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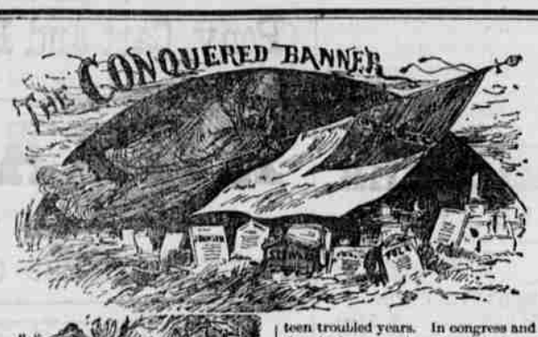

URL that banner, for 'tis weary;
Round its staff 'tis drooping dreary;
Furl it, fold it, it is best;
For there's not a man to wave it,
And there's not a sword to save it.

And there's not one left to love it
In the blood which heroes gave it;
And its foes now scorn and brave it;
Furl it, hide it—let it rest!

Take that banner down! 'tis tattered;
Broken is its shaft and shattered;
And the valiant hosts are scattered
Over whom it floated high.
Oh! 'tis hard for us to fold it;
Hard to think there's none to hold it;
Hard that those who once unrolled it
Now must furl it with a sigh.

Furl that banner! furl it sadly!
Once ten thousands hailed it gladly
And ten thousands wildly, madly,
Swore it should forever wave;
Swore that foeman's sword should never
Hearts like theirs entwined dissever,
Till that flag should float forever
O'er their freedom or their grave!

Furl it! for the hands that grasped it,
And the hearts that fondly clasped it,
Cold and dead are lying low;
And that banner—it is trailing!
While around it sounds the wailing
Of its people in their woe.

For, though conquered, they adore it!
Love the cold, dead hands that bore it!
Weep for those who fell before it!
Pardon those who trailed and tore it!
But, oh! how wildly they deplore it,
Now who furl and fold it so.

Furl that banner! True, 'tis gory,
Yet 'tis wreathed around with glory,
And 'twill live in song and story,
Though its folds are in the dust;
For its fame on brightest pages,
Penned by poets and by sages,
Shall go sounding down the ages—
Furl its folds though now we must.

Furl that banner softly, slowly!
Treat it gently—it is holy—
For it drooops above the dead.
Touch it not—unfold it never,
Let it droop there, furled forever,
For its people's hopes are dead!
—Father Ryan.

IN HEROES' MEMORY.

Flowers to Decorate Their Graves on April 26—Consideration of the Living.

"Sorrow for the dead," says Irving, "is the only sorrow from which we refuse to be divorced; yet in time even that sorrow becomes a sweet and pensive memory." In such a spirit does the southron approach the 26th of April, the Confederate Decoration day. Time has softened our sorrows, time has cast a mild halo about the memory of the heroic dead. We honor them in pensive quiet, but without the keen pangs of the days of war. It is, indeed, a melancholy pleasure to honor the dead, but on such a day it is most fitting to add a few words about our living heroes.

It is not becoming to boast, but the south may, with modest pride, point to the subsequent career of her great soldiers who survived, and ask: Where, in all history, did the leaders in any unsuccessful revolution maintain a higher attitude of moral dignity or achieve such success in all the walks of life? Not to speak of the noble Lee, whose fame grows brighter as the years go on, or of many others who have passed away, the roll of ex-Confederates who now fill honorable and prominent positions is one to astonish the world and make their old comrades' hearts swell with pride. They are in all the great cities of the country, in all the active lines of business; and as Macaulay said of Cromwell's old soldiers, wherever one of them has engaged in trade or profession he is a man of mark for faithfulness and diligence.

ROGER A. PRYOR.

What lawyer in New York is more highly respected than Gen. Roger A. Pryor; what railroad enterprises are regarded with more trust than those of Gens. Gordon, Beauregard, Johnston and many others; what congressmen have been listened to with more respect than Hill, Gibson, Vance, Reagan, Wheeler and the Breckinridges? When the awful days of Fayetteville, Greensboro and Appomattox were fresh in memory, and when all looked dark for our beloved south, a few feeble voices were heard here and there advising voluntary exile, and a few—thank God they were very few—sought other lands. But with one voice the great commanders said: "Never! Never! No, let us never desert our beloved southland, tenfold dearer to us now than ever. Let us stay with the men who followed us to battle, and as far as in us lies stand between them and the possible evil. Let us take hold of the situation with a courage that will save all that can be saved; let us contend for liberty within the Union and show by our faithfulness to all our duties that, though our soil is overrun, the spirit of our people is honorable and invincible." Such was the voice of Lee, echoed by all.

GEN. JOSEPH WHEELER.

When did the world ever look darker to a man than it did to the Hon. Benjamin Hill in 1865? He had been an "original Union man," yet yielded, as he saw his duty, to the voice of his state; now all was lost and he a prisoner threatened with summary trial and death. He came out of his troubles with the respect even of his foes and lived to contend for the rights of his constituents through seventeen troubled years. In congress and on the platform, north and south, he compelled first respect and then affection: at last, fighting an incurable disease with all the bravery of a noble nature, he continued to labor for those who trusted him and died only to be sincerely lamented by former foes. The monument fronting his late home in Atlanta presents a statue in pure white marble, the best emblem of his official life.

A man of less courage than Gen. Joe Wheeler would have said in 1866, "My life is already a failure." He turned to his work as a lawyer and planter, determined to make life a success. After declining the offered chair of philosophy in the Louisiana State university he took his old place in Alabama, fought his way to the front, and since 1881 has won higher honors in each successive congress. Gen. Jubal A. Early in 1865 might have been thought as completely ruined as man can be by wounds, disease, defeat and desolation, added to the weight of fifty years, but he had that within him which neither wounds could weaken nor defeat and poverty destroy—the spirit of a true man. Beginning anew when past the meridian of life, he has prevailed over obloquy and almost defeated misfortune. Gen. Braxton Bragg, after winning fame in Florida and Mexico under the flag of the old Union, and a strangely varied career under the Confederacy, might well have thought that at 50 years of age this world had little hope for a defeated man. He lived to do eleven more years of useful work, a signal example—but only one of many thousands in the south—that whatever differences may arise in the heat of conflict, the man who stands up bravely against misfortune compels respect from the honorable, even from his foes.

GEN. BRAXTON BRAGG.

These few are mentioned at some length only as instances of the many brave and honorable men who stood so firmly by their people in trouble, accepting Gen. Lee's noble dictum: "The south has need of all her sons." Of course no invidious distinction is intended with others, but this page would not contain even their names. The roll is one of honor for what they did in peace as well as war, and one who compares it with a roll of the men honorably prominent in various lines of activity will find a remarkable correspondence. Alabama's list of ten congressmen contains the names of ten brave soldiers. The Arkansas list contains six, and her seventh congressman was but 13 when the war ended. Georgia's list of congressmen is thickest with the names of soldiers. Of North Carolina's members eight have proved their truth in war and in peace. These are only mentioned as illustrating how faithfully the men of the losing cause have stood by each other, and not as in any way reflecting on those whose views of duty took them another way. No class of men have more charity for old differences than the real soldiers, north and south.

It may be claimed, with modest confidence, that the soldiers of the Confederacy have taught one important lesson; they have proved that men who respect themselves and their cause cannot long be "put down." They may be sadly mistaken; they may be disastrously defeated, but dishonored they cannot be. If they have honorable foes, the victors will in no long time recognize their value to the country, as is generally the case in the United States; if not, history will still do them justice. The defeated Confederates have taught the great lesson that there is rarely a time to despair; that the defeated of any nation may still win much from fate by being as honorable in peace as they were brave in war. A people who will neither bravely fight nor honorably make peace is altogether despicable; the courage of the Confederates ought to have convinced their foes, even in 1865, that they would keep their paroles. That it took some years to convince all the country, though regrettable, is but natural, seeing that some millions of men in the north did not get in a fighting humor till the fighting was over. That most men are now convinced of the fact we owe, under God, to the dignified resignation of the defeated, and the energy and ability shown by their leaders.

GEN. JUBAL A. EARLY.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

SOME EPISODES IN THE LIFE OF THE CONFEDERATE CHIEF.

Mr. F. G. De Fontaine Relates Some Interesting Matters Not Now Generally Remembered—Horace Greeley and Mr. Davis' Bail Bond.

Admiral Ammen, of the United States navy, referring to his early acquaintance with Mr. Davis, said recently: "I first met him in the autumn of 1847 as a senator-elect from the state of Mississippi. He was walking slowly on Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, and noticeably lame from a painful wound in the foot received in battle some eight months previously. He was erect, probably six feet in height, pale, thin, but wiry in appearance, and weighed perhaps 130 pounds. His complexion was somewhat bronzed and his eyes a bluish gray. He was exceptionally well informed on most of the topics usually discussed at that time, and I can recall no one from whom I derived more useful information or sound advice. He was gentle and attractive, conversational on many subjects without being didactic, and his habits of life were evidently simple. his dissipation consisting chiefly in the moderate smoking of cigars. I never paid a visit to Col. Davis without realizing that I had acquired some information on military subjects, or what was cognate to them, and other interesting facts. In the early spring, after the election of President Pierce and William R. King, of Alabama, I met the latter gentleman at the rooms of Col. Davis. On entering, he introduced me as "Captain" Ammen, of the navy. I thought proper to say that perhaps my age and length of service should have given me that rank, but I wished the vice president to know that they had not done so; and that I was really only an old passed midshipman. Col. Davis jocularly remarked that he always felt disposed to give a rank above the actual one as a matter of compliment."

The first of Mr. Davis' visits to the army took place on the 21st of July, 1861, at the first battle of Manassas. When he arrived near the Manassas railroad junction everything was in confusion; there were stories of disaster to the southern arms and the conductor refused to proceed further. Mr. Davis insisted, however, that he should detach his engine, and on this, accompanied by a single aid, he rode as near to the headquarters of Gens. Johnston and Beauregard as it was possible to go, and then hurried forward on foot. Finally they were furnished with horses and reached the lines in time to witness the final movements of the day. That night Mr. Davis met his generals in conference and dictated an order for a movement on the rear of the enemy at early dawn.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

At that time, however, a rainfall, extraordinary for its violence and duration, occurred, so that over places dry during the battle rolled torrents which, in the afternoon of the 22d, it was difficult to cross. The movement was therefore abandoned. The next day Mr. Davis rode over every portion of the field and visited the wounded in the various camp hospitals. In one of these he found the dead body of a young relative, and everywhere encountered the public men of the south who had participated in the engagement. Another conference took place on the night of the 22d, with the view of determining the propriety of an advance to the south side of the Potomac, but from causes that need not be considered here the contemplated project was abandoned and Mr. Davis returned to Richmond.

A third visit was made in October, 1863, to the Army of the West, then in front of Chattanooga and aligned along the memorable Missionary Ridge. A spirit of discontent had arisen, and there were loud complaints that instead of being compelled to remain idle on the borders of Tennessee, the army had not been led into the heart of the state before the Federals recovered from the shattering blows of Chickamauga. Hence the visit of Mr. Davis was peculiarly opportune and did much to inspire the hope that a change for the better would be quickly made.

On the 2d of April, 1865, while Mr. Davis was attending the usual Sunday services in St. Paul's church, Richmond, a courier quietly passed up the aisle to his pew and handed him a dispatch. It was the announcement from Gen. Lee of his withdrawal from Petersburg and the necessity for the evacuation of the Confederate capital. The contents were suspected by both the rector and the congregation, and amid a scene of subdued excitement Mr. Davis retired from the church. Going at once to his office, he assembled the heads of his departments and bureaus, and gave the needful instructions for the removal of the records, and late that afternoon they were sent south. The next morning Mr. Davis reached Danville, Va., where, under his personal directions, hasty lines of intrenchments were thrown up and energetic efforts were made to collect supplies for Gen. Lee's army. It was from this point that Mr. Davis issued his last proclamation.

A few days later, accompanied by some of the members of his cabinet, he resumed his journey, pausing at Charlotte, N. C., and other points, to confer by telegraph and courier with Gen. Joe Johnston, who was then in course of negotiation for the surrender of his army. His escort consisted of a small body of cavalry. When he arrived at Abbeville, S. C., there were with him Gen. Breckinridge, Judah P. Benjamin, Mr. Mallory, secretary of the navy, Mr. Reagan and Gen. Lawton. With this remnant of the defunct Confederacy, the last council of the war was held. It took place in the library of Mr. Armistead Burt, who had been a member of congress previous to the war. As they assembled around the center table, anxiety was written upon every face. Mr. Davis was the calmest of the six. There was no attempt at concealment.

Long since it had become apparent to all others that the end was at hand, and

(*Continued to fourth page*)

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