

Miscellaneous.

THE LOST CAUSE.

We give a few extracts from a Southern book recently published under the above title, which are interesting and valuable. The first attempts to answer the question WHY THE SOUTH FAILED?

According to this history, the solution of this problem is not to be looked for in the great superiority of the North in numbers and resources. Such an explanation Mr. Pollard admits would be agreeable to the South, but he rejects it as fallacious.

"Most of the wars memorable in history have terminated with some momentous and splendid crisis of arms. Generally some large decisive battle closes the contest; a grand catastrophe mounts the stage; a great scene illuminates the last act of the tragedy. It was not so with the war of the confederates. It is true that the armies of the Confederacy had been dreadfully depleted by desertions; but in the winter of 1864-65, the belligerent republic had yet more than a hundred thousand men in arms east of the Mississippi river. It was generally supposed in Richmond that if the confederate cause was ever lost, it would be only when this force had been massed, and a decisive field fixed for a grand, multitudinous battle. This idea had run through the whole period of the war; it was impossible in Richmond to imagine the close of the contest without an imposing and splendid catastrophe. In the very commencement of the war, when troops were gaily marching to the first line of battle in Virginia, President Davis had made an address in the camps at Rockett's, declaring that whatever misfortunes might befall the confederate arms, they would rally for a final and desperate contest, to pluck victory at last. He said to the famous Hampton Legion: 'When the last line of bayonets is leveled, I will be with you.'

"How far fell the facts below these dramatic anticipations! The contest decisive of the tenure of Richmond and the fate of the Confederacy was scarcely more than an 'affair,' with reference to the extent of its casualties, and at other periods of the war its list of killed and wounded would not have come up to the dignity of a battle in the estimation of the newspapers. Gen. Lee's entire loss in killed and wounded, in the series of engagements that uncovered Richmond and put him on his final retreat, did not exceed two thousand men. The loss of two thousand men decided the fate of the Southern Confederacy! The sequence was surrender from the Potomac to the Rio Grande. The whole fabric of confederate defense tumbled down at a stroke of arms that did not amount to a battle. There was no last great convulsion, such as usually marks the final struggles of a people's devotion or the expiring hours of their desperation. The word 'surrender' traveled from Virginia to Texas. A four years' contest terminated with the smallest incident of bloodshed; it lapsed; it passed by a rapid and easy transition into a profound and abject submission.

"There must be some explanation of this flat conclusion of the war. It is easily found. Such a condition could only take place in a thorough demoralization of the armies and people of the Confederacy; there must have been a general decay of public spirit, a general rottenness of public affairs when a great war thus terminated, and a contest was abandoned so short of positive defeat, and so far from the historical necessity of subjugation.

"There is but one conclusion that remains for the dispassionate student of history. Whatever may be the partial explanations of the downfall of the Southern Confederacy, and whatever may be the various excuses that passion and false pride, and flattery of demagogues, may offer, the great and melancholy fact remains that the confederates, with an able government and more resolute spirit, might have accomplished their independence."

EVACUATION OF RICHMOND.

"A small slip of paper, sent up from the War Department to President Davis, as he was seated in his pew in St. Paul's Church, contained the news of the most momentous event of the war.

"It is a most remarkable circumstance that the people of Richmond had remained in profound ignorance of the fighting which had been taking place for three days on Gen. Lee's line. There was not a rumor of it in the air. Not a newspaper office in the city had any inkling of what was going on. Indeed, for the past few days there had been visible reassurance in the confederate capital; there were rumors that Johnson was moving to Lee's line, and a general idea that the combined force would take the offensive against the enemy. But a day before Grant had commenced his heavy movement, a curious excitement had taken place in Richmond. The morning train had brought from Petersburg the wonderful rumor that General Lee had made a night attack, in which he had crushed the enemy along his whole line. John M. Daniel, the editor of the Richmond Examiner, died the same day under the delusion that such a victory had been won; and John Mitchell, who wrote his obituary in the morning papers, expressed the regret that the great Virginian had passed away just as a decisive victory was likely to give the turning point to the success of the Southern Confederacy! The circumstance shows how little prepared the people of Richmond were on the bright Sabbath morning of the 2d of April for the news that fell upon them like a thunder-clap from clear skies, and smote the ear of the community as a knell of death.

"As the day wore on, clatter and bustle in the streets denoted the progress of the evacuation, and convinced those who had been incredulous of its reality. The disorder increased each hour. The streets were thronged with fugitives making their way to the railroad depots; pale women and little shoeless children struggled in the crowd; oaths and blasphemous shouts smote the ear. Wagons were being hastily loaded at the depots with boxes, trunks, etc., and driven to the Danville depot. In the afternoon a special train carried from Richmond President Davis and some of his Cabinet. At the depots all was confusion; there was no sys-

tem; there was no answer to inquiries; important officers were invisible, and every one felt like taking care of himself. Outside the mass of hurrying fugitives, there were collected here and there mean-visaged crowds, generally around the commissary depots; they had already scented prey; they were of that brutal and riotous element that revenges itself on all communities in a time of great public misfortune.

"There had been but little sleep for the people of Richmond in the night which preceded their great misfortune. It was an extraordinary night; disorder, pillage, shouts, mad revelry of confusion. In the now dimly-lighted city could be seen black masses of people, crowded around some object of excitement, besieging the commissary stores, destroying liquor, intent perhaps upon pillage, and swaying to and fro in whatever momentary passion possessed them. The gutters ran with a liquor freshet, and the fumes filled the air. Some of the straggling soldiers passing through the city, easily managed to get hold of quantities of the liquor. Confusion became worse confounded; the sidewalks were encumbered with broken glass; stores were entered at pleasure, and stripped from top to bottom; yells of drunken men, shouts of roving pillagers, wild cries of distress filled the air, and made night hideous.

"But a new horror was to appear upon the scene and take possession of the community. To the rear-guard of the confederate force on the north side of James river, under Gen. Ewell, had been left the duty of blowing up the iron-clad vessels in the James and destroying the bridges across that river. The Richmond, Virginia, and an iron ram were blown to the winds; the little shipping at the wharves was fired; and the three bridges that spanned the river were wrapped in flames, as soon as the last troops had traversed them. The work of destruction might well have ended here. But Gen. Ewell, obeying the letter of his instructions, had issued orders to fire the four principal tobacco warehouses of the city; one of them—the Shockoe warehouse—situated near the centre of the city, side by side with the Gallego flour-mills, just in a position and circumstances from which a conflagration might extend to the whole business portion of Richmond.

"Meanwhile the fire raged with unchecked fury. The entire business part of the city was on fire; stores, warehouses, manufactories, mills, depots, and bridges—all covering acres; the continuous thunder of exploding shells sounded in the sea of fire; and in the midst of it was the long-threatening hostile army entering to seize its prey. All during the forenoon, flame and smoke and burning brands, and showers of burning sparks filled the air, spreading still further the destruction, until it had swept before it every bank, every auction store, every insurance office, nearly every commission house, and most of the fashionable stores. The atmosphere was almost choking; men, women, and children crowded into the square of the Capitol for a breath of pure air; but it was not to be obtained even there, and one traversed the green slopes blinded by cinders and struggling for breath. Already piles of furniture had been collected here, dragged from the ruins of burning houses; and in uncounted arrangements, made with broken tables and bureaus, were huddled women and children, with no other home, with no other resting place in heaven's great hollow-ness. It was late in the evening when the fire had burned itself out. It had consumed the most important part of Richmond.

"As night came on, there was a painful refection after the day's terrible excitement; a strange quiet fell upon the blackened city and its scenes of destruction. It was the quiet of a great desolation. Groups of women and children crawled under shelters of broken furniture in the Capitol square; hundreds of homeless persons lay down to sleep in the shadows of the ruins of Richmond; and worn out by excitement, exhausted as by the spasm of a great battle, men watched for the morrow with the dull sense that the work of years had been ruined, and all they possessed on earth had been swept away."

REPRESENTATION OF PROTESTANT MISSIONS AT THE GREAT PARIS EXHIBITION.

The Rev. W. Arthur, the well-known Wesleyan minister, made an interesting statement on this subject at one of the meetings of the Wesleyan Conference, now holding its annual sittings at Leeds. He said: All are aware that next spring it is intended by the French Government to hold in Paris a Universal Exhibition, inviting the products of all nations, and it is confidently anticipated that there will be such an assemblage of the nations of Europe and America as has never been, on the Continent of Europe at least, before. The Champs de Mars is to be devoted to this great object, and very extensive constructions are growing up, and with the prospect before them the Romish missionaries applied for leave to exhibit such things as would illustrate their missionary undertakings throughout the world. It was at once granted. The French Protestants heard of it, and they applied for leave to exhibit things to illustrate Protestantism. With them it was both a point of honor and an instrument of propagation. Mr. Hocart is behind me, and he knows that of the stoic arguments of a friar's Lenten preaching is this—and very often it comes in the peroration—the Catholic religion shows its glory by its foreign missions; the heretics, the Protestants, have never ventured to send one missionary across the seas. (Laughter.) There are millions of intelligent people on the Continent of Europe who devoutly believe it, and that it is one of the Divine evidences of the Romish Church, that it has missions scattered all over the world. Therefore, the Protestants applied for leave to exhibit and prove to the whole Continent that there were Protestant missionaries across the seas who were laboring amongst the heathens for the spread of the Gospel. The Emperor accorded the permission at once. (Hear, hear.) It is said that upon this being known the Jesuits at once said, 'Well, if the Protestants are allowed to exhibit, we will not.' and it was intimated to them that they must. But they insisted that they would not. The report goes on

to say that an intimation went forth from the highest authority in Paris to the highest authority in Rome, saying, 'They are to exhibit!' So it was settled that the two were to go side by side. But then came the great question, if the French Protestants were to exhibit for themselves, they could make only a very small demonstration; and whether they would be permitted to call the great societies of Europe and America around them, and ask them to unite in one common display, whereby the eye of the Continent might look at once on all that was being done throughout the world by the various Protestant missionary societies. This also was granted. (Hear, hear.) Then whether they would be permitted to have any one to represent them upon the Commission? Yes, if the various Protestant societies would accept it, one member should be put on the Imperial Commission to represent them. Then whether they would be permitted to exhibit books—Bibles, tracts, and specimens of languages, and products of anything and everything showing what they were doing? Yes, all that. (Hear, hear.) Still, a further question, whether they would be permitted to send men to be on the spot to give discourses explaining the objects and the operations? Even that was accorded. (Hear, hear.) Allow me to read to you the conditions as they are finally written. They are these:—

"I. That all the Protestant Missionary Societies in Europe and America join together to make one general exhibition. The necessary accommodations shall be granted for that purpose.

"II. That the various Protestant Missionary Societies accept the Committee of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society as their representative and delegate. If this be agreed to, a member of the said committee shall be admitted among the Commissioners appointed by the Government to regulate and superintend everything pertaining to the exhibition.

"III. That the different societies send all they deem calculated to give an idea of the religious, intellectual, and social condition of the nations among whom they labor: native implements, weapons, dress, and produce, both in agriculture and industry, before and since the introduction of Christianity; imitations, on reduced scale, of their pristine and present dwellings; translations of the Bible, books, tracts; journals printed in the different stations; works published by missionaries, especially on travels and philology; specimens of writing of native converts in their respective languages and those of Europe which they have learned; idols and all sorts of curiosities, together with specimens which may throw light on points of natural history."

The Protestants of France at once undertook to raise a building, and expend £1200 upon it; and they appealed to the societies of Europe and America to join them in the work. The Church Missionary Society was the first to respond, subscribing £200 toward the building. Mr. Forbes, the clergyman from Paris, came direct to our Mission Home—our committee was sitting at the time—and they have resolved to subscribe £200. (Hear, hear.) My impression is that if we were to do what we ought to do, it cannot be done for less than £500.

Some conversation took place as to the best mode of raising the sum; and it was generally agreed that it would be better to apply to a few wealthy friends of the Church.

THE SOUL'S GREATNESS AND VALUE.

"The soul is, in truth, the man, and only realizes its freedom when it emerges from the outer temple in which it has ministered on earth. From all consideration of its nature and its acts, we gather a conception of its greatness. Centuries ago into ages, carry century into century, to their highest cube, and all is but an infinitesimal preface to its inexhaustible being. The Pyramids of Egypt, just opening their stony lips to speak for God's word; the theatres of Ionia; the colossal remains of Nineveh; the electric telegraph, that unites minds a thousand miles apart; the tubular bridge, that spans broad rivers and great chasms,—all are witnesses to the grandeur and powers of the soul of man. Its capacity of woe and joy is as great as its ability to do. Its descent in ruin was so deep, and its strength to resist its own recovery so great, that it required nothing less than Omnipotence to interpose in order to recover it. Its price is the blood of the Incarnate One, its value must be corresponding.

"Tell me, lost spirit, writhing in thy bitter agony; tell me, glorified soul, ever happy—ever praising; tell me, angels; but tell me, thou who only art able—thou bleeding Lamb, 'What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?'—John Cumming; D.D.

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107 Shares Farmers' National Bank of Reading,
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10 Shares Williamsport Water Company,
Mortgages, Ground Rents, and Real Estate, 147,209 83
Loans on collateral security secured, 169,481 95
Premium notes secured by Policies, 217,594 98
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