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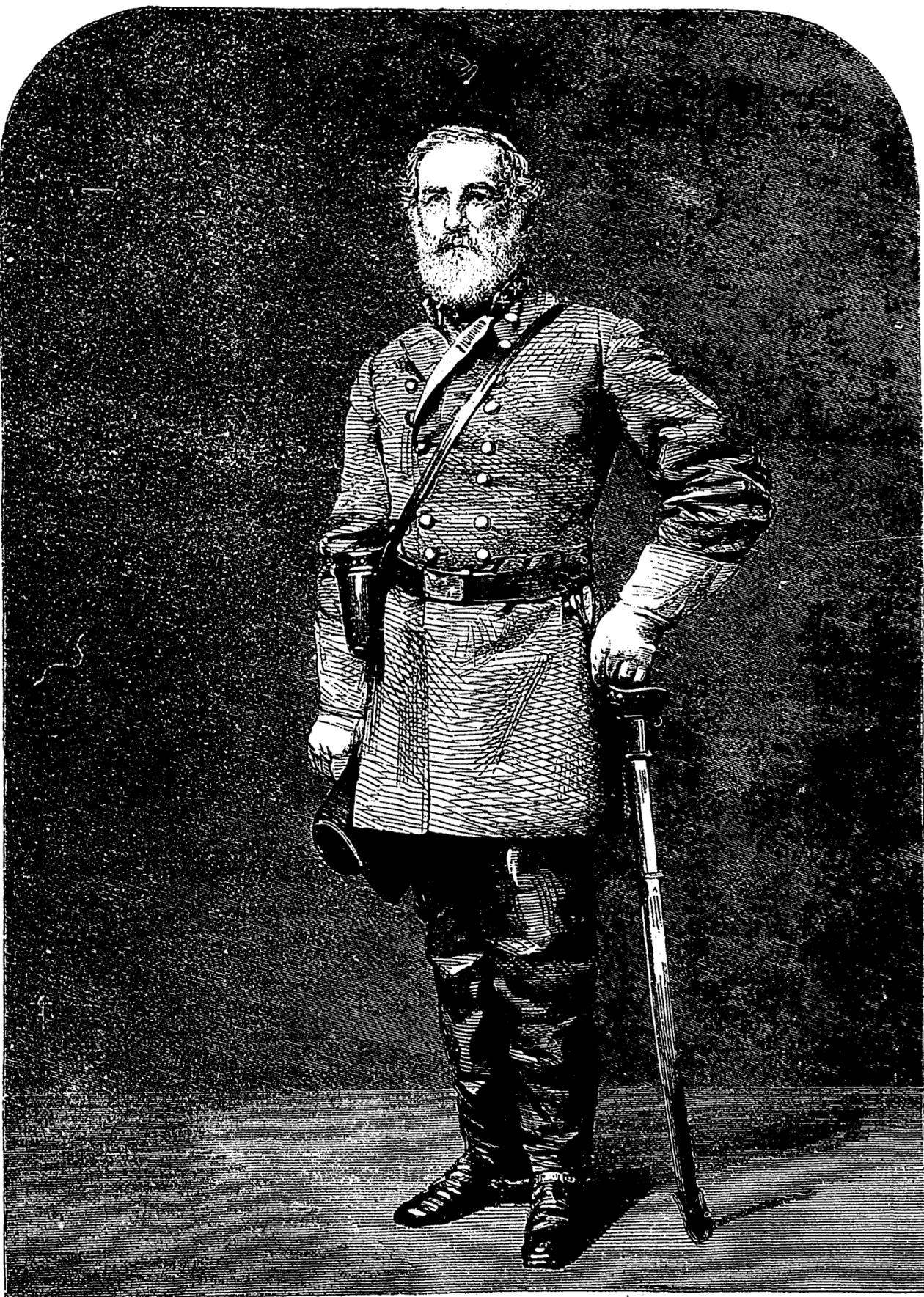
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GEN. LEE.

The War of Independence so stoutly, but unsuccessfully, waged for four years by the Southern States of the American Republic, developed no greater military genius than Robert E. Lee, who died at Lexington, Va., on Wednesday, the 12th inst. He was a man of high distinction for his scholarly attainments, personal honour, and spotlessness of character. The "Lost Cause" had no more earnest champion than he, and perhaps not another possessing so many varied accomplishments. By his military genius for strategy in the field he achieved some of the greatest victories of modern times, and, what was perhaps still more to his credit, his defeats, like his victories, were characterised by extraordinary precaution and foresight in husbanding the lives of his soldiers. He knew no "pegging away," nor "fighting it out on this line," reckless of how many human beings he sacrificed. To the superior force of the North—about four to one—he opposed his own military skill, which proved so much more than a match for Northern strength that half the world was persuaded the Confederacy would never be conquered. However, Sherman's "march to the sea," proved at length that it was a mere shell, that in fact it had been literally scooped out while the gallant Lee was supporting the outer rim on the North; and he only surrendered when further resistance would have been unavailing, and even cruel to his own soldiers.

Robert Edmund Lee was born in the State of Virginia, in 1808; he was the son of Gen. Henry Lee, of revolutionary fame, and belonged to one of the oldest and most opulent and aristocratic families of that



THE LATE GENERAL ROBERT EDMUND LEE, C. S. A.

proud State which boasts the title of "Mother of Presidents," and has undoubtedly been the birthplace of many of the greatest men who have ever adorned the Republic. He received a liberal education, and in 1825 entered the Military School of West Point as a cadet. His first commission as second Lieutenant in the U. S. army, bears date July, 1829, and seven years later he was made first Lieutenant. In July, 1835, he rose to the rank of Captain, and in 1845 was appointed a member of the Board of Engineers. Lee's first experiences of war were acquired in the Mexican campaign, under Gen. Scott, who had frequent occasion to mention his skill and bravery. In 1846 Captain Lee was appointed Chief Engineer of the Army in Mexico, and, on the 18th April of that year, raised to the rank of Major for gallant conduct at Cerro Gordo. His promotion during the war was rapid: on the 20th Aug., 1847, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel for bravery at Contreras and Churubusco; and Colonel, on the 13th Sept. of the same year, for gallant conduct at Chapultepec. At the end of the Mexican war he was reappointed a member of the Board of Engineers; and in 1852 was made Superintendent of West Point Military Academy, which he held until March, 1855, when he was appointed Lt.-Col. of the second regiment of Cavalry, and sent with Captain (now General) McClellan to the Crimea to watch and report upon military operations there on behalf of the American Government. This commission executed, Col. Lee returned and resumed military duty. In March, 1861, he was made Col. of Cavalry, and with his regiment was stationed at San Antonio, in the South-West of Texas. The fierce quarrels which