

Capt. Charles W. Read, formerly of the Confederate States Navy, died at Meridian, Miss., at 2 o'clock yesterday morning.

Capt. Read was born in Mississippi, where he spent his youth. Early in life he became interested in naval matters and developed a desire for a seafaring life on a vessel of war. An opportunity to gain admittance to the Naval Academy at Annapolis was quickly seized upon, and he was graduated a midshipman in the navy. He was serving on the Powhatan, in Mexican waters, when the civil war broke out. He resigned at once, and when the vessel arrived in New-York in March, 1861, immediately left for the South.

Personally he offered his services to Jefferson Davis and Mr. Mallory, the former's Secretary of the Navy. He was assigned to the Confederate steamer McKae, and assisted in getting that vessel ready for sea. The boat was ordered to Columbus, Ky. At Madrid, Island No. 10, and Fort Pillow young Read showed the qualities of courage and coolness which always distinguished his actions. When the fleets of Farragut and Porter entered the Mississippi and attacked Forts Jackson and St. Phillip the McKae was ordered to the rescue. There, however, the vessel received a shell below the water line and became useless. She soon after sank at a dock in New-Orleans.

Read, feeling that there was no further use for him at New-Orleans, proceeded to Richmond and was soon engaged in erecting batteries for the blockade of the Potomac. This work was followed by a detail to Fort Pillow, where he was given command of the heavy guns along the river bluffs. On being assigned to the Arkansas after the evacuation of Fort Pillow, he took part in the celebrated run of the Arkansas through the Federal fleet under Farragut, comprising in all nearly forty vessels at the mouth of the Yazoo River and on the Mississippi, until finally, after successfully repelling several attacks from Union vessels, the Arkansas was abandoned by her crew, her engines having become disabled.

Lieut. Read was next ordered to the steamer Florida, the first of the Confederate steam cruisers built in England. He joined her at Mobile, and on Jan. 15, 1863, the Florida escaped to sea. She destroyed fourteen prizes and bonded three while Lieut. Read was with her. One of the captures was the Jacob Bell, from Foo-Choo, China, valued, with her cargo, at \$1,500,000. When the brig Clarence was captured Lieut. Read went on board of her, and she was used as a tender to the Florida. With this little craft, carrying a six-pound howitzer and few men, Lieut. Read captured the ship Tacony and transferred his crew to her. In twenty-four days twenty-seven vessels were captured and destroyed, including a revenue cutter just out from the harbor of Portland.

A fleet of vessels was then manned in Portland and followed the daring Confederates. The cutter was abandoned and blown up, and Lieut. Read was made a prisoner at Fort Preble. After an ineffectual effort to escape he was exchanged and sent to join the James River squadron. He was placed in command of the naval battery Wood. This was in 1865, when a desperate effort was being made to destroy Grant's supplies. His last work during the war, however, was on the Webb, on the Red River and the Mississippi, which vessel was finally run ashore on being chased by the Richmond. He was made prisoner again and sent to Fort Warren, in Boston Harbor.

At the close of the war Read, who had been raised to the rank of Captain, made his home at New-Orleans, and soon took charge of merchant vessels as Captain. For seven years he commanded the City of Dallas, engaged in the Honduras fruit trade. A year and a half ago he was made Harbormaster at New-Orleans by Gov. Nicholls. Disease recently made him unfit for service. He suffered much pain during his illness, but bore it without a murmur.

## A DARING REBEL OFFICER.

### DEATH OF CAPT. CHARLES W. READ OF THE CONFEDERATE NAVY.