THE HOUSE OF PEACE

It is a marvelous coincidence that the roof-tree of this house, to which a family had resorted at the outbreak of the war in order to escape the visitations of armies, should have sheltered the signing of the paper which brought peace. Mr. McLean and his family were living on the battlefield at Bull Run at the time of the first engagement of the war. In search of peace and seclusion from the military operations in that area he moved to southeastern Virginia. In his humble parlor, near Appomattox Courthouse, Grant and Lee met four years later to end the struggle, on April 9, 1865. The unpretentious furniture used by the famous leaders on this solemn morning has all been preserved as mementoes for the nation. The apple tree, about half a mile from the Courthouse, where the generals met before repairing to the McLean house, was early carried away by relic hunters piece by piece, down to the very roots.