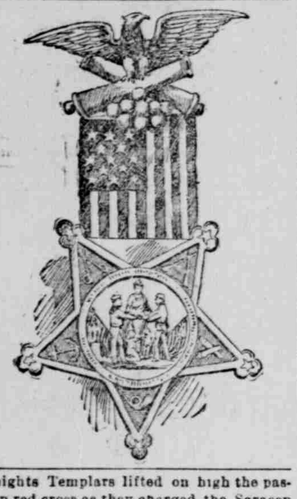
EVERYBODY WEARS A BADGE

Some of the Tokens by Which Their Wearers May Be Identified.

All of Them Are Not Mentioned, but Here Are Descriptions of Some of the One Hundred and Fifty Badges.

It is a somewhat remarkable fact that there are no "mavericks" among the people who attend Grand Army reunions. Everybody is branded. It reflects no discredit upon the American people that they affect this custom, for it is almost as old as the world. In the dawn of creation the rainbow was given for a sign and a promise, and in like manner banners and badges were carried for signs of compacts, as tokens of courage and as emblems of comradeship by the Israelites and by Pharaoh's hosts. The Greeks displayed them as they rushed singing down upon the Persian hosts on the plains of Marathon, and the



Knights Templars lifted on high the passion red cross as they charged the Saracen hordes. It is, in fact, the custom of the world to "show one's colors," and the man who fails to display them at a time like this is looked upon with suspicion and distrust. It is not necessary to belong to an "order" to do this. A man may be loyal to the flag though he never received a "grip" in his life and a "countersign" never crossed his lips. But it is a fact that two-thirds of the people one meets in the city this week wear badges emblematic of some fraternal order, and chief among the bits of bronze worn above brave hearts and blouses blue is the badge of the Grand Army of the Republic.

This badge is made from rebel cannon, captured in decisive battles of the war of the rebellion, and the irony of fate may pin over a brave heart a piece of metal from the self-same cannon that emptied the wearer's swinging sleeve or left him but one leg to stand on. The design is a five-pointed star, and is thus described: In the center of the badge is a figure of the Goddess of Liberty, representing loyalty; on either side a soldier and sailor clasping hands, representing fraternity, and two little children receiving benediction and assurance of protection from the comrades, representing charity. On each side of the group is the national flag and eagle, representing freedom, and the ax and bundle of rods, representing union. In each point of the star is the insignia of the various arms of the service—the bugle for infantry, cross cannon for artillery, cross muskets for the marine, cross swords for cavalry, and the anchor for sailors. Over the central group are the words: 'Grand Army of the Republic,' and under, the word and figures: '1861—Veteran—1866.'

Commemorating the commencement and close of the rebellion, and also the date and organization of the order. The reverse side represents a bunch of laurel—the crown and reward of the brave—in each point of the star. The National shield in the center, surrounded by the twenty-four recognized corps badges, numerically arranged, each on a keystone, and all linked together showing that they are united and will guard and protect the shield of the Nation. Around the center is a circle of stars representing the States of the Union and the departments comprising the Grand Army of the Republic. The clasp is composed of the figure of an eagle with cross cannon and amunition, representing defense: the eagle with drawn sword hovering over and always ready to protect from insult or dishonor the national flag, which is also the emblem and ribbon of the order."

The Loyal Legion, sometimes designated by the "high privates" as the "order of aristocrats," because only commissioned officers can belong to it, has a rather costly badge. It is of enamel, blue, white and red on gold, resembling a sunburst, and is suspended from a red ribbon with white and blue stripe on the edges. The recognition badge is a small red, white and blue silk button. When the wearer of this badge is mustered into the silent majority, the silk and gold emblem goes back to the order.

There are other badges born of interest in the men in this great war. The women are engaged now, as in the dark days of rebellion, in comforting and caring for sick and needy veterans and their families. Believing it would aid them in the prosecution of their noble work, they organized the "Woman's Relief Corps," which was at once made auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. The badge of this order is of bronze, the medallion center of the G. A. R. badge set in a maltese cross. The membership badge is of tri-colored ribbon, with R. C. L.—fraternity, charity, loyalty—upon the bar pin. The official title is on the bar, and the ribbon is blue for local corps, red for department, and yellow for national.

Another fraternal organization now recognized as an auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic is the Sons of Veterans. This order is largely composed of men who never saw a battle, but are the sons of men who stopped bullets with their bodies. But a great many of the members of this order are men who fought beside their fathers in defense of Union, hence, are entitled to membership in both orders as veterans and sons of veterans. The badge is a bronze bar with the inscription, "Filii Veteranorum." Pendant from a tri-colored ribbon is a bronze emblem combining the eagle, cannon and a laurel wreath.

Auxiliary to the Sons of Veterans is an order known as the Ladies' Aid Society of the Sons of Veterans. The badge is of bronze, embracing in exquisite design the features of the order to which it is auxiliary, with the Latin inscription, "Veneranum Succorim."

The Naval Veterans, who formed themselves into an organization several years before the Grand Army was born, have a very pretty badge, red and white ribbon, hanging from a bar pin, and over this a bronze pendant, combining anchors, and eagles, and a laurel wreath, with the motto, "Don't Give Up the Ship." Auxiliary to this order is that known as "The Ladies of the Naval Veteran Association." Their badge is a pretty design in bronze, swinging from a tiny chain over white and red ribbon. The design combines a cross, anchor and a star, which adds significance to the old song, "The sailor's wife the sailor's star shall be."

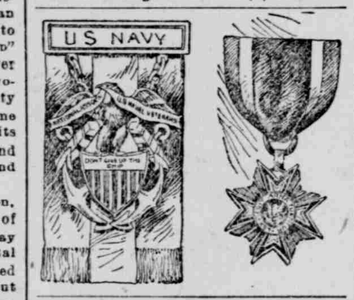
One badge worn by some of the veterans holds volumes in its miniature representation. From a spread eagle's talons hangs a knapsack over crossed muskets. Pendant from this is an embattled design in bronze, depicting a wounded and emaciated soldier pleading for succor, while over him stands a bloodhound. The ex-prisoners of war are entitled to wear this pin, and the fellow who wants each particular hair to stand on end has only to enlist the tongue of a wearer of this badge. An interesting badge that, in the nature of things, will soon be a souvenir of things that were, but are not, is that worn by the old fellows who fought under the shadows of Montezuma's palace, the survivors of the Mexican war. It is a beautiful badge, too. A shield with a ship on one side, crossed guns and sabers in the center, with cannon to the right. Below this is an eagle in flight above a fortress, under which is the date "1846," the whole embraced in a laurel wreath. Around the edge of the shield are the principal battles, Tobasco and Vera Cruz at the top; then follow Palo Alto, Buena Vista, Cerro Gordo, Cherubusco, Chepultepec and Don Pasquel.

The badge of the United States Veteran Signal Corps Association is a dainty and suggestive design. From a telescope, which forms the bar pin, hangs an orange-colored ribbon, the distinctive color of the corps, and from this is hung a round medal, in which are the flags and torch, with the inscription of the order's title around the outside edge.

The "Union Veterans' Union" is composed of men who heard the bullets sing, or, in other words, men who were in the "fore front of battle," and the badge of the order takes it all in. The bar pin has a star in a circle over crossed sabers, and the pendant from the red and blue ribbon has cross and anchor, muskets and cannon over a battlemented bronze.

A new order, formed at the encampment in Detroit, is the "Comrades of the Battlefield," composed of "ninety-day" men who were under fire throughout the whole of their service. The badge is a trefoil, with a battle scene in the center and "Service Under Fire," around the edge.

Among other woman's organizations doing splendid relief work but not auxiliary to a veteran order, the "Ladies of the G. A. R." is the largest. The badge has a strong resemblance to the Grand Army badge, being a tiny silk flag with star and G. A. R. medallion center, but a wreath of laurel encircles the star. The Daughters of Veterans have a neat badge, with D. V. in monogram upon the round pendant suspended by a chain from a bar pin. The "Woman's Relief Union" and the Army Nurses have each pretty badges. These organizations are all chartered institutions and have large memberships, but their



badges are not the only ones to be seen, by any means. A veteran is not content to let you discover by his badge that he belongs to the grandest order on earth; he wants you to know his State, regiment, company and corps, and, perhaps, the army in which he so courageously did his part. It may be that you won't ask him for this data, because it would be something of a task to interrogate 25,000 or more men as to these things, so he covers himself with badges, and he who runs may absorb information as from an open book. The ways of imparting this information by means of metal and bits of ribbon are unique. You "can tell what State he hails from," full half a block away. It is printed in heavy black letter on a half a yard of ribbon, and is pinned across the breast. A veteran is usually very proud of his State, but the very conspicuous ribbon only tells where he happened to be camping at the present time. There may be two or three other ribbons telling of his various enlistments, for there were many who enlisted three times, from as many States, and they don't propose to slight any of them. The result rather inclines one to recall a ribbon counter on remnant day. Then there will be a little badge of silver, or maybe only tin, or a bit of flannel, for the "boys" are, most of them, far from rich. This emblem will represent a star or an acorn, a cartridge box, clover leaf, or crescent, and those who know any thing about badges—everybody who goes to an encampment ought to be informed, because it is an education in itself—will know that the wearer fought under Black Jack or Pap Thomas, Hancock or Hooker, and is proud of the record of his corps. Usually, beside this badge will be another which shows that the wearer was in the Army of the Tennessee, or the Potomac, or the Cumberland, or some one of the other great armies. Maybap he will wear two of these, showing that he served in both armies. Then there is still another badge, quite often a bit of ribbon printed from mixed fonts of type in a little country press office. There will be the name of the State from which the wearer enlisted, the year, whether volunteer or regular, and if cavalry or infantry, and above or below this the name and number of the wearer's post. If the world has treated the veterans well, this information is stamped or cut into little bars of silver connected by a link or two of chain. It takes at least three of these bars to tell the story, and if there are two or three enlistments there are sometimes six of these bars, hanging from one pin.

The distinctive State badges are unique, and the fad of collecting them has become almost a mania. They are worn by both men and women, regardless of organizations. The few States that have failed to so distinguish themselves are not "in it" when they get away from home. There is Kansas, for instance. Who has not heard of the Sunflower State? It doesn't take a

field-glass or a microscope to discover a Kansas veteran in a crowd, because the principal crop of the war-born State is represented in glowing gold on his left breast—a bronze and gold sunflower pendant on a red ribbon from a silver grasshopper! In the line of march a gorgeous affair of yellow and brown velvet, measuring eight inches across, is suspended by a green ribbon over the left breast. The effect of several hundred of these as the boys go marching by is something stunning.

Ohio comes to the front with a real buckeye hung from a bronze pin. The delegate badges are works of art. Large, perfect buckeyes have the G. A. R. badge hand-painted upon them, and are hung from narrow red, white and blue ribbon. The commander of the Ohio department usually has his horse gaily tricked out with festoons of buckeyes.

Massachusetts veterans come around with their accent and bean pot. Massachusetts has three things of which she is very proud—Boston, her Back Bay—which she does not take to national encampments—and baked-bean reputation—Boston baked, of course. The State badge is a bean pot suspended by a chain from a bar pin. But Massachusetts has other industries besides furnishing baked beans for the world. There is Boston, the hub, with the Mayflower in the background, burning witches for side lights, and Concord school for culture. The badge is emblematic of the once great industry of her back bay aristocracy—a silver codfish for a pin, from which depends a silver hub of a wheel. Lynn advertises her industry by a tiny leather sole hung over a red ribbon; another Lynn badge is a silver button boot pendant over ribbon. Plymouth rock people do not herd with common folk, and wear a small fac simile of the historic piece of granite.

The brand new State of Washington copies closely her colonial sister. From a hatchet bar pin, which represents the exploded but immortal cherry-tree myth,

hangs a silver fish over a red ribbon. An explanatory chart should accompany this pin, the legend of which is, in brief, "though the tales of Washington and her glories sound like fish stories, truth is mighty and will prevail."

The States which advertise their industries are numerous. Alabama veterans wear boutonnieres of bolls of cotton and a little bronze and silver badge, imitation of the same. New Hampshire veterans wear wedges of highly-polished granite pendant from a bronze pin. Connecticut's ingenuity is advertised by a wooden nutmeg hanging from a tin bar pin. Another design is a wooden ham. Both these articles built on mammoth scale are carried by her veterans, banner fashion, in the parade. Rhode Island dips into realism, and her badge is a tiny clam shell hung from a bronze bar. Virginia veterans, with an eye to business, wear a pretty gilt "goober" (peanut) suspended from a bronze bar. Florida's live-stock industry is advertised by an alligator pin, and the pet of her veterans is a huge live alligator, which makes things lively around that department's headquarters. Colorado's wealth is displayed by a silver brick which her people wear. Kentucky displays her pride in her main crop by wearing a small gilt ear of corn. Another badge is a square cracker, with an ear of corn hanging from it.

Among the badges are some very pretty ones adapted from the State seals. Missouri, for instance, has her rampant "bear and forbear," done in native copper, surrounding the medallion of the G. A. R. badge, the whole hanging by a red, white and blue ribbon, from a bar pin of Missouri copper. California has for the bar of her pin her State emblem—a grizzly bear in silver—and from a yellow ribbon hangs the G. A. R. star, done in silver. The California Veteran Association usually heads their line of parade with a big grizzly—stuffed, of course. South Carolina, the first State to tear down the stars and stripes and substitute for it the flag of the palmetto and the pine, has adopted for her veterans a palmetto-tree badge. Michigan's State seal bears a wolverine, and this animal, done in bronze, decorates the left breast of the veterans.

States whose nicknames have given them national fame have perpetuated them in silver, gilt and bronze. For instance, Wisconsin immortalizes the badger, and that synonym for an industrious fighter is worn by representatives of Wisconsin. Another handsome badge worn by her people is a tiny eagle done in gilt, in honor of Old Abe, the famous war eagle carried by the "Eagle regiment" of Wisconsin throughout the war. Minnesota, the "Gopher State," utilizes that tiny pest of the prairies in a cute and decidedly effective pin made of her native copper. Pennsylvania, the Keystone State, proud of her importance and her splendid veterans, decorates them with a tiny keystone done in German silver, hung from a bronze bar. Iowa, the Hawkeye State, puts a hawk's head on her veterans. They also wear gilt ears of corn and carry corn-stalk canes.

New Jersey's noted soloist, who presents his bill at most inopportune times and exacts blood money on every occasion, is perpetuated in bronzes. In this condition, or caged as he is carried at the head of the line of march, the "Jersey skeeter" is not unornamental. A real pine cone, hung from a bronze bar or tied with a knot of red, white and blue ribbon, tells that its wearer hails from faraway Maine, the State of the pine tree—and the women of pine tree shilling fame. The Vermont boys wear badges of green and sprigs of cedar in their hatbands. The Vermont delegation in line of march are headed by a big cedar tree,

brought all the way from the Green Mountain State. Maryland, the Oriole State, decorates her veterans with badges of black and orange, and the department flag is black and orange silk.

The "Blue Hen's Chickens" designates the boys from Delaware, a title bestowed upon the fighters of that State who figured in the Revolution, by General Greene, who said they "would wade through purgatory and pay toll in order to fight." A fighting blue cock leads their columns in the march, and the veterans wear a blue chicken on their hats and an imitation one on their badges. West Virginia veterans wear a small nickel canteen, with "G. A. R." upon it, and they wear sprigs of goldenrod also. The badge of the Louisiana representatives is a diminutive bale of cotton, bound with red, white and blue cords. New York, the Knickerbocker State, hangs from a bright yellow ribbon a large medallion, with a full-fledged Knickerbocker on it. The Department of North Dakota has adopted wheat as an emblem of the new State's prosperity, and "No. 1 hard" forms a bountonniere, and wreaths of it are twisted about her veterans' hats. A sheaf of surprisingly tall wheat heads Dakota veterans in the parade. Indiana, at the last encampment, was distinguished by handsome lithographed badges of her splendid soldiers' monument. The Texas veterans, for a long time, had for their badge a lone star, but it was hardly distinctive enough, being often taken for the badge of the Eighth Army Corps, so the department adopted the "Texas long horns," making a thoroughly unique design in bronze. "A Texas steer's horns" can no more be misappropriated than a Kansas sunflower or Ohio buckeye. In the line of march the Texas veterans are preceded by a pair of horns measuring eight feet from tip to tip.

The foregoing list contains only a few of the nearly 150 badges that are the natural outgrowth of orders connected with the survivors of the war of the rebellion.

Col. James Stewart, of Scottdale, Pa., was in thirty-five battles and was then captured and taken to Libby Prison in Richmond. When Richmond was taken, he was the only representative of the federal government left in the city, all the other prisoners having been removed to prisons further south. To him the officers of the Confederacy handed the records of the prison and placed him in charge of the prison and everything connected with it, and he delivered it into the hands of the victorious forces when they entered the city.

The steamship Star of the West, sent to reinforce Major Anderson at Fort Sumter, reached Charleston harbor, Jan. 9, 1861. On the morning of the 10th, when she attempted to steam past Fort Moultrie with the stars and stripes at her peak, a masked rebel battery on Morris island, opposite Moultrie, opened fire upon her and she retired from the scene under fire from both Morris island and Fort Moultrie. That was the first shot of the war upon the flag.

David A. Monroe, of a New York regiment, deposited with the National Museum in Washington last September the original copy of the address of Jefferson Davis to the Confederacy, delivered under date April 4, 1865. The copy was given a printer in Danville to set up for the paper. When Danville was occupied by the Sixth Army Corps shortly afterwards the printer gave this copy to Mr. Monroe to be put in type for the Sixth Corps News, a little paper printed by the corps while it occupied Danville, and Mr. Monroe preserved the address.

DECORATION DAY ON THE PLACE.

[*Copyright—Bowen-Merrill Co., Indianapolis.*]

It's lonesome—sorto' lonesome—it's a *Sund'y-day*, to me,
It 'pears-like—more'n any day I nearly ever see!
Yit, with the Stars and Stripes above, a-flutterin'
in the air,
On ev'ry Soldier's grave I'd love to lay a lilly
thare.

They say, though, Decoration Days is ginerly observed
'Most *ev'rywhores*—espeshally by soldier-boys
that's served.—
But me and Mother's never went—we seldom git
away,—
In pint o' fact, we're *allus* home on *Decoration Day*.

They say the old boys marches through the
streets in colum's grand,
A-follerin' the old war-tunes theyr playin' on the
band—
And citizuns all jinin' in—and littie childern,
too—
All marchin', under shelter of the old Red, White
and Blue,—

With roses! roses! roses!—ev'rybody in the
town!—
And crowds o' little girls in white, jest fairly
loaded down!—
Oh! don't THE BOYS know it, from theyr camp
acrost the hill!—
Don't they see theyr com'ards comin' and the
old flag wavin' still!

Oh! can't they hear the bugul and the rattle of
the drum!—
Ain't they no way under heavens they can rick-
ollect us some!
Ain't they no way we can coax 'em, through the
roses, jest to say
They know that ev'ry day on earth's theyr Decoration Day!

We've tried that—me and Mother,—whare Elias
takes his rest,
In the orchard—in his uniform, and hands acrost
his breast,
And the flag he died fer, smilin' and a-ripplin' in
the breeze
Above his grave—and over that,—*the robin in the trees!*

And *yit* it's lonesome—lonesome!—It's a *Sund'y-day*, to *me*.
It 'pears-like—more'n any day I nearly ever
see!—
Still, with the Stars and Stripes above, a-flutterin' in the air,
On ev'ry Soldier's grave I'd love to lay a lilly
thare.

—James Whitcomb Riley.

SMALL SHOT.

The First New York claims to have captured 3,000 rebel prisoners up to 1864.

The Memphis Bulletin was the only Union paper published in the seceded States.

General Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox, April 10, 1865.

The first draft or conscription went into effect in September, 1863, and the last was in March, 1865.

The shot that killed John A. Platt was the last shot fired from the rebel works at Port Hudson.

Carl Schurz, First New York (Lincoln) Cavalry, was the first colonel of cavalry in the civil war.

The first Union troops in Middle Tennessee were raised by General A. C. Gillem, who later killed Jehn Morgan.

May 10, 1865, Jefferson Davis, of the extinct Southern Confederacy, was captured in female attire at Irwinsville, Ga.

The rebels acknowledged for the first time at the battle of Fort Donelson that the Northern troops were as good as their own.

The battle of Allatoona, Ga., Oct. 5, 1864, is said to have been, for the number of troops engaged, the most terrific of the war.

In the terrible fight at Winchester, Sept. 19, 1864, every fourth man in Grover's division, of the First Corps, was wounded or killed.

John Brown, of Kansas, who set the torch to the smoldering embers of Southern passion was hung at Charlestown, Va., Dec. 2, 1859.

James A. Garfield, who entered the service as a colonel, was made a brigadier general, the youngest of the title in the whole army.

The last silk dress owned by a confederate woman is said to have been made into a balloon and was captured by the Union soldiers in 1863.

Captain Shelton, of the Seventeenth Iowa Regiment, was the first officer to escape from Libby Prison. He was captured twice, but managed finally to escape.

The battle before Nashville, Gen. George H. Thomas commanding, was said to be the best fourt battle of the war and the victory the most complete of modern times.

The first colored officer to die in defense of the Union was Lieut. A. S. Sanborn, of the First District of Columbia Colored Regiment. He was killed by Dr. Wright, of Norfolk, Va.

General John W. Turner is said to have been the only division commander who led his men on the day of the mine explosion, otherwise known as the battle of the Crater, July 30, 1864.

At the battle of Spottsylvania, called "the Angle," it is claimed that there were more dead men found on the ground than in any other battle of modern times, covering the same number of acres.

The youngest prisoner in Andersonville is said to have been August Dippler, of Company F, One-hundred-and-fifty-fifth New York Regiment. He was captured at Cold Harbor and was called the Andersonville kid.

The first time the body of a rebel soldier was returned to his kindred and friends with the honors of war was on the 9th of January, 1863. It was the body of Col. Lowton, who was wounded and captured at Fredricksburg.

Gladstone said of the civil war: "I do not believe history records a case in which the internal dissensions of the country have produced such widespread calamity in other nations beyond the borders of the American rebellion."

"Old Glory" was flung to the breeze over Petersburg, April 3, 1865, and while the flag was floating from the highest pinnacles in the heart of rebeldom, the Northern newspapers were printing in scare heads "Richmond is ours."

March 26, 1865, broadcloth was quoted in the Augusta, Ga., papers at $2,000 a yard—confederate money—and no buyers. April 1, 1865, flour sold in Petersburg at $1,000 a barrel and sugar and bacon were quoted at corresponding prices.

The first clash of arms in the war occurred in Baltimore, April 19, 1861, when the Sixth Massachusetts had thirty of its men killed and wounded by the mob in that chivalrous city, as the troops were on their way to the defense of Washington at the Presidents call.

The States seceded in the following order: South Carolina, Dec. 20, 1860; Florida, Jan. 7, 1861; Mississippi, Jan. 9, 1861; Alabama, Jan. 11, 1861; Georgia, Jan. 19, 1861; Texas, Feb. 17, 1861; Louisana, Jan. 26, 1861; Virginia, April 17, 1861; Arkansas, May 16, 1861; Tennessee, May 6, 1861; North Carolina, May 20, 1863.

An account of an auction sale held March 29, 1865, appeared in one of the papers of Goldsboro, N. C., and some of the prices were as follows: "Harness, $3,000; negro boys, $3,600 to $3,500; negro women, $3,700 to $4,100 woman and two children, $4,500; one dozen silver spoons, $1,300; sewing machine, $1,500.

May 23, 1865, ushered in the grand review of the returning Union troops. In the two days, May 23 and 24, 150,000 veterans were reviewed by the President and his Cabinet and Generals Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Logan, Custer, Slocum, Miles, Humphreys, Meade, Hancock and dozens of others, not one of whom is alive today.

Edmund Ruffin, of South Carolina, was to the South what John Brown was to the North. The first gun fired on Fort Sumter was sent from Stevens battery, on Sullivan's island, and the shot that echoed round the world was sent on its errand by Edmund Ruffin, who had begged the privilege of aiming the first shot at the star-spangled banner.

April 19, 1865, General Joseph E. Johnston and General W. T. Sherman arranged the conditions of the surrender of the remainder of the rebel army not included in the Appomattox surrender, and on April 26 the whole of the rebel army, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, surrendered through its commander, General Johnston, and the rebellion was virtually at an end.

Everybody knows the canteen to be a vessel which the soldiers used to carry water and stronger beverages, but there are very few who know the derivation of the word. When the Duke of Marlborough's army was in Flanders they carried this vessel, which they called a "tin can." The French army adopted the vessel and, as they always do in their language, they placed the adjective before the noun, making it can-tin, pronounced can-teen; at least so the legend runs.

MEDAL THAT IS MOST VALUED

And the Only Decoration Conferred by the American Congress.

Some of the Men to Whom It Has Been Given and the Gallant Deeds Which Caused Them to Be Thus Honored.

DESPITE THE DEclared democracy of the American people, they delight in heraldry. They do not indulge in a costly "Herald's College," with its kings of arms, heralds and pursuivants, empowered to investigate pedigrees, memorialize the crown and resurrect patents of nobility, but they adopt a free-and-easy, wear-what-you please course, and proceed to decorate themselves in a manner calculated to drive a member of the College of Arms to suicide. And yet, these decorations, incongruous as they look to outsiders, mean quite as much to the wearers as the lion rampant, stag trippant, or leopard langued do to the so-called nobility.

Heraldry, in one form or another, has flourished in every age, in every country and under almost every form of government. Even our own star-spangled banner is a survival of heraldic days, when the Washingtons were counted among the landed gentry of old England. Lowes, the great British antiquarian, says of it: "It is not a little curious that the poor, worn-out rag of feudalism, as so many count it, should have expanded into the bright and ample banner that now waves from every sea." Relic of feudalism though it may be, the people of free America idolize their flag and idealize its colors, which they use on every possible occasion and in every concievable manner.

In those early days decorations were given as "patents of nobility," and were rewards for display of valor on the field of battle or some act of courage out of the common. The decoration usually carried with it a title, and the two descended from sire to eldest son, so that to-day those patents of nobility are held quite often by people far removed in both character and courage from those who were the first recipients of the honor. For this reason, if for no other, inherited decorations must be considered of small value. A second and more potent reason is that after descending through half a dozen generations of decaying nobility, until the first significance is entirely lost, these honors are hawked about in the market, and any upstart alien who can plaster the parchment with greenbacks or gold can appropriate patent, title and name! Decorations of this order no loyal American would stoop to secure. While he esteems beyond price the record of his own heroic sire, he never for a moment rests his own claim for favor upon that record with the plea that the laurel crown no longer needed by Cæsar should fall upon the head of Cæsar's son. But the decoration that comes as a reward of individual personal merit is to an American an inestimable treasure. With pardonable pride he displays it on every occasion and never tires of exploiting its acquisition. Thus it happens that Americans following afar old-world customs wear decorations and carry emblazoned banners which the flower of ancient chivalry would have been proud to possess. These banners are inscribed with names like Gettysburg, Allatoona and Antietam. There are medals that symbolize heroism unparalleled in the history of nations, and badges that bear witness of days upon the battlefield, nights under the enemy's guns, comradeship in prisons' perils and fraternal friendship under the starry banner of a blood-baptized land. These badges, and medals, and banners belong to the survivors of the war of the rebellion. The one most highly valued and least frequently seen is the medal of honor.

This medal of honor is the only decoration ever conferred by Congress. It was long argued that it was contrary to the spirit of republican institutions to wear decorations, and particularly inappropriate for Congress to take the initiative. Very few, comparatively speaking, of the foreign governments have ever conferred such honors collectively, though individual instances have been numerous, and the founding of orders for the purpose of perpetuating certain decorations not infrequent.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS.

The most ancient order of the last description now in existence is "The Thistle," or St. Andrew's, an order of Scotch knighthood, which was instituted about the year 950, in accordance with a vow and reward for the valor of soldiers who won a battle over Athelstan, of England, against great odds. It has languished and revived so often that its original signification was lost nearly two centuries ago.

Many of the early military decorations of Germany, given several hundred years ago, were for long service, war service counting double. The order common to the three Anhalt duchies is "Albert the Bear," and consists of three classes: the first wear the decoration across the right shoulder, the second from the neck, the third from the button hole, and bear different devices and inscriptions. Prussia has an order of knighthood known as the "Iron Cross," instituted by Frederick William III in 1813 as reward for distinguished service in the war then in progress. It is an iron cross, with silver mounting, and is highly prized. The "grand cross" of this order is of double the size of the first, and is presented exclusively for the gaining of a decisive battle or capture or brave defense of a fortress. Austria has the "Order of the Golden Fleece," "Order Empress Maria Theresa," "Empress Elizabeth Theresa," "The Cross of Military Merit," "The Cross of Bravery," and "The Order of the Military Medal of Honor," founded by Emperor Joseph, in gold and silver, according to the degree of merit. The gold gives 50 per cent. increase in pay, the silver one-third, and both give half pay on leaving the service. All the others give pensions. Spain has the "Order of the Golden Fleece," the badge of which may be worn from the neck or button hole, except on occasions of great ceremony, when it is worn from the neck, and the wearer must be in uniform, consisting of a long robe of deep red velvet lined with white taffetas, over which is thrown a long mantle of purple velvet, lined with white satin and richly trimmed with embroidery containing fire stones and steel, emitting flames and sparks. "The Catholic Order of Isabella", established by Ferdinand VII in 1815, conferred knighthood for loyalty and for the defense of the possessions of Spanish America. It has deteriorated, and is now conferred for all kinds of merit. Spain has also "The Order of Maria Therese", purely a military order, and conferred only for extraordinary deeds of valor in battle, without regard to birth, favor, family or length of service. All the Spanish orders carry pensions.

Italy has the "Order of the Iron Cross," in three classes, who receive pensions of 3,000, 700 and 300 lire. The uniform is gorgeous, the first class wearing long robes with trains, the second to the feet, the third to the knee, and all have large pensions. France has the "Legion of Honor," which decoration, when conferred for military service, carries a pension in each of its four classes of 3,000, 2,000, 1,000 and 500 francs. Those who undergo amputation receive 160 francs additional, and no ignoble punishment can be inflicted on the person holding membership. It was established by Napoleon in 1802, ostensibly as a recompense for military and civil service, but the prime motive seems to have been for the purpose of popularizing the idea of personal distinction and paving the way for the establishment of the empire and of more exclusive titles of nobility that were to accompany. Both order and decoration have undergone many changes since Napoleon's time, and as a reward of military merit it is not worth striving for.

The "Victoria Cross" more nearly approaches the idea of our own republican institutions than any of the others. It confers no knighthood and carries no title. It was established in 1856, and was presented in 1857 to sixty-two brave soldiers of the Crimea "for valour," as its inscription reads. It can be given to none but those who have performed, in the presence of the enemy, some signal act of courage or devotion to their country. The medal is a maltese cross, formed from cannon captured at Sebastopol. In the center is the royal crown, surmounted by the lion, and below the words "for valour." The ribbon is blue for the navy and red for the army; on the clasp are two bronches of laurel, and from it the cross hangs, supported by the initial V. The decoration is always accompanied by a pension of $50 a year, and is granted to a soldier of any rank and for a single act of valor. Each additional act of bravery entitles the wearer to a bar above the cross, with the name of the battle and an additional pension of $25. Only one man has ever been so decorated.

Tuscany has the order of "Military Merit" divided into three classes. If received by a commoner it conveys hereditary nobility, increased pay and promotion to an officer. China confers a yellow jacket, ornamented belt and peacock feathers for the head, and promotion in rank.

AUTHORIZING THE MEDAL.

After much urging, Congress, in July, 1862, passed the following resolution:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to cause 2,000 medals of honor to be prepared with suitable emblematic devices, and to direct that the same be presented, in the name of Congress, to such non-commissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and their soldier-like qualities during the present insurrection.

A modest term for the awful conflict then waging! But the President thus memorialized, moved quickly in the matter and the commission appointed for the purpose adopted a design as follows: "A five-pointed star, tipped with trefoil, each point containing a crown of laural and oak. In the middle within a circle of thirty-four stars, America, personified as Minerva, stands with her left hand resting on the fasces, while with her right, in which she holds a shield emblazoned with the American arms, she repulses Discord, represented by two snakes in each hand, the whole suspended by a trophy of two crossed cannons, balls and a sword, surmounted by the American eagle, which is united by a ribbon of thirteen stripes palewise, gules and argent and a chief azure to a clasp composed of two cornucopias and the American arms."

March 3, 1863, another act was passed to the effect that "the President cause to be struck from the dies recently prepared at the United States mint for the purpose, medals of honor additional to those authorized by the act of July 12, 1862, and present the same to such officers, non-commissioned officers and privates as have most distinguished or may hereafter most distinguish themselves in action, and the sum of $20,000 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to defray the expenses of the same." Until the passage of this act, only privates who distinguished themselves in action could be awarded this medal. A strong effort was made in 1865 to get Congress to award to commissioned officers medals of a more pretentious character. In other words, some people seemed to think that the value of the decoration would be increased if it were made of gold or silver, and that an officer's straps called for a more valuable medal than a private could hope to win. It was also desired that if at any time they performed other acts of valor that they be permitted to add them to the inscription on the reverse side of the medal, which reads: "Presented to —— by Congress for —— at ——," and the date of the deed and the presentation. The effort fell through, however, and the medal remains as it was when first designed.

The first heroic act of the war of the rebellion which called for a medal occurred April 23, 1861. At that time the Eighth United States Infantry was stationed at San Antonio, Tex. Corporal John C. Hesse, of Company A, who was clerk at regimental headquarters, is now a clerk in the War Department at Washington, and he tells his own story of how that first medal was won, when a number of his comrades were taken prisoner by Colonel Van Dorn:

A few days subsequent to the capture, upon going to the former office of the regimental headquarters, the building being then in possession and under control of the rebels, I met there Lieutenant Hartz and Sergt. Maj. Joseph K. Wilson, of the Eight Infantry. Our regimental colors being in the office, Lieutenant Hartz proposed to us to take the colors from the staffs, conceal them beneath our clothing and try to carry them off, and we did so. I took the torn colors which the regiment had carried through the Mexican war, put it around my body under my shirt and blouse, and passed out of the building, which was strongly guarded by the rebels. Fortunately the rebels did not suspect what a precious load we carried concealed with us, for if they had our lives would not have been worth much. We put the colors in one of Lieutenant Hartz's trunks and next day left San Antonio for the North. On the route we guarded the colors with our lives, always fearing lest the rebels might find out what we had taken away and come after us; but they never came, and we arrived safe with our colors on the 20th of May, 1861, in Washington city and turned them over to the regiment.

For thus saving the colors of the regiment Mr. Hesse and his comrade in heroism were awarded the medal.

The second act of individual heroism was when Ellsworth was killed. The gallant Colonel pulled down a rebel flag from the Marshall House, in Alexandria, Va., and was shot by the proprietor, Jackson. His comrade, Francis E. Brownell, immediately shot Jackson. The inscription on the medal reads: "For Shooting the Murderer of Col. Ellsworth, of the New York Fire Zouaves, at the Marshall House, Alexandria, Va., May 24, 1861."

The last recipient of the medal of honor is Lieutenant Colonel H. W. Lawton, inspector-general of the army, and the medal is engraved "For distinguished gallantry in the battle of Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 3, 1864." Nearly thirty years ago the services were performed, and the medal reached Colonel Lawton, from Secretary Lamont, June 24, 1893. A long time to wait for recognition of heroism.

OTHER MEDALS.

Since the medal of honor was made it has been awarded to something over five hundred veterans of the war of the rebellion. Although this medal is the only decoration ever bestowed by Congress, there are a great many American medals for bravery and heroism. Something like eighty-six have been struck since the foundation of the government. Of these only three commemorate episodes in the war of the rebellion. One was presented to General Grant for his splendid victories, one to Cornelius Vanderbilt for his patriotic generosity, and a third was presented to George Foster Robinson for so bravely defending Mr. Seward, Secretary of State, when he was so foully assaulted.

The first medal struck by the United States was authorized by an act of Congress, March 25, 1776, before it had declared the independence of the thirteen united colonies. It ordered that a gold medal should be struck, and presented "To his Excellency, General Washington, for his wise and spirited conduct in the siege and acquisition of Boston." Washington himself understood the value of personal decoration for gallantry or meritorious conduct, and on Aug. 7, 1782, issued the following order from his headquarters at Newburg:

Honorary badges are to be conferred on the veteran noncommissioned officers and soldiers of the army who have served more than three years with bravery, fidelity and good conduct. For this purpose a narrow piece of white cloth, with an anguiar form, is to be fixed on the left arm of the uniform coats. Noncommissioned officers and soldiers, who have served with equal reputation more than six years, are to be distinguished by two pieces of cloth set in parallel to each other in a similar form. Should any who are not entitled to these honors have the insolence to assume the badges of them, they shall be severely punished. On the other hand, it is expected that gallant men, who are thus designated, will, on all occasions, be treated with particular confidence and consideration.

The General, ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers as well as to foster and encourage every species of military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over his left breast the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with due reward. " " " Men who have merited this last distinction to be suffered to pass all guards and sentinels which officers are permit