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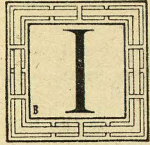
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Memories of General Lee.

This Is the Third in Our Series of Articles by General Howard. The First Two Were on Grant and Gettysburg. The Final Article Will Be on Lincoln.

By the late Major-General O. O. Howard, LL. D.



IN these days when public men and private citizens North, South, East, and West earnestly desire to have the sentiments of cordial union and abiding friendship permeate every portion of our country, it is difficult for a participant in the great Civil War on the one side or on the other to write with absolute impartiality upon matters touching that war. It is especially hard for an officer on either side not to defend his own position.

Before graduating from the Military Academy in 1864 I had been under the superintendency of Colonel Robert E. Lee.

His family record, including that of his father, General Harry Lee, who openly advocated State sovereignty; his instruction at the Military Academy, where the doctrine of State supremacy was plainly taught; his great ability as a military engineer; his magnificent record in the Mexican War, which so pleased General Winfield Scott; and his superior personal character coupled with unusual executive ability—all this placed a figure before us cadets which begot respect, reverence, and devotion which our previous commanding officers had not succeeded in producing.

Faithful to the last degree in the performance of duty, by the demands of his office Colonel Lee came into personal contact with every cadet. Sooner or later the cadet looked into the face of a high-toned, upright, courteous gentleman, and went from him with a conviction more or less realized that this officer of so high standing was his personal friend.

There was added to this uniform courtesy and kindness of administration on Lee's part a habit of visiting any young men who were injured in the riding-hall or elsewhere, or were thrown into the hospital by illness.

save in defence of my native State, with the sincere hope that my poor services may never be needed, I hope I may never be called upon to draw my sword."

In this letter the plain reason of General Lee's resignation is set forth.

To him had been offered the command of the army of the United States. It was evident to him that the battle-ground would soon be in Virginia, and he very naturally shrank from marching an army into Virginia or commanding it there in campaign or battle; but probably he would have done as did Generals Scott, George H. Thomas, Robert Williams, John Newton, Craighill, Farragut, and others, that is, decided to sustain the flag and the Union, had it not been for his strong conviction that his first allegiance was due to the commonwealth of Virginia.

"My People."

I had a talk with Lieutenant-Colonel William J. Hardee, who was commandant of cadets at the same time when Colonel Lee was superintendent of the Military Academy. He said, "Howard, I am convinced that there will be two republics, one in the North and the other in the South; and I do not wish to belong to the Northern Confederacy." This was Colonel Hardee's reason for tendering his resignation. Many another young man said, "All my people are going that way, and I must go with them."

At this day I am not going to sit in judgment on my old commanders, companions, and comrades. It is better to say, as General Longstreet once said to me after the war, "I could not do otherwise than stand up to my convictions and duty when the crisis came."

Now, while I concede the manliness and the sincerity of these men, I may be permitted to declare how I came to the same crisis and what was my decision.

we were defending or recovering such forts. Wherever the stand of opposition was set up and forces were organized to destroy the Republic, to that place it was our duty to go and to stand.

Robert E. Lee was a Christian man. He was as much opposed to slavery as I. He was in favor of the Union just as I was; and, as I regard the matter, the only point of separation between us was the claim of State sovereignty.

To the people with him the United States, or Columbia, if we may put it into one word, was the servant of the State of Virginia, for example. If Columbia did not do according to the dictum of the State officially pronounced, she had a right to discharge her servant or withdraw her allegiance.

This teaching was, of course, at the foundation of our troubles in the sixties. The majority of our citizens throughout the land adhered to the more natural interpretation of the Constitution as Webster gave it, that is, that the general government of the United States was over all the people of the United States as a people, and not as separate States.

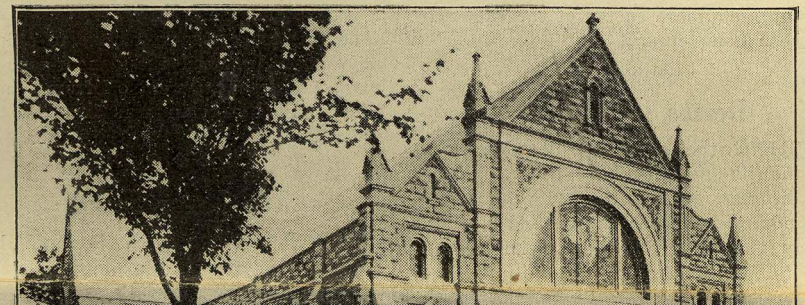
Of course this statement is old, but I restate it for the sake of making one re-

mark; let us impute to the other side in all charity good motives. We have fought the fight to a finish; State sovereignty and State supremacy have been decided against in the arbitrament of war. Of course State rights remain, and their limitations and boundaries are every day more and more distinctly determined.

May we not, then, work shoulder to shoulder in every enterprise, especially in those things which will be a benefit and a blessing to the people of the land?

In naming one of the buildings at the Lincoln Memorial University near Cumberland Gap, Tenn., we have called it "Grant-Lee Hall." A friend said to me, "Do not call it Grant-Lee Hall, but name it Grant Hall or Lee Hall." I answered that I want Grant and Lee to be shaking hands. Confederate and Union friends are working together in that institution; and I am sure, could they speak to us, Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant would say, "Go on and extend a practical altruistic education as far as you can, and may God in heaven bless you in your work."

O. O. Howard



As he sat by the bedside of a cadet who was ill and deeply longing for home nursing, comforts, and sympathy, the young man was made to feel the impress of a fatherly love, so that he never forgot Colonel Lee's condescension in taking his hand and speaking to him strong words of consolation and encouragement.

I very clearly remember his kindness on examination, always dignified, yet singularly sympathetic and affectionate in his manner towards a cadet who was embarrassed or likely to fail. I recall also how he encouraged the cadets in their sports, their evening musical entertainments, and in their "hops" in the dancing-hall. He would extend the time for these dances when it was possible, as parents would do for their children.

Taking this brief sketch into the account, I wish to quote extracts from a letter that General Lee wrote to his sister on the day when he tendered the resignation of his commission as an officer of the army.

"ARLINGTON, VA., APRIL 20, 1861.

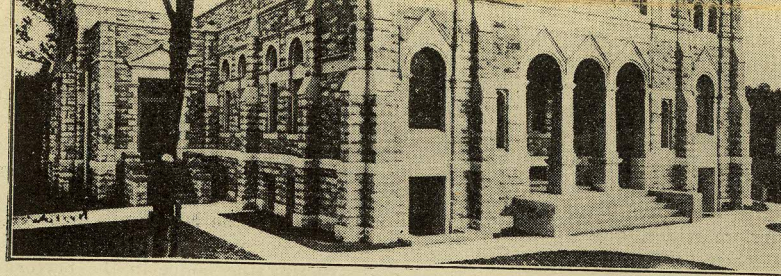
"My dear Sister: I am grieved at my inability to see you. . . . I have been waiting for 'a more convenient season,' which has brought to many before me deep and lasting regret. We are now in a state of war which will yield to nothing. The whole South is in a state of revolution, into which Virginia after a long struggle has been drawn; and, though I recognize no necessity for this state of things, and would have forborne and pleaded to the end for redress of grievances real or supposed, yet in my own person I had to meet the question whether I should take part against my native State. With all my devotion to the Union, and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home. I have therefore resigned my commission in the army, and

After Robert E. Lee's graduation the teaching of State sovereignty or State supremacy ceased long before I got to be a cadet, so that I was not instructed at all by the academic board or by any of its members in that interpretation of our Constitution. My father was a firm believer in State rights, that is, that each State should properly manage its own affairs without interference from any quarter; but I did not dream of putting the State in any sense above the Union. The United States, I was taught at home and in school, was my country. To defend her and her flag against all her enemies was the obligation that I gladly took as a cadet and afterwards as a commissioned officer.

I had thought of leaving the service, and had already begun to study for another profession not military; but when the outbreak came, and Mr. Lincoln called for troops, I sat down with myself and went carefully over the whole subject. It did seem hard, next to impossible, to take up arms against my companions and friends; but the conviction of duty was intense, so that I accepted the first call to the field.

As I did, so did the majority of my associates at the Military Academy, many of whom were from the South. If we soldiers who were loyal to the Union and the flag went to the front to do our duty under so solemn convictions, are we not entitled to our claim of integrity? It is a pleasant thought to me that more than two hundred thousand white men of the South fought for the Union. It might not have been preserved but for them. We did not go forth in defence of the North, but in defence of the American Union and of the flag of our Union, which Scott and Lee and Grant and Meade had so gallantly carried through the Mexican campaign and battles.

To us any territory in the United States was our territory, and any fort, wherever situated, was our fort; and we were not invading any portion of the country in any true sense of the word "invasion" when



Dr. Sheldon's New Church.

THE Central Congregational Church of Topeka, Kan., is fortunate in having had for many years the ministry of the famous clergyman-author, Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, D. D., who wrote "In His Steps," and many other famous stories. This church, which is doing a magnificent work in Topeka, has just dedicated a new stone edifice, a picture of which we show.

Dr. Sheldon is a most enthusiastic Christian Endeavorer, and it is most significant that the Christian Endeavor societies in his church were in charge in the evening of dedication Sunday, and the pastor began the reading for them of a new sermon-story, "The High Calling."

Dr. Sheldon printed in his church bulletin in this connection the following points for the people to remember as they began to worship and work in their new church home:

1. It is God's house. I will therefore treat it with reverence.
2. I will not mar nor deface it in any way.
3. When I enter, I will offer a prayer for the Spirit's blessing on all that is said and done here.
4. I will join heartily and reverently in the song and prayer.
5. I will be a real worshipper, and not a listless or careless critic.
6. I will be courteous to all strangers.
7. I will do my part to make this church a meeting-place for a brotherhood. No rich, no poor, no ignorant, no educated, no classes or cliques as such. But all one family, met

to worship God in spirit and in truth. I will remember that God is "no respecter of persons."

8. I will think of this house as a place where I hope to learn how to live better; to forgive and to love more; to have a vision of the Kingdom; to consecrate and dedicate myself to God's service in every part of life.

During September 9, 227,190 tons of ships passed through the Soo canals; and the Canadian canal carried more traffic than the American one.

The Executive Committee of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America meets in Louisville, Ky., December 7-9, and the public meetings open on Tuesday evening with addresses by such men as Bishop Hendrix, Bishop Woodcock, President Welch, Bishop Matthews, Dr. Roberts, Secretary Barnes, and Secretary Herring.

The important position of American secretary of the Egypt Exploration Fund is held by Mrs. Marie N. Buckman, who will open a new headquarters in Tremont Temple, Boston. We welcome the coming to Tremont Temple of this very important agency for Bible illustration and confirmation. All who are interested in learning about the work of this fund, and how they can help it and receive help from it, should address the secretary at 527 Tremont Temple, Boston.