

had helped to extinguish that peculiarity and to hand over the interests of a free colony from the paternal government of a monarch to the tender mercies of the rabble of a pure republic, and the Colony State or individual was only reaping the benefit of its community or progenitors political sins. It is all very well to give magniloquent names to very common and vulgar crimes, but BRONX says "one sad losel soils a name for an aye" and we cannot see the difference between public and private in this case, Col. ROBERT E. LEE, as a soldier owed allegiance to the United States, no earthly consideration should have weighed with him or could absolve him of that responsibility except the deliberate action of the United States executive and nothing could justify him in taking up arms against her. It is we are happy to say the only blot on the escutcheon of a noble and gallant soldier, a brave man and to sum up in a single word the total of all human virtues—a christian—but it is a blot and a foul one, nevertheless, no special pleading will avail, a soldier is not nor cannot be a politician, his duty is simple and plain and was well illustrated by England's great Admiral BLAKE who, when officially informed of CROMWELL's usurpation, mustered the officers of his fleet and after reading over the general orders announcing the change of Government remarked, "it is none of our business, we are to take care that no foreigners fool us," although it is well known that his convictions of duty were at least as weighty as those of Colonel R. E. LEE.

The organ of a growing military power we wish to impress on our readers the sacredness of the obligation they impose on themselves as military men, members of a representative social fraternity, there are no internal evils which can possibly affect the State which cannot be remedied without military interference, the guardians of social law and order in British Constitutionalism, the soldier plays the part of enforcer of the law, not its administrator or originator, and no case can possibly occur where it will be left to his option as to the course his duty demands he should pursue, the utter failure of all law and order in ancient or modern history has been and is due to the fact that the soldier became a politician, and the case of the distinguished General under consideration is no exception to this general and stringent rule. Soldiers may have interposed as MONCK did in re establishing lawful authority, but that is altogether a different case from the attempt to subvert it in which no soldier should join.

States that are content to be ruled by such political puppets as ABRAHAM LINCOLN, JEFFERSON DAVIS, and ANDREW JOHNSON, must make up their minds to encounter the consequences of that egotistical individuality which is the plague spot of the period, and as a rule, have all their servants assume the right to call in question the best considered

acts. In all such a political and social crisis will be of periodical recurrence, and a repetition of events of the Northern and Southern contest imminent. A proportion of its trained subordinates ranging on one side or the other. It follows that states governed by democratic institutions like the United States, are regularly engaged in training a part of their subjects to rebellion, and imparting to others, the scientific, as well as practical knowledge to make it effective. The fruits of this course was reaped in the civil war between the Northern and Southern States.

At the period when it was evident that a contest must take place, Lieut. Colonel LEE, the most prominent officer in the United States army, the destined successor of its Commander in Chief, thought proper to place his resignation in the hands of the latter, and to retire to his native State. It is not for us to analyse his motives or sources of action; they are only to be explained by the peculiar political education the institutions of the United States are calculated to impart, and if he had remained neutral throughout the contest, his fame would not have burned so brightly, but he would have left no example of a soldier forsaking his colors, to future generations. It is the only spot in a great, as well as splendid career, and it only illustrates the truth of that aphorism, which declares "the path of duty to be the path of safety and honor." It is quite true, that the career he pursued involved large, and almost unexampled sacrifices, and it redounds to his eternal honour that those were accepted without hesitation, and however we may deprecate the error of judgment in the soldier, due in a great measure to early training and association, we cannot but admire the general and the chieftain, and accord the praise due to a brave prudent, but unsuccessful commander, the latter by no fault of his own. On the 20th April, three days after Virginia adopted her Ordinance of Secession, Lieut. Colonel LEE sent his resignation to General SCOTT at Washington, and immediately set out for Richmond. On his arrival there he was appointed Major General in the Confederate forces, and intrusted with the task of fortifying the capital; how well he accomplished that difficult feat, reflects equal credit on his genius and ability, and on the school in which he was trained, but it was not till McCLELLAN's force were in dangerous proximity that his military capabilities were tested, as the President of the Southern Confederacy affected to look on him as a mere Engineer.

The effect of placing him in command, is well known. The *Little Napoleon* of the day, to whose great military abilities General CHESNEY pays a just tribute, was foiled and driven back, and the reputation of General LEE shows till the final catastrophe with a brilliance that fairly eclipsed all other competitors.

A perusal of this article will satisfy the military reader of the great cause of the Federal success, which might be summed up in the single word—discipline—as the want of it was the primary cause of Confederate failure. And this brings us to one of the most remarkable passages in the article under review. Speaking of the first battle of Bull's Run, which appears to have been gained by the Confederates, by the steadiness of JOHNSON's troops alone, Colonel CHESNEY says: "And as we laughed so long and loud at the behaviour of the raw militia of McDOWELL, when once in retreat, it is well to add that there is not the least reason to believe, judging from the testimony of Southern officers, that their men would have behaved one whit better had the reverse been on their side. More than this, those among ourselves who know most of war, are agreed that however highly one may think of the spirit of the levies we call our Auxiliary Forces, there is no ground whatever, beyond a vulgar national vanity for the common belief, that a mass of those once beaten, and panic-stricken, would show conduct very different from that of McDOWELL's volunteers, or of the Mobiles of the Army of the Loire. Nations deceive themselves much in this matter of their untrained troops," was the remark recently made by the Chief of the Swiss army—one composed wholly of Militia, men. And what is true of Frenchmen, of Swiss, and of our own kith and kin in America would hardly be falsified if misfortunes fell upon ourselves."

We quote this as the opinion of a soldier of eminence, and one every way worthy of serious consideration. To return to General LEE's career it is so well known that it does not demand a lengthened notice at our hands, the prominent points are touched in the *Edinburgh Review*, and the final collapse of Southern resistance, found its great General in a painful position, obliged with the humiliation attendant on want of success to abandon property as well as position, and hereafter, for the rest of his days, to be known only as the head of the principal collegiate Institution of his native state, and the preacher of patience and peace to its conquered people. His last words to his army after the memorable surrender "men! we have fought together through the war, I have done the best for you I could, my heart is too full to say more,"—will long live in the pages of history as the utterances of a great heart broken by grief, and General LEE did not long survive the fall of the Confederacy; he was stricken with paralysis on the 28th September, 1870, in the act of saying grace at his evening meal and died on the 12th October, following.

Thus passed away a great man, a great soldier, and a true Christian, his virtues were many and his faults few, but his career is an instance of the truth of the aphorism we have before quoted. In his case the United States cannot be charged with harshness but should get credit for rare magnanimity.