Memoirs of Stonewall Jackson by His Widow, Mary Anna Jackson

Jackson Mary Anna
MEMOIRS OF
STONEWALL JACKSON

BY HIS WIDOW
MARY ANNA JACKSON

WITH INTRODUCTIONS BY
LIEUT.-GEN. JOHN B. GORDON
AND REV. HENRY M. FIELD

AND SKETCHES BY
Generals Fitzhugh Lee, S. G. French, Lafayette McLaws, M. C.
Butler, Bradley T. Johnson, James H. Lane, William B.
Taliaferro, Samuel G. McGowan, Henry Heth, Basil
Jones and J. R. Graham, Col. Augustus C.
Hamlin, Capt. Joseph S. Morrison

AND
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ILLUSTRATED.

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TO

THE GRANDCHILDREN OF GENERAL JACKSON

JULIA AND JACKSON CHRISTIAN

This Book is Dedicated

IN THE PRAYERFUL HOPE THAT AS THEY GROW IN YEARS THEY MAY
DRAW INSPIRATION FROM HIS EXAMPLE, AND CONFORM THEIR LIVES
TO THE SAME EXALTED STANDARD OF CHRISTIAN DUTY, WHICH
MARKED THE CHARACTER OF THEIR GRANDFATHER, AND WHICH
WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE LIFE OF THEIR YOUNG
MOTHER, WHO WITH GENTLE FOOTSTEPS FOLLOWED
HER FATHER AS HE FOLLOWED JESUS
PREFACE.

For many years after the death of my husband the shadow over my life was so deep, and all that concerned him was so sacred, that I could not consent to lift the veil to the public gaze. But time softens, if it does not heal, the bitterest sorrow; and the pleadings of his only child, after reaching womanhood, finally prevailed upon me to write out for her and her children my memories of the father she had never known on earth. She was my inspiration, encouraging me, and delighting in every page that was written; but the work was not more than half completed when God took her to be with him whose memory she cherished with a reverence and devotion which became more intense with the development of her own pure and noble character. After her departure, which was truly "sorrow’s crown of sorrows," I had no heart to continue the work; but, remembering how earnestly she wished me to write it for her and her children, I renewed the effort to finish it, for the sake of the precious little ones she left. In forcing my mind and pen to do their task, I found some "sure ease of sorrow" in carrying out her wishes; and, as I went on, the
grand lessons of submission and fortitude of my husband's life gave me strength and courage to persevere to the end.

If it be thought that I have been too free in my revelations of what was so purely personal, in that it pertained to his home circle, it must be remembered that this was written expressly for his grandchildren, who in no other way could ever know that tender and exquisite phase of his inner life, which was never revealed to the world.

Mary Anna Jackson.

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NOTE.

On pages 56 to 88 there appear frequent and extended extracts from an interesting article by Mrs. Margaret J. Preston, entitled "Personal Characteristics of Stonewall Jackson," which was published in the Century Magazine for October, 1886. The appropriate credit for the use of these extracts was inadvertently omitted from the first edition of this work, and the Publishers are glad of the opportunity to make this acknowledgment to the author of the article referred to.

A similar acknowledgment is due to the late Colonel William Allan, of General Jackson's staff, for the use of materials furnished in his admirable "History of the Valley Campaign."