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GEN. HOUSTON'S EXILE.

How the Texan Patriot Lived Among the Cherokees.

In April, 1829, Samuel Houston, then 36 years of age, in the full flush of personal popularity and political success, surprised the people of the United States by resigning the office of governor of Tennessee, which he had held for two years, by a letter of dignified stateliness, assigning as a reason an exigency in his personal affairs which he did not describe. What was the cause of this abandonment of a successful and promising career has never been definitely discovered. Houston never revealed it, so far as is known, even to his most intimate friends, and conjecture was left to invent various sensational and romantic stories. He had been married three months previously, and the most current romance was that his wife had confessed in a moment of despair or irritation that she had never loved him and that her affections were still engrossed by another. Such a blow might have been sufficient to have unshaken an ardent and passionate nature like that of Houston, never remarkable for self-control, and it is also not impossible, although it might be considered more extraordinary that a longing for the savage life such as he had experienced during his youth, had become irresistible, and that no price was too heavy to pay for its indulgence.

There is no instance of quite so conspicuous an abandonment of fortune and honor for that motive, but there have been many, even to this day, in which persons of intelligence and station have abandoned all the hopes of a successful career and the charms of civilized society from an irresistible impulse to live with the children of nature and indulge their primitive instincts.

Houston never forgot his friendship with the Cherokees or endeavored to ignore his life among them. After his election to the United States Senate he was fervent in advocating their interests and in defending them from injustice. Not only as the special champion of this tribe, but in an intelligent understanding of the Indian question, and the wisdom as well as the justice of honesty and consideration, he was far beyond the majority of the public men of his time, and particularly of the spirit of border greed and prejudice, which is by no means yet extinct. Like some of the army officers who had shared their fears and learned to admire their bravery and faithfulness, he was the friend of the Indian from sympathy as well as a sense of upright and honor, and respected their barbaric virtues as he understood the elements of their character. His rooms were always open to the Cherokee delegation when they arrived in Washington, and he was their friendly companion as well as the slinger of their councils and their advocate at the Indian Bureau and on the floor of Congress. His regard was repaid with lasting reverence. He has a peculiar place in the remembrance and tradition of the Cherokee people as their faithful and powerful friend, and his name is perpetuated as an honorable patronymic in the younger generations, like that of William Penn.

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he took up as his wife, and removed to the west of the Grand river, opposite Fort Gibson, where he made a clearing, which still remains, and erected a log cabin, which was burnt during the war. He maintained himself by keeping a small trading store, and, as usual, after the Indian fashion, by a little slatternly farming and careless stock raising. He was not more ambitious or industrious than his Indian associates, and at this period his habits reached their lowest point of self-indulgence. It was not to be supposed that his better instincts and capabilities could always remain content with the narrow interests and

DEGRADING HABITS OF SAVAGES, however strong the barbaric elements in his nature, or however severe the blow that had rendered civil life for a time intolerable to him. The thoughts of the possibilities of his abandoned career must have obtained themselves upon him with more and more persistent regret, and the degradation and failure of his life being felt with keener poignancy as the years went by.

To the unhappiness and degradation of this life there came a hope of relief and redemption in the news of the stirring of national life in Texas, and the combined eagerness for the foundation of a new empire and of a resistance to a degrading domination among its American settlers. All the adventurous spirits of the border were animated by the sentiment of a small party was formed of the daring rovers in the Indian Territory. Houston joined this, and naturally became the leader, although he was so poor at the time that he had to take his departure on a small pony

That he sincerely loved his Indian wife is made evident by the fact that when he had established himself and won fame and honor in Texas, he sent her to join him, but she refused to leave her people and family life, and died after a few years in the house he had made. He left

NO INDIAN CHILDREN, but the family of his wife was a large and notable one, and his nephews and nieces are numerous in the tribe, some of them distinguished by their influence and intelligence. To his credit, Houston never forgot his friendship with the Cherokees or endeavored to ignore his life among them. After his election to the United States Senate he was fervent in advocating their interests and in defending them from injustice.

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