

## SLAVE MONUMENT QUESTION.

Just now, throughout the South, this subject is being much discussed in a great many United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapters. I am a Daughter, and I have given the question much thought; was born and reared in the capital of the Confederacy, Richmond, as were my people back to the settling of Jamestown. During the past ten years I have lived in different large cities, spending several years on the Pacific Coast, and have at times been nearly consumed with a great desire to see my dear Southland and sacrificed financial interests to be here, and yet I have come to look at all that concerns it with practical sentiment.

This is not the time for erecting monuments to the old slave—if there will ever be a time. Our country is already black with their living presence. Shall there be a black monument erected in every fair Southern city or State, when there is not a State in the South not in mourning for some beautiful woman whose life has been strangled out by some black fiend? You say this monument is for the old, faithful mammy and uncle of slave times? I say they were fully rewarded for faithful trust. I am told by a prominent Veteran that only ten per cent of the slaves remained with their masters after their freedom. You can count on your hands the mammies now living. The negro of this generation would not appreciate any monument not smacking of social equality. The North would not understand the sentiment. It is a woefully mistaken sentiment that would spend one dollar on a black monument when there are hundreds of women, young and old, descending from the Confederacy, who are in want because the homes and the incomes which should have rightly descended to them were swept away by the ravages of the foe. In a large Southern city a small venture (lack of funds) at a Home for the Heroines of Our War for State Rights was begun, and six ladies who had known great wealth and affluence were taken from the poorhouse and given refuge in this Home. They were too proud to ask alms!

If any money is available for monuments, let a great Monumental Home be erected in some Southern city, preferably selecting a mild climate where the orange blossoms and the mocking bird fill the air with perfume and song, and help woo away sufferings past. Let this Home be a monument to the noble women of the Confederacy who gave their sons, husbands, and fathers to die on the battlefields for the great and holy cause, without a murmur! In the rotunda of this Monumental Home to the Women of the Confederacy might be placed busts and statues of noted women of the Confederacy, even might there be placed in this rotunda busts of some of the famous women of the present day who have worked so indefatigably and accomplished such Herculean tasks with their U. D. C.'s. Make this Monumental Home a great Southern cause; call upon the wealthy men of the South to endow it, insuring its endurance, so that generations hence it may be a haven for any one proving connection by heritage with the Confederacy. In another half generation any one so proving will be the most honored of the land. Let every Chapter U. D. C. throughout the South unite as one in collecting funds for this great Home.

If there is any money available for black monuments, provide more freely for needy Veterans, for in the course of nature a few years hence will see them among us no

more. Wonders have already been done in placing monuments to the heroes of the Confederate War. Now look to the living before it is too late. Instead of raising a black monument to mar any Southern city (go away and stay a year and see how black it looks already), secure an authentic list of the Southern homes desecrated by the freedman during the past forty years.

The time is not far off when such a mistake as a black monument would be unalterable. Lay the question on the table indefinitely. When our now solid South has fully disposed of erecting a Monumental Home to the noble women of the South, and more comfort has been given to the dear Veterans—then would be the more perfect time for such a mistaken sentiment, if the unwisely sentimental prove in the majority.

A great many people read the VETERAN. May these earnest words find response in enough hearts to make the majority for shelving the proposition!

I was present at a U. D. C. meeting recently, when this slave monument question was brought up, and I testify that it raised pandemonium, every one protesting emphatically against it, save one, the leader who made the motion, and she was actuated by overkind motives, as her life is given to good works. This occurred in one of the most aristocratic Chapters in the South. The feeling was intensely against it. All honor to the faithful mammy and uncle of slave time! all honor to every self-respecting negro of whatever age or time! When the Southern home is as safe with the black man as with the white man, then consider black monuments.

I would like to correspond with any reader of the VETERAN on the subject, and I would be obliged to any one for furnishing me with dates, and names of cities where murders and outrages have been committed on white men and women by the colored man since his freedom. The information is desired for historical work.

My expression above on the slave monument question is my individual opinion apart from the opinion of any Chapter.

With great love and reverence for everything between the leaves of the VETERAN, I am, always, its true friend,

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TESTIMONY OF HIS SERVICE SOUGHT FROM COMRADES.—W. T. Oliver writes from Laurel Hill, Fla., in the hope of establishing his record as worthy of a pension. He states that he enlisted at Laurens C. H., S. C., February 6, 1861, for one year; that he went to Charleston, where he was mustered into service February 14, 1861, — Company, First Battalion, Heavy Artillery. At the end of a year he returned to Laurens C. H., and then joined Company A, of the Third South Carolina Regiment, serving with it until December, 1862, when he was detailed as a shoemaker, serving in that capacity until May, 1865, when he was discharged at Augusta, Ga. He evidently did not keep his discharge papers, and now that he is unable to earn a living he seeks the testimony of comrades as to his service, in the hope that he may share in the pensions that are paid disabled Veterans. It would be a great favor to him if comrades who knew him and his service would write of it. The most important feature is that part that relates to the close of the war as to when and how he was discharged.