FIGHTING THEM OVER.

What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

The Charge at Resaca.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I have read, with a great deal of interest, the friendly controversies in your columns concerning the battles of Shiloh, Cedar Creek, Jonesboro', and Resaca, and I can hold my peace no longer. Comrade Gaff, in THE TRIBUNE of the 31st, says: "It is true that Geary's division made the charge at Resaca." I say it is not; and in proof of my assertion, I quote from an official report to Captain John Speed, A. A. G. of the Third division, Twentieth Army Corps, by Colonel John Coburn, of the Thirty-third Indiana, commanding Second brigade, Third division, Twentieth Army Corps. Colonel Coburn says: "May 13th the brigade moved in the morning, with the division to the left some two miles, passing the Fourteenth, Fourth, and Twenty-third Corps, and here, having halted, received an order to advance in rear of the First brigade, in echelon, in two lines, and in their support as an assaulting column on the works of the enemy. On coming to the position where the formation was to be made, it was found to be impracticable on account of the location of a part of the Fourth Corps on our right. The brigade was then formed in close column of battalion immediately in rear of the First brigade. Soon after this order was changed, and the brigade was directed to be formed in two lines in rear of the First brigade, which was being done, but before the completion of the deployment orders were given to advance at once, and as rapidly as possible, to support the First brigade, which was making an advance on the enemy's works. The brigade was moved forward at once, in the following order: First line, Eighty-fifth Indiana, Colonel Baird, on the right; Nineteenth Michigan, Colonel Gilbert, on the left. Second line, Twentieth Connecticut, Colonel Ross, on the right; Twenty-second Wisconsin, Colonel Utley, on the left. Third line, Thirty-third Indiana, Major Miller, in the rear of the Twenty-second Wisconsin. The brigade was thus formed in a narrow ravine, thickly wooded with low and bushy trees, with steep hillsides, and out of view of the enemy and their works. The advance was difficult up this steep hill.

"At the time of receiving this order to advance, and throughout the movement up the hill, the Second division of the Twentieth Corps was moving by the left flank, in from six to eight lines, from right to left, through my brigade, breaking and intercepting the lines, and preventing every regimental commander from seeing his own troops or the possibility, for the time, of managing them. The brigade, notwithstanding, moved forward over the hills and onward, carrying some men of the Second division with them and losing others of its own men, who were swept with the heavier current to the left. The summit of the hill is covered with woods, but the slope beyond and the valley, are cleared in front of a portion of the enemy's works, which were situated on the hill beyond, and which here presented opposite our right a salient angle receding with long sweep sharply to our left.

"The brigade advanced across a portion of the field to the works, and the left along the woods to its left. This was done under a tremendous fire of artillery and musketry, which killed and wounded many of our men; but they bravely advanced, and planted the colors of the Nineteenth Michigan and Twenty-second Wisconsin in a small fort of the enemy, occupied by four of their field-pieces. Such was the fury of the enemy's fire, that the men could not advance further, and here a portion of the First and Second brigades remained during the day, holding this position under the very brow of the rebel earthworks."

Comrade Gaff says the First brigade captured the battery, and that there were three guns. I contend that the battery was not captured, but silenced and stolen cautiously after dark. The above report says there were four guns, which I know to be a fact, as my location on that day was close up to the embrasure, where I could see every gun. According to the official report the Second brigade lost during the engagement twenty-eight killed and one wounded, of which number my regiment—the Nineteenth Michigan—lost its colonel, one captain, fourteen men killed and sixty-six wounded.

Comrades, in our communications let us confine ourselves to what we know by actual experience, and there will be less chance for disputes. It is useless for privates, non-commissioned or line officers to undertake to make an accurate statement as to the movements of brigades and divisions. If possible, back your statements by official records.

M. E. MCNITT, Co. G, 19th Mich.
RED CLOUD, NEB.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

On Sunday, the 15th day of May, the Twentieth Army Corps was relieved from the center of the line by the Fourteenth Corps and moved to the left and right of the Fourth Corps. The Third division was assigned to the duty of taking the rebel works. The First brigade of that division was to make the charge, and nobly did they do it. This brigade, composed of western troops, had never been in a battle before, although they had been in the service guarding railroads for nearly two years. This brigade was composed of the following regiments in the charge, right to the front: The Seventieth Indiana, One Hundred and Second Illinois, Seventy-ninth Ohio, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois and One Hundred and Fifth Illinois. The Second and Third brigades of the Third division were held in easy supporting distance on the brow of the hill, about six hundred yards from the rebel works. About 11:30 o'clock a. m. the order was given to the First brigade to charge, and with fixed bayonets and to the sound of a wild, prolonged battle yell they started across the valley of death, and did not stop until the works had been taken and the guns were ours. They held the ground until relieved by the Second and Third brigades of our division. The guns, four in number, were taken from the fort that night by the Third division. One gun was a beautiful brass piece named the "Belle of Alabama." By way of conclusion, I will give a rebel view of the situation. After the battle the captain of the rebel battery which fell into our hands wrote the following letter, which was captured by a member of the One Hundred and Fifth Illinois, of the First brigade, Third division, Twentieth Army Corps. It is given *verbatim et literatim:*

"RESACA, GA., May 15.

"MY DEAR WIFE: John Tompson is going home to Cassville, wounded. I thought I would drop you a line by him. The Yankees charged on my battery this p. m. and captured two sections of it. Many of our men and attendants were killed. It was as daring an exploit as when my brother's was charged at Antietam by a New York regiment. They threw themselves into the front as unconscious of danger as ducks into a pond. I tell you and Will to stow away everything of value, fearing we shall have to fall back from here; if we do, the Yankees will get everything in reach. We shall fight Hooker's command here or else the battery never would have been taken. I hear we are gaining on the Yankees in Virginia, and we would have whipped them here if it had not been for Hooker's command. They all were the blue star. If we hold our ground here I will see you ere long. I want you to send Sis and James to her grandma's and you go to Uncle John's. Take all the things you can. I must close, as the train will leave immediately. Your husband unto death, W. W. C.

"P. S.—Our position here was a very good one, but we have to fall back. Keep up good courage. I hope what I have said will not prove discouraging to you. W. C."

Well, I will close for this time. I would like to hear from the boys of the old Iron Brigade—the First of the Third division, Twentieth Army Corps.

Yours, respectfully, THOS. M. BELL.
OSCEOLA, NEB. Co. D, 102d Ill. Inf.

More About the Battle of Jonesboro'.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I am a regular reader of THE TRIBUNE and am much pleased with the letters of your correspondents, and would like to give my view of things as taken by the Fourteenth Corps at Jonesboro', Ga., September 1, 1864, particularly the doings of our brigade—the First brigade, Second division, Fourteenth Army Corps, composed of the Tenth and Fourteenth Michigan, Sixteenth and Sixtieth Illinois and the Seventeenth New York veteran volunteer infantry. I copy from my diary of September 1, 1864, the following: "This a. m., at 6 o'clock, the Fourteenth Corps moved to the left and front, in the direction of Jonesboro'. At 3 o'clock p. m. we came in range of the rebel batteries, and four men of the Fourteenth Michigan were killed by the explosion of a shell. We could see the position of the batteries across the open field. The First brigade was put into position as follows: Advance line, with left joining Baird's Third division, Fourteenth Army Corps; Seventeenth New York Zouaves, Tenth and Fourteenth Michigan, with the Sixteenth and Sixtieth Illinois veteran volunteer infantry as support."

I belonged to the Sixteenth Illinois and was in the rear line on the left of the division, and saw the partial repulse of the Regulars of Baird's Third division, but the second line stopped the rebs, and the whole line, so far as I could see, did not stop until the works were carried. I do not doubt the correctness of Comrade Fish's statement, but I want a fair share of credit for the Second division. We, of the First brigade, captured one six-gun battery, 800 prisoners, six stands of colors and a large number of small arms. The captain of the battery was standing with one arm around a gun and holding a flag in his hand. He was mortally wounded and died during the night at the headquarters of the Sixteenth Illinois.

I would like to hear from some of the boys who were in the move from Huntsville, Mo., to Chillicothe, and at Monroe Station, on the Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad, on the 12th day of July, 1861. I have never found it mentioned in any of the histories of the war. I know the Twenty-first Illinois, Grant's regiment, was there.

W. F. BAIN,
Company A, 16th Illinois V. V. I.
KENTON, OHIO.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I have read the several accounts which you have published of the battle of Jonesboro', Georgia, on September 1, 1864, and they appear to differ so widely that I now want to have my say. I belonged to Second brigade, Second division, Fourteenth Army Corps, and I think Comrade Scott's account is about right. Some of the boys of Baird's division seem to think there were no troops engaged but their own. The regiment I belonged to lost some eighty men out of 295 that went into the charge. The comrade who writes from Lyerville, Ohio, is mistaken about the Seventeen New York Zouaves being on his left. They were on his right. They belonged to the Second division. Corporal Tanquary, I think, is a little "off" about the Eighty-sixth Illinois belonging to Second brigade. The Second brigade consisted of the Seventy-eighth and Thirty-fourth Illinois volunteers and the Ninety-eighth, One Hundred and Twenty-first, and One Hundred and Thirteenth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry, and was commanded by John G. Mitchell. There was a battery in our front which we captured. The Seventy-eighth Illinois had three color-bearers shot down in that charge. I wish some one would write up the charge of Kenesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864. JOHN D. COSGROVE,
FRUITLAND, ILL. Co. H, 78th Ill. vols.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In THE TRIBUNE of May 3, my statement that the third division, Fourteenth Army Corps, did not participate in the charge at Jonesboro', is an error of my own, resulting from reading "General Sherman's Campaigns," in which, on page 213, I saw an account of the operations of the Third division, on the 31st of August, when that division was four miles from Jonesboro'. The charge spoken of took place on September 1, 1864. I would not say anything to the disparagement of the comrades of the Third division. Comrade Scott, in his account of the Second division, remarks that, while the First and Second brigades came up nobly to the work, the Third brigade failed to do so. The fact is, the Third brigade carried the works gallantly, and I saw no falling back anywhere along our line. Comrades of the Fourteenth Corps, one and all, the victory was ours.

JOHN H. BRUBAKER,
3d brigade, 2d division, 14th A. C.

Streight's Raid.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In the last issue of your valuable paper, Lieutenant C. H. Fish had a very interesting letter concerning Colonel Streight's expedition into Georgia. If you have room to spare, I would like to give a few incidents connected with General Dodge's command. I was an humble member of company H, Eighty-first Ohio volunteer infantry, at the time Lieutenant Fish speaks of. In regard to the crossing of Bear Creek, I wonder whether he or any of my comrades in that command remember what trouble some of the boys had, after crossing the creek or river, which was some hundred yards wide, in ascending the opposite bank. It was about forty feet high and almost perpendicular in some places, and being of a clayey nature it became very slippery from so many climbing up the bank. After getting almost to the top, some dozen or more at a time would slip back again into the water, their guns, knapsacks and themselves almost covered with mud. Then to hear the mild language used by some of them! While in camp, near the creek, we took the bark off of the elm trees, cutting it as high up as we could reach and as near to the ground as possible, in order to have it long enough to cover us and protect us from the rain. When we laid the oval side up and crawled under, we found that our heads or feet must be exposed to the weather, and we looked like so many terrapins, with their heads protruding from their shells. Your humble servant put in a day, alternating from the above position to standing in the rain for a change.

Lieutenant Fish gives a very correct account of crossing the bridge over Old Town Creek. I remember very well making the trip, with our regiment crossing single file and at the mercy of the rebels, without having much of a show to return their fire. Before crossing the bridge, and while shelling each other, the rebels threw a shell at one of our guns planted near a brick house. The house was two-stories high, having a hall through the middle. The family had not vacated the house and were standing on the veranda watching the proceedings. The shell passed through the hall, over their heads, without injuring any of them, but they beat a hasty retreat. In the yard two darkies were standing. One of them went down to the creek bank toward the rebels, the other come on the double-quick toward our regiment. Some of the boys wanted to know of Sambo, what made him run. He said, "Lah! Massa; it's gettin' too hot for dis chile." The last we saw of him he was still making for 2,40 time in the rear. Many amusing incidents occurred during the expedition, which tended to lighten our burdens. If any of the officers of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth U. S. C. T. should read this, I would like to hear from them. W. G. BRADFORD,
First Lieutenant 128th U. S. C. T.
IRONTON, OHIO.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

With your permission I wish to make a slight correction in Comrade Fish's account of the beginning of the Streight raid. He says the First brigade was composed of the Fifty-second Illinois and Second and Seventh Iowa, and the Union brigade, etc. Now, Comrade Fish, put your thinking cap on. Was it not the Sixty-sixth Indiana instead of the Union brigade? The Sixty-sixth relieved the Union brigade in December, 1862, at Corinth, and was with the old First brigade all of the time, from then until the last gun was fired at Bentonville, N. C. Ask some of the Second or Seventh Iowa boys. You remember the "Martins?" I would be glad to grasp the hand of a "Parrott," or any of the old First. J. M. SHERWOOD,
PAWNEE CITY, NEB. Co. B, 66th Ind. Vol. Inf.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In your issue of May 24th, Comrade C. H. Fish gives a very excellent account of the raid of Colonel Streight, but in naming the command under General G. M. Dodge fails to mention the Thirty-ninth Iowa volunteer infantry, which was a part of the Third brigade, together with the Twelfth, Fiftieth and Fifty-seventh Illinois. I have no doubt but comrades of the old Thirty-ninth will be glad to see this correction. Will not some comrade write up the defense of Allatoona, Ga., October 5, 1864? I confess I appreciate THE TRIBUNE more than any of the many papers I take.

W. G. POWER,
MT. VERNON, IOWA. Co. G, 39th Iowa vol. inf.

Who Recaptured the De Grasse Battery?

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

A comrade writing from Oakland, Illinois, and claiming to have been an "eye witness," is very much mistaken when he says that Colonel Mercer's Second brigade of the Second division, Sixteenth Corps, retook De Grasse's battery on the 22d of July in the battle of Atlanta. The singular feature of this mistake is that the writer refers to Sherman's Memoirs, which, so far from confirming his statement, show that the battery was taken by the enemy in a heavy and very sudden assault upon part of the Second division of the Fifteenth Corps about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. But, as General Sherman says, in his report of the next day to Halleck, "the ground and batteries were immediately recovered by the same troops re-enforced." And on page 81 of his Memoirs, volume 2, he says that the re-enforcements were the First division of the Fifteenth Corps, General C. R. Woods, commanding. He says he ordered Woods "to wheel his brigades to the left, advance in echelon, and catch the enemy in flank," covered by some of Schofield's batteries. He adds: "We saw Woods' troops advance and encounter the enemy, who had secured possession of the old line of parapet, which had been held by our men. His right crossed this parapet, which he swept back, taking it in flank, and at the same time the division which had been driven from the railroad was rallied and fought for their former ground. These combined forces drove the enemy into Atlanta, recovering the twenty-pound Parrott guns (De Grasse's), but one of them was found bursted while in possession of the enemy." I belonged to the Third brigade of the First division, General Woods commanding, and was in the charge which, as above described, recovered the guns spoken of as De Grasse's Parrotts, and no description of that engagement that I have ever found mentions any brigade of the Sixteenth Corps as having taken any part in it. The Fifteenth Corps alone recovered the ground and the guns, as General Sherman himself says. The charge the "eye witness" was in must have been on some other part of the field and on other guns than De Grasse's. It is also a mistake to say that De Grasse's was an Ohio battery. It was an Illinois battery and a good one. Yours, fraternally,

L. FRADLEY,
INDEPENDENCE, KAN. Co. F, 30th Iowa Inf.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In your issue of May 24th, a correspondent, who signs himself "Eye Witness," gives the credit for recapturing De Grasse's battery to Colonel Mercer's Second brigade of the Second division of the Sixteenth Army Corps. It was Colonel Burke's Second brigade of the Fourth division of the Fifteenth Army Corps, composed of the Sixty-sixth Illinois, Twelfth Illinois and Eighty-first Ohio, that retook it. He is right in stating that one of the guns burst after it was captured. I was a member of company D, Sixty-sixth Illinois, and was an eye witness, and participated in the charge. I would like to ask "Eye Witness" if he remembers the battery team of eight horses that had been left in the rear of the battery and had been so badly torn to pieces by a cannon ball that those that were not already dead had to be shot with revolvers? Also, whether he remembers the hundreds of dead rebels that lay in front of the battery that morning after the charge? I should be pleased to have "Eye Witness" state whether he was a member of the Sixty-sixth Illinois, and what company.

SAC CITY, IOWA. A. BARNEY, Co. D, 66th Ill.

That Charge of Harrow's Division.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I dislike to spoil a good story, but it is sometimes necessary in order to get at the truth. In your issue of the 10th ult. there appeared an article from the lively pen of Lieutenant Fish about a grand charge made by Harrow's division of the Fifteenth Army Corps, capturing a battery, &c., which other troops of the Fifteenth Corps had refused to attempt—afraid, as it were. Now, this is all a mistake. About the 15th of June, 1864, our division (Second, Fifteenth Army Corps) was on the extreme left of the army, a little to the left of *Big Kennesaw*, and in plain view of the town of Marietta. We had been skirmishing with the enemy the day before, and found their line at the base of the mountain, with a strong outpost half a mile south of the mountain, in a small piece of woods. It was this outpost that General Harrow tried to capture on the 15th of June. There was no battery captured, and no hill to be charged. It was simply a brilliant charge of a well-supported skirmish line, and the rebels (about 300 strong) were sent flying out of the woods toward the mountain. It was while on the run that General Logan ordered Captain De Grasse of our division to send a few shells after them, just to keep up the excitement. I don't recollect that General Sherman was there, and think he was not. The rebel General Bishop Polk was killed at Lost Mountain—six miles away—June 13th or 14th.

A. B. C.,
30th O. V. Inf.

What Became of the Eighty-ninth Ohio's Colors.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

The Eighty-ninth Ohio volunteer infantry, as has already been noted in your columns, were nearly all captured at Chickamauga, Tennessee, on Sunday evening, September 20, 1863. Of the few who got away safely I happened to be one, though not without receiving some very close calls—one ball passing through my blouse. The colors were captured with the regiment. As the flag was a very long one the color-bearer was oblged to carry it in his hands by the side of the staff. After the battle of Chickamauga we were ordered to join the Eighteenth Kentucky volunteer infantry, which we "kicked" against, and as after a short time we again numbered enough men to maintain our regimental organization, we held our own, although we had no colors. The ladies of Brown county, however, made up a sum of money and bought us two flags. One of these—the blue banner—was placed, after we had them some time, in charge of our sutler, but on one occasion, when the latter was away from the regiment, the Confederate cavalry captured the sutler goods, and one flag with them. It remained in the hands of its captors for sixteen years, but in July, 1880, both the flag captured at Chickamauga and our blue banner were recovered by the writer after a long search for them.

W. M. BARNS,
Late Co. C, 89th O. V. I; Adj't J. H. Jenkins Post, No. 242, G. A. R.
WILLIAMSBURG, O.

The Fifteenth Corps at Peach Tree Creek.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Comrade Joseph Engomar, in his letter appearing in THE TRIBUNE of May 10th, very correctly, I think, claims for the Twentieth Corps the chief credit of having fought the battle of Peach Tree Creek, July 20, 1864. In conclusion, he makes the same mistake for which he was taking another comrade to task, in this, that he says: "It was General Geary's division of the Twentieth Corps that scaled the rocky sides of Lookout Mountain, fought the battle in the clouds," &c. Now, then, while Geary's division did take an important part in that engagement and did its whole duty nobly, the First division of the old Fifteenth Corps, under that gallant Dutch soldier, Osterhaus, bore its full share in that battle, as did also several brigades from the Cumberland Army. As to this there is no room for controversy. General Howard, in the *Atlantic Monthly* for August, 1876, describes that whole campaign in a very well written paper, which is worthy of reproduction. He says, in speaking of Hooker the day of the battle: "He had now of his own troops Geary's division and Osterhaus' division;" adding, in parentheses, "these belonged to the *celebrated* Fifteenth Corps, that were *good anywhere* to fight a battle, clean out a village, or forage liberally on a march;" and General Howard, who was an old Eleventh Corps officer from the Eastern army, can hardly be supposed to have been partial to our corps, though he was never just, and that is all that we or any one should ask. He also puts with Hooker on that day Whittaker's and Grose's brigades of the Fourth Corps, under Cruft, and these troops, like our division of the Fifteenth Corps, must share with Geary whatever glory belongs to the Lookout Mountain affair, though we never considered the fighting of that day as at all severe compared to what we had done at Donelson, Shiloh, and Vicksburg, or afterwards did in the Atlanta campaign.

General Hooker's report, as it appears in Part I, "Conduct of the War," p. 165, states that he had the divisions above mentioned, one from the Fifteenth, one from the Fourth, one from the Twentieth, under Osterhaus, Cruft, and Geary, in the order given. In his description of the operations of that and the next day an impartial reader could not discover that Geary was any more actively or effectively engaged than Cruft or Osterhaus. In speaking of the Twenty-fifth he says: "Whenever the accidents of the ground enabled the rebels to make a stand, Geary and Osterhaus, always in the right place, would pour a withering fire into their ranks, and again the race was renewed." In regard to the prisoners, he says: "Osterhaus alone captured two thousand of them."

General Hooker pays the very highest compliment to what he calls his "new command," when he says in the report quoted from: "The greatest difficulty I experienced with my new command, which caused me the most solicitude, was the disposition to attack regardless of circumstances, and almost of consequences. It has never been my fortune to serve with more zealous or more devoted troops." The writer was one of the boy soldiers of one of the regiments (Seventy-sixth Ohio) of the First Brigade, First Division of the Fifteenth Corps, and was wounded in the fight at Ringgold on the 27th of November, 1863, and the Thirteenth Illinois, Fourth Iowa, Seventh Ohio, and several other regiments suffered what seemed at the time a loss that could as well have been avoided.

It was not my purpose in this to give an account of that campaign or any of its battles, but simply to set my comrades right in regard to the forces that fought the battle above the clouds. It was not much of a battle at best. It was bold and brilliant rather than obstinate. The Cumberland Army boys can speak for themselves, but I venture the opinion that they did not call it such fighting as they had done at Stone River or Chickamauga, and our old division thought it a picnic as compared with places they had been in only a week before. It was a romantic affair, and will live longer in story and song than others more bloody and terrific.

I like to see a soldier feel a special pride in his particular command, and can pardon him for thinking his regiment or brigade just a little the best in the service, but he ought to be just to others. I share this feeling in regard to the old Fifteenth Corps, and could cite a record and achievements as part of the Army of the Tennessee, including Fort Henry, Donelson, Corinth, Shiloh, and all the various battles that make up the siege and fall of Vicksburg; Chattanooga, the Atlanta campaign, the battles of the 22d and 28th in particular, and Jonesboro', the assault and capture of Fort McAllister, the march through Georgia and Carolinas, the march to the sea, and the final campaign up through the Carolinas, ending with the surrender of Johnston.

We had but finished the long and arduous Vicksburg campaign, including the siege of Jackson immediately following, when our corps was sent to Memphis, marched over frozen ground without tents or adequate supplies, to relieve Burnside, who was besieged by Longstreet. It was after this that General Sherman said: "I assert that there is no better body of soldiers in America than the Fifteenth Corps." See his "Memoirs," vol. 1, p. 383.

Yours, fraternally, L. U. HUMPHREY.
INDEPENDENCE, KAN.

The Capture of Candle's Brigade.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In reading THE TRIBUNE I have failed to see any report of the capture of Candle's brigade at Gladesville, Wise county, Va., July 5, 1863, by the gallant Major John Mason Brown, commanding the Second battalion, Tenth Kentucky volunteer cavalry, and McClanahan's or Jessee's guerrilla squadron, in all 394 men. Major Brown conceived the idea of crossing the Cumberland Mountain and trying it a little on his own hook—leaving his supply camp and penetrating the enemy's country about 150 miles. On July 5th, in the morning, we started to climb the mountains, the writer being on the left of the battalion line, and Corporal Mike Mannion on the right, with instructions that no man should show himself in the road, under severe penalties, for fear of drawing the fire of the enemy posted in a log-and-earth works at the summit of the mountain, it being our purpose to surprise them. Proceeding land over hand through the laurel and ivy, we approached within about 150 yards of the works, when all at once Corporal Mannion came down the mountain about twenty feet at a jump, landing in the road, drawing the fire of a vidette, whose gun reverberated through the mountain like a 200-pound Columbiad. When expostulated with by me for disobedience of orders and, further, for unnecessarily disturbing hitherto still, he replied that "Be gorra he could and would fight rifulls, but dom'd if he'd figlit rattlesnakes." All hopes of surprising the enemy were now given up, and we immediately formed in column and charged up the road, and entering the gap, saw the enemy "skinning out" on the other side of the mountain. Corporal Mannion, being an Irishman, was as brave as an Irishman under ordinary circumstances, but in climbing up the mountain had got upon a ledge of rocks, and in a crevice had struck a perfect nest of rattlesnakes. Hence his unceremonious descent from the gap in the mountain. Major Brown now withdrew, conveying the impression to the enemy that we were on the retreat—having had five men wounded and the horse of Lieutenant White having been killed under him. Making a detour through another gap called Beef Hide Gap, by a forced march during the whole of the night, we captured, just before daylight, by crawling several miles almost on our hands and knees, the rebel picketts, and charged the enemy, capturing General Caudle and most of his staff, and brought away with us 118 prisoners, and, though hotly pressed, returned across the mountains in safety.

Speaking of Corporal Mannion reminds me of an episode in his career. Mike was a devout Catholic. Being detailed in 1862 as orderly for the colonel of the Twenty-second Michigan infantry, who commanded our brigade, he was sent, the night he reported as orderly, to sleep in the chaplain's tent. Mike undressed and retired early. The chaplain entered his tent, lighted his candle about taps, and kneeling down, after preparing himself for sleep, read a chapter from the Bible, said his prayers, and reaching over to a camp-stool picked up what Mike said looked like a pillow-slip, unfolding it and spreading it out on the ground, put one corner up to his mouth and commenced to inflate—a rubber bed! Mike stood it for a while; but, as the thing began to swell and swell, he finally exclaimed to the chaplain, "Ye're a dom'd heretic," and slid out from under the tent and broke for his camp, about a mile away, in his drawers and shirt. Arriving at his old mess, his messmates could get nothing out of him but "dom'd heretic." We could not induce him to return, and had to send for his horse and clothes and make detail of another man as orderly.

Major Brown was afterwards made colonel of the Forty-fifth Kentucky volunteer infantry, and the writer followed him into that regiment. The colonel is still living and doing well in Louisville, Kentucky.

TENTH AND FORTY-FIFTH KENTUCKY.
FORT SCOTT, KAN.

A Reminiscence of Cross Keys.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In your chronology for the first week of June, 1862, in the paper of May 31, there is no mention of the engagement at Cross Keys, Virginia, June 8, when Fremont tried to keep Jackson from getting back to Lee after having driven Banks over into Maryland. Jackson slipped away and crossed the flood-swollen river on the bridge to Port Republic, where he engaged a part of the army under Shields June 9, 1862. This was a sanguinary conflict, and the odds were terrible. Only about 3,500 met the thousands of Jackson's army. Their loss was three to one of ours, and this made them very crusty. An officer threatened to kill me, and told me I lied, when I told him how many we had engaged. They said they had never met Yankees that would fight before, though they knew better. There seemed to be a feeling of uncertainty on both sides. I was left hopelessly wounded where some of our men dropped me, as the near approach of the enemy's fire made it uncomfortable. While lying there a general rode up and dismounted, taking a stone for a seat. He took out his lunch and began to eat, when an officer rode rapidly up and, in as rapid speech as an excited man could use, said: "General, are we necessarily cut off?" and was answered: "Not as long as Brown's Gap is open." Even the soldiers were far from being kindly disposed. When our wounded requested to be taken into an ambulance, they would answer, with oaths, that they had no place for Yankees—they had enough of their own to attend. A quiet place in the fence corner invited me to sleep for part of the night at least, until something better offered. Many of our dead were eaten by the hogs, which seemed to have a desire to save the rebs the trouble of burying them. GEO. C. CLOUDS,
MATAMORAS, IND. Co. K, 5th O. V. I.

[The affair of Cross Keys was duly recorded in our chronology under the proper date. See issue of June 7.—ED.]

A Succession of Surprises.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I have often asked myself the question, while reading THE TRIBUNE, why some one doesn't write up a history of the Peninsular campaign, during which so many died in the Chickahominy swamps. I participated in that campaign from the beginning to the end, and when I saw Comrade Puller's question as to whether General Casey was surprised at Fair Oaks, I became interested at once. If he was not surprised, some of his command were, at any rate, for I was in his division, and I know that our regiment and brigade were surprised, and I think General Negley, who commanded our brigade, was surprised too, when his horse was shot under him as he stood on the right of his "Yankee squad"—as he called our regiment, the Eleventh Maine volunteer infantry—of which he said that if he had had ten thousand men such as it was composed of he could have taken Richmond. After the battle, we were, like Comrade Puller, minus everything but our canteens and equipments, for just as soon as the pickets began firing we were ordered to fall in, and, expecting only to have a little fun driving the Johnnies back, hurried forward at double quick. We met, however, such a shower of lead and iron, and encountered such a heavy force that we were considerably surprised, and still more surprised when we were ordered to fall back, leaving half of our regiment either killed or wounded. As a consequence, the Johnnies gobbled up everything in our camp—even our "salt horse" that we had slung over the fire to cook for dinner—and you bet there were some hard words used that night when we had to bivouac in the rain with nothing but the heavens to cover us. But it was some satisfaction the next day to drive them back past our camp towards Richmond. I would like to hear from some of my old comrades through THE TRIBUNE.

ALONZO R. STEWART,
EUREKA, CAL. Late Serg't, Co. I, 11th Me. V. I

How the Boys Remember "Rosy."

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I agree with Comrade Avery about the Chickamauga campaign being a success. Although Rosy was removed from us by red tape, Chattanooga was taken and held to a certainty. The truth about the fight at Chickamauga has never been all told yet. If Rosecrans could have followed up the fight that night, he would have been the grandest victory of the war. The Johnnies had been retreating across the Chickamauga Creek at a bridge a little above the sawmill for nearly three hours, when a courier followed them up and said the Yankees were retreating, and the rebel troops halted. They did not pursue our men. I think that nearly all the army remember that, and wondered what the cause was.

Longstreet met his match in that fight, for we captured nearly 600 of his men by a single line of our infantry that he charged. If any of them are alive, they will remember it. There is another thing the Army of the Cumberland will never forget, and that was the day General Rosecrans was removed. There were more long faces that day than I ever saw in the army, for we had always expected when we started for a place to take it. We never knew what defeat was, and I think that every soldier that belonged to that army felt as I did. W. H. AUSTIN,
Private, 16th Ill., 2d Brig., 2d Div., 14th Corps.
BAYLIS, ILL.

Recollections of Tyler Prison.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Sometime ago I saw a call for a history of Tyler prison, and, with your permission, I will endeavor to give my experience there. I was taken prisoner on the 15th of May, 1864, and exchanged on the 25th of February, 1865, a period of ten months, nine of which I spent in Tyler prison. Together with others I was captured at the battle of Mark's Mill, Ark., about forty miles from Pine Bluff. From that place we were marched back to Camden, and confined in an old cotton press, where we were robbed of everything we had left—money, knives, pocket-books, watches, and rings. The rebels even traded boots, hats, coats, pants, shirts, and socks with us. Well does every man remember that filthy hole. From the cotton press we were marched to Fort Tyler, crossing the Red River at Shreveport, La. Colonel Allen was in command when we reached there, but was soon relieved, Colonel Sweet taking his place. He in turn was relieved before long by Colonel Borders. I do think that he and his adjutant, McCann, were the most tyrannical men in the Confederacy, or, at least, on the western side of the Mississippi. They would ride into camp and abuse the men in every conceivable way that their devilish dispositions could suggest. One of their orders posted in the camp was that every man who attempted to escape should be shot by the man who captured him. There were many plans made for escape, among which was the dirt cart, which has been much the rounds about. Tunneling was also tried, but few ever succeeded in that way. Their plans were either reported to the rebels, or the rain flooded the tunnel. Something always happened. When a tunnel was discovered, we were made to dig the hole out while the guards watched over us to see that it was done properly. Some forged passes and went out on them, and some bought their way out with the buttons off their coats. In fact, it was not so hard to get out as it was to travel to Fort Scott or Little Rock, Ark. The rations were very light at the best, being one pint of corn-meal a day with once in a while a quarter of a pound of beef. At one time we were three days without anything to eat, and at the end of that time they gave us half a pint of corn-meat. Some of the boys boiled it and some parched it, while others ate it raw. I swallowed mine as soon as I got it. The rebels often swept the floor of the mill and gave us the dirt with the corn-meal, which, of course, we could not eat. Some of the prisoners kept their share and brought it home, and I suppose have it yet. I do not think it would wear out—dirt never grows less! I saw Captain Read stationed on a barrel head for trying to escape, and forced to stand there all the Fourth of July, in the hot sun, bare headed and bare footed. We invented amusements of various kinds, among which were mock lawsuits. The Johnnies shot prisoners on every occasion without the least provocation, and they were often promoted for such acts of bravery. The doctors said we had good water. It was good, perhaps, when it left the spring, which was on the outside, but it was filthy by the time it reached us, from the fact that it ran into some boxes in the stockade which were sunk to the level of the ground. Tobacco was hard to get and expensive, costing a small twist bringing $5 in greenbacks, while Confederate money would not buy it at all. I have known army blue pants to sell for $28 in greenbacks. Three potatoes would sell for $1, which was the smallest amount that anything could be bought for. The scurvy killed hundreds. I have seen men's legs turn black and the flesh drop off in great lumps, until death put an end to their misery. Vermin, too, were thick, and caused much distress. CHAPLAIN,
Co. E, 43d Ind. V. I.

"Potomac Jack's" Prison Experiences.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

A few days ago a friend gave me three copies of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, and I now regret that I did not become acquainted with it sooner. I inclose you post-office order for two dollars. Please send me back numbers from January, 1882, to present date. Permit me to say that I have found information in the three copies which is very important and interesting to me. I was confined in rebel prisons for fourteen months. I was captured near Culpeper, Va., on the 11th of October, 1863, and sent first to Richmond, Va., and incarcerated in Pemberton prison. In November, 1863, I was sent to Danville, Va., and about February, 1864, to Andersonville, Ga., and thence, about September, 1864, to Charleston, S. C., there I remained for about two weeks. I was next sent to Florence, S. C., and in December, 1864, was paroled with the first lot that left Florence. My Richmond prison was occupied by men who had been taken prisoners at the battle of Chickamauga, under Rosecrans, and, as I was the only prisoner from the Army of the Potomac, the Rosecrans boys gave me the name of "Potomac Jack," by which name I was known through all my prison life. I have been writing nearly all over the West in search of Chickamauga prisoners of 1863 who were sent to the above prison. From the building I was in at Danville an attempt was made to escape by tunneling from the cellar, with a view of coming out under a barn that stood about twenty-five feet from the main building. Shortly before the tunnel was completed the earth caved in, and, to the surprise of all, instead of having been run in a straight line, it was found to be of horseshoe shape, so that if the prisoners had dug seven feet further the tunnel would have led to the wall of the main building. I should like to hear from any of my fellow prisoners there who remember Potomac Jack. Some of my early acquaintances were Asia Childs and James Gardner. I think they were from the Fourth Kentucky volunteers; also, William Miles and Jack Dougherty, whose regiments I do not recall. The four were my comrades all through my prison life. Can any one give me any information about them? I have no doubt many of your readers would be pleased to have that tunnel fully described.

Yours, respectfully,
JOHN GERARD, Post-office Box 394,
NEW BRITAIN, CONN. Late Co. A, 6th Vermont Vols.

What Became of Sergeant Cobb?

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

While returning from the charge made by the Eighth Iowa cavalry at Lovejoy Station on the McCook raid I gave a drink of water to Sergeant Cobb, of company G, and placed him in a comfortable position. He was desperately wounded, and I thought he would die. I saw him, however, once again at Andersonville Prison, when neither of us ever expected to survive our wounds. Can any survivor of the fourth ward at Andersonville tell me through THE TRIBUNE the issue of Sergeant Cobb's case? GEO. W. DOLSEN,
HUNTSVILLE, ILL. Late of Co. K, 8th Iowa Cav.

THE EDITOR'S TABLE.

A Glance at the Contents of the Tribune's Mail.

A Loud Call for Cyrus.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Cyrus W. Crisman, a member of company C, Ninety-seventh Ohio volunteer infantry, was captured under the following circumstances: The day after the bloody battle of Franklin, while on the march from Franklin to Nashville, and when near Brentwood Station, he took several canteens and went a little way from the pike to a house after water. While there the rebel cavalry came dashing up, and, of course, Cyrus was made a prisoner. The good lady of the house, however, whose name was, I think, Overton, told the rebs plainly that they could not take him away, as he was put there on guard and had been there several months. I don't know why she took such a fancy to him unless on account of his youth and good looks. He certainly was a fine looking soldier. In a short time General Hood established his headquarters at the house, and when he heard the lady's story he gave Cyrus protection papers, and he certainly fared as well as any other prisoner of the late war. During his stay with Hood he was invited to the wedding of a rebel major at