

never lost a battle, who was always in the right place at the right time, and who never failed to smite the foe with a fierce and resistless might, but one who, to the higher qualities of a military chieftain, added those traits and features that gave him a place in the innermost heart of the people. The skill, and valor, and earnestness with which he fought, elicited profound and universal admiration; the humility, purity and goodness that adorned his character as a man, made him an object of reverence and love. He wielded a trenchant blade, but that blade was sanctified with the breath of prayer, and he was not more at home on the field of blood than at the mercy seat.

“His splendid martial exploits are too fresh in the memory to justify the special mention of them. We remember with tearful admiration the magnificent achievements he performed, at a time when the country was depressed by a series of military disasters, and the enemy were exulting over the expectation of speedy and complete success. Success, signal and glorious success, crowned every battle he fought, and every victory he won yielded results of the highest value to the sacred cause in which he imperilled his life.

“Of all the generals in the army of the Confederacy, none possessed in a larger degree than the hero whose death we deplore, the ability of endearing himself to the officers and men under his command. No portion of our forces were required to do more and bear more, to encounter greater danger and endure more severe hardships and privations, than the soldiers he led into battle; yet there is now no general in command who is more respected and admired and beloved than he was. His men were ever ready to march and labor and fight. It was enough for them to know that he required the service, and no matter what was its nature, the gallant soldiers of the noble chieftain rendered it with cheerful alacrity and hearty earnestness. They appreciated the rare character of the remarkable man. They perceived that he was actuated by the highest motives yielded by patriotism and Christianity, that he was as careless of his ease as he was of his life, and catching the inspiration of the same grand motives, and sustained by the same lofty sense of duty, they took pleasure in imitating the example of their fearless leader.