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TWO HISTORIC DOCUMENTS

Wade Hampton's Eloquent Reply to Sherman's Infamous Letter.

The following correspondence between General Sherman, the modern Duke of Alva, and General Wade Hampton should be of interest to the young men, not only of the South, but of the North as well. It shows something of the firm and desperate determination of the Confederate soldiers to protect the honor of the Southern ladies even at the risk of war to the death.

The incident to which allusion is made by General Hampton in this correspondence was an outrage committed at Feasterville by a lieutenant in Sherman's army, who was soon afterwards shot for it. He killed the father of the house and the outrage which followed left the daughter a white-haired imbecile.

It is because of outrages like this that Southern men cannot understand why some Northern people greet the Southern guests with the air, "March-ing Through Georgia." They seem to think it appropriate. They would not do it if they knew what inhuman deeds it recalled:

"Headquarters in the Field, Feb. 24, 1865.

"Lieutenant General Wade Hampton, Commanding the Cavalry Forces, Confederate States Army:

"General: It is officially reported to me that our foraging parties are murdered after capture and labeled, "Death to all Foragers." One instance of a lieutenant and several men near Chesterville, and another of twenty, near a ravine eight rods from the main road" about three miles from Feasterville. I have ordered a similar number of prisoners in our hands to be disposed of in a similar manner—I hold about 1,000 prisoners, captured in various ways, and can stand it as long as you and would suggest that you give notice to the people at large that every life taken by them, simply results in the death of one of our Confederates. Of course, you cannot question my right to forage on the country. It is a war right as old as history. The manner of exercising it varies with circumstances, and if the civil authorities will supply my requisitions, I will forbid all foraging. But I can find no civil authorities who can respond to my calls for forage or provisions, therefore I must collect directly of the people. I have no doubts that this is the occasion of much misbehavior on the part of our men; but I cannot permit an enemy to judge or punish with wholesome murder. I regret the bitter feelings engendered by this war, but they were to be expected, and I simply allege that those who struck the first blow and made war inevitable, ought not in fairness to reproach us for the natural consequences. I merely assert our war right to forage and my resolve to protect my foragers to the extent of life for life.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. Sherman.

Major General United States Army.

To this bombastic fulmination General Hampton returned the following answer:

Headquarters in the Filed, Feb. 26, 1865.

Major General W. T. Sherman, United States Army.

General: Your communication of the 24th instant reached me today. In it you state that it has been officially reported that your foraging parties are "murdered after capture" You go on to say that you have "ordered a similar number of prisoners in our hands to be disposed of in like manner," that is to say, you have ordered number of Confederate soldiers to be "murdered." You characterize your order in proper terms, for the public voice, even in your own country, where it seldom dares to express itself in vindication of truth, honor, or justice will surely agree with you in pronouncing you guilty of murder if your order is carried out. Before dismissing this portion of your letter, I beg to assure you that for every soldier of mine "murdered" by you, I shall have executed at once two of yours, giving in all cases preference to any officers who may be in my hands.

In reference to the statement you make regarding the death of your foragers, I have only to say that I know nothing about it; that no orders given by me authorize the killing of prisoners after capture, and that I do not believe my men killed any of yours except under circumstances in which it was perfectly legitimate and proper that they should kill them. It is a part of the system of the thieves, whom you designate as your foragers, to fire the dwelings of those citizens whom they have robbed. To check this inhuman system, which is justly execrated by every civilized nation, I have directed my men to shoot down all of your men who are caught burning houses. This order shall remain in force as long as you disgrace the profession of arms by allowing your men to destroy private dwellings.

You say that I cannot of course question your right to forage on the country—it is a right as old as history." I do not, sir, question this right. But there is a right older even than this, and one more inalienable—the right that every man has to defend his home and to protect those who are dependent upon him; and from any dependent upon him; and from my heart, I wish that every old man and boy in my country who can fire a gun would shoot down as he would a wild beast, the men who are desolating their land, burning their homes and insulting their women.

You are particular in defining and claiming "war rights." May I ask if you enumerate among these the right to fire upon a defenceless city without notice; to burn that city to the ground after it had been surrendered by the inhabitants, who claimed, though in vain, that protection which is always accorded in civilized warfare to noncombatants; to fire the dwelling houses citizens after robbing them; and to perpetrate even darker crimes than these—crimes too black to be mentioned.

You have permitted, if you have not ordered the commission of these offences against humanity and the rules of war; you fired on the city of Columbia without a word of warning; after its surrender by the mayor, who demanded protection to private property, you laid the whole city in ashes, leaving amidst its ruins thousands of old men and helpless women and children, who are likely to perish of starvation and exposure. Your line of march can be traced by the lurid light of burning houses, and in more than one household there is now an agony worse than that of death. The Indian scalped his victim regardless of age or sex, but with all its barbarity he always respected the persons of his female captives. Your soldiers, more savage than the Indian, insult those whose natural protectors are absent.

In conclusion, I have only to request that whenever you have any of, for the terms appear synonymous of my men "murdered" or "disposed with you, you will let me hear of it, that I may know what action to take in the matter. In the meantime I shall hold fifty-six of your men as hostages for those you have ordered to be executed.

I am yours, etc.,
WADE HAMPTON
Lieutenant-General.

In the face of this threat of retaliation it is safe to say that Sherman reconsidered his ill-advised proposition to "murder his defenseless prisoners.

AN UNSELFISH HERO

Tribute to the Confederate President By Judge Reagan.

The Hon. John E. Reaan, the last living member of the Confederate cabinet, delivered a eulogy to President Davis. He said in part:

To me has been assigned the duty of saying in a brief way something of the character and service of the President of the Confederate States, the beloved Jefferson Davis. My association with Mr. Davis during our great struggle and the very high opinion I formed of his disinterested and patriotic devotion to the cause of the Confederacy and of his unvarying constancy and courage, makes the duty most agreeable, except that I recognize my inability to give such an account of his character and portrayal of his services as is due to his memory.

"To say that he was an honest man, a brave soldier, an able statesman, a sincere patriot and an earnest Christian does not give a full idea of his character. In one respect there was by some persons some misapprehensions of his character. It was sometimes alleged that he was self-willed, imperious and stubborn. Those in close contact and association with him did not so regard him.

"I have heretofore expressed the view and now repeat it, that practically he had two characters, or rather two methods of thought and action. While in his private life he was gentleness and kindness, in the discharge of his public service he seemed to be guided almost wholly by a sense of duty. And he seemed to expect those who conferred with him about public matters to address themselves directly to the matter under consideration, and was not at all times patient with such persons as sought to occupy his time with general conversation or as to matters about which they would give him no information.

"It will be readily understood that one who occupies a position in which his whole time was necessarily given to the discharge of important public business, could not permit the time to be wasted in commonplace conversation or in listening to men who could give him no real information. This doubtless created the idea with such persons that he was self-willed and imperious.

"Another mistake as to his character made by some persons has been that he would not listen to advice on matters of importance. More than four years of constant contact with him as a member of his cabinet enables me to say that this was a great mistake. His habit was when he had to act to exhaust all available sources of information on it before coming to a conclusion, always consulting freely with the members of his cabinet and with others who might be able to give him information. After doing this and reaching his conclusion the matter was settled with him, unless the presentation of new facts required further consideration. He had not time to consider questions upon the same facts. In the position he occupied vacillation would not have been as bad as erroneous decision on the public questions.

"I speak of these points because I think in these respects some injury has been done to his memory.

"In solitude President Davis worked for the success of the Confederate army and often in places under heavy fire.

"At the Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks) I saw General Lee and General Magruder under a heavy fire of musketry and remonstrated against him so exposing himself for there was no necessity for his doing so. During the several days fighting near Richmond, he was exposed to the enemy's fire and General Lee ordered him to quit the field. Some days after, Gen. Lee appeared in the cabinet, Mr. Davis jocularly said he had supposed he was commander-in-chief and that General Lee was under him even in the field, and on the daf of the Battle of Richmond and Petersburg I saw Mr. Davis in company with Generals Lee and Beauregard under fire of the enemy's sharpshooters for a long time, while several persons were being hit and one soldier boy standing near the president, had his arm shot off by a shell. The officers urged him to retire from the field as his exposure was unnecessary. He said he felt as I did, that he could render no service there, but that it would have been an unpleasant thing to ride off under fire.

"Mr. Davis had the courage of Richard Coeur de Lion and the consistency and love of liberty of Cato God bless his memory."

THE SONG OF DIXIE FOR CONFEDERATE CHOIRS

Lovers of "Dixie" have long felt that that the words of the South's national song should express less nonsense and more patriotism; that the words of the song should be worthy of its inspiring music, and so it is that we submit the "Dixie" which is endorsed by the United Confederate choirs of America:

DIXIE LAND

Oh! Dixie Land is the Land of Glory,
The land of cherished song and story;
Look away, Look away, Look away,
Dixie Land.
'Tis the land that patriots love to dwell in,
The land our fathers fought and fell in;
Look away, Look away, Look away,
Dixie Land.

(Chorus.)

I am glad I live in Dixie, Hurrah, Hurrah!
In Dixie Land I'll take my stand, to live and die for Dixie
Away, Away, Away down South in Dixie
Away, Away, Away down South in Dixie

The Blue and Gray went out to battle,
Look away, Look away, Look away,
Dixie Land.
The fight we lost, but won a glory
Which will last till Time is hoary,
Look away, Look away, Look away,
Dixie Land.

Still Dixie is the land of freemen
Of Soldiers brave and gallant seamen;
Loud they made war's thunder rattle;
Dixie Land.
The land where rules the Anglo-Saxon,
The land of Davis, Lee and Jackson;
Look away, Look away, Look away,
Dixie Land.

And Dixie's sons will stand together
Through sunshine and stormy weather
Look away, Look away, Look away,
Dixie Land.
Tho' lightnings flash and mountains sever,
Count on the gallant South forever;
Look away, Look away, Look away,
Dixie Land.

We hope that all who are interested, especially the Daughters of the Confederacy and the pupils of the city schools wil clip this "Dixie" from the paper and preserve it, that we may all become familiar with the words.

Musical Committee

Before Kowanee, Ill., went "dry" a result of the local option election recently, one person purchased sixty dozen bottles of beer, which he figures will last him for two years, provided he continues only one bottle daily.

GEMS FROM POETS

You cannot poets understand
Unless you visit poet's land.—Gothe.

Antony and CleoPatra

(By Wm. H. Lytle.)

William Haines Lytle was born in Cincinnatti November 2, 1826 and died on September 20, 1863. After graduating at college he studied law, volunteered at the beginning of the Mexican war and served as captain to its close, when he resumed his practice; was elected to the Ohio Legislature, commissioned Colonel in the Civil war and was killed while leading a charge at Chiacamauga at brigadier general of volunteers.

I am dying Egypt, dying,
Ebbs the crimson life tide fast,
And the dark, Plutonic shadows,
Gather on the evening blast.
Let thine arms, O, Queen, enfold me,
Hush thy sobs and and bow thine ear;
Listen to the great heart secrets
Thou, and thou alone must hear.

Though my scarred and veteran legions,
Bear their eagles high no more,
And my wrecks and scatter'd galleys
Strew dark Actium's fatal shore,
Though no glittering guards surround me,
Prompt to do their master's will,
I must perish like a Roman,
Die the great Triumvir still.

Let not Cæsar's servile minions
Mock the lion thus laid low;
'Twas no foeman's arm that fell'd him,
'Twas his own that struck the blow;
His who, pillow'd on thy bosom,
Turn'd aside from glory's ray,
His who sunk with thy caresses,
Madly threw a world away.

Should the base plebean rabble
Dare assail my name at Rome,
Where my noble spouse, Octavia,
Weeps within her widow'e home,
Seek her; say the gods bear witness—
Altars, augers, circling wings—
That her blood with mine commingled
Yet shall mount the throne of kings.

As for the star-eyed Egyptian,
Glorious sources of the Nile,
Light the path to Syrian horrors,
With the splendors of thy smile
Give the Caesar crowns and arches,
Let his brow the laurel twine,
I can scorn the Senate's triumphs,
Triumphing in love like thine.

I am dying, Egypt, dying,
Hark! the insulting foeman's cry,
They are coming! Quick my falchion!
Let me front them ere I die
Ah! no more amid the battle
Shall my heart exulting swell,
Iris and Osiris guard thee!
Cleopatra, Rotoe, farewell.

GENERAL MARTIN WITHERSPOON GARY

Martin Witherspoon Gary, the third son of Thomas Reeder, Gary and Mary Ann Porter was born the 10th day of March 1831, at Cokesbury, Abbeville County, S. C. He entered the South Carolina college in 1860; but two years later in consequence of an unsuccessful attempt to induce the Faculty to do away with the commons hall his class resigned, and with a number of his fellow students, he entered the Junior Class at Harvard, from which he graduated with distinction in 1854. He studied law under Chancellor Carroll, at Edgefield, and in 1855 was admitted to the bar.

As a member of the South Carolina legislature in 1860-61, he was an ardent supporter of the Ordinance of Secession and upon war being declared went at once into the service as captain of the Watson Guards, Company B, Hampton Legion. Gen. Gary served as captain, lieutenant-colonel, colonel, brigadier general, and major general from the first Battle of Manassas to Appomattox C. H., being in twenty-five battles. When Lee surrendered, Gen. Gary refusing to hand over his sword to the conquerors, made his way through the lines of the enemy, never accepting pardon or parole. He joined President Davis' party at Greensboro, N. C., and escorted them to Cokesbury, S. C., where the next to the last cabinet meeting was held in hih mother's house.

After the war, Gen. Gary resumed the practice of his profession at Edgefield, and was soon recognized as one of the leading lawyers of the State. He took an active part in politics, and it was in his house at Edgefield that the plan of campaign of 1876 for the entire state was originated. He personally took charge of the campaign in Edgefield county, where Gov. Chambrelain was completely routed by Gen. Gary's red shirts, and it was on this occasion that he was dubbed "the Bald Eagle of Edgefield." In reply to how many votes Edgefield could give to Hampton, his unique answer was: "How many does the state need?"

Gen. Gary, the jurist, patriot, hero statesman, died at his home in Edgefield on April the 9th 1891 the anniversary of the day on which he made that memorable reply: "South Carolinians never surrender."

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