



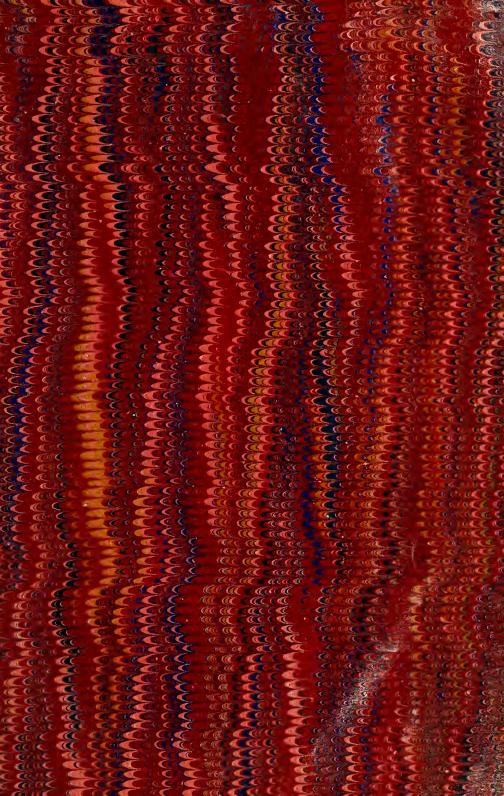
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Contraction and the contraction of the contraction

G

nik. Nasi

6

CER CCCC



.





ORATION

Col. Charles C. Jones, Jr.

PRONOUNCED BY

ON THE 31st OCTOBER, 1878.

UPON THE OCCASION OF THE

Unveiling and Dedication

OF THE

Confederate Monument,

ERECTED BY THE

Padies' Memorial Association of Augusta,

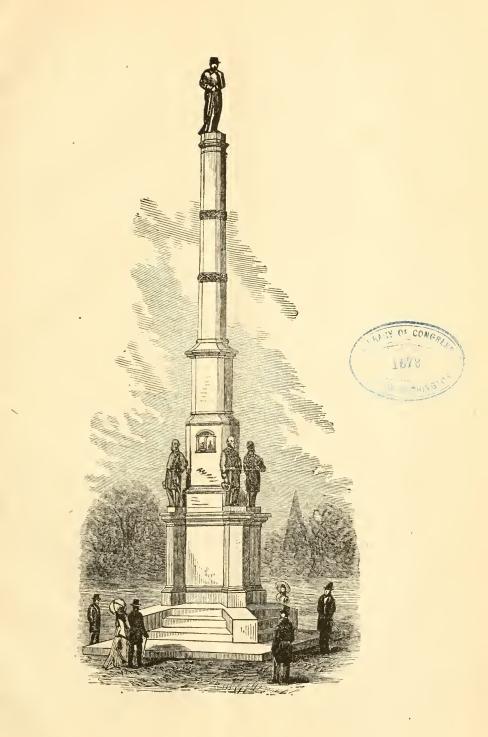
IN BROAD STREET,

IN THE CITY OF AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.

"A forted residence 'gainst the tooth of time, And rasure of oblivion."

A re-print from the Augusta "Evening Sentinel" of October 31, 1878

F294 A9J1





ORATION

contending armies had scarcely been since those imposing ceremonies were hushed within our borders, and the observed. The labors of these good blood of our presions dead ceased to in- women are now ended. Their efforts carnadine the land for whose retention have been crowned with complete suc-they had wrestled so bravely but in vain, cess. Wrought by skilled hands from when it entered into the hearts of noble women in our city to erect a monument in honor of the Lost Cause, in memory of the gallant soldiers from this county who had perished during the Confederate struggle for independence.

nial, encouragement and devotion which, together, now rise before our admiring exhibited by mother, wife, sister, gaze in comely shape and realistic beau-daughter, during the progress of the ty, the pride of Augusta, and the cyno-revolution, had, in manly breasts, in- sure of every Confederate eye. spired hopes the most exalted, stimulated patriotism the purest, and prompt- and circumstance at command, with ed action the most heroic.

region was filled with mourning. Hope consummation of this blessed work; had fied, and expectation periched. Es- to tender the cordial thanks not only of tablished institutions had been ruthless- this entire community and State, but ly overturned, and the pleasure of the also of all whose hearts are loyal to the Conqueror was the supreme law. Sor- impulses, aims, and rights cherished by row, penury, disappointment and ashes the South and sternly battled for in were the common heritage; and, in the the war between the States, for this general gloom which encompassed all, sightly cenotaph, the offspring of their there shone not a single star of substan- energy, sympathy and love, and to astial promise.

such an effort. Intent upon the ac- and desolation stalked like all devourcomplishment of their generous mission, ing demons through our war-convulsed with such zeal did they prosecute their land, and reverencing the sentiments pious labors, that in the fallness of time, which animated their pure bosoms in deep in the bosom of this our mother this illustrious behalf, we will cultivate earth, and in the presence of a grateful the virtues, guard the principles, emupeople were securely laid the founda- late the characters, and observe the lestions of the monument whose completion we this day celebrate.

On that memorable occasion, by one* in whom are happily blended the courage and capacity of a military leader, dedication of this goodly monument, the purity and devotion of a minister of With kindling hearts do we respond to the Most High God, the elequence of the inspirations and the memories an orator, and the catholic spirit of a which its presence bespeaks. We glory true citizen, were uttered words of con- in the rectitude of the cause, and exult gratulation, dignity and manhood, which in the valor of the men symbolized by far and near were welcomed and ap- its towering form and martial outlines.

*Reverend-General Clement A. Evans.

The reverberations of the thunders of plauded. Three years have elapsed out the marble womb of those classic hills which, overlooking the beautiful bay of Genos, bave. for more than eighteen centurize, furnished their pure material for the art trophies of many nations, the blocks which compose this It was a holy purpose; the logical se- monument, safely transported across quence of that love, sympathy, self-de- kindly seas, and aptly joined to-

Hither are we come, with all the pomp united voice to congratulate the ladies It was a brave resolve, for the entire of the Memorial Association upon the sure them that mindful of their exhor-Surely none, save the leval women of tations, examples, prayers, sacrifices, our own Southland, were qualified for and angelic ministrations when death sons which this their priceless gift is designed to inculcate, commemorate, and perpetuate.

With rapturous joy do we bail the

world, we here protest that so far from of high resolves, fearless purposes, being "rebels against legitimate authority and traitors to their country," onr Confederate Dead were "lovers of liberty, combatants for constitutional rights, and, as examplars of heroic virtue, benefactors of their race."

For the past we have no apologies to offer, no excuses to render, no regrets to utter, save that we failed in our high endeavor; no tears to shed except over withered hopes and the graves of our departed worthies. We yielded in the end because we were overborne by superior numbers and weightier munitions. Any pledges given will be by us duly observed ; but it is well known, alike by friend and stranger, that nothing has been absolutely determined except the question of comparative strength. The issue furnished only a physical solution of the moral, social, and political propo itions involved in the g'gantio struggle. The sword never does, and never can compass other than a forcible arbitrament in matters of conscience, principle, and inalienable right. Even now the fundamental claime, the political privileges, and the vested rights in support of which the Southern people czpended their blood and treasure, a moral point of view, nnin by the result ΟÏ the effected. This we couldeatly affirm confest. in the teeth of the practical and in many respects himentable consequences entailed by the intervention of the vis major. The necessity was laid upon us, to maintain cur State sovereignty, home rule, honor, property, and self respect, at the expense of wounds, desolation and death. An appeal to arms in an unequal strife, and in a defensive war was all that was left to us. We accepted the For four long and bloody years iseue. were our entire manbood and capabilities enlisted in the great battle for constitutional liberty and self preservation. We failed, but not until we had demonstrated to an expectant world that we esteemed life less dear than honor, and that we were at least not unworthy the privileges, the homes and the equalities consecrates in enduring marble the for which we contended.

dawning is already begun-when the form the memories of the Confederate conduct of the Confederate States in struggle for independence. their smazing contest for right, prop- that such characters and recollections erty, and an independent national (xist- should be perpetuated by the costlicat ence, will be justified, honored, and ad- and the most durable expressions of mired by all who possess the knowledge art. Most seemly is it that this gift to discern, the horesty to appreciate, should be bestowed by the hard of

In open day, and in the face of the and the candor to confess. The wealth streuuons exertions and generous sacrifices-the satisfaction born of a consciousness of duty discharged, manhood vindicated, and country defended while hope and ability remained—an abiding. confidence in the rectitude of our lofty. emprise-the record of brave deeds-therecollections of a heroic past, and the rich legacy bequeathed by the valor and devotion of sons, brothers, fathers-all these and more are ours, and neither he lapse of years nor the mutations of fortune can wrest them from us.

> On the entablature of an ancient gateway leading towards a resting place for the dead is an inscription in which the soul is sublimely celebrated as superstes corpori caduco - surviving the frail body. Yes, the exalted spirit which animated our Confederato dead- the soul of patriotism which led them to give to their country their loves and their lives - must triumph over the oblivion of the grave, and forever remain supervies corport caduco. In those voiceless songs which in quiet hours we sing in our own thoughts, this refrain will remind of present and future glory for this immertal dust, and inare, spire hope for the people whose sons evinced such devotion.

> > The waves of the ocean as they break along our shore will chant anthems in honer of our illustrious dead, The everlasting hills will continue the living witnesses of their triumphs. Silent valleys will remain vocal with their praises, and river and flood and mountain and plain proclaim their deeds of valor. Fair hands will, each year, with vernal flowers, fresh, spotless and redolent of sweetest perfumes, garland their graves. Young and old will venerate the illus. trious memories they have bequeathed, and childrens' children-proud of their descent from Confederate sires-learn with earliest breath to lisp the names of the chieftnins of the South, and with their youngest emotions to admire and emulate their famous examples.

This occasion recalls the virtues, and images of our slain warriors. It crys-The day will surely come-aye, it's talizes in towering and symmetrical Meet it is

pure woman: most appropriate that this who perished in its support will be tribute should be carliest consecrated emulated by men of other ages, and by her prayers, her loves, and her tears. If anything were needed to supplement the beatitude of this vision, it is found in her presence, in her attesting sympathy, and in the remembrance of all her exertions, faith, and perseverance under circumstances the most unteward.

It is a strange sight, this dedication of an august monument in the chief place of our city, by a people who were overcome in the contest, to the cause which they seemingly lost, and to the heroes who perished in the effort for its maintenance. We question whether history, in all her wide range of nations and ages, furnishes like example. To victors belong ræins, and triumphal arches and statues of bronze and marble and gold are usually accorded only to those who win the title of conquerer.

Only ten years agone, Polish exiles, assembled from various countries in Europe, inaugurated upon Swiss soil a monument commemorative of their dismembered nation's long and unsuccessful struggle for independence. It consists of a column of black marble sur- the meritorious deeds of their ancestors, mounted by the white eagle of Poland. Upon the four sides of its pedestal, in Polish, French, German, and Latin, is engraved this moving appeal : "The immortal genius of Poland, unsubdued af ter a struggle of a hundred years, on free Helvetian soi! appeals to the jus tice of God and man.

Here, however, upon soil lately Confederate, and loyal still to the traditions of a glorious past, we elevate this cenotaph which now proclaims, and shall testify to the coming generations the power of Confederate memories, the pathos of Confederate emotions, the gratitude and devotion of Confederate hearts No one questions our motives, or suggests objections to these impressive ceremonies. It is because the principles we sought to establish commend themselves to the approbation of liberty loving mankind; it is because truth and justice are eternal, and remain unaffected by the accidents of war; it is because the brave spirits who fell in the effort to sustain them, earned the admiration of the civilized world, and secured for themselves a reputation above the shafts of malevolence and the sneers of detraction, that the propriety of monuments like this is freely accorded.

While the cause which we now emblazon belongs to history, while the bright examples of the virtuous dead

while their good deeds will be treasured as the heritage of many generations. meet appropriate is it that at it ald bere and now embody our special respeet and personal love, loyaley and admiration, in visible shape, thus according to the nobility of our own times,

"A local habitation and a name."

Monuments are connecting links between the present and the past. They symbolize the noblenesses which have gone bef re, and betoken a happy recognition of them by those who come after, They denote a "just and grateful appreciation of the virtues and services they are designed to commemorate, and stand as silent yet impressive teachers of the noblest lessons." About them gather the rec. llections of former achievements and brave endeavors, and in them dwells a consciousness of the dignity and manhood of the race whose history has been enriched by such exhibitions of worth and excellence. They stimulate children to a generous emulation of and incite to action. They foster martial spirit and engender coursgeous aspirations. By portraying the images of the great, they keep ever before our eyes deathless examples. The looks and thoughts of sympathy begotten by their heroic presence give birth to hero-Within the charmed sphere of ism. their influence the living learn to value and to imitate the true, the beautiful, and the sublime, and insensibly acquire the virtues they symbolize,

Peoples whose exploits have been famous, recognizing the propriety and the potency of such tributes, have in all cultured ages invoked the aid of the sculptor to perpetuate the remembrance of memorable men and events. The majestic Acropolis was filled with the signs of Athenian valor. Imperial Rome pointed proudly to her triumphal arches and the statues of her deified heroes. The opulent cities of the earth reckon among their chief decorations and conspicuous ornaments, grateful offerings to departed worth.

Yes, monuments are the physical embodiments of the most exalted memories and the most valuable traditions of a people. They are at once exponents of the general gratitude, and enduring pledges of publio allegiance to the cardinal principles illustrated by the lives and acts of those in whose honor they are erected. Bless- over gave to country, or authorized ed is the people whose homes are rendered illustrious by grand monuments valor of his native State. Bred to and distinguished graves. A country arms-every inch a soldier-his inspirawithout these is a place without names, tion kindling with the drum-beat and and a territory devoid of moral grandeur.

Although our Southern Cross was shot to shreds upon the battle field; although our beloved Confederacy has, with a mailcd and bloody hand, been blotted from the sisterbood of nations, we bid this monument been

> "This blazon to the end of time: No nation rose so white and fair, None fell so pure of crime;"

and, uttering the sentiments of the good and true women of this Memorial Association, and, indicating the general wish for our dead herges, we charge this voiceful cenotaph to

"Give them the meed they have won in the past,

Give them the honors their future forecast,

Give the a the chaplets they won in the strife, Give them the laurols they lost with their life."

Oh! holy cause! Oh! illustrious names! For you time can brirg no shadow, nor envious years oblivion.

This day we wrest from our secular calendar, and et apart as a season of hallowed recollections, of dead hopes, of tearful eyes, of garlanded graves. This cettotaph we elevate as a spolless, lasting, just tribute to our Confederate Dead. Draw near while we contemplate the special memories which our mothers, wives, sisters and daughters have commissioned these marbles to illustrate.

its entirety symbolizing the Ia Confederato cause, and embodying the consolidated recollections of all the men and events connected with our illustrious struggle, this monument in its details exhibits particular emblems, and possesses for us special significance. In recognizing and approciating these we acquire at least an approximate conception of what these ladies now commit to the general keeping, and prepare ourselves and those who are to come after us for the proper conservation of the solemn trust.

Unveil the Statues.

Around the base of this cenotaph we behold four intersize statues of pure Carrara marble. One of them proclaims the conspicnous services, and introduces to our admiring gaze the gallant form of as intrepid a son as this county

ever gave to country, or authorized upon the tented field to exemplify the valor of his native State. Bred to arms-every inch a soldier—his inspiration kinding with the drum-beat and the roars of musketry—above all fear amid the shock of arms and in emergencies the most perifous—leading where the boldest might hesitate to follow, craving nothing save the honor of bis men and the triamph of his cause, Major-General William Henry T. Walker achieved a name and a reputation amid the everglades of Florida, upon the plains of Mexico, and on the battlefields of the South, then which none more daring or brilliant fires the hearts of all true Georgians.

In the maternal embrace of this commonwealth was his precious body enfolded, when, on the 221 of July, 1864, he encountered his mortal hurt in the gory engagement around Atlanta. For galiantry in Mexico and Florida did Georgia award a sword to her loved and bettle-scarred son while he lived, and now that he is dead, gentlo hands, mindful of his courage, heroic traits, and conspicuous gallantry, and solicitous that the after generations should not forget his knightly bearing, or fail to emulate his self sacrifice, have crected this statue which we unveil and dedicate as part of this our Confederate monnment, bailing its presence with gratitude and joy, contemplating it with emotions of commingled pride and sorrow, and tendering it to the future years as an embodyment of honor most true, manhood unquestioned, fortitude almost beyond compare, and loyalty the most complete.

And near him stands another Georgian, in whose character, life, and death any people might glory. A distinguished lowyer and successful advocate-a man of letters, full of generous impulse and eager for the improvement of his race-a Christian gentleman, and a citizen public spirited to the last degree, Brigadier General Thomas R. R. Cobb may be justly accepted and remembered as the highest type of the citizen soldier. When the primal perils of the revolution were upon us, abandoning his home and profession, without hesitancy plac-ing his head and heart at the disposal of the Confederacy, and leading to the wars assturdy a band of patriots as ever drew sabre in the lists of freedom, he sought the enemy upon the furthest verge of the crimson tide, and followed the fortunes of the Army of Northern Virginia until

that supreme moment, when, from tion. In the name of these kind ladies Marye's Heights-spot ever memorable we assure you, that when in the proviand glorious-his radiant soul ascended dence of Him, in whose hands are the in the smoke of battle and amid the issues of life and death, you shall re-shouts of victory to the eternal home of join the companionship of the good and the brave and the blessed. Intimately the brave who have gone before-the associated is his fame with the triumphs good and the brave whom you knew and of the Army of Northern Virginia-an army more invincible than the Macedonian Phalanx moving, shield touching shield, sixteen deep against the enemymore illustrious than the Old Guard of the First Napoleon, its eagles full high advanced, crushing with its thunders the Austrian centre at Wagram. To have been a soldier of that grand army was a distinguished honor. To have acceptably discharged the duties of a general officer commanding one of its finest brigades was clorious. To have died the death of a Christian hero while aiding in the consummation of one of its greatest victories was sublime.

In thus paying superior honors to these distinguished Georgians who deemed it nobler to die in defense of the right than to yield to the encroachments of the wrong and live, we greet their statues as types, as representative images of all the commissioned officers -brave sons of this our City, County and Commonwealth-who, in the crisis of a nation's fate, gave their lives for the public good. Their name is Legion, and their statues, if lifted up, would crowd a Pantheon. Praises have they won which succeeding generations will account it a privilege to repeat, and their seputchres will always be illustrious.

Intimately associated with the recollections of these our dead heroes is the fame of many who shared with them the dauger and privations of the war, who bared their breasts to the common enemy, who, while hope remained, upheld the same banuer, and who, when the conflict was over, returned to desolated homes bringing their shields with them.

To you, Survivors of the Confederate Army and Navy, we turn with tender-ness and affection. We welcome you into the select circle of the honored and the loved. We applaud your endeavors in those Spartan days now numbered with a consecrated past, and during the period of gloom and oppression which followed hard upon the surrender. The eyes and hopes of your coun- constancy, patriotism, valor, devotion trymen are still upon you. A general to duty, military abilities, and magnifi-benizon is yours. To be worthily accent exploits, no estimate can be exag-

supported in the hour of peril, and whose memories we this day celebrateyoar virtues will encircle these marbles with an additional halo; and, suatched from the forgetfulness of the grave. your achievements will be treasured and heralded by this canonizing monument.

To the Roman heart the image of Horatius in his harness, halting upon one knee, and reminding every beholder,

· How yel antly he kept the bridge In the brave days of old,

was as dear as the graves of the stout guards, who patriotically, although vainly, strove to deliver Janiculum from the ruin wrought by Astur.

And, my countrymen, who of all this vast multitude can give adequate uttorance to the universal joy and profound emotions of commingled love, grief and admiration which possess our souls upon unveiling the statues of our great coptains, S or ewall Jackson and Robt. E. Lee? Could I at this moment consult my own wishes, I would invoke the thunder of cannon and your united acclamations in heroic conduct of this part of our august ceremonies. In hailing the dedication in our midst of these marble images of our Confederate leaders, and in the attempt even feebly to recoust the glories which appertain to each of them, we find ourselves, in the language of the eloquent Bossuet when pronouncing his splendid eulogy upon the Prince of Conde, "overwhelmed by the greatness of the theme and the needlessness of the task. What part of the habitable world has not heard of their victories and the wonders of their lives? Everywhere they are rehearsed. Their countrymen in extolling them can give no information even to the stranger. And, although I may remind you of them, yet everything I could say would be anticipated by your thoughts, and I should suffer the reproach of falling far below them." Of their unsullied honor, exalted greatness, lofty natures, unselfish spirit, pure, chivalrous, religious characters, counted one of you is a proud distinc- gerated. If an Englishman hesitates

given bith to these men and to those who followed them may look the chivalry of the O.d World in the face without shame, for the lather lands of Sidney and Bayard never produced better soldiers, truer gentlemen, or sincerer Christians, what shall be our eulogium? What encomium can content us who exulted in their leadership, caught the inspiration of their presence and acts, witnessed their self-sacrifice, participated in their triumphs, loved the land for whose salvation they fought, and mourned their deaths with a bitter lamentation?

JACKSON, the right arm of Lee, our military meteor streaming upward and onward in an unbroken track of light and ascending to the skies in the zenith of his fame, was indeed a hero "whose name will last to the end of time as an instance of the combination of the most adventurous and felicitous daring as a soldier, the most self sacrificing devotion as a patriot, and the most exalted character as a man; one who could unite the virtues the Cavalier and of the Round Head without the faults of either, and be at once a Havelock and a Garabaldi," and greater than them both.

Of Lee, the most distinguished representative of a cause which electrified the civilized world by the grandeur of vits sacrifices, the dignity and rectitude of its aims, the nobility of its pursuit, and the magnitude and brilliancy of the deeds performed in its support, what can we say save that he was "the most stainless of earthly commanders and, except in fortune, the greatest." Him do we accept and hold out to the present and the future as the highest type of the Southern gentleman. In his noble person, dignified carriage, refined manners, cultivated address, calm self-possession, and into lociual and moral endowments, we recognize the culmination of our patriarchal civilization. Him do we offer as the goodliest representative of Confederate valor, loyalty and chivelry. Him do we present as the embodyment of all that was highest, truest, grandest, alike in the hour of triumph and in the day of defeat.

Him do we proclaim our great Captain, our exemplar.

It is a perennial glory that our cause summoned to its support two such Their lives, characters, and champions. acts we interpose as a potent shield against the shafts of ignorance, calumny and falsehood; as a justification, a

not to affirm that a country which has triumphant vindication of our aims and conduct when the Red Cross claimed and received the allegiance of our land.

Welcome ye statues of the good and great and abile forever in our midet. Thrice welcome, precious memories of Lee and Jackson and Walker and Gobb, and all the compatriots who united with you in the leadership of our armies and in the brave effort to maintain Confederate rights. Your record is complete. Time, which

"lave his hand *

On pyramids of brass, and ruins quite What all the fond artificers did think

Im nortal workmanship,

can here find no apt images for his iconoclastic touch.

Hither will manly forms repair to renew their allegiance, and here will unborn generations learn the truth of history, and reverence the cause which enlisted such exalted sympatics.

And, now, above Brigidier-General, and Major General, and Lieutenant-General, and full General, yea, upon the very summit of this imposing cenotaph, see the manly form of the private soldier of the Confederate army; the eloquent embodyment of the spirit and prowess alike of this County and State, and of all the sleeping hosts who, in our crusade for freedom, gave their lives to country, and a record to history than which none more conspicuous dignifies the annals of civilized warfare. In this attitude of parade rest, in this elevation far above the hum of every day life and the busy cares of mortals, we recegnize the palin genesis from a vale of smoke and sacrifice and blocd and death, to the abode of peace and eternal repose.

With a pathos entirely its own does this statue appeal to our hearts and rivet our attention, for who is there in this vast concourse who does not recognize in this calm marble the symbol of some father, son, husband, brother, friend, who, fresh lipped and full of ardor. left us when the trampet summoned patriots to the field, and came not home again when in the end the martial gray was exchanged for the habiliments of mourning, and the Stars and Bars, borne aloft so long and so well, went down in the dust and carnage of the strife; went down,

"for the hands that grasped it, And the hearts that fondly clasped it Cold and dead are lying low ; And that Banner it is trailing,

While round it sounds the wailing

Of it's people in their woe;

For, though conquered, they adore it. Love the cold, dead hands that bore it, Weep for those who fell before it.'

In the grand processions made by the preciation of the issues Athenians in honor of their soldiers and acknowledged a moral and perkilled in action, was borne a sumptuous sonal accountability in the conduct bier, quite empty, in remembrance of of the contest, those whose bodies could not be found their acts or identified among the slain. we exalt this characteristic eidolon in were in very deed the representatives of perpetual recollection of the noncommissioned officers and privates, known and unknown, recorded and unrecorded, recovered or lost, who foll in the Confederate ranks.

While specially designed to stand as the monumental type of all the good and true sons of Richmond county who died without commission while fighting for country and right, this image, in its catholic scope and far-reaching design, may be claimed for every Confederate who fills a humble and, perchance, an unmarked grave, whether he sleep in some distant and secluded spot within the wide borders once our own, whether his patriot blood was shed on foreign soil or upon the broad ocean, or whether bis poor body sickened and died in Federal prison camp and hospital,

If it be true, as many believe, that the inmates of the spirit world take note of transactions here which concern them nearly and are calculated, as one might think and not irreverently, to minister to the happiness which prevails in that home of perpetual light and love, who shall say that there are not, in the Heavens ab ve us, angelic eyes regarding with favor these our loyal ceremonies, and saintly voices sanctioning this our tribute to earthly valor?

By the voiceless, yet potent alchemy of our own hearts, we transmute this cold merble into a warm, breathing entity, radiant with attractions unutterable, and memories beyond enumeration.

Eminently appropriate does it appear that the crowning object of this cenotaph should signify our appreciation of and gratitude for the devotion, the patriotism, the self-denial, the privations, the labors and the triumphs of the private soldiers of the Confederacy. At best, it is but an adumbration of what we feel and desire.

It is deservedly our boast that no mercenary element, no adventitions aids entered into the composition of our armies. They were drawn from the bosom of the Confederacy, and were the aggregation of the manhood, the intelligence, and the noblest passions of our land. Animated by impulses and aims unusual in the history even of defensive wars, our soldiers possessed an ap. and blood purchased the victories

involved. which rendered and utterances remark-To day able under all circumstances. They the rights, the property, the intellectual and social worth, the resolution and the honor of the Confederacy. "Wonderful men! What age or country has produced their equals ?" No marvel that we had great leaders. They are begotten of worthy subalterns, and are mode illustrious by the achievements of those whom they command. While it is true that the descipline and efficiency of an army are in large measure due to the ability of the chief, it is equally beyond dispute that in the last analysis we must rely upon the individual manhood, the clear apprehension, the indomitable will, the personal pride, and the inherent bravery of the troops for the highest exhibitions of heroic section and patient endurance. "I am commissioned by the President to thank you, in the name of the Confederate States, for the undying fame you have won for their arms."-Thus did General Lee, by published order, acknowledge the general obligation. Earth from her past and precent can furnish no higher illustrations of fortitude, no loftier examples of celf-denial. no surer proofs of patriotic devotion than were exhibited in the lives, acts and deaths of the private soldiers of the Confederate revolution.

Meet it is that their virtues and the honors they have won should here find "A forted residence 'gainst the tooth of time, And rasure of oblivion.

Deeply graven on this enduring monument, open to the light of Heaven, and to be known and read of all mon, we record this sentiment in honor of our Confederate dead : "Worthy to have lived and known our gratitude; worthy to be hallowed and held in tender remembrance; worthy the fadeless fame which Confederate soldiers won who gave themselves in life and death for us, for the honor of Georgia, for the rights of the States, for the liberties of the people, for the sentiments of the South, for the principles of the Union. as these were handed down to them by the fathers of our common country."

While the names of chief captains aurvive and are preserved on the lists of fame, scant is the memory of those who bore their banners, and, by their toil which made their commanders immor- of the Virginia-that iron diadem of tal. History furnishes numerous instances in proof of this assertion, and the record of our Confederate war offers no exception.

Miltiades, Aristides, and the war-ruler Callimachus are remembered as the heroes of that decisive engagement which broke the spell of Persian invincibility, preserved for mankind the intellectual treasures of Athens, and paved the way for the liberal enl gten-ment of the Western world. The ten columns erected on the plain of Marathon, whereon were engraven the names of those whose glory it was to have fallen in the great Battle of Liberation, have long since perished. Their inscriptions are dust, and nothing now, bave a rude earth-mound, marks the spot where the noblest heroes of antiquity-the Marathonomakoi-repose.

For more than twenty centuries have the victories of Alexander the Great astounded the world. Will the student of history recall the name of a single private in the celebrated Macedonian Phalanx? And yet, it was by the indomitable valor, the unswerving discipline, and the heroic endurance of the veterans who composed it, that the fiery conqueror established his universal empire.

To Livius and Nero-the heroes of the Metaurus-public triumphs were decreed by the Roman Senate; but where is the roster of the brave men who achieved the victory?

Armenius has been well-nigh deified, but who has erected statues to the lionhearted Germaus who overcame the Legions under Varrus?

Priscus has left us a portrait of the Royal Hun, but tradition preserves no muster roll of his followers who, upon the ample plains of Chalons, met and overcame the confederate armies of the Romans and Visigoths?

Who was that Saxon wrestler, with his heavy hatchet, in the battle of Hastings, doing great mischief to the Normans, and well nigh striking off the head of Duke William himself? Men of Kent and Essex, who fought so wondrous well, where are your graves? Best friends of the brave Harold, who who ralhed longest around the golden standard and plied so valiantly the ghastly blow in defense of home and patri at King, have your names been forgotten by the Muse of history?

Admiral Buchanan we remember and revere, but who will name the crew

the South, whose thunders in Hampton Roads consumed the Cumberland, overcame the Congress, put to fight the Federal navy, and achieved a victory the novelty and grandeur of which convulsed the maritime nations of the world?

The leader lives, while the memory of the subordinate actors survives only in the general recollection of the event. In the very nature of things it happens that

"A thousand glorious actions that might claim Triumphant laurels and immortal fame, Confused in cloads of glorious actions lie. And troops of heroes undistinguished die."

Because this is so; because we desire in the present and for all time to render honor to all who, without reward, and amid privations and perils the most appalling, in comparative obscurity bore the brunt of our battles and won our victories; because our wish is that none, however humble, who followed the Red Cross to the death, should lie without stone and epitaph, do we now exalt this statue of the private soldier, and dedicate this monument to our Confederate dead.

"We give in charge

Their names to the sweet Lyre. The Historic Muse.

Proud of the treasure. marches with it down To latest times; and Sculpture, in her turn, Gives bond in stone and . ver-during brass, To guard them and to immortalize her trust."

What we here consecrate we enjoin upon our descendants to preserve unimpaired. For nearly five hundred years have Swiss peasants annually repaired to the field of Sempach, and, assembling around the four crosses which mark the spot where the victory was won which secured the independence of their homes, rehearsed the narrative of the battle, read aloud the roll of the two hundred who gave their lives to the cause, chanted anthems in honor of the slain, and renewed their yows to country and to freedom. the sons of Confederate sires prove less observant of their obligations to the memory of our illustrious dead?

These marbles testify of truth, justice, liberty, self sacrific, valor, loyalty, manhood, love of country, and are a worship in themselves,

Citizens of Richmond county, behold the monument which the loves and the labors of these noble women have builded. and which they now commit to your keeping. Guard holily the precious gift. Receive it as the embodyment of all you esteem most dear in a glorious past. Suffer not one stone to perish from out its fair proportions. Maintain it as a living pledge of your devotion to all that is pure, patriotic, chivalrous, and of high repute. Revere it as the mausoleum of our good and great Confederate dead. And,

"When the long years have rolled slowly away,

E'en to the dawn of earth's funeral day; When at the Archangel's trumpet and tread Rise up the faces and forms of the dead ;

When the great world its last judgment awaits. When the blue sky shall swing open the gates Aud our long columns march silently through Past tee Great Captain for final review,

Then from the blood that has flowed for the right

Crowns shall spring upward, untarnished and bright;

Then the glad ears of each war-martyred son. Proudly shall hear the good tidings-' Well done.'

Blessings for garlands shall cover them over, Parent and husband, and brether and lover; God shall reward these cead heroes of ours, And cover them over with beautiful flowers." ,

10.00



*



,

