

ADVERTISING RATES	
1 Year	\$10.00
6 Months	\$7.00
3 Months	\$5.00
1 Month	\$2.00
1 Week	\$1.00
1 Day	\$0.50
Per Column	\$1.00
Per Line	\$1.00
Per Copy	\$1.00
Per Issue	\$1.00
Per Volume	\$1.00

CENTRAL EXPRESS



TO BECOME A PROPRIETOR FOR THE YEAR 1890. The Express propounds a year of activity and happiness to all its readers who have labor and aim high. Let 1890 advance you, inherit the crown of good learning and well spent hours.

Vol. III. SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1890. No. 17.

EX-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The Story of His Eventful Life Told by Himself.

I was born June 8, 1808, in Christian County, Ky., in that part of it which, by a subsequent division, is now in Todd County. At this place has since arisen the village of Fairview, and on the exact spot where I was born has been constructed the Baptist Church of the place. My father, Samuel Davis, was a native of Ga., and served in the War of the Revolution, first in the "mounted gunmen" and afterwards as captain of infantry at the siege of Savannah. During my infancy my father removed to Wilkinson county, Miss. After passing through the County Academy I entered Transvau College, Kentucky, at the age of sixteen, and was advanced as far as the senior class when I was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point, which I entered in September, 1824. I graduated in 1828, and then, in accordance with the custom of cadets, entered active service with the rank of lieutenant, serving as an officer of infantry on the Northwest frontier until 1838, when a regiment of dragoons having been created, I was transferred to it. After a successful campaign against the Indians, I resigned from the army in 1838, being anxious to fulfill a long existing engagement with a daughter of Col. Zazary Taylor, whom I married, not after a romantic elopement, as has so often been stated, but at the house of her aunt and in the presence of many of her relatives at a place near Louisville, Ky. There I became a cotton planter in Warren County, Miss. It was my misfortune, early in my married life, to lose my wife; and for many years thereafter I lived in great seclusion on the plantation in the swamps of the Mississippi. In 1843 I for the first time took part in the political life of the country. Next year I was chosen one of the Presidential electors at large of the State; and in the succeeding year was elected to Congress, taking my seat in the House of Representatives in December, 1845. The proposition to terminate joint occupancy of Oregon, and the reformation of the tariff were the two questions arousing most public attention at the time, and I took an active part in their discussion, especially in that of the first.

During this period hostilities with Mexico commenced, and in the legislation which the contest rendered my military education enabled me to take a somewhat prominent part.

In June, 1846, a regiment of Mississippi volunteers was organized at Vicksburg, of which I was elected colonel. On receiving notice of the election, I proceeded to overtake the regiment, which was already on its way to Mexico, and joined it at New Orleans. Reporting to Gen. Taylor, then commanding at Camargo, my regiment, although the last to arrive—having been detained for some time at the mouth of the Rio Grande—was selected to move with advance upon the city of Monterey. The want of transportation prevented Gen. Taylor from taking the whole body of volunteers who had reported there for duty. The Mississippi regiment was armed entirely with percussion rifles. And here it may be interesting to state that Gen. Scott, in Washington, endeavored to persuade me not to take more rifles than enough for four companies, and objected particularly to percussion arms, as not having been sufficiently tested for the use of troops in the field. Knowing that the Missipians would have no confidence in the old flint-lock muskets, I insisted on their being armed with the kind of rifles then recently made at New Haven, Conn.—the Whitney rifle. From having been first used by the Missipians these rifles have always been known as the Mississippi rifles.

In an attack on Monterey Gen. Taylor divided his force, sending one part of it by a circuitous road to attack the city from the west, while he decided to lead in person the attack on the east. The Mississippi regiment advanced the relief of a force which had attacked Fort Lenora but had been repulsed before the Missipians arrived. They carried the redoubt, and the fort which was in the rear of it surrendered. The next day our force on the west side carried successfully the height which stood the Bishop's Palace, which commanded the city.

On the third day the Missipians advanced from the fort which they held, through lanes and gardens, skirmishing and driving the enemy before them until they reach-

ed the corner of a two-story house at the corner of the Grand Plaza. Here they were joined by a regiment of Texans, and from the windows of this house they opened fire on the artillery and such other troops as were in view. But to get a better position for firing the principal building of the Grand Plaza, it was necessary to cross the street, which was swept by canister and grape, rattling on the pavement like hail; and as the street was very narrow it was determined to construct a flying barricade. Some long timbers were found, and with pack-saddles and boxes, which served the purpose, a barricade was formed.

Here occurred an incident to which I have since frequently referred with pride. In breaking open a quartermaster's store house to get supplies for this barricade, the men found bundles of the much-prized Mexican blankets, and also of very serviceable shoes and pack-saddles. The pack-saddles were freely taken as good material for the proposed barricade; and one of my men, as his shoes were broken and stones had hurt his feet, asked my permission to take a pair from one of the boxes. This, of course, was freely accorded; but not one of the very valuable and much-prized Mexican blankets was taken.

About the time that the flying barricade was completed, arrangements were made by the Texas and Missipians to occupy houses on the north side of the streets for the purpose of more effective fire into the Grand Plaza. It having been deemed necessary to increase our force, the Mississippi sergeant-major was sent back for some companies of the First Missipian, which had remained behind. He returned with the statement that the enemy was behind us, that all our troops had been withdrawn, and that orders had been three times sent me to return. Gov. Henderson, of Texas, had accompanied the Texas troops, and on submitting to him the message, he realized—as was very plain—that it was safer to remain where we were than—our supports having been withdrawn—to return across streets where we were liable to be fired on by artillery, and across open grounds, where cavalry might be expected to attack us. But, he added, he supported the orders came from the general-in-chief, and we were bound to obey them. So we made dispositions to retire quietly, but, in passing the first square we found that our movement had been anticipated and that a battery of artillery was posted to command the street. The arrangement made by me was that I should go first; if only one gun was fired at me, then another man should follow; and soon, another and another, until a volley should be fired, and then all of them should rush rapidly across before the guns could be reloaded. In this manner the men got across with little loss. We then made our way to the suburb, where we found that an officer of infantry, with two companies and a section of artillery, had been posted to wait for us, and in case of emergency to aid our retreat.

Early next morning Gen. Ampudia, commanding the Mexican force, sent in a flag and asked for a conference with a view to capitulation. Gen. Taylor acceded to the proposition and appointed Gen. Worth, Gov. Henderson and myself commissioners to arrange the terms of capitulation. Gen. Taylor received the city of Monterey, with supplies, much needed by his army, and shelter for the wounded. The enemy gained only the privilege of retiring peacefully, a privilege which, if it had not been accorded, they had the power to take by any one of the three roads open to them. The point beyond which they should withdraw was fixed by the terms of capitulation, and the time during which hostilities were to be suspended was determined by the length of time necessary to refer to and receive answers from the two Governments. A few days before the expiration of the time so fixed the Government of the United States disapproved of the capitulation and ordered the truce to be immediately terminated. By this decision we lost whatever credit had been gained to us for generous terms in the capitulation, and hostilities were to be resumed without any preparations having been made to enable Gen. Taylor, even with the small force he had, to advance further into the enemy's country. Gen. Taylor's letter to Mr. Marey, Secretary of War, was a very good response to an unjust criticism; and in the Washington Union of that time I like to publish a very full explanation of the acts of the commissioners and of the

military questions involved in the matter of communication in preference to continuing the siege and attack.

Gen. Taylor assuming that it was intended for him to advance into the interior of Mexico, then prepared himself for such a campaign. To this end he made requisition for the needful transportation, as well as ammunition, including among other supplies, large India-rubber bags in which to carry provisions for days, and which, being emptied before we reached the desert of sixty miles, would, by being filled with water, enable his troops and horses to cross those desert plains. These and other details had been entered into under the expectation that the capture of the treaty of Monterey meant a march into the interior of Mexico. Another thing required was a new battery of field pieces to take the place of the old Ringgold battery, which by long service had become honey-combed. When all arrangements were nearly completed, it was decided to send Gen. Scott, with discretionary powers, which enabled him to take nearly all the tried troops Gen. Taylor had, including even the engineer then employed in the construction of a fort, and the battery of now guns to replace the old ones, which were deemed no longer safe, but which, under the intrepid Capt. Bragg, afterwards did good service in the battle of Buena Vista.

Gen. Taylor, with the main body of his army, went to Victoria, and there made arrangements to send them all to report to Gen. Scott, at Vera Cruz, except the small force he considered entitled to an escort on his route back to Monterey through an unfriendly people. That escort consisted of a battery of light artillery, a squadron of dragoons, and the regiment of Missipian riflemen. With these he proceeded to Monterey and Saltillo to Agua Nueva, where he was joined by the division of Gen. Wool, who had made the campaign of Chihuahua.

Gen. Santa Anna, commanding the army of Mexico, was informed of the action which had been taken in stripping Gen. Taylor of his forces, and was also informed that he had at Saltillo only a handful of volunteers, which could be easily dispersed on the approach of an army. Thus assured, and with the prospect of recovering the country to the Rio Grande, Santa Anna advanced upon Agua Nueva.

Gen. Taylor retired to the Angostura Pass, in front of the Acienda of Buena Vista, and there made his dispositions to receive the anticipated attack. As sage as he was brave, his dispositions were made as well as the small forces at his command made it possible. After two days of bloody fighting Gen. Santa Anna retired before this little force, the greater part of which had never before been under fire.

The encounter with the enemy was very bloody. The Missipians lost many of their best men, for each of whom, however, they slew several of the enemy. For trained marksmen, they never touched the trigger without having an object through both sights, and they seldom fired without drawing blood. The infantry against whom the advance was made was driven back, but the cavalry then moved to get in the rear of the Missipians, and this involved the necessity of falling back to where the plain was narrow, so as to have a ravine on each flank.

In this position the second demonstration of the enemy's cavalry was received. They were repulsed and it was quiet in front of the Missipians until an aide came and called from the other side of the ravine, which he could not pass, that Gen. Taylor wanted support to come as soon as possible for the protection of the artillery on the right flank. The order was promptly obeyed at double-quick, although the distance must have been nearly a mile. They found the enemy moving in three lines upon the batteries of Capt. Braxton Dragg and the section of artillery commanded by George H. Thomas. The Missipians came up in line, their right flank opposite the first line of the advancing enemy, and at a very short range opened fire. All being sharpshooters, those towards the left of the line obliquely to the right and at close quarters and against three long lines very few shots could have passed. At the same time the guns of Bragg and were firing grape. The effect was decisive; the infantry and artillery of the enemy immediately retired.

At the close of the day Santa Anna bugled the retreat, as was supposed, to go into quarters, but when the next sun rose there was no enemy in our front.

The news of this victory was received in the United States with a degree of enthusiasm proportionate to the small means with which it was achieved; and generosity was excited by the feeling that Gen. Taylor had been treated with injustice. Thenceforward the march of "old Rough and Ready" to the White House was a foregone conclusion.

In this battle, while advancing to meet the enemy, then pressing some of our discomfited volunteers on the field of battle, I received a painful wound, which was rendered more severe in consequence of remaining in the saddle all day, although wounded early in the morning. A ball had passed through the foot, leaving in the wound broken bones and foreign matter, which the delay had made it impossible then to extract. In consequence I had to return home on crutches.

In the meantime a Senator of Mississippi had died and the Governor had appointed me his successor. Before my return home President Polk had also appointed me Brigadier-General of Volunteers, an appointment which I declined on the ground that volunteers are militia, and that the Constitution reserved to the States the appointment of all militia officers. This was in 1847. In January, 1848, the Mississippi Legislature unanimously elected me United States Senator for the rest of the unexpired term, and in 1850 I was re-elected for the full term as my own successor. In the United States Senate I was Chairman of the Military Committee, and I also took an active part in the debates on the Compromise measures of 1850, frequently opposing Senator Douglas, of Illinois, in his theory of squatter sovereignty, and advocating, as a means of pacification, the extension of the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific. When the question was presented to Mississippi as to whether the State should acquiesce in the compromise legislation of 1850 or whether it should join the other Southern States in a convention to decide as to the best course to pursue in view of the threatened usurpations of the Federal Government, I advocated a convention of the Southern States, with a view to such co-operation as might effectually check the exercise of the constructive powers, the parent of despotism, by the Federal Government.

The canvass for Governor commenced that year. The candidate of the Democratic party was by his opinions represented to hold extreme opinions—in other words, to be a disunionist. For, although he was a man of high character and had served the country well in peace and war, this supposition was so artfully cultivated that, though the Democratic party was estimated to be about eight thousand in majority, when the election occurred in September the Democratic candidates for a convention were defeated by a majority of over seven thousand, and the Democratic candidate for Governor withdrew.

The election for Governor was to occur in November, and I was called on to take the place vacated by the candidate who had withdrawn from the canvass. It was a forlorn hope, especially as my health had been impaired by labors in the Summer canvass, and there was not time before the approaching election to make such a canvass as would be needed to reform the ranks of the Democracy. However, as a duty to the party I accepted the position, and made as active a campaign as time permitted, with the result that the majority against the party was reduced to less than one hundred. From this time I remained engaged in quiet farm labors until the nomination of Franklin Pierce, when I went out to advocate his election, having formed a very high opinion of him as a statesman and a patriot, from observations of him in 1837 and 1838, when he was in the United States Senate.

On his election as President I became a member of his Cabinet, filling the office of Secretary of War during his entire term.

During these four years I proposed the introduction of camps for service on the Western plains, a suggestion which was adopted. I also introduced an improved system of infantry tactics; effected the substitution of iron for wood in gun-carriages; secured rifled muskets and rifles and the use of Minie balls, and advocated the increase of the defenses of the sea coast by heavy guns and the use of large grain-powder.

While in the Senate I had advocated, as a military necessity and as a means of preserving the Pacific Territory to the Union, the construction of a military railway across the continent; and, as Secre-

tary of War, I was put in charge of the surveys of the various routes proposed. Perhaps for a similar reason—my previous action in the Senate—I was also put in charge of the extension of the United States Capitol.

The administration of Mr. Pierce presents the single instance of an executive whose Cabinet witnessed no change of person during the whole term. At its close, having been re-elected to the United States Senate, I re-entered that body.

During the discussion of the Compromise measures of 1850 the refusal to extend the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific was early put on the ground that there was no constitutional authority to legislate slavery into or out of any territory, which was in fact and seeming intent a repudiation of the Missouri Compromise; and it was so treated in the Kansas-Nebraska bill.

Subsequently, Mr. Douglas, the advocate of what was called squatter-sovereignty, insisted upon the rights of the first immigrants into the territory to decide upon the question whether migrating citizens might take their slaves with them; which meant, if it meant anything, that Congress could authorize a few settlers to do what it was admitted Congress itself could not do. But out of this bill arose a discussion which finally divided the Democratic party, and caused its defeat in the Presidential election of 1860.

And from this empty, baseless theory grew the liad of our direct woes.

When Congress met, in the fall of 1860, I was appointed one of a Senate Committee of Thirteen to examine and report on some practical adjustment of the controversies which then threatened the dissolution of the Union. I at first asked to be excused from the Committee, but at the solicitation of friends agreed to serve, avowing my willingness to make any sacrifice to avert the impending struggle. The Committee consisted of men belonging to the three political divisions of the Senate: the States-rights men of the South, the Radicals of the North, and the Northern Democrats, with one member who did not acknowledge himself as belonging to any one of the three divisions—Mr. Crittenden, an old-time Whig, and the original mover of the Compromise Resolutions. When the Committee met it was agreed that, unless some measure which would receive the support of the majority of each of the three divisions could be devised, it was useless to make any report; and, after many days of anxious discussion and a multiplicity of propositions, through the Southern States rights men and the Northern Democrats, could frequently agree, they could never get a majority of the Northern Radicals to unite with them in any substantive proposition. Finally, the Committee reported their failure to find anything on which the divisions could unite. Mr. Douglas, who was a member of the Committee, defiantly challenged the Northern Radicals to tell what they wanted. As they had refused everything, he claimed that they ought to be willing to tell what they proposed to do.

When officially informed that Mississippi had passed the ordinance of secession, I took formal leave of the Senate, announcing for the last time the opinions I had so often expressed as to the State sovereignty, and, as a consequence of it, the right of a State to withdraw its delegated powers. Before I reached home I had been appointed by the Convention of Mississippi commander-in-chief of its army, with the rank of Major-General, and I at once proceeded with the task of organization. I went to my home in Warren county in order to prepare for what I believed was to be a long and severe struggle. Soon a messenger came from the Provisional Confederate Congress at Montgomery, bringing the unwelcome notice that I had been elected Provisional President of the Confederate States. But, reluctant as I was to accept the honor, and carefully as I had tried to prevent the probability of it, in the circumstances of the country I could not refuse it; and I was inaugurated at Montgomery, Feb. 18, 1861, with Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia, as Vice-President.

From this time to the fall of the Confederate Government—my life was part of the history of the Confederacy and of the war between the States. It is impossible, therefore, to follow it in detail.

In the selection of a Cabinet I was relieved from a difficulty which surrounds that duty by the President of the United States; for there were no "sections" and no "party" distinctions. All aspirations, ambitions and interests had been merged

in a great desire for Confederate independence.

In my inaugural address I asserted that necessity, not choice, had led to the secession of the Southern States; that, as an agricultural people, their policy was peace and free commerce with all the world; that the constituent parts, not the system of government, had been changed.

The removal of troops from Fortress Moultrie to Fort Sumter, the guns of which threatened the harbor of Charleston, and the attempt to throw reinforcements into that fort—thus doubly breaking a pledge that matters should be kept in statu quo—constituted the occasion as well as the justification of the opening of fire upon Fort Sumter. Speedily following this event came the call for a large army by Mr. Lincoln and the secession of other Southern States as the consequence of this unmistakable purpose of coercion.

Virginia, which had led in the effort by a Peace Conference, to avert National ruin, when she saw the Constitution disregarded and the purpose to compel free States by military force to submit to arbitrary power, passed an Ordinance of Secession, and joined the Confederate States.

Shortly after this as authorized by the Provisional Congress, I removed the Confederate capital from Montgomery to Richmond.

Among the many indications of good will shown on my way to and after my arrival at Richmond was the purchase of a very fine residence in Richmond, by leading citizens. It was offered as a present; but, following a rule that had governed my action in all such cases, I declined to accept it. I continued to live in Richmond until the Confederate forces were compelled to withdraw from the defenses of the capital.

That event was not quite unexpected, but it occurred before the conditions were fulfilled under which Gen. Lee contemplated retreat. After Gen. Lee was forced to surrender and Gen. Johnson consented to do so, I started, with a very few of the men who volunteered to accompany me, for the trans-Mississippi; but hearing on the road that marauders were pursuing my family, whom I had not seen since they left Richmond, but knew to be en route to the Florida coast, I changed my direction, and, after a long and hard ride found them encamped and threatened by a robbing party. To give them the needed protection I travelled with them for several days, until in the neighborhood of Irvinville, Ga., when I supposed I could safely leave them. But, hearing, about midnight, that a party of marauders were to attack the camp that night and supposing them to be pillaging deserters from both armies and that the Confederates would listen to me I awaited their coming, lay down in my travelling clothes and fell asleep. Late in the night my colored coachman aroused me with the intelligence that the camp was attacked, and I stepped out of the tent where my wife and children were sleeping, and saw at once that the assailants were troops deploying around the encampment. I so informed my wife, who urged me to escape. After some hesitation I consented, and a servant woman started with me carrying a bucket as if going to the spring for water. One of the surrounding troops ordered me to halt and demanded my surrender. I advanced towards the trooper, throwing off a shawl which my wife had put over my shoulders. The trooper aimed his carbine, when my wife, who witnessed the act, rushed forward and threw her arms around me, thus defeating my intention, which was, if the trooper missed his aim, to try to unhorse him and escape with his horse. Then, with every species of petty pillage and offensive exhibition, I was taken from point to point until incarcerated in Fortress Monroe. There I was imprisoned for two years before being allowed the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

*For a fuller account of my arrest see statements of United States Senator Reagan; W. R. Johnston, President Tulane University; F. R. Lubrock, Treasurer of Texas; B. N. Harrison, Esq., of New York City, all eyewitnesses.

At length, when the writ was to be issued, the condition was imposed by the Federal Executive that there should be bondsmen influential in the "Republican" party of the North, Mr. Greeley being specially named. Entirely as a matter of justice and legal right, not from motives of personal regard, Mr. Greeley, Mr. Gerrit Smith and other eminent Northern citizens went on my bond.

In May, 1867, after being released from Fortress Monroe, I went to Canada, where my older children

were, with their grandmother; my wife, as soon as permitted, having shared my imprisonment, and brought our infant daughter with her. From time to time I obeyed summonses to go before the Federal Court at Richmond, until, finally, the case was heard by Chief-Justice Chase and District Judge Underwood, who were divided in opinion, which sent the case to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the proceedings were quashed, leaving me without the opportunity to vindicate myself before the highest Federal Court.

After about a year's residence in Canada I went to England with my family under an arrangement that I was to have sixty days' notice whenever the United States Court required my presence. After being abroad in England and on the Continent about a year I received an offer of an appointment as President of a life insurance company. Thereupon I returned to this country and went to Memphis and took charge of the Company. Subsequently I came to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, as a quiet place where I could prepare my work on "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government." A friend from her infancy, Mrs. Dorsey shared her home with me, and subsequently sold to me her property of Beauvoir, an estate of five or six hundred acres about midway between Mobile and New Orleans. Before I had fully paid for this estate Mrs. Dorsey died leaving me her sole legatee. From the Spring of 1876 to the Autumn of 1879 I devoted myself to the production of the historical work just mentioned. It is an octavo book in two volumes of about seven hundred pages each. I have also from time to time contributed essays to the *North American Review* and *Belford's Magazine*, and have just completed the manuscript of "A Short History of the Confederate States of America," which is expected to appear early in 1880.

Since settling at Beauvoir I have persistently refused to take any active part in politics, not merely because of my disfranchisement, but from a belief that such labors could not be made to conduce to the public good, owing to the sectional hostilities manifested against me since the war. For the same reason I have also refused to be a candidate for public office, although it is well known that I could at any time have been re-elected a Senator of the United States.

I have been twice married, the second time being in 1844, to a daughter of Wm. B. Howell, Natchez a son of Gov. Howell, of New Jersey. She has borne me six children—four sons and two daughters. My sons are all dead; my daughters survive. The elder is Mrs. Hayes, of Colorado Springs, Col., and the mother of four children. My youngest daughter lives with us at Beauvoir, Miss. Born in the last year of the war, she became familiarly known as "the daughter of the Confederacy." JEFFERSON DAVIS. Beauvoir, Miss. November, 1880.

*The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government," page 700, vol. II, and for my life at Fortress Monroe, "The Prison Life of Jefferson Davis," by Dr. L. J. J. Craven. New York: Carleton, 1868.

GENERAL NEWS.

It is estimated that there have been 300,000 divorces in the United States in twenty years.

At a meeting of the German railroad society at Berlin, Prof. Geering said that Germany ought to adopt the American system of railway cars, which makes reading and writing possible. He denounced the present German style of traveling as torture.

Postmaster Van Cott is endeavoring to establish the system of collecting the mails in New York City, by carts.

In the Virginia House of Delegates a bill has been introduced providing for the punishment of petty larceny by the infliction of stripes. The bill proposes that the stripes shall not exceed twenty in any one day, and not over twenty-nine, the limit under the old ante-bellum regime. The whipping post existed in Virginia as far back as about 1370, and flogging was restored to as a punishment for petty thefts. The criminal records show that the great majority of these offenders are negroes. The commitment to jail and other penal institutions of this class of offenders is not regarded by them as any great punishment. When Mahone came into power one of the first measures he advocated was the repeal of the law authorizing corporal punishment. It is this law that Mr. Downing proposes to revive.