

HUNSEY & JORDAN, PROPRIETORS JOHN H. HUNSEY, Editor

GEN. RICHARD TAYLOR AND HIS BOOK.

The death of Lieut. Gen. Richard Taylor, C. S. A., followed very closely the publication of his recent book of war experiences.

He went to New York to revise the proofs, and was found at the house of his friend, Mr. S. L. M. Barlow, where he died on April 12, at the age of 53. Born Jan. 27, 1825, near Louisville, the son of Gen. Zachary Taylor, and grandson of Col. Richard Taylor, he had been familiar with war and military life in boyhood, but did not choose the soldier's career.

He was sent to college, and graduated in season to be present with his father at the opening of the latter's campaign in Mexico, but not in the service.

The election of Gen. Taylor to the Presidency gave him a glimpse of Washington, for "Dick," as he was usually called, was made private secretary to the President. But after the President's death, he returned to the parental estate in Louisiana.

His family connections, wealth and education enabled him to take a prominent part in politics, and when the war broke out, he received the colonelcy of a Louisiana infantry regiment, which he joined at Richmond.

Being a brother-in-law of Jefferson Davis, he was immediately promoted to the brigadier general, and commanded a brigade in Jackson's early Shenandoah Valley raid in 1862, when Shields, Fremont and Banks were engaged with Jackson.

Bank II, he had but a glimpse of the operations of the Peninsula campaign, and soon was transferred to command in Louisiana, where his operations against Banks and Westcott obtained him the lieutenant-generalcy.

Mr. Jefferson Davis, and apparently with much personal prejudice in both cases. He gives highly amusing and interesting sketches of the personal traits of Howell and Jackson, under both of whom he had a brief service.

Bright, prominent eyes, a bombastic, but honest, and one like that of Francis of Gales, gave him a striking resemblance to a woodcock; and this was increased by a bird-like habit of putting his head on one side to utter his quietest speeches. He fancied that he had some mysterious internal ailment, and would eat nothing but fruit, and a preparation of talking of his disease, as if he were some one else, was droll in the extreme.

His comments on military personnel and events, Gen. Taylor's book has a good deal of political talk. These passages we need hardly cite, and say the truth, though Gen. Taylor says not a bitter thing very rarely, he does not appear to the best advantage in the role of Therapist, as few men do. While Gen. Taylor was in Washington last year, he talked a good deal with some Congressmen who had a responsible place in the matter of Army legislation, and his unusual abilities as a conversationalist secured him high consideration.

We understand that it was to him that Mr. Hewitt referred in saying that while he professed no knowledge of his own in the way of Army organization, he had had the benefit of consultation with an authority on whose judgment he could rely. Of his sincerity and integrity there can be no question. But he himself frankly confesses in his book some lack of accuracy in previous hasty statements on disputed points, and without designing to be unjust his language is frequently intemperate and extravagant.

Later, after he had heard Jackson seriously declare that he never ate pepper because it produced a weakness in his left leg, he was confirmed in this opinion. With his habitual politeness, he was more than generous in his commendations, being more than generous in his commendations, being more than generous in his commendations.

General Jackson is sketched with equal care. Taylor first discovered him in the campaign, perched on the top of a rail fence—"a pair of cavalry boots covering feet of gigantic size, a many cap with visor drawn low, a heavy, dark beard, weary eyes."

A low gentle voice inquired the distance marched that day. "Keesh-ton," he answered in a hoarse, guttural tone, to have no stragglers. "Never allow straggling." "You must teach my people, they straggle badly." A boy in reply, just then, cried, "I want to have a man with me." "Thoughtless fellows for serious work," came forth. I expressed a hope that the work would not be best at done because of shyness.

A return to the lemon gave me the opportunity to return. Where Jackson got his lemons no follower could find out, but he was without one. To have lived twelve miles from that fruit would have distressed him as much as it did the writer.

ardness at Gettysburg. Albert Sydney Johnston to be slain without stint, within an hour, "there would have been no Vicksburg, no Missionary Ridge, no Atlanta" for the South. "Had it been possible for one heart, one mind and one arm to save her cause, she lost them when Albert Sydney Johnston fell on the field of Shiloh."

Upon Kirby Smith, his commanding officer west of the Mississippi, Gen. Taylor retaliates in force for the criticism of the former. The astonishing reports by which it was sought to cover up Gen. Banks' defeat at Taylor's hands, at Pleasant Hill and elsewhere, are treated with merciless satire.

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