A DARING REBEL OFFICER.

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

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 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 Meigs, 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. Philip the Meigs was ordered to the rescue. Fibers, however, the vessel received a sudden blow above the water line and became useless. She soon 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 protection of the Potomac. This work was followed by a detail to Fort Pillow, where he was given command of the heavy gun along the river bluffs. On being assigned to the Arkansas, 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.

Lient. 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 burned three while Lient. Read was with her. One of the captures was the Jaceo Bell, from Foo-Choo, China, valued at $1,000,000. When the brig Clarance was captured Lient. Read went on board of her, and after a few days he was transferred to the Florida. With this little craft, carrying a few men, Lient. 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 Lient. Read was made a prisoner at Fort Preble. After an inefficient 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 Wiss, on the Red River and the Mississippi, where he 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 reared 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.