

FIELD AND FRESIDE.

Gen. Robert E. Lee.

The following poem was written by Capt. Thos. F. Roche, formerly of Loring's command, A. N. V., on the occasion of Gen. Lee's visit to Baltimore in behalf of the Valley Railroad. It reads for itself, and we venture the assertion that there is not a true man nor woman in the South, who, after reading it, will not say, "God bless thee, Robert Lee!"

God bless thee, noble General! God bless thee, Robert Lee! Our Southern hearts thro' warmly now, O'er more our rival dead; Sweet memory's treasure'd store, Again we tread Dixie's Soil, And fight our battles o'er, Again we proudly fondly rest, Our lives, our hopes on thee, In thought we grasp again our swords, Resolved to win the Lee!

'Tis but dreaming, uncle Robert! Our banner loved is tumbled, And of our glorious struggle gone, Scarce thinks a heedless world, Our hopes have gone—our cause forgot, Using our rival's men, O'er more our rival's dead; Sweet memory's treasure'd store, Again we tread Dixie's Soil, And fight our battles o'er, Again we proudly fondly rest, Our lives, our hopes on thee, In thought we grasp again our swords, Resolved to win the Lee!

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Our hearts to day again are bright, Our full of love are ye; We can't repress our battle-cry, Hurrah for General Lee!

Sea Island Cotton. The most beautiful and costly specimen of cotton is the sea island, cultivated within the limits of Georgia and South Carolina, on islands belonging to these States. It is distinguished by the length, stiffness and strength of its staple, and is manufactured in Europe in the finest kinds of fabrics. Laco is made of it not much inferior to linen. It consequently commands a higher price than any other cotton in the markets of the world. The States referred to have been engaged in its culture for upwards of three-fourths of a century, and many large fortunes have been made by it. Attempts have been made to raise it in other parts of the world, in the same latitudes, but without success. It is raised in the lowlands of South Carolina and Georgia, bordering on the sea-board, but it is an inferior article to that of the sea islands, and in order to maintain an approximation to the latter in quality, now and then "seed" has to be obtained from the islands every few years. Transferred into the interior, to the midland districts, it rapidly degenerates from what is called long staple into short staple cotton.

There are different classes of the sea island cotton seed, which are well understood by sea island planters, some of whom have been very curious and particular in the selection of the seed.

When it was ascertained by Kinsley Burden, Esq., a scrutinizing observer, that some stalks in his cotton field produced bolls more remarkable for the firmness, beauty and length of the fibre than the great bulk of his crop, he took pains to select those stalks from the rest, and have the bolls ginned separately, and he found that the seed was crowned with a silky tuft that distinguished it from the ordinary black seed cotton. This seed he took care, the next season, to plant in a field separate from the rest of his crop, and succeeded in raising an article, inferior in quantity, but far superior in quality, and commanding a much higher price abroad than what was raised by his sea island neighbors. While he kept his own secret, he enjoyed a monopoly of this superior article, and was rapidly becoming rich by its discovery. It did not long, however, remain concealed from the scrutiny of prying eyes. The temporary success of this gentleman led sea island planters generally to be more attentive to the selection of seed, and it was finally ascertained that of the black seed cotton, which had been planted indiscriminately, there were several grades, capable of being distinctly marked by the superiority of the staple.

It then became a favorite amusement of planters and their families, after the dinner was removed from the table, to cover it with small heaps of cotton seeds, and have such as were marked by any peculiar traits separated from the rest with a view to subsequent experiments. By this means the culture of the black seed cotton was carried to the highest degree of perfection, the quantity of the crop raised being diminished, however, in proportion to the fineness of the staple.

The soil of those islands, in its natural state, is sandy and barren, and is rendered productive only by artificial and laborious tillage. The best dressing for the land is marsh mud, which the neighborhood supplies in abundance. The plant as compared with that of the mainland, rises only to a medium height, and the largest produce seldom exceeds one hundred pounds of clean cotton per acre. The sea breezes impart a peculiar softness to the atmosphere in those latitudes, and the climate is supposed to contribute more to the idiosyncrasies and superiority of this quality than any other cause whatever.

Those islands, before the late war, were dotted all over with palaces, indicative of the wealth of their aristocratic inhabitants, but during and since the occurrence of that great calamity, these garden spots of South Carolina and Georgia, were, and have been, to a great extent, surrendered to the ravages of war, we imagine, were not conducted much to the march of im-

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W. M. H. BERNARD, Editor and Proprietor.

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Plaster of Paris or Gypsum on Wheat. Plaster of Paris is one of the best fertilizers on grass, especially clover, does not answer for wheat. It encourages the growth of the straw at the expense of the grain, and causes it to remain green and succulent days after it should be ripe.

This exposes the wheat to attacks of rust, and to the wheat midge. Fertilizers containing phosphates and potash should be applied to wheat soils to insure heavy crops. Their effect is always beneficial, and the chance for a good crop are greatly increased by plowing down a crop of green clover a few months before the time for putting in the seed.—Farm Journal.

Henry J. Raymond's Start in Journalism. From Fragments of an Autobiography in the Times.

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I had once seen Mr. Greeley, in the Journal office in Albany, upon my way home from the vacation after the College Commencement, 1838. I had stopped to inform the editor, as a piece of news, that the college had conferred the degree of LL. D. upon Silas Wright. I found Mr. Weed and Mr. Greeley both there—both hard at work, and both greatly disgusted at the bestowal of such an honor upon so notorious a Locofoco. The thing had not struck me in the least, but I began to inform the editor, as a piece of news, that the college had conferred the degree of LL. D. upon Silas Wright. I found Mr. Weed and Mr. Greeley both there—both hard at work, and both greatly disgusted at the bestowal of such an honor upon so notorious a Locofoco. The thing had not struck me in the least, but I began to inform the editor, as a piece of news, that the college had conferred the degree of LL. D. upon Silas Wright. I found Mr. Weed and Mr. Greeley both there—both hard at work, and both greatly disgusted at the bestowal of such an honor upon so notorious a Locofoco.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

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