

The Abbeville Banner

"LIBERTY AND MY NATIVE SOIL."

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(WRITTEN FOR THE ABBEVILLE BANNER.)

TO THE MEMORY OF

Lieutenant J. B. Moragne,
Who fell 13th September, 1847.

He hath passed away from his childhood's
And from that groupe of love [home
Which clustered 'round the parent hearth
Ere any chance to rove—
Those scattered ones may come again
To the place they loved of yore;
But mournful will that meeting be;—
He'll meet with them no more!

He hath passed away from the joyous throng
From the circles of the gay;—
No eye than his more brightly beamed
In the place of revelry.
They'll meet again—those friends he lov'd,
And wear the smiles he wore;
But when they join in dance and song
He'll join with them no more.

He hath passed away from the martial host,
From his place among the brave—
Their ranks are thin, their leader's list,
And yet their banners wave;—
His own will mingle with the bands
That rush to meet the foe,
But when they march to file and drum,
He'll march with them no more!

No more—no more; for silent now
The voice they once obeyed;
And sadly on his pale cold brow
His dark brown locks are laid;
So beautiful—so much like life—
Yet mournful tokens tell
That in the battle's fiercest strife
And deadliest front he fell.

He fell!—and there are some who say
'Tis glorious thus to die,
When the gallant blood is mounting high
In the clasp of victory;—
But dearer far to me, than all
The deeds of noblest birth
Is the gem that in his heart was worn—
The gem of modest worth.

They tell me—by the couch of pain
He lingered long and kind,
And that his tear-drops fell like rain
The broken heart to bind.
They tell me—that on comrades' weal
His warmest thoughts were lent,
And that to soothe a soldier's woe
His little all was spent.*

Oh! breathe no more the bitter boast
Of walls and trenches gained;—
So fondly loved—so early lost—
He lies among the slain!
And many a comrade brave and true
Lies coldly by his side!
Ah glory! pale'st thou not, that day
Thy noblest victims died!

Build high—build high of marble dust
For the stern unflinching great,
Whose iron steps have left no trace
Of the heart's first tender weight—
He needs it not:—within the Halls
Where his early footsteps moved,
His monument is reared, and 'tis
A Monument of Love!

*When about leaving Jalapa, he spent the last dollar that he had—though he knew it would be long before he could obtain any more—to procure some comforts for the dying Gillespie.

From the Charleston Courier.

EPICRAM

On the Expected Arrival of General Shields.

When Sparta's youth athirst for fame,
Went forth to battle-fields,
"With them—or on them!" cried the dame,
And pointed to their Shields.

In prowess of the Palmetto State
To Sparta nothing yields;
Fair dames, in conquest we're elate;
Now welcome back our SHIELDS!

A SURVIVING PALMETTO.

JUVENILE DISOBEDIENCE.—"William, clean your nose, son, that's mother's good boy."
"I'm blow'n if I do, ma,"

From the N. O. Delta.
GEN. JAMES SHIELDS, U. S. A.

A friend of Gen. Shields has furnished us for publication a short sketch of his life and history, the principal incidents of which are taken from the Portrait Gallery of the New York Weekly News, of the year 1845, and are embodied in this notice. We take great pleasure in laying before our readers at this time, the history of a man whose public career has been marked with so much honor to himself and usefulness to his adopted country, and whose recent brilliant military exploits as leader of one of the most desperate charges at the battle of Cerro Gordo, in which he received a dreadful wound, have made him an object of general interest throughout the Union, and enlisted a deep and prevailing sympathy in the hearts of his fellow citizens on account of his wound, and the probability of his almost miraculous recovery.

GENERAL SHIELDS.

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF HIM.

General Shields was born in Ireland, but came to this country at a very early age. Having enjoyed the advantages of a finished education, he determined on the great West as the scene of his future usefulness and labor, and took up his residence at Kaskaskia, in the State of Illinois, about the year 1834, and entered upon the practice of law. His great and varied attainments soon met their just reward at the hands of the generous people among whom he had cast his lot, and he quickly rose to an eminence in his profession. He also took an active part in the politics of the State, became a distinguished leader in the democratic ranks, and was called to fill several high offices by his fellow-citizens. He first served in the Legislature, where he gained great reputation by his talents and industry. He afterwards filled the office of Auditor, in which station he contributed by a succession of very many vigorous measures to place the bank in a State of liquidation, and reformed the deranged finances of the State. In the year 1845, General Shields was appointed Commissioner of the General Land Office by the President, the duties of which he continued with great zeal and ability to perform until the summer of 1846, when he was appointed Brigadier General in the army of the United States, and which position he now occupies. A career so full of success for so young a man is remarkable.

But it is the result of rare abilities, cultivated by unwearied application. From his earliest youth, General Shields has been an untiring student, endeavoring to qualify himself worthily to fill the most elevated stations. His scholastic attainments are of the highest character. Well versed in the classics and the great writers of antiquity, he is also master of several modern languages.

Amid the labors of his professional pursuits and the turmoil of politics, the studies of his earlier years have not been forgotten; but when time and opportunity have offered he has turned aside to cultivate his taste for letters.

As an advocate, his standing at the bar was of the first class, and his practice when he was called to the bench was among the most extensive and lucrative in the State. With a brilliant imagination, and great command of language, he combines an intimate acquaintance with the learning of the law and the principles on which it rests. He had fully appreciated, in his researches into the ancient authorities of his profession, the remark of Coke: "That the reason of the law; for though a man can tell the law, yet if he know not the reason thereof, he shall soon forget his superficial knowledge." To these essential qualifications of a lawyer are added a gracefulness and ease of elocution vouchsafed to but few.

In 1843, General Shields was elevated to the bench of the Supreme Court of his State. Here his previous habits of thought and study made him completely at home. He brought to the discharge of his duties all the requisites—knowledge and love of the law, judgement, integrity, and evenness of temper. No Judge ever felt his responsibility more deeply, and that it was his duty to weigh his decisions calmly and deliberately as they were not only to determine the cause before him, but to form a rule for the future. Hence, both in the Circuit Court and the Court of Errors, all his judgements were well considered, and such as are reported are distinguished for their precision and their singular application to the points in issue. His best praise as a Judge was, that he had the confidence of his brethren of the bench and the bar, and the people of his State.

This brief review of the life of General Shields as a civilian has been deemed proper to the introduction of a short notice of his recent military career. The State of Illinois, in which General Shields claims, and

has exceeded citizenship for the last fifteen years, was, with the commendable patriotism, amongst the foremost to tender to the President four regiments of volunteers for the service of his country, and it was while on a visit to his homestead in Illinois, in 1846, that he was tendered by the President, a commission of Brigadier General in the United States Army. General Shields accepted his commission, and resigning an office of high and important trust at Washington, immediately engaged in the duties of his new profession, and superintending the embarkation of the Illinois Brigade, then in an advance state of forwardness, he proceeded to the Rio Grande. Upon his arrival at Camargo, he was ordered to join General Wool's command, then en route from San Antonio to Chihuahua. He started immediately, and with no escort but his aid and servants he traversed nearly two hundred miles of the enemy's country, sleeping at Mexican villages and ranches, and passing through bands of hostile Indians, not only unmolested, but treated with the respect of an American officer of high rank.

Upon reaching the encampment of General Wool, he was ordered to take command of the advanced column. It was on this march to Monclovia that Gen. Shields first demonstrated those high qualities of a soldier, which has since endeared him to the whole army. With an indomitable energy, he pushed forward his column, scaling mountains and fording rivers, himself always in the advance, and by his personal example, teaching the citizen-soldier under his command that by perseverance and determination all obstacles may be surmounted. When General Wool's command joined General Taylor at Saltillo, he was ordered by General Taylor to report himself to General Scott, and was then placed in command of the Illinois Brigade, intended for operations against Tampico and Vera Cruz. After the capture of Tampico, General Shields became Military Governor, and by wise and firm government of the people, and strict discipline forced among the troops, he soon bro't good order out of confusion and anarchy, and Tampico became one of the best police cities in the world. It was here that he had an opportunity of blending and exercising his rare qualities as a civilian and General and the best comment of both are to be found in the admirable results, which in a short time he produced, and the high character which, as a man of probity and talent he then earned for himself, and the kindness and regard with which his services are still acknowledged in Tampico.

At the siege and capture of Vera Cruz, General Shields exercised his usual activity and energy of character, and among other distinguished officers, earned and received his share of distinction.

It was, however, at the storming of the heights of Cerro Gordo that Gen. Shields won his brightest military laurels, at the expense of a terrible wound, of which he is now lying in a precarious state at Jalapa, the object of the deep sympathy and prayerful hopes of the nation.

General Shields was shot in the early part of the action, while leading the 4th Illinois Regiment in a charge upon a six gun battery, supported by a large body of Mexican lancers and infantry. This battery was the extreme right work of the enemy, and the head quarters of Santa Anna, as well as the depot of all their stores, officers' baggage, &c. The ball, (which was either grape or canister) entered the right breast, about one inch and a half or two inches below the nipple, passed through the right lobe of the lungs and out at the back, without, however, doing any injury to the spine. He was at once borne from the field by his friend and Aid-de-Camp, Maj. Davis, and carried two miles before medical aid could be obtained. His wound was at length examined and dressed; but the physician expressed the conviction that he must die. He was subsequently removed to Jalapa, where he still remains, and strong hopes are now entertained of his recovery. The circumstances under which General Shields received his wound speak in his praise a language more emphatic than any which can now be used. The battery is at least one mile beyond the pass of the Cerro Gordo. To reach it, he had to lead his command over three miles through the densest chapparal, without even the guide of a footpath. He was on foot at the head of his troops, and had almost reached the goal of victory, through a terrific fire of grape, canister and musketry, when he fell.

His command immediately entered the enemy's works, and drove the enemy before them in a general route. With the battery, was also captured a large amount of public stores, some twenty thousand dollars in specie and 200 pack mules. The Mexican officers state that the appearance of General Shields' command, so far beyond the pass, and immediately in front of Gen. Santa Anna's Head-quarters, produced great consternation in their ranks, and did much to induce an early surrender.

Gen. Shields having been borne from the field of battle, the command was assumed by Col. Baker, as brave an officer as ever wore a sword. At the head of his victorious troops, the Colonel charged the enemy, who fled in the utmost confusion, closely followed by the victors. In this pursuit, Santa Anna himself was chased so closely as to be compelled to abandon his carriage and to mount on one of the mules which drew it; in this inglorious manner he effected his escape.

Gen. Shields is at this time about forty years of age. His intellect and its triumphs have already been sufficiently considered. Of a frank bearing, a disposition kind and friendly, a character pure and spotless, his heart is full to overflowing with every manly and generous emotion.

In this land, a man thus constituted cannot fail of triumphing in the end over every obstacle to a laudable ambition, and of winning a name, such as that now enjoyed by Gen. Shields. Long may he live to add to the reputation he has already acquired, and to earn further claims upon the affections and gratitude of his country.—The memory of services will adorn the remainder of his days, and embalm his fame when dead.

In closing this notice of Gen. Shields, it is deemed appropriate to pay a passing tribute to his gallant and faithful friend and Aid-de-Camp, Maj. Geo. T. M. Davis, to whose kind attentions, unremitting care assiduous nursing, Gen. Shields, if he survives, will in a great measure, under the blessing of God, owe the preservation of his valuable life.

Maj. Davis, upon his return to Illinois, will receive, as he deserves, the gratitude of the people of that patriotic State, a reward, to him of all others, the most acceptable.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 4, 1847.

To Maj. B. Blocker, Edgefield, S. C.

My Dear Sir,—The sequel will fully explain the object of this communication.

I am just in receipt of a letter from my son,* George S. James, dated National Palace, Mexico, Oct. 24, 1847.

You have, ere this, received intelligence of the fall of your son, Sergeant Blocker, of the Palmetto Regiment.

To the patriot father, it cannot fail to be a source of consolation to know that he fell at the head of his company, nobly and gallantly striking for the rights and honor of his country: While to the Christian parent doubly consoling must be the fact, and beautifully sublime the emotions which arise from the reflection, that although bleeding and dying on the battle field in a foreign land, amid the cannon's roar and the clash of arms, many of his last and cherished thoughts were turned towards his Bible and his Mother. To the following extracts, please allow me to direct your attention:

"Five of the Edgefield Company fell together at this time. Among them was 1st Sergeant Blocker, who was then in command of the Company. * * * * *

"I carried Blocker and Goode some water, where they were lying mortally wounded. Both seemed conscious that death was at hand, and waited the event with Christian fortitude. Not a whisper of complaint escaped their lips. Blocker told me he would die in a few hours, and gave me a Bible (a present from his mother) to give to sergeant Brooks, who would carry it home to her. He also requested me if I should ever return to South Carolina, to tell his father 'I died in command of my company with my companions; tell him I did my duty. If you should see any of Serg't Blocker's friends, you will please re-state the circumstances of his death. It will be a consolation to them. It is due to the memory of so brave a man. Sergeant Blocker and Corporal Goode died that night.—All loved them. Their sad fate is universally lamented."

The gallant Sergeant Brooks has also fallen in the same campaign, and cannot therefore perform the above pleasing but melancholy service requested of him.—Should my son's life be spared, I am sure he will scrupulously observe the sacred charge committed to him.

Your ob't servant, JOHN S. JAMES.

*A member of the Junior Class at Erskine College, in Abbeville when he volunteered.

Melt a little isinglass in spirits of wine, adding thereto about a fifth part of water, and using a gentle heat; when perfectly melted and mixed it will form a transparent glue, which will unite glass so fast that the fracture will be hardly perceived.

TOBACCO IN THE ARMY.—An army correspondent, writing from San Angel, says: "I have ceased to use American manufactured tobacco, as our sutler wants four dollars a pound for his stock. The same quality might be purchased for twenty cents a pound in the States."

To the Stockholders of the Greenville & Columbia RAIL ROAD.

The failure, as I anticipated, to obtain Legislative aid for this great work, makes it necessary to enquire what is to be done. There is but one answer—"Go ahead, and do all which can be done." By so doing, public confidence will be secured, and the road ultimately builded. My continuance, for a day, as President, depends upon this.—Whenever the work is ordered to stop, I shall cease to be the head of this great enterprise. I have already more to do than I ought to have. Nothing ever induced my acceptance of the Presidency of your Road, without money and without price, but the hope that by so doing, I might contribute something to the good of my country.—Nothing induced me to remain after the location of the Road at Newberry, but the fact manifested to my own mind, and that of all my friends, that my retirement must greatly retard, and possibly prevent the building of the Road. Under these circumstances, and after receiving the assurance that the work should go on, I have consented to remain and on the work will go. Sixteen miles east of the Broad River, will be put under contract as soon as the survey of location is completed. The whole line of the Road will be put under contract to be graded as soon as the surveys of location be completed, if the Stockholders will take the contracts. They are entitled by the charter to work out half of their stock on the Road. It is hoped that even small stockholders will arrange themselves into companies so as to take sections, and thus have the benefit intended by the charter. The whole subscription, as it now stands, and available to us, will not exceed six hundred thousand dollars. This is not one-third of the cost of the enterprise. Still with that sum, if stockholders will take the contracts, we can grade the entire Road, and complete thirty or forty miles. This done, we can mortgage the Road, and finish as much more. When this is doing, can it be that our fellow-citizens of Charleston, Columbia, Richland, Fairfield, Newberry, Abbeville, Laurens, Anderson, Pickens, and last and not least, Greenville, will stand by and not help more, much more than they have done? Let every man come to the rescue, do as I have done, sacrifice previous predilections on the altar of the common good, and then we can build the Road, whether the Legislature will or will not help us? Let us help ourselves.

JOHN BELTON O'NEAL,
President of the G. & C. R. R.
Columbia, Dec. 20, 1847.

A NEW Methodist Church was recently dedicated at Watertown, Massachusetts. The vane which surmounts the spire of the Church was presented by the Unitarian Society, and is an interesting historical relic, being the identical one which graced the spire of the building in which the first Continental Congress was held.

THE whole of the President's Message, containing about 18,000 words, was telegraphed to Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Louisville and Vincennes, Indiana.

LONG NOSES.—A Boston editor, alluding to the long noses of Julius Cæsar, the Duke of Wellington, John Tyler, and other dignitaries, says that he recently saw a nose that beat them all. It was thin and straight, snubbed at the end, and all of a foot long. In concluding, however, it occurs to him that "it may be as well to state that it belonged to a pair of bellows."

FROM the 6th to the 16th of November, inclusive, there have been gazetted in England 116 bankrupts and 62 insolvents, and in Scotland 30 bankrupts.

THE President, in his Message, says, during the last year twenty millions of dollars have been re-coined at the mint.—There is a great operation.

THE census of New Orleans, just completed, gives the total population of the city at 79,998, a decrease of 16,000 since last year, and 23,000 since 1840. The Delta thinks there is a gross mistake somewhere.

THE receipts of the American Board of Foreign Mission in October, amounted to \$26,798 13, and for the two preceding months \$32,882 10.

A CELEBRATED physician in France has discovered that Vinegar, taken in large doses two or three wine glasses every hour, is a certain cure for the hydrophobia.

PROOF OF MARRIAGE.—Before the revising barrister, the other day, a witness being asked how how he knew that a man and woman were husband and wife, replied because "he had often heard the lady blow the gentleman up." The evidence was held to be conclusive.