

A LITTLE HEROINE,

Who Refused to Sing the Song Marching Through Georgia.

GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME

In Augusta, Georgia, by the Old Confederate Veterans, Whose Honored Guest the Little Lady Was.

The Confederate Veterans at Augusta last week went wild over Miss Laura Talbot Galt, of Louisville, Ky., the little girl who refused to sing "Marching Through Georgia" when ordered to do so by her teacher last year. She has been invited to Augusta by the Veterans and arrived in the city on Monday afternoon of last week. The Augusta Chronicle says long before the hour for the arrival of the train hundreds of men, women and children began to gather at the Union depot, anxious to be the first to catch a glimpse of the little heroine and welcome her to the city.

Shortly before the scheduled hour for the arrival of the train Camp 435 met at the monument on Broad street, in full uniform, and marched to the depot in a body, headed by the Robinson Cavalry band. A carriage drawn by four white horses, and driven by Capt. Newt Heggie in person, was on hand to drive the young lady to the Albion. When the news reached the depot that the train was pulling through the yard into the station, the old Veterans fell in line, the band struck up "My Old Kentucky Home," and when the great engine of the train pushed under the shed a mighty shout, and a rebel shout at that, went up, the crowd surging wildly to the train. For a moment confusion reigned supreme.

A committee, composed of Captain William Dunbar and Samuel Wilson, had gone up the road and boarded the train before it reached the city. When they appeared at the door of the Pullman, leading a beautiful young child, dressed in gray and wearing a jaunty gray cap, a mighty shout rent the air and the band struck up "Dixie." Again there was pandemonium. Miss Galt was visibly affected by the demonstration. Hundreds of hands were stretched forward to grasp hers, and it was with the utmost difficulty that she could make her way down the steps of the car. Slowly the party had to work its way through the massed people, few able to catch a glimpse of the little heroine, owing to the crush.

SALUTED THE VETERANS.

When Miss Galt stepped in front of the line of old soldiers and gracefully doffed her little Confederate cap, a third mighty shout went up and despite the cries of the officers the men broke ranks and rushed about Miss Galt, wild with enthusiasm, all anxious to be the first to shake her by the hand. By this time the little lady had gained her composure, and amid renewed enthusiasm smiled her greeting to the right and left as she walked to the head of the column. From the lined up Confederate soldiers to the grand entrance of the depot Miss Galt received ovation after ovation, the people, old and young, were drawn up in line to see her. After she had taken her seat in the carriage ladies and gentlemen surged about it, anxious to shake her hand and welcome her to the city.

A procession was immediately formed, led by the Cavalry band, Camp 435 following, and Miss Galt's carriage bringing up the rear. The line of march was out Campbell street to Broad and down Broad to the main entrance of the Albion. All along the line the little lady was accorded an ovation. A large crowd of people were massed in front of the hotel entrance, pushing and craning their necks to catch a glimpse of her as she passed into the hotel lobby. About the carriage Camp 435 and other visiting camps were drawn up in line. As Miss Galt arose to leave the carriage she turned and gallantly doffed her cap to the heroes of the sixties. A mighty shout went up and the band began to play "Dixie." Miss Galt is a mere child, fifteen years of age, but she holds a place dear in the hearts of the Veterans of Augusta and the South. She is exceedingly pretty.

On the trip to Augusta Miss Galt is accompanied by her mother, who is also an attractive woman. Mrs. Galt wore a happy smile, and no wonder, as her little daughter so graciously received the ovations that were being extended at almost every step. It is safe to say that no young child from another state ever received a warmer welcome, or with a more enthusiastic demonstration, by the people of Augusta. It is an incident of life of which any one might feel justly proud. Miss Galt will remember her trip to Augusta in the years to come, and in the Providence of God, long after the last of the heroes of the Confederacy have stepped from the scene of action and reunions are no more.

IS ONLY A SAMPLE.

But yesterday's demonstration is but a sample of the honors that have been accorded to Miss Galt since her memorable act in refusing to sing or hear sung "Marching Through Georgia." All over the South Veterans' camps have heaped honors on Miss Galt, and her visits to reunions have been in the nature of ovations. Prominent among those doing her honor is Camp 435 of Augusta. She has been elected an honorary member of the camp, presented with a gold badge of the Confederate Survivors' association, and memorialized in resolutions, and the last honor conferred was the invitation extended to visit the Georgia reunion in this city as the guest of the camp. While in the city she will be accorded every honor possible for the old soldiers to confer. Throughout yesterday afternoon and last night Miss Galt and Mrs. Galt were kept busy receiving ladies and gentlemen who called at the hotel to welcome them. Among the visitors were hundreds of veterans from all over the state. For all Miss Galt had a smile and a loving word. Already she is established as a favorite.

ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

A word in reference to the incident that made Miss Galt famous will not

be amiss. From Louisville correspondence the following information is secured in reference to her refusal to join in or even hear the singing of the "Yankee" song when ordered by her teacher in the Louisville public school three years ago, which she was attending.

Laura Talbot Galt, a thirteen-year-old school girl, has created a sensation in Louisville and set the town talking by her refusal not only to sing "Marching Through Georgia," but to refuse to hear it sung by her classmates. As a result of her breach of discipline her passage to the high school is endangered. The matter has been taken up by friends, and will be aired at the next meeting of the board of school trustees. Confederate Veterans and the Daughters of the Confederacy have been aroused, and already the agitation has resulted in the possibility of reopening the fight against the teaching of Civil War history in the public schools, because of the alleged unfairness of the so-called popular histories.

"The little rebel," Miss Laura Talbot Galt, is the granddaughter of Mrs. Laura Talbot Ross, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and an ardent and unreconstructed member of the Albert Sydney Johnson chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Of the incident Miss Galt is quoted as follows by the above correspondent: "I am too loyal to my parents and my ancestors to permit the South or the cause for which her sons fought to be slandered or misrepresented, and I will not sing, nor will I listen to the singing of such songs as 'Marching Through Georgia,' which I hold are unfair to the South, and are resented by all true Southerners. As to my defense of Admiral Semmes, I had a perfect right to do so, and was backed by other histories every bit as good as Barnes'. He was a good admiral, a loyal Confederate, and is entitled to all that can be said in his behalf. I hope I will be promoted to the high school. My record has been good in all my studies and surely all my good marks cannot be taken away just because I refused to hear a song which is an insult to my ears."

Another detailed account of the incident is the following, clipped from the Loet Cause, a Confederate magazine published at Louisville:

"The father and the grandfather of little Laura Galt were Confederate soldiers. Both of them are dead. Her grandfather, Dr. Galt, was the first surgeon of the First Kentucky cavalry, which regiment was commanded by the late Ben Hardin Helm. There are those who remember Dr. Galt when he wore a Confederate uniform and defended the cause of the South. There are others who remember Dr. Galt when he was an honored citizen of Davies county, Kentucky, and both as citizen and soldier we all respect his memory.

"His grand-daughter, little Laura Galt, who declined to sing 'Marching Through Georgia,' is a pupil in the public school of the city of Louisville, where she lives. She is obedient and respectful to all those who are set in authority over her. But when her teacher requested her to sing that song she declined to do so, because its sentiments are a reflection on the honor and integrity of her dead ancestors.

"Little Miss Galt is a gracious little maiden who seems not to have been spoiled by all the attention and notoriety given her.

"I have received many letters from old soldiers from all over the country. When I think of what those dear old Confederates suffered for the cause they loved so dearly, I feel how undeserved is all the praise they give me for the little act of duty of mine. I always keep these letters among my treasures. I had read other histories of the war and knew the truth about the battle between the Kearsage and the Alabama. For this reason I would not say, as my teacher tried to force the class to say, that it was a breach of honor in Admiral Winslow to escape on the Desborough instead of giving his sword to Captain Winslow when the Kearsage had fired broadside after broadside into the Confederate cruiser after the white flag was raised. As for putting my fingers in my ears, I did that because I would not listen to a song that declares such a tyrant and coward as Sherman and his disgraceful and horrible march through Georgia and the Carolinas to be glorious. I did not think at the time that my teacher would think it very bad. I felt that forcing the Southern girls who were in the room to sing or listen to such a song was an insult that I could not stand."

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ROOSEVELT SCORED

Sherman's Character and Talents Shelled Warmly by Dr. Jones.

ABOUT THE BATTLE ABBEY.

Dr. Jones Explains the Object of the Cause and What Will be Done With the Institution When Completed.

In an address Wednesday in Augusta, Ga., before the Confederate convention of Georgia Dr. J. William Jones, chaplain, commander of the general U. C. V. organization, and at the head of the movement for the erection of a battle abbey in the South, scored President Roosevelt in the harshest terms for his praise of General Sherman and a willful distortion of the facts of history. The address produced the wildest enthusiasm among the old veterans of the lost cause and was cheered to the echo. Dr. Jones said:

"Through the slackness of the people in the South there has been allowed to stand as undisputed history statements that are absolutely and entirely untrue. This extends not only to the ignorant, but to the leaders of the land. The president (Voice: I didn't know we had one) — in his speech, made at the unveiling of Sherman's monument, spoke of him as the greatest leader in the civil war. Sherman, who was routed at Manassas, at Shiloh, so badly defeated by Stephen D. Lee at Vicksburg that he was forced to board his transports and return to Memphis; Sherman, who was outgeneraled and defeated by the noble Forest, — who, with a much smaller force, time and again sent him flying. Sherman, who never waged successful warfare until with overwhelming numbers he forced his way South and made through Georgia, leaving smoking ruins in his rear. (Voice: — Yes, waging war on women and children). Gentlemen, this is the man that Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States characterizes as a brave and brilliant man. Roosevelt has written a history of the West, but when he comes to the story of the great conflict between the North and the South his knowledge is sadly deficient."

"A veteran in the crowd mentioned Booker Washington's name and Dr. Jones replied: 'Booker Washington is a saint compared with him.'"

"Comrades, think of this man Sherman, who lied on Wade Hampton in his official report to the government about the burning of Columbia, and who, in a history written some years after the war, which I always keep handy, for it is to me an exemplification of that old proverb, 'Oh that mine enemy would write a book,' acknowledges that he lied, and said that Hampton was a 'braggart,' and that he wished to injure him with his own people."

"I saw a history written by a Northern man which stated that there were 2,000,000 men in the Confederate army, when, as a matter of fact, there were only 600,000. I won't say where, but at a Southern university, there was a professor of history who made this statement, and I said to him: 'If we had had 2,000,000 men we would have run the Northern armies beyond the Arctic Ocean. We only had a small number to fight our battles and against them were arrayed mercenaries of the world and the negroes, who in the bloody crater at Petersburg, were sacrificed by their Northern friends.'"

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