McNeilly's 'Swallowed a Rat' Kept Confederates Laughing

At a chautauqua who worked in the firing line, lived with the soldiers and shared their hardships with never a mask of mock on his own, perhaps none ever excelled Dr. James Hugh McNeilly. He was best known in Nashville as pastor of the 25th Presbyterian Church. McNeilly was born in Ohio, and was educated at the American Theological Seminary.

In 1861 young McNeilly, who had just graduated from Union College, New York, was called to the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, to the presidency of the University. His father, Dr. Hugh McNeilly, had been president of the University since 1876. The younger McNeilly had been graduated from the University of the South in 1860, and had been a member of the faculty since 1856. He was in his third year of service when the war broke out.

The story is told that while on a tour of inspection of the Federal camp near Nashville, McNeilly met a group of Confederate soldiers. When they asked him what he had been doing, he replied, "I have been swamping a rat!"

The Confederates roared with laughter. McNeilly's statement was accurate, for he had been working on a sewer project for the city.

Dr. James Hugh McNeilly

People Have Been Putting Their Feet In Meadors Shoes Since 1893!

Nashville's Oldest Shoe Store!

Since 1893, generations of women have shopped Meadors for style, quality and been joy.

Trained personnel, who know how to fit shoes properly, are here to help you in your shoe selection... and take pleasure in serving you.

MeadopS
515 Union St. NASHVILLE

QUALITY
Furniture
SINCE 1904

Through the years our policy has been to offer the customer furnishings of taste and dignity. It has been a source of pride to handle quality furniture for a quality value for every budget. Why not consider the finest first?

HARLEY-HOLT COMPANY
317-319 BROAD

Yankee shells interrupt McNeilly's letter writing.

"What is the war like? Is he in the Confederate army?" was a great solicitation of this from a merchant in Murfreesboro. During the winter McNeilly's health was broken by the extreme cold of the state, and he was unable to attend the weekly sessions of the faculty.

McNeilly commented that there were many who had been "swamped by the rat" and that the war had been a hard blow to many.

His Uniform

"I am a Confederate," he said, "and I am proud of it. I will fight to the last man and last gun." The Confederate flag was his best friend and he loved it as a mother.

The story is told that he was captured by the Yankees during the Civil War, but escaped and returned to Nashville. He was a fine military officer and his loyalty to his country was unshakable.

The war was over and McNeilly returned to his duties as pastor of the university.

The South Has Risen Again!

The South is back! The Confederacy is restored! The Yankees are defeated! We have won the war! We have won the peace!

Now, Sub-Your Confederate Money will Buy a New HESTER Battery

HESTER JOINS IN COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE

HESTER BATTERIES
THUNDERBOLT STARTING POWER!

DEPENDABLE BATTERIES FOR ALMOST HALF-A-CENTURY

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE!

1. Your Confederate Money will be accepted ONLY at the HESTER PLANT, 100 Calvert St., Nashville.
2. Confederate Money must be genuine (no counterfeits, please)! We will have an expert to examine bills presented and the opinion will be final.
3. This offer is good for THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4TH ONLY. Offer good any day Monday, Dec. 7 thru Friday, Dec. 11.

START AND GO
with HESTER
BATTERIES

More LEAD—Less LIFE

HESTER BATTERIES

great time and money savers—

famous SKIL Power Tools!

Made in the USA!