



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

DECEMBER 1975

Vol 19 No 4

_____ 158th Meeting _____

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1975

SPEAKER: HONORABLE EDWIN M. STANTON
Personified by DR. DAVID N. WOOD

PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 7 P.M. DINNER: 8 P.M.
R.S.V.P. 687-2803

DR. DAVID N. WOOD

The members and their ladies will be honored by the presence of the Honorable Edwin McMasters Stanton, Secretary of War in President Lincoln's cabinet. It is difficult to describe the experience of such a meeting with Mr. Stanton. Here is the review of Mr. Stanton's first appearance before our group:

"It has not been your editor's policy to review past meetings in the newsletter. However, in certain instances we have been privileged to witness an outstanding talk. Such was the case for our November (1970) meeting. We did not hear a talk about Edwin Stanton, we experienced it. He was there with us delivering the talk in the first person. Dave conceived the idea of dressing and having himself made up to represent Lincoln's 'Mars.' The physical resemblance that Dr. Wood obtained was almost beyond belief. A special vote of thanks and appreciation to Mr. Bernard Singerman of the Lakewood Little Theater for his superb job of makeup on Dr. Wood.

The speech was given in a manner that would have suited Stanton's personality. It was spotted with references to the innuendoes of ego often employed by other cabinet officers and government officials, and heavily flavored with completely immodest acknowledgement of his own greatness as Lincoln's only worthwhile lieutenant. Without a doubt this was one of the finest talks we have ever had the pleasure to witness."

A thumbnail sketch of Stanton: Born in Steubenville, Ohio in 1814 he was raised and educated in Ohio. He graduated from Kenyon College and practiced law and held minor public offices before being named Buchanan's Attorney General. Some of the more famous trials in which he participated were as the defense counsel for Dan Sickles in the Philip Barton Key murder trial, the Wheeling Bridge Case and the infamous Cyrus McCormick Reaper Case. In 1862 he succeeded Cameron as Sec of War and proved to be an able and honorable cabinet member. He remained at the post under Johnson and shortly became a bitter opponent of the president's reconstruction policies. Asked to resign he refused and locked himself in his office. Johnson fired him, but the Senate restored his post. After Johnson's impeachment trial was over Stanton resigned and practiced law until appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1869. However, he died four days later. An exciting night with an exciting personality.

CLEVELAND CWRT DISPATCH POUCH NEWS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATES

Our November speaker was Jerry Russell, Executive Director of the CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE ASSOCIATES. Jerry gave us a fine talk on The Battle of Pea Ridge, and is highly recommended to all roundtables seeking a good speaker. However, Jerry was too modest to plug his own organization, so I will. Jerry started the Civil War Round Table Associates in 1968, as a means of providing a clearing house of information on contemporary Civil War activities. The Association publishes a newsletter which Jerry edits. Enclosed is a card which is your personal invitation to join in the effort to provide a vehicle for communicating among Civil War enthusiasts throughout the country. You can support our effort to save the battlefields by joining. The dues of \$7.50 a year entitle you to a one-year subscription to the CWRT Digest, plus a bonus premium of two booklets: a Civil War Round Table Organization Guide and a Roster of CWRT's. You will also be entitled to run FREE classified ads in the digest.

An important point! There are no plans to move toward the formation of a National Civil War Round Table -- the local autonomy of the Round Tables is their basic strength and should be maintained. However, with the commercial encroachment into historic sites and battlefields, it is felt that some sort of national informational organization would be helpful, and that is the reason for the CWRT Associates. Your individual help is needed -- use the card -- its money well spent.

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CIVIL WAR SITES FUND

One of the sound solutions to come from the Manassas Civil War Round Table National Congress was the knowledge of the CIVIL WAR SITES FUND. This Fund is administered by the National Park Foundation for the purchase of battlefield land or land which would help to protect present battlefields from encroachment.

The CIVIL WAR SITES FUND was established in September 1973 with an initial donation of \$1000 from the CIVIL WAR TIMES ILLUSTRATED. It has received donations from the following Civil War Round Tables: Western Reserve (Ohio), Harrisburg (Pennsylvania), Des Moines (Iowa), West Richfield (Ohio) and Tennessee Valley (Huntsville, Alabama). Individuals and firms have made donations ranging from \$5 to \$100.00. Further donations have been somewhat sparse.

The CIVIL WAR SITES FUND provided \$800 to purchase a highly desired tract at Antietam National Battlefield which it will hold until a boundary adjustment permits the National Park Service to accept it. A grant of \$1000 from the Fund assisted the National Park Foundation to purchase an option on property at the entrance to Fort Donelson National Military Park which it held until the National Park Service had funds to purchase the tract. The \$1000 was returned to the Fund to be used again in purchasing or preserving an important Civil War site.

The CIVIL WAR SITES FUND balance at September, 1975 is \$1836, but the Park Service has earmarked costly tracts in several Civil War sites among its top priorities for acquisition.

Significant contributions to the Fund will greatly enhance the opportunities for preserving historic Civil War battlefields. John L. Bryant, President of the National Park Foundation, indicates that the NPF is a volunteer organization with a very small overhead. Hence, contributions are used almost solely to purchase land indicated as vital by the National Park Service. DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. WE ONLY HAVE A FEW DAYS LEFT OF THIS YEAR...SEND YOUR CHECK NOW.

CIVIL WAR SITES FUND
MR. JOHN L. BRYANT
NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The total amount of funds donated to the Fund since its inception is \$2,636.50. This seems to be an incredibly small amount knowing the generosity of Civil War buffs for such a cause. Let's remedy this situation immediately.)

SAVE THE BATTLEFIELDS.....

THE COURIER
of
THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

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LEE, THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Address by

Dr. Edward S. Joynes
January 19, 1907

The most glorious object in nature is the sun. Yet in full meridian its brightness dazzles the eye. But sometimes, in the subdued glow of sunset, its magic radiance is revealed in resplendent charm of light and color, more beautiful because less dazzling, than the midday brilliance. So it is sometimes, but rarely, in human character. So it was, notably, with him whose statue guards this capitol--South Carolina's noblest hero and exemplar, Hampton--whose work in the evening of his life, as the great Pacificator, outshines even the glory of his military achievements. So it was, most conspicuously, with Robert E. Lee, who in his latest years, in the humble office of a college president, bearing bravely the burden of daily duty, beneath the weight of a disappointment which might well have crushed the strongest heart, was yet to illustrate and confirm the finest traits of a character whose perfection and power, on the highest fields of action, had already won the admiration of the world.

I am to speak of General Lee as a College President only--not at all of his larger life or achievement in military service. In this humbler capacity it was my privilege to serve him and to know him intimately--a privilege--ah, how great!--so great that I did not realize it until it was gone. Yet, ever since, I look back upon it, with increasing estimate, as the golden age of my life--and with ever increasing regret that I could not know him better and serve him better than I did. Such, I know, was the feeling of all of us who were privileged to serve with him--of whom I am now, with one exception, the sole survivor. (The other survivor of the faculty is my class-mate at the University of Virginia (1853), Alexander L. Nelson, Professor of Mathematics for fifty-two years (1854-1906)--now retired on the Carnegie Foundation.) Today, all over the South, in many colleges as elsewhere, this Centennial is fitly celebrated; for General Lee, as a college president, has ennobled every college in the land, and the memory of his great example will be cherished so long as recurring centennials shall come.

In what I shall say to you, my friends, I shall speak without ornament or oratory, but simply, and of intimate personal knowledge. I shall make large use of material written by myself soon after General Lee's death, when recollection was fresher than now. (Dr. Joynes article appeared in December 1870, for the University Monthly (March 1871)). Much of documentary evidence, which, though interesting, has already been widely published, I shall omit; and if, on other somewhat techni-

cal points, I seem to go too much into detail, my apology must be that, in my opinion, all authentic facts concerning General Lee, as a college president, are of permanent interest and importance.

General Lee accepted the presidency of Washington College in the first place, from a profound and deliberate sense of duty. The same high principle of action that had characterized his conduct in the gravest crises of public affairs marked his decisions here; and here, as ever, duty alone determined his choice. (His letter of acceptance, often printed, strikingly illustrates this trait of his character, as well as his modesty and unselfishness.) There was absolutely nothing in this position that could have tempted him. Not only was it uncongenial with all the habits of his past life, and remote from all the associations in which he had formerly taken pleasure, but it was at that time most uninviting in itself. The college to which he was called was broken in fortune and in hope. The war had practically closed its doors. Its buildings had been pillaged and defaced, and its library scattered. It had now neither money nor credit, and it was even doubtful whether it would be shortly reopened at all for the reception of students. The faculty were few in number, disorganized and dispirited. Of the slender endowment that had survived the war hardly anything was available, and ready money could not be secured even for the most immediate and pressing wants of the college. Under these circumstances the offer of the presidency to General Lee seemed well-nigh presumptuous; and surely it was an offer from which he had nothing to expect, either of fortune or of fame. The men, however, who made this election, the trustees of Washington College--ever honored be their memory for their noble conception--had not calculated in vain in their estimate of General Lee's character. They felt that this position, however humble it might seem, would afford to him what from their knowledge of the man they were sure would be the most acceptable to him--a sphere of duty in which he could spend his days in the service of his beloved people; and though the country looked on astonished and incredulous, the result showed that they had not been mistaken. Suffice it to say here, that it was a deliberate sense of duty to his fellow-countrymen, and a desire to pay back as far as he could, through their sons, the sufferings and sorrows of his own generation in the South, that determined his decision. He had already fully resolved not to leave Virginia under any circumstances; and this position, humble as it seemed to be, gave him the wished for opportunity of laboring for her people and for the South. Therefore he accepted it.

The profound sense of duty which marked General Lee's acceptance of this office characterized also his whole administration of it. He entertained the profoundest convictions on the importance of educational influences, both to individuals and to the country, and the deepest sense of personal responsibility in his own office. He felt that an institution like Washington College owed duty not only to its own students but to the whole country, and that its moral obligations were not only supreme within its own sphere, but were attached to the wider interests of public virtue and of true religion among all the people. Everybody around him felt unconsciously that he was actuated by these principles, and all were impressed by his high conceptions of duty and the singleness of his devotion to it. Nothing else, indeed, could have sustained him so serenely through so many and so constant details of labor and of trial. Nothing else could have held his thoughts so high or kept his heart so strong in the midst of daily tasks always so severe, often so trivial and discouraging. But he never flagged; and though he fully comprehended the difficulties of his office, and was often wearied with its incessant labors, no word of despondency fell from his lips. He felt that he was doing his duty. "I have," he said, as reported by the Hon. Mr. Hilliard, "a self-imposed task which I can not forsake"; and in this spirit he met all the details of his daily

labors, cheerfully to the last. Again and again, during his life at Lexington, were tempting offers urged upon him--offers of large income, with comparative ease and more active and congenial employment; but though he fully appreciated these considerations and was not indifferent to the attractions presented by such offers, he turned from them all with the same reply. He had chosen his post of duty and he clung to it. Year by year the conception of his duty seemed to grow stronger with him; and year by year the college, as its instrument and representative grew dearer to him. And as gradually the fruits of his labors began to be manifest, and the moral and intellectual results of his influence approved themselves even to his own modest self-estimate, his heart grew only warmer, and his zeal more zealous, in his work.

His sense of personal duty was also expanded into a warm solicitude for all who were associated with him. To the faculty he was an elder brother, beloved and revered, and full of all tender sympathy. (General Lee's treatment of his faculty was not only courteous, but, kind and affectionate. My wife reminds me that once, when I was detained at home by sickness, General Lee came every day, through a deep Lexington snow, and climbed the high stairs, to inquire about me and to comfort her.) To the students he was a father in carefulness, in encouragement, in reproof. Their welfare and their conduct and character as gentlemen were his chief concern; and this solicitude was not limited to their collegiate years, but followed them abroad into life. He thought it to be the office of a college not merely to educate the intellect, but to make Christian men. The moral and religious character of the students was more precious in his eyes even than their intellectual progress, and was made the special object of his constant personal solicitude. In his annual reports to the trustees, which were models of clear and dignified composition, he always dwelt with peculiar emphasis upon these interests; and nothing in the college gratified him more than its marked moral and religious improvement during his administration. To the Rev. Dr. White he said, as affectingly narrated soon after his death by that venerable minister: "I shall be disappointed, sir--I shall fail in the leading object that brought me here--unless these young men all become consistent Christians." Other expressions, bearing eloquent witness to the same truth, might be quoted; but none could be more eloquent than the steady tenor of his own life, quietly yet constantly devoted to the highest ends of duty and of religion. (Great as was the need of the College for academic buildings, yet the first building erected, under General Lee's direction was a chapel for worship--the same under which his remains lie buried--and he never failed there to attend morning prayers or public worship.)

Such were the principles which actuated General Lee as president of Washington College, and their effects showed themselves in all the details of his administration. In the discipline of the college his moral influence was supreme. A disciplinarian in the ordinary sense of the term, as it is often most unworthily applied, he was not. He was no seeker-out of small offences, no stickler for formal regulations. (The honor principle--which is the pride of Southern colleges--never had a stronger advocate or a better illustration than General Lee. He did not approve of military regulations in college. I have heard him say that military discipline was, unfortunately, necessary in military education, but was, in his opinion, a most unsuitable training for civil life. A still more remarkable expression is recorded by Prof. Humphreys, in the memorial number of the WAKE FOREST STUDENT: "He warned me" ((Prof. H. was then an instructor in the College)) "against inflexible rules adopted beforehand, and suddenly startled me by saying: "The great mistake of my life was taking a military education.'") In his construction of college rules, and in his dealings with actions generally, he was most liberal; but in his estimate of motives, and in the requirements of principle and honor, he was exacting to the last

degree. Youthful indiscretion found in him the most lenient of judges; but falsehood or meanness had no toleration with him. He looked rather to the principles of good conduct than to mere outward acts. He was most scrupulous in exacting a proper obedience to lawful authority; but he was always the last to condemn, and the most just to hear the truth, even in behalf of the worst offenders. Hence in the use of college punishments he was cautious, forbearing, and lenient; but he was not the less firm in his demands and prompt, when need was, in his measures. His reproof was stern, yet kind, and often melting in its tenderness; and his appeals, always addressed to the noblest motives, were irresistible. The hardest offenders were alike awed by his presence, and moved often to tears by his words; and there was no student who did not dread a reproof from General Lee more than every other punishment. In all his official actions, and, indeed, in all his intercourse with the students, he looked to the elevation of the tone of principle and opinion among themselves, as the vital source of good conduct, rather than to the simple repression of vice. His discipline was moral rather than punitive. Hence there were few cases of dismissal or other severe punishment during his administration, and hence, also, the need for such punishments became ever less and less.

The influence of this policy, aided especially by the mighty influence of his personal character, was all-powerful. The elevation of tone and the improvement in conduct were steady and rapid. Immediately after the war the young men of the South were wild and unrestrained, and acts of disorder were frequent; in the latter years of his administration hardly a single case of serious discipline occurred. I doubt, indeed, whether at any other college in the world so many young men could have been found as free from misconduct, or marked by as high a tone of feeling and opinion, as were the students of Washington College during these latter years of General Lee's life. The students felt this and were proud of it; and they were proud of themselves and of their college as representatives of the character and influence of Lee.

Yet not the less was he rigidly exacting of duty and scrupulously attentive to details. By a system of reports, weekly and monthly--almost military in the exactness--which he required of each professor, he made himself acquainted with the standing and progress of every student in every one of his classes. These reports he studied carefully and was quick to detect shortcomings. He took care, also, to make himself acquainted with each student personally, to know his studies, his boarding-house, his associations, disposition and habits; and though he never obtruded this knowledge, the students knew that he possessed it and that his interest followed them everywhere. Nor was it a moral influence alone that he exerted in the college. He was equally careful of its intellectual interests. Though not personally engaged in teaching, he watched the progress of every class, attended all the examinations and frequently the recitations, and strove constantly to stimulate both professors and students to the highest attainments. The whole college, in a word, felt his influence as an ever-present motive, and his character was quietly yet irresistibly impressed upon it, not only in the general working of all its departments, but in all the details of each. (General Lee never failed to attend every examination, dividing the time among the several classes. Every week he devoted an hour or more to attending recitations. He came when least expected, and his presence was a stimulus to both student and professors--such as I have never since experienced. He would remain 10 or 15 minutes and then pass to another class. His bow, as he entered and left the room, was an impressive lesson in courtesy--that gracious courtesy which now seems to me to have almost departed from the new generation.)

Of this influence General Lee, modest as he was, was perfectly aware and, like a prudent ruler, he husbanded it with a wise economy. He preferred to confine his direct interposition to purely personal acts; and rarely, and then only on critical occasions, did he step for-

ward to present himself before the whole student body in the full dignity of his presidential office. On these occasions, which were always rare and in his later years hardly ever occurred, he would quietly post an address to the students, in which, appealing only to the highest principles of conduct, he sought to dissuade them from threatened evil. These addresses, which the boys designated as his "General Orders," were always of immediate efficacy, and no student would have been tolerated by his fellow-students who would have dared to disregard such an appeal from General Lee.

General Lee was also most laborious in the duties of his office as a college president. He gave himself wholly to his work. His occupation was constant, almost incessant. He went to his office daily at eight o'clock, and rarely returned home until one or two. During this time he was almost incessantly engaged in college matters, giving his personal attention to the minutest details, and always ready to receive visitors on college business. His office was always open to students or professors, all whose interests received his ready consideration. His correspondence meanwhile was very heavy, yet no letter that called for an answer was ever neglected. It was stated by the editor of a Virginia paper that to a circular letter of general educational interest, addressed to him to a large number of college presidents, General Lee was the only one that replied; yet he was the greatest and perhaps the busiest of them all. In addition to the formal reports, which he always revised and signed himself, his correspondence with the parents and guardians of students was intimate and explicit, on every occasion that required such correspondence. Many of these letters are models of beautiful composition and noble sentiment.

These varied duties grew upon him year after year with the expanding interests of the college; and year after year he seemed to become more devoted to them. Again and again did the trustees and faculty seek to lessen his labors; but his carefulness of duty and natural love of work seemed to render it impossible. Equally, he declined donations offered expressly to raise his salary; for the college, he said, needed money more than he did. The writer has heard the remark made that General Lee gave himself to the duties of President of Washington College as though he had never known any other duties or any other ambition; and this was true. He himself wrote to an old and famous comrade in arms, "I am charmed with the duties of civil life." It can be truly said that he was wholly absorbed in his work, his noble conception of which made it great, and worthy even of him.

But General Lee was not only earnest and laborious, he was also able, as a college president. He was perfectly master of the situation and thoroughly wise and skillful in all its duties, of organization and of policy as well as of detail. To this let the results of his administration bear testimony. He found the college practically bankrupt, disorganized, deserted; he left it strong, progressive, and crowded with students. It was not merely numbers that he brought to it, for these his great fame alone would have attracted; he gave it organization, unity, energy, and practical success. In entering upon his presidency he seemed at once fully to comprehend the wants of the college, and its history during the next five years was but the development of his plans and the reflection of his wise energy. And these plans were not fragmentary, nor was this energy merely an industrious zeal. He had from the beginning a distinct policy which he had fully conceived and to which he steadily adhered, so that all his particular measures of progress were but consistent steps in its development. His object was nothing less than to establish and perfect an institution which should meet the highest needs of education in every department. At once, and without waiting for the means to be provided in advance, he proceeded to develop this purpose. Under his advice new chairs were created, and professors called to fill them; so that before the end of the first year the faculty was doubled in number. Later, additional

chairs were created; and finally a complete system of departments was established and brought into full operation. To these departments, each one of which was complete in itself and under the individual control of its own professor, was given a compact and unique organization into a system of complete courses, with corresponding diplomas and degrees; which, while securing the perfect distinctness and responsibility of each department, gave perfect unity to them all. These courses were so adapted and mutually arranged as to avoid alike the errors of the purely elective system on the one hand and of the close curriculum on the other, and to secure, by a happy compromise, the best advantages of both. So admirably was this plan conceived and administered that, heterogeneous as were the students especially in the earlier years, each one found at once his proper place, and nearly all were kept in the line of complete and systematic study.

Under this organization, and especially under the inspiration of General Lee's central influence, the utmost harmony and the utmost energy pervaded all the departments of the college. The highest powers of both professors and students were called forth, under the fullest responsibility. The standards of scholarship were rapidly advanced; and soon the graduates of Washington College were the acknowledged equals of those from the best institutions elsewhere, and were eagerly sought after for the highest positions as teachers in the best schools. These results, which even in the few years of his administration had become universally acknowledged throughout the South, were due directly and immediately, more than to all other causes, to the personal ability and influence of General Lee, as president of the college.

General Lee's plans for the development of Washington College were not simply progressive; they were distinct and definite. He aimed to make the college represent at once the wants and the genius of the country. He fully realized the needs of the present age, and he desired to adapt the education of the people to their condition and their destiny. He was the ardent advocate of complete classical and literary culture. (He was often heard to regret that he had not more fully completed his classical education before going to West Point.) Under his influence the classical and literary departments of the college were fully sustained. Yet he recognized the fact that material well-being is a condition of all high civilization, and therefore he sought to provide the means for the development of science and for its practical applications. He thought, indeed, that the best antidote to the materialistic tendencies of a purely scientific training was to be found in the liberalizing influences of literary culture, and that scientific and professional schools could best be taught when surrounded by the associations of a literary institution. He believed fully in the university idea and not in separate technical schools; but that, as hereafter they must live together, so young men of different pursuits should be educated together, and that their mutual influence would be mutually beneficial in college as in later life. He sought, therefore, to establish this mutual connection, and to consolidate all the departments of literary, scientific and professional education under a common organization. Hence, at an early day, he called into existence the departments of Applied Mathematics and Engineering, of Modern Languages, and of Law, as part of the collegiate organization; and, later, he submitted to the trustees a plan for the complete development of the scientific and professional departments of the college, which will ever remain as an example of his enlarged wisdom, and which anticipated, by many years, the actual attainments of any school in this country. In addition to all the other reasons for mourning the death of General Lee it is to be deeply regretted that he did not live to complete his great designs. Had he done so, he would probably have left behind him an institution of learning which would have been a not less illustrious tribute to his fame than his most brilliant military achievements. As it is, he has left a university, which, dowered with his memory and his

name, and inspired with his ideals, will always remain his noblest monument. There today his memory has been celebrated, and his praises spoken by a distinguished citizen of Massachusetts, who, once a Union soldier, is now proud to claim the name and fame of Lee as the property and the glory of the nation.

Outside of these more official statements there is much that I might say of General Lee in his more personal and private relations. Yet such detail might be wearisome, and, besides, much of what I would say might be unsuitable for public utterance. But no one who ever enjoyed the privilege of intercourse with General Lee can forget that splendid and captivating personality. He was the handsomest man I have ever seen. Besides the utmost perfection of form and feature he had a mingled sweetness and dignity of expression--an unconscious grace and majesty of appearance--"the like of which," says General Lord Wolseley, "I have never seen in other men." His familiar conversation was kind and gracious, and often lightened by the play of genial humor. He enjoyed a joke and could tell one with a keen zest--but never was there any approach to unseemly levity, and no man could have dared to take liberties with General Lee. In his home, where I often met him in his family circle, he was most loving and lovable--especially his demeanor to Mrs. Lee, who for some years had been disabled by rheumatism, was marked by a visible and touching tenderness. Of this dear and gracious lady, who to my wife and children showed the mingled love of friend and mother, and whose memorials are among the dearest possessions of our household, I may not speak here, except to say, that she was worthy to be the wife of General Lee and the mother of his children. Of his devotion to her, and of his affectionate and beautiful family life, the richest proofs are given in his published letters--the most intimate of which exhibit, most unconsciously, the finest traits of his character. To all women he always showed the most chivalrous and delicate courtesy. Of children he was affectionately fond, and to them he was irresistibly attractive. They were often seen gathered around him on the campus, or in his quiet walks.

In what is called "society" General Lee mingled but little--he had neither time nor inclination. But he was never forgetful of the "small, sweet courtesies of life." A stranger visiting Lexington, a father or mother visiting a son at college, was sure of a call from General Lee, and with scrupulous courtesy he repaid the social attentions that he received. At his table he presided with his accustomed sweet and gentle dignity, and shared fully in social, often playful conversation. On special occasions he offered rare wines--I remember once some that had been bottled by his father. Of such he partook sparingly, but never--so far as I know--of any other intoxicating drink. He was fond of riding--almost every afternoon, when he had time; and General Lee on Traveller, booted and gauntleted--in winter with his military cloak--and accompanied, as he often was, by his favorite friend, Professor White--like himself a superb horseman--was the finest sight on which the eye could rest. How often--ah, how often! I have watched that splendid spectacle!

In business matters, private or official, General Lee was accurate and methodical, and his annual reports were models of clear and comprehensive statement. In correspondence he was careful and scrupulously punctual. On this subject I can speak with knowledge, for it often fell to my lot to help him--as we were all ready to do--in answering his many letters. In private conversation he was quiet and genial. He never spoke--at least not in my hearing--of the war or of politics, except with the utmost reserve. Here his recollections were, doubtless too painful. I never heard from his lips a word either of bitterness or of apology, nor any criticism of others. It is known, I believe, that he had intended to write the history of his army, but that he desisted, because he thought this could not be done "without causing too much pain." Thus, for the sake of others, he forebore what would have

been his own supreme vindication. So tender, so self-denying, was this great heart.

As I look back now, through the haze of forty years, I can hardly realize, as I could not then, that this man, so quiet and so human--so simple in conduct and costume--so kind and friendly--so diligent in business--so social and cheerful--so unassuming and unpretending, as he shared or cheered our daily labors--was the same that had commanded great armies--had swayed the tide of battle--had borne the hopes and sorrows of a great people, and alike in victory and in defeat had given to his countrymen and to the world the last and highest ideal of the heroic commander. And yet--wonderful as it was and is--it was he; and after all, he was as great--as unequaled--on that college campus as on any battlefield--the same everywhere and always. "He was," says General Lord Wolseley, who knew him when at the head of his army, "the most perfect man I have ever met," and seemed "cast in a grander mould and made of finer metal than all other men." It is but small praise that I, who knew him in a narrower and more intimate sphere, should echo the same sentiment.

It has been already said that to the individual professors General Lee was always kind and accessible. In official relations he bore his authority modestly, yet always effectively. From each professor he required stated reports of his department, which he then transmitted to the trustees, with his own endorsement or comment, along with his own report. And after submitting his report, he always retired to his office to await the pleasure of the Board, in order not to embarrass their action by his presence.

In the weekly meetings of the faculty General Lee exerted rather an influence which seemed unconscious both to himself and to us, than any visible authority. Faculty meetings are apt to be wordy, and sometimes a little excited; but General Lee never showed impatience, and his quiet presence calmed every rising storm. Enough occurred, sometimes, to show that he had both a quick and a strong temper, but never for a moment did he lose self-control or forget either dignity or courtesy. He exerted himself to minimize his own authority, and to leave to each professor the full sense of independence and responsibility. He never made a speech; rarely, indeed, spoke from his chair or attempted by any expression of opinion to influence a pending vote. It need not be added, however, that when General Lee's views were known, they were always decisive, and no really important measure was ever introduced without consultation with him. Besides its exceptionally great ability, his was the best organized and most efficient faculty I have ever served with. Its important work was done (as in Congress) by standing committees, and General Lee was always consulted in every case of importance or difficulty. Thus--though the initiative often came from another source--he was really identified with every important measure.

I have said that General Lee rarely spoke in faculty meetings, but his influence was not the less felt. I have already stated how strongly he advocated and enforced the principle of honor in dealing with students, and his aversion to minute regulations. And occasionally he gave utterance to thoughts which I have always remembered and now deem worthy of record. On one occasion a professor cited a certain regulation, to which another replied that it was a dead letter. "Then," said General Lee, "let it be at once repealed. A 'dead letter' inspires disrespect for the whole body of laws; but as long as it stands, it should be enforced." On another occasion a professor appealed to precedent, and added: "We must not respect persons." "I always respect persons," replied General Lee, "and care little for precedent." Again he said: "We must never make a rule that we cannot enforce"; and again, counseling a professor: "Never raise an issue which you are not prepared to maintain at all hazards"; and "make no needless rules."

As to his views of discipline, enough perhaps has been said

already. I may state, however, with reference to an important and often recurring question, that General Lee held idleness to be not a negative but a positive vice. "A young man," he said, "is always doing something--if not good, then harm to himself and others"--so that merely persistent idleness was, with him, sufficient cause for dismissal. Another interesting fact was this: In the old college, students had lived in dormitories. Now, General Lee advised all younger students to board and lodge in private families--reserving the dormitories as a special privilege for older students--because, he said, they offered special opportunities of license, while younger boys needed the restraining influences of family life. This view was amply vindicated by results, while thus also the town and the college were drawn into closer fellowship and sympathy. There was no "town and gown" in Lexington.

One incident, personal to myself, is worth relating, for it teaches still, as it taught me, a valuable lesson. I often assisted General Lee in his correspondence--as we all sought to help him when we could. Once he gave me an important letter, which he asked me to answer "with care." I did my best. When I returned it, he read it carefully--then took up his pencil, and said: "Professor, this is very good, but it will be better if we strike out a few adjectives and adverbs"--then, handing it back, he said: "Now, if you will kindly copy it." I found that he had struck out every useless word, leaving the letter, of course, better than it was before. This incident I never forgot;--as a teacher of English I have quoted it again and again to my classes, and I recognize it now as the best lesson in composition I have ever received. In this connection I may remark that General Lee's own writings, whether official or private, are models of clear and correct form. He was a master of style, in both thought and expression.

Of his dealings with students, by which he won their love as well as their reverence, many interesting anecdotes are related--I mention only one or two, which came under my personal knowledge.

I have said that by weekly reports he kept in close touch with all the classes. Especially no single unexcused absence was ever overlooked. (I take the liberty of adding here that, in this respect, General Lee's discipline was a model. His punctuality made it at once strict and easy. By thus meeting neglect and disorder on the threshold, he prevented their continuance; and hence there were but few cases of prolonged misconduct to be dealt with by him or by the faculty.) The delinquent was at once summoned to General Lee's office--always a most dreaded ordeal--and his reception varied from "grave to gay" according to circumstances. I give an instance of each: A young fellow whose general record was none too good, was summoned to answer for absence. He stated his excuse, and then, hesitatingly, he added another and another. "Stop, Mr.---," said General Lee, "one good reason should be sufficient," with an emphasis on the word good that spoke volumes. Another, an excellent student, now a distinguished lawyer in Tennessee, was once beguiled into an unexcused absence. The dreaded summons came. With his heart in his boots he entered General Lee's office. The General met him smiling: "Mr. M., I am glad to see you are better." "But, General, I have not been sick." "Then I am glad to see you had better news from home." "But, General, I have had no bad news." "Ah," said the General, "I took it for granted that nothing less than sickness or distressing news from home could have kept you from your duty." Mr. M. told me, in relating this incident, that he then felt as if he wished the earth to open and swallow him. To a lazy fellow, he once said: "How is your mother? I am sure you must be devoted to her; you are so careful of the health of her son"; and to another, who was in rebellion against authority: "you cannot be a true man, until you learn to obey."

Of General Lee's religious character, I do not feel myself worthy to speak. That he was deeply, sincerely religious, with a perfect, trusting faith in God and in Christ--that by this he was guided and upborne in every act and every trial--that this he sought, unobtrusively yet earnestly to impress upon his family, his community, his college--as he had done upon his army--this is manifest from all the course of his life, as from his writings. His last afternoon was spent in a vestry meeting--at which I also was present--in the attempt to relieve his beloved rector (formerly his trusted companion in arms); and his last conscious act was, on that same evening, to attempt to ask a blessing upon the evening meal--when God called him, and he sank, unconscious, in his chair. Of the following days of anxious sorrow, of the shock of his death, and of the grief with which we laid him in his coffin and followed him to his grave, I have no heart to speak. There he rests, beneath the chapel which he him-

self built, to the glory of God--his tomb fitly crowned with that recumbent statue by Valentine, symbol of the Eternal Rest.

Such, most imperfectly sketched, was General Lee, as a college president. And surely this part of his life deserves to be remembered and commemorated by those who hold his memory dear. In it he exhibited all those great qualities of character which had made his name already so illustrious; while, in addition, he sustained trials and sorrows without which the highest perfections of that character could never have been so signally displayed. This life at Washington College, so devoted, so earnest, so laborious, so full of far-reaching plans and of wise and successful effort was begun under the weight of a disappointment which might have broken any ordinary strength, and was maintained, in the midst of private and public misfortune, with a serene patience and a mingled firmness and sweetness of temper, which give additional brilliance even to the glory of his former fame. It was his high privilege to meet alike the temptations and perils of the highest stations before the eyes of the world, and the cares and labor of the most responsible duties of private life under the most trying circumstances, and to exhibit, in all alike, the qualities of a great and consistent character, founded in the noblest endowments, and sustained by the loftiest principles of virtue and religion. It is a privilege henceforth for the teachers of our country that their profession, in its humble yet arduous labors, its great and its petty cares, has been illustrated by the devotion of such a man. It is an honor for all our colleges that one of them is henceforth identified with the memory of his name and of his work. It is a boon for us all; an honor to the country, which in its whole length and breadth will soon be proud to claim his fame; an honor to human nature itself, that this great character, so often and so severely tried, has thus proved itself consistent, serene and grand, alike in peace and in war, in the humblest as well as the highest offices. The "Lost Cause," indeed! No cause is wholly lost, to a people or to mankind, that produces such men, and leaves such memories, as Wade Hampton and Robert E. Lee.

Young gentlemen of the University: Would you follow Lee? No more, on the embattled field, can he lead you, as he led your fathers, to glorious victory; but in spirit and in eternal fame he still lives--the Christian soldier, the self-sacrificing patriot, the college president, the South's noblest gentleman--to remind you, by example as by precept, that "Duty is the sublimest word in the language."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The talk was given at occasion of the "Robert E. Lee: Centennial Celebration of His Birth held under the auspices of the University of South Carolina on the nineteenth day of January, 1907."

It is obvious from reading Professor Joynes' exceedingly laudatory account of his association with General Lee that such accounts by those who knew him only perpetuated and further enhanced the strong Lee legend. However, it is still most important that such first hand reminiscences of our great leaders be available to all students of The War. They are invaluable.

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ILL-STARRED GENERAL
from
TIME MAGAZINE - April 5, 1937

Yachtsmen, horsemen and unreconstructed Southerners are, in certain matters, hard to please. Last February Southerners howled when Union General William T. Sherman's face appeared on a new 3¢ stamp (TIME, Feb 22).

As a sop to injured Southern feelings, the Post Office Department promised to memorialize Confederate Generals Robert Edward Lee and Thomas Jonathan Jackson on a 4 ¢ stamp. Last week when the Lee-Jackson stamp bearing a picture of Stratford Hall, General Lee's Virginia birthplace, for good measure, was placed on sale it looked as if the Post Office Department were in trouble again. General Lee was apparently wearing the uniform of a lieutenant colonel as there were only two stars on his coat collar. Said the Post Office press representative: "There were three stars plainly visible on the photograph which we sent the Bureau of Engraving, but I understand they rumpled the general's coat, and thus hid one of the stars. Director of Engraving said "If there ought to be another star it is around on the back of the collar. You might try looking on the back of the stamp."