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LAST HOURS OF THE CONFEDERACY.

WHAT GENERAL GEORGE H. SHARP KNOWS.

From the N. Y. Herald, January, 21st.

General George H. Sharp Surveyor of the Port of New York, delivered a lecture last evening in the Harlem Congregational church on "The Last Hours of the Confederacy." Serving upon General Grant's staff from the time that officer assumed command of the armies of the United States until the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, having exclusive management of the service branch of the army, and being withal a keen observer, General Sharp knows more of the last struggles of the Southern Confederacy than any man either North or South.

Beginning with what he termed "the failing fortunes of the Confederacy," the speaker said that it was not until the winter of 1864-'65 that the Northern commanders were at all accurately informed of the position, strength and resources of the enemy. At the commencement of the struggle, the Confederate War Office knew the number and strength of every regiment that marched through Washington in less than thirty-six hours after its arrival at the capital. The South was then a unit. All were loyal and enthusiastic, and the matter of obtaining news from their lines was a very difficult one indeed. To the North the South was a sealed book, while they had no difficultly in obtaining information of all our movements and very many of our plans. But in the fall of 1864 this condition of things began to change and was very soon completely reversed. "The failing fortunes of the rebellion" now became apparent. Hitherto every one within the Southern lines was loyal in action, word, and belief; but now they saw the ship was sinking and that no power on earth could keep her clear. As a result very many people living in the South began giving information to our armies. Traders and store-keepers in the towns and villages readily lent their aid in furnishing data of the movements of the Confederates, and it was but a short time until Gen. Grant, through the Secret Service Bureau, received almost daily reports of the amount of fixed ammunition and number of guns in and about Richmond, the amount of provision on hand and constantly being received via the canal and railroads, and what was being done at the Tredegar Iron Works. Besides this General Sharp had a complete roster of Lee's army—so complete that, as the speaker said, he would not have cared to have it corrected by one of Lee's staff. Not a regiment or a battery could pass through Richmond or Petersburg without the fact being known at Grant's headquarters in less than twenty-four hours. Indeed, so compleat was this source of information that when the Confederate navy made a last and most desperate effort to get past our obstructions and war vessels in the James River, the fact that the movement would be made was known at City Point forty eight hours before the rams and their tenders left their moorings. This important piece of news, together with many others, was furnished by a clerk in the rebel Navy Department.

As the winter grew on it became less difficult to get information, until at last our army headquarters was about as well posted in regard to the strength, resources and movements of the enemy as was General Lee himself. These things were looked upon by General Grant as a sure indication of the sudden collapse of the Confederacy, and he planned his movements accordingly. The whole South was dissatisfied and heartily sick of the unequal contest, and everything pointed to its speedy termination.

At this point Gen. Sharp gave some exceeding interesting accounts of the minor details and management of the secret service. There were five stations between City Point and Richmond, and a cypher despatch would be sent from one to the other by different messengers to avoid exciting suspicion. The principal agent in Richmond was a lady, the same who now occupies the position of Postmistress of that city. The speaker gave a graphic and very minute description of this lady, whom he considers one of the shrewdest and smartest women of the present age.

Besides the method just mentioned of getting news to and from Richmond there was still another agency. An old soldier, who had done duty many years as a sergent in the regular army, but who was at this time serving in the ranks of the Confederacy, made overtures to our officers. He was very timid at first and would not enter the United lines, so General Sharp went to see him, passing through the enemy's pickets and remaining among them some time. The old sergent finally became one of the General's most trusted agents.

The Richmond papers came as regular as clockwork, and from them a vast deal of very valuable information was gleaned. A rebel officer who had obtained a leave of absence for the purpose of visiting his home, somewhere in Georgia, wrote a letter to one of those papers detailing an account of his trip home, stating that when he struck the Piedmont Railroad he found it so overwhelmed with carrying stores for the Confederate army that he could not get passage on a train and was, therefore obliged to walk a distance of forty-eight miles. This officer was quite humorous in his descriptions, and doubtless thought he was doing a funny thing but the military information contained in his letter governed to a great extent the subsequent movements of General Grant—the movements that resulted in the overthrow of General Lee.

Passing from this branch of the subject General Sharp turned his attention to "the closing scenes of the rebellion," beginning with Lee's move against, and capture of Fort Steadman. Gen. Lee learned that Grant was preparing to move early in March, while no other Union commander had ever dared to attempt a move before May. He wished to make Grant believe that the Confederate army was stronger and more vigorous than he had supposed, and to this end two brigades were hurled aginst Fort Steadman and were captured. Then came the assault on the entire rebel line, the movement by Sheridan on the left and the turning of Lee's right, the capture of Richmond and Petersburg, the flight of Lee and the hurried pursuit. Near Burksville Ewell's command, consisting of seven general officers and 8,000 men were captured. Of a scene in connection with this capture the speaker gave a very graphic and interesting account, showing how General Ewell forgot the dignity of his position, was rebuked by him (the speaker) and subsequently by one of his own division commanders General Kershaw, of South Carolina. In conclusion an account was given of the surrender of Lee, which occurred in a large room and not under an apple tree, and how every loyal heart bounded when the 400 guns captured from the enemy were made to belch forth a grand salute that shook the very heavens.

A young American lady who has enjoyed the rare privilege of taking a stroll with the poet Tennyson, incidentally mentions in a letter to a friend that "it seriously affected the romance of the situation when he paused during the walk to scratch his back against a gate post."

INEBRIATE ASYLUM FOR DRUNKEN MEN.

The editor of the Atlanta *Constitution* has received a copy of the annual report of the Surperintendent of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, which institution the editor of the *Republican* had the opportunity of visiting during his trip on the Editorial Excursion last summer. Our cotemporary of the *Constitution* has perused the pamphlet carefully, and gleans from it some very interesting facts and figures.

There are eleven other inebriate asylums in eight States of the Union. Canada has one and is so much pleased that she is going to have another. Australiia and England both are bulding such asylums. France, Switzerland and Germany are "probing" the subject.

Dr. Daniel G. Hodge is the Superintendent and physician of the New York Asylum. This institution had two hundred and forty-nine patients in 1872.

The theory upon which these institutions work is that intemperance is a disease. Whenever a drunkard gets to the point that his propensity for drink becomes uncontrolable by his will, he is the victim of disease that judicious treatment will cure. He is possessed of an abominable appetite. The cure lies in the utter abstinence from liquor and the restoration of the system to a natural tone. It usually takes six months to cure cases of long years standing.

In three years not a single death occurred.

The New York Asylum opened in May, 1867. It has had 1,267 patients since. It treated 241 patients in 1872 discharging 252. Of these 30 were free. Of those discharged 196 were discharged with great hopes of a permanent reformation. Fifty seven were discharged unimproved.

Some curious facts are given about the 253. There were 85 of the sanguine temperment, 83 nervous, and 71 bilious, showing a preponderance of sanguine drunkards. There are 227 social and 22 solitary in habit. One hundred and sixty-eight cheerful and 81 morse. Whiskey was the ruling liquor of 183, while 57 took brandy, gin and wine. Only nine were open drunkards.

Affection, love, business, misfortunes, etc., drove 102 to drink and 122 cases were hereditary. The constant drinkers numbered 196 against 93 periodical topers. Tobacco was used by 237 against 11 not using it. There were 136 married men, to 113 single bibers, showing that hen-pecked rush to drink. The oldest patient was 64, and the youngest 19.

The average was 14.

Georgia furnished two patients—one a Georgian by birth, and one by residence.

The calling most heavily represented was the merchants, 62; clerks, 31; book-keepers, 15; lawyers, 17; doctors, 11; farmers, 7; mechanics, 6; machinists, 6; journalists, only 4; hotel keepers, 4.

The cost was $63,337.64.—*Danville Times.*

MRS. SPENCER'S WEDDING CAKE.

[From the Young Ladies Column in the N. C. Presbyterian.]

A wedding cake, young ladies, is no unapt emblem of the life which its name foreshadows. Very fair indeed to look at is the life matrimonial, but after getting into it, some disappointment is apt to be felt at first, on account of the contrasts. Outside and inside are not alike.

This, however, is unavoidable, as a very little serious reflection will assure you, since very many ingredients enter into its composition. And indeed the greater the variety, the richer the compound. Some very opposite qualities are needed too, to insure the perfection of a wedding cake. An acid alone would spoil it but for the opposing alkali. The two combined are necessary. There must be *spice* too, or our cake will be tasteless. Let us be careful not to have too much! Sugar is a large constituent,—a principal one, but too much even of that most delightful ingredient in life, has a tendency, you must know, to make things fall apart. Sugar requires much judgment in the managing of it. The raisins and the citron and the currants stand for such contributions to the richness and absolute value of life as either part may be able to bring from foreign parts, such as education, experience and thought may give. The butter and eggs, I consider to represent the substantial, binding comforts of home, and in respect to them we may observe in compounding our cake that too much butter is as opposed to perfection as too little. A just proportion and thorough commingling cannot be too much insisted upon; and finally, I find my parallel quite complete, for as after all the larger part of our cake is to be of flour, an entirely tasteless, ineffectual sort of thing by itself, so life is made up in large degree of perfectly plain, monotonous, unflavored incidents and belongings. They form the bulk. The spices, the sweetening, the flavor—we could not live on these. It would be unhealthy and indigestible fare. We use them carefully, judiciously, moderately proportioned, and cleverly amalgamated with plain everyday duties and cares, and maintaining underneath and above and around it all the fire of love at a certain degree, with careful watching and tempering and guarding, we at last attain unto something different from all—a life on the whole richer, more varied, more valuable, more beautiful than anything we have hitherto known.

(Nevertheless, it is not to be denied that with every precaution a wedding cake may turn out all dough. Mistakes occur in the best regulated families,—but on this topic let us not enlarge.)

THE BURNING OF MOSCOW.

The burning of Moscow, in 1812, is one of the most noted conflagrations on record, not only on account of its magnitude, but for its historical importance. The French entered the city September 14. Napoleon proposing to make it his Winter quarters. On that very day several fires broke out, but little attention was paid to them by the invading army until the next two days, when they had acquired great headway. On the 17th a high wind arose, and the flames spread rapidly in every direction; by the 18th the whole city appeared a sea of flame, and by the evening of the 20th nine-tenths of it was reduced to ashes. The total number of buildings destroyed is stated at between 13,000 and 15,000. The Russians at the time, in order to cast odium on the French, attributed this conflagration to the orders of Napoleon. It is now, however, generally acknowledged that the fires were the work of the Russians themselves, and that they were kindled by the orders of the Governor, Rostoptchin, acting beyond all doubt under the sanction of the Emperor Alexander, without which it is hardly conceivable that the Governor would have ventured on such a step. The object was to deprive the French army of shelter from the Winter. Ample precautions had been taken to insure the entire destruction of the city. Inflammable materials were placed in deserted mansions in every quarter, and the torch was applied simultaneously all over the city. In burning the French out of their proposed Winter quarters, no provision had been made for the safety of the inhabitants, who were driven to seek shelter in the surrounding woods; and it is affirmed that more than 20,000 sick and wounded perished in the flames. The direct loss to the French is put down at 40,000; and beyond this, it in the end involved the retreat in the dead of Winter, and the almost complete annihilation of the great French army. This act, which the Russians at the time repudiated, is now considered by them as their highest glory, the greatest example in history of national self-sacrifice for the destruction of an invader. —*Appleton's American Cyclopedia.*

To "preserve plants during the winter," boil them down—two pounds of sugar to each stalk.

ROBBINS' SPEECH ON THE BELKNAP EXPOSURE.

[Congressional Record.]

Mr. Robbins, of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my purpose to occupy but a few moments of time. I have been so wearied with the physical labor and the mental strain of this investigation, day and night for several days, that I am in no condition to make a speech in regard to it, and I do not think any member of the American Congress has it in his heart to wish to say very much about this great shame. It is one of those things which we need not take pains to spread before the inquiring and censorious world to the common disgrace of all American citizens, but, if duty permitted, might rather veil it as a reproach to the American name. We of the committee have expressed our ideas in the report and resolutions unanimously submitted by us. Those resolutions, Mr. Speaker, I hope, will be adopted unanimously.

It has been intimated that a question arises as to whether they are in order, and whether it is proper to impeach an officer who has resigned. I have not had time to look up the authorities, and am not prepared to speak to that question worthily, except to say this, that it certainly cannot be true that an officer who is being investigated and who has been found by the evidence to be a criminal against the laws of the land can flee from justice by any act of his own.

The results of an impeachment, Mr. Speaker, are twofold: One is to remove from office and the other is to disqualify from holding office hereafter. The removal from office is accomplished by the resignation, but the other portion of the penalty remains uninflicted. Certainly it is within the power of the Senate sitting as a court of impeachment to impose that penalty, and the officer cannot escape it by hasty resignation, which is virtually a flight from justice. I shall not attempt to fitly characterize the manner in which that flight has been in this instance facilitated by the hasty acceptance of his resignation at such an untimely hour and at the last stage of the investigation. It is not necessary to dwell on that. It goes before the country. I would call the attention of the House to the cases of Warren Hastings and of Lord Francis Bacon, of whom the former was impeached and the latter received sentence, if I mistake not, after they had respectively ceased to hold the offices in which they had committed the crimes and misdemeanors for which they were impeached. And in the proceedings against Warren Hastings, if I am not mistaken, he is described in the articles of impeachment as the "late governor-general" of India. So that these great and remarkable precedents under English jurisprudence sustain the position which is so consonant with reason, that, when a man is found in office corrupt, dishonest, and especially as we have jurisdiction of him by investigation already begun, he cannot deprive us of that jurisdiction by attempting to flee and shelter himself under a resignation. That is the common sense of the case. That, I think, is the law of the case. That is the reason of the case. And that is the view which should be followed in justice to the people we represent.

This is no time to allow easy escapes of men who are found guilty of these high crimes. There is that degree—I do not speak as a politician, and will not do so in this case—there is that degree of corruption pervading the public service generally, there is that degree of suspicion attaching to officials in all of their actions in these disordered times, that it is not proper, it is not right, that there should be any shelter here. This case should be probed to the bottom, tried by the highest court known to the country, and a just penalty meted out.

Sir, it is true that the officers of this country should learn that the Government was not made for the officers, but for the people. They ought to be made to feel that they are the servants, and not the masters, of the sovereign people of America; and that, when this great people finds itself shamed and disgraced and outraged by such conduct as has appeared here, an officer guilty of such conduct should be brought to the bar of the high court of impeachment, and there tried in the name of the people, and an adequate penalty inflicted, that the officers of this country may learn that when they commit crimes the arm of the people can reach them and punish them however they may attempt to hide themselves away.

Let us, if American precedents are not clear on this question, make a precedent which shall be clear to those who shall come after us. In this extraordinary case let us make a notable example, and do what in us lies to stem the tide of official peculation and plundering and malfeasance which deluges the land, sapping the very foundations of our liberty, bringing disrepute upon popular institutions, and almost making a mock of all faith in human integrity.

THE HEAVIEST BLOW YET.

The severest shock the Grant administration has yet received was the exposure of Gen. Belknap, Secretary of War, made by the Congress Committee on Expenses of the War Department. It seems that a Mr. Marsh testified before the Committee that he had paid Belknap ten thousand dollars cash and six thousand dollars per year for the post-traderships at Fort Sill and other army posts in the southwest. In consequence of this revelation, not being able to controvert Marsh or to explain the equivocal relations they had occupied, Belknap resigned his portfolio, and his resignation was instantly accepted.

This man was a trusted friend of the President, and one of the prominent supporters of his policy. He had aspired to be United States Senator, and he was undoubtedly a shining light in the Radical heavens. Like Lucifer he has fallen, and great is his fall. We feel sad at the degradation to the American name involved in his disgrace. We connot rejoice thereat, but rather mourn that the country's good name is daily dragged in the mire by such men as those Grant has collected around him.—*Wil. Star.*

HON. THOS. R. ASHE.—Below we give in full a brief sketch of the life and services of our present upright and faithful Representative, the Hon. Thos. S. Ashe of Anson, as found in the Congressional Director.

"Thos. Samuel Ashe, of Wadesboro', was born in Orange county, North Carolina, was prepared for college at the classical school of W. S. Bingham, in Hillsborough, North Carolina; graduated at the University of North Carolina in 1832; studied law, and has ever since pursued his profession; was elected in 1842 a member of the House of Commons of the Legislature of North Carolina from the county of Anson; was elected in 1847 by the Legislature Solicitor of the Ftfth Judical District of North Carolina, and served in that capacity for four years; was elected in 1854 to the Senate of the State Legislature from the counties of Anson and Union; was elected in 1861 to the House of Representatives of the Confederates States, and to the Senate of the Confederate Congress in 1864; was one of the Councilors of State during the administration of Gov. Jonathan Worth in 1866; was the Conservative candidate for Governor in 1868, but was defeated; was elected to the Forty Third Congress of the United States, and was re-elected to the Forty-fourth as a Democrat, receiving a majority, of 5,930 votes over C. C. Davidson, Independent."—*Argus.*

When Grant puts forth fiis hand for a friend or partner, he hits a villian every time with the unerring precision of one long practiced in the art. Fish, Cook, Shepherd, Harrington, Delano, Murphy, Joyce, McDonald, Avery, Babcock, Belknap and now Pierrepont. We challenge any penitentiary in christendom to match the list. Impeach and sweep from the high place he pollutes, a man whose only talent is his recognition and appreciation of thieves; whose only achievement is having turned the temple of liberty into a rendezvous of pirates.—*Ral. Sentinel.*