

JEFFERSON DAVIS DESCRIBED BY HIS WIFE.

The Confederate Leader's Life from Cradle to Grave.

INCIDENTS OF HIS EARLY ARMY CAREER

His Political Status in the Union and the Confederacy.

MUCH NOT BEFORE SEEN IN PRINT.

Mrs. Jefferson Davis' long expected book about the personal and political life of her husband is about ready for issue. It is in two large volumes, and will be found interesting throughout by all admirers of the only President of the late Confederacy, as well as persons who are curious about the personality of great men. The dedication is as follows:—

TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE CONFEDERACY, WHO CHEERED AND SUSTAINED JEFFERSON DAVIS IN THE DANISH TOWN, BY THEIR SPLENDID GALLOUTRY, AND NEVER WITHDREW THEIR CONFIDENCE FROM HIM WHEN DEFEAT SETTLED ON OUR CAUSE, THIS VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED BY HIS WIFE.

"In the fulfillment of this sacred task I shall endeavor to be guided by the spirit that inspired him during his whole life—a spirit of unwavering devotion to truth and duty, of unyielding antagonism against all assailants of justice, without regard to their prejudice or their numbers, but mindful of the fact that every opponent, even to the death, is not necessarily an enemy, and that sincerity of belief is entitled to respectful consideration even when found arrayed against us. I shall endeavor to do exact and equal justice to the antagonists of the South, as well as to her leaders; sought to exterminate, nor set down as traitors, those who were loyal to the Union, for the Southern people and their lost cause and leader may unconsciously influence my judgment of the men and beliefs that were arrayed in deadly conflict during the war between the States."

SCHOOL DAYS.

Mr. Davis' early education was given in "the Kentucky Catholic school called St. Thomas' College, which was connected with a church. The priests were Dominicans. They held a large property—productive fields, slaves, flour mills, stocks and bonds. As an association they were rich. Individually they were vowed to poverty and self-abnegation." At that time he was young that one of the priests had a small bed put in his room for Davis. There was an organized revolt among the boys one day and this priest was their especial objective point. They persuaded Davis to promise to blow out the light which always burned in the room; so, after everything was calmed, he blew it out; then the insurgents poured in cabbage, squashes, biscuits, potatoes and all kinds of missiles. As soon as a light could be lit search was made for the culprit, but they were all sound asleep and he was the only wakened one. The priests interrogated him severely, but he declared he did not know much and would not tell that. The one who had special care of him took him to a little room in

"In November, 1823, Jefferson Davis was appointed to a cadetship at West Point Military Academy, New York. His father, Judge Peter, was another cadet of Mr. Davis at Transylvania. "His father was with him, and the Judge, as soon as he heard of Mr. Davis' death, 'was a good student, always prepared with his lessons, very respectful, and never failed to attend to his duties. He never heard him reprimanded for neglecting his studies or for misconduct of any sort during his stay at the university. He was amiable, prudent and kind to all with whom he was associated, and beloved by teachers and students."

Shortly after this Davis' eldest brother, who stood in the place of a father to him, as he had been appointed to a West Point cadetship. The book gives a full description of what he did, who were at West Point at the time, and all that place while he was there. Mrs. Davis then gives an account of the family genealogy and of the purchase of "Davis Hill," as it is still called, by Joseph Emory Davis, Jefferson's eldest brother, and in history of the old Davis estate called "The Hurricanes"—a name which it bears to this day and is still owned by the Davis family.

MEETING OF THE FAMILY AT WEST POINT.

Mr. Joseph E. Davis was so anxious to see his "little brother" that he came to West Point. The whole party went to West Point. As the boat neared the landing a very stout, florid young fellow of about fifteen came running down to the landing. He caught Mr. Joseph E. Davis in his arms. He slipped his hand through his brother's arm and sat very close to him, but otherwise made no manifestation of feeling. He did not utter a word. Mrs. Davis says her mother spoke of his open, bright expression in a letter preserved, and her father mentioned that young fellow as being "a good fellow, a good fellow."

On the 20th of the month he offered two resolutions:—"That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of converting a portion of Davis' first or United States into a school for military instruction, on the basis of substituting their present garrisons of enlisted men by detachments of cadets, to be selected from the cadets of the several States, and to be sent to the Congress of the United States."

"The second resolution was:—"Resolved, That the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a direct daily mail route from Montgomery, Ala., to Jackson, Miss., by the shortest route, and to report thereon to the next session of the House."

With the presentation of these resolutions Mr. Davis for the time seemed satisfied. He remained in his seat, however, and observed the reception of parliamentary procedure, and made himself practically familiar with the questions likely to come up for discussion during the session. His first speech was on the subject of the proposed direct mail route. On February 6, 1840, on the Oregon question, in Committee of the Whole, he addressed the House.

Mr. Davis, only a few years ago, wrote of Mr. Calhoun:—"In my early manhood I enjoyed his personal acquaintance, and was struck by the nobility of his mind, the force of his logic, and the purity of his motives."

When war with Mexico was declared and the President authorized to appoint major-generals and four brigadier-generals, in addition to the military establishment, he intimated to Mr. Davis that he would like to have an elective office; and when pressed, said that he thought volunteer troops raised in a State should be officered by men of their own soil. Mr. Davis next mentioned that he had been elected to the office of major-general, and that he was a great effort to get the regiment armed with the rifle. He then endeavored to get the regiment armed with the rifle. He then endeavored to get the regiment armed with the rifle. He then endeavored to get the regiment armed with the rifle.

At his first conference with one of the men got up and opened the conference with the announcement that he had resisted the former officers detailed to remove them from the mines, and if he knew what he was doing he had better leave them alone and quit showing partiality to the Indians. Lieutenant Davis said that he was convinced from the manner that the miners contemplated armed resistance. Some weeks after this Lieutenant Davis crossed the river and another conference was determined to make a satisfactory agreement with the miners. As he came up to the cabin the same day he had a conference with the miners, and was seated outside the cabin and entreated him not to enter, saying:—"They will be certain to kill you. I heard one of them say 'Good morning' in a friendly way to which they all replied 'No'."

"My friends, I am sure you have thought over my proposition and are going to drink to my success. So with that you will see whether or not I am in the daring or that reconnoiter had changed their policy was never known; what is certain is that they all replied 'No'."

The author gives long account of the Black Hawk war, much about Black Hawk's village, the Indian burying grounds and the great chief's surrender. After the war ended, Davis was appointed to recruiting service. He returned and was ordered to Fort Gibson, where he met Washington Irving. The book gives his own account of his life there.

Lieutenant Davis resigned from the army and married Miss Taylor, a daughter of Colonel Zachary Taylor, to whom he had been married two years before, in the face of Colonel Taylor's refusal. Miss Taylor went to her father and told him that she had wanted to marry him, and that she had better leave him alone and quit showing partiality to the Indians. Lieutenant Davis said that he was convinced from the manner that the miners contemplated armed resistance.

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Though a woman of great degree of character she was devoid of the least trace of stibonness; her judgment was mature, her nature open and faithful, and her temper affectionate and responsive. None of her own relations stood by her grave. Her husband's life was devoted to the cause of a month. He had become so enmeshed and had so serious a cough that it was thought best for him to spend the winter in Havana, whither he went, and he was able to travel. He sailed for Havana in the autumn of 1835. When he returned he went direct to Washington, and he died, and the President and the Secretary of War were notified.

After a term of nearly six years he resigned, partly in consequence of ill health and partly because of his nomination for Governor of Mississippi. He was defeated, after which he settled down at his plantation at Hillside, and one day he received an invitation to become a member of President Pierce's Cabinet and went to Washington to assume the duties of Secretary of War. His reports are given in the book.

Next is given an interesting description of the South in 1790 contrasted with 1860, and much about the Charleston Convention, 1860; the admission of Kansas as a free State, and the election of Lincoln; a full account of Mr. Davis' withdrawal from the Cabinet; the accession of the Gulf States and Mr. Davis' last speech in the United States Senate.

The second volume opens with a paragraph in which Mrs. Davis gives the impression of the North as she had it from her husband. "One of the most patriotic, humane and benevolent of men has been portrayed as a monster of ambition and cruelty, and the mistaken policy of slavery under these accusations has fixed upon the minds of our people."

During the interval," wrote Mr. Davis, "between the announcement by telegraph of the secession of Mississippi, and the time when the Southern States had established me to withdraw from the Senate rumors were in circulation of a purpose, on the part of the United States Government, to arrest members of Congress preparing to leave Washington on account of the secession of the States which they represented. This threat received little attention from those most concerned, as it was regarded as an empty threat not to be an undesirable mode of testing the question of the right of a State to withdraw from the Union."

"On my arrival at Jackson, the capital of Mississippi, I found that the Convention of the State had made provision for a State army and had appointed me to the command with the rank of an ex-major. Mrs. Davis says that her husband was so careless and unhappy that when he was alone it was pitiable to see him. He never gave up the hope of an adjustment and a peaceful reunion with the North until the first blood was spilled. He slept little and talked little, and he was really ailing. He was really ailing. He was really ailing. He was really ailing.

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"In speaking of the Confederate Commissioners who were sent to Washington for the purpose of making a settlement with the federal government, Mrs. Davis says:—"The crooked path of diplomacy can scarcely furnish an example so wanting in courtesy, in candor and directness as was the course of a certain government toward our Commissioners in Washington. For proof of this I refer to the annexed documents, which are connected with further facts, which I now proceed to relate."

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followed Senator Hale's motion. Mr. Davis took part. The following is an extract from his answer:—"I rise merely to make a few remarks on the right of petition. It is offensive to recommend legislation for the dissolution of the Union; offensive to the Senate and to the whole country. If the Union is ever to be dissolved it must be by the action of the States and the people. Whatever power Congress might hold in the matter of disunion, that power is but a part of the Union. Congress has no power to legislate upon that which will be the destruction of the Union, and the mistaken policy of slavery under these accusations has fixed upon the minds of our people."

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LITTLE GIRL VICTIMS IDENTIFY THEIR ABDUCTOR

Five Children in the Tombs Police Court Point Out Rhett Without Difficulty.

"THAT IS THE MAN."

Maggie Morris and Katie Flynn Narrate the Story of the Way in Which They Were Decoyed Into a Cab.

William F. Rhett was brought up in the Tombs Police Court yesterday on remand, charged with the most heinous crime in the calendar. He was charged with abducting Mary Williams, twelve years old.

On Thursday evening Detective Robert Vall, of the steamboat squad, got further evidence against him. Maggie Morris, fourteen years old, of No. 225 Mulberry street, Newark, N. J., and her younger sister, Lily, ten years old, are in the habit of peddling flowers at Nassau and Wall streets, this city, and also about the ferries. Vall found Maggie at Liberty street. He asked her if she knew Rhett, describing him.

Maggie said the man had taken her into a cab with Maggie Flynn on two different occasions. The case of Katie Flynn, twelve years old, who lives at No. 228 Seventh street, Jersey City, is one of the worst. The other children who appeared in court were Maggie Cluskey, twelve years old, and Mary Getraky, eleven years old.

RHETT'S COUSINS. Mr. Gerry, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present. Rhett sat among thirty or forty spectators on the ordinary benches. He counsel, John S. Ahey, yesterday, as at the beginning, claimed that it was a case of mistaken identity. Maggie Morris was the first witness. She was directed to look around. As soon as she got opposite Rhett she said, "That is the man."

AGAIN IDENTIFIED. She was taken away and Mary Williams was put to the test. In the meantime Rhett was made to change his seat. The same questions were asked of Mary. Promptly she pointed her finger at Rhett. Again the clerk's position was changed. Katie Flynn was brought out. She cast her eye over the rows of seats and pointed at him without hesitation. The child went nearer him, but shrank from touching him.

Lily Morris was the youngest girl. She had seen him but once, but without the slightest hesitation she pointed to him. The case has excited unusual interest among specialists, as its history is complete and the symptoms accompanying it are so clearly defined and so clearly marked. Scientific experiments were followed in the laboratories of the operating surgeon. An attempt will be made to discover the bacteria of the disorder by Drs. Van Gleason and Stevens.

JUDGMENT FOR THE WET NURSE. FIFTEEN LITTLE BABES AS EXHIBITS TO PROVE HER ABILITY TO FULFIL CONTRACTS. Judge Robert A. Van Wyck, of the City Court yesterday morning tried the case of Mrs. Beatrice Roberts, wet nurse, who was suing Florian Hendricks for breach of contract.

As to the facts, they were simple. But why were fifteen lusty lugged children brought into court? Each howled and each wailed his dimpled, pink face in the air with much contempt of court. They were exhibits filed by Mrs. Beatrice to show her skill as a wet nurse.

Florian Hendricks is a wine merchant at No. 11 South Williams street, Newark, N. J. He was Fifty-first street. Last August he made a pre-natal contract for his son and heir, Florian Jr., with Mrs. Beatrice. She was to nurse the child and should nurse the child from its birth to its weaning. Mr. Hendricks claims that he simply hired her by the month.

After one week Beatrice came home at eleven o'clock one night and met Mr. Hendricks on the stairs. He promptly discharged her, saying, "The woman that kept such a lot of children could not nurse my child. In vain she pleaded that she had only gone out to milk a letter."

She sued for back pay and salary for the full term of the contract. Furthermore she brought a pair of fat twin boys into the City Court as proof of her ability. She would show that she was the stenographer marked them "exhibits A and B," and handed them up to Judge Van Wyck. They did not squawk or cry, but looked at the judge and looked grateful. She offered to bring up the other thirteen children and put them in evidence, too, but his Honor said she need not do so.

The lawyers wrangled and then the jurors retired. Their foreman soon led them back and announced that they awarded Mrs. Beatrice \$157 7/8 because of the broken contract.

BUTNER'S PENITENT TEARS. HE LEADS GUILTY TO FOREBEY, WITHDRAWING HIS PLEA OF GUILTY TO THE LAUCENT CHARGE. Lawyer William H. Butner changed his mind about standing trial on a charge of issuing bogus divorce decrees. He notified District Attorney Nicol on Thursday of his determination, and yesterday morning he was brought before Recorder Smyth in General Sessions.

The tears streamed down his face as he stood at the bar and told the Recorder that he wished to plead guilty to the charge of forging in the second degree providing he be allowed to withdraw his former plea of guilty to the indictment for second degree larceny, the second degree. District Attorney Nicol recommended that Butner's request be granted and the Recorder acceded to the plea.

The Recorder then remanded Butner to the Tombs until the early part of next week, when both he and his guilty partner, William Duryea Hughes, will be sentenced.

GOT TOO LITTLE WORK. Charles H. Woodward was arrested at his office in the Benedict Building, No. 171 Broadway, yesterday, by Detectives Frink and Murphy, of Inspector Barnes' staff, charged with the larceny of \$100.

John Stamm, of No. 136 Essex street, a few days ago answered an advertisement calling for assistance in a country, real estate, and insurance. Stamm's advertisement, and Stamm paid him \$100, which he demanded.

Stamm got so little work to do that he was convinced that he had been duped. Woodward claims to be an agent for E. J. Horner, the lottery broker. He was held in \$2,000 bail for trial.

NO EXCUSE FOR NEGLIGENCE. Miss Dorcas Wheeler, the artist, has been awarded a new trial by the Court of Appeals in her suit for \$2,100 damages against the Oceanic Steam Navigation Company for the loss of a package of paintings that she shipped on the steamer Germanic in 1886.

The package, which contained portraits of the writers Walter Besant, Thomas Hardy, Austin Dobson and Mrs. Ritchie, was placed on the dock, and when Miss Wheeler looked for it was gone. The lower courts dismissed the complaint because no notice of the value of the package had been given to the steamship company. But the Court of Appeals holds that no special contract can relieve a bailee of liability for negligence. The case will go to a jury on the new trial.

HUNTING FOR A DEAD BABY. Abraham Sylvester, a mechanic, living at No. 33 East Eighty-first street, reported the death of his infant child at the Coroner's office on last Monday. A deputy coroner called at the house, but could find no dead baby.

A postal card from Sylvester was received the next day complaining that no one had called. Another deputy went to the house, but no one there had heard of a death.

Sylvester in person called on the Coroner yesterday. He was told of the visit, and explained that being on bad terms with the other people in the house he had kept the baby's death a secret. The baby was buried yesterday.

ORIENTAL COLONY IN THE SOUTH. SERIANS WILL TRY TO CULTIVATE OLIVES AND THE SILK WORM IN FLORIDA. Certain Florida merchants of this city have decided to form a colonization company here for their fellow countrymen. They have secured the services of Lawyer Townsend Souder, of No. 206 Broadway, who last Wednesday started for the South to inspect land with the intention of buying about two hundred acres for the company, probably in Florida.

Salim Elias, of No. 29 Washington street, one of the leaders, is very enthusiastic over the plan. "My countrymen," he said, "instead of carrying heavy peddling baskets on their backs, will cultivate the olive and mulberry for the silk worm. The silk they will use for the hand made articles for which they are famous. Florida is a

WILLIAM BLACK'S CROFTER STORY AND RUDYARD KIPLING'S SENSATIONAL SUNDAY HERALD. OPPOSED TO THE BATTERY LOOP. Mayor Grant was yesterday visited by De Witt C. Seligman, William H. Langdon as a committee representing the New York Society for Parks and Playgrounds for Children to protest against any further encroachments on the "L" tracks regarding the use of Battery Park.

The Mayor in reply said that he was always opposed to the intrusion of the "L" roads on the Battery Park and said that he would cheerfully exert his official authority to prevent further encroachment on the Battery Park.

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