

# The Daily Review

JOSH. T. JAMES, Ed. and Prop  
WILMINGTON, N. C.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1877.

## MEMORIAL ADDRESS

Upon the Life and Character of the late Capt. James Wallace Cooke, by Capt. John N. Maffit, of Wilmington. Delivered at the Reunion of the Association of Officers of the Third N. C. Infantry, May 10, 1877.

(Published by Resolution of the Association.)

James Wallace Cooke was born in Beaufort, North Carolina, in the year 1812. In 1835 his father, a native of North Carolina, visited New York. After a brief absence, he took passage in a vessel bound to his home. She arrived at the harbor just before sunset, but an adverse wind prevented her from crossing the bar. Mr. Cooke was recognized by his friends as he stood on the vessel's poop and that was the last that was seen of him. The schooner as a violent gale of wind arose that night in which the vessel was wrecked. Among the articles that were thrown up by the sea on Lookout beach was found Mr. Cooke's cloak and several boxes marked with his name. In less than a year his wife died, leaving three children, James and Harriet, orphans. They were adopted by an affectionate aunt who reared them with loving devotion as her own.

In 1828, at the age of sixteen, James was appointed a midshipman in the U. S. Navy, and immediately received orders to join the frigate *Guerrero*, bound on a three years' cruise in the Pacific Ocean. After an absence of nearly four years he returned to the United States and in 1834 passed his examination, thereby obtaining his first step in the line of his profession. His association with Cooke commenced on board of the frigate *Constitution*, when he was but a neophyte in the navy. We cruised together in the Mediterranean for three years and subsequently for several years in the West Indies.

A mutual friendship was engendered that became destined to last through many years, encountering the vicissitudes of civil war, of desolation, sorrow and death. My friend was an exceedingly modest and unobtrusive gentleman, generous to a fault, true in all things and tenaciously punctilious regarding points of honor. On board of the frigate *Constitution* some of the wild and thoughtless midshipmen would occasionally intrude upon what they termed his eccentricities. It was observable, however, that rude badinage was never repeated, for when this refined gentleman of North Carolina felt that the border of manly etiquette was infringed upon, the throttle valve was opened and the engine of his wrath revolved with a warning velocity. Years of close association strengthened our friendship. The more intimate I became with Cooke the stronger grew my admiration for the man. His father's estate yielded quite a handsome amount to be divided between his sister and himself. She married in 1841 and with her husband moved to Alabama. A fickle fortune followed them and impecuniosity affected their domestic comfort. On arriving in Pensacola from a cruise in the Gulf of Mexico, Cooke learned of the discomfiture that had annoyed his sister. Prompted by affectionate generosity he immediately addressed his sister in pretty much the following language:

"My agent is this day directed to transfer, for your benefit, two-thirds of my personal property. My honored father's daughter cannot be permitted to suffer for want of means while her devoted brother has a shot in the locker."

This circumstance was indexical of his general character for generosity, for no friend ever appealed to him in vain when needing assistance. In 1848 Cooke married in Portsmouth, Va., a lovely and interesting young lady of that city. His married life proved to be one of unusual felicity, for in his partner he realized all that was affectionate and noble in woman. Establishing a home in Fairfax county, Va., they were soon surrounded by numerous friends who constantly enjoyed Mr. Cooke's bright and genial rendition of magnificent hospitality.

This home was one of contentment and domestic enjoyment. When civil war forced them from their peaceful abode, Mr. Cooke bravely followed the fortunes of her husband. His reputation to name her glory—his sickness and sorrows excused her tender solicitude and womanly devotion. When at last the angel of death summoned him from earth—when Christian resignation she murmured loving prayers for his salvation, like a noble Southern wife in parting with her Southern hero husband. When the political horizon of the country became clouded by sectional animosity, my friend watched the coming storm with great anxiety. He frequently expressed to friends the wish that some patriotic savior might arise with power to rebuke the disturbed elements and say, "hush, be still." On the 3d of May, 1861, I met Cooke in the city of Washington, North Carolina still lingered in the Union and this circumstance was a source of worry and perplexity to my friend. We discussed at length the annoyances of the day that were evidently culminating towards a conflict of arms. As he was about to leave for home, in a sorrowful tone of voice he remarked, "there is nothing general to hope for; without a doubt we will meet at Philippi, for as North Carolina goes so goes James W. Cooke. God bless you, farewell."

On the 5th of May, 1861, James W. Cooke resigned his Federal Commission and was immediately appointed by Gov. Letcher, commander in the Provisional Navy of Virginia, with orders to superintend the removal of Confederate property from Alexandria, which duty detained him in that city until its occupation by the Federal forces on the 24th of May, 1861.

When Virginia became a part of the Confederacy and the seat of government was removed to Richmond all State military and naval commissions were cancelled. The officers generally receiving commissions from the Confederate government corresponding to those held by them while in the Federal service.

On the 11th of June, 1861, Cooke was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the U. S. N. On the 15th of July, 1862, he was promoted to a Commander. In July, 1864, for gallant and distinguished service in co-operating with the army in the capture of Plymouth, N. C., and subsequently courageously battling with nine of the enemy's gun-boats in Albemarle Sound, he was promoted to a Captaincy.

His first term of duty in the service of the Confederacy was in command of a battery on the Potomac, where he rendered efficient service. From thence, he was ordered to Norfolk and placed in command of the *Forest*, a small steamer fitting out at the Gosport Navy Yard for duty in Albemarle Sound.

On the steamer's passage through the canal, on a cold, stormy night, the pilot was seized with epilepsy and fell overboard. Though encumbered with a heavy pea jacket and sea boots, Cooke impetuously sprang into the water and at the imminent risk of his life, with great difficulty saved the drowning man. For some time he was employed in making a reconnaissance of the waters surrounding Roanoke Island. His suggestions were important, such as obstructing the narrow and defending the marshes; the defence of the latter he sustained with every argument he could command.

It was neglected by the engineer, and through it Burnside flanked the Confederate batteries and captured the Island.

The naval battles in Albemarle Sound and off Elizabeth City, reflected much credit upon the personal courage of all the Confederate officers therein engaged. With more about us for gunboats, ill armed and sparse of ammunition, they confronted and without hesitation, the well equipped and powerful vessels of the North. Even those who, to prevent inevitable capture, fired their steamers, fought their guns and raged flames and banners flying, retreating at last with the stubbornness of the Old Guard, that were captured but not subdued. No one won a more enviable reputation than the gallant Cooke. This defeat, like those of New Orleans and Port Royal, being inconsiderately weighed in the scales of popular estimation, as a natural sequence, the navy was pronounced "short of weight. Success is the vital spark that excites confidence and admiration. Without the smiles of good fortune all the ability man can possibly be endowed with is unappreciated."

During a lull in naval movements, the bold and enterprising Commander Wood excited the country's admiration by bravely boarding from open boats the Federal gunboats and capturing them.

These dashing episodes in our naval history are well worthy of record, particularly when the army of Virginia was surrounded with such a halo of glory as to excite unfavorable comments upon the unlucky navy and place it at a decided discount with those who judged entirely by results, and gave no consideration for contingent circumstances under which battles are fought. Unexpectedly the telegraph electrified the South with an account of Admiral Buchanan's magnificent triumph in Hampton Roads, wherein with the iron-clad *Merrimack* he achieved a splendid naval victory! Then from distant seas came exhilarating news, coupled with howls from the North! The Confederate banner floated proudly from the guns of the *Alabama*, *Florida*, *Georgia* and *Shenandoah*, startling Europe by the wholesale destruction of Yankee commerce by these Islamites of the South, who, without ports, friends or facilities, disregarded the Federal navy as they lit up funeral pyres of their commercial vessels from the equator to the Indies and Pacific ocean. These remarkable successes convinced the people that appliances and opportunity were all her naval officers required to harvest laurels for the Confederacy and render vital service to the cause. Past defeats were condoned and the blame for them was placed where the responsibility properly belonged and not with the personnel of the navy.

Commander Cooke was paroled immediately after the battle off Elizabeth City. A friend drove him in an open buggy to Portsmouth, Va., where his family resided. Being caught in a heavy rain storm, without protection, dangerous inflammation of his wounds occurred, and for four months his physical sufferings were very severe. When convalescent he was exchanged and ordered by the government to Halifax on the *Roanoke*, with instructions to improvise an inland navy yard. This service he performed with his customary zealous alacrity.

In 1863 two patriotic citizens residing near Edwards Ferry, on the *Roanoke*, were engaged to construct an iron-clad. Their experience heretofore had been limited to flat boats, but with the assistance of an intelligent and practical naval officer, coupled with their own natural genius, they felt confident that the desired vessel could be built and rendered formidable for service.

As Commander Cooke was near at hand, the Secretary of the Navy very judiciously directed him to assume control of the work for the construction of this earnestly desired vessel, whose province was expected to be the rescue of Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds from the possession of the enemy. When aroused to action, Cooke was one of the most industrious and indefatigable officers in the navy. With hearty zeal he embarked in the enterprise.

Iron in all shapes was a necessity. In person Cooke ransacked the country, gathering bolts and bars and the precious metal in any shape that admitted of application to his needs by the manipulation of the blacksmith. His greed for iron became amusingly notorious. At the Tredegar works in Richmond, he was amusingly known as the "iron monger captain." To ramp up from refuse piles serviceable pieces of machinery afforded him excessive delight.

Every steam mill in the vicinity of Halifax was overhauled by the enterprising officer in search of a boiler. When success crowned these exertions, his triumph-

al entry into the village was as exulting as a Roman Pro-Consul's proud return to the Eternal City with his spoils of war displayed for public acclamation! In brief, iron in all shapes, through public zeal, became a mania with the Commander. On one occasion my friend accepted an invitation to dine with a Halifax gentleman. On his way to the mansion he passed the rail road workshop. In his pathway lay a number of stray bolts. With natural idiosyncrasy, he picked up several and quite unconsciously put them in his side sack-pocket. At the dinner table, in answering some question, while indulging in soup, whose caloric quality he had not tested, he scalded his mouth; nervously grasping the end of his handkerchief that projected from his pocket, he gave it a violent jerk, when to the amused astonishment of the host and hostess and young lady visitors, five or six bolts were flung upon the table. His eccentricity was well known and all laughed heartily. One of the young ladies of humorous propensities, exclaimed, "Why Captain Cooke! It is very ironical in you to tote to a dinner party a portion of your ship! How enjoyable with soup!" Cooke coolly replaced the bolts in his pocket and facetiously remarked that he would "sink ship and bolt his dinner."

The building of the iron clad, under all the disadvantages of place and circumstances, was viewed by the community as a chimerical absurdity. Great was the general astonishment when it became known that the indomitable Commander had conquered all obstacles and was about to launch his bantling. On the appointed day "Cooke and Company" committed their "ponesuch" to the turbid waters of the Roanoke, christening her, as she glided from the launching ways, "The good ship *Albemarle*!" Boilers, engine, roofing and iron shield were to be fitted, the "iron clad" would be ready for service. While this finishing work was in progress, communication from General Hoke, asking for a careful statement as to the exact time, with increased facilities, that the *Albemarle* could be depended upon for assistance in an important military expedition. The Commander's response was quite laconic: "In fifteen days, with ten additional mechanics." The assistance was rendered, Cooke was ordered to command the rain and guns, ammunition and a few men arrived with a promise of the balance of the crew in a few days.

In order to avoid the upper shaft, Cooke dropped down to Hamilton and in spite of chills and fevers, he was indefatigable in his exertions to prepare the vessel for service.

(CONTINUED.)

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 26, 1877.

The President received a visit on Saturday from Mr. Keating, one of the editors of the *Memphis Appeal*. The information given the President was as to the progress of education in the South, and of the gain in material wealth in various sections, especially Texas. The President renewed his promise of a visit to the South, and I see no reason to doubt that the Southern trip will be an extended one, and will be concluded before Congress meets in October. In fact the President considers this trip the best card in his game for securing the Speakership of the House for a Hayes man. The Northern journey commences to-day, but I believe the time of return has not been definitely fixed, nor all the stopping places en route.

Speaking of the Speakership it is interesting to know that the Democracy, according to Clerk Adams' list, now completed, will have eight majority on the opening of the House. That number of good men is ample to save the organization of the body, even under an administration whose members seem-willing to do anything to secure the Speakership. If the number was seven instead of eight I should not feel so much confidence.

Commodore Goldsboro, a native of this city, an officer in the Navy since 1821, died on Friday last. Some ten of these veterans have died in the last year, all at a very advanced age, and all after more than a generation in the service of their country.

Hon. G. Wylie Wells, carpet-bagger from Mississippi, is to be appointed Consul General at China. He was promised the Secretaryship of the Treasury. His later appointment is one which illustrates Secretary Ewart's vaunt of reform in our consular service. It would be unfair, perhaps, to ask that the Consul General to China should speak the language of that country. Mr. Ewart first proposed, but a fair knowledge of English ought to be insisted on.

The Jews of this city, who, by the way, are a very intelligent and prosperous part of our population, are in ferment over the exclusion of Mr. Seligman from a hotel at Niagara. That the proprietor of that hotel did a very unwise thing, nine in every ten Americans believe, and all this fuss and fury over it is unnecessary. The less excitement the nineteenth century exhibits over such exhibitions of ancient prejudice, the sooner such exhibitions will cease. We who have taken to our arms the colored man as a brother, and are every day welcoming ship loads of barbarism and prostitution from China, need hardly revive the old hatred of the son of Abraham.

There is a disposition among military men to magnify the recent Indian disturbances. I confess to a hardness of heart that would lead to a very summary suppression of Indian disturbances, if I were in power; but the judicious will scan with care all army reports of Indian troubles between this time and the time that Congress meets. Neither will the prudent citizen believe all that is said of imminent trouble in Utah to help to promote a war with Mexico.

There will be, as soon as Congress meets, a proposition to reduce the regular Army of the United States, and the decision of this question ought to be on its merits and not be influenced by fictitious or exaggerated stories of border danger.

Any man who can pronounce the name of General Perokitchitzosky is not only sober and industrious, but an ornament to society.

## Miscellaneous.

### SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY.

AN UNRIVALED ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE.

When Scribner issued its famous Midsummer Holiday Number in July, a friendly critic said of it: "We are not sure but that Scribner has touched high-water mark. We do not see what words are left to it to conquer." But the publishers do not consider that they have reached the ultima thule of excellence; they believe "there are other worlds to conquer, and they propose to conquer them."

The prospectus for the new volume gives the titles of more than fifty papers (mostly illustrated), by writers of the highest merit. Under the head of

### "Foreign Travel."

We have "A winter on the Nile," by Gen. McClellan; "Sauternes About Constantinople," by Charles Dudley Warner; "Out of My Window at Moscow," by Eugene Schuyler; "An American in Turkistan," etc. Three serial stories are announced:

### Nicholas Minturn.

By Dr. Holland, the Editor.

whose story of "Sevenmoons" gave the highest satisfaction to the readers of the Monthly. The scene of this latest novel is laid on the banks of the Hudson. The hero is a young man who has been always "tied to a woman's apron strings," but who, by the death of his mother, is left alone in the world,—a young man of the current life, with a fortune, but without a purpose.

Another serial, "His Inheritance," by Miss Trafton, will begin on the completion of "The Last of Lovelock," by Mrs. Hodgson Burnett. Mr. Barrett's story, begun in August, has a pathetic and dramatic power which have been a surprise to the public.

There is to be a series of original and exquisitely illustrated papers on "Popular Science," by Mrs. Herrick, each paper complete in itself.

### "Home Life and Travel."

Also, practical suggestions as to town and country life, village improvements, etc., by well known specialists. Mr. Bennett's articles on various industries of Great Britain include the history of "Some Experiments in Co-operation," "A Scottish Lead Factory," in the November number, and "Road Lanes, Roadways," in December. Other papers are "The British Workingman's Alliance," "A Nation of Shopkeepers," "Half-pay a Week for the Gull," etc.

A richly illustrated series will be given on "American Sports by Flood and Field," by various writers, and each on a different theme. The subject of

"Household and Home Decoration" will have a prominent place, whilst the latest productions of American literature will appear from month to month. The list of short stories, biographical and other sketches, etc., is a long one.

The editorial department will continue to employ the ablest pens both at home and abroad. There will be a series of letters on literary matters, from London, by Mr. Welford.

The pages of the magazine will be open, as heretofore, so far as limited space will permit, to the discussion of all themes affecting the social and religious life of the world, and especially to the freest thought of the Christian thinkers and scholars of this country.

We mean to make the magazine sweeter and purer, higher and nobler, more genial and generous in all its utterances and influences, and a more welcome visitor than ever before in homes of refinement and culture.

### FIFTEEN MONTHS for \$4.

Scribner for December, now ready, and which contains the opening chapters of "Nicholas Minturn," will be read with eager curiosity and interest. Perhaps no more readable number of this magazine has yet been issued. The three numbers of Scribner for August, September, and October, containing the opening chapters of "That Last of Lovelock," will be given to every new subscriber (who requests it), and whose subscription begins with the November number.

Subscription price, \$4 a year—35 cents a number. Special terms on bound volumes. Subscribers with the nearest bookseller, or send a check or P. O. money order.

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Beautiful Finish and Sweet Musical Quality, our instruments take the rank with those of the

### Most Celebrated Manufacturers.

Our only claim to favoritism over other leading manufacturers is

### Our Low Prices.

reduced to meet the requirements of the times. Determined not to be undersold and the same time furnishing instruments that we fully

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MY PATRONS and the public generally are respectfully informed that I have opened a

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Open on Sunday morning.

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## APPLETON'S

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NEW REVISED EDITION.

Entirely new, revised, and rewritten by the best writers on general subjects. Edited under new type, and illustrated with several thousand

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## Miscellaneous.

### THE NEW HOME

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