

MRS. DAVIS A DEVOTED WIFE.

Was Her Husband's Constant Companion and Adviser.

On his way to a political meeting at Vicksburg one December day 63 years ago Jefferson Davis paid a visit to his brother's place, the Hurricane, near Natchez, Miss. The host, eager to entertain his brother, sent a saddle horse to the Howell home to bring a pretty 18-year-old girl who had just returned from school in Philadelphia. That was how the man who came to be president of the Southern Confederacy met Varina Howell, and two years later they were married.

From then until Jefferson Davis died, in New Orleans in 1889, his wife was with him, in peace and war. As devoted to the Confederate cause as her husband himself, she could hardly be persuaded to leave Richmond when Grant began to close in around it in 1865. Mrs. Jefferson Davis was her husband's constant assistant and adviser. And her tribute to him, a memoir in two big volumes, still survives, a valuable historical record of the doings in Richmond from 1861 to 1865.

Mrs. Davis was born at Natchez on May 7, 1826. Her grandfather was the Governor of New Jersey and her father was a clerk in the Bank of the United States. As a young girl she went to Philadelphia to school, and it was on her return home, for the Christmas holidays, that she met Jefferson Davis. He was a widower then, 30 years old, and just at the beginning of his political career. In a letter written soon after she met him, Varina Howell said:

"I do not know whether this Mr. Jefferson Davis is young or old. He looks both at times; but I believe he is old, for from what I hear he is only two years younger than you are. He impresses me as a remarkable kind of man, but of uncertain temper, and has a way of taking for granted that everybody agrees with him when he expresses an opinion, which offends me; yet he is most agreeable, and has a peculiarly sweet voice and a winning manner of asserting himself. The fact is, he is the kind of person I should expect him to rescue one from a mad dog at any risk, but to insist upon a stocial indifference to the fright afterward. I do not think that I shall ever like him as I do his brother 'Joe.' Would you believe it, he is refined and cultivated, and yet he is a Democrat!"

The wedding took place February 20, 1847, and in that same year Jefferson Davis was elected a member of Congress. From that year to the Civil War a great deal of the Davis' time was spent in Washington. Mr. Davis served as senator, as secretary of war under President Pierce and then as senator again. In the preparation of some of his ablest speeches it is said, his wife rendered him valuable assistance.

When he withdrew from the senate in January, 1861, he and Mrs. Davis went back to Mississippi, and the next month the delegates of the seceding States, in convention at Montgomery, Ala., chosen him President of the Confederacy. He went at once to Richmond, and his wife began packing up their belongings to follow him. Her journey was turned almost into a triumphal march. She went by way of New Orleans, and there a military company presented to her bouquets of violets. The color of the violets, she relates, filled her with a sort of superstitious dread.

In her memoir of her husband Mrs. Davis tells of their life in Richmond during the great war. She tells how the flag captured from the Merrimack was brought to her, and how the discovery that it was damp with blood made "her sick and sorrowful over the dead and dying of both sections." It was in war-time that one of her children was killed by a fall, and she writes of the accident thus:

"On April 30 I left my children quite well, playing in my room, and had just uncovered my basket in Mr. Davis' office when a servant came for me. The most beautiful and brightest of my children, Joseph Emory, had in play climbed over the connecting angle of a banister and had fallen to the brick below. He died in a few minutes after we reached his side. The child was Mr. Davis' hope and greatest joy in life."

With the struggle near its end, Mrs. Davis left Richmond. Later she was joined by her husband at Washington, Ga. For the first year of his imprisonment she was not allowed to be near him, but in the second the order excluding her was withdrawn. It was in connection with his imprisonment that Mrs. Jefferson Davis last came into public notice. A year or two ago the old controversy as to whether Gen. Nelson A. Miles had ill treated Jefferson Davis was revived. Gen. Miles said that Mrs. Davis had thanked him for his kind treatment of her husband, and Mrs. Davis denied having done so.—New York Times.

How Mrs. Davis Secured Her Husband's Release.

During the first year of her husband's imprisonment at Fortress Monroe, Mrs. Davis was not allowed to remain with him. During the second

year, 1867, she bent all her will and energies toward securing Mr. Davis' release, coming North to New York to consult Charles O'Connor, her husband's counsel, in the matter. That eminent lawyer told her that in his opinion there was just one thing to be done, and that was to get the leading man in the Republican party to sign the bond.

"And who is he?" asked Mrs. Davis.

"Horace Greeley," replied O'Connor. "But I do not know him, and I do not think I would have any influence with him," said Mrs. Davis.

"It is the only chance I see to success," was the lawyer's reply.

Mrs. Davis called on Horace Greeley. It was a memorable interview on both sides. The wife of the fallen leader was courteously received. She told how she had come to New York to work for her husband's release and had been told that the only way to secure it was to get the signature of Greeley on the bond.

"Mr. O'Connor tells me that you have a kind heart, and that you will do this if you believe it to be right. My husband is dying, and only way to save his life is to secure his release." "Madam," said Greeley, extending his hand, "I will sign the bond." He did.

But it was a costly performance for Horace Greeley. He was a candidate for the United States Senate, but this action so angered the legislators that he lost the election, and the falling off in subscriptions for a history of the war, which he had just completed, was so great that the estimated loss to Greeley was over \$30,000. After Mr. Davis' release his wife accompanied him to England, and returned with him to the United States.—Philadelphia Press.

ANOTHER VETERAN DEAD.

Bishopville, Oct. 23.—Mr. William Henry Dixon, an old Confederate veteran and well-known citizen of this town, died last night after suffering for over six months with tuberculosis. He was a member of the firm of L. C. Dixon & Co., leading dealers in dry goods and millinery, and was an active business man until incapacitated by the inroads of the disease which terminated his life.

He was universally esteemed and well liked by everyone, always affable and courteous in his demeanor to all whom he met and a good and faithful citizen, ever doing all that he could to promote the interests of the town.

He was a member of the Bishopville Methodist Church, where his funeral services will be held this afternoon at 3.30 o'clock. A good man has gone to his reward. His family have the sympathy of the entire community.

FORAGE POISONING.

Farmers and other owners of live stock should exercise the utmost care in the inspection of the forage fed to their horses and mules, since by so doing they may save themselves from heavy loss. Owing to the wet weather a great deal of hay and other forage has been housed in a damaged and mouldy condition. Mouldy forage when fed to live stock produces what is known as "forage poisoning," which is fatal in practically all cases. The mould or mildew that forms on damp and improperly cured forage is a fungoid growth that contains a deadly poison to live stock. It does not cause immediate death but the poisoned animal becomes ill, though not immediately incapacitated for work, and in a short time dies. So far as is known there is no antidote for the poison.

Within the past few weeks several cases of forage poisoning, followed by death, have come under the observation of local veterinarians.

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COTTON EXCHANGE TAX

Spartanburg, Oct. 23.—The city council of Spartanburg has increased the license for operating cotton exchanges from two hundred per year to one thousand dollars, an increase of \$800. This is a hard blow to those engaged in the business and probably means that the Exchange here will close. It is stated by those who know that the expense of operating an exchange with private wires is heavy, and such business cannot be conducted in a town of this size at a profit and pay a license of \$1,000. It is understood that the license was increased for the purpose of driving out the business.

Blood Poisoning

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TURF PROFITS FOR FARMERS.

Federal Government Gathers Data on Breeding of Race Horses.

The application of John E. Madden, breeder of thoroughbred race horses, by the United States Department of Agriculture, through George M. Rommel of the Bureau of Animal Industry, for information concerning the cost of breeding and marketing race horses, with a view of bringing out the profits of the breeding business in comparison with the profits of rearing horses for other purposes, has put on record for the Government's use statistics which in view of the fact that Mr. Madden has made a fortune out of breeding and marketing race horses in the last dozen years have aroused wide interest among horse breeders.

The inquiry is made by the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Rommel states in his correspondence with Mr. Madden, because the department believed that under favorable conditions benefits might be secured by the use of sound standard-bred or thoroughbred stallions for breeding by farmers for the production of general purpose horses. The department wished especially to know whether the greater profit would come to the farmer breeders from the general market or the race course. In Mr. Madden's estimate of the cost of rearing a thoroughbred horse to the age of two years he based his average on his own experience as a breeder, as set forth in the following tabulation: First year... \$50 Second year... 100 Keep of mare... 50 Interest on cost of mare and allowance for barren years... 50 Total... \$250

These figures are based on Mr. Madden's expenditures as a breeder at the highest reasonable cost, employing skilled labor and high-priced stock. In Mr. Madden's opinion, the average farmer should be able to rear thoroughbred horses for an average cost of \$100 less per head, where if breeding on a moderate scale much of the expense for labor would be avoided. The farmer's possible output for a thoroughbred of marketable age, Mr. Madden believes, would be covered in the following: Pasture at \$2 a month... \$16.00 Grain with pasture at 10 cents a day... 24.00 Cost of wintering at \$6 a month... 66.00 Estimate of stallion service, keep of mare, and labor... 50.00 Total... \$156.00

Many farmers could use their brood mares and so offset cost of keep. An average price for a brood mare might be put at \$200. Where one or two mares are kept no extra labor is hired, and Mr. Madden's \$50 would cover all expenses beyond the \$106 estimated.

The demand for hunting and steeplechase horses is very much on the increase, and the farmer, in Mr. Madden's opinion, is the man to supply this want in breeding a good type of thoroughbred.

Of the profits of rearing thoroughbreds, Mr. Madden cites sales for a number of years, where brood mares were sold for prices averaging about \$300, and their produce as yearlings brought sums ranging from \$400 up to \$2,200. Mr. Madden's belief is that at the prices which have prevailed for brood mares through the past few years farmers who are struggling to earn their livelihood through agriculture alone, could, with little extra expense, keep a few brood mares and realize handsomely from their produce.

*A cold is much more easily cured when the bowels are open. Kennedy's Laxative Honey and Tar opens the bowels and drives the cold out of the system in young or old. Sold by all druggists.

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*If an article is imitated, the original is always best. Think it over, and when you go to buy that box of salve to keep around the house, get DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. It is the original and the name is stamped on every box. Good for eczema, tetter, boils, cuts and bruises, and especially recommended for piles. Sold by all druggists.

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