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A Century After

A century ago today, Robert Edward Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Grant's Union forces. Within a short span of time, the Southern Confederacy would be dead. Johnston would surrender to Sherman, President Davis would be taken prisoner, Judah Benjamin on a Cuban fishing boat would endure the anti-semitic jibes of Union soldiers rather than reveal his identity and wreck his escape to England, General Shelby at the head of his unsundered Legion would cast his battle flag and black plume into the Rio Grande, and Abraham Lincoln would fall at the hand of an assassin in Ford's theater.

Lee, in quiet dignity, would die president of a Virginia college. Davis would be released and go into genteel retirement. Beauregard would rebuild his fortune with railroad investments. Benjamin, to the end aloof from dealing with the United States government, would die a successful London barrister. Wheeler would return to the American army and annoy his northern staff officers in 1896 by referring to the Spaniards as "Damnyankies" in the heat of battle. And Grant, deserted by his party, betrayed by those he thought his friends, would keep from dying a pauper by publishing his *Memoirs* with the help of an ex-Confederate, Mark Twain.



LEE

A century has past, the last veteran of that most sanguinary affair in our history is dead. Lee lies like a medieval knight in his memorial chapel. Grant rests in his ornate tomb, Mosby's scarlet-lined cape is in the Smithsonian Museum, and a marble Lincoln looks out upon the nations capitol from behind his marble pillars.

Prompted by the stinging goad of Reconstruction, the South has permitted much of her heritage to be dragged through the gutters of racism and Ignorance. Her battle flag has been stained by disgraceful association with the rabid and unscrupulous politics of bigotry and with shamefully-allowed commercial exploitation.

After a hundred years, has not the time come to treat the memory of the Southern Confederacy, and those who died for her, with the respect and reverence which is her due? Has not the time come to erase the stain of racism from a great heritage? Without forgetting, without rewriting, without degrading the past or destroying its monuments and remains, we should build in unity with the rest of the nation upon our traditions that our future may preserve the virtues and avoid the faults of our history.

—William Dayton

Today, the 9th of April, 1965 is the hundredth anniversary of that April day when Robert E. Lee met U. S. Grant in McLean's house at Appomattox and together they ended the fiercest and bloodiest of struggles that this continent has ever witnessed. It was a bloody war. Not only was it a struggle of ideas, which history tells us is always fierce and terrifying, but it also was a civil war in which families were torn in allegiance to one cause or the other. In the hundred years that have followed that April day, much, to say the least, has happened. The nation is united. It has passed through three wars and some trying and some excellent times. It has also passed to world leadership and power, but amidst all these events, amidst all the great changes that have marked this Twentieth Century, the battles, and men, and events of that conflict of over a hundred years ago are still very much part of the present.

It was with apprehension, misfounded I gladly note, that I and others learned of the plans to commemorate and in some instances reenact that struggle in a centennial observation. I was apprehensive mainly because the Civil War, the War Between the States, the War of Secession, The War for Southern Independence, or whatever name you chose to give it, has been given a certain aura or mystique. This has come about mainly in the South, and some would have it that it is remembrance of the "good ole cause," similar to what has happened in dozens of countries, Scotland among them. This could be true, for in Scotland there is still a deep love of the songs and tales of the "good ole cause" in which the Stuarts attempted to displace the Hanovers. The stories of Bonnie Prince Charles still are much a part of Scottish life, but from my view there is a difference; perhaps this difference is caused by time, but in any event, there is a marked difference of tone and temperament between the two remembrances of two lost struggles. Here, the war has taken a very romantic and dramatic hold upon people, and this feeling has been heightened by those who join the war with the present "struggle" over civil rights.

Whether this over-attachment to the war will subside as the years and the present conflict

pass is uncertain to me. But, whether it does or does not change, the fact is that this over-attachment is not healthy. The symbols of the war are an example of this unhealthiness. They should be treasured for what they stand for in the sense of those thousands of young men and old who gave their lives for what they believed. These symbols should not be desecrated in a manner of use where they are symbols for sectional defiance. The hooded beasts of the night, though few and in a minority, reflect this mania for the past, and their mania is still being brought forth in violence and blood. Though they reflect an extreme form of this attachment, they still are an outgrowth of it, and who is to say that those law-abiding and peace loving can't warp this attachment and in its name spill blood. The malady is with us, and it affects each man differently. What is casual nostalgia to some is basic creed and devotion to others.

The war is over and one hundred years have come and gone since that momentous day. There is no romance to this war or to any war as some would have us believe. The dead, at such places as Shiloh, Antietam, Gettysburg or as close as Rose Hill Cemetery here in Macon, attest to this fact. These men, both Blue and Gray, should be honored—honored for their bravery and their devotion to duty and cause, but let them rest; let them lie asleep and quiet along with the cause that put them in their graves. That cause is over and that struggle should be ended, for through all the 'majesty,' 'glory' and 'romance,' the fierce bloody conflict, the death and carnage cannot be glossed over. So let us acknowledge their bravery by paying respect to the flag they carried, and not by making it a symbol of violence and lawlessness. Let us honor the song to which some marched to death, but not by making it a hymn of sectional defiance and discord. And let us remember that those among us who seek to wave the old bloodied banner, and hum the 'sacred' tune and wrap the 'aura' of the dead around their ambitious selves do neither honor the dead, nor speak honestly to the living. The war is over, let us honor the dead but more important let us give thanks that we are a divided house no longer.

REVIEW BY CLAUDE HOOVER

Kilenyi Concert Praised

Mercer was greatly honored this past Sunday with a Concert Series presentation by Edward Kilenyi, eminent Hungarian pianist. Having studied under composer and artist Ernst von Dohnanyi (also Hungarian), Maestro Kilenyi is one of the most brilliant concert pianists of our time. His career, now given almost entirely to teaching at Florida State University, was, before World War II, one of exceptional success and magnitude. It remains an enigma to those who have had the opportunity of hearing Maestro Kilenyi perform that he has not risen to the immediate foreground of the world's great concert pianists.

His style and flawless technique were exhibited in each of the selections of his widely and tastefully varied program. Perhaps the most exciting and enthralling moments of the concert were in the thirty-two Variations by Beethoven, the composer to whose works Maestro Kilenyi has given special attention and study. Other equally well performed selections included Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12 and eight Etudes by Chopin, of which the "Winter Wind" was the most brilliant

and exhilarating.

Maestro Kilenyi's feeling for his native Hungary was apparent in his sympathetic and exquisitely styled offerings of the works by Bartok, Dohnanyi and Liszt. He succeeded in rendering each of the selections on his program as a small concert in itself in that such extreme care for the various nuances of technique style and musical perfection was taken. Maestro Kilenyi's commentary on the various selections also lent added beauty and understanding to many of the selections as well as giving an informal and personal atmosphere to the concert.

Encores included a set of variations by Dohnanyi, The Dance of Puck by Debussy, and Chopin's Revolutionary Etude, all rendered with impeccable style and uncommon ability.

The reviewer has only two regrets in regard to the concert. The first is that the program did have to end; the second, that Mercer offered such a disgustingly small audience for this artist saw parallel.

Harris Defends Use of Federal Funds By Church Colleges

(Continued from page 1)

He praised Governor Carl Sanders for what he called the "Governor's willingness to face up to education's need and place in our state, and his characteristic courage to undertake anything necessary to fill them."

Mercer's president pointed out the mounting costs of education, and said these are rapidly rising beyond the ability of the local areas to meet them. Consequently, he urged the prompt and full acceptance by state and church schools alike to employ the use of

the offered federal funds because "the important matter now is whether we can obtain from any source the funds necessary to provide the education and training necessary for this period."

Dr. Harris charged that some of the asserted fear of the use of federal aid seems to stem from dislike of the federal government and not from the fear of destroying the separation of church and state.

"If we are angry at the federal government and on that account will not accept its assistance, we should face up to that reason for

rejecting its grants and not believe the issue of church-state separation," he said. "Our generation can scarcely afford to cut off our noses to spite our faces."

President Harris pointed out that churches have never been separated from the nation and said that church-state coexistence and separation are not mutually exclusive concepts.

"Our churches live by many received benefits of police, health, safety and tax arrangements," he said. "Cooperation of many kinds has flourished since the founding of the republic, and they have not

impaired the desired separation." He said that church colleges help to provide the needed national educational opportunity, and added that "public money afforded these colleges is a quid pro quo arrangement, that is, a payment for educational service rendered to the community, the state and the nation."

He went on to say that millions of dollars of federal funds have been granted American colleges and there have been no instances of attempt to interfere or control by the federal government.

"It is those without experience or

opportunity who have cried out the imminence in interference and control," he added.

Dr. Harris mentioned Mercer's critical need and the similar need at other colleges for new and adequate science facilities, and said their construction will not mean such colleges will thus be oriented to the sciences, or become secularized.

"The effectiveness of Christian education," he said, "resides in the scholar manifesting his relationship to the Christian faith, as he lives it and exemplifies it."