

MUCH DISCUSSED ESSAY

TEXT OF MISS BOYSEN'S ARTICLE.

A Critical Estimate of General Lee as Citizen and Soldier—Memory Honored by Nation—A Dispassionate Discussion on the Great General's Character—Some Sentiments That Might Better Have Been Left Unexpressed—As the World Advances and the Character of Lee Becomes More Heavily Weighed There Will Be More Respect and Honor Paid to His Memory.

So much interest has been aroused over the awarding of the U. S. C. prize at Teachers College, Columbia University, by Dr. Alderman, Smith and Finley, that The Observer deems it well to publish Miss Boyesen's essay in full:

The ingratitude of republics is proverbial. A land where every man is a potential hero accepts heroic service as her due, awards it the plaudits of the hour, and straightway forgets its origin. The sublime poem lives on, but the poet is forgotten; the invention inaugurates a new industrial era, but the inventor dies neglected in a garret; the ship of State launches forth into a wider and calmer sea, but those whose patriotic devotion tied her through the storm sleep in unvisited graves.

Happily, however, a newly read manuscript, a chance investigation, a political crisis brings back the half-forgotten name with all the meaning of accumulated years. Rusk in his right when he says that all great work was meant to be done for nothing; but some one else has said with equal truth that no heroic deed is ultimately unrecognized, and whether or not the speed which marks every phase of present day American life has also quickened the American sense of appreciation, at least it is true that here the process of accepting a hero is a much shorter one than in England. Milton waited nearly two centuries for Wordsworth's immortal sonnet, and Cromwell even longer for the statue that should testify to his real place in the hearts of all Englishmen; while here the memory of Robert E. Lee's public life is still fresh with the noblest of his birth, calls forth expressions of an estimate that bids fair to be both just and permanent.

It is a matter of significance that the new war arose in a social North, where until the past decade the hatred and bitterness of the war have still been kept alive. Yet one cannot but note as a striking feature of the recent conflict the noble tributes and lofty praise on the part of Northern orators and the Northern press. That sectional feeling should die so soon is a fact unprecedented in the history of any other war of like magnitude and importance but that close upon the death should sound a tribute to the very spirit of the enemy is nothing short of a miracle.

This change in attitude has come about through a new understanding of the Southern cause, and of Lee himself. Men speak now so much of the war of the rebellion as of the war of the States. (This view is set forth in an editorial article in Outlook, Volume LXXXIV, p. 955.) As we look at it from a distance it takes on the aspect of a great human tragedy followed by a great calm and a wider vision. Nowhere is this more observable than in the contrast between the present spirit and that which marks the accounts written just after the heat of the conflict. Even where these historians purport to give an impartial account they have much to say about the "Rebel Cause." In a way which marks the accounts written just after the heat of the conflict. Even where these historians purport to give an impartial account they have much to say about the "Rebel Cause." In a way which marks the accounts written just after the heat of the conflict.

It is just here that the new estimate diverges from the old. It maintains that Lee's attitude toward the war was inevitable. It goes even farther; it insists that any other attitude would have been treason in his own convictions and to the social order of which he was the finest representative.

To understand what this social order was, one needs but glance at the conditions of the South as contrasted with those in the North at the opening of the war. In almost nothing they are alike. The South was of necessity agricultural. Life was centered chiefly on the great plantations or in scattered communities. In the North a vast commercial system had grown up under the leadership of great capitalists and was concentrated in flourishing cities. Slavery had to a great extent gone out even before 1808 because industrially it was unprofitable, while in the South the increase in production of cotton with its dependence upon cheap labor had vastly increased the slave population. The loss of slavery as an institution would, therefore, involve the loss of an enormous capital; industries dependent upon it would inevitably shrink; above all it would mean the destruction of the whole social fabric, for in the South slavery was bound up with society. Intellectually the South was practically dead. Most of the people were densely ignorant, hence the great religious and educational movements which in the North had built a church, had a school house at every crossroads, had swept by them unheeded.

But most significant of all is the fact that these different social and economic conditions had enforced different conceptions of government. The idea of an indivisible Union had been early grown-up in the North and had been strengthened by the incoming of vast hordes accustomed to a paternal system of government. "No State," said Lincoln, "can ever more notion lawfully get out of the Union." The Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability, I shall take care that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed.

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in all the States." ("The Appeal to Arms," by J. K. Hosmer, p. 15, American National Series). The same theme, union now and forever, kindled Webster's loftiest eloquence. His opponent in that famous controversy of ideals was the voice of the whole South. For a long time events there had hastened the secession movement. In a country where the mass of people accepted ready-made opinions and preconceptions carried ideas forward and made false maxims seem working principles, so that before 1860 the people in general believed they had a right to secede. They maintained that of all rights not expressly delegated to the central government this was the most important, inasmuch as it was the only one that could prevent the central government from becoming despotic. They were, first of all, citizens of the State and owed their first allegiance to it. The whole South was impregnated with the idea that anything else was "treason," and a new life of Lee written by F. Bruce.

It was the product of such doctrine that Lee stood. But he stood for much more, and it is in this additional fact that the North has found grounds for its bitterest criticism. Were he merely a Southerner his conduct might be defensible; but he was the son of a revolutionary officer; he had a position of honor in the Union army, through his wife he was connected with the Washington family; back of him stretched a long line of heroic souls, the pride and boast of Virginia. He was born and reared on the soil that had fostered some of the staunchest defenders of the constitution. How could such a man with such a heritage take up arms against the cause for which they had fought? We answer that in this very fact lies the explanation of his decision. His training and the natural bent of his own mind had bred the deepest reverence for those immortal names. Indeed, this was the common feeling of Virginia as a whole. She shrank from the thought of secession because of the recollection of proud men who had stood for freedom. She knew, moreover, that if she seceded her soil would be the scene of a battle between hostile forces. But when it came to a question of coercion by a power which in common with all the Southern States she felt to be external, there was but one course of action to her.

This was the position that Lee took. He loved the Union for which he had fought; but when the Union became an invading army, he must act. He realized that his decision would probably draw many Southerners into the conflict, that his Arlington would become a camping ground of the enemy, that his loyalty would be questioned; but the soil of Virginia called him, and to that call there could be but one answer. The slave system with which he thus took sides was vastly different from the general institution of the South, that the order sign retained some of its patriarchal character; it was dignified and not material. "If I owned the four million slaves of the South," he writes, "I would gladly sacrifice them to the Union; but how can I draw the sword on Virginia, my native State?" (Outlook Volume LXXXIV, p. 955.)

Personally Lee had everything to gain by any other decision. He was the most prominent man in the Federal army, had already been given the command of its forces. (See Trent's "Robert E. Lee," "Chronology of R. E. Lee," p. 31.) Long to his biographers, the subtlest of his language and so he threw himself and all he had—his home, his fortune, his chances of personal advancement—into a desperate cause. He was a traitor in that he refused all to aid the enemies of his country, but so were George Washington and John Hampden and William of Orange. C. F. Adams in a speech, "shall I have a Statue?" But things which are technically of the highest criminality may at times be of the least disgrace. To do now what he did then would be treason, for the civil war has since taught what is right in this regard. But the matter of secession had purposely been left open by the framers of the constitution, and in the minds of many it was still a question. Page 18, "The Appeal to Arms," American National Series. The real issue was not between patriotism and the want of it, but between two forms of patriotism. Lee's attitude toward the war was inevitable. It goes even farther; it insists that any other attitude would have been treason in his own convictions and to the social order of which he was the finest representative.

This justification of Lee's attitude toward the Union may be noted as the first and in some respects the most important aspect of the new estimate of him. But there is at least one other regard in which a great change of feeling has come about, for there have not been wanting those who, while they granted the purity of his purpose, still found fault with his military career in a way that made him scarcely less despicable than if he had acted from the basest motives. He plunged his State and the whole South, said they, into a disastrous war by the influence of his own reckless example. He accepted the command of the Virginia forces before his resignation from the Union army had been passed on at Washington. ("History of the United States," by James Schouler, Volume VI, Footnote p. 67. He declared that if he were to fight only to protect his State; he soon fought everywhere. "History of the United States," by James Schouler, Volume VI, p. 67. He believed that whoever would serve the Rebel cause should have the privilege of leaving the stockade and finding plenty of food and clothing. ("The Boys of '61," Coffin, p. 412). If he did not strictly order the starvation of Union soldiers, he at least did nothing to prevent it. ("The Boys of '61," Coffin, p. 412). He was always on the defensive. He made no vigorous attacks. The plans for his battles were narrow and uncomprehensive.

Much has been said by the South in an attempt to explain these matters and to refute the aspersions cast by the older North upon Lee's generalship. Yet one cannot feel that his real place as commander can ever be determined by answering the questions that arise in connection with any one or all of his battles. More and more we are coming to see that the only estimate of Lee's generalship that does not take into account the whole military situation he had to face must be unfair and prejudiced, for it is upon the way in which he acquitted himself in that situation that

his title to permanent greatness will ultimately rest.

Lee undertook the defense of a country without a navy, vulnerable in almost every point because of its war-torn coast, and he was the nucleus of a strong navy in the North. He undertook a war against great captains of industry without any of the splendid resources of the system they represented. He accepted the command of a few raw and untrained troops in the midst of a population vastly uneven in temper and character. He had to struggle with ignorant and inferior assistants who often misunderstood his orders and often made his faith in them a cloak for carrying out their own designs. Moreover, a conservative estimate places the total levy of the South on the basis of three to one in service as only about two-thirds of the levy of the North. (J. K. Hosmer, in "The Appeal to Arms," p. 9, American National Series). Discipline was "treason" and a new life of Lee written by F. Bruce.

Lee yet led down in history as one of the great generals. His skill in strategy and tactics, together with his general audacity, is unsurpassed in all history. He displayed unerring insight into the idiosyncrasies of his adversary and adapted himself. He watched a favorable opportunity, he calculated the chances of success, and only this made it possible for him to hold out as long as he did against such tremendous odds. He disciplined a scattered and untrained force that could withstand a long established and highly organized government; he laid down a system which in its essential features remained unchanged throughout the war. Moreover, his military skill was wanting his audacity served him, and in studying the lives of great leaders one cannot but be impressed with the fact that the plans he had been coolly and judiciously laid it is the audacity that wins when it is the outcome of judgment. This was the secret of Lee's success, and for this he deserves all the credit which South gives him. Moreover, he constantly grew in military power, being never greater than in his final campaigns, which are faultless instances of baffling a great power with small resources. He was a general who cannot detract from the glory of that army or himself.

But it is neither as the product of a civilization that is past nor as a commander that Lee will give a permanent place. For neither as the exponent of a form of patriotism which the results of the war have made treason nor as the leader of a lost cause could he attract anything but a passing interest. For neither as the exponent of a form of patriotism which the results of the war have made treason nor as the leader of a lost cause could he attract anything but a passing interest. For neither as the exponent of a form of patriotism which the results of the war have made treason nor as the leader of a lost cause could he attract anything but a passing interest.

COMPANY TO BE REORGANIZED. Anderson Traction Company to Be Taken Out of Hands of Receiver—Interurban Line to Be Extended From Belton to Pelzer. Special to The Observer. Anderson, S. C., Feb. 15.—A meeting of the stockholders of the Anderson Traction Company was called for February 15th, at which time it is expected that the reorganization of the company will be effected so as to take it out of the receivership of the interurban line from Belton to Pelzer.

Body of Negro Child Found Hidden in Weeds. Wadeboro, Feb. 15.—The body of a negro infant was found yesterday in a box hidden in weeds in the north-east part of town. An investigation was held to-day. The county physician testified that to all appearances the child was alive when born, but other testimony developed the facts that the infant was born dead and given to an aged negro man for burial a week ago and that he had hidden it at the place where it was found. The coroner's jury found in its verdict that the child was born dead. The body was badly decomposed.

Sease Endorsed For Circuit Judge. Spartanburg, S. C., Feb. 15.—The Spartanburg Bar Association met this morning and endorsed T. S. Sease, the present solicitor of the seventh circuit for judge of the same circuit to succeed D. E. Hydrick, who was recently elected to the Supreme bench. A copy of the resolutions was sent to the Spartanburg delegation in the Legislature. In the event that Mr. Sease is elected judge, S. J. Nicholls of this city, will be a candidate to succeed Solicitor Sease.

Muscular Pains Cured. "During the summer of 1908 I was troubled with muscular pains in my legs, arms and back, which were cured by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for my children and it cured my pains. I had tried many other remedies but none gave me any relief. I am now well and my pains are cured. For sale by W. Z. Lloyd."

the war, as so many Southerners did. He allowed no thought of the struggle to interfere with his duty. His home, his fortune, the strength of his manly vigor were gone; but he accepted them as the price of the peace of the officers of a home which friends both in England and the South poured in upon him. He chose to remain in America, the scene of his labors and his defeat, and gave himself a position with an insurance company to be established at Richmond was offered him, he declined it, although he was at that time very poor. He felt, he said, his inability to care for lands which he believed were a sacred charge both for the living and the dead. He refused the governorship of Virginia lest the North should mistake his motive, and gave himself instead to the comforts of home and to educational endeavor. He accepted the presidency of a college disorganized and poor, he left it rich and crowded with students, he there inaugurated educators still to go for inspiration and guidance. He enlarged the scheme of studies; he put himself into personal contact with every student; he was the cause of the war, and nor any criticism of General Grant or the North. His gracious, kindly manner pervaded that whole university. He believed that education was the greatest need of the South, and in this latter effort he gave himself something of a peer. "He stands as the champion of reason rather than passion, of fairness rather than prejudice, of progress rather than reaction." ("General Lee's Plan of History," by Edward Mims, Outlook, Volume LXXXIV, p. 374.)

This we of the North have come to believe, and in a sudden recognition of human greatness the land is moved forward into the light of a happier day. Men who, like Charles Sumner, placed Lee in the catalogue of those who are greater than the primal act, a brother's murder, and handed him over to the "avenging pen of history" have been succeeded by men in his own State who have voted a monument to his memory.

Two Noted Cases Disposed Of. Sampson Jury Convicts Walter Mack Draughton of Forgery—Mistrial Result in Butler-Peterson Slander Suit. Special to The Observer. Clinton, Feb. 15.—A two weeks' term of Superior Court was concluded here Saturday. The case of most interest disposed of included the conviction of Walter Mack Draughton, a notorious citizen of the Hamburg community of Sampson county, for the crime of forgery. Draughton, a deed to a tract of land owned by his late deceased father, Judge Allen sentenced him to three years' imprisonment in the penitentiary, from which he was freed on parole. Another case of absorbing interest was that of Mal. George E. Butler, against Col. George L. Peterson, which was a civil action for damages in the amount of \$10,000 for slander. It grew out of the defalcation of the bank of the late Col. Peterson, who had a heavy loss to Aman's bondsmen. Major Butler was attorney for the board of commissioners which was indicted and convicted for turning over to Aman's bondsmen \$10,000, having had a legal settlement for the preceding year. Colonel Peterson was charged in the complaint with having publicly stated that Major Butler was partly Aman's bondsmen and had had a large share in the defalcation. The trial of the case consumed three days and resulted in a mistrial, the jury standing 6 to 6.

Corner-Stone is Laid. Impressive Ceremony at Lancaster, S. C. Masons Laying Corner-Stone of Confederate Monument Erected by U. S. C. Special to The Observer. Lancaster, S. C., Feb. 15.—The cornerstone of the Confederate monument was laid to-day on the court house square with impressive ceremony by the Grand Lodge of Free Masons of South Carolina. The grand master will be W. T. Williams, of the local lodge, by special dispensation acted in his stead. A number of Masons of other subordinate lodges, among them some from Georgia and Virginia, participated with the members of the local lodge in the exercises. Acting Grand Master Williams made an excellent address. Much interest in the proceedings was added by the singing of appropriate songs by the graded school pupils, about 500 in number.

Woman's Nature. Is to love children, and no home can be happy without them, yet the ordeal through which the expectant mother must pass usually is so full of suffering and dread that she looks forward to the hour with apprehension. Mother's Friend, by its penetrating and soothing properties, allays nausea, nervousness, unpleasant feelings, and so prepares the system for the ordeal that she passes through the event with but little suffering, as numbers have testified and said, "it is worth its weight in gold." \$1.00 per bottle of druggists. Book containing valuable information mailed free. THE BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO. Atlanta, Ga.

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"The Cleanest Story Ever Told" advertisement for Gold Dust cleaning powder. Includes illustration of two children with a broom and dustpan, and text describing the product's benefits and availability.

Advertisement for Mother's Friend medicine, featuring an illustration of a woman and child, and text describing its benefits for women's health and pregnancy.