

Transcription

July 4, 1861

The Fourth of July.

We are happy to see many proofs in our Confederate exchanges, that the 4th of July will be generally observed throughout the Southern Confederacy.

We are glad of this because of the associations of the day itself, and of the grand event of which it is the anniversary. Let us never forget that when our fathers were oppressed, and when expostulation and remonstrance and warning proved vain, they manfully assumed a separate existence, and boldly drew their trusty swords to make their independence good. It is well for their sons ever and anon to read the bright record anew, and drink in the spirit of those virtuous and heroic days.

We are glad for another reason. The deed which this day we celebrate, is a glorious and inspiring endorsement of the present attitude of the Confederate States. We, too, have been wronged and insulted, and we too have exhausted the cup of patience and drawn the sword of self-defence. We too have taken our separate and equal station among the nations of the earth. Thank Heaven, that thus far at least, the sons have proven worthy of their sires! Thank Heaven that in the southern men of this generation have been found the manliness and the love of liberty that shone in their revolutionary fathers. It only remains for us to prove the legitimacy of our descent by heroism and prowess in the field. And right nobly are our gallant soldiers furnishing the shining evidence. Fairfax and Bethel, Vienna and Martinsburg, and Aquia,—these are among the spots already handed over to history and to fame. And thrice glorious Sumter!—never let us forget that leading achievement of what we trust shall prove an illustrious line.

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