

GENERAL MATTHEW C. BUTLER, DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN, DEAD.

Dashing Confederate Cavalry Leader, United States Senator for Three Terms and One of the State's Foremost Barristers.

Gen. Matthew Calbraith Butler, of Edgefield, one of the last of Confederate cavalry generals, died last Wednesday night at 11:10 o'clock at an infirmary in Columbia.

For some weeks General Butler has been ill, and had been gradually growing weaker, and for several days it has been known the end was near. General Butler's death was due to a complication of diseases, induced by an old wound. He lost a leg at Brandy station, and after his recovery from the wound continued to serve throughout the war. This wound had not bothered him until a few months ago.

Major Gen. Matthew Calbraith Butler was born near Greenville, S. C., March 6, 1836. His father was Dr. William Butler, an assistant surgeon in the United States navy, and a congressman in 1814; his mother, Jane T., daughter of Capt. Perry, United States navy, of Newport, R. I., and sister of Commodore Oliver H. Perry and Matthew Calbraith Perry, Judge A. P. Butler, United States senator, and Governor Pierce M. Butler, colonel of the Palmetto regiment and killed at Chancellorsville, were his uncles; his grandfather, Gen. William Butler, was a gallant officer of the revolutionary army, and his great-grandfather, Capt. James Butler, a native of London county, Virginia, was the founder of the family in North Carolina. In childhood he accompanied his father to Arkansas, and after his father's death returned to South Carolina in 1851, and made his home with Senator A. P. Butler near Edgefield. He was educated at the South Carolina College and then reading law, was admitted to practice in 1857. In the following year he was married to Maria, daughter of Gov. F. W. Pickens. He was elected to the legislature in 1859, but before the conclusion of his term entered the military service of his State as captain of a company of cavalry in Hampton's legion. This command took a distinguished part in the first battle of Manassas, and Capt. Butler was promoted to major to date from July 21, the beginning of his famous career in the cavalry of the army of Northern Virginia. He commanded the cavalry of the legion under Stuart in the withdrawal of the troops from Yorktown, and was warmly commended for gallantry at Williamsburg. In August, 1862, he was promoted to colonel of the second regiment, South Carolina cavalry, Hampton's brigade, and in this rank he participated in the second Manassas and Maryland campaigns, winning favorable mention for gallant leadership in the affair at Monocacy bridge, and in Stuart's Chambersburg raid. He commanded the main part of his brigade in the Dumfries expedition of December, 1862, and in June, 1863, he was one of the most conspicuous leaders in the famous cavalry battle of Brandy station. Here he was severely wounded by a shell losing his right foot, and promotion to brigadier general followed in September. Returning to service before his wound healed, he was sent home to recover. He succeeded General Hampton in brigade command and took part in the fall campaigns of the army in 1863, and throughout the famous struggle of 1864, at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and before Richmond in opposition to Sheridan, he was one of the heroic figures of this last great campaign of

the Confederate armies. The reports of Sheridan himself attest the splendid fight of Butler and his brigade at Hawe's shop and Cold Harbor. At Trevillian station he was in command of Hampton's division, and repulsed seven distinct and determined assaults by the largely superior forces under Sheridan, his command occupying the most important point of a Confederate line and fighting as infantry. In September he was promoted to major general and in 1865 he was detached with a small division for the campaign against Sheridan in the



GEN. M. C. BUTLER.

(Courtesy of New York Public Library)

Carolina. He then joined the rear guard of Hampton's army at the evacuation of Columbia and Cheraw, and at the last had division command of cavalry, his losses and Gen. Joe Wheeler's forming the command of Hampton's division. The close of the war left him in financial ruin, but he bravely met the exigencies of the occasion, and in a short time attained national repute for the firmness and boldness with which he handled the political questions which concerned the essentials of the reorganized social life. While he powerfully advocated obedience to the reconstruction measures as the law, law being preferable to chaos, he recoiled at no time from a persistent opposition to infringement on good government, and was largely instrumental in securing the election of Gov. Wade Hampton. In 1876 he was elected to the United States senate, where admission was met by a storm of partisan protest which is memorable in the history of the nation, but his career of eighteen years in that exalted body vindicated the good judgment and patriotism of the State, which deputed him as its representative. In the stormy days of sectional debate in congress, he was one of the foremost champions of the South, but at a later period he was enabled to make a splendid record in constructive statesmanship by his staunch advocacy of a strong navy of civil service reform, and other measures now settled in national policy. After the expiration of his service in the senate in March, 1895, he was engaged in the practice of law at Washington, D. C. In 1898 he was appointed a major general in the volunteer army of the United States, for the war with Spain, and after peace was secured he served as a member of the commission for the removal of the Spanish forces from Cuba.

EASTER SERVICES AT HARMONY.

Excellent Music and Fine Addresses On Easter Sunday.

Harmony, April 16.—We held our Easter service here last Sunday night; the program prepared by the Easter committee failed to come in on time. Mrs. Sammie Valentine, assisted by Miss Sule Medlock and Miss Mollie Valentine, prepared one said by some to be the best ever held at this church. The children recited their pieces well. The choir gave us some fine music, led at the organ by Miss Mollie Valentine. We were very sorry our pastor could not be with us. Rev. Mr. Sexton of Princeton and Rev. Mr. Crane of Furman university were present. Mr. Crane gave us a fine lecture on home missions. The children's collection amounted to seven dollars. The ladies of the church and community had the church very tastefully decorated.

Mrs. Fannie Medlock, widow of the late Volney Medlock, died Wednesday night of pneumonia. The funeral was conducted by Dr. J. O. Martin of Warehous, at Poplar Springs church, Thursday evening and burial in the church cemetery.

Rev. Mr. Crane preached at Poplar Springs last Sunday.

L. K. Simpson of Furman spent Saturday and Sunday with his parents and friends in the community.

Mr. W. Carl Owens of Greenwood was in the community one day this week on business.

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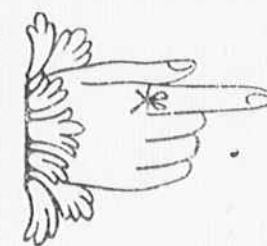
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