FATE OF A MONSTER.

Arrest, Trial, and Execution of Commandant Wirz, of Andersonville.

The story of the arrest, trial and execution of Commandant Wirz, the monster of Andersonville, is a striking illustration of the truth of the old adage that "justice travels with a leaden heel, but strikes with an iron hand." The man who gloried in his power to torture his fellow-men, and took a fiendish delight in their sufferings, was destined to feel the pangs of captivity himself and expiate his crime upon the gallows.

The circumstances of his arrest were as follows: The military convention between Sherman and Johnston having been signed April 26, 1865, and the rebellion being virtually at an end, Wirz, who was still in command at Andersonville, became solicitous for his personal safety, and addressed the following letter to Major-General Wilson, which was delivered to him at his headquarters at Macon by a Union officer, who had been detailed to visit the stockade:

ANDERSONVILLE, GA., May 7, 1865.

GENERAL: It is with great reluctance that I address you these lines, being fully aware how little time is left you to attend to such matters as I now have the honor to lay before you, and if I could see any other way to accomplish my object I would not intrude upon you. I am a native of Switzerland, and was before the war a citizen of Louisiana, and by profession a physician. Like hundreds and thousands of others, I was carried away by the maelstrom of excitement and joined the southern army. I was very seriously wounded at the battle of "Seven Pines," near Richmond, Va., and have nearly lost the use of my right arm. Unfit for field duty, I was ordered to report to Brevet Major-General John H. Winder, in charge of Federal prisoners of war, who ordered me to take charge of a prison in Tuscaloosa, Ala. My health failing me, I applied for a furlough and went to Europe, from whence I returned in February, 1863. I was then ordered to report to the commandant of the military prison at Andersonville, Ga., who assigned me to the command of the interior of the prison. The duties I had to perform were arduous and unpleasant, and I am satisfied that no man can or will justly blame me for things that happened here, and which were beyond my power to control. I do not think that I ought to be held responsible for the shortness of rations, for the overcrowded state of the prison, (which was of itself a prolific source of fearful mortality,) for the inadequate supplies of clothing, want of shelter, &c., &c. Still I now bear the odium, and men who were prisoners have seemed disposed to wreak their vengeance upon me for what they have suffered—I, who was only the medium, or, I may better say, the tool in the hands of my superiors. This is my condition. I am a man with a family. I lost all my property when the Federal army besieged Vicksburg. I have no money at present to go to any place, and, even if I had, I know of no place where I can go. My life is in danger, and I most respectfully ask of you help and relief. If you will be so generous as to give me some sort of a safe-conduct, or, what I should greatly prefer, a guard to protect myself and family against violence, I should be thankful to you; and you may rest assured that your protection will not be given to one who is unworthy of it. My intention is to return with my family to Europe as soon as I can make the arrangements. In the meantime I have the honor, General, to remain,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
HY. WIRZ,
Captain C. S. A.

Major-General J. H. WILSON, U. S. A.,
Commanding, Macon, Ga.

THE STORY OF THE ARREST.

To this letter General Wilson made no reply; for, having learned from Captain Henry C. Noyes—who had passed through Andersonville about the first of May while on his way to notify the Union forces at Eufaula, Ala., that the military convention had been repudiated at Washington—that Wirz was requiring the prisoners to sign paroles prior to setting them at liberty, ordered the captain to arrest him and bring him to Macon. In pursuance of this order Captain Noyes proceeded the next day (about the 6th of May) to Andersonville with a party of men to effect the arrest. We give the story of what followed as he related it subsequently when summoned as a witness before the military commission which tried the prisoner:

The immediate circumstances of Captain Wirz's arrest were these: I went to his house and saw him there; the family were about him, that is, his wife and two daughters. It is a very hard thing to take a man from his family, and particularly so in that case, as Mrs. Wirz and one of the daughters at least were crying and having considerable trouble. To pacify them, and to do the thing as quietly as I could, I told Mrs. Wirz, and also told the captain, that they need not distress themselves at all; that on his arrival at Macon, if General Wilson was satisfied that he had done no more than his duty, and had simply acted in accordance with his orders, he would probably be released. That was the sum and substance of the conversation. General Wilson did not direct me to make any promise to the prisoner, or to give him any safe-conduct, and I do not consider that I did.

He was conveyed to Macon under guard, and remained there under guard; he was not on parole at all. I have no doubt that my conversation might have been construed, by those who were very anxious that it should be so, into a promise that he would be returned; but I had no doubt in my mind that General Wilson would hold him as a prisoner. I intended to convey him no promise of safe return, but merely intended to pacify his family and himself; he was very much excited. These are all the circumstances which I remember, particularly connected with the arrest.

He remained under our headquarter guard until about the 20th of May, when I was ordered to convey him to Washington, with all the Andersonville records, including the hospital records, which General Wilson had sent an officer for, and the flags which General Wilson had captured in his campaign through Alabama and Georgia. I had trouble all the way till we came north of the Ohio river, on account of our men who had been at Andersonville recognizing the prisoner. I have read in the newspapers that I endangered my life to protect him. There is a misconception on that point, but I do not think the prisoner could have got here alive if there had not been an officer in charge of the party. At Chattanooga, where I was stopping temporarily, I sent him to the post prison to be taken care of, as I knew that outside of that he would collect a great crowd. He had on good, fair-looking Confederate clothes and a hat, and was pretty decently dressed generally. When I saw him again I hardly knew him; all his clothes were stripped off him; he had only a part of his hat, no coat, a very dirty shirt, a portion of a pair of pants pretty badly torn, and shoes. Whenever I got him where there were any of our soldiers I had to hurry him off and get him under a strong guard in order to save him. I had trouble in getting him on board the boat at Nashville. I think that but for the guard I had, and my personal presence, they would have taken hold of him there, and if they had got hold of him I do not suppose he would ever have reached Washington. He was afterwards disguised.

At Louisville he still had his extremely dilapidated appearance, which, if there was nothing else, would have attracted attention. He said that he had some friends there. Between those friends and myself we succeeded in getting a complete suit of black and a beaver hat. He had also his face shaved clean, which entirely altered his appearance, so much so that we were not troubled at all after that. I do not think he was recognized after that, although a good many soldiers must have seen him, particularly at Cincinnati.

ARRAIGNED FOR TRIAL.

On his arrival in Washington, Wirz was confined in the Old Capitol prison, and on the 23d of August following, a military commission was convened for his trial. The detail was as follows:

Major-General L. Wallace, U. S. vols.
Brevet Major-General G. Mott, U. S. vols.
Brevet Major-General J. W. Geary, U. S. vols.
Brevet Major-General L. Thomas, Adj't-General U. S. Army.
Brigadier-General Frances Fessenden, U. S. vols.
Brigadier-General E. S. Bragg, U. S. vols.
Brevet Brigadier-General John F. Ballier, colonel Ninety-eighth Pa. vols.
Brevet Colonel T. Allcock, lieutenant-colonel Fourth New York art'y.
Lieutenant-colonel J. H. Stibbs, Twelfth Iowa vols.
Colonel N. P. Chipman, additional aid-de-camp, judge advocate of the commission, with such assistants as he may select, with the approval of the Judge Advocate General.

The commission will sit without regard to hours.
By order of the President of the United States:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

The prisoner was arraigned on two charges, to wit:

Charge 1. Maliciously, willfully, and traitorously, and in aid of the then existing armed rebellion against the United States of America, on or about the 1st day of March, A. D. 1864, and on divers other days between that day and the 10th day of April, 1865, combining, confederating, and conspiring together with John H. Winder, Richard B. Winder, Joseph White, W. S. Winder, R. R. Stevenson, and others unknown, to injure the health and destroy the lives of soldiers in the military service of the United States, then held and being prisoners of war within the lines of the so-called Confederate States and in the military prisons thereof, to the end that the armies of the United States might be weakened and impaired; in violation of the laws and customs of war.

Charge 2.—Murder, in violation of the laws and customs of war.

After the reading of the charges the prisoner's counsel, Messrs. Hughes and Peck, withdrew from the case, and an adjournment was ordered until the following day, when their places were supplied by Messrs. Louis Schade and O. L. Baker, and the trial proceeded.

THE PRISONER'S PLEA.

Upon being arraigned, the prisoner's counsel submitted the following pleas: 1st. That he ought not to be held or tried, for any cause, by the Government of the United States, because, according to the terms of the surrender of the rebel General Johnston, under whose command he was serving at the time, it was agreed that all officers and men should be permitted to return to their homes, not to be disturbed by the United States authorities so long as they observed their obligations and the laws in force where they resided. 2d. That he should not be held to trial, or in custody, because, at the time of his arrest he was in the enjoyment of his liberty, and was promised by Captain Noyes, of Major-General Wilson's staff, that he should not be held as a prisoner, but that after giving such verbal information to General Wilson as he was able, he should have a safe-conduct to his home, which promise was violated. 3d. That the commission had no jurisdiction to try him for the offences charged; also, that he had been on the 21st of August arraigned and put on trial before the same tribunal on the same charges, and could not be tried or "put to answer" a second time therefor. Also, that the charges and specifications were too vague and indefinite, and did not make out an offence punishable by the laws of war.

All these pleas were discussed at length on both sides, and were, after deliberation, properly overruled by the commission.

A plea of "not guilty" to both charges and specifications thereto was then made by the prisoner.

The investigation of the matters alleged against the prisoner then commenced, and continued until the 21st day of October, during which time 148 witnesses for the prosecution and defence were examined, and a large amount of documentary evidence found in the official papers captured at Andersonville, and among the rebel archives at Richmond, was introduced.

One of the counsel for the defence then asked for an adjournment of two weeks at least to enable him to prepare an argument.

The commission first decided to adjourn ten days, and upon his further petition, twelve days, for this purpose. He, however, declared that it was insufficient time, and thereupon announced that he would submit the case without remark. After an adjournment of four days, an elaborate statement of the prisoner was submitted, which was prepared by him, with the aid of an able assistant, (the chief reporter of the trial,) which goes over the whole case in explanation of certain acts averred, and in denial of the proof or truth of all the others.

The closing address of the judge advocate immediately followed; and thereafter the court, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, found the prisoner guilty of both charges, after slight amendments of the specifications, and sentenced him to be hanged at such time and place as the President might direct.

A REVIEW OF THE TRIAL.

In his report to the War Department, dated October 31, Judge Advocate General Holt says:

Language fails in an attempt to denounce, even in faint terms, the diabolical combination for the destruction and death, by cruel and fiendishly ingenious processes, of helpless prisoners of war who might fall into their hands, which this record shows was plotted and deliberately entered upon, and, as far as time permitted, accomplished by the rebel authorities and their brutal underlings at Andersonville prison. Criminal history presents no parallel to this monstrous conspiracy, and from the whole catalogue of infamous devices within reach of human hands, a system for the murder of men more revolting in its details could not have been planned. Upon the heads of those named by the court in its findings the guilt of this immeasurable crime is fixed, a guilt so fearfully black and horrible that the civilized world must be appalled by the spectacle.

He then proceeds to review the evidence supporting the second charge—willful murder—and says:

The testimony supporting the first specification is that of Felix de la Baume, a Union soldier, who states that on or about the 8th of July, 1864, he was one of a detachment of prisoners taken to Wirz's headquarters, to be enrolled, before being sent into prison; that one of his comrades was attacked with epilepsy, and some of his companions, by permission of the guard, ran to the creek for water; that he, the witness, heard a shot fired, and, on turning, saw Wirz fire two more, wounding two prisoners, one of whom the witness never saw nor heard of afterwards; and the other of whom he saw carried up to Wirz's headquarters, in a dying condition, the wound being in the breast.

There is also the testimony of George Conway, who states that on or about the 11th of July, 1864, he saw Wirz shoot a Union prisoner within the stockade as he was stooping to pick up his cup, which had fallen under the dead-line, and that the man died almost instantly.

Which of these two cases (either being, it is conceived, sufficient to sustain the allegation) the court relied on, does not, of course, appear.

In support of the second specification, Martin E. Hogan testifies that sometime in September, when the prisoners were being removed from Andersonville to Millen, he saw Wirz take a prisoner, who was worn out with hunger and disease, by the coat-collar, and, because he could not walk faster, wrench him back and stamp upon him with his boots; that the man was borne past him (witness) bleeding from his mouth and nose, and died in a short time.

The third specification is supported by the testimony of George W. Gray, who states that about the middle of September, 1864, he and a comrade named William Stewart, a private belonging to a Minnesota regiment, went out of the stockade, in charge of a guard, to carry a dead body, and that after laying it in the dead-house they were on their way back to the stockade, when Wirz rode up to them and asked, "by what authority they were out there;" that Stewart replied "they were out there by proper authority;" whereupon Wirz drew his revolver and shot Stewart, the ball taking effect in his breast and killing him instantly; and that the guard then took from his body some twenty or thirty dollars, which Wirz received and rode away.

Further evidence in regard to Wirz killing certain prisoners was presented, but the dates given by the witnesses show the murders to have been other than those alleged in the specifications. They will be referred to as illustrating the character of the prisoner, and establishing a frequency and repitition of like crimes.

James H. Davidson testified that in April, as he remembered, Wirz came into the stockade one day, and a lame man went up to him and asked him a question, whereupon Wirz "*turned round*" *and shot him*, and he died.

Thomas C. Alcoke states that one day (the witness seems to have no knowledge or recollection of dates) Wirz came into the stockade, and a man asked of him permission to go out and get some fresh air; that Wirz asked him what he meant, and that after a few more words had passed between them Wirz "*wheeled around*," pulled out a revolver *and shot him down*, the ball taking effect in his breast, and death occurring about three hours afterwards. It also appears by this witness, that when he remonstrated, Wirz told him he had "better look out, or he would be put in the same place," and that soon after Wirz came in with a guard and put him in irons.

Hugh R. Snee testified that some time in September, 1864, a party of Union prisoners were to be exchanged under an arrangement between General Sherman and the rebel Hood; that they were taken from the stockade after dark, as the heat in the day was so great that the men would have fainted; that none but able-bodied men were selected, it being stated when they were called out that any one who could not walk eighteen miles a day would be shot; that notwithstanding this, the men were so anxious to escape imprisonment that some too weak to perform the day's travel came out. The witness states that three, who belonged to some western regiments, were able to go but a short distance before they fainted and fell out of the ranks, and were pushed one side by the guard; that thereupon a man ran back, and speaking in a voice he *thought at the time to be that of Captain Wirz*, wanted to know why they were there; that they replied they wished to get out of prison; whereupon this man said, "I'll help you out, God damn you." Witness then heard six pistol shots, followed by a cry as if some one was hurt, "and immediately after a rebel lieutenant came past, remarking that it was a brutal act;" "that one of them was dead," and when asked "who did it," replied, "the *captain*."

THE DEFENCE.

The most prominent features of the defence under this second charge will now be considered:

An attempt was made to prove that during the whole of August and parts of July and September the prisoner was sick and confined to his bed, and could not have committed the crimes charged to him in those months. In his statement to the court, however, he made no reference to his absence—doubtless for the reason that the testimony was of too general and loose a character to set up as contradictory to the explicit statements of numerous witnesses as to the dates when the crimes recorded in the finding were committed, corroborated, as those statements were, by official papers, bearing his signature, showing that at different times during those months he was in the performance of his ordinary functions as commandant of the prison.

It was claimed that deaths resulting from the use of dogs, in the capture of escaped prisoners, were not crimes fastened upon Wirz, he not being present at the pursuit and therefore not responsible. But it appears to have been the fact that this use of dogs was under Wirz's special direction; that the pursuit of prisoners was in many instances initiated under his immediate orders, and in some cases captures were made under his personal supervision. It was also clearly proved that a part of each pack were ferocious dogs, dangerous to life, so as to make it probable that the men on whose track they were sent would be killed. A man overtaken by these beasts, and desiring to surrender, could not, by coming to a stand, save his life; the instinct of the dogs was for human blood, and to surrender to them was death. A most shocking illustration will be given. Two soldiers had escaped, but were overtaken; the party who captured them returned with but one, (who was so mangled that he died,) and the chief of the party, known as Turner, exulted in accounting for the other, stating that they allowed the dogs to tear him in pieces, and left him in the woods.

As applying to the question of criminal responsibility involved in this class of homicides, the judge advocate referred the court to the well-settled principle of law, that it is not essential that the hand of the party should be the immediate occasion of the death, but that if it be shown that means were used likely to occasion death, and which did so occasion it, the party using such means is to be held responsible for the consequences.

There is but one of this class of homicides which enters into the findings of "guilty" under this charge. A discussion of the legal points involved is conceived to be needless, inasmuch as the charge is sustained by a conviction on nine other distinct allegations of murder.

UNLAWFUL PUNISHMENTS.

As to the deaths resulting from the use of stocks and chain-gangs, the defence urged that the men were placed therein for the purposes of discipline; that they were commonly used for such purposes, and that their use at this place was attributed to those higher in authority than Wirz, to whose orders he was subject. Upon this point it is to be observed that prisoners were put in these instruments of torture as punishment for having escaped, or having made attempts to escape from their captors, which attempts, whether successful or not, it was their right and duty as prisoners of war to make. Any punishment inflicted upon them, therefore, by their captors, was a violation of the laws of war, and deaths resulting from such unlawful punishment are murders. This would be the judgment of the law apart from some of the peculiar circumstances which surround these crimes, and which so decidedly indicate their true character, prominent among which is the often-declared animus of the prisoner, showing conclusively that in these and kindred barbarities he was deliberately seeking to sacrifice the lives of his victims. It was shown that these stocks and chain-gangs were under Wirz's immediate and direct control; that he exercised full authority in committing prisoners to both. While it may be and probably is the fact that his action in this matter was sanctioned by the rebel Winder when he was on duty at that place, it does not relieve the prisoner of responsibility for the result.

Relating to the three homicides embraced in the third class, the prisoner makes no special defence, except as to the killing of the man known as Chickamauga. He urges, in his final statement, that his order to the guard to shoot this man was only intended as a menace. It is clear, however, from the testimony, that his order in this case, as in the others, was peremptory, and, according to his own version, it was not a command that could be construed by any subordinate as merely a menace; moreover, it was distinctly proved to have been accompanied by a threat that he would shoot the guard if the guard did not shoot this crippled soldier. He states further, and it is so found by the record, that this poor man desired to be killed, it would seem, because he was suspected by his comrades of having given information to the prison-keepers of some attempts of prisoners to escape from the stockade. This fact, however, in no degree palliates his murderous guilt.

Of the homicides embraced in the fourth class (those committed directly by his own hands) the prisoner's statement notices but one, that of Stewart, sworn to by the witness Gray. It is asserted that the testimony of this witness is a pure fabrication. There is nothing found in the examination of the record which casts a doubt on his veracity, and the court seem to have discovered nothing in his manner on the stand to raise the question of his credibility.

As to all those cases not heretofore specially mentioned, the defence insists that the allegations were too vague and indefinite, and that the testimony is insufficient to sustain them, and also that it is altogether improbable that such murders could have been committed without coming to the knowledge of various witnesses, who stated that they had never heard of such crimes at Andersonville. No evidence being submitted which contradicts the concurrent and explicit statements of the witnesses who gave positive testimony of their perpetration, these murders are fastened to Wirz's hands.

Many points were raised by both sides relating to the admission of evidence as the trial progressed. These were fully debated at the time. No discussion of them here is deemed necessary, it not being found that competent proof material to the prisoner's defence on the specific offences of which the court pronounced him guilty was excluded.

Much latitude seems to have been given him. He was allowed to show special acts of kindness to prisoners, and to introduce declarations made by himself in explanation of his acts. Letters and official reports, and oral testimony of his personal efforts, offered as indicating his interest in, and a care for, the comfort of the prisoners, were also admitted. It is shown that every witness asked for by the defence was subpœnaed, except certain rebel functionaries, who, for reasons stated at the time, did not appear on the stand. But the judge advocate proposed that if the counsel for the defence would set forth, according to the common rule by affidavit, *what* he expected and *had reason to believe* any witness who did not so appear *would* testify, it would be admitted of record that such witness would so testify. This proposition was not accepted. One hundred and six witnesses were subpœnaed for the defence, of whom sixty-eight reported; but thirty-nine of these, many of them soldiers of our army, and sufferers at Andersonville, were discharged by the prisoner's counsel without being put upon the stand.

A review of the proceedings leads to the opinion that no prejudice to the legal rights of the prisoner can be successfully claimed to have resulted from any decision which excluded testimony he desired to introduce. The trial is believed to have been conducted in accordance with the regulations governing military courts, and the record presents no error which can be held to invalidate the proceedings.

THE HORRORS OF ANDERSONVILLE LAID BARE.

The annals of our race present nowhere and at no time a darker field of crime than that of Andersonville, and it is fortunate for the interests alike of public justice and of historic truth, that from this field the veil has been so faithfully and so completely lifted. All the horrors of this pandemonium of the rebellion are laid bare to us in the broad, steady light of the testimony of some 150 witnesses, who spoke what they had seen and heard and suffered, and whose evidence, given under oath and subjected to cross-examination, and to every other test which human experience has devised for the ascertainment of truth, must be accepted as affording an immovable foundation for the sentence pronounced.

The proof under the second charge shows that some of our soldiers, for mere attempts to escape from their oppressers, were given to ferocious dogs to be torn in pieces; that others were confined in stocks and chains till life yielded to the torture, and that others were wantonly shot down at Wirz's bidding or by his own hand. Here in the presence of these pitiless murders of unarmed and helpless men, so distinctly alleged and proved, justice might well claim the prisoner's life. There remain, however, to be contemplated crimes yet more revolting, for which he and his co-conspirators must be held responsible. The Andersonville prison records (made exhibits in this case) contain a roster of over thirteen thousand (13,000) dead, buried naked, maimed, and putrid, in one vast sepulchre. Of these, a surgeon of the rebel army who was on duty at this prison, testifies that at least three-fourths died of the treatment inflicted on them while in confinement; and a surgeon of our own army, who was a prisoner there, states that four-fifths died from this cause. Under this proof, which has not been assailed, nearly 10,000, if not more, of these deaths must be charged directly to the account of Wirz and his associates. This widespread sacrifice of life was not made suddenly or under the influence of wild, ungovernable passion, but was accomplished slowly and deliberately, by packing upwards of 30,000 men, like cattle, in a fetid pen—a mere cesspool, there to die for need of air to breathe, for want of ground on which to lie, from lack of shelter from sun and rain, and from the slow, agonizing processes of starvation; when air and space and shelter and food were all within the ready gift of their tormentors. This work of death seems to have have been a saturnalia of enjoyment for the prisoner, who amid these savage orgies evidenced such exultation and mingled with them such nameless blasphemy and ribald jests, as at times to exhibit him rather as a demon than a man. It was his continual boast that by these barbarities he was destroying more Union soldiers than rebel generals were butchering on the battle-field. He claimed to be doing the work of the rebellion, and faithfully, in all his murderous cruelty and baseness, did he represent its spirit. It is by looking upon the cemeteries which have been filled from Libby, Belle Isle, Salisbury, Florence, and Andersonville, and other rebel prisons, and recalling the prolonged sufferings of the patriots who are sleeping there, that we can best understand the inner and real life of the rebellion, and the hellish criminality and brutality of the traitors who maintained it. For such crimes human power is absolutely impotent to enforce any adequate atonement.

It may be added, in conclusion, that the court before which the prisoner was tried was composed of officers high in rank, and eminent for their faithful services and probity of character, and that several of them were distinguished for their legal attainments. The investigation of the case was conducted throughout with patience and impartiality, and the conclusion reached is one from which the overwhelming volume of testimony left no escape.

It is recommended that the sentence be executed.

J. HOLT,
Judge Advocate General.

THE EXECUTION.

The proceedings, findings and sentence of the court were approved by President Johnson on the 3d of November, 1865, and Major-General Augur, commanding the Department at Washington, was directed to execute the sentence one week later, November 10th.

Wirz spent the interval in writing letters and receiving the ministrations of his religious advisers. At ten minutes past ten on the morning of the day set for his execution he was brought forth to the gallows. Major Russell, provost marshal, walked in front, followed by Wirz, between Rev. Fathers Boyle and Wiget; then came Captain G.W.Walbridge, commander of the prison. Wirz mounted the scaffold with a quick, firm tread, and was seated on a small stool in the rear of the drop. The last sacrament was then administered by the attending priests. Major G. B. Russell, provost marshal, afterwards read the findings of the court and the death sentence.

During the reading of the order, findings and sentence, the prisoner paid little attention to them, conversing most of the time with his spiritual advisors, but signifying at the end of each specification by an emphatic affirmative or negative motion of the head. The reading was concluded at 10:27, and the final preparations were then made for the execution. As soon as the clergy had taken their leave, Major Russell said to the prisoner: "Captain Wirz, have you anything to say?" Wirz replied: "No, sir; only that I am innocent, and will die like a man, my hopes being in the future. I go before my God, the Almighty God, and he will judge between me and you." He said to Captain Walbridge: "Well, Captain, good by; I thank you and the other officers of the prison, for I have been *well treated*."

During this conversation his legs were strapped together and his arms pinioned. The noose was adjusted at 10:31, and in one minute after the drop fell, and the criminal was left hanging in the air. The body, after falling, swung to and fro, the shoulders shrugged a little, and the limbs were drawn up several times, but in about four minutes the body ceased to swing and was apparently lifeless. The body was allowed to hang about fifteen minutes, when it was taken down and placed on a stretcher and carried to the hospital, where it was examined by Dr. C. M. Ford, surgeon of the prison, and Doctors Ensign, Notson and Bliss, who found that the neck had been broken. The body was interred by the side of Atzerodt, Booth's co-conspirator in the assassination of President Lincoln—a fit resting place for the greatest human butcher the world has ever known.

THE HUE AND CRY.

Another Collection of Newspaper Attacks on the Soldier.

Pensions a Monstrous Abuse.

[From the Boston Herald.]

The pension law was very properly equalized, according to the degree of disability, soon after the close of the war, but without materially increasing the expense of the list. A very prudent and reasonable law was also passed limiting the time in which applications might be filed. This limit was two or three times extended, and finally abolished, leaving the bars all down; and this was followed by the "arrears of pensions act," providing that all pensions should be paid from the date of the soldier's discharge, instead of from the time of filing his application. This was putting a premium upon raiding the Treasury, and the natural result has been an avalanche of claims, the payment of which has made our pension list the largest in the world, and saddled upon the people a burden that would arouse and alarm a nation less patient under taxes, and bankrupt one less wealthy in natural resources. The only remedy suggested is that Congress shall enact that all claims filed in future shall be payable, if allowed, only from the date of the claim. It is the "lump sum" of the arrears—a small fortune to most of the applicants—that tempts the cupidity of agents and their drummed-up clients. In addition to this, the next Congress should erect strong barriers against fraud, and the people should express themselves in terms not to be misunderstood against any further increase of this "monstrous abuse."

Falsehoods From Truth.

[From the New York Truth.]

Of all the many stupendous frauds perpetrated upon a patient people that of the present pension system of the United States is the greatest. It presents a million opportunities for the practice of dishonesty, not only among the thousands of men employed in expending the vast sums appropriated to this purpose, but to thousands of men who know they are not entitled to a pension at all. There are few readers of *Truth* who cannot give the name of one or more of their acquaintances who are drawing a quarterly sum from Uncle Sam with uninterrupted regularity, and who are no more entitled thereto than a Snakehead Indian. Many of these men never knew there was anything wrong with them until after the passage of the iniquitous arrears of pensions act. By means of skillful and accommodating pension solicitors, and the uncertain and careless memory of officers and privates of facts transpiring fifteen or twenty years ago, these men are enabled to prey upon the public and live without care and labor. The natural infirmities of age are easily traced back to service in the army through a well-feed but unscrupulous pension surgeon, and in time the swindle is accomplished and the swindler is comfortably fixed for life.

Fifty Per Cent. Fraudulent.

[From the Illinois State Grange News.]

Among the evils of legislation is it not about time we were beginning to notice that of the pension fraud? Not that I would object to really just and deserved pensions, but, if I mistake not, fully one-half of the new pensions now being paid are undeserved in principle, and many of which are obtained by false and misleading pretensions. Several within the limits of my own acquaintance have obtained pensions who were on no principle of law or equity entitled to them, while others, I fully believe, got their hands in the Governmental purse by means but little short of perjury. Would like to hear from others on this subject. A. T. S.

Pensions Denounced as Tomfoolery.

[From the Cape Ann (Mass.) Bulletin.]

There is pending before the House an act to grant pensions to the surviving soldiers, or their widows, of the Mexican war. The war was brief, and the numbers engaged in it were larger than those of 1812. The Commissioner of Pensions estimates that this will cost $102,500,000. It is safe to call it anywhere from five to fifty times that amount, as the results will doubtless show if the law is passed. Is it that Congress does not know what to do with its surplus revenue, that river and harbor bills, and pension bills, and funeral bills, and all sorts of tomfoolery bills have to be invented to dispose of the $150,000,000 which accumulates yearly?

Altering Figures to Suit Theories.

[From the Chicago Herald.]

Year after year the pension list increases. "A Subscriber" says that instead of $150,000,000, one-third of that amount is nearer what "the exact sum paid out yearly, or likely to be needed in future years." But the fact is, $100,000,000 was appropriated at the last session of Congress, and it is expected that the sum appropriated for the next year will be somewhere between $100,000,000 and $150,000,000. Under the present lax system of investigation there is absolutely no safeguard against its reaching $200,000,000.

Lying and Sticking To It.

[From the Hebron (Neb.) Journal, Feb. 6.]

The worst fraud that was ever perpetrated on any government is the pension fraud. It has grown to gigantic proportions. This does not, of course, refer to worthy and deserving cases, but to the many thousands borne upon the pension rolls who are not entitled, legally or equitably, to Government assistance.

[From the Hebron (Neb.) Journal, Feb. 8.]

Hundreds of thousands of applications for pensions have been refused by the Commissioner of Pensions, for want of proof and for manifest fraud. But in spite of the precautions used, so vast is the business, so great the country, so numerous the applications, and so unscrupulous are many of these applicants and their agents, it is estimated many thousands are borne upon the pension rolls who are either not entitled at all to pensions or are receiving a greater rate than they are justly entitled to. If proof were needed that frauds have been perpetrated in this respect, it may be found in the numerous removals, arrests, and convictions of pension agents and officers, and convictions for perjury.

THE OTHER SIDE.

What Loyal Journals Have to Say about Pensions.

A Nebraska Paper's Vigorous Reply to Attacks on the Soldier.

[From the Neligh (Neb.) Republican.]

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, published at Washington, D. C., and, by the way, a paper that every ex-soldier of the Republic should read and patronize, gives extracts from the following leading papers, viz: the New York *Sun*, Cincinnati *Commercial*, Boston *Herald*, Chicago *Tribune*, Philadelphia *Times*, Utica *Observer*, St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, New York *Tribune*, New York *Herald*, Chicago *Times*, Chicago *News*, and Albany *Express*, each of which makes a thrust at ex-soldiers generally and pensioners particularly. Some of these papers are Republican and some are Democratic in politics, but they agree perfectly when it comes to abusing and slurring the old soldiers whose services are no longer needed by their masters, the bondholders, who look upon every dollar expended in pensions as a dollar taken from their inheritance. Even General Grant, whose victories, for which he has been honored above all others, were won through the heroic courage of the soldiers who fought his battles more than by his skill as a general, joins with these blood-hounds. We believe that Grant is judging these indiscriminate pensioners, as he terms them, by himself, for he has surely been one of the livliest indiscriminate pensioners in America, and the war did not hurt him much; but while it is a fact that "no pension can compensate the men who have lost one or more limbs," is it not also a fact that no pension can compensate the men who lay in the trenches month after month through the scorching heat of midsummer and the pitiless cold of midwinter, (while Grant smoked his choice cigars in comfortable quarters,) or starved in prison pens, or in any of the many ways incident to a soldier's duty in time of war, contracted disabilities that have clung to them ever after, making their very lives burdensome? Is it, then, those only who have lost limbs who cannot be compensated? What shall be said of the tens of thousands who by wounds and disease and exposure have been crippled and enfeebled for life? General Grant is the last man on earth from whom the pensioners of the late war should receive such injustice. The burden of the song that these papers all sing is the "enormous expense" to the taxpayers of the country, forgetting that their masters are, or ever have been, expensive to taxpayers.

The Pension Acts Solemn Contracts.

[From the Watertown (N. Y.) Republican.]

The pension acts were solemn contracts, made by the Government with the volunteers, to preserve its existence. Hundreds of thousands died in its defense. Thousands and thousands lost limbs, were torn by shot or shell, cut by sword or pierced by bayonet, starved or broken down by disease and exposure. All that is worth anything in this land they saved. The Union, its peace and prosperity, all that it has to-day of power and strength, of progress, of happiness and all that it may be in the coming ages, owes its existence to the heroic patriotism and noble self-sacrifice of the volunteer Union soldiers. And yet these soldiers must become paupers before the Government they served can do anything for them? These men who lost legs, arms and eyes to preserve this Government must, if they have a little property—a little house for their families—use it up and actually want for the necessities of life before they are entitled to a pension? What a libel on all that is decent and honorable! What an outrageous sentiment that those who saved it all cannot have the contract made with them honestly carried out until they are on the road to the poor-house.

Congress Should Go Slow.

[From the Winnebago (Iowa) Summit.]

The House of Representatives has passed a bill appropriating $85,000,000 for pensions. The amount last year was $100,000,000, and the Commissioner of Pensions asked for a similar sum this year. Congress would do well to go slow in decreasing the revenues of the country in view of this fact. The pensions must be paid, and it will take a good deal of money to do it.

PENSIONERS' RIGHTS.

Interviews With Logan and Voorhees. Questions Before Congress.

Senator Logan, of Illinois, is one of the most vigilant and powerful of the friends of the Union soldier in Congress. Being asked by a representative of THE TRIBUNE whether there were any prospects of new legislation on the subject of pensions or bounties in the immediate future. Said he: "There are several bills which have been brought forward and pressed, some of them for years. Among others most prominent is that to pension the soldiers of the Mexican and various Indian wars and the $40 bill for the benefit of those who lost an arm or a leg in the service. I think that there is a profound distrust among many of the pensioners of the country lest the law granting them what is called arrears of pension may be repealed. I do not believe that they need have any fears of that. Such apprehensions are naturally caused by discussions in the Senate as to whether a pension is the carrying out of a contract with the soldier, the confession of an obligation, or a charity. Then, too, the wildest statements are made as to the amounts which will be required to pay the pensions under the arrears act. I have heard Senators on the floor give amounts which varied hundreds of millions of dollars, each of which purported to be the correct estimate of expenditure for this purpose."

"In what light do you regard the relation of the soldiers to the Government in the matter of pension?"

"In any war or for any duty where war occurs between Governments they are enlisted under a law which proposes to pay them a certain amount per month or per annum, as the case may be. The law which provides for a certain amount per month or per annum to the soldier or officer, under which he enlists, is a contract between the soldier and the Government, and I presume no court could be found in this country that would not hold that to be the case. We have laws following up the enlistment of soldiers which provide a bounty of $100 per annum for a certain number of years. I presume no lawyer would say that that was not a contract between the soldier and the Government. If those two laws present contracts between the Government and the soldier, what about the other proposition? The same law provides that if the soldier in performance of his duties under this contract with the Government shall be disabled from disease or from wounds he shall be placed on the pension roll; and the law provides that the pensioner shall receive so much per month, provided he has a certain character of wound, and that he shall receive so much for another character of wound—that is, that he shall be graded according to the character of his disease or wound. I would like to know if that is not also a contract between the soldier and the Government when that law exists at the time and is part of the inducement to the soldier to enlist for the performance of his duty to his Government. It is a contract between the Government and the soldier that the Government cannot gainsay."

"Do you think there will be any contest over the amount of money required to pay these pensions?"

"The question of arrears of pensions has been discussed on the ground that it required a great amount to pay them. That is not the legal question at all; but the question is: If a soldier is entitled to a pension on account of his wounds, when is he entitled to that pension? If he is to receive a pension because he has been wounded, when he receives that wound a pension attaches. If the law says 'for wounds received in the service he shall be pensioned,' what does the law mean? Does it mean that the Government will pay a soldier twenty-five years after he received the wound? Is it not the true construction of the law that the pension attaches at the time the disability attaches to the person? Will any one pretend to say that that is not the reasonable and proper construction of the law? I think not."

"What is the trouble with the arrears of pensions act, then?"

"The trouble is not that the act is wrong, but that when the law granting pension to the wounded soldier was first passed, it provided that the pension should attach at the time the soldier made his application. There was the fault. It was in providing that the pension should attach only at the presentation of the application instead of providing that it should attach at the time the wound was incurred. Suppose a man is crippled by a railroad accident. Under the law, if the injury is received on account of the negligence of the officers of the road, he is entitled to damages. Will any one say that the damages do not attach at the time the injury was received? If the damages are given for the injury, then the responsibility for the damages devolves upon the party at the time the injury was received. In the courts of justice every day questions are tried where persons are entitled to pay for injuries, for trespasses, for injuries to property or injury to person, and the responsibility attaches at the time the injury was done. Now, the law which made the pension attach at the time of the presentation of the case instead of the time when the injury was received was the fault of Congress at the time that law was enacted. The law, therefore, giving arrears of pension is merely an amendment to that law, saying that the pension shall attach at the time the disability was incurred. It is merely doing that which Congress should have done at the time it passed the pension act, dating the pension from the time the injury occurred instead of from any other time. It is merely, then, the correction of an error that grew up at the time when the act was passed in Congress, and is not an error itself because of the amount which is expended."

"Then you do not take much stock in the constant clamor in the New York papers about frauds on the Government through the arrears of pensions?"

"No, I do not. There have been frauds practiced doubtless in this as there have been in all matters where money is obtained from the Government. Still the fact that some soldier may have received a pension, when in fact he was not entitled to it, does not prove that those who are entitled should not receive their pension. It only proves that there is perhaps a want of energy on the part of those making the examination of the cases. It is only proof of the want of good faith on the part of some officer in making a report that is not warranted by the condition of the person who makes the application. That does not prove that the law is wrong. It only proves that some person is wrong; that some man has deceived the officers of the law; and that is all it proves. A man who violates the criminal statutes by committing a larceny or a robbery may escape punishment, but that does not prove the law is wrong. It only proves a want of vigilance on the part of those who are charged with the execution of the law. In spite of all the criticism of the arrears act, there is just one thing to be kept in mind. It is not the fault of the pensioner, not the fault of the amount of money, but the fault of the first act of Congress by not placing the pension at the proper time. The arrears act was only an amendatory law for the purpose of changing and putting the first one right, as it should have been at the start. But time and again, when I have heard so much of frauds talked about in the Senate, I have demanded the name of a single case, and I never yet have heard a Senator name one. I have declared that if any Senator knew of a fraudulent claim on the pension-roll, it was his duty to state the fact to the Commissioner of Pensions. If I knew of one to-day I would do it. But there are Senators who have annual spasms about pension frauds and make periodical raids against pensioners. But not one of them has had the manhood yet to stand up and say 'there is a name on the pension-roll that ought not to be there.'"

"There has been some discussion of the proposition to publish the list of the pensioners in the newspapers. What do you think of that?"

"I think that this thing of publishing the names in the newspapers, as has been proposed, and posting them up in the post offices all over the country is an offense to any man of a sensitive nature. I so regard it. But if the names were published in the reports to Congress, the same as any other report is published, then it could not be an offense, because they would be treated like everybody else; but to single them out and post them up as if they were pirates or plunderers, I do consider an offense. I would if I were one of the pensioners. I do not mean an offense intended, but I mean that is the effect of it. It would have that effect upon me, if I was a pensioner and my name was posted up in any post office, so that my neighbors could look at it to examine it and see whether I were a thief or not. The object is not to notify the people who the pensioner is, but to subject him to criticism. If the publication is made in an annual report to Congress, everybody can see it. There is a Blue Book made up with the name of every officer and laborer paid by the Government, with the amount of salary he receives. That is published to the country; and why? To give notice to Congress who the men are who draw money from the Government; where they live and from whence they are appointed, so as to locate them and understand the facts with reference to them. This is the reason why it is done. Give the same reason for having a pensioner's name published and no offense would be taken. The proposition to make a publication of the lists in the newspapers was defeated last year, and I do not think it will ever become a law. It would cost half a million dollars to make the publication once in the leading papers of the great cities of this country."

VOORHEES ON MEXICAN WAR PENSIONS.

One of the strongest advocates in the Senate of pensions for the Union soldiers is Mr. Voorhees, of Indiana. Among other subjects in which he has interested himself is that of pensioning the Mexican war veterans as a class. When asked if he thought there was any probability in the near future of a bill being passed, he said: "I do not know. I have tried my best for years to have it done. We have had the remarkable spectacle presented on the Senate floor of a party question being made as to whether this Government would pension the surviving veterans of the great war with Mexico. Men have stood up and claimed to pair with each other on that question because of its political aspect."

"What is the cause of the hostility to the bill?"

"It is inconceivable to me whence comes this hostility to the remnant of that army which did so much for the honor, wealth, and glory of this country at home and for its renown abroad. Why it is that the opposition is made I do not know. The Mexican war shed glory upon every part of the country. The New England man had a world of wealth and enterprise opened to him by the issue of this war as well as the man of other portions of this country. Everybody has shared in it and why this extreme and sensitive hostility is always displayed upon this question is a marvel to my mind."

"The soldiers of the Mexican war are already pensioned, are they not, in the same way as the soldiers of the late war, for disabilities?"

"Yes, that is true; but the survivors of the Mexican war are now bearing the weight and burden and disability of years, and the principle of pensioning survivors of a war after a considerable lapse of time is that you take care of the old men who in their youth do something unusual for the welfare and preservation of the country. I think the time has come when this plea can be urged justly in behalf of the survivors of the Mexican war. It is no argument against a general law of this kind that there may be some whom it will include who are not in need of it. The enactment of such a law would be quite in accordance with precedent. After the war of the Revolution we first pensioned those who were disabled by wounds and disease contracted in the service. After a while, when age did for others what wounds and disease had done for these, we placed them all on the pension roll. After the war of 1812 a similar policy was pursued. We pensioned first those who had lost their health from disease or wounds in the service. After a while, when age disabled the rest of them, we pensioned all, because they were old men and had served well when they were young. We have pensioned, it is true, the disabled men of the Mexican war, and I think now that all the survivors have reached a point in age where their claims should be recognized as we recognized the the claims of soldiers of former wars."

"Well, it will not be many years, then, until all the survivors of the war of the rebellion will be given a pension, should that practice be made general."

"When the surviving soldiers of the Union war have become disabled by the weight of years, then this policy will undoubtedly be applied to them."

NATIONAL TOPICS.

The Proposed Mexican Reciprocity Treaty—Presidency of the Senate.

An effort will be made to ratify the Mexican reciprocity treaty in the Senate before adjournment. It has been agreed to by the Committee on Foreign Relations and reported by Mr. Windom, the chairman. The articles embraced in the free list are seventy-three, which Mexico is to admit duty free from the United States, and some twenty-five Mexican products which are to pass the United States' custom-house. Should the treaty not be ratified during the present session of the Senate, it is doubtful if the Mexican Congress, which meets in the fall, will do so, so one-sided a document does it appear to be. The Mexican Senate will hesitate, no doubt, to reject an instrument which has been accepted by their commissioners and ratified by the Senate of the United States, but that there is a great deal of public sentiment against it in Mexico is well known.

The articles which Mexico is to pass duty free from the United States include nearly all kinds of machinery, both for agriculture and manufacturing; all our raw materials, vehicles, musical instruments, and a large class of miscellaneous manufactures. In short, the bulk of the merchandising in Mexico is handed over to Americans, or, at least, American markets are made the source of supplies.

In return we are to receive from Mexico a class of articles such as dye woods, fruits, coffee, and other things which are already on our free list in the main. We are to admit sugar, of which Mexico has none to export, and tobacco of a grade which we now get from Cuba.

There is a violent opposition, of course, to this treaty, all sorts of stories being started from remote and unexpected quarters apparently, but really emanating from a single source. The foreign diplomats are busily engaged in a desperate effort to bring discredit upon the treaty and secure its rejection. The reason is that at the present time the Germans practically monopolize the business of the country, and very naturally draw their supplies from European markets, where they have the advantage of pauper labor and cheap production. With the difference, however, of the tariff on European goods and none on American manufactures, the foreign merchants in Mexico must either surrender to Americans or come to the United States to purchase. This state of things naturally, from a commercial point of view, the Germans, English, and French especially, are sturdily resisting. The only other power largely interested is Spain, and this treaty is a death blow to her influence in tropic America. Her West Indian possessions are being bled year after year for the support of the home government, and at the same time over ninety per cent. of their means for paying this tribute is drawn from the United States through the enormous purchases we make in Cuba and the other islands, for which we pay cash, selling nothing in return. Spanish statesmanship is ruining her colonies steadily, and any diversion of the trade of the United States to Mexico is depriving her of resources which she draws from her islands. Naturally all the machinations of Spanish diplomacy have been turned to the hatching of schemes to throw the proposed treaty into discredit. First, it was said that General Grant, in return for subsidies of land to railroads in which he was interested, had secured the treaty. This did very well until it was found that the treaty was more beneficial to the United States than to Mexico. Next the tobacco and sugar interests were excited by predictions of free importations of sugar and tobacco. It has since been found that what tobacco does come will only take the place of a like amount from Cuba, while Mexico can only make about eleven per cent. of what sugar is needed for her own people.

Finally, a word of warning comes from ex-Governor McCook, of Colorado, predicting a dire commercial calamity in the way of wholesale smuggling, to which the treaty will open the doors. The trouble with Governor McCook's prophecy is the utter impossibility for it to be carried out. In order that goods may be smuggled across the border from Mexico to the United States they must first enter the former country, and the Mexican tariff is so high that it would be cheaper to enter them regularly at New York and pay the duties imposed by the United States, rather than to submit to the Mexican tariff, and then run them free across the border into this country. Should this treaty be ratified by both goverments, it is a sufficient guarantee against another of a similar character with any other country, because Mexico cannot spare the duties, so that the free list at the Mexican custom house is in no danger of extension. At any rate, but twenty-five articles are on the free list under the treaty to be admitted from Mexico.

THE PRESIDENCY OF THE SENATE.

It is reported that Senator David Davis has given assurance to friends that there will be no need of a called session of the Senate. This means, therefore, that he will vacate his chair some time before adjournment, so that a presiding officer may be elected. If this is accomplished, one of the Senators whose term extends over the next regular session will be chosen president, and will become acting Vice-President of the United States. Senator Anthony was the Republican caucus nominee two years ago, but as his term expires on the 4th of March, and his office of acting Vice-President could not extend beyond the limit of his senatorial term, he is effectually barred, should no called session be held, and the place be filled before adjournment. There are three candidates spoken of for the position. They are Logan, Allison, and Ingalls. Of these three, it is probable that Ingalls alone wants it, and Logan is the most likely to get it.

OUR SUPPLY TRAINS

And the Sort of Ammunition with which they are Loaded Down.

"Inclosed please find $10 for ten new subscribers. I hope to obtain twenty more by the 1st of April."—C. D. Culp, Lexington, Ohio.

"Inclosed please find $6 for six new subscribers. You have my best wishes for success and prosperity."—M. A. Ewing, Neoga, Ill.

"Inclosed please find one more subscription for THE TRIBUNE, making forty-five in all that I have sent you."—L. B. Hyer, Saybrook, Ill.

"Inclosed please find $3 for three new subscribers. We cannot get along without THE TRIBUNE."—Wm. King, Hutchinson, Kan.

"Inclosed please find $2 for two more subscribers, making twelve that I have sent you from this place."—M. Robinson, Fall River, Kan.

"Inclosed please find $7 for seven new subscribers. I hope to send you some additional names soon."—E. S. Farnsworth, Newtonville, Mass.

"Inclosed please find $3 for three new subscribers, making fifty-six in all that I have sent you. Will send another lot soon."—O. D. Blakeslee, Meriden, Conn.

"Inclosed please find $9 for nine new subscribers—the result of a little missionary work. I hope to send more e'er long."—George Kendall, South Gardner, Mass.

"Inclosed please find $4 for four new subscribers. I was an artilleryman during the war, and go in for four-gun batteries."—Daniel L. Goodwin, Newton Junction, N. H.

"Inclosed please find $2 for two more subscribers, making fifteen that I have sent you during the last two months. Your paper is universally liked by the soldiers."—N. S. Burr, Delphos, Kan.

"I have been out on the skirmish line again and captured two new subscribers for THE TRIBUNE, making seven that I have sent you since the 1st of January."—Wm. Blundell, Chetopa, Kan.

"Inclosed please find $7 for seven new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE. They are the first installment of a club of twenty-five which I intend to send you."—J. E. Alexander, South Bend, Ind.

"Inclosed please find $9 for nine new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE, which I obtained at the meeting of our Post—E. M. Stanton Post, No. 23—last Wednesday night."—F. M. Martin, Howard, Kan.

"Inclosed please find $3 for three new subscribers, making twenty-one in all that I have sent you. As a premium, please send me The March to the Sea, for our Post."—W. E. Thorp, Hart, Mich.

"Inclosed please find $5 for as many new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE. Go on with the good work, and you will have the support of all true soldiers and patriotic citizens."—M. Emery, Lewiston, Me.

"Inclosed please find $5 for five new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE. I want to see THE TRIBUNE in every ex-soldier's hands. Our veterans owe it to themselves to stand by it."—C. M. Hall, Union City, Mich.

"Here are six more comrades who think they cannot do without THE TRIBUNE. It is no trouble to canvass for such a paper. The boys come to me every day to have their subscriptions sent in."—S. F. Beeler, Ottawa, Kan.

"Here are three more rounds of cannister for THE TRIBUNE. Put them in at short range and see to it that every shot tells. Keep up the fire along the whole line and we will help you."—George S. Moore, Manton, Mich.

"Inclosed please find $3 for three new subscribers, making ten that I have sent you. For a premium you may send me the picture of The Grand Review, which I intend to present to our Post."—C. C. Cady, Gilbertsville, N. Y.

"Inclosed please find $9 for nine new subscribers. The weather is very cold and it is difficult to get around among the boys, but I am canvassing steadily and faithfully for THE TRIBUNE."—Richard Cunningham, Stockton, Kan.

"Inclosed please find $4 for four new subscribers. You have the heartfelt thanks of every comrade for the noble defense you are making for the greatest army that w[illegible] ever marshalled in the field."—H. P. Woodwa[illegible], Wamego, Kan.

"Inclosed please find $6 for six new subscribers, in addition to fift[illegible] previously sent you. All our ex-soldiers ask is even-handed justice, and the strict execution of contracts on the part of the Government?"—William Folks, Plainfield, Iowa.

"Inclosed please find $2 for two new subscribers, making twenty-six in all that I have sent you. I have canvassed this vicinity pretty thoroughly, but I think I can send you a few more subscribers before long."—J. W. Davis, Stonewood, Iowa.

"Inclosed please find $4 for four new subscribers, making eleven in all that I have sent you. I hope to send you a great many more names, as I am anxious to help you secure your 100,000 subscribers."—Charles L. Russell, Newburgh, N. Y.

"Inclosed please find $2 for two new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE, making thirteen in all that I have sent you. I have the promise of a few 'Napoleons' as soon as the subscriptions of some of our ex-soldiers to other papers expire."—E. Bole, Jesup, Iowa.

"Inclosed please find $3 for three new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE. I am getting ready to strap on the old knapsack once more and start out on a long campaign. I shall plant my guns on the crest of the hill and open fire."—R. R. Norton, Georgetown, N. Y.

"Inclosed please find $2 for THE TRIBUNE. Three cheers for the Grand Army of the Republic! Don't she boom along the line, from the Atlantic to the Pacific! Long may THE TRIBUNE live to advocate the cause of the martyrs of freedom."—S. F. Wood, Hensons, Mo.

"I am a little girl ten years old, but I am going to do all I can to get subscribers for THE TRIBUNE. Since I began this letter I have got one new subscriber for you. My father was a soldier, and spent more than a year in a rebel prison."—Amanda Hunter, Weston, Ohio.

"In these days when the soldier is made the target of partisan abuse, our veterans should all stand together and support with all their strength the only paper that hurls back shot and shell without fear and favor—THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE."—I. Soper, St. Johnsbury, Vt.

"Inclosed please find $5 for five new subscribers, making thirteen in all that I have sent you. The boys of our Post are beginning to be very much interested in THE TRIBUNE, and THE TRIBUNE is helping to bring thousands into the Grand Army."—E. S. Groves, Eskridge, Kan.

"Inclosed please find $6 for six new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE, for which you may send me the premium book entitled The Peninsula. My father was captured at Gaines' Mills and again at Fredericksburg. He is a subscriber to THE TRIBUNE and thinks it just splendid."—Grace Christy, Manhattan, Kan.

"Inclosed please find $5 fo[illegible] subscribers to your interesting [illegible] THE TRIBUNE was but re[illegible] notice and I am very sorry, f[illegible] to have commenced my subs[illegible] first number of the first volume. [illegible] Wilcox, Walnut Grove, Neb.

"Inclosed please fi[illegible] THE TRIBUNE. I hope to send you more [illegible] soon. I shall try to obtain the subscription of every ex-soldier who gets his mail at this office. I formerly resided at Portville, N. Y., and I expect to pay the comrades of the Portville Post a visit during the latter part of March."—W. W. Cole, Sabula, Pa.

"It affords me great pleasure to send you $10 for ten new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE. I hope you may be successful in securing the desired circulation of one hundred thousand. THE TRIBUNE is indeed the soldier's friend, and should find a place in the family of every old veteran."—John R. Basiger, Larned, Kan.

"Inclosed please find $7 for seven new subscribers. I shall not stop canvassing until THE TRIBUNE has been placed in the hands of every ex-soldier in Fulton county. I have stopped taking the Chicago *Tribune*, for it has attacked our ex-soldiers at the point of the pen, and that is equal to the point of the sword."—S. F. Collins, Rochester, Ind.

"Inclosed please find $12 for twelve new subscribers to THE TRIBUNE. I have taken THE TRIBUNE for four weeks only. After reading it I found it was just what I wanted. I started out the other day and within five hours I secured the subscribers which I send to you. Stand up, boys, and fire at the enemy every chance you get."—Geo. E. Strikland, Hartford, Conn.

"Inclosed please find $2 for two new subscribers, which I obtained at the installation of officers of Scott Post, No. 45, last evening. To-night a camp of the Sons of Veterans will be organized at this place by Colonel Charles W. Goranflo. Every son of a Union soldier who has attained the age of sixteen should enroll his name in this organization. Comrades, let us assist our sons in the work."—Prof. George Young, Blissfield, Mich.

"I enclose $1 to renew my subscription to THE TRIBUNE, and also fifty cents to pay for extra copies, which I intend to judiciously distribute among my old comrades, with the positive injunction that they shall read all of it, column by column, after which I believe they will all subscribe and then raise a little hue and cry of their own as I have done; that is, discontinue their subscription to the papers that are not bold and fearless in upholding the interests of the soldier, and devoting the money thus saved to ordering copies of THE TRIBUNE for distribution among their comrades."—Jas. Bond, Hannibal, Mo.

A Bulwark for the Soldier.

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