

**GENERAL ROBERT E.  
LEE, THE CHRISTIAN  
SOLDIER**

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General Robert E. Lee, the Christian Soldier by Judith White

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**JUDITH WHITE**

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GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE,

THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER.

" You youth of greenward  
Winds round by sparry goat and gay pavilion,  
There is no time to gull thy tender feet:  
There's ready shelter from each breeze and shower,  
But duty guides not that way. See her stand  
With wand entwined with anemone near yon cliffs.  
On where she leads, thy head must bear the storm;  
Or where she leads, thy blood must mark thy footsteps;  
And thy shrunk form endure heat, cold, and hunger,  
But she will guide thee up to noble heights,  
Which he who gains seems native of the sky,  
And earthly boys lie stretched beneath his feet,  
Diminished, shrunk, and voiceless."

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**T**HIS little volume has been prepared by a lady of Virginia, at the request of a few Christian men who have deeply revered and heartily loved the character of General Robert E. Lee.

Looking upon him as a very high type of manhood, they have desired that his testimony to the truth of Christianity, and the example and teaching of his life, so single-hearted, so clear, so eloquent in behalf of duty, of virtue, and of religion, should be as widely influential and as effective as possible.

Until, in the course of Providence, sectional animosity in this country culminated in fury, and great questions of state were referred to the arbitrament of the sword, there was no man who stood so fairly in the eyes of the whole American people, or who had so sure and unquestioned a title to their esteem and affection, as General Lee. That he deplored the separa-

tion he could not prevent, is clear enough. That his own determination and course were based upon a high sense of duty, none can doubt. In the great crisis that was upon us, wealth, honor, life to him were as nothing. The question of duty was all in all. Deciding that in favor of his native State, he abandoned everything, forsook the strong, and gave himself heart and soul to what, none better than he knew, was the weaker side. Whether he was right or wrong, God knows. The honesty of his purpose and his magnanimity the whole world has approved.

The principles of his character, the motives of his actions, and his fidelity to Christian responsibilities, may be admired, regardless of politics and sectional differences. In these he glorified God; for these he will be admired and loved the world over; and for these he is commended to the young people of America.





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CHAPTER I.

BIRTH AND ANCESTRY.

ROBERT EDWARD LEE, our Christian soldier and brave leader to many victories, "was born at Stratford, in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on the 19th of January, 1807." This entry is found in the family Bible in his mother's handwriting. His family, of Norman descent, is traced by himself, in his sketch of his father's life, to Launcelot Lee of Loudon, in France, who accompanied William the Conqueror to England. After the battle of Hastings, he, with other followers, was rewarded by the Conqueror with lands wrested from the Saxons. All that we know is, that his estate was in Essex, England.