

June.

June, June, rhythm and tune,
Breath of red roses and gleam of the moon—
Air from Hesperides
Blown thro' the cherry trees,

June, June, wonderful rune
Of life at its fullest, of life at its noon—
Perfume and wine of you,
Shimmer and shine of you,

—Edna Kingsley Wallace in Leslie's Popular Monthly.

Sidney Lanier.

We are always prone to withhold our esteem and reverence from those who have lived among us, and if they reach any degree of success or distinction in life, to undervalue their greatness or their genius.

But while the appreciation of Lanier has been of slow growth, not because of his lack of genius, but because his song does not appeal to every one, yet the day is fast approaching when the deaf ears will hear and the south will awake to a voice of singular sweetness echoing among her hills and recognize it as coming from a long neglected son.

This appreciation of his work, however, is not undeserved, for it abounds in beauty, passion and spirituality, giving evidence of a true poetic soul, and he has shown himself a master of those technicalities of verse which mark him at once an artist.

We find also in his productions that unbounded sweep of imagination and richness of fancy such as is only given to heaven-born poets. How fine and delicate are his pictures of the woods, those "soft glooms" and "closets of lone desire" that whispered such wonderful words of beauty and love to his passionate soul, and to his poet-eyes revealed such visions of loveliness.

In his spirituality, his consecration to the true, the beautiful and the good, he reminds us often of Milton. His life was spent in an inexorable suffering, from both disease and poverty; he sang his lays like Milton amid untold and direct hardships, but he had also that same unwavering devotion to an exalted ideal which held him bound to the loftiest purpose.

first his life is beautiful. He believed in the truth of Milton's words "that for a person to write poetry his life must be a poem." Faults and blemishes may be found in Lanier's work, but one thing can be said, that he never had a low or mean thought.

But just when he had reached the point where his distinct personality and genius were perceptible, his spirit was taken away to blend its sweet song with the everlasting choruses of the "choir invisible." In the history of no man has there been recorded such a sad and pathetic struggle against the mistfumes and adversities of life as he carried on.

He was moving on to higher things. He had no time to stop and murmur at hardships and trials. He had a work to do, and realized that his time was short. He knew that he was rapidly drifting down to the silent river of death, and that every day made him weaker and brought him nearer to the end of his work.

While spending a few months in Texas for his health's sake, having been obliged to leave the colder climate of Baltimore, where he held a position with the Peabody Symphony orchestra, he wrote touchingly to his wife: "Were it not for some circumstances which make such a proposition absurd in the highest degree I would think that I am shortly to die, and that my spirit hath been singing its swan-song before dissolution.

Beginning early in life to fight that dreaded disease, consumption, which he contracted while a soldier in the Confederate army, nothing but his great unconquerable will kept him alive and forced the racked and haggard body beyond its strength to accomplish the purpose of his life. He held the principles of art too high to sacrifice them for personal gain, and although sometimes at the point of destitution he would not condescend to lower his standard to meet the popular tastes, but continued to write in his own way and to labor for art's sake alone until the pen dropped from his weary fingers, and he was snatched away to finish his song in Heaven.

Lanier's poetry is not of a kind that finds a quick way to the heart of the general public. His exalted passion does not gain the appreciation of every one, nor cause the prosaic heart to throb with ecstasy. All ears are not open to hear the sweetness of his dreamy improvisations, which, though objected to by some critics, contain precious jewels of beauty that linger and echo through the soul like the mellow tones of an organ when touched by a master hand.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A Chance For the Enthusiast. "Are you de gemman dat said de hoss mus' go?" asked the colored man. "I am," answered the enthusiast on the subject of mechanics. "Well, suh, I jes' desiahed to take de liberty of sayin dat I has de balkies' animal dat ever blocked a street jes' aroun' de corner. I sho'ly would be much oblige of you could come aroun' and prove yoh words."

The Monk's Revenge.



"Oho, got him on the nut just time!" chortled the monkey on the topmost branch as he playfully dropped a coconut on the head of the gentleman below.



And the gentleman below did a queer thing. He seized the tail of the other gentleman who was sitting between him and the chap on top. Then he pulled it hard—



—and then he let it go with a bang. And the biffing, booming consequences you can see for yourself in the above sketch.

A Misunderstanding.

"Henry," said Mrs. Oldham, "this is May Summer's gal's intended." "Ah!" exclaimed the old gentleman. "Glad to know ye, Mr. Legion." "Brown is my name, sir." "Ye don't say? Why, she told me her beau's name was Legion."

He Corrects Them.

"Our first impressions," said the philosopher, "are always full of errors." "Naturally," replied the other. "But old Father Time is a very good proofreader." — Philadelphia Record.

TIMELY ANNIVERSARIES.

Some Current Selections From History's Broad Page.

June 2.

- 1773—John Randolph of Roanoke born in Virginia; died 1833.
1816—John Godfrey Saxe, humorist poet; born in Highgate, Vt.; died 1887.
1800—Matti Morgan, artist and cartoonist, died in New York, aged 46.
1805—Hon. Vincent D. Markham, a very distinguished jurist of Colorado, died at Denver; born 1829.
1900—Clarence Cook, noted art critic and writer, died in New York city; born 1829.



Garibaldi.

June 3.

- 1780—Thomas Hutchinson, noted as a royal governor of Massachusetts, died in London; born in Boston 1711.
1808—Jefferson Davis was born in Christian (now Todd) county, Ky.; died 1889.
1861—Stephen Arnold Douglas died in Chicago; born 1813.
1879—Lionel Nathan, Baron de Rothschild, head of the great banking house and member of the house of commons, died in London; born 1808.
1896—Gerard Robits, German traveler and explorer, died at Godesberg, Prussia.
1899—Johann Strauss, the "waltz king," died at Vienna; born 1825.

June 4.

- 1728—George III, grandson of George II, born; died 1820.
1722—John Eager Howard, soldier, famous at Cowpens, born in Baltimore county, Md.; died 1827.
1802—Charles Manuel IV, king of Sardinia, abdicated in favor of his brother, Victor Emmanuel I, and the liberal movement began. Victor proved too moderate for his liberal subjects and for many years controlled only a portion of his kingdom, and that under an English protectorate, the remainder being subject to France. In 1814 he was restored to full power, but established absolutism, and his reactionary policy led to his abdication in 1821 in favor of Charles Felix, another brother.
1823—Louis Nicolas Davout, French marshal noted in Bonaparte's wars, died in Paris; born 1770.
1829—The French and Italians defeated the Austrians at Magenta.
1896—Ernesto Rossi, distinguished Italian actor, died at Pescara; born 1829.
1900—The empress dowager of China ordered the foreign office not to suppress the Boxers.

June 5.

- 1723—Dr. Adam Smith, author of the "Wealth of Nations," born in Scotland; died 1790.
1771—Ernest Augustus, fifth son of George III and king of Hanover after the separation of the crowns, born at Weh, England; died 1851.
1826—Karl Maria von Weber, famous musical composer, died; born 1786.
1851—The first chapter of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" appeared in The National Era at Washington; last chapter published April 1, 1852.
1892—Oil City and Titusville, Pa., devastated by a fire created with burning oil, 300 lives being lost, 1,500 people rendered homeless and \$1,000,000 in property destroyed.
1897—Rear Admiral Samuel P. Lee, U. S. N., retired, last of the civil war commanders of great squadrons, died in Washington; born 1812.
1898—Captain Charles V. Gridley, commander of Dewey's flagship in the battle at Manila, died at sea off Japan.
1900—Fighting at Taku between American marines and Boxers. Rev. Dr. R. S. Storms, noted Congregationalist pastor, died in Brooklyn; born 1819.

June 6.

- 1533—Ludovico Giovanni Ariosto, Italian poet, died in Ferrara; born 1474.
1755—Nathan Hale, martyr of liberty, born in Coventry, Conn.; executed in New York city Sept. 22, 1776.
1799—Patrick Henry died; born 1750.
1813—James Lawrence, naval officer, died on the Chesapeake; his last words were, "Don't give up the ship."
1829—Major General Henry Dearborn, who commanded on the Canada border in the war of 1812, died at Roxbury, Mass.; born at North Hampton, Vt., 1751.
1861—Count Camillo Benso di Cavour, statesman, died in Turin; born there 1810. Cavour more than any other one man is credited with having achieved the unity of Italy. He was of noble family, trained as a man. Turning his attention to politics, he opposed the church and Austrian aggression, made an alliance with Napoleon III, won victories which were decisive and held the radical elements in check.
1862—Remarkable naval battle in the Mississippi at Memphis; the action was opened by wooden rams and finished by ironclads on the Union side.
1898—Thomas N. Rooker, a veteran journalist of The Tribune staff, died in New York city; born 1815.
1900—British flag hoisted over Pretoria.



Cavour.

June 7.

- 1765—First American congress called by vote of Massachusetts assembly.
1776—Richard Henry Lee in the Continental congress offered resolutions declaring the colonies independent.
1871—Brigadier General Thomas J. Rodman, inventor of the Rodman gun, died at Rock Island; born 1818.
1886—Richard March Hoe, American press inventor, died in Florence; born in New York city 1812.
1898—Edwin Booth, the tragedian, died in New York city; born 1833.
1894—Professor William Dwight Whitney, eminent philologist at Yale college, died in New Haven; born 1827. Rodman McCamley Price, ex-governor of New Jersey and a California pioneer, died at Hazlewood, N. J.; born 1816.
1897—Ney Elias, explorer and former consul general at Mombasa, died in London.
1899—Augustus Daly, American theatrical manager and playwright, died in London; born 1828. General W. S. Clark, noted Mexican and Confederate veteran, died at Atlanta.

June 8.

- 1806—George Wythe, "signer" and for 29 years chancellor of Virginia, died at Richmond; born 1728.
1809—Thomas Paine, deist, died in New York city.
1840—The city of Natchez, Miss., nearly destroyed by a tornado; 20 deaths; loss, \$5,000,000.
1845—Andrew Jackson, president in 1829-37, died at The Hermitage, near Nashville; born 1767.
1888—Rev. James Freeman Clarke, Unitarian divine and writer, died at Jamaica Plain, Mass.; born 1810.
1891—Destructive floods in the Red river region, Texas.
1896—Julius Simon, distinguished statesman, formerly premier of France, died in Paris; born 1815. Frank Mayo, American actor, died in Nebraska; born 1829.
1900—Missionaries in China called President McKinley to send protection from the Chinese anti-foreign element.

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