

From the Dallas News.

In the issue of THE NEWS of Nov. 27, some information was given in regard to the last battle of the war by a correspondent from Belton. The writer was a member of company E, Col. G. H. Giddings' battalion, and was in the little fight. The western subdistrict was at that time commanded by Gen. Slaughter. The forces in the field were commanded by Col. J. S. Ford, known as "Old Rip" among the soldiers. It would not be an undesired tribute to say that he was always on hand when Texas needed a brave soldier in the southwest. The duty of the soldiers was to protect the trade through Brownsville with Mexico.

The town of Brownsville changed hands five or six times during the war. For twelve months or more previous to the close of the war the confederates had possession and a large trade was carried on with Matamoros.

The fight alluded to came off at Palmetto ranch on the Rio Grande, about three miles above Blanco, on May 13, 1865. Col. Giddings' battalion was doing picket duty at Palmetto ranch at the time. The camp of the battalion was a few miles above. Capt. Robinson of company A was in command. On the morning of the 12th the federals advanced from Brazos Santiago, drove in the advance pickets, captured the picket camp and two of the men who were without horses. Capt. Robinson came down on them in the evening with the entire battalion. When his force came in sight the federals set fire to the Mexican houses at Palmetto and retired down the river. Capt. Robinson left a force for picket duty and returned to his camp. The federals were met by reinforcements and returned on the morning of the 13th, as before, driving the picket force some distance above Palmetto. Capt. Robinson again confronted them with Giddings' battalion, and a skirmish was kept up with them until about 4 o'clock in the evening, when Col. Ford arrived from Brownsville with force of three small companies of cavalry and Capt. Jones' battery of four pieces.

The old soldier in a very brief time had his arrangements made for an advance on the enemy. The cavalry reinforcements were formed on the left of Giddings' battalion; Jones' battery was divided into two sections and placed at different points on the line. Capt. Robinson, now under the orders of Col. Ford, advanced the column thus formed on the enemy. The battle was opened by Capt. Jones' battery firing in quick succession a few rounds. The whole column of cavalry fired a volley and made a charge on the enemy's line of skirmishers, which broke and made a run for their main line. The federal commander commenced a retreat as soon as he saw Col. Ford's advance movement, so the flying skirmishers were overtaken and captured before they could gain the main line. The cavalry on this time on were in a confused condition, but a large number of them, led by Capt. Robinson, together with Jones' battery, continued to follow and harass the enemy for several miles below Palmetto ranch. Jones' battery displayed great courage and activity in the fight. The commander dashed up to within short musket-range several times and stimulated the retreat of the enemy by rounds from his pieces. Several members of his company participated in the brilliant victory at Sabine Pass earlier in the war. Col. Giddings' battalion furnished a majority of the cavalry in the fight. They continued picket duty at this point until they disbanded, about the 1st of June.

The number engaged on the confederate side was about 350. The federal force was about 1000. It was made up of detachments from the thirty-fourth Indiana infantry, the sixty-second colored infantry and the second Texas union cavalry (not mounted). The Federals lost eighty-five prisoners, about six or eight killed and wounded. They also lost two of their regimental colors. Among the prisoners was a captain and a lieutenant. The confederate loss was two prisoners at the picket camp on the morning of the 12th; two men were slightly and one mortally wounded; the latter died soon afterward. This last victim of confederate battles was a young German from DeWitt City, a member of Capt. Carr's company, Giddings' battalion. To the best of the recollection of the writer, his name was Guering. The federal commander, with his superior force, have changed the result of the day by bravely confronting us, but his leading idea seemed to be to get out of way as fast as he could. It was ascertained afterward that the com-

mander of the expedition was the colonel of the negro regiment.

The writer was only a boy at the time and would not assume that his memory of the affair would be the best authority, but does not recollect that any officers besides those mentioned took any leading part in the fight. One Capt. Jones commanded a small company of cavalry in the fight. A member of Gen. Slaughter's staff, Capt. Jones, the inspector general, was on the field at the time, but the old Texas soldier, Col. Ford, was certainly in command.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

From the Baltimore Sun.

WEDNESDAY, December 31.

There was a fire in London resulting in the destruction of \$2,000,000 worth of property.

Counterfeit two-dollar notes are in circulation.

Scarcity of oysters in the Chesapeake has caused Maryland dredgers to transfer their operations to other States.

Washington Sample, a Frederick county farmer, committed suicide by cutting his throat.

The Pope has received from Berlin a communication to the effect that the Bundesrath, or Federal Council, has decided to refuse permission for the Jesuits to return to Germany, but is in favor of permitting the Redemptorist Fathers to return.

The latest reports from the battle at Wounded Knee between United States troops and Indians give the losses of the soldiers at thirty and of the Indians about 250. Another encounter took place yesterday in which thirty Indians were wounded and no soldiers killed.

In the United States Senate, yesterday, Mr. Hoar concluded his speech in favor of the election bill, and Mr. Wolcott, republican, of Colorado, spoke earnestly against the bill. Mr. Teller, republican, of Colorado, spoke against the cloture resolution, and said he would vote against the election bill if it was not amended in some particulars. Mr. Stewart spoke in favor of the silver coinage bill.

THURSDAY, January 1.

Mr. Decatur H. Miller, the well-known Baltimore merchant, died at his residence, northwest corner of Cathedral and Monument streets.

There were 8,659 deaths and 9,234 births in Baltimore last year.

The date of holding the republican State convention was changed to the second Wednesday of April, 1891.

Republican Senators will hold a caucus next week in the hope of reaching a new agreement upon the force bill.

Vice President Morton's ruling that an appeal from the decision of the chair is debatable is very unsatisfactory to the gag-law Senators.

Gen. Francis E. Spinner, formerly United States treasurer, died yesterday at Jacksonville, Fla., aged eighty-eight years.

An alarm of fire was given by geese confined in crates in Washington market, New York, and before the flames were extinguished many of the geese and \$15,000 worth of other poultry were burned.

In the United States Senate, yesterday, Mr. George, of Mississippi, spoke for over four hours against the election bill, but did not conclude. The Senate then adjourned until Friday, with the understanding that on that day the Vice-President will declare a further adjournment until at noon Monday next.

Advices from Pine Ridge Indian agency, South Dakota, say that General Brooke had received news of an attack by the Indians on the Catholic Mission at Clay Creek, and that six of the seventh cavalry had been killed and many wounded. The mission was established with money given by Miss Drexel, of Philadelphia, and is in charge of the Rev. John Jutz. The reported death of the Rev. Father Kraft is confirmed. He studied at Woodstock College, and had many acquaintances in the vicinity of Baltimore and Washington.

FRIDAY, January 2.

Bishop Paret received the Protestant Episcopal clergy of Baltimore at the Episcopal residence, on Madison avenue.

Fire caused \$6,000 damage at St. Ignatius' Catholic Church, Baltimore; the Christmas decorations having become ignited from a gas jet.

A committee of the conference of 1888 on articles of faith of the Methodist Protestant Church held a meeting in Baltimore.

News received in Washington states that the Catholic mission at Pine Ridge agency threatened by Indians is safe so far. It is reported that General Miles has assumed command.

The new Memorial Corpus Christi Church, corner of Mt. Royal avenue and Townsend street, Baltimore, was consecrated yesterday. Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Ryan, Bishops Keene, Curtis, Foley, Northrop and Van de Vyver were present. The congregation included as many Protestants as Catholics.

The best anodyne and expectorant for the cure of colds and all throat, lung, and bronchial troubles, is, undoubtedly, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Ask your druggist for it, and, at the same time, for Ayer's Almanac which is free to all.

There are two things that all ways make a man dream: mince pie and love.

CHRISTENING ANECDOTES.—The christening, or name-giving ceremony, is always an interesting one and many curious stories come to us from the baptismal font. One good clergyman who had been called to christen a child, the youngest of a large family, stood back in hand before the parents.

"Let me see," he said blandly, "this is the thirteenth, is it not?" "Deed sir, it isn't" said the surprised father; "it is only the tenth." It is needless to say the clergyman was trying to recall the day of the month.

An old Virginia darkey who had gone many times to the parsonage of his church with a new baby appeared one day with a pair of dusky olive branches. "Good morning, Peter," said the minister. "You seem to be very much pleased at something." "Yes, sah, I is. You see, de ole woman 'creased de family las' night."

"Ah, indeed." "Yes, sah, dar's two mo' little lam's ob de Lawd."

"Indeed. And what will you name them?" "Gwine name 'em bofe arter de Lawd. Gwine call 'em Messiah and Halloway."

"Messiah and Halloway? Where do you get the name Halloway?" "Hi, man? don't de Lawd's pra'ar say 'Halloway be Thy name?'"

This story is old but good. A couple presented themselves before the parish minister with a child, and when the good man asked its name the father, who lisped, said: "We want to call her Lucifer."

"Nonsense, man," said the indignant divine, "that is not a proper name for a child, neither is it fit for a girl. You must give her another name or take her home."

"I think," said the wife, timidly, "that my man wants to call her Lucy, sir."

This made everything right, and the little one was christened Lucy.

There are some good Scotch anecdotes which will bear telling. One is that of a careful mother who had a smattering of a higher talk gained from associating with "the quality."

"Ye man gang to the minister and tell him to come baptize the bairn, but mind, John, that ye dinna say bairn—say infant."

Her better half pondered the word, and when he had committed it to memory he had reached the minister's house. As soon as he saw the reverend, parson he began his message.

"Maggie says ye air to come over and bapteeze the—"

"It is the bairn ye mean, John?"

"Na, na, it's noo that at a'," said John in deep distress, "it's the—the—it's the elephant, 'sir!'—Detroit Free Press.

Sanso—I say, old man, don't venture on that ice. You will break it.

Stoutly—That will be just. The ice broke me last summer.

Some people are always finding fault with nature for putting thorns on roses, but I always thank her for putting roses on thorns.

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Feb 22—44

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Nov 9, 90—1m

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