

CHARGE AT BALAKLAVA.

A PARTICIPANT IN THE BATTLE DESCRIBES IT.

He Was One of the 198 Survivors of It—They Simply Obeyed Orders.

One of the "noble six hundred" and only American survivor of the band who "came through the jaws of death back from the mouth of hell," lives in Chicago, and last week won a verdict of \$1,000 from the city of Chicago for injuries due to a defective sidewalk.

Jeremiah Ryan is the name of the survivor of the Light Brigade, says the "Times-Herald." While he himself is unknown, the exploits of the six hundred are familiar to everyone who has been a schoolboy at any time during the last forty years. Most of them recited Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade," and everybody has certainly heard it declaimed a dozen times. To print it would be ridiculous, for nearly everybody knows it by heart and can tell how the little gallant band was led to death through the mistake of a leader who himself died while on his feet's errand.

Four days before last Christmas Ryan celebrated his sixty-second birthday. This would make him nineteen years of age at the time when with his comrades he charged the whole Russian army. A man must be twenty-one before he can enlist in the British army. But when the war in the Crimea broke out, Ryan, like other young Irishmen and Britishers, was anxious to go to the front and do some fighting.

A recruiting station was opened at Limerick for the Fourth Light Dragoons, an English regiment, which, like most of the others, included a good many Irishmen in its ranks. Ryan was only nineteen, but he and some other youths of his age declared that they were twenty-one, and so were allowed to enlist.

RIGORS OF RUSSIAN WINTER. When the regiment left for the Crimean Peninsula all of the men thought that they would have an easy time of it, and that the Russians would be easily beaten. But the Germans were incompetent, and those in charge at home had made no proper provision for the health and comfort of the soldiers. The hardships endured were frightful. Cholera broke out, and thousands of men died from the disease. The men, unused to cold, were forced to sleep in tents in the open air during a Russian winter. Often the wind would tear the tents from their pegs and leave the soldiers without even that much covering, and this in spite of the fact that the intensity of the cold was so great that no one might dare to touch any metal substance in the open air without the penalty of leaving his skin behind him.

Many battles were fought during that time. Those that were won by the English were not due to the generalship of the officers, but to the pluck and courage of the men. The battles were fought without any really definite plan. Those in command merely led the soldiers fight purposefully whenever they could, and trusted to the effect of the single battle.

The battle of Balaklava, fought October 25, 1854, was one of this nature, and it was in this that the most disastrous blunder of all, "the charge of the Light Brigade," was made. "After the battle of Alma," said Ryan, "we marched to Balaklava, and occupied the heights with ease. This was south of Sebastopol, and had a port that would enable us to keep a constant communication between our armies and fleets. We had a long and hard march over the snow, which was thick on the ground, but as hard as a rock, and not much worse on a horse's feet than would be the asphalt pavement. Preparations were made for an attack on Sebastopol. The attempt began on October 17th, but it failed, although we fought hard, but the ships could not get near enough to make their guns effective."

BATTLE OF BALAKLAVA. "The battle of Balaklava was brought on by the Russians on October 25th, when they tried to drive us from the heights we occupied. It was a good, hot fight, and the cavalry did most of the fighting on our side, and as I was in the cavalry, I got my share. I remember the charge of the Light Brigade best, although it did not seem much at the time. This Light Brigade consisted of 607 men. They were picked from the various regiments, all young and energetic men, and good fighters. There were 118 men in the Fourth Light Dragoons, 104 of the Eighth Hussars, 130 of the Thirteenth Light Dragoons, and 145 of the Seventeenth Lancers. I was among those from the Fourth Light Dragoons.

In his poem Tennyson, with the license of a poet, makes it appear that we all knew we were going to certain death. As a matter of fact, we knew nothing of the kind. We did not have the slightest idea what we were going to do. We merely obeyed orders, and had no thought that we were about to charge the whole of the Russian army. There had been a heavy fall of dense, damp snow, and the ground was hard. Under Captain Nolan we charged in two lines at quick pace. We did not know where we were going, and the enemy, being behind a bluff, were not in sight. We had not gone more than 1,200 yards before the whole line of the Russians opened a flood of smoke and flame upon us from the mouths of their thirty cannon. Then we could not have fallen back if we wanted to. Men and horses fell under the fire. One-third of us fell to the ground, dead or dying. Another third of the men were wounded. The horses, well trained, huddled together and carried us onward toward the Russians. Another battery opened fire upon us, and to the oblique fire by the cannon was joined a volley of musketry from the Russian infantry.

CHARGE OF THE BRIGADE. "With sabers drawn we kept on toward the Russians. We could not fight much, for we were huddled close together in a solid mass for our protection. The men in the middle of the ranks dared not draw their sabers, for they could not tell friend from foe. Those on the outside fought and cut down the Russians in our way. Then the order was given to return, and we retreated as best we could. Some of the horses broke with their riders and carried them back to our lines. Slowly we fought our way back surrounded by Russian soldiers.

"But while we were fighting to regain our own lines the Russian gunners returned to their guns, and, angry that we had only just ridden over them, and thinking of nothing but revenge, they fired at the mass of fighting soldiers, and at that time they killed more Russians than Englishmen, for there were more Russians than Englishmen in front of the guns. Meanwhile, the Eighth Hussars and the heavy brigade came to our rescue and helped us cover our retreat.

"A wretched lot we were when we returned. They made heroes of the survivors, but the dead and dying were left where they fell. There was 607 of us when we followed Captain Nolan to the charge. Of these 198 came back, and some of these received wounds from which they died shortly afterward. I myself received two cuts in the hand and another just above the end of my neck. But these were light wounds, and I escaped much better than most of the men. There were not more than a dozen who came through that charge unscathed.

HOW THE MEN FELT. "We did not know what was going to happen when we went into the charge. But we were rather sore about what we returned, although those who got through were too happy that they had escaped to make much fuss about it. It has been written of as a great expedition, and so I suppose it was. But we do not deserve any great credit for bravery. Almost any man would have done the same. We were all dare-devil fellows, caring little for our lives and fond of the excitement of battle. And then, when the band plays and everybody cheers and yells you are so carried away by the excitement that you think of nothing but the joy of fighting. It is great sport. Better than any other in the world.

"Afterward we heard much about it, when the world sung our praises. Some Frenchman said that our exploit was 'unparalleled,' but it was not so. It seems that it had been the intention of Lord Raglan, our General, that the cavalry should aid in regaining the heights surmounted by the redoubts taken by the Turks, or in default of this to prevent the Russians from carrying off the guns at those points. He had no intention of having this work done by 600 men. The Light Brigade was to have been only a part of the forces. But Captain Nolan, who carried the message, did not understand it, nor did the other officers. General Lord Lucan, the Earl of Cardigan put the order into execution and Captain Nolan himself led us and died with my other comrades for his own mistake, or that of others.

AFTER THE GREAT CHARGE. "We remained in the field and fought other battles until the armistice of September, 1856. The cold was the worst foe with which we had to contend. The Russians used to say that their best Generals were General January and General February. Many a man would lie down to sleep on the cold ground never got up. I had one of my legs frozen to pieces? No, I did not get any. The British Government is not as liberal as is the United States.

A DANGEROUS THING.

Effect of "New Journalism" in War—A Warning.

In regard to new journalism as applied to the recent war scare, the "Army and Navy Register" has this to say:

Within the last few years there has grown up in this country an industry—one can hardly call it a profession—which bodes no good to the people, and which has already sustained the hopes of its originators that it should become a power in the land. It is the power of the wicked, however, for evil and wrong just at this moment of perplexity and commotion. This enemy to order and peace and government presents itself in its alluring protestations of national piety, and as the friend of the masses and the denouncer of Government. With the egotism and effrontery of its species it seeks to dignify its exaggerations, its sensational product, its innumerable carmine-linked extras, with the title of 'new journalism,' a feature among the characteristics of the nation it presents a menace.

Aside from the vulgarity and the bluster of its pages, it distorts the amusing if they were not accepted in some quarters as the truth. It is this belief in the lurid material presented by this new journalism in its overwrought morning edition and its twenty-five or thirty evening extras which may one day influence toward international injustice and the sacrifice of national peace.

Present examples of the dangers from this source are not wanting. The catastrophe at Havana, the De Lome incident, the situation in Cuba and the sentiment in Spain have been avoided or to create a hatred in this country which is bordering on the warlike. The public sentiment must in these days depend for its formation upon the newspapers; the daily journals with their domestic and foreign news, their gathering information, with their modern appliances for printing and delivering, are able to present the history of each day almost as soon as it is accomplished.

There are notable instances in this new journalism of the anticipation of history. When newspapers were accurate, or tried to be accurate, and when accuracy was made the standard, the influence of the press was something which could be relied upon to carry the readers of newspapers into the right groove of thought and the safe and proper avenue of action.

Don't marry an old flame with the expectation that she will set up and light the kitchen fire of a cold morning. The most efficacious stimulant to sharpen the appetite is Dr. Sieger's Angostura Bitters. Don't accept an imitation. Save money by buying your tea and coffee of J. McMorry, 531 M.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE SACRAMENTO PIONEERS meet at their hall SAT. URDAY, March 5th, 7:30 p. m. 117 MARY C. FARNSWORTH, Pres.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS of Capital City Rebekah, No. 109, will assemble at their lodge room 70-MORROW, TO-DAY, at 1:30 P. M. to attend the funeral of our late Sister Sarah H. W. W. SADIE BURNS, N. G.

MEMBERS OF RISING STAR Rebekah Lodge, No. 8, I. O. O. F. will assemble at their lodge room 70-MORROW, TO-DAY, at 1:30 P. M. to attend the funeral of our late Sister Sarah H. W. W. SADIE BURNS, N. G.

CAPITOL LODGE, NO. 81, I. O. O. F.—Officers and members are requested to meet at their lodge room 70-MORROW, TO-DAY, at 1:30 P. M. to attend the funeral of our late brother, J. H. NEWTON, H. W. W. SADIE BURNS, N. G.

FIRST ELECTRO-MEDICAL SOCIETY of Sacramento meets FRIDAYS at 1014 G street, from 8 to 10 o'clock. Applications received or any information concerning the society given by Professor James H. Burden, President, 727 1/2 K street.

WANTED. FIRST-CLASS HELP OF ALL KINDS furnished on short notice. J. Q. ADAMS, 1014 Fifth St. Tel. Cap. 142.

WANTED—500 MEN TO BUY OUR great bulk call at American Fish Co., 724 J street. We receive them regularly. 50c quart.

O. H. CONAWAY, SUCCESSOR ANDREW C. CONAWAY, Electrical work and bicycle repairing, the only house to give trading stamps on electrical supplies. All work guaranteed. 1003 K St.

HAVE YOUR HOUSE WIRED BY LEE HAYS, the Up-Town Plumber, 1425 J Street.

ANYONE GOING TO THE KLONDIKE will save money by calling on BEESLEY & SON, 916-1/2 J street.

WANTED—ALL KINDS OF KITCHEN and farm help at Plaza Employment Office, Ninth and L. W. A. WALL, Prop. Cap. Tel. 273. Sunset, black, 654.

PLANETARY PENCIL POINTERS PROPERLY POINT PENCILS.

We have a large supply of the latest model with the improved standard. First of the kind on the coast, \$3.50. Perfect pencil pointer, 75c. We will be pleased to explain working of either style.

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MEETING NOTICES. SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE SACRAMENTO PIONEERS meet at their hall SAT. URDAY, March 5th, 7:30 p. m. 117 MARY C. FARNSWORTH, Pres.

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MONEY TO LOAN—APPLY TO J. O. FRETWELL, 628 1/2 J street; up stairs.

MONEY TO LOAN—H. J. GOETHE, 1011 Fourth street.

A RELIABLE LICENSED PLACE TO borrow money on watches, jewelry and diamonds, strictly confidential. 412 E. next to Metropolitan Theater.

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PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS. DR. P. R. WATTS, 1006 Eighth Street—Office hours, 10 to 11 a. m., 2 to 4 and 7 to 8 p. m. Sundays, 1 to 2 p. m.

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W. W. MACPARLANE, M. D.—OFFICE, Fourth and K; residence 716 1/2 10th st.

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