May 13, 1861, in a letter to a restless office, Gen. R. E. Lee wrote his opinion concerning the relation of rank to honor: "I do not consider that either rank or position are necessary to bestow upon you honor, but believe that you will confer honor on the position."
Memoirs of Robert E. Lee by H. L. Long. 1886

(1) Confidential letter books of Gen. Lee (Pres. Auth.)
(2) Lee wrote to Col. Wm. Taylor: "I am aware that the bravery and devotion of the Army of Northern Virginia shall be..."

(3) Lee wrote to Col. Wm. Taylor: "I am aware that the bravery and devotion of the Army of Northern Virginia shall be..."

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Collected near Staunton to reinforce Garnett were ordered forward, July 15th, into Va. by Gen. Hitz in (117) going, arrived with distinction in Nov.,


(117) L. remained several days at Monterey.
learn as of the first importance, telling that this route was temporary and be abandoned over as Chick-Mtn. was taken. He must his time, preferring backwater, t & might have needed, drinking Brandy.

(167) Reserves, command: 4,000 or 7,000 men under Reynolds on Chick-Mtn. Other lost under Corp. (2) elsewhere for Kingston - Reserves energetic, strong, one in his works, instead. Wire with 1,000 men to meet Gen. Lee at Gettysburg. 4,000 defenders, strong and indestructible, engaged in organizing, etc., 1,000 train, 9,000 more days. This wire, strong, was savored of Lee coming. He had not heard Lee's in U.S. Army thus manifestly jealous at it. He waited several days without gaining positive information as to whether wire was put to the point, so he proceeded to join Eilsham at Valley-Mtn., taking Maj. Lee Carrol for commanding troops. Col. J. W. Washington Cott. W. H. Taylor were his staff. Eilsham had already been for 10 days at Valley-Mtn. He learned that the road to Beverly was occupi.
Robert E. Lee
Born at Stratford, in the Potomac, Westmoreland County, Virginia, January 19th, 1807
The youngest son of Light-Horse Harry Lee of the Revolution.
Died at Arlington, Virginia, October 12th, 1870.
Another anecdote of the Sharpsburg engagement is of interest as descriptive of an instance of General Lee's losing his temper—a circumstance which happened only twice, to my knowledge, during my long acquaintance with him. He was not wanting in temper, but was, on the contrary, a man of decided character and strong passions; yet he had such complete control of himself that few men ever knew him to deviate from his habitual calm dignity of mien. On the occasion here alluded to Lee was riding along a little in the rear of the lines, when he came across a soldier who had stolen and killed a pig, which he was surreptitiously conveying to his quarters. Positive orders having been given against pillage of every kind, this flagrant disregard of his commands threw the general into a hot passion. Though usually greatly disinclined to capital punishment, he determined to make an example of this skulking pilferer, and ordered the man to be arrested and taken back to Jackson with directions to have him shot. Jackson, on receiving the culprit, could not quite see the utility of his execution, when men were already scarce, and it struck him that it would answer the purpose quite as well to put the fellow in the front ranks of the army at the most threatened point and let the enemy perform the work assigned to him. He accordingly did so, placing him where his chance of being shot was a most excellent one. The fellow, though fond of surreptitious pork, was not wanting in courage, and behaved gallantly. He redeemed his credit by his bravery, and came through the thick of the fight unscathed. If a commonplace witticism be not out of order here, it may be said that, though he lost his pig, he "saved his bacon."

From Life of Gen. R. E. Lee, page
Head Qrs,- Army Northern Virginia

April 10, 1865

General Order No. 9. — After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources. I need not tell the survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no desire of mine, but holding that valour and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuance of the contest, I have determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past valour has endeared them to their country.

By the terms of agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain there until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection.

With an increasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your Country and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration of myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

(Signed) R. E. Lee, General
Farewell Address
of
A. E. Lee General
to
the Army of North Va.
10th April 1863
appomattox C. H.
Va