

WM. E. PELL, State Printer.

## TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

The Sentinel is published every morning except Sunday, on the following terms:

For one month,	\$1.00
For two months,	2.00
For three months,	3.00
For six months,	5.00

We solicit the aid of our friends in extending our circulation.

## Character of Stonewall Jackson.

From the "Lost Cause," a new Southern History of the War. By E. A. Pollard. In the Press of E. B. Treat &amp; Co., Publishers, 130 Grand Street, New York.

There was, probably, no more ambitious man in the Southern Confederacy than "Stonewall" Jackson. The vulgar mind thinks that it easily discovers those who are ambitious in a community. It readily designates as such those who aspire to offices and public positions, who seek sensations, court notoriety in newspapers, and hold up their hands for the applause of the multitude. But ambition, in its true and noble sense, is very different from these coarse bids for popular favor. There is a class of apparently quiet minds which, choosing seclusion and mystery, and wearing an air of absence, and even misanthropy, moving in their daily walks with an appearance of profound unconcern, are yet living for history, and are daily and nightly consumed with the fires of ambition. It is this sort of ambition which cherishes and attempts ideals; which is founded on a deep and unconquerable self-esteem; and which is often haughty, and even grimly, silent, from a consciousness of its own powers, or an ever-present belief in its destiny.

Of such an order of ambition, those who knew General Jackson best, declare that he was singularly possessed. He believed in his destiny, whatever religious name he chose to attach to that transcendent and ravishing sentiment; he was fond of repeating to his intimate friends that "mystery was the secret of success," and because he went about his work with a silent and stern manner, that was no proof of the opinion of the populace that he was simply a man of common sense and motives; with no sentiment in his composition but that of duty.

It is not unfrequently the experience of truly great men, that they have to live through a period of utter misapprehension of their worth, and often of intense ridicule. Such was the painful experience of General Jackson. At the Virginia military school, at Lexington, where he was a professor before the war, he was thought to be stupid and harmless, and he was often the butt of the academic wit of that institution. Colonel Gillen, who taught tactics there, was taken to be the military genius of the place, and afterwards gave evidence of the correctness of this appreciation by actually losing during the war, in the mountains of northwestern Virginia, the only regiment that he was ever trusted to command. At the battle of Manassas, despite the critical and splendid service which Jackson did there, for he stayed the retreat in the rear of the Robinson House, and in the subsequent charge pierced the enemy's center, his stiff and odd figure drew upon him the squibs of all the newspaper correspondents on the field. His habit of twisting his head and interpolating "air" in all his remarks, was humorously described in the *Charleston Mercury*. At a later period of his military career, when he made his terrible wintry march in 1861-2, from Winchester to Bath and Romney, and became involved in differences with General Loring, it was actually reported that he was insane. A colonel came to Richmond with the report that Jackson had gone mad; that his mania was, that a familiar spirit had taken possession of a portion of his body; and that he was in the habit of walking by himself, and holding audible conversations with a mysterious being.

It was about this time that General Jackson came under the fatal cloud of President Davis's displeasure; and he was so much affected by the course of the Richmond authorities towards him, in his affair with Loring, that at one time he determined to resign. The extreme sensibility of his nature, and his evident ambition were unmasked in the letters he wrote his wife, alluding to the then probable close of his military career, and submitting to what he supposed "the will of God" in the abrupt termination of his hopes. But it was not decreed by Providence that the Confederate cause should then lose the services of Jackson, and its chief ornament be plucked from it, and its great pillar of strength cast down, through a paltry official embodiment in Richmond. By the earnest persuasions of Governor Letcher, and others, General Jackson was induced to withdraw his letter of resignation; and that sword, which might have been dropped in an obscure quarrel, was yet to carve out the most brilliant name in the war.

The fame of Jackson was first secured and permanently erected in the popular heart by his splendid and ever-memorable campaign in the Valley of Virginia in the spring of 1862. In that campaign, as we have seen, in the period of three weeks he fought four battles; recovered Winchester; captured four thousand prisoners; secured several million dollars' worth of stores; chased Banks' army out of Virginia and across the Potomac; and accomplished a list of deeds that threw the splendor of sunlight over the fortunes of the Confederacy and broke, at the critical moment, the heaviest shadows of defeat and misfortune that had so far befallen them. In the Seven Days' Battles the name of Jackson again rose like a star. And yet it was to gather new effulgence when the names of Second Manassas and the Wilderness were to be inscribed alike on the banners of the Confederacy and the escutcheon of his own fame.

Jackson's intense religious character has naturally come in for a large share of public admiration and curiosity. To his merits as a commander he added the virtues of an active, humble, consistent Christian, restraining profanity in his camp, welcoming army colporteurs, distributing tracts, and anxious to have every regiment in his army supplied with a chaplain. Prayer meetings and "revivals" were common occurrences in his camp, and in these he was quite as active and conspicuous as in the storm and action of battle. It was said that he treated the itinerant preachers and "circus riders" who flocked to his camp with much more distinction than any other visitors; and the story is told how, on one occasion, when the horse driven by one of these itinerants balked at a hill, Jackson himself insisted upon leading and assisting the animal up the activity, in the astonished sight of his whole army.

His nature was epicurean. We but seldom see a combination of feminine tenderness with a really strong will; but when we do, we see masked in the man, and discover the rarest and loftiest type of greatness. Such a combination was most sincere and striking in Jackson. An authentic anecdote is told of him illustrating his extreme tenderness to whatever was weak or helpless. Stopping at the house of a friend one winter night, he showed much concern for a little delicate girl of the family,

and counselled them to see that her bed was comfortable. After the family had retired, Jackson was seen to leave his chamber and approach the bedside of the little girl, where for some moments he busied himself tucking the bedclothes around her, and making the little girl as snug as possible. The large, rough hand that did this gentle task was the same that wielded the thunderbolt of battle, and that cleft like flaming lightning the hosts of the Wilderness.

Jackson's habits in the field were those of almost superhuman endurance. Neither heat nor cold appeared to make the slightest impression upon him. He cared nothing for good quarters and dainty fare. He often slept on the ground wrapped in his blanket. His vigilance was marvellous; he never seemed to sleep; he let nothing pass without his personal scrutiny. His active determination and grim energy in the field were scarcely to be expected from one who in preceding years had been a quiet professor in a college of youths. As for the rapidity of his marches, there was something portentous.

The *London Times*, a journal whose judgments of men were taken in the contemporary world almost as the sentences of history, frequently compared Jackson to Napoleon. "He was," said this great organ of European opinion, "one of the most consummate Generals that this century has produced." That mixture of daring and judgment which is the mark of "Heaven-born" Generals distinguished him beyond any man of his time. Although the young Confederacy has been illustrated by a number of eminent soldiers, yet the applause and devotion of his countrymen, confirmed by the judgment of European nations, have given the first place to General Jackson. The military feats he accomplished moved the minds of the people with astonishment, which is only given to the highest genius to produce. The blow he struck at the enemy were as terrible and decisive as those of Bonaparte himself.

There can be no doubt in history of the military genius of Jackson. There is a certain ignorant idea of genius as a thoughtless and careless disposition of mind, which gets its inspiration without trouble, and never descends to actual labor. Such was not the genius of Jackson; and such is not true genius. He was an intense, laborious thinker; he wrestled with great thoughts; he had his silent calculations; but having once apprehended the true thought and got to a point in his meditations, he acted with rapidity, a decision, and a confidence that scorned hesitation, refused longer to think, and took the appearance of impetuous inspiration.

Danger, in a certain sense, intoxicated him. But it did not produce that intoxication which confuses the mind, or makes it giddy with a cloud of images. It was that sort of intoxication which strings the nerve, stimulates the brain, concentrates the faculties and gives a consciousness of power that is for the moment irresistible. In battle he was not much in motion; but his eyes glowed; his face was blazoned with the fire of conflict; his massive jaw stiffened; his voice rang out sharp and clear; every order and remark was quick and pertinent as if it had been studied for hours. One could scarcely recognize in this figure of intense activity, all alive, with every faculty at play, the man who used to occupy himself with rambling soliloquies in the rear of his tent; who presented the appearance of an inanimate figure-head in his pew at the Presbyterian church in Lexington; and who often got up out of his camp-bed at night to spend hours in silent prayer and meditation.

It may be readily imagined that the wonderful career of Jackson and his personal eccentricities drew upon him a crowd of apocryphal anecdotes in the newspapers. Some of them were very absurd. His person was as variously represented in newspaper paragraphs as if, instead of being familiar to thousands, he inhabited the dim outlines of another century. One journal described him as an absurdly ugly man, with red hair; another gave his portrait as that of an immense brain, and features on which nature had stamped its patent of nobility. One newspaper correspondent declared that he always wore the brim of his cap on the middle of his nose. Another declared that he was an execrable letter writer; and that sword, which might have been dropped in an obscure quarrel, was yet to carve out the most brilliant name in the war.

There is a popular disposition to discover something curious or grotesque in great men; but there was really but little of this sort to be discovered in Jackson, and scarcely anything that could be pointed out as objects of vulgar curiosity. It is true, his figure was queer and clumsy, but the features of his face were moulded in forms of simple grandeur, and his expression was as unaffected as that of Lee himself. The vulgar might call him such; and the newspaper passion for caricature did so represent him. Nor did he have in face or figure those marks which the silly admiration of women expects to find in military heroes. He did not wear long greasy hair falling over his shoulders; he did not stand in dramatic attitudes; he did not keep his eyes unobscuredly stretched; he did not thrust out his chest as if determined to impose upon himself upon public attention. His features were singularly simple and noble. A broad forehead, rising prominently over his eyes, and retreating at that easy angle which gives a certain majesty to the face, covered a massive brain; his nostrils were unusually large; his jaw heavy and well set, and although his features were coarse, they were combined in that expression of dignity and power, which to the intelligent and appreciative, even among women, is the greatest charm of the masculine face.

The death of Jackson cast a shadow on the fortunes of the Confederacy that reached the catastrophe of the war. It was not only a loss to his country; it was a calamity to the world; a subtraction from the living generation of genius; the extinction of a great light in the temple of Christianity. The proposition was eagerly made in the South to erect to his memory a stately monument. The State of Virginia sent an artist to Europe to execute his statue. Thousands followed him to the grave and consecrated it with the tributes of affection and the testimonies of devotion. Who, then, regarding this favour of admiration and gratitude, could have supposed that the Southern mind could ever become so chilled in any change of events, or in any mutation of fortune, as to forget, after its debt of gratitude and its objects of pride in the glorious past; and that the time could ever come when the household effects of Stonewall Jackson would be sold under the hammer of an auctioneer, and the family of this man committed to the trials and chances of poverty?

## DAILY SENTINEL.

"I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT THAN BE PRESIDENT."—Henry Clay.

VOL. I.

RALEIGH, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1866

NO. 132.

T. J. MITCHELL, GEO. ALLEN.  
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100 sets Buggy and Wagon Hubs and Axles,  
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Hon. N. Boyden, Pres't of N. C. R. R.; Salisbury, Col-

man Johnston, Pres't Charlotte &amp; S. C. R. R.; Charlotte;

Hon. J. M. Marshall, Greenboro; Rev. Dr. Deems, Ra-

leigh and Rev. W. E. Pell, editor of Sentinel at Raleigh.

Oct 28 71-6m

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known for his tact and good management. It will be

thoroughly furnished and fitted up for the accommo-

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and all who favor us with a call, are assured that we

are doing all in our power to make them comfortable.

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Raleigh, January 2, 1866.

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Jan 9, 187, 3m.

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BONE MANURE.

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BRING MADE OF THE BEST MATERIAL AND

in the most approved manner, it is recommended

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All who have used it speak of it in the highest terms

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may rely upon securing an article honestly and care-

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We believe this Phosphate has been improved, each

year since its introduction in this market, and that

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this being such a superior article in every respect,

I cannot refrain from congratulating you upon such

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great success.

Wishing you every success, I am,

Respectfully yours,

G. A. LEHRIS.

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