

# THE NEWBERRY HERALD AND NEWS, AUGUST 16, 1898.

## The Herald and News

### ANDREW JACKSON'S BEQUEST.

A Plain Statement Concerning the Silver Vase Given to the Palmetto Regiment.

The following open letter in regard to the silver vase bequeathed to South Carolina by Gen. Andrew Jackson:

To J. L. P. Cantwell and whomsoe'er it may concern:

Certain ladies of Charleston, S. C., A. D., 1815, donated to Gen. Andrew Jackson, in commemoration of the victory at New Orleans, a silver vase. Gen. Jackson died in 1845, leaving by his will bequeathed as follows: "The gold box presented to me by the corporation of the city of New York, the large silver vase presented to me by the ladies of Charleston, S. C., my native State, with the other pieces representing the authoring of the American ban, are bequeathed to me by the citizens of South Carolina, when I was released to be accepted by the United States; but I leave to trust to my son, A. Jackson, Jr., with directions that should our happy country not be pleased with peace, an event not always to be expected, he will at the close of the war or end of the conflict present each of said articles of immovable value to that nation residing in the city or State from which they were possessed who should be adjoined by his countrymen or the ladies, to have been the most valuable in defense of his country and our country's rights."

In 1848 A. Jackson, Jr., trusted the vase to the Governor of South Carolina with the request to dispose of it according to the terms of the bequest. The Governor reported to the trustee that it was impracticable to obtain a decision in the made prescribed by the will, who was the patriot of the State, "most valiant in defense of his country's rights." The trustee authorized him to deliver it to the survivors of the Palmetto Regiment, Mexican war, to be disposed of by them as they thought best. Under his call, a majority of the survivors met in Columbia, S. C., organized the "Palmetto Regiment Survivors' Association" and elected Wm. B. Stanley, first Lieutenant Co. H., President. The Governor delivered the vase to the association, which passed a resolution as impracticable of performance as was the bequest to wit: That the vase be kept by the president as custodian for the last survivor of the regiment. Capt. Stanley carried the vase to a meeting of the National Mexican war survivors in Washington, D. C., Feb. 1873. He died in 1883, and the undersigned was elected president and became custodian of the vase, records and relics of the regiment.

Upon the written assent of the survivors whose postoffice I knew—though such assent was not necessary—the vase was expressed under proper instances, to the South Carolina room of the woman's building, Atlanta exposition, 1895. And again upon the same assent, and the earnest request of the National Hermannite association, I carried the vase to the meetings of that association and of the National Mexican war survivors in Nashville last September. It was an object of intense interest at all these meetings. I half promised to carry it to the meeting of the National Mexican war veterans in Louisville, Ky., next month; but as I cannot attend, have ordered the vase to be expressed to me, to be stuck away in a bank vault. I know of no rule either of common law, of equity, of survivor's associations which forbids the vase being carried beyond the limits of the State. If there be, then at least one-third of the present survivors, including Col. Cantwell, will bebarred the right of ownership by survivorship unless they remove back from Ohio, California, Colorado, Oklahoma, Missouri, Texas and several other States, including North Carolina. I shall keep it safely under the trust neither expecting nor hoping to be the last unlucky survivor to whom I will have to deliver it. Should it be, it will be donated to the Senate of South Carolina.

Should anyone concerned desire any further facts let him write to me direct and save my further newspaper notoriety.

Respectfully,

JAMES D. BLANDING.

Sumter, August 8, 1898.

### Jefferson Davis's Last Words to the South

(New York Sun.)

The Augusta Chronicle has recently printed a short but very striking speech delivered at Mississippi City in 1888, just ten years ago by Jefferson Davis. It was one of Mr. Davis's last public utterances, for he died the next year. We reproduce it here, not because of the pathos of its reference to the past, but because it painted with singular clearness and almost prophetic vision to the events of 1898 and the glorious destiny now looming before a thoroughly reunited nation.

"Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens: Ah, pardon me, the laws of the United States no longer permit me to designate you as fellow citizens, but I am thankful that I may address you as my friends. I feel no regret that I stand before you this afternoon a man without a country, for my salvation lies buried in the grave of the Confederacy. There has been consigned not only my ambition, but the dogmas upon which that Government was based. The faces I see before me are those of young men, had I not known this I would not have appeared before you. Now, in whose hands the destiny of our Southern land lies, for love of her I trust my silence, to speak to you a few words of respectful advice. The past is dead; its hopes and aspirations, before us lie the future; suffice it to say, I promise a future of happiness and national glory, as we who live in this world shall stand and let others benefit by our example. Let us be true to our God, to our country, and our country's rights."

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That the vase be kept by the president as custodian for the last survivor of the regiment. Capt. Stanley carried the vase to a meeting of the National Mexican war survivors in Washington, D. C., Feb. 1873. He died in 1883, and the undersigned was elected president and became custodian of the vase, records and relics of the regiment.

All the Birleys beyond Mason's and Dixon's line—if anybody now remembers that imaginary boundary—cannot shut out the South from its part and participation in this future full of golden promise, this future full of expanding national glory, before which all the world shall stand and let others benefit by our example. Let us be true to our God, to our country, and our country's rights."

Herein is the very phrase, "the future of expanding national glory," which means so much today to South and North alike, the common incentive in which is the golden promise which Jefferson Davis foresaw.

All the Birleys beyond Mason's and Dixon's line—if anybody now remembers that imaginary boundary—cannot shut out the South from its part and participation in this future full of golden promise, this future full of expanding national glory, before which all the world shall stand amazed.

Father Time's scythe is a weapon that no man can escape. Sooner or later it must lay all men low.

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