hotels and boarding-houses, in consequence of the high prices and scarcity of provisions, had ceased to furnish a table d'hôte, and "keeping apartments" was the fashionable mode of living in Richmond. "We are living in the Paris style," did not mean, however, the luxury of a suite of magnificent apartments where could be served to you all the delicacies and luxuries of the season, but generally the renting of a single room, which served all the same time the purposes of kitchen, dormitory and parlor for the lucky family that could secure even such comfortable accommodations. The simple dinner was cooked in a saucepan on the grate, and often consisted only of potatoes and a very small quantity of meat and bread, varied with occasionally a fowl and tea.

At weddings we were served with unfrosted cake, and drank the health of the fair bride in domestic wine, if wine at all could be procured. We knew nothing of dyspepsia, and the thousand ailments of an overcharged stomach were unheard of. We practised a compulsory system of "banting," and amused ourselves at the many laughable, yet instructive, inconveniences to which we were subjected. When invited to breakfast with an intimate friend, the inducement to accept the kind invitation was frequently, "I'll give you a cup of nice pure coffee;" and for dinners we would sometimes ask, "Will you give me something sweet?" (meaning a dessert). "Yes," "Then I'll come." There was something romantic, something novel in this mode of life, and remembrance, though associated with much that is painful, is on the whole rather pleasant. Tea, sugar, wines, and all imported liquors increased rapidly in expense as the supply grew scarce, but not in the same ratio as coffee, which had been in universal use at the South—the low price at which it had been purchased, and its stimulating and pleasant effects, making it agreeable, necessary, and possible for even the poorest to indulge in its use.

The leaves of the currant, blackberry, willow, sage, and other vegetables were dried and used as substitutes for tea by those who could not or did not feel justified in encouraging the exorbitant demands of successful blockade-runners and dealers in the article. When sugar grew scarce, and so expensive that many were compelled to abandon its use altogether, there were substituted honey, and the syrup from sorghum, or the Chinese sugar-cane, for all ordinary culinary purposes.

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highly cultivated of our citizens, who, by the suspension of the ordinary branches of business and the extreme inflation in the prices of provisions, were often reduced to abject suffering; and helpless refugees, who, driven from comfortable homes, were compelled to seek relief in the crowded city, at the time insufficiently furnished with the means of living for the resident population, and altogether inadequate to the increased numbers thrown daily into it by the progress of events. How great their necessities must have been can be imagined from the fact that many of our women, reared in the utmost ease, delicacy, and refinement, were compelled to dispose of all articles of taste and former luxury, and frequently necessary articles of clothing, to meet the everyday demands of life.

There is a curious contrast between the thirty-fifth and fiftieth chapters of the book. The former is headed "Fidelity of the Negroes," and abounds in praises of the peaceful disposition of the blacks; the latter is headed "Trouble with the Negroes." The writer says that at the beginning of the war the slave felt "an infinite gratification in taking care of his mistress and the little ones, while his master was absent in the field." Towards the close of the war, the human chattels made use of their legs and departed, helping themselves to sufficient amounts of portable property to make amends for lives spent in earning money for the masters. The following passage tells the story:—"Domestic troubles of an irritating nature now arose to vex and annoy us. There was unquestionably an underground agency to decoy away our negro servants, or to assist any who meditated flight from their owners. Thefts of the most provoking character were everywhere perpetrated, usually under circumstances which pointed to family domestics as the perpetrators. For everything stolen purchasers could be found among the low and depraved in questionable quarters of the city, and the extraordinary amount of money obtained in Confederate figures was a temptation to dishonesty with those who did not understand the real value of the money in circulation. The storeroom or pantry of a citizen, or a gentleman's or lady's wardrobe, would be plundered and the articles mysteriously disappear, and all efforts of the police to discover the thief, or the destination of the missing goods, would generally prove unavailing; to be followed in a short time by the singular disappearance of one or more of the domestics of the robbed establishment, to be heard of no more in Richmond.

Our gentlemen appeared under their homemade hats, their homespun coats, or well-worn broadcloth, brushed until the threadbare appearance indicated the length of time in which it had been in service, or better, the coarse Confederate grey was the fashionable dress of the Southern gentleman.

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INSURANCE COMPANIES. DELAWARE MUTUAL SAFETY INSURANCE COMPANY, INCORPORATED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1855. Office, 8, E. corner of THIRD and WALNUT STREETS, Philadelphia.

Table with columns for ASSETS OF THE COMPANY, listing various financial items and their values.

Table with columns for Real Estate, Bonds, and other assets, listing specific items and their market values.

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LEGAL NOTICES. IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of CHRISTOPHER SIMON, deceased. The Auditor appointed by the Court in and under, setting out and adjusting the account of CHARLES F. MINGLER, Executor of the last will and testament of CHRISTOPHER SIMON, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the said executor, will meet the parties interested for the purpose of his appointment, to-wit: M. M. at his office, No. 118, SIXTH STREET, second story, in the City of Philadelphia, on the 15th day of OCTOBER, 1867, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

LEGAL NOTICES. JOHN L. HODGE, DAVID LEWIN, ROBERT W. LEACH, THOMAS H. POWERS, EDWARD C. MANNING, EDWARD C. MANNING, JOHN W. HERRICK, President, SAMUEL WILCOX, Secretary.