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Stories and Sketches of the War

of the Rebellion, such as possess peculiar interest to those who were in the Army, their friends and relatives, as well as to the young generation now rapidly growing up.

THE FIRM FRIEND

of all who perilled their lives in defense of the Union, it makes the cause of the

SOLDIERS and SAILORS

of the country its own, and will advocate such matters, and those only, as are best calculated to secure to them the just consideration which is their due.

During the sessions of Congress it will carefully watch the course of legislation, keeping its readers fully posted upon all public matters, and especially such as relate to

PENSIONS, BOUNTIES,

and other similar measures.

It will advocate the enactment of more liberal

PENSION LAWS,

urge the claims of the

MEXICAN VETERANS

upon Congress, and also do everything which it honorably and by fair means can, to secure the passage of a law to

EQUALIZE BOUNTIES,

a measure of justice, regarding which there can be no dispute.

Its columns will, from time to time, contain valuable information for those having claims against the Government, as well as leading articles upon various subjects pertinent to the current of events.

Although not a political paper, in the partisan sense, yet THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will devote a portion of its space to matters of politics, but advocate no party or faction that does not fully and earnestly recognize the debt due to the men who put down the Rebellion, and to their widows and orphan children. The

NEWS DEPARTMENT

will contain a general summary of what is going on in this and other lands, and especially what is being done at the National Capital and in the various Departments of the Government.

Attention will also be given to the various organizations of ex-soldiers and sailors, and particularly to the

Grand Army of the Republic throughout the United States.

In fact, it is the intention to make THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE such a complete journal of instruction, information, and amusement, that no ex-soldier or sailor, no claimant for pension or bounty, no person interested in whatever pertains to the late war, no loyal man, woman, or child can afford to do without it.

As a means for enabling others to judge of its merits, a sample copy of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will be sent free to any address, upon request.

Office of Publication, 615 Fifteenth Street, Washington, D. C.

UNPAID MONEY-ORDERS.

The postal money-order system was established seventeen years ago by an act of Congress, and its devisers claimed that it was the cheapest, safest, and speediest method of transmitting money ever invented. However, the weak point in the system is illustrated by the large amount of money deposited in the post-offices all over the Union, and through one blunder and another never paid to the persons who ought to have received it.

"As early as 1872," said Assistant Superintendent Joseph Elliott, jr., in the post-office building, "this accumulation began to be large. It was half a million of dollars then, and by direction of the superintendent of the system an account was opened in our books with the Assistant United States Treasurer in the sub-treasury building, under the heading, 'Postmaster-General's Money Order Account.' Every week since then the excess over \$65,000, which we keep to transact business with, has been deposited in the sub-treasury. This accumulation of nearly two million dollars is largely due to the miscarriage of senders' orders, or to their loss by the sender, or by the payee. Many of the lost or miscarried orders might have been paid if the payee or the remitter had applied to his postmaster for a duplicate order.

"What power controls the fund?" "Congress, of course, because Congress created the money-order system. A bill would have to be introduced in the House to dispose of the fund. The entire surplus would not be disposed of, as some of the missing money-orders may yet be presented. We sometimes pay them when they are five or six years old. The payees have stowed them away in a safe or pigeon-hole, forgotten them, and then stumbled across them accidentally. It is safe to say that a million dollars of the present accumulation will never be reclaimed."

"How are errors made by which so vast a sum remains on the Government's hands?" "Well, a remitter may, by a slip of the pen draw up an order on the wrong city, and when the payee in a city in the far West gets an order to be paid in Boston he is astonished. The correction takes time, and sometimes it is never brought about. Then, too, a merchant having the same amount of money to send to two payees may accidentally put the orders in the wrong letters. Again, the sender may put one set of initials of the payee's name in the letter of advice to be sent by the postmaster, while he changes the initials in the other order sent."

"Is any one set of people more apt than another to lose money in this way?" "Yes; the theatrical people who travel are very much given to sending back a part of their salary to New York, and payable to their own order. Their life is hard, and their hardships sometimes cause sickness and death. If there are no assigns of the dead actor to call for it, then the money goes to the Government fund. The custom of the actors who return is to draw out their money in a lump, and put it into Government bonds."

"What is the amount of money handled last year in this system?" "For the year ending June 30, \$53,698,706.23, embracing 1,400,428 transactions in this city alone. The year's revenue was \$295,581.39."—New York Sun.

LAMENT OF THE STATESMAN.

We should think after a man had been Secretary of the Treasury for three or four years, and had occasionally "dumped fifty millions of dollars" into Wall street to relieve the money market, and had called in twenty millions sixes at one time, and bought two millions of bonds every week, and disbursed eleven millions one week and eighteen millions the next, we should think it would hurt him awfully to go back into his law office when the administration changed and make out an abstract of a farm away out in Bucksaw county and sell it for an old woman down in Kickapoo township to an old fellow out in Waukindaw settlement, and only get a fee of \$32, and have to wait four months for that, and then have to take a sorrel colt for it.—Attributed to ex-Secretary Windom.

ABSURDITIES OF SCIENCE.

Scientists have discovered worms in fishes, and are bothering their brains to know how they came there. Very simple. We have fed something less than a million worms to fishes ourselves. All that is necessary is to put a worm on a hook, drop it into the water, and the fishes will eat it off as clean as a whistle. Worms in fishes! It is a wonder they aren't swimming bait boxes.—New Haven Register.

TURNING THE TABLES.

King Charles II once said to John Milton, "Do you not think that your blindness is a judgment upon you for having written in defense of my father's murder?" "Sir," answered the poet, "it is true I have lost my eyes, but if all calamitous providences are to be considered as judgments, your Majesty must recollect that your royal father lost his head!"

It don't show good judgment to be surprised at anything in this world, for there is nothing more certain than uncertainty.

THE OYSTER.

The oyster is a fortunate creature, if it be fortunate to be much mentioned in history. People who have swallowed an enormous number of oysters figure in anecdote, and are considered to have done something meritorious. The Roman who first formed oyster beds, which he did at Baia, is known to have been named Sergius Orata, who had the happiness to live in the time of Augustus, and who is known to have made a great deal of money by the exercise of his ingenuity. To-day is mentioned in the encyclopedias that Apicius, a contemporary of Trajan, was the first who taught the world how to pickle oysters. His fame rests upon that fact. There was another Apicius distinguished for his love of lobsters; there was another who set up a school of cooks; but the oyster-pickling Apicius has a distinct fame, and survives freshly in classical dictionaries. When George I came to England from Hanover, the royal cooks could not please the royal palate in the matter of oysters until it was discovered that his majesty liked them stale, as he had always been in the habit of eating them. When Mr. Thackeray came first to Boston, certain of his admirers asked him to supper. There were among other delicacies, gigantic oysters. The novelist could not comprehend that he was to swallow one of these in an undivided state, but being shown the way, and having accomplished the feat, he observed that he felt "as if he had swallowed a baby."

TO PRESERVE ORDER.

Last month there were stationed in England and the Channel Islands eleven regiments of cavalry, forty-one battalions of infantry, eleven batteries of royal horse artillery, sixty-eight batteries of field and garrison artillery, and twenty-two companies of royal engineers. In Scotland the total establishment is represented by only one regiment of cavalry, two battalions of infantry, as many batteries of artillery, and a company of royal engineers; while it is still deemed necessary to maintain in Ireland six regiments of cavalry, twenty-five battalions of infantry, three batteries of royal horse artillery, eight batteries of field and garrison artillery, and three companies of royal engineers, or about 30,000 men.

The sword of R. M. Waterman, of Lodi, Ind., captain of company D, Thirty-first Indiana Vols., was recently found on the battle-field of Stone River, Tennessee. It had laid on the field nineteen years.

A SMALL MATTER.

A man from the country stepped into a gun shop on Austin avenue to purchase a gun. A muzzle-loading gun was shown him, but he said he preferred a breech-loader. "On account of its being easier and quicker to load?" "No, it's not that. I had an old musket. I loaded it at the muzzle, but it went off at the breech and nearly blew my head off. Instead of a gun that loads at the muzzle and fires off at the breach, I want one that I can load at the breech and fire off at the other end."—Texas Siftings.

ANOTHER WONDER.

Wonders will never cease. By aid of the dioscope, an ingenious instrument brought for the first time to public notice during the Parisian Electrical Congress, patrons of the drama who are reluctant to leave their comfortable firesides and temporarily revolutionize all their domestic arrangements in order to attend theatrical performances in loco, will henceforth be enabled to see as well as hear their favorite operatic and histrionic artists without stirring a yard from home. The apparatus consists of a small "objective" lens, fixed up in a position commanding the stage of no matter what theatre, and connected with an electric wire with a diminutive white glass plate, which may be framed and set in the panel of a private drawing-room, however distant from the playhouse in question. Total darkness having been obtained in the room furnished with a dioscope, a perfect picture of the stage, its scenery, actors, &c., faithful in color, and absolutely reproducing the whole performance, will become visible upon the surface of the glass plate. Supplemented by a telephone communicating with the theatre the dioscope will therefore enable its owner to spend his evening at the opera in dressing-gown and slippers, if such be his ideal of comfort, seated in an easy-chair, within hail of his "lait de poule et bonne de nuit." To those, and their name is legion, who detest premature dinner, hurried dressing, and a couple of hours' cabbage "there and back," as the hitherto inevitable concomitants of a visit to the play, the condition of things rendered feasible by the invention of the dioscope will present itself as a truly blissful addition to the pleasure resources.—London Daily Telegraph

WANTED TO BE TRANSFERRED.

Everybody has heard the story of the Yuma soldier and his blankets. Here is another—and fresher: Last week an employe of the Santa Fe railroad was brought in from some point in California and stationed here. After about three days' experience he wrote to headquarters begging to be transferred again. He wrote: "I expect to go 'below' any way, but I want to go as a green hand, and object to be broken in here."—Yuma Free Press.

JOSH BILLING'S "RAMRODS."

He who duz a good thing sekretly steals a march on Heaven.

When we are more anxious tew please than tew be pleased, then we are in love in good earnest.

Hunting after health iz like hunting after fleas—the more you hunt them, the more they flea.

If virtü did not so often manage to make herself repulsive, vice would not be half so attractive.

Love iz like the measles; we kant have it but wunst, and the later we have it the tuffler it goes with us.

I think the heft of people take az much cumfert in bragging ov their misfortunes az they do ov their good luck.

If men are honest they will tell yu that their suksess in life iz more ov a wonder tew them than it iz to yu.

The man who kant find enny virtü in the human heart, haz probably given us a faithful synopsis ov his own.

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If you are advised that your invention is patentable, send \$20, to pay Government application fee of \$15, and \$5 for the drawings required by the Government. This amount is payable when the application is made. This is all of the expense, unless a patent is allowed. When allowed the attorney's fee (\$25) and the final Government fee (\$20) is payable.

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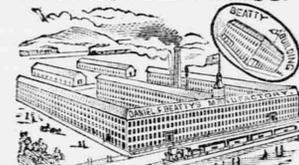
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Answers to Correspondents.

We are obliged to answer certain inquiries of the same nature in each issue of our paper. While we cheerfully furnish information to subscribers in this column, we suggest that much labor, time, and expense may be saved both to ourselves and to our correspondents, if the latter and other subscribers would keep a file of the paper. They could then, at any time, turn to the file and probably find the very inquiry answered about which they would have written to us. We trust that each and every subscriber will profit by this suggestion.

J. R. R. FLETCHER.—Claim agents are not entitled to a percentage upon the amount of pension obtained in any case. The legal fee, in claims filed since June 19, 1878, is ten dollars and no more. Prior to that date, under agreement in writing filed with the Commissioner of Pensions, as high as twenty-five dollars might be charged. Any agent who charges more than the legal fee is subject to prosecution by the United States.

JOSEPH MCN., SEYMOUR, IND.—In reply to your inquiries see THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE of October 15, page 4, article regarding bounties.

P. G. H. NO. CRAFTSBURG, VT.—Pension money merged in real estate, or with other funds, or invested in property, loses its exclusive character and becomes liable to attachment, the same as other property or funds.

A SOLDIER, MALAGA, N. J.—Mail contracts, including the one to which you refer, are let to the lowest responsible bidder. There is no remedy.

S. H. P., NORWICH, CONN.—The law allows a limb or commutation every five years, commencing with the year of filing the first application. Apply to the Surgeon-General of the Army, this city.

A. B. ROCHESTER, N. Y.—I served three years in the army. Q. Must I settle and improve a homestead for two years before a patent for the same can issue to me? A. You must settle and improve for two years before the patent can issue. If you had served five years, you would still have to settle and improve one year before you could obtain a patent for the land.

IKE, HILLSBORO, ILL.—Under a recent ruling of the Secretary of the Interior we should advise the widow to apply. Your letter has been referred to a competent and reliable attorney, who will write you in regard to the matter.

H. S. S., McCLURE, PA.—It is impossible to give you the desired information. Claims are taken up for adjudication when the evidence is completed, and the Pension Office is now endeavoring to dispose of the oldest cases on file.

J. H. S., CRETE, NEB.—For answer to your inquiries see above.

The present post-office addresses of the following named persons are desired by subscribers to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. Any one able to give information touching their whereabouts will confer a favor by corresponding with us.

- 1. Captain S. Beaulieu, or any officer or enlisted man of company H, Fourth U. S. Veteran vols., Hancock's Corps.
2. Jesse T. Cox, assistant-surgeon of the Eighty-ninth Indiana vols.
3. Dr. Charles S. Keene, Lieutenant Lyman Kellogg, W. A. Winder, company F, Third U. S. Artillery in 1860; or of First Sergeant William Harper, Hospital Steward Jeremiah Thelan, William Rutherford, Thomas Miller, or Henry Wilson, same company.
4. Captain John Hardy, late of Detroit, Michigan, James O. Condry, of Elmira, N. Y., and John P. Lane, late of Adrian, Mich., formerly of company D, Second Michigan Veteran vols., or any other officer or enlisted man of said company.
D. T. S., HOT SPRINGS, ARK.—The Homestead Laws entitle you to 160 acres of land. You can get a pamphlet free of charge, giving full particulars, by addressing Commissioner General Land Office, Washington, D. C.
S. T. J., NEW YORK.—If a claim is rejected the applicant is notified of the fact and cause of rejection. If it is clearly proved by competent evidence that the disability was contracted in service and line of duty the claim ought not and will not be rejected.

P. H. C., SHEFFIELD, ILL.—If disease was contracted during first enlistment and it is so proved, the second enlistment is not a bar to pension, except during the period you were actually in the service. Orders for examination cannot be taken as an evidence that no more proof is required. See next week's NATIONAL TRIBUNE as to ratings. \*Remaining answers next week.

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TERMS.

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