

A HAPPY DARKEY.

To The Mercury:

Nic Blain is a Confederate Veteran, a good citizen and a good Democrat, although a negro.

Nic followed his master, George Blain, to the war and served him faithfully, as so many negroes did, until his master, then adjutant of the Seventh Texas Infantry, was killed in one of the fierce battles fought in Georgia during 1864. Nic brought his master's body off the battlefield, and after giving it proper burial, remained with the regiment until an opportunity occurred that permitted him to return home. He was faithful and did his duty, and his reward is that he now is honored and respected by all Confederate veterans and citizens at his home, in Fairfield, Texas.

General K. M. VanZandt, commander of the Texas Division, U. C. V., who commanded the Seventh Texas and appointed Nic's master, George Blain, adjutant of the regiment, relates the following incident of the Nashville Reunion:

While passing along the street, his attention was attracted by cries of joy, and an instant afterwards he saw Nic, who, rushing frantically to him, threw his arms about him, and yelled, "Dey won't gimme a badge, General, dey jist won't, sar!"

He produced a certificate as a delegate to the reunion from William L. Moody Camp, U. C. V., of Fairfield, Texas, and also a certificate from the County Judge of Freestone County, "certifying that the bearer, Nic Blain, was a good citizen, a good Confederate, and a good Democrat." Nic had called at headquarters and asked for a badge, but it had been refused, the custodian not knowing Nic nor the circumstances. So Nick hunted up his old commander, General Van Zandt, satisfied that justice would be meted out by him. He was not disappointed. His confidence had not been misplaced, for his old commander accompanied him to headquarters, secured a badge and pinned it on the breast of the delighted Nic.

A letter was received to-day by General Van Zandt from Nic, asking him to send him one of his Confederate uniforms, one, he said, that he had worn. He would like to have it in time to wear Christmas, and celebrate the day in Confederate grey. His request was complied with, and by to-day's express a uniform suit of the General's goes to Nic Blain, to gladden his heart and enable him to parade its splendors to the admiring eyes of his fellow darkeys.

The affectionate sympathy that has always existed between the whites and the faithful blacks of the Southland can only be properly appreciated by those who have lived in happy association in the years that have passed. May Nic live many years to enjoy the respect and friendship of his fellow-citizens, and, at last, answer the roll-call in the great beyond in the presence of those gallant spirits which have passed before and are waiting to welcome those of his Confederate friends who will soon be ready to join their comrades in the joys of comradeship in the spirit land.—Taylor McRae, Adjutant, Fifth Brigade, U. C. V., Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 15, 1904.