

**"JEFFERSON DAVIS, THE UNCROWNED KING, ENTHRONED IN THE HEARTS
OF HIS PEOPLE."—HENRY W. GRADY.**

In the month of December, 1903, it was decided by the Daughters of the Confederacy in Houston, that an effort should be made to have the birthday of ex-President Jefferson Davis made a legal holiday in Texas; and in pursuance of that resolution, Miss Katie Daffin, president of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Texas Division, appointed the undersigned, a committee to present this subject to the next legislature, and to use our best efforts to secure this result. We have cheerfully accepted the position, not only because it is the expressed wish of our noble organization, but, also, because we heartily concur in the propriety of the movement.

In the whirl of busy life, amidst a generation that has come upon the stage since the memorable struggle of 1861-5, it is appropriate that this great and growing state, at least once a year, should pause, and take note of the heroic deeds of that great struggle—for it was a struggle by the South for liberty and self government. The achievements of Southern valor and generalship are unsurpassed in the annals of the human race. Though defeat came at last to our armies, and our cherished hopes were disappointed, the honor of our people and chivalry of our soldiers, and the genius and soldierly qualities of our leaders, have shed lustre, not only on the south, but also, equally as well, on the character of American citizenship, in which all people of this Republic will share and rejoice, after the prejudices of the hour have subsided and passed away.

We might give a list of the generals of the Southern armies, and truthfully assert that their deeds have never been surpassed; so of our Southern boys and men, who filled the ranks, and obeyed their commanders. But we had only one president, one commander-in-chief of that great struggle, and that was Jefferson Davis.

It must not be forgotten that Mr. Davis did not make the war, nor was the secession movement, as it took place, of his choosing; nor was it in the manner he advised. He thought the Southern States should take counsel together, and move in a body in support of such policy as they might agree upon. Nor should it be forgotten that his selection as president of the Confederacy was not of his seeking, but, on the contrary, had his personal wishes been respected, after war became inevitable, he would have entered the field as a soldier, and taken command of an army; nor is there any reason to doubt, had his wishes been gratified, no one would have surpassed him in military achievement. But by unanimous choice of the Southern people, he was selected, of all our great men, as the one best qualified and fitted for the most trying and responsible position of president and commander-in-chief. He did not falter, nor did he hesitate, but, as at the battle of Buena Vista, he decided quickly.

Thereafter he was consecrated to his work, thus imposed upon him; and to the last, his every thought and effort was devoted to the cause of his people; and when from sheer exhaustion our armies had melted away, and surrender came, and he made a prisoner and cruelly loaded with chains in a secure prison, he resisted the indignity with all the power his God had given him, and afterwards, though demanding his constitutional right of speedy public trial, was, after long imprisonment, released without trial, not from consideration of mercy, but because his vindication would surely follow; and thereafter he was pursued by his enemies with disfranchisement to his death. Thus he became a martyr to our cause and for our people.

In his career from early manhood, as a soldier on the battlefield in the Mexican war of 1845, when he spilled his blood upholding the flag of the United States, which he loved with unsurpassed devotion, and afterwards in the halls of congress, and as secretary of war in 1852 to 1856, and subsequently as president of the Confederate States, and thereafter as prisoner in a United States bastille, and afterward in his retirement at his private home at Bouvoir, he has displayed traits of character, and qualities of mind and heart, that mark him as one of the greatest men this world has ever produced. His is a character that deserves to be studied, and, if studied, will be most beneficial to those who emulate his virtues. We think it appropriate, even more, a duty we owe ourselves and our posterity, to honor this great man, this noble patriot, by setting apart one day in each year as a legal holiday, when the truth of history may be called to the attention of succeeding generations.

It is only the craven, those without a patriotic impulse, who would say that such a period in a nation's history should be forgotten, or that such a leader as ex-President Davis should be ignored. We but honor ourselves in honoring him.

We appeal to all who share with us these sentiments, to actively engage and co-operate with us in this work, to the end that the 3rd day of June of each year shall be made a legal holiday.

MRS. D. A. NUNN, Chairman, Crockett,	}	Committee.
MRS. JOHN H. REAGAN, Palestine,		
MRS. LUELLA STYLES VINCENT, Stephenville,		
MRS. ROLLIN W. RODGERS, Texarkana,		
MRS. P. E. DOUTHIT, Angleton,		
MRS. J. E. ARMSTRONG, Center,		
MRS. JOHN REAGAN, Elkhart.		

Hon. John H. Reagan, personal friend of ex-President Davis, and only survivor of the Confederate cabinet, says: "If any man ever earned from his people a perpetual memorial testifying their gratitude for services rendered, for almost or quite unexampled patriotism and devotion to the services of his people, it was Jefferson Davis. And I shall be glad if his birthday can be made a legal holiday for Texas. And if the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Confederate Veterans and the Sons of Confederate Veterans will ask this of the legislature, I doubt not they will provide for it."

