

WINNSBORO, S. G. THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1916.

SHERMAN'S RAID RECALLED

How Beautiful Malvern Hall Was Ransacked by Federal Troops.

To the Editor of The State:
The article in Thursday's State, "How Sherman Burned the City," brings to mind that after burning Columbia 44 years ago he marched northward into Fairfield county, (leaving waste to all in his path), intending to cross the Wateree river at Peay's ferry into Kershaw county, but a rise in the river, known until this day as "Sherman's freshet" prevented and kept the federals in the neighborhood of Flint Hill and Longtown for more than a week. One can imagine the destruction wrought!

Among the homes burned was "Malvern Hall" in Longtown, the palatial residence of the late Col. Nicholas A. Peay. Col. Peay was the most extensive land and slave owner in that section of the State, or perhaps in the State. His lands extended, not acres, but miles, and not knowing his own negroes, so many were they.

It is said that no other home, except, perhaps, Manning's mansion in Clarendon county, could equal it. The jewelry, plate, cut glass and linen, with which it was so abundantly supplied (the description of which sounds like a fairy tale to those of the present generation) were taken by the federal soldiers; what they did not want was given to the negroes. The little the family got afterwards in the way of silver and furniture was given back by the negroes. Not longer than five years ago, an old battered brooch containing a miniature of Col. Peay's wife, who was Martha Cary Lamar, sister of the late Col. Robert Lamar of Columbia, was given to a member of the family by an old negro woman still living in Fairfield county.

After ransacking the home of all its valuables it was then burned. It is said that some of the soldiers who had got drunk on the wines found in the cellar were riding their horses through the halls and were burned in the building—a just reward!

Only the site of "Malvern Hall" remains to tell the story of its former grandeur and State-wide hospitality, and two huge granite posts that led from the "big gate" to the house still stand as sentinels of the past.

It is not the cause that the opposing side fought for so much that still rankles in our Southern hearts, but the villainous means by which the end was