

Children Honor Nation's Dead



Photo by Frank Fournier.

Children, on this Memorial day,
Go scatter flowers where sleep the Blue and Gray;
Under one flag, a strong, united land,
An inspiration to the world we stand.

DENIES THAT GENERAL GRANT WAS UNFEELING

One Who Knew the "Silent Man" Well Tells of Instances That Prove Rumor's Falsity.

GRANT did not select the Wilderness as the scene of his first engagement; he was compelled to take it, writes Samuel H. Beckwith, chief cipher operator to General Grant, 1862-65. But he was not caught unawares, as some unfriendly writers have argued. We well knew that the "Johnnies" were somewhere before us, ready to oppose brisk defense to our forward movement, and every possible precaution was taken to protect our troops against surprise. When the fight started we were prepared for them, so far as an army could be prepared for the struggle upon such a field.

During the first day's engagement General Grant was not idle. He wanted to learn first-hand what was going on about him. A personal inspection, therefore, was necessary, and Cincinnati, that magnificent war horse, was drafted into service. There have been many horses that have gained conspicuous places in equine history, but this noble animal deserves place among the best. He was a chestnut gelding of rare mettle, and when in action upon a smoke-covered field he certainly was an object of admiration. I was the general's only companion on that ride, and for one excellent reason, among others, my mount could keep pace with his.

There were a few moments during the ride in which I was reasonably sure that our time had come. As we penetrated a thicket of dwarf pine and emerged into a small clearing a line of Federal troops groping their way along clashed, in our immediate front, with a detachment of Confederates who were pushing through the tangle of wood. A fusillade of bullets was the result, and several sang an ominous song about our heads. We reined up, and then, as our men drove the enemy back to cover, he continued on his way with this comment:

"When our time comes, Beckwith, we'll go, and not before. There's no use trying to avoid it."

And avoid it he did not.

UNDISMAYED BY TIDINGS.

As was inevitable under such conditions as prevailed in the Wilderness, reports of the vicissitudes of the engagement were numerous and conflicting. To headquarters, where Grant awaited the outcome of the second day's fight, came courier after courier bringing news of the progress of the contest from various portions of the field.

Some of these were alarmingly incorrect.

But the evil tidings didn't disturb the silent Grant. Several times during the night I visited his tent to receive or deliver messages, and found him apparently unmoved by the direful rumors.

He had done all that any commander could do to insure victory; the result was with Providence. Even with some of these disquieting tales unrefuted, he retired to his cot to snatch a much-needed rest, the least rumormongering of the group about headquarters.

The morning of the 7th broke upon a battlefield strewn with the wreckage of terrible fighting, but the two formidable opponents had finished writing into history the Battle of the Wilderness. The forces of Lee had retired behind their intrenchments; the Federal troops were unwilling to attack them so protected.

Orders were issued late in the afternoon for a night march of the entire army toward Spottsylvania. Early in the evening the lieutenant-general and Meade with their staffs started out upon the way. When we reached Hancock's corps, the brave fellows were lying behind their works most of them asleep, and we picked our steps carefully along in the darkness to safeguard the recumbent soldiers.

Grant sought a brief interview with General Hancock and the twin crawled into an ambulance wagon and held converse for some time. I had been riding close behind my superior and now I dismounted and threw my bridle rein across the limb of a fallen tree nearby, while I flung myself down upon a pile of brush to await the re-appearance of the general. I was pretty well fagged out and a few moments rest was most welcome.

It wasn't long before the boys sensed the presence of Grant, and although orders had been given to refrain from cheering, owing to the proximity of the enemy, when they learned that he was facing southward, they sprang to their feet and the rocks and woods sent back the echo of their boisterous shouts.

Some rather harsh criticism has been directed at General Grant for the tremendous sacrifice of life in the Wilderness campaign, and his alleged callousness at the wholesale slaughter of his men.

STOICISM OF GREAT CAPTAIN.

Let me, who was his constant companion during three years of the Civil war, bear testimony to his possession of a genuine humanity and manly sympathy. His was a most peculiar nature. Where others would fret and grieve, manifesting their anxiety in words and actions, he preserved a stern silence. But I am certain he felt as keenly and deeply the barb of misfortune and sorrow as did those about him. During the bloody days of relentless attack and stubborn defense in the spring of 1864 I noticed an almost indefinable sadness in Grant, a sort of moody reticence, that convinced me, who understood the man, that he was

suffering at the destruction of so many gallant troops.

It was after the battle of Cold Harbor that I went to the general's tent to deliver a ciphergram, and found him sitting alone, smoking a cigar and evidently buried in thought. His face bore a care-worn expression that indicated sleepless nights and wearisome days. For a moment he was oblivious of my presence; then he nodded to me and I entered, handing him the message. After reading it he turned to me with a sigh.

"Beckwith," he said, "the hardest part of this general business is the responsibility for the loss of one's men. I can see no other way out of it, however; we've got to keep at them. But it is hard, very hard, to see all these brave fellows killed and wounded. It means aching hearts back home." And he lapsed again into ruminating silence.

There were two occasions when I saw General Grant actually shed tears. The one was in the forepart of July of 1864, while we were in headquarters at City Point in the operations before Petersburg. A telegram came in from Gen. W. T. Sherman, who was grappling with Hood at Atlanta, Ga., conveying the painful intelligence of the death of McPherson, the beloved commander of the Army of the Tennessee.

WORD OF M'PHERSON'S DEATH.

This rugged and gallant leader, by his intrepid and cavalier bravery, had won for himself the enthusiastic support of his men and the unreserved confidence and admiration of Grant and his generals. It was a telling blow, just as this time, to the hopes and aspirations of the North.

I took the dispatch to the general, and he read it silently. He was hard hit, I could readily see that. His mouth twitched and his eyes closed as if he were shutting out the baleful words. Then the tears came and one followed the other down his bronzed cheeks as he sat there without a word of comment. It was most eloquent silence.

The other occasion was in October of the same year, when the news of the death of Gen. T. E. G. Ransom reached us. Ransom and Grant had been comrades in arms in the West in the early days of the war, and a strong friendship had grown up between them. The loss of the young officer struck home with peculiar force and none felt that loss more deeply than General Grant.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR MAY 28

THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM.

LESSON TEXT—Acts 15:1-5.
GOLDEN TEXT—For freedom did Christ set us free.—Gal. 5:1.

The events of this lesson are outstanding in Christian history. Paul's appeal to the Gentiles and the large number of them who accepted the Gospel made most acute the question, "Must Gentile believers become Jewish proselytes upon accepting the Christian faith and be governed by Jewish law and customs?" It would be exceedingly interesting to divide a class and let them debate this controversy stated as follows: "Resolved, That the Mosaic law should not have been imposed upon Gentile Christians." The date of this council was A. D. 50 or 51, and the scene is laid first in Antioch of Syria and then in Jerusalem.

I. A Division of Opinion (vv. 1-6) Luke does not name those who agitated and precipitated this controversy, but clearly indicates how the Holy Spirit dealt with the situation. "Is a man justified by faith, or by the works of the law?" is a similar question with modern application. The Holy Spirit, to avoid a rupture in the yet weak church, directs that Paul, Barnabas, Titus (Gal. 2:1) and "certain others" who are not named, should carry the question to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. Those to whom they went were "of reputation" (Gal. 2:2), the "pillars" Gal. 2:9) and they received the delegation from Antioch in public (15:4), also heard Paul in private (Gal. 2:2).

II. The Argument (vv. 6-18). It will not do to be harsh in condemning Paul's accusers. The Pharisees felt deeply their position. As God's chosen people they were marked by circumcision. Jesus, the promised Messiah, was a Jew. Social, religious, and racial differences are hard to reconcile in one church today. But little was asked of the Gentiles in contrast with all they received. Entrance to church membership would not be too easy if circumcision were imposed as a test of their sincerity. Peter brought forward the plea before the council that God had given the Holy Spirit to the uncircumcised Christians, "and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (vv. 8, 9). God bears the same witness today to those who refuse to be bound by Mosaic traditions as regards the seventh day and other such details. Paul's argument was that God had wrought signs and wonders among the Gentiles and thus set his seal upon his preaching of salvation as apart from legalistic works (v. 12). Read in this connection Gal. 2:16, Titus 3:20, 8:3, 10:4, and Phil. 3:9. The apostle James presented the third argument in connection with the verdict he pronounced. It was that it is according to Old Testament Scripture that God will take a people for his name from among the uncircumcised Gentiles as well as from among the law-keeping Jews (vs. 13-17). With Paul this was a vital question, and we can at least imagine his feelings as he puts forth a life-and-death struggle for the truth. As Peter reminded the people of the occasion when "the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and his household" he caused them to keep silence.

III. A Wise Decision (vv. 19-29). It was James the Just, brother of our Lord, the writer of the epistle and the bishop overseer of the church at Jerusalem, who rendered the decision. In his argument (vs. 13-18) he saw in these Gentile converts reported by Barnabas and Saul a fulfillment of the prophecy of Amos, and to use the language of today he "made a motion," viz., that these Gentiles be not disturbed except in such matters as would tend to more fully separate them from the heathen idolatry they had just left, (a) "Pollution of idols," i. e., flesh offered in the sacrifices (b) "from fornication," the immorality connected with the pagan worship of Aphrodite and Cybele which actually consecrated vice, and (c) "from things strangled," for the heathen did not, as the Jews did, look upon the blood as life, the seat of the soul. The church readily agreed to this motion and took such precautions as were needed that no misrepresentations of their decision be carried back to Antioch. This consisted of a spirited choice of messengers and in a written statement of their decision (vs. 22, 23).

IV. The Result in Antioch (vv. 30-35). Great joy greeted the conclusion of this question.

It produced pleasant harmony in place of discord and in place of the irksome bondage of the law it gave the joyous liberty of the Gospel. Jewish legalism gave way to Christian liberty. Judas and Silas, Spirit-filled, gave much profitable exhortation and instruction.

Silas after reporting to the Jerusalem church (v. 32) seems to have returned to his new-found friends (v. 34) and later became, along with Paul, a missionary (v. 40).

Thus the evil Paul's enemies thought to accomplish worked out to the good of all (Rom. 8:28).

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HAD HER BEAU IN CLOSET

Girl's Statement Alarmed Mistress Somewhat, But Developments Made Everything All Right.

Ring Lardner colloquialisms of the middle West take queer shoots sometimes. A servant who had had several beaux about whom she talked a great deal was asked by her mistress about one Henry, he of the mild blue eyes and fair skin.

"Where is he now?"

"Him? Oh, he got him up in my room, locked up safe enough in a closet," replied Mary.

"Locked up—Mary, you don't mean to say you've got a young man in your room?"

"Oh, yes, ma'am. He's handsome, Henry is. Come, I'll show you."

They went upstairs. Mary marched to a closet and threw open the door. The mistress stepped backward expecting she knew not what. All that happened was that Mary opened a trunk, and from beneath a pile of clean handkerchiefs took out a photograph.

"There," said she, "that's Henry. Ain't he just handsome?"

The Easiest Way.

Tommy had a cold in his head, which confined him to the house, so he was allowed to invite his young friend, Jack, to tea.

Afterward the two small boys commenced playing hide-and-seek, and Tommy rushed into the dining room and asked his father to conceal him. This father did, behind a big armchair.

Presently in came Jack, and instead of beginning his search, calmly threw himself down on the rug before the fire.

"Come, Jack," said Tommy's father, "aren't you going to look?"

"No fear," was the small boy's calm retort. "I'm waiting till he sniffs!"

Vain Search.

Mr. Bacon—Do you know, dear, I have only two suits of clothes to my name?

Mrs. Bacon—Yes, John; I have noticed that you have very little change in your clothing.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Too Much for Him.

She—Can you manage a typewriter?
He—Not the one I married.—Boston Evening Transcript.

Matrimonial packages are not always what they are tied up to be.

In Luck. "We're in luck, boys," remarked Noah.

"In what way?" inquired Japhet. "We can go ahead and build this ship ourselves without asking for an appropriation."

FRECKLES

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Be sure to ask for the double strength ointment, as this is sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.—Adv.

Quite Familiar. She (thoughtfully)—Did you ever think much about reincarnation, dear?
"18 (otherwise)—Think about it? I eat it nearly every day—only we call it hash.—Tiger.

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Many a man who takes himself seriously is considered a joke by his neighbors.

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When a man says a bright thing he nearly always forgets the quotation marks.

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Man may be the stronger, but woman's tongue is more facile.

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