

Saint Mary's Beacon

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(Written for the Beacon.)

Peiham-Breathed Battery.

By H. H. MATTHEWS.

The Great Cavalry Fights of the War,
Fleetwood Hill or Brandy Plains,
June 9, 1863.

PART I.

Continued.

Col. White's battalion seems to have been cut into two parts, two of his squadrons becoming mixed up with the 12th Va. cavalry on the eastern slope of the hill, while the other two squadrons retired along the crest of the hill near the Barbour House, in which direction they were followed by the 1st New Jersey regiment now holding the hill temporarily. Col. Harmon, of the 12th Virginia, soon reformed his command and aided by the two squadrons of the 35th Virginia (Colonel White) regained the hill for a short time. Col. Harmon was severely wounded in a hand to hand encounter with the officer leading the Federal cavalry. Lieut. Colonel Lige White having reformed his squadrons swept around the west side of the hill charging the 3 guns which had been advanced to the foot of the hill. This Federal battery was Capt. J. W. Martin's 6th New York Horse Artillery, one of the first horse artillery batteries organized on the Federal side. This battery consisted of 6 3-inch rifles and was a fine battery and one that we were well acquainted with having met it before, especially at Kelly's Ford. The support of this battery was driven off by Col. White. The Colonel in his report in speaking of this action says: "There was no demand made for the surrender of this battery, nor offer to do so, until nearly all the men with many of their horses were either killed or wounded." Col. White could not however, retain possession of these guns, being surrounded by a superior force and was compelled to cut his way out with a heavy loss. The horses being killed, prevented even an attempt to bring off the captured guns. Meantime, Gen. W. E. Jones had withdrawn with the only regiment he had left—the 11th Virginia cavalry. The remaining regiments had been detached by Gen. Stuart's order and assigned to the different points of the field. The 6th Virginia was with Hampton; the 7th Virginia, with W. H. F. Lee, and the 12th and 35th Virginia battalion were already at Fleetwood Hill. Hampton, in the meantime, had formed his four regiments into squadrons and was awaiting the attack. The artillery was in position, Breathed was galloping from time to time to each part of the field, anxious and more than willing to be first in at the death. He was evidently afraid that some of the other batteries might get in ahead of him, and was determined to prevent it if possible. The men of the old battery felt his anxiety and were ready to rush in at the command. Hampton had sent the 6th Virginia cavalry in his advance, and Stuart met the regiment and ordered it to charge the enemy's line on the right. In order that the reader may get a correct idea of that charge, I will reproduce Major Flournoy's report:

"I was ordered by Gen. Hampton to move quickly in the direction of Brady Station road, and while en route was met by Gen. Stuart, who ordered me to cut off 3 hundred Yankees who were near the Miller house. I moved across the railroad and instead of three hundred, I met what prisoners reported as five regiments, charged with my regiment, now reduced by casualties but was driven back. We had driven back the whole force and had them in retreat, when we were attacked in the rear and forced back towards the Miller house, where the enemy opened on us with artillery. We charged and took the battery, but were unable to hold it. Having been charged by five times our numbers, we fell back in confusion towards the hill in front of the Miller house, where the men rallied and reformed."

C. E. FLOURNOY,
Major Comd'g 6 Va. Cavalry.
—Official Records, Vol. 27, Part 2, page 730.

It was at this point that Breathed came on the field. Observing that the 6th Virginia was being pressed back towards Miller's Hill—east of Barbour's, a short distance—he moved his section, on his own responsibility to the assistance of the 6th Virginia, reaching the slope of the hill, just as the regiment was forced back to that position. The guns went into battery at once. Breathed was in his second heaven, rushing from piece to piece, cheering the men and urging them to fire

fast, if such a thing were possible, directing the fire of the guns. The fire was so terrific that the enemy, who were pursuing the 6th, were compelled to retire in great confusion.

We will now return to Hampton, and see how he was amusing himself, while we were engaged on the centre left. Most of the fighting had occurred before Hampton reached Fleetwood Hill, but he more than made up for the delay when he did get into action. He advanced to the attack in a magnificent manner, with columns closed up and his bold leaders every inch soldiers. Hampton ordered the 1st North Carolina cavalry, Col. L. S. Baker, and the Jeff. Davis Legion to charge, and they did. Capt. Hart, who commanded a battery of horse artillery from Charleston, S. C., was with Hampton in this charge. He gives a very graphic description of the charge as seen by him as a participant:

"The battery that I commanded moved abreast of Hampton's plume in a gallop towards this new foe (Gregg) and as we came near Fleetwood Hill, its summit as also the whole plateau, east of the hill and beyond the railroad was covered with Federal cavalry. Hampton diverging towards his left passed the eastern terminus of the ridge and crossing the railroad, struck the enemy in column, just beyond it. This charge was gallantly made and gallantly met, as any the writer ever witnessed during the nearly four years of active service on the outposts. Taking into consideration the number of men that crossed sabres in this single charge, being nearly a brigade on each side it was by far the most important hand to hand encounter between the cavalry of the two armies. As the blue and gray riders mixed amid the dust and smoke of that eventful charge, minutes seemed to elapse before its effect was determined. At last the intermixed and disorganized mass began to recede and we saw the field was ours. It was a hard struggle, but Hampton was one of the hardest fighters in the army of Northern Virginia, his men partaking of the spirit of their commander."

J. F. HART, Capt. Comd'g battery S. H. A.
In looking over the life of Gen. Stuart by McClelland, I find mention made of the gallant charge of Cobb's Legion, of Georgia, and of the 1st South Carolina cavalry, Col. Young. I would like to reproduce these reports, but owing to the length of this article, must refer the reader to the Official Records, Vol. 27, Part 2, where they may be read in full.

It was at this point that Breathed and McGregor's guns had their closest call. After Young's charge and while Breathed and McGregor were opening upon the flying Yankees, the 1st New Jersey cavalry came thundering down the ridge, striking Breathed's section and McGregor's battery in the flank, where they were not supported, and riding between the guns and caissons from right to left. They were met by a determined resistance—hand to hand fight—from the cannoners, who with pistol, spongestaff, trail handspike and anything in the shape of a weapon that they might possess fought so desperately that they did not succeed in getting a single one of our men, and we had determined never to let one of our guns fall into the hands of the enemy. This was another occasion where the Horse Artillery proved that it could take care of itself. Lieut. Col. Broderick, who commanded the 1st New Jersey cavalry, was killed in front of Breathed's section, also Major J. H. Shelmir, who fell from a pistol ball while attempting to lead his men through the batteries. The charge was repulsed by the artillery alone, not a solitary trooper being in reach. Fleetwood Hill was now covered with artillery. Hampton was pressing the enemy on the plains below. The enemy still held Brandy Station. The last charge on this line was made by Col. L. L. Lomax with his gallant regiment, the 11th Virginia cavalry. He advanced his regiment over the captured battery (Martin's 6 N. Y.) covering both sides of the road, driving the enemy pell mell from Brandy Station and for quite a distance on the Stevensburg road. The dust and smoke was so thick that it was impossible at a distance and even nearer to distinguish between friend and foe. Col. H. S. Thomas tells us that "in the confusion he picked up a Virginia trooper, who remarked, 'I can not tell you Yanks from our folks.'"

Thus ended the gallant attack of Gregg's magnificent division of splendidly equipped cavalry, consisting of 5 brigades and of 4 of the best batteries in the Federal army, as against Stuart's two brigades (Hampton's and Jones') and 10 pieces of artillery—Breated's 1 section, and Hart's and McGregor's batteries of 4 guns each.

(To be continued.)

FACTS WORTH KNOWING.

From Talks at St. Mary's Farmers' Institute, March 6 and 7, 1905.

"SOME COMMON AILMENTS OF ANIMALS" AND THEIR TREATMENT.

As presented by Dr. H. P. Miller, of Ohio, is designed to help farmers understand the causes and nature of the more common ailments of their farm animals, so that they may prevent disorders and diseases as far as possible, and treat intelligently the less complicated ones.

The horse suffers far more generally than recognized from defective teeth through the uneven wearing away of the crowns. Sharp points develop at the outer edge of the upper molars and inner edge of the lower. These lacerate the cheek and tongue. They should be floated off. Horses should be shod only under conditions that make it necessary. Farm horses seldom ever need shoeing. Lameness in the fore limbs is in the hoof in the vast majority of cases and is due to injudicious shoeing. The heel should be kept low so as to permit the frog to receive a part of the weight. Otherwise the hoof will contract.

There are three forms of colic that must be distinguished before intelligent treatment can be administered. The most dangerous form is gaseous. An alkali is to be administered to check formation of gas. Sommon soda, charcoal, ammonia, chloral hydrate and carbonate of ammonia are indicated.

Spasmodic colic is the most common form, results from radical change of feed, excessive drinking of cold water, rapid chilling of the body, rapid or heavy work soon after feeding. Heat is the best relief; hot packs when they can be applied, otherwise or in conjunction any household remedy used in human family for same disorder given in ten times the dose for adult. Ounce doses of laudanum are valuable. The third form is that of impaction resulting from change to dry, indigestible food, as over ripe clover, hay or wheat straw. Give linseed oil until bowels move.

Azoturia, commonly called "Stiffs" is result of high feeding without exercise. At first evidence of attack stop the horse, blanket warmly, and apply hot packs over quarters affected. Usually it is a paralysis of the muscles of the loin and hip. Rub vigorously with a mild blistering liniment, also rub limbs with same. A laxative will assist. Feed little or nothing for several hours.

The watery accumulations upon shoulders of horses in spring results from the long continued pressure of the collar by which circulation is impeded. The blood vessel walls distend when pressure is removed so that fluid portions of blood escape in the connective tissue beneath skin. It may often be removed by applications of hot cloths for a few days. When this is not successful open the enlargement after thoroughly cleansing the skin and knife to be used.

So called "Wolf-in-the-tail" and "Hollow horn" are conditions resulting from poor nourishment. The remedy is good feeding.

A cheap and efficient remedy for lice upon animals is common gasoline. All kinds of young animals suffer seriously from internal parasites. Proprietary stock foods are not reliable remedies. Tartar emetic, copperas and turpentine are simple and effective remedies.

CROPS THAT IMPROVE THE SOIL.

Under this topic, H. P. Miller called attention to the way in which the fertility of the land had been developed. Pulverized rock to become soil must have organic matter and the element nitrogen added to it. The way to make our badly worn soils more productive is not to let them rest through lying bare, but to keep something growing upon them that goes back to the land, directly or indirectly, to increase the organic matter in the soil.

The process of decay going on in contact with the rock particles liberates the plant food they contain. The plants themselves return the elements they withdrew in their growth, but they add more.

One of the great problems of agriculture is that of increasing the nitrogen in the soil. There is an inexhaustible supply in the atmosphere. None of the cultivated plants can directly use the nitrogen of the air, but the class called legumes support a lower form of vegetable life known as bacteria upon their roots that have the power of transforming the nitrogen of the air into a compound that our cultivated plants can use. Because of this

quality we speak of the legumes, peas, beans and clovers, as soil improvers. It must be borne in mind, however, that they add nitrogen to the soil only when they support their germs upon their roots. Each species of plant requires a particular species of germ. These must be put into many soils.

Red Clover and Alfalfa have another value. They root more deeply than the grasses and bring up mineral elements, also leave a larger proportion of themselves in root and stubble upon the field where they grew.

Clover crops are valuable in that they protect the soil from washing and blowing.

THREE REASONS FOR USING THE SILO.

First: It provides a succulent food in winter. Under natural conditions the animal does best in pasture. To approximate these conditions, and make a substitute for pasture we use silage. As good results can be obtained from stalks alone, in the silo, as from the same stalks dried, carefully housed, and two pounds grain daily.

Second: By the aid of the silo, we utilize all the plant at its best. Seventy per cent of the food value of the stalk is below the ear. When dried, much of the sugar and starch, is turned to woody fiber, indigestible and so unpalatable that much of it is rejected by the animal.

Third: It is the cheapest way the corn crops can be handled; a careful comparison has shown, that a like amount of corn and stalks, can be put before cattle through the silo at much less cost, than when out, shocked, husked and ground in the old-fashioned way.

A Pleasant Dance.

(Reported for the BEACON.)

On Friday, March 3rd, the most enjoyable and it will not be saying too much the most memorable dance of the season was given at the home of Mr. John H. Russell near Miles-town. About 7 o'clock, the dancing began and was kept up until 12, when refreshments were served. After this, the dancing was resumed until the wee small hours when the sweet strains of Carter's band playing instead of "Home Sweet Home" the sad tune, "Blue Bell" that indicates, "We two must part," caused the heart of many a love-sick youth to ache, for though we have spent many pleasant evenings in the past few months we felt sure this would be the last. We owe our sincere gratitude to our kind host and hostess, who did their utmost to make the event as pleasant as possible.

Among those present were:

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Russell, J. T. N. Lawrence, W. S. Russell, A. T. Wible, Parran Graves, Thomas St. Clare, George Goodwin, G. H. Cullins, Cleveland Bailey, W. M. Russell, Vincent Tompson.

Messdames.

Allen Tompson, Charles Anderson, James Hayden, Lucy Swann, Imogene Newark.

Misses

May and Effie Russell, Ella Ellis, Grace Swann, Amy Hall, Agnes Russell, Irene and Nellie Long, Nora Hayden, Mary Tompson, Ella Cullins, Lola Woodburn, Berta Guy, Lena Hall, Nettie Morders, Edith Bailey.

Messrs.

W. Cullins, C. Russell, J. Goodwin, J. Gibson, A. Mattingly, B. Woodburn, E. Tompson, F. and D. Tompson, Marshal and Maguire Hall, Albert and Carroll Ellis, George Hall, Dominic Hayden, Willie and Cleveland Gatton, Ernest Burch, Walter Cheseldine, Joseph Morders, George Lawrence, Herbert Dyson, Lancaster Woodburn, Wood Oliver, Ernest Ellis, Ernest Weaver, Marion Gibson, Tommy Russell, Douglas Owens, Aubrey Cullins, John and Albert Russell. D. M. C.

A mild-looking little fellow with side-whiskers, entered the registration booth and stood modestly in line until his turn came. When asked his name he leaned forward and whispered it to the chairman.

"How old are you?" was the next question.

"Thirty-eight," whispered the man.

"Where did you cast your last vote?"

"I—I—I never voted before."

"Thirty-eight years old and never voted? Why not?"

"Well, you see, sir, my wife never made up her mind before who she wanted to support."

"Well, I guess old Slyman is beginning to make his pile."

"Why do you think so?"

"He's going around blowing about how much happier a man is when he's poor."

A Dance.

(Reported for the BEACON.)

There was recently a very pleasant dance at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hall. In spite of the cold night there was a large crowd from far and near. And I feel sure there was not one who regretted coming. Dancing began about 7 o'clock, and was kept up until 6 in the morning, when the old Head of the Hay band struck up Home Sweet Home, and we were all soon wending our way homeward. Among those present were:

Messdames.

Nannie Wilkinson, Annie Graves, Mamie Knott, Mary Tompson, Cora Tompson, Gerlie Hall.

Misses

Katie Tippet, Edith Hall, Julia Wilkinson, Nannie and Lizzie Tompson, Laura Scott, Ada Vallandigham, Bessie Quade, Amy and Alice Hall, Mary Tompson, Annie Lacey, Lydia Tompson, Fannie Wilkinson, Messrs.

Bob Lyon, Warren Guy, Allie and Stephen Downs, George Hall, Albert Ellis, Ira Tompson, Dan Drury, Bennie, Albert, Lewis and Bernard Buckler, Stone Dent, John Lacey, John Hall, Roam Tompson, Allie Tompson, Ben Knott, Jim Copsy, Sprigg Wheeler, Willie and Frank Hayden, Clide Burroughs, George Lawrence, John and Morris Graves, Lawrence Vallandigham, Cheseldine, Willie and Cleve Gatton, Walter Quade, Scott.

Guess.

Warning to Orchardists.

The time is at hand when all progressive orchardists and those who appreciate the value of fruit in the home, should give their trees some attention. I refer more especially to those who have been menaced in retaining their orchards in a vigorous condition by the attacks of the San Jose Scale.

This note of warning will also serve to notify those whose trees were inspected by the local inspectors under the employ of the State Horticultural Department of the Maryland Agricultural College, and found to be infested with this pest. In each case, the inspector tagged several trees in order to call the attention of the grower to the presence of the insect in his orchard.

As a result of numerous experiments, (see Md. Exp. Station Bulletin 99) conducted by this Department with various insecticides we find as yet, the lime, sulfur and salt wash (formula lime, 20 lbs. sulfur 15 lbs. salt 10 lbs. and water 50 gallons, boiled from 30 to 60 minutes) to be the most effective remedy for the pest. The wash should be applied to the trees in the Spring, just before the buds begin to swell, and it is hoped that all who have this pest among their trees will give the matter their immediate attention.

It is advisable to secure reliable information as to the effectiveness of any prepared wash advertised for this pest before applying same.

Information as to the results of experiments with various prepared washes can be had by securing bulletin 99 of the Maryland Experiment Station.

The writer will be pleased to give further information as regards spraying and also to receive twigs of trees from any person for examination. All communications should be addressed to the State Entomologist, College Park, Md.

Truly yours,
THOMAS B. SYMONS,
State Entomologist.

Hasty Observations.

Some years ago an authoress of considerable note was entering a place of public entertainment when the sound of her own name uttered by a group just in front of her attracted her attention, and she discovered that a gentleman in the company of several ladies was pointing out another lady at some distance with his companions as herself.

"Oh, dear, she's not at all pretty," said one of the ladies, putting up her opera glass.

"Quite vulgar looking," said another adjusting her's to a better focus.

"So dreadfully masculine," said a third. "Any one might guess she was a blue-stocking. I pity her husband, I declare."

"She is masculine," said the gentleman complacently, pleased to have interested his companions. "You can see that even from here. But you can't appreciate her ugliness without seeing her full face. She has a most appalling squint."

The authoress in question, who was neither masculine nor ugly nor afflicted with a squint, had sense of humor enough to enjoy the situation.