

Confederate Veteran.

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PENSIONS FOR FAITHFUL NEGROES.

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In providing for pensions to negroes who served faithfully during the war of secession, the States of Tennessee and Mississippi have discharged a duty incumbent on every State embraced in the Confederate States of America. The other States are blameworthy for their neglect to do likewise. I reproach myself for my inactivity; for I had personal knowledge of negroes serving with the Army of Northern Virginia who not only performed their menial tasks with fidelity, but also risked their lives for their masters or employers. One of these, a hired free negro, insisted on accompanying me in the battle of Gettysburg; and I had, literally, to drive him back. And after I was shot down, he was the first man to come to me, and that while rifle balls were still humming around. He, however, needs no pension, for he died several years ago.

Col. M. M. Buford, of South Carolina, who served under Hampton, Stuart, and Lee, was one of the first persons I know of to urge this provision for negroes by articles in the newspapers. I am sorry to say that we still have it not in South Carolina. A bill providing for it was passed by our State Senate, last winter, but did not reach a vote in the House of Representatives. We are confident of the passage of the measure at the next term, which begins in January.

Such pensions will cost little; for very few of those faithful servants survive. And it is a duty which we should discharge without further delay.