

The Christian Sun.

IN ESSENTIALS—UNITY, IN NON-ESSENTIALS—LIBERTY, IN ALL THINGS—CHARITY.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT.

ROBERT E. LEE.

Last Saturday, January 19th, was observed throughout the South, and in many other quarters, as the 100th anniversary of Robt. E. Lee's birth. No man under defeat ever bore himself more admirably, and no man of a "lost cause" has grown to greater fame and popularity than Gen. Lee. He was born of a family of soldiers, his father being "Light Horse Harry" Lee, the distinguished cavalry leader of the American Revolution. Westmoreland County, Va., was his native place, though he moved with his father to Alexandria, Va., early in life. Gen. Andrew Jackson, "Old Hickory," secured his appointment to West Point in 1825, from which Lee graduated with distinction, and second in his class, in 1829. Two years later he married Mary Randolph Custis, the granddaughter of Martha Washington. He so distinguished himself in the Mexican War that he was brevetted colonel, and in 1852 was made superintendent at West Point, that school of great soldiers, and during his three years tenure there greatly improved the discipline, lengthening the course of study to five years.

When the clouds of war were lowering over the South he returned to his home in Virginia March 1, 1861. On April 18th following, Frank P. Blair, on behalf of President Lincoln, visited Lee's home and offered him the command of the army of the United States. Lee wrote later: "I declined the offer to command, stating that though opposed to secession and deprecating war, I could take no part in an invasion of the Southern States." April 20th he resigned as officer in the U. S. army and three days later took command of the military forces of Virginia. This was the beginning of the greatest military character and career our country has produced. Lee was soon at the head of the Confederate army and remained its commander-in-chief till his surrender to Gen. U. S. Grant at Appomattox April 9, 1865. Never were soldiers more devoted to a commander than were those who followed and fought with Robt. E. Lee. He was brave, yet merciful, daring, but wise, strong-hearted, but amiable, in truth a royal personage in citizen's and in soldier's garb. No man ever doubted his courage, yet no one ever called him cruel. More than all he was a Christian soldier who fought as boldly under the banner of the Cross as he was brave under the colors of his country. In June, 1865, Lee retired to a quiet country place, but was called in October to the presidency of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va. He served in this capacity most honorably and successfully for five years, greatly enlarging and improving the institution in every way. He died October 12, 1870.

The heat and passion of the war having passed, Lee comes more and more to be recognized as one of the world's greatest military heroes and geniuses. His campaigns and war record are studied in Europe and on the Continent, as well as in our own country, and by the highest authorities his conduct in the field and with soldiers is without reproach and takes rank with the greatest and best. Thousands honored his name and memory last Saturday, a name and memory which coming ages will not forget, but magnify. Though by fate not on the winning side he developed a character, and made for himself a name, that honorable men of all ages will esteem, and that the world will not forget or let perish.

SPEAKER CANNON AND TEMPERANCE.

If matters are as they are reported from Washington, Speaker Cannon, of the House of Representatives, is making a sorry spectacle of himself in the high office he fills in the eyes of people everywhere who love decency and fair play. There was a vacancy last week to be filled on the House Judiciary Committee. By courtesy, and in course, the minority leader on the floor was to recommend, and Speaker Cannon to appoint a man

to fill the vacancy. The minority leader recommended Mr. Yates Webb, a man who was known to favor temperance, from North Carolina. This recommendation the Speaker ignored, and though appointing a man of Mr. Webb's political faith, went to a whiskey district in Kentucky to get him. The appointee was not a candidate for the position, received his nomination in surprise, and, be it said to his credit, respectfully declined it. The significance of all this lies in the fact that this Judiciary Committee handles the liquor and temperance question in Congress, and the Speaker declined to appoint a man favoring temperance and named one from a district where the liquor interests dominate. This is all the more deplorable since it is known that the Hepburn-Dolliver bill is to come before this committee and Congress at this session. This Hepburn-Dolliver bill provides that liquor shall not be shipped from one State into the prohibition district of another State. For instance, if North Carolina were to vote prohibition for the entire State, under existing laws, dealers in Virginia or South Carolina could still ship into this State all the liquor ordered and the authorities would be helpless, since one State cannot control sales and shipments from another. The Hepburn-Dolliver bill now pending is to prevent this, and provides that when a State or district votes prohibition it shall have prohibition, and not be imposed upon by another State or district. This seems a just and equitable measure, but reports are that Speaker Cannon opposes it, and has begun, as above indicated, to throw every possible obstruction in the way of its enactment. It is a sorry spectacle and one to be deplored by temperance people everywhere.

PROSPERITY AND A HOME.

From statistics, and the volume of business everywhere, it is well known that our country has never seen a more prosperous time than ours. Work is plentiful and wages are high. The one who is idle now, unless from disease or infirmity, is idle by choice. Everyone who wants work can get it, and at more than a living wage. These are facts well known by all. And here is another, equally patent: such prosperous times, such profits and such wages, cannot last a life time. Put these simple facts together and this conclusion comes to mind with emphasis: Now is the time for the man and the family without a home to buy one, and by earnings and savings to own it. It is difficult even for "hard times" to down and deprive the man who owns his home and some land about it. When "hard times" come it is the man without land and a home who suffers first and suffers most. The man who works and saves can provide him a home in such times as these. And he who is wise will make the effort. We append this word and plea from *The Talisman*:

"Now is the day of opportunity for the American wage-earner. Never in history did the average workman have so much money to spend as now. If he is only wise, he will use his surplus in buying a bit of land with a house on it. Then, when hard times come, and employment fails, he will find that he has 'taken a hostage from Fortune,' and that with the aid of the products of his land he can live, even if he can put in only half time or less at the shop."

LEE, MAN AND SOLDIER.

General Lee as often rode out to consult with his subordinates as he sent for them to come to him. The sight of him upon the roadside, or in the trenches, was as common as that of any subordinate in the army. When he approached or disappeared, it was with no blare of trumpets or clank of equipments. Mounted upon his historic war-horse "Traveler," he ambled quietly about, keeping his eye upon everything pertaining to the care and defense of his army. "Traveler" was no pedigreed, wide-nostriated, gazelle-eyed thorough-bred. He was a close-coupled, round-

barreled, healthy, comfortable, gentleman's saddle-horse. Gray, with black points, he was sound in eye, wind, and limb, without strain, sprain, spavin, or secretion of any sort; ready to go, and able to stay; and yet without a single fancy trick, or the pretentious bearing of the typical charger. He was a horse bought by General Lee during his West Virginia campaign.

When General Lee rode up to our headquarters, or elsewhere, he came as unostentatiously as if he had been the head of a plantation, riding over his fields to inquire and give directions about plowing or seeding. He appeared to have no mighty secrets concealed from his subordinates. He assumed no air of superior authority. He repelled no kindly inquiries, and was capable of jocular remarks. He did not hold himself aloof in solitary grandeur. His bearing was that of a friend having a common interest in a common venture with the person addressed, and as if he assumed that his subordinate was as deeply concerned as himself in its success. Whatever greatness was accorded to him was not of his own seeking. He was less of an actor than any man I ever saw. But the impression which that man made by his presence, and by his leadership, upon all who came in contact with him, can be described by no other term than that of grandeur. When I have stood at evenings, and watched the great clouds banked in the west, and tinged by evening sunlight; when, on the Western plains, I have looked at the peaks of the Rocky Mountains outlined against the sky; when, in mid-ocean, I have seen the limitless waters encircling us, unbounded save by the infinite horizon,—the grandeur, the vastness of these have invariably suggested thoughts of General Robert E. Lee.

Of General Lee's military greatness, absolute or relative, I shall not speak; of his moral greatness I need not. The former, in view of the conditions with which he was hampered, must leave a great deal to speculation and conjecture; the latter is acknowledged by all the world. The man who could so stamp his impress upon his nation, rendering all others insignificant beside him, and yet die without an enemy; the soldier who could make love for his person a substitute for pay and clothing and food, and could, by the constraint of that love, hold together a naked, starving band, and transform it into a fighting army; the heart which, after the failure of its great endeavor, could break in silence, and die without the utterance of one word of bitterness,—such a man, such a soldier, such a heart, must have been great indeed,—great beyond the power of eulogy.—John S. Wise in "The End of an Era."

OUR PUBLICATIONS.

By Rev. D. E. Millard, D. D.

In a recent speech, President Roosevelt said: "I cannot understand any American citizen who has the faintest feeling of patriotism and devotion to his country failing to appreciate the absolute need of religion in its broadest sense to the welfare of the community. If it were not for men whose work is not for things of the body, but for the welfare of the soul, it would not be a nation to-day, because this nation would not be a fit abode for civilized man."

Nor can I understand any Christian who has the faintest feeling of love to Christ and his cause failing to appreciate the absolute need of religious publications and of giving them proper support as a means—and very essential means—of spreading the gospel and of upholding every good and righteous cause.

What we understand by a publication is a work printed and published: any paper, pamphlet or book offered for sale, or to public notice. And so the phrase "our publication" includes all the papers, books, pamphlets, magazines and tracts issued by our people in the interest of our church or denomination. The power of the pulpit has often been extolled, but to-day the press is paramount in moulding public sentiment.

Think of the vast amount of matter—good, bad and indifferent—sent out by the secular press daily throughout the civilized world.

Then think of the millions of publications issued by the religious press in the interest of truth and righteousness, and try to estimate, if possible, the mighty work it has already accomplished, and foretell, if you can, the greater results yet to be attained.

Less than ninety years ago the American Bible Society was formed, and during its eighty-nine years of life it has printed in 100 languages 76,272,770 copies of the sacred Book, thus sending the light of divine truth into the dark lands of earth and laying the foundation for the final triumph of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world.

Nearly an hundred years ago Elias Smith issued the first number of the first strictly religious newspaper in America. To-day every religious denomination has its religious papers, as well as other publications—for the dissemination of its principles and to keep the people informed of the work being done. No denomination can afford to be without such publications in these days of light and knowledge. And yet, how continuously do we have to urge the duty of supporting these papers upon our members. And what a small proportion of our church people are regular subscribers to any of them!

The paper established by Elias Smith is our own good old Herald of Gospel Liberty—the pioneer of the religious papers of the world. This, aside from the real value of the paper itself, should not only be a source of pride, but an incentive for the friends of our cause to patronize it and to aid in giving it a circulation that will greatly increase its usefulness. Besides the Herald we have the Christian Sun, the Christian Vanguard, and the Christian Missionary, all of which merit a far more extended circulation than they have to-day. Our Sunday-school literature equals the best, and yet to our shame, many of our Sunday-schools are taking other publications—by no means adapted to the wants of our people—simply because they are a few cents cheaper.—Many good books and other publications are lying idle on the shelves of our publishing house at Dayton, Ohio, for the lack of buyers. They ought to be scattered abroad and made to do a sort of missionary work in the world.

But what I wish to urge most strenuously to-day is the duty of patronizing our religious papers. Few people will feel that they can take all of them. But one of them, at least, should be in every home of our membership—as should also the Christian Missionary—one of the best monthlies extant of its kind, and without which we cannot be fully informed of what we are doing in the mission field.

One well asks: "Who can be intelligent in these days without reading?" What true Christian can limit his reading to the daily paper, with its greedy pandering to every low association that will yield a dollar, with its street-sweeper reporters gathering the news of the filth of all reckless misrepresentation of good men and the causes and principles for which they stand? The daily must be endured, but we must have in the Christian homes Christian journals which are clean, bright, newsy and entertaining. Such journals we have. Do I address any here to-day to whose homes they do not make their weekly visits? If so, let me tell you what one such journal will bring to you as it comes regularly fifty-two times in a year: It will bring tidings and messages from the good men of the church and you will absorb some of their spirit; it will bring news of what other churches are doing and inspire you to do more; it will give you strong heart for the hour of adversity. It will give salutary advice to the young. To the sorrowing it will bring the balm of Christian consolation. To the aged and departing saint it will give supporting strength and visions of future reward. Therefore, I say to you—take some one of our religious journals. Do what you can to promote the circulation of our church literature and especially our church papers, for he who promotes the circulation of his church paper in the field it occupies, proves the sincerity of his belief and renders that belief an excellent service.—In Herald of Gospel Liberty.