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FROM ANDREW JACKSON'S CHURCH.

WOOD OF 1838.

The little brick church that Gen. Jackson erected in 1823 on his Hermitage farm, to gratify his beloved wife, "was incorporated into the presbytery, and supplied by it with a minister." Mrs. Jackson joined the Church in 1824. Gen. Jackson, "as she mentions him in her correspondence, sympathized with her in her new resolves, and strengthened them by all the means in his power, himself, to her sorrow, holding aloof." "This little Hermitage church, so simple and rude, was all to Mrs. Jackson that a cathedral of sublimest proportions could have been." "When at home both she and the General were punctual in attendance. Unceasingly she strove to turn his thoughts to those subjects which alone she thought important." "On a communion Sunday in 1826 or 1827, as they were walking toward the little church, she besought him to dally no longer with his sense of duty, but then and there, that very hour, in their own little church, to renounce the world and all its pomps and vanities, and partake of the communion with her." His answer was, "My dear, if I were to do that now it would be said all over the country that I had done it for political effect. My enemies would all say so. I cannot do it now, but I promise you when once more I am clear of politics I will join the Church." "This incident he related, with tears in his eyes, many years afterwards to Mr. Blair as they stood under the tall trees of the grove in which the church stands." "Gen. Jackson never recovered from the shock of his wife's death. He was never quite the same man afterwards. It subdued his spirit and corrected his speech. Except on occasions of extreme excitement, he never again used what is commonly called profane language, not even the familiar phrase, 'By the Eternal.'" On Sunday mornings Gen. Jackson would say to his guests, "Gentlemen, do what you please in my house, I am going to church." "After the death of Mrs. Jackson and Gen. Jackson's removal to Washington, the church was unable to maintain itself, but after Gen. Jackson joined in 1837, it was reorganized." "At one of the first meetings Gen Jackson was nominated as a ruling elder. 'No,' said he, 'the Bible says be not hasty in laying on hands. I am too young in the Church for such an office. My countrymen have given me high honors, but I should esteem the office of ruling elder in the Church of Christ a far higher honor than any I have ever received.'"

Originally the floor was entirely of brick, and was heated by two large log fire places, and the pulpit had to be reached by a flight of steps. In 1838 the church was remodeled by Gen. Jackson and others. The old subscription list is headed in Gen. Jackson's hand-writing—is still preserved—in

which he briefly states what is desired and needed to make the church “more comfortable.” During one of the business meetings, at which they were discussing the work on the church, Gen. Jackson rose in his seat and said, “I am 77 years old, and have lived long enough to see and to know that the repairs mentioned on this church ought not to be put into the hands of a committee. I believe if the building of the ark had been intrusted to a committee instead of one man, it never would have been built.”

The little church was used for a number of years for a neighborhood school, and in 1889 was in a most dilapidated condition, at which time Mrs. Bettie M. Donelson gave an “Old Folks' Concert,” and saved it from demolition by putting in all the bricks that were missing, pointing the foundation, capping the chimneys, placing a new roof, blinds, sash, frames, cornice, sills, and filling in two windows for strength to the walls as well as comfort to the congregation.

All this and much more was done with the proceeds of the “Old Folks' Concert,” where many interesting relics were used that were Gen. Andrew Jackson's, Mrs. Jackson's, Thos. Jefferson's, Mrs. Jefferson's, Ex-President James K. Polk's and his venerable widow's. Mrs. Donelson's husband's father—Andrew Jackson Donelson—was reared and educated by Gen. Jackson (Mrs. Jackson being his aunt), was his aide-de-camp in Florida and his private secretary during his Presidential administrations; his wife, Mrs. Emily Donelson, being lady of the White House during Gen. Jackson's administrations, Mrs. Jackson, her aunt, having died in 1828.