

In your issue of Tuesday, the 22nd, is an article purporting to give a description of the serenade given to Gen. Lee by the band of the 4th N. C. Regiment, on the night before the troops stacked arms, and left Appomattox for their homes, and having been an "eye-witness," I would like to have the privilege of making some amendments to said article, as well as correcting some of its statements.

The serenade took place about 9 o'clock p. m. We were accompanied by a number of the officers of the Brigade (Cox's) and on arriving at Gen. Lee's tent we played two pieces—one of which was "When the Swallows Homeward Fly."

Gen. Lee came to the door of his tent, and after inquiring to whom he was indebted for the music, thanked the band and the officers for the compliment. He then said in substance:

"In the providence of God we have been obliged to surrender to overwhelming numbers. It is not your fault that we have been brought to this, for you have done your duty nobly—and I don't think it has been my fault; but there is an overruling Providence that guides and controls us, and we must submit.

I might have massed our troops and broken through the enemy's lines, but it would have been a useless sacrifice of life, and after consultation with my Generals we have chosen this as the only proper course left us. And now I have only one request to make:

Go home and make as good citizens as you have made soldiers. This is all I could ask of you."

While he spoke, the tears were streaming down his cheeks, and every person present was deeply touched by his emotion. The officers and men then shook hands with him before he retired within his tent, and then it was that he said "God bless you my boys, God bless you."

I have thought that this episode was worthy of being preserved, and believing you will think so I send it with the hope that you will give it a place in your paper.—E. B. NEAVE, Leader Fourth N. C. Band, in News-Observer Chronicle.