

## GEN. FRANCIS T. NICHOLLS.

Soldier, Statesman and Jurist—His  
Father Was a Marylander.

Louisiana has no more popular citizen within her borders than Gen. Francis Tulou Nicholls, who is to be the orator at the unveiling of the Louisiana monument in Stourwall Cemetery, and whose picture appears on this page of THE SUN. He was born in Donaldsonville, Ascension parish, Louisiana, on the 23d of August, 1834, and is, therefore, in the sixty-second year of his age. His father, Thomas C. Nicholls, was a native of Maryland, but settled in Louisiana, practicing law in Donaldsonville, and had been a district judge in the State and subsequently judge of the then Court of Errors and Appeals. His mother was Miss Louisa H. Drake, a native of New York. One of his brothers, Thomas C. Nicholls, who had been a district judge, died in St. Martinville; another, R. W. Nicholls, had also been a district judge; the third, Edward F. Nicholls, was a physician in Donaldsonville; the fourth, Capt. Lawrence D. Nicholls, commanded a company that Governor Nicholls started with at the outbreak of the civil war, and fell at the battle of Galore's Mill, near Richmond, Va. The fifth brother, Malcolm H. Nicholls, who was a lieutenant in the Tenth United States Infantry, had a very delicate constitution and died early. His sister Josephine married Wm. W. Fugh, who was at one time Speaker of the House of Representatives in the State Legislature. His other sister, Martha, died unmarried.

General Nicholls received his early education at Donaldsonville and subsequently at the Jefferson Academy in New Orleans, where among his schoolmates were C. H. Flood, Charles Maurain, Paul Murphy and many others who afterward attained celebrity. In 1851 he was appointed to West Point, and being graduated in 1855, was appointed lieutenant in the second regiment, United States artillery, from which he was afterward transferred to the third artillery. He resigned his commission in 1855.

Returning to Louisiana he studied law, and passing an examination before the Supreme Court of the State in 1858, commenced the practice of the profession in Napoleonville, Assumption parish.

When the war commenced Governor Nicholls was elected captain of a company from Ascension and Assumption, which afterward became, as Company K, a component of the Eighth Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers, and at the organization of that regiment at Camp Moore, La., in June, 1861, he was elected lieutenant-colonel. He lost his right arm at the battle of Winchester, in the Valley of Virginia, on the 23d of May, 1862. He was taken prisoner and exchanged in October of the same year. Immediately after his exchange he was appointed colonel of the Fifth Louisiana Regiment, and four days later brigadier-general commanding the Second Louisiana Brigade, which was then stationed near Fredericksburg, and comprised the First, Second, Tenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Regiments. At the battle of Chancellorville, which was fought early in May, 1862, he had one of his feet torn away by a shell and was carried off the field.

So soon as he was able to resume his military duties he was assigned to the defense of Lynchburg, Va., (in the latter part of 1862) and in the fall of 1863 was ordered to take charge of the conscript bureau of the Trans-Mississippi department, which position he held until the surrender.

During the war he was a participator in the first battle of Manassas and the battles of Winchester and Chancellorville, and the engagement at Front Royal.

The war over, General Nicholls resumed the practice of law, and at Napoleonville transacted a large business in the Lafourche country.

In July, 1874, he was nominated by the Louisiana State democratic convention at Baton Rouge for Governor. He was elected by a 200 majority over his opponent, N. H. Packard. In 1879 the adoption of a new State constitution terminated his occupancy of the executive chair.

In 1886 President Cleveland appointed General Nicholls a member of the board of visitors to the Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., and he was selected as president of the board, which was very gratifying to him both as a West Point cadet and because it evidenced a return to good feeling which before had not been exhibited to West Point graduates—who had served in the Confed-

state army. In 1888 he was elected a second time the Governor of Louisiana, his term expiring in 1892. On leaving that position Governor Nicholls was appointed chief justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana for twelve years, which position he now holds.

Governor Nicholls was married in 1870 to Miss Caroline Gulon, daughter of Judge George B. Gulon, a sugar planter of Lafayette parish. He has had seven children, his son, Frank W. Nicholls, and six girls.

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