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IN THE DEBATABLE LAND.

BY EDWARD S. ELLIS.

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CHAPTER XVI.

WITH JACK. One of the curious features of that night's stirring incidents was that. from their opening to the close, the good Mrs. Eldridge slept uninterruptedly. Not until the following day did she learn of the alarming experiences of her friends. The same can be said of Aunt Marcie and her lively son Rastus. though in their case the fact perhaps was not so remarkable. since they were further removed from the turmoil.

As Lieutenant Oakman drew near the humble home of Pete. the faithful servant of General Eldridge, a burning point of light and pungent smell of tobacco brooding in the air apprised him that. despite the lateness of the hour, the slave was seated on the bench in front of his cabin, smoking his pipe. It may have been that what he had passed through rendered the old man restless. and he was seeking to soothe his nerves before lying down for rest.

Naturally he was astonished when he recognized the Union officer approaching him. It required several minutes for Oakman to make clear that he had returned to avail himself of the offer of Miss Eldridge. Pete knocked the ashes from his pipe and gave a grunt of dis-

"Kin yo' oxplain." he asked with surprising frankness. "why yo' was borned sich a debblish fool?'

That parting with Miss Eldridge had put Lieutenant Oakman in a frame of Benware, "for I saw no hope. mind that made it impossible for him to be offended with anything in which she was interested. Still there was imminent need of haste.

"I admit. Pete, that I have acted foolishly, but it is not good manners for Captain , Wilkins' cavalry are near the house looking for me, and if I don't get away in short order I shall be killed.

"De Lawd bress me! Yo' doan say!" gasped the scared Pete. "If dat am so. yo've got to scratch grabbel!"

In his affright he moved as if he were a young man again. With the officer at his heels he led the way across the old cotton field, or rather along its margin. for he fully comprehended the peril that threatened the young man for whom he had formed a strong attachment. Then they penetrated into the woods until they came upon a tumble down structure that had been converted able, but"+ into a rude stable, where the beautiful closely looked after by Pete.

and then by a long, circuitous route sumed. was conducted to the highroad at a point about half way between the home of General Eldridge and the forking of



The slave was scated smoking his pipe. the ways. A careful reconnoissance having failed to reveal any sign of danger, the lieutenant placed himself in the saddle. Pete helping to fix his boots in the stirrups. Then the slave doffed his hat and wished his friend well.

As Oakman leaned over the side of hand he left in the palm every greenback with a single exception that he owned Then, twitching the rein, he account of himself. Figuratively speakwent down the highway like a thunder- ing. Jack laughed at the party and

It was a brief gallop to the fork. where he reined up his superb steed. Hesitating but a minute, he turned to the right, and, pausing briefly in the light he turned off from the main road highway at the opening of the lane that and approached a negro's cabin, that led to the home of Mrs. Benware and belonged to one of the plantations that her sister, he drew near the house with were the rule in that state. It was lit-

his animal on a walk. peared to be satisfied that everything were taking cautious of servations. If room and slept uninterruptedly until so, it did not require long to identify the middle of the afternoon. him. Shortly after he was seated in the with the sisters trembling with pleason the broad hearth.

His first inquiry was

"What became of that fellow that I partly choked. Is he gone?" "He is gone. Oh, my, my! I thought

"If I could have been sure of two or three more minutes. I might have brought about that happy consumma-

Benware, with a shiver at the recollec-

tion. Did he make any remarks?" "Remarks!" exclaimed the horrified Miss Davis. "You have no idea of the

shocking things he said." "I can very well imagine. I can't find it in my heart to criticise him. Then he didn't linger long after his protested. "An his black hoss, dat's friends left?"

"No. After he had sat up awhile and his head had cleared, I suppose, he made a plunge through the door. He was so angry that he kept remarking those dreadful remarks and he was in such a hurry that he bumped all the

way to the bottom, and then"--"He indulged in more remarks." The sisters raised their hands, with the palms spread outward, and shook their heads in mute horror. Really they

couldn't do justice to the subject. "And when he found I had appropriated his horse, it was necessary for him

to venture upon more language. "Very likely he did," said Mrs. Benware, "but sister and I did not dare listen. We closed and bolted the door, and staid inside. We didn't know whether to expect you back or not and tion he recognized the voices of the were about to retire when you rode into two visitors, who were having some the lane. You must have had quite a trying time yourself, lieutenant.

His buoyancy of spirits was perhaps natural after his safe deliverance from his many dangers, but the occasion was too serious for levity. He sat near the the visitor who stood in front of the enopen window with his horse in sight, trance. ready to fly upon the first appearance of danger.

"The closest call, as it seems to me, he added. "was just after I had shoved that paper into my pocket, the order was given to search me. If the paper had been found, I shouldn't have been the only one who would have paid the penalty.

"I was ready to sink," said Mrs.

"Wasn't it managed brilliantly?" asked the lieutenant with a chuckle. "Signor Blitz himself couldn't have beaten such sleight of hand."

"Have you come for it?" asked Mrs. Benware, lowering her voice and glancyou to refer to it. Besides, a number of ing around, as if fearful of eavesdroppers. The visitor nodded and then passed into the hall, opened the front door and stood for a minute or two in the attitude of close attention. Neither ear ever had become of that squad of Wilkins' cavalry, it was certain they were nowhere in the neighborhood.

Once more Lieutenant Oakman unby the light of the candle examined they finally ran down the fugitive. the drawings and explanatory writing.

"I never saw anything to equal it." he remarked, as if speaking to himself. "The information is enormously valu-

thoroughbred Jack had long been kept the fire. It had smoldered somewhat ther, for he told us about it. He feels since his previous call, but the paper mighty mean that you should be left He was again saddled and bridled. | caught instantly and was quickly con-

"My. my! What is the meaning of him. that?" asked the shocked Mrs. Ben-

ware. "That's where it belongs," said the erto I have been in reality a spy, though his command. in uniform. An honorable soldier, Captain Trenholm, risked his life for me tonight. I carry a letter of protection from him, which will be all sufficient except with scoundrels like these irregular cavalrymen, and henceforth, whatever befalls me, I shall meet my fate with clean hands and with honor untarnished. And now I must be off."

CHAPTER XVII. BRIDGING THE CHASM.

Jack, the superb thoroughbred, carried Lieutenant Oakman over the moonlit road with a swiftness and ease that filled his rider with admiration. The steed, as black as the eyes of his mistress, seemed tireless. It was so long since he had had an opportunity for stretching his peerless limbs that he reveled in the enjoyment of sweeping mile after mile behind him.

Twice during the night the lieutenant met other horsemen, but, although they exchanged salutations, the uniform of the officer awoke no suspicion, if indeed it was noticed. Some time his horse to shake the hard, honest later, however, he found himself suddenly pursued by a squad of cavalry, who shouted to him to halt and give an with little effort threw them hopelessly to the rear.

But Oakman knew how to treat such a noble animal. Just as it was growing tle risk for a Union fugitive to trust It would be supposed that he had had any member of the African race, and a sufficiently alarming experience to when the horseman had made known cle here has given us all a square meal make him shy of that place, but he apshowed him genuine southern hospital- and eat, we'll be off. I hear that Sherwas right, fer, tying his horse, he walked up the steps and again sounded the the horse, the "mammy" prepared a counting the 1,700,000 niggers that knocker. Several minutes passed before nourishing meal of pone, bacon and po- have come in on the chorus, is so far the summons was answered, and he tatoes, which was fully enjoyed by the over toward the sea that there ain't any knew from certain sounds that the ladies officer, who then lay down in a rear doubt he's aiming for Savannah."

identical chair which he occupied when was surprised to hear men conversing in learned weeks before, though he took made prisoner earlier in the evening. the front room. Listening for a moment, he recognized the voices as those nel through which the knowledge was ure and misgiving and the fire burning of white persons who had made him the filtered to him. subject of their conversation. It was easy to tell from their words that they observed Masters thoughtfully. "And, had come down upon the dwelling so though it's mighty tough, I don't know suddenly that the negro had no time to that I blame 'em. I suppose it's the warn his guest. As the only thing, fortunes of war, and it looks to me as if you had killed him." said the good Mrs. | therefore, to do, he stoutly maintained | the wind up isn't far off." that he had no guest at all.

"I tole yo'." he insisted, "dere ain't nobody hyah. Dar warn't nobody in Ackers, "I said that if they dived blue clothes like Marse Linkum's sojers | plumb through the heart of the Confeddat rid up here dis mornin jes' afore eracy it would make a split that never day an had breakfas'. Dar ain't nc such pusson, am dar, Dine?"

Thus appealed to, the wife came to the rescue of her embarrassed husband plied the officer, who repressed the se-

"Co'se dey ain't!" she indignantly

de bawn eatin like blazes. Co'se he

"All that being so," said one of the men with a laugh, "there won't be any harm in our taking a look around." He rose to his feet and moved toward

the open door, leading to the rear apartment, where Oakman had risen and was listening to the conversation. "Doan' go in dar!" called Dinan in comical consternation.

"Why not?" asked the man, stop-

"Dat's my room. Ain't yo' 'nough ob a gemman not to intrcod?"

"But you're not in there," was the superfluous remark of the man, who was getting a good deal of fun out of the situation.

"But I'll be dar when bedtime "And we'll be somewhere else. So ong as the lady of the house is not in

her retiring apartment, there is nothng improper There is no saying how the situation would have ended had it not been unexpectedly solved by Lieutenant Oakman himself. After a moment's attenquiet amusement with the simple minded couple. Without hesitation, therefore, he strode from the darkened chamber at the rear and, advancing into the

front room, extended his hand toward "Hello, Jim, I'm glad to see you! And there's Tim too. How are you, boys?" The callers at the negro's cabin were his old acquaintances. Tim Masters and Jim Ackers, the same who had made him prisoner on the plantation of Gen-

eral Eldridge weeks before. The meeting was not a surprise to the two Confederates that Oakman anticipated. They had heard of his departure for the Union lines. They knew the circumstances and, understanding his danger, set out to find him, that they might offer their services. This was at the urgent request of Captain Trenholm. who censured himself intensely because a suitable escort had not been furnished

his "exchange." Masters and Ackers were finely mounted, but it took the greater part of the day before they could overtake Oakman, because of the speed of the nor eye revealed cause for alarm. What- matchless Jack that had borne him to the friendly negro's cabin. The shrewd Confederates knew that when he halted it would be at such a place, and, by keeping track of him, through inquiries folded the remarkable document and from those whom they occasionally met.

> When the delighted Oakman began to explain matters. Ackers interrupted with a wave of his hand.

"We know all that. leftenant, so you can cut it short. We don't want to With that he flung the document into see that letter of Captain Trenholm, eialone to grope your way back to you lines, while it was all plain sailing with

"The captain is one of the bravest and most honorable of men. He would have been glad enough to provide me lieutenant, compressing his lips. "Hith- with an escort, but there was none at

"Yes, there was," remarked Tim Masters, with a twinkle of his hazel

"How was that?" asked Oakman. "He could have given you a squad of

Wilkins' cavalry. added Ackers, "and "Of course," there wouldn't have been left anything

for us to do. "Nor for any one else, except the undertaker." added the lieutenant grimly. "Those fellows were very pressing in

their intentions. "Well." said Tim. as he proceeded to ight his pipe. "Jim and me are going to see you through this time. After un-



Lieutenant Oakman heartily grasped

each hand in turn.

"Such I happen to know to be the fact." replied the lieutenant, who saw Upon coming to himself. Oakman no risk in making known what he had

"They seem to be taking their time,

"When I learned that that big army had cut loose from Atlanta." added could heal What do you think, lieuten

ant ?" "There's no earthly doubt of it," recret delight in his heart, through his sympathy for these two brave men that had fought so long and well on the losde finest critter in Jawgy, ain't out in ing side. "Grant is hemming in Lee

in Virginia, and he cannot hold out much longer. When he surrenders, the Southern Confederacy dies.

"And what will make Uncle Bob give in?" asked Ackers, over whose bearded face there spread an expression of pitiful pathos.

"When he yields, it will be to overwhelming numbers. The wildest partisan of the north will never dare claim that her success was attained through superior generalship or heroism. Had oing short and looking inquiringly at the contending forces been equal, with the same resources for each, the south never would have been conquered.' Jim Ackers struck his knee a resound-

ing slap and swore an oath. "As true as gospel! Not forgetting, though, that we have had the advantage of fighting on the defensive; but then we're all Americans and belong to the same family, which the same being the case, I reckon, Yank, we can shake.'

Lieutenant Oakman heartily grasped each hand in turn.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Those two grizzled Confederates were knights to the core. . When about to mount for their eastward ride over the broad swath of destruction left by Sherman's army, Ackers gently took the arm of Lieutenant Oakman and, pointing to the horse which the Confederate had ridden to the cabin, said:

"Leftenant, that mare is acting as if she knowed you. If it's all the same to you, I'll ride Miss Eldridge's Jack and

you can stick to your own. The tears came to the eyes of the Union officer. He had already recognized his mare Fanny, who whinnied her delight at sight of him, but he resolutely kept his face averted, feeling that he could ask no further favors of his friends.

"Thank you, Ackers. I shall never forget your kindness.' The next moment the officer had reached the happy mare, who stretched out her silken nose, which was caressed and patted, as well as her graceful neck, the endearment ending by the owner giving her a kiss. Then all three

vaulted into the saddles and away they Under the escort of the two Confederates and protected by the letter of Captain Trenholm no further trouble occurred, though the party were held up and questioned more than once. Winter had come, but its rigors were softened in that southern clime. Sherman was well over in South Carolina, his columns spreading devastation and ruin far and wide, but he had not yet got to Savannah when Lieutenant

Oakman reached the army and reported to headquarters. At a safe distance he bade goodby to Ackers and Masters, the former of self in comfortable circumstances. And whom promised to return the black then the wedding followed in due horse to his mistress, many miles away | course. in Georgia. The subsequent campaign of General Sherman is a matter of history. All know how he telegraphed the capture of Savannah as a Christmas present to President Lincoln. after which began his resistless sweep northward, on his way to join Grant, who was hammering the breath of life out northern women who went thither and of the famishing Army of Northern Virginia under the leadership of the clear that war would soon break out begreat Lee in front of Richmond, and in the following spring the end came. The sun of the Southern Confederacy set forever behind the hills of Appomattox. and the Union was restored, mightier than before, to continue as long as

grass grows and water runs. Throughout those days, when Lieutenant Oakman, who had been made a captain, recalled his experience in Georgia, he was frequently impressed with a feeling that it was his duty to send an expression of gratitude to Miss Eldridge for her immense kindness to him. Finally he wrote the letter, though, in the disturbed state of the country, he doubted whether it would ever reach her. It was written in February, in North Carolina, just after the battle of Bentonville and ran thus.

DEAR MISS ELDRIDGE-Thanks to your kind

ness in loaning me your splendid horse Jack, I was soon placed beyond all danger from pursuit. Then Ackers and Masters appeared at the right moment and, like the brave men they are, accompanied me all the way to my own lines. Ackers placed me under additional obligations by returning my own animal to me and by taking your horse back to you. I trust that no accident befell him or Jack, for I could not forgive myself if you failed to have your pony restored to you. If you will be good enough to drop me a line stating that he is enough to drop me a line stating that he is with you again, it will be a vast relief to me. The times are so out of joint that this note may be a long time in reaching you and possibly may fail to find you at all. I give my address below, so that if the spirit moves you to write me a few lines I think they will eventually come to my hands. It will be a great pleasure to my hands. ure to receive such an expression from you.

In closing I beg you to express my fervent thanks to Captain Trenholm for his chivalrous friendship, and I venture to hope that at no distant day I may have the pleasure of clasp ing his hand. Please say to him for me that one reason why we are pushing the war for the Union so hard is that the south is so full of glorious fellows like him that we are too selfish to let 'em go. They've got to stay with

But there are a few things to which pen and words are unequal. One is to express my gratitude to you for your acts to which my life is owing. Probably I shall soon pass from embrance, but you can never be for gotten by me.

One hour after this missive had passed beyond his control, Captain Oakman began a series of frantic efforts to obtain possession of it again. "It is the most preposterous stuff

that ever was written," was his humilivirtual declaration of love! They are imthem no heed! I shall never dare look | was to secure it from her. in her face again! What possessed me? Confound it!

Nevertheless, some months later, a home:

Lieutenant Ledyard Oakman (she didn't know of his promotion): DEAR SIR-I thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in returning Jack, who, through the kindness of Mr. Ackers, reached

me in due time, much benefited, I think, by among your friends without further mishap

and trust that now that the unhappy war is over you will find full enjoyment and happiness with your dear ones in the north.

ness with your dear ones in the north.

My brother, Captain Trenholm, asks me to send you his congratulations and good wishes. He joins me in saying that if ever in the future inclination should lead you to visit the south, now sitting in her sackcloth and ashes, you will be welcomed at the home of General Eldridge, where we can promise that your visit will be more quiet and less exciting than the former one. Very sincerely

Captain Oakman actually gasped for breath. Then with a rapidly throbbing heart he reread the precious letter.

"Captain Trenholm, her brother!" he repeated. "How can that be? Impossible! And yet that is what she writes. What can it mean?"

In his bewilderment and mystification he turned the letter over. Lo, on the other page was the inevitable female postscript:

P. S.—It has occurred to me that you may be puzzled by my reference to Captain Tren-holm as my brother. When General Eldridge married my mother, she was the widow of a banker named Trenholm of New Orleans. Her only child was a boy, Wager. She therefore is the mother of him and me, though General Eldridge is my father, but not the father of Captain Trenholm. In law I suppose we are half brother and half sister, but you will agree that I am warranted in insisting that such noble, brave man is my full brother and shall be such so long as he and I live.

When Captain Oakman finally grasped the height, length, breadth and depth of this momentous truth, his feelings were "peculiar." and I am sure the reader will grasp the height, length. breadth and depth of that statement.

CHAPTER XIX. CONCLUSION.

The wooing and winning of Miss Adele Eldridge by Captain Ledyard Oakman would form a delightful story of itself, but it is not our purpose to dwell upon it. In due time he found the necessary pretext for journeying southward, and when he presented himself at the home of General Arthur Eldridge he was warmly welcomed by the old veteran, his stepson, Captain Trenholm, the latter's mother and lastly by the young lady herself.

One piece of good fortune was in the hands of the ex-Union officer. He possessed abundant means. His southern friends, like the vast majority in that section. were impoverished by the war. Oakman could not offer them pecuniary help, but he did persuade Captain Tren holm to join him in a business venture in which the knowledge and experience of the ex-Confederate formed a fair offset to the capital invested by Oak man. Then, too, a valuable iron deposit was located on the plantation of General Eldridge, which, being developed, the soldier, before he was aware, found him-

But several years passed before the happy husband dared to tell the happy wife the secret of that first visit of his to the old plantation in Georgia.

It is a fact which may not be generally known that among the most valuable spies in the south were numbers of engaged in teaching when it became tween the sections.

This statement was made to me by General Sherman himself, and in my sketch of that great Union leader I have given a typical incident as it fell from his lips. One of the most daring and valuable female spies was Marian Harriman, from New England. As has been stated elsewhere, she secured an engagement as governess and companion in the family of General Eldridge, with the real purpose of gathering information for the Union armies. General Sherman knew her exact location, and when he started on his march from Atlanta to the sea and approached her neighborhood he detached Lieutenant Oakman and one of his scouts to communicate with Miss Harriman and bring back whatever she might have to

send to him. Previous to the visit of the officer, Sam Borland, the scout, apprised her of the situation, so that she was expecting the visit of the lieutenant. The two knew each other when they met, and it will be conceded that they played their parts well. The woman was so bitter in her sentiments that she was rebuked by Mrs. Eldridge and her daughter. She refused to remain under the same roof with the Union officer, which was a convenient arrangement, since it gave her the opportunity she needed to carry out her farreaching schemes. She made her home with Mrs. Benware and her sister, they being the only two persons in that section whom she trusted with her secret. Thus located only a few miles distant, she was able to meet Oakman now and then secretly and maintain a perfect understanding with

Her well known sympathies enabled her to gain the confidence of several of the Confederate leaders, from whom she obtained valuable information. She proved her nerve by riding a considerable distance to their headquarters, and through arts intuitive with her sex she wove together in the form of drawings and memoranda on the sheet of paper that which Lieutenant Oakman declared General Sherman would pay a fortune to obtain.

The chief difficulty with the female ating thought. "Those last lines are a spy was to get the paper to the Union commander. It was imprudent for her pertinent and unpardonable! They will to undertake its delivery, and the visit make her despise me! She will give of Oakman to that section, therefore,

It will be understood that when he was captured in the home of Mrs. Benware the call was a close one, not only dainty missive wound its way in and for himself, but for Miss Harriman. out of the wreck and remnants of the Had the all important document been Southern Confederacy, and finally was discovered, it inevitably would have opened by the trembling hands of the been traced to her, despite every effort young veteran in his faraway northern of the young man, and it often happens his motive may be commendable, while in time of war that the sex of a spy does not render her an "immune."

The legerdemain used on that occasion would have done credit to the late Herrmann, Lieutenant Oakman passed

the document to Miss Harriman, and she, in the most natural manner conceivable, stood just behind and at his side, denouncing him in scathing terms. And the feat was accomplished under the eyes of the squad of irregular guerrillas, eagerly seeking an excuse for tak-

ing his life. Mrs. Benware, failing to see the lightninglike transfer, groaned in spirit over the seemingly fatal misfortune.

When the moment came in which a doubt thrown upon the alleged handwriting of Captain Trenholm by Miss Harriman would have insured the shooting of the prisoner, she interposed by declaring unreservedly (though with painful regret) that the writing was

That assertion saved the lieutenant for the time, but, as has been made clear, his captors were "irregulars," who manifested a determination to hit upon some pretext, as in the venerable incident of the wolf and lamb, for thrusting him off the earth. He was still in great peril, and only by a desperate rush could he gain a possible chance of saving himself. It has been add that Miss Harriman took good care not to indulge in the privilege of her sex and scream until the signs of return-



Several years passed before the happy husband dared to tell the happy wife. ing consciousness on the part of the half strangled soldier warned her that it was

prudent to do so.
"By this time," said Captain Oakman, in recalling the incident, "I had begun to feel that I was the meanest man between the Atlantic and the Pa-

"And why?" asked his wife, turning

her eyes reproachfully upon him. "They say all is fair in love and war, and I know that both sides employed hundreds of spies. I had no compunction in turning off to your plantation to obtain what Miss Harriman was preparing for us. When, however, I saw how thoroughly you trusted her and the advantage she was taking of your confi-

dence, my conscience troubled me." "But can a spy be successful through employing any other means for gaining

information ?' "I presume not. Such was the reply I made to the upbraidings of my better nature. I shut my eyes and kept at it until the time came when I could stand comedian, of Boston.

it no longer. "When was that?"

fore it might be claimed technically you, having heard you tell the tale that I was not a spy, but that made my these 27 times." meanness the more atrocious. I was taking advantage of the trust placed in played the part of Pablo, was at a me by your brother. Unable to provide 'stag' dinner when one of the gentleme with an escort, he did everything in men present told a story of doubtful his power to save me from danger and age and originality. "A chestnut," annovance.

off from the highway and rode straight tale these 27 times." The application to the home of Mrs. Benware, where of the lines pleased the rest of the ta-Miss Harriman had left the letter for ble, and when the party broke up each me, though she herself was absent. I helped to spread the story and Mr. made sure that the document was the right one and then threw it into the concluded Mr. Jefferson, "is what I fire and waited until it changed to ashes. Then, with the help of Ackers and Masters. I reached our lines, and the incident was closed, so far as I was concerned." "What became of Miss Harriman?"

asked the wife after a moment's silence. "She left the south at the close of the var. Since she has no intention of ever returning, and the war is over. I have no hesitation in telling you her secret. She was paid a generous sum for her services, and I suppose what she did may be looked upon as legitimate. All the same, however, it is an unpleasant recollection, and I am sure, wife, that

you despise her."

"Because she consented to become a hypocrite. And what can be more despicable than such a person ?"

"Nothing, and for a time I was one." "No, never! Or," added the wife, with a twinkle of her fine eyes, "if you were, you repented in time, and then, too. hypocrisy is sometimes pardonable in a man, but never in a woman, for

hers cannot be." "Spoken like a woman, and like the of the late Mason and Dixon's line."

THE END.

Miscellaneous Reading.

WORK OF THE FIRE FIEND.

General Wade Hampton Burned Out of House and Home. Columbia Record, Tuesday.

The residence of General Hampton, just east of the city, was burned to the ground this morning between 2 and o'clock.

The flames were discovered by the sleeping inmates by reason of the smoke and heat; but luckily in time to save themselves as well as some of the fur-

niture and household effects. The aged general had been unwell for several days and had to take to his bed. He was unable to walk and had to be carried out of the burning house

by colored men who had been aroused. The people in the neighborhood were aroused as quickly as possible, and they assembled and gave all the assistance in their power; but it was evident from the beginning that the building was doomed to destruction. The fire originated at about the same shown what he did, and it remains to place it did twice recently-kitchen part-one of which incipient fires the aged warrior himself stopped. This morning the first thought was to get him to a place of safety. He was carried out and placed in a chair at a safe distance away, where he sat and witnessed the flames slowly destroy his dwelling and much of its valuable

contents. The neighbors in the meantime were saving furniture and succeeded in carrying away a considerable portion of t. The general had a very valuable library, the collection of years. Every effort was made to save as many of these books as possible; but many of great value were lost. The fire may have been of incendiary origin, though it is thought that more likely it originated from a kitchen fire. A colored woman had been ironing in the place during the afternoon and it may have caught the building from a defective

The greatest sympathy was expressed by everybody over the serious loss to the general, and some enthusiastic old Confeds immediately began talking of building him another house, showng the deep regard they have for their

The fire was first discovered by the general, who saw a light which at first appeared to him as being the break of day. He hobbled to a door and found

the whole house ablaze." Among the losses were some valuable historical and personal papers kept in a desk. The library consisted of about 6,000 volumes and some of the books destroyed cannot be replaced. Among them was one printed a few years after the invention of the printing press. The general had a very valuable English saddle which he used throughout the war, and which he About 4,000 books were saved, they being stored in another building close

by. Much of the family silverware was lost. In a trunk were family jewels. It could not be taken out; but water was poured on that portion of the house constantly and they were saved with comparatively little injury. There was not a cent of insurance.

General Hampton is living temporarily

in a small house on the premises.

CHESTNUT.-Mr. Joseph Jefferson attributes the introduction of the word 'chestnut" in its slang sense to the late William Warren, the veteran comedian, of Boston. "There is a melodrama," says Mr. Jefferson, "but little known to the present generation, "After your brother stood alone in written by William Dillon and called front of the men who were thirsting for "The Broken Sword." There were my life and held them at bay, and you two characters in it—one a Captain came forth and made me take your Zavier and the other the comedy part horse and use him in my flight. I felt of Pablo. The captain is a sort of as I galloped off in the moonlight that Baron Munchausen, and in telling of I was a despicable wretch without the his exploits says, 'I entered the woods first spark of gratitude. Miss Harriman of Colloway, when suddenly from the had betrayed your confidence, but she thick boughs of a cork tree'— Pablo could not bring the betrayal to full interrupts him with the words, "A fruition without my help, and I was chestnut, captain; a chestnut." 'Bah!' giving her that help at the risk of her replies the captain. 'Booby, I say a life and my own. True, I was in the cork tree." "A chestnut," reiterates uniform of the Union army, and there- Pablo. "I should know as well as

"William Warren, who had often murmured Mr. Warren, quoting from "Well, to cut my story short, I turned | the play. "I have heard you tell the Warren's commentary. And that," really believe to be the origin of the word 'chestnut.' "-N. Y. World.

WRITING ON THE TRAIN.-Travelers on railroads have long hoped for the invention of an appliance which would enable them to write without difficult on board a train in motion. A German railroad has just been equipped with an appliance which is said to work well. It is a board suspended from the ceiling by strong, but elastic cords, which not only prevents vibration, but the swinging motion of the car is not communicated. A small charge is made for the use of this swinging desk.

The shops in Paris for the sale of fuel by retail are almost as numerous as the bakeries. They are always neat; and the wood, coal, and kindling are arranged in a most artistic manner. The wood is piled so as to show the evenly sawed ends; the samples of coal are arranged in glass dishes; and in some of the shops, where orders are taken for the wholesale places, wood is arranged in the windows and decorated with growing truest, best wife either north or south moss and ferns. Indeed, the chief aim of the French shopkeepers is to make his shop attractive.