FIGHTING THEM OVER.

What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

The 1st New York Artillery at Fair Oaks.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In your paper of February 7th, E. R. Stillman, of the 85th New York, in his account of that regiment in the battle of Fair Oaks, does great injustice to battery A, 1st New York light artillery.

It will be remembered that Casey's division occupied an untenable position; that he had but 6,000 men for duty, and that he was attacked by a force of nearly 25,000. When the enemy put in an appearance in the woods and slashing in our front, we opened with case shot and shell, and our gunners very soon getting the range, we poured into their ranks those deadly missiles by the wholesale. They were soon in the open field, and then the order came for canister (which, it will be understood, is a can containing twenty-seven balls, varying in size, according to the caliber of the gun). Gen. Casey was in the redoubt at one time, while we were firing at short range, and commended the boys upon their rapid firing and execution. Number 1, of the first gun, as he steps outside the wheel is shot. A comrade says "Covey is killed." Payne, the gunner, shouts: "Ready—fire!" He then takes the rammer, steps over Covey's body, and sponges and reloads the gun. Col. Bailey, our chief of artillery, rides over from another battery to order the guns spiked and a retreat, but is killed while dismounting from his horse. We learn later that Major Van Valkenburg has shared the same fate. Sergeant Searle is wounded and is obliged to leave his post. Driver Preston is found lying dead by his horses—both shot—and he still holding the bridle. One of the infantry boys asks for a drink of water of one our men, and while drinking from his canteen receives his death wound. During this time our six 12-pounder Napoleon guns are sending into the ranks of the enemy from one to three shots a gun per minute. Cannoneers Nos. 5 and 7 (who carry ammunition) are becoming exhausted. Lieutenant Hart comes out of the redoubt to the limbers and asks if we have any more canister. Yet, E. R. S. says "Our artillery fired one or two rounds of canister and then 'stood not upon the order of their going, but went as fast as their legs could carry them,'" &c.

The men of Sickles' brigade, who buried the dead in front of our battery, can tell the story of the whirrow of dead they found mowed down by our canister. Tom Wade, a Confederate soldier from Alabama, whom I knew in Missouri, told me that they received orders to pick off our horses, and said their ranks were thinned out by our artillery. A member of a North Carolina regiment told me substantially the same thing.

Our horses were killed or disabled, the ground was soft from the heavy rain the night before, an overwhelming force was nearly upon us. It was simply folly to fight longer against such odds with no hope of re-enforcements, and therefore we departed with our forces to the rear. "The blood of the gallant dead who fell fighting for their country would cry out to me from the ground did I not cast off the foul aspersions which have been heaped upon them." JAMES H. CRANDALL,

Battery A, 1st New York Light Artillery.
PORTVILLE, Co., N. Y.

* Extract from General Casey's report of the battle of Fair Oaks.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Will you allow a lady—a soldier's wife—to say a few words in your interesting paper? I would like to speak "my little piece" and then retire to the rear. It is all well enough for soldiers to wish the bravery of their own particular company placed before the public in such a way as to be appreciated; but when, after the lapse of more than twenty years, they enter into a "war of words," and strive to wrench from others those laurels which are justly their due, we can but denounce it as both ignoble and the very meanest kind of cowardice. I speak in defense of the Napoleon-gun battery, and Casey's division generally. Here is an article copied from the *Freeman's Journal* of June 20, 1862:

To say that the rebels do not often fight most desperately is to belittle the courage and efforts of the Federals. A member of battery A, New York artillery, in Casey's division, known as the Napoleon-gun battery, which was in the front line of the first day's battle before Richmond, has written to New York, a thrilling description of the carnage inflicted upon the rebels by the fire of that battery, from which we make an extract.

"The destruction was horrible. Our spherical case shot are awful, awful missiles; each of them consisting of a clouted mass of seventy-six musket balls, with a charge of powder in the center, that is fired by a fuse, the same as a shell. The missile first acts as a solid shot, ploughing its way through masses of men and then exploding, hurls forward a shower of musket balls that mow down the foe in heaps. Our battery threw twenty-four of these shells into the rebel ranks, as we had the exact range of that part of the field, every rebel told with frightful effect. But the enemy were not at all alarmed. They marched steadily on, and hailed a perfect tempest of balls upon us. Why we, as well as our horses, were not every one shot down will forever remain a mystery to me. We did not mind the musket balls however, and kept pouring our case shot into the dense masses of the foe, who came on in prodigious and overwhelming force. And they fought splendidly too. Our shot tore their ranks wide open, and shattered them in a manner that was frightful to witness; but they closed up again at once, and came on as steadily as English veterans.

"When they got within four hundred yards, we closed our case shot and opened on them with canister, and such destruction I never elsewhere witnessed. At each discharge great gaps were made in their ranks—indeed, whole companies, nearly, went down before that murderous fire—but they closed up with an order and discipline that was awe-inspiring. They seemed to be animated with the courage of despair, blinded with the hope of a speedy victory, if they could by an overwhelming rush drive us from our position.

"It was awful to see their ranks torn and shattered by every discharge of canister, while their dead and dying lay in piles; yet, still they kept advancing right in the face of our fire. At one time three lines, one behind the other, were steadily advancing, and three of their flags were brought in range of one of our guns shotted with canister. 'Fire!' shouted the gunner, and down went those three flags, and a gap was opened through those three lines as if a thunderbolt had torn through them, and the dead lay in swaths. But they at once closed up and came on, never wavering, right through the woods, over the fence, right through the field, up to our guns, and, sweeping everything before them, captured every piece.

"When we delivered our last fire, they were within fifteen or twenty paces of us, and, as our horses had all been killed or wounded, we could not carry off our guns."—*Ed. Journal.*

For further particulars of the patriotic deportment of Casey's division, the reader is referred to Abbot's History of the Civil War in America, chapter seventh.

MRS. F. W. CRAINE,
A Gunner's Wife.
SOUTH BROOKFIELD, N. Y.

The Soldiers Who Were Whipped at Hampstead.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In your issue of March 13 Comrade C. R. Strahan, company B, 7th Indiana cavalry, calls for the names of the soldiers who were whipped at Hampstead, Tex., by order of General Custer. That is a question that will stir up every survivor of the 9th who sees it. I will answer it, partly from history and partly from recollection. At the time, and for two weeks previous, we had not drawn any rations, but beans, that were fit to eat. Our crackers and meat were full of worms, and we had to "shift around" a good deal or go hungry. Corporal Lewis Gereau and Private J. T. Arnold, of company I, were out of camp one day about the last of September, 1865, and, running across a poor, runty calf, worth probably a dollar, killed it and took some of the meat into camp. Of course the rebel owner made complaint to General Custer, and the next morning while the regiment was at roll-call an aid of Custer's went through the tents and found some meat in Gereau's tent, whereupon he and all his mesemates were arrested and sent to headquarters. There were ten stolen turkeys in camp at that time, but they were so well hidden that the aid did not find them. Contrary to his promise to Colonel Shanks to have the men properly tried by court-martial, Custer ordered his provost-marshal to go through the farce of an examination. Gereau and Arnold confessed in a manly way all they had done, but refused to implicate other comrades, at which Custer ordered their heads to be shaved and forty lashes given to each, and directed that they should afterwards be marched in front of their regiment when on dress-parade. Colonel Shanks and Lieutenant-Colonel Browne (now a member of Congress from Indiana) and Major Carpenter (since dead) protested that flogging in the army was prohibited by act of Congress, August 5, 1861. But the sentence was carried out all the same. When the men were paraded in front of the regiment the officers turned their backs, and in a few moments the men broke ranks and went to their quarters. Curses loud and deep were heard on every side, and for several days the men were on the point of mutinying.

J. W. LEE,
VAN WERT, O. Co. E, 7th Ind. V. I.

[Comrade James H. Jackson, company M, 7th Indiana cavalry, China, Jefferson county, Ind., and T. J. Howard, orderly sergeant, company I, of the same regiment, Denver, Colo., send us accounts of the same purport as the above.—ED.]

THE PENNA. RESERVES.

An Interesting Sketch of the Famous Crack Division.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Allow me to give a more extended reply to the questions asked by L. N. J., of Schroon Lake, N. Y., in regard to the Pennsylvania Reserves. At the outbreak of the rebellion it was feared by wise men, whose prophecies could not be unheeded, that the war would, if possible, be carried by the insurgents into free territory, and that Pennsylvania would be their first objective point; and it was further prophesied by those same statesmen and military men that the term of service of the men already mustered in for three months would not see the war ended, and that additional levies for troops and for longer terms must be made. Hence, as early as April 20, 1861, Governor Curtin called an extra session of the Legislature to convene on the 30th of that month.

On May 2d a bill was reported, as recommended by the Governor, for arming the State and providing for a loan to meet the expenses incident thereto.

The bill became a law on the 15th of May, 1861, and among other things authorized the governor to organize a military corps, composed of thirteen regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry, and one regiment of light artillery, which were to be styled the Reserve Volunteer Corps of the Commonwealth, and as to numbers, officers, and all their clothing and equipments were to conform to the regulations of the army of the United States.

ON TO WASHINGTON.

This organization was fully completed and ready for the field, and many of the regiments were actually on duty within six weeks after the passage of the law by which it was created. The term of enlistment was for three years, unless sooner discharged, and they were to be held liable to serve in the United States army at any time the President might call on the Governor for troops. Our defeat at Bull Run resulted in a call for the entire division, and as soon as the railroads could get it to Washington city it was there—many of the regiments arriving at the capital on the night of the 22d and morning of the 23d of July, 1861, and were all sworn into the United States service in a few days thereafter. Major-General George A. McCall commanded the division; the 1st brigade, comprising the 5th, 1st, 2d and 8th regiments, was commanded by Brigadier-General John F. Reynolds; the 2d brigade, comprising the 3d, 4th, 7th and 11th regiments, was commanded by Brigadier-General George G. Meade, and the 3d brigade, comprising the 6th, 9th, 10th and 12th regiments, was commanded by Colonel John S. McCalmont; of the 10th, who was a graduate of West Point, until about November, 1861, when Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord took command. These men—McCall, Meade, Reynolds and Ord—were all officers in the Regular army, and all had seen active service in the Mexican war and on the frontier. General Ord was succeeded in command of the 3d brigade by Brigadier-General Trueman Seymour early in May, 1862. This was the original organization of the division, and it was peculiar, for the reason that it was the only division then in the army composed entirely of troops from the same State, and in which the brigade commanders, as well as the division commander, were all Regular army officers, and all of whom had actually served on the field of battle. The incidents of war, however, made many changes, and, while the division commander retired early in the campaign of 1862, being really too old for active duty, the others became eminent for their heroism and military skill, and rose successively and rapidly from brigade commands to divisions and corps, and one of them—General Meade—to the command of the Army of the Potomac.

THE BUCKTAILS.

But I have said nothing yet about the Bucktails,—the 13th regiment,—although a part of the corps. This regiment was composed of riflemen—of men who were born and reared in the mountain fastnesses of Northern Pennsylvania, and who were as hardy and heroic as they were unerring with their rifles, and were intended primarily as a mounted regiment, but this idea was abandoned, and they became the skirmishers—the sharpshooters—of the division. The regiment was recruited by Thomas L. Kane, a brother of Dr. Kane, the arctic explorer, and his command was known at first as the Kane Rifles; but, as every man had a buck's—deer's—tail in his cap, they soon received the cognomen of "Bucktails," and with that title they will travel on down the highway of history and glory. The 149th and 150th regiments, which went into the service in the latter part of the year 1862, and after the reputation of the Kane Rifles had become national through their individual deeds of daring and the immortality of McNeil on the picket-line the night before Antietam, assumed the insignia of "Kane's men," but never won the same renown nor achieved the same heroic results. Gen. Meade was not with any other troops than the Pennsylvania Reserves prior to his taking command of the 5th army corps, except the short time he was in command of the 1st army corps on the field of Antietam during the few days that Gen. John F. Reynolds was called to the command of the Pennsylvania militia which were called to the borders of that State in September, 1862, to repel any invasion that might be attempted by the rebel army in the event of success in the engagement at Antietam.

Every soldier in the Army of the Potomac who read the farewell order of Gen. Meade to the Pennsylvania Reserves when he parted with them in the early spring of 1863, well remembers that in that order he attributed to the bravery of the division all the renown he had achieved as a military commander.

J. L. EBERHART,
NEW BRIGHTON, PA. 8th Pa. Reserves.

How Lieut. Morris of the Cumberland was Saved.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Far be it from me to criticise a writer of the national reputation of "Carleton," but even the most careful historian will sometimes make mistakes, and in his article on the fight between the Merrimac and the Cumberland he has erred in several particulars. As I saw the whole fight, and the officer who was in charge of the gun squad that fired the last gun aboard the Cumberland is now in my office, I feel certain of the facts.

1. He (Carleton) says Lieutenant Morris perished with 117 of his men. The fact is that Lieutenant Morris was saved by men of the 29th Massachusetts volunteers, who manned the oyster boats for the relief of the drowning men of the Cumberland. Lieutenant Morris did not die until a few years ago.

2. He says the "St. Lawrence was a steamer, but her engines were out of order," &c. The St. Lawrence was a sailing frigate. He probably meant the Roanoke, as her engines were disabled.

3. He speaks of an 11-inch shot from the Cumberland. The heaviest shot from the Cumberland was from a 10-inch gun, the heaviest she had on board.

4. He speaks of the Virginia "running her beak into the sides of the Cumberland." *She struck her, head on, under her bows.*

5. He speaks of the rebel boat Frazer. Is that correct? I never heard of her, but there was a rebel gunboat Teaser that used to come down often from Richmond and shell our camp.

S. C. WRIGHT,
29th Massachusetts Vols.
PIER ONE, SOUTH BOSTON.

The 87th Ohio at Harper's Ferry.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In General Howard's description of the battle of Harper's Ferry, which was fought on the 13th, 14th and 15th of September, 1862, I failed to find any mention of the 87th Ohio regiment, commanded by H. B. Banning of Cincinnati, Ohio, which held one of the principal points in that engagement. The 87th Ohio was between the 60th Ohio and the 126th New York. When the 126th New York gave way it left the 87th Ohio without any support on the extreme left at a time when General Longstreet's men were marching in line of battle almost directly on our left. But presently Colonel Miles came riding between our line and that of the rebels with a white flag in his hand, and the surrender of Harper's Ferry was a fact.

W. W. DIXON,
GREENSBURGH, IND. 87th O. V. I.

THE FREDERICK SPY.

Some More Interesting Letters Concerning the Hanging of Richardson.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In your paper of the 6th inst., the writers do not agree in regard to the spy, Richardson. Let me say that I have a photograph of said spy, which was presented to me in 1865 by a witness of the execution. I wrote at the time upon the back of the card: "Richardson, a rebel spy, executed at Frederick City, Md."

From the picture he appears to be about thirty years of age, abundance of hair, no beard, and large mouth and lips.

S. A. WALKER,
LEXINGTON, OHIO. Co. G, 15th O. V. I.

[We also have a letter from Comrade J. W. French, company D, 16th Pennsylvania cavalry, Little Marsh, Pa., who agrees with other correspondents that Richardson was hanged on a locust instead of an apple tree, but declares that he was a man fifty years old. Comrade W. O. Kittleson, first sergeant, company A, 3d Wisconsin V. V. I., Minneapolis, Minn., who was one of the guard at Brigadier-General T. H. Ruger's headquarters, gives, however, a description of the spy which tallies with his appearance in the photograph mentioned in Comrade Walker's letter. He writes: "He was well known to the writer; was five feet eight or nine inches high, sandy complexion, *full* sandy whiskers; not bald, but hair thin on top of head; age, about thirty-five or thirty-six. I understood at the time that he was captured by a squad of cavalry with plans and maps, and was on his way to the rebel General Stuart. If I do not mistake, he was seen in Frederick City to communicate with Longstreet or some of his Confederate officers by some Union men there, who informed our men in regard to the matter. The rope used consisted of pieces of rope such as were employed to stake our small tents with, tied together and thrown over a limb some ten feet from the ground, and the end made fast around the locust tree about one foot from the ground. When I saw him he could have stood on his feet and untied the rope, for his knees were nearly touching the ground."—Ed.]

A NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT,

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

That there was a rebel spy hung at Frederick, Md., in 1863, the following extract from the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, of July of that year, will sufficiently prove. One division (Geary's) was marched past the tree and corpse four days after the battle of Gettysburg. He was hanging stark naked.

RICHARDSON THE SPY—INTERESTING STORY OF HIS CAPTURE AND EXECUTION.

An officer of the 7th regiment, of this city, sends us the following particulars of the operations of Richardson, the rebel spy, who was captured and hung some time since in Frederick City. I knew this Richardson from the beginning of the war. When we first came to Baltimore, he came into camp—just as he has done ever since—singing songs and selling them. He was a man of about fifty years of age, long light-colored beard, intellectual looking, and soft, pleasing voice in speaking. He was well-known in every camp of the Army of the Potomac, having an excellent voice, he used to delight the soldiers with his songs. On Sundays he distributed tracts, and I recollect one day talking to him about them. He was an excellent draughtsman, and got up an engraving of our fort on Federal Hill, of which I have some copies. He was in and out of all the camps constantly, and was rather fond of asking questions. The reason he gave for this was, that he was getting up a history of the war.

He was arrested while we were in Frederick City. His questions appeared to be rather too systematic and pointed. He was arrested on this account by three different parties, but gave such plausible excuses to first two that they let him go. General Slocum was in command of the city, and so strong was the suspicion excited against him, both by his questions on this occasion and by the circumstances reported by many soldiers, who had for some time suspected him and had previously called the attention of their officers to him, that it was determined to try to force some confession from him. He was put upon a horse, with his arms pinioned behind him, and a rope around his neck. The horse was led under a tree and the end of the rope thrown over a branch. The rope was pulled tight and the horse driven from under him. He was allowed to hang thirty seconds, and then let down. When brought to he refused to answer any questions. He was hung up again, and when revived a second time, he answered some of the questions asked. The third hanging brought a full confession. He had in his breast-pocket a brandy-flask; he told his captors to unscrew the metal bottom. On doing so, they found a considerable hollow. In this hollow, and in the lining of one of his boots, they found plans of our works very carefully and beautifully drawn; also, the exact position of each regiment, and even the particular companies detailed for picket or other service. Ten thousand five hundred dollars in greenbacks was found upon him, and a quantity of Confederate money. This was all handed over to the five men who arrested him. He also told them that they would find in a certain place a mulatto (who was his nephew)—he himself was a white man. His only other accomplice was his son. He told them that this negro could guide them to a place where they could capture some of Stuart's men. Richardson was, it seems, in constant communication with Stuart, and he confessed that he had been furnishing the rebels information all through the war.

Men were sent after the mulatto; he was found, placed securely upon a horse, and a rope thrown around his neck, to suggest to him the consequences of playing false. The expedition was so far successful as to capture some of Stuart's men.

The negro was retained by General Slocum, and considered by him as a most valuable servant. We were told that the son would be hung as soon as he was tried. Richardson was hung. The body remained hanging for five days, when it was cut down and buried. Before he was cut down I saw a cavalryman ride up and attempt to cut off a lock of his hair with a dull knife. Not liking the trouble, he coolly proceeded to jerk out what hair he wanted, utterly regardless of the disgusting body as it swung.

Comrades Carpenter and West can now rest satisfied that the execution of the above spy was witnessed by thousands of the Army of the Potomac. Dr. AUG. E. ZEITLER,

Sergeant-Major, 109th Pa. Vols.
OKAHUNKA, FLA.

[The spy Richardson was hung during the night of the 5th of July by order of General Buford. It is evident that the correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* erred in his statement that General Slocum was in command at Frederick City, as he had not then left Gettysburg. General French was in command of the troops in and about Frederick City.—ED.]

Something More About the 57th Illinois Infantry.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

In your answer to question regarding the 57th Illinois infantry by W. S. Moody, of Canton, Pa., you are not sufficiently explicit. Colonel S. D. Baldwin was, indeed, their commanding officer for a season, but he never commanded a brigade except by accident. As the different regiments reached Pittsburg Landing they were organized into brigades, and it fell to the lot of the 7th, 50th, 52d, 57th and 58th Illinois and the 8th Iowa infantry to be brigaded together, under the command of T. W. Sweeney, colonel of the 52d Illinois, who was severely wounded in Sunday's battle. As our brigade reformed their lines on Monday morning, (the 8th Iowa and 58th Illinois were gone, having been captured with General Prentiss,) Colonel Baldwin, as ranking officer, took command. He was dismissed March 26, 1863. After the battle came reorganization, and Colonel Sweeney was assigned to the 1st brigade, and at his urgent request the 52d Illinois was assigned to his brigade. This brigade was composed of the 2d and 7th Iowa, 52d Illinois and the fragments of the 8th, 12th and 14th Iowa and the 58th Illinois, called and known as "Union" brigade. The 3d brigade consisted of the 7th, 50th and 57th Illinois and, I think, the 26th Missouri infantry, under the command of Colonel Moses Bane, the gallant and efficient commander of the 50th Illinois. The 2d division was under Brigadier-General T. A. Davies until after the battle of Corinth. At this time the Union brigade was relieved by the 66th Indiana. Colonel Sweeney was soon promoted to brigadier-general and assigned the command of 2d division, and Colonel E. W. Rice (latterly brigadier-general) succeeded to command of 1st brigade. Colonel Bane still commanded the 3d brigade. He had in the meantime lost his good right arm. After the occupation of Atlanta the 2d division, 16th army corps, became the 4th division, 15th army corps. CHAS. H. FISH.

COLFAX, IOWA.

The Lady Davis Gun.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I noticed a reference in THE TRIBUNE to the Lady Davis gun that was spiked at Island No. 10. The gun was at Fort Hudson afterwards, and was placed in a ravine just outside the fort, where it did such fearful execution to our men that Captain Mack's battery boys concluded to put a stop to it, so they raised one of their guns on some cotton bales, and having obtained a proper elevation, fired four shots at it. One of the shots cut off the wheel on one side just at the top of the limb; another struck the gun in the muzzle and broke out a large piece; another cut off the pivot on which the gun turned and let it drop to the ground, and the last one took off the gunner's head.

GEO. P. SPEAR.
NORTH AMHERST, MASS.

GETTYSBURG.

Last Words as to What Regiment Opened the Battle.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Comrade Reed, of the 2d Wisconsin infantry, in his article published March 20th, in which the question of what regiment of infantry first opened fire on the enemy at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863, is discussd, says: "It being settled that Cutler's brigade was the first in the fight, I want some one of Cutler's brigade to explain how they got there." I will explain.

On the march up to Emmittsburgh the 1st brigade led, with our brigade in the rear, and our regiment brought up the tail end of the division, in guarding the wagon train. On the morning of July 1, we drew one day's ration of commissary stores and sixty rounds of ammunition. It could not have been later than 7:30 o'clock when we had orders to "fall in," and headed for Gettysburg up the pike.

It was our turn to lead that morning, which brought us at the head of the corps. So the 2d brigade led the Army of the Potomac that morning, and the brigade was formed as follows, if we remember rightly: 76th New York, 56th Pennsylvania, 147th New York, 14th New York (Brooklyn), and 95th New York.

Before we had been long on the march that morning sounds of artillery were heard in our left and front, and circular wreaths of smoke whirled and expanded in the air as shells exploded in the distance. Our pace was quickened, and, when about half a mile from Gettysburg, there was a call for the "pioneers to the front." We filed left, directing our march toward the seminary, and as soon as the fences had been thrown, the order was given: "Forward! Double-quick!" "Load at will!" was the next, and the pioneers could hardly throw the fences quick enough for us. The most troublesome fence was a strong post-and-board fence on both sides of the Fairfield road, near the seminary grounds. Hall's battery (2d Maine) dashed past us as we crossed the dry bed of Willowby's Run. We entered the seminary grounds to the left and front of the building and passed close to the south end. The rebs were shelling the cavalry, and we got some of their compliments. We were moving at that time at a double-quick by the right flank, and as we reached the bottom of the hill on the west of the seminary the head of the column was "filed right" across the Cashtown or Chambersburg road and old railroad grade. Hall's battery went into position near some houses between the Chambersburg road and the railroad grade. The 14th and 95th New York were then formed to the left of and in support of Hall's battery, and the balance of the brigade on the right. The moment the left of the 147th New York passed the railroad grade, the order was "By the left flank, march!" This brought us into a line of battle. Now, we had been going at a double-quick from the time we left the Emmittsburgh road until we reached the foot of the hill west of the seminary, and then moved briskly to the right half a brigade front, and, without halting, by the "left flank" into battle line as before narrated. The enemy were on the ground before we were, and we lost several men, who were killed while advancing in line of battle, before we had fired a shot. The position of the 56th Pennsylvania gave Colonel Hofman a view of the advance of Davis' Confederate brigade, and he opened fire on them at once. The 1st brigade was in our rear, and consequently on our left, when thrown forward into line of battle.

J. V. PIERCE,
Capt. Co. D, 147th N. Y. Vols.
OSAGE MISSION, KAN.

THE 8TH NEW YORK CAVALRY AT GETTYSBURG.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

There has been so much controversy of late regarding the opening of the battle of Gettysburg that I desire to add my testimony to that of those who know the 8th New York cavalry received the first fire of the enemy at the opening of the battle. While we may take it for granted that Colonel J. W. Hofman's statement regarding the first infantry engagement is true, I must except to his assertion that "it is generally understood that unless a battle be one confined to the cavalry arm it is not opened until the infantry becomes engaged." As to facts, I have simply to refer to my diary, which shows that on Tuesday, June 30, 1863, our cavalry marched to Gettysburg and drove a small force of rebels out of the place. We went into camp just in the edge of the village and established a picket-line. The next morning our pickets were driven in, and, although in our face were the advancing lines of Lee's infantry, we fought for hours (most of the time dismounted) through the cemetery and over the seminary grounds, stubbornly contesting every inch of ground until the arrival of the 1st army corps. As the first shots of the enemy were directed to our little line of cavalry, and as for a long time afterwards we stubbornly resisted the enemy's advance, losing men and horses, before the arrival of the 1st army corps, it seems as though our regiment ought to retain, without question or dispute, the honor of opening the battle of Gettysburg. There was a sense of relief on my own part which I shall never forget when we saw the grand old 1st corps coming to our relief at a double-quick, and they deserve credit for being the first infantry engaged in the struggle.

JOEL B. SWETT,
MEDINA, N. Y. Co. C, 8th N. Y. Cav.

Senator Harrison's Pension Bill.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Allow me, as an old subscriber, to express my approval, and that of many other veterans of this section, of the pension bill introduced by Senator Harrison, as we have seen none that contains so much justice to the disabled veteran as the one alluded to. His bill, without being extreme, embodies the true merits of all other bills, as it takes for its basis of justice to the veteran the fact that if he is now disabled it can be honestly presumed, whether he has a hospital record or not (unless otherwise shown, as explained in the bill), that his disability had its origin in the service, and, therefore, should entitle him to a pension. This is true equity, both to the Government and veteran.

Our armies in the late war numbered 2,600,000 men. The struggle for the right was long and tremendous in its effects, and the consequent results among those who endured its hardships will be great suffering for many years to come. Many soldiers who gave their best days and strength to this people and Government were discharged from the war apparently sound in health. Their youth and vigor, for the time being, warded off at least any appearance of disease; but the great physical strain on those who patiently bore its privations has sapped their vitality, leaving their impaired and weakened bodies accessible to disease, and now, as age comes prematurely on them, the seeds of disease implanted in their systems while in the service are fast developing into incurable infirmities—evidence enough, God knows, that it is the effects of the tortures of the prison pens, the hardships and exposure of the picket and skirmish-lines in the malarial swamps of the South, the terrible forced marches by day and by night, the insufficient food, the battlefield, and the bivouac in the rain and snow. All these have left their imprint on many of our old comrades who have no hospital records, but whose record of duty and fidelity to this Government should never be forgotton by those who now enjoy the fruits of their heroic efforts in a reunited and prosperous Nation, and should put to shame Joaquin Miller and others of his ilk who get their pensions from some of the big dailies at so much per column for slandering the ex-soldiers and sailors of the late war.

HUGH YOUNG,
Private, Co. F, 8th Mass. Vols.
BOSTON, MASS.

The First Prisoners at Camp Ford.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I saw an inquiry in a late TRIBUNE as to who were the first prisoners that were sent to Camp Ford, Tyler, Texas, and I find by referring to "Department of the Gulf"—a book written by Lieutenant-Colonel Duganne, of the 176th New York, who was confined there—that Lieutenant-Colonel Leake, of the 20th Iowa, with 208 of the 26th Indiana infantry; Lieutenant-Colonel Rose, of the 19th Iowa, with 241 more; Major Bruce, with 150 cavalry, and Major Montgomery, with 25 mounted infantry, with a section of the 1st Missouri artillery, with 34 men, were captured at Morganzia, La., September 29, 1863. There was also a detachment of the 19th Kentucky and some Michigan men there when I reached Camp Ford in the following May. As they with those captured with me would make about the number of old prisoners who were exchanged from there in July, 1864, I suppose they must have been the first to occupy the place. S. H. WRIGHT.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

THE QUESTION SQUAD.

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

Comrade I. N. Flanagan, company A, 3d Wisconsin volunteer infantry, Good Thunder, Minn., has in his possession a picture, inclosed in a case, which was found in the Shenandoah Valley, on Banks' retreat, in May, 1862. It is a portrait of a very fine looking young lady, taken with hat on. In the back of case under picture is written: "Eugene Redfern. (His likeness.) Sent to him to Lexington and received at Strasburg. Sweet Ella Hight! I hope you may never know sorrow or disappointment.—Eugene Redfern, Strasburg." Comrade Flanagan will gladly return to owner on application.

Comrade G. W. Halliday, sergeant-major, 6th Illinois cavalry, but now adjutant, Post No. 64, Golden City, Mo., sends this greeting to comrades of Grierson's cavalry corps: "If you ever pass this way, call on us the first and third Thursday evenings of the month. You will find the finest farming and stock country west of the Mississippi River, and plenty of veterans."

Comrade Isaac Kear, corporal, company E, 4th New York cavalry, Streator, Ill., would like to hear from the comrades who were with him when he was thrown from his horse in May, 1862, while returning to his command at Franklin, Va., from Romney, W. Va., whither he had been sent to carry dispatches to Blenker's division, which was on its way to re-enforce Milroy.

Comrade M. H. Wilson, corporal, company E, 3d Kentucky V. I., Hagaman, Ill., sends us an interesting letter in response to a call from a comrade of the old 125th Ohio V. I. "Tigers," he writes, "I haven't forgotten your daring deeds during the campaign from London, E. Tenn., to Atlanta, Ga. You showed your hand at Rocky Face, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, and Peach Tree Creek. Yes, Tigers, you did your whole duty." Comrade Wilson enlisted in the 3d Kentucky in 1861 from Metcalf county. He was slightly wounded both at Stone River and Kenesaw. Although only forty-seven, he is badly used up.

Comrade A. J. Cory, Tawawa, Ohio, has in his possession the hospital ward book of the 1st division, 13th army corps, Matagorda Island, Tex., from November 22, 1863, to January 11, 1864, in which he says there is much matter of record that may be of value to those comrades, in obtaining pensions, who lay in that hospital wounded or sick.

Comrade John Kern, company A, 9th Minnesota volunteer infantry, Oronoco, Minn., would like to hear from some of his fellow sufferers in the rebel prison at Cahawba, Ala., about the attempt made by Captain Hanchett to liberate them, which was frustrated by the high water.

Comrade Wm. Elmendorf, Rondout, N. Y., has the discharge—which was found in the depot of the N. Y. W. S. & B. R. R., at Kingston, N. Y.—of John Linderman, private, company K, 11th Indiana infantry. He will be glad to forward it to the rightful owner upon application and proof.

Comrade H. C. O. Gruhlke, Holmesville, Ind., has in his possession a paroled prisoner's pass, and a document,—the oath of Allegiance of J. C. Wofford, Jr., 2d lieutenant, company E, Johnson's regiment, Georgia cavalry, whom he believes is a son of Gen. W. T. Wofford, Cass Co., Ga.,—which he will gladly return to the original owner if he will send proof and his address. Comrade Gruhlke would like to know from some of his comrades of company C, 29th regiment, I. V. I., what became of the gun that he took from a rebel officer (named Puckett, or something like that) near Cartersville, Ga.

Comrade H. B. Chilcote, company G, 31st O. V. I., Zanesville, O., writes that at the battle of Chickamauga his knapsack was captured, together with a diary which he had kept for six months. The rebel who captured it wrote "Yankee" at the end of his entries in the diary, and the word "Rebel" at the top of the next page, and then continued the diary from the standpoint for a year. After the war he sent it to Comrade Chilcote by a returning Union prisoner. The rebel's name was C. J. Barrows—a nephew of George Washington Barrows, of La Grange, Ga. Comrade Chilcote would like to hear once more from this honest rebel, who, as he wrote him, was pressed into the service a few days before the battle of Chickamauga as a member of the 5th Georgia heavy artillery.

Any information in regard to Joseph D. Baker, company F, 57th regiment, P. V., who was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863, and kept on Belle Isle until about February 25, 1864, when he was taken to Andersonville, and was reported to have died there in May, 1864, would be most thankfully received by his sister,—Mrs. Sam'l Barnes, Pardoe, Mercer county, Pa.

Comrade John Holmes, Ashland, Wis., wishes to hear from some of his comrades of the 12th Massachusetts who were in Andersonville during the months of April, May, June, July and August, 1864.

Comrade N. H. Endsley, company G, Harris' light cavalry, Reading, Kan., wants some comrade to write up the Wilson raid.

"Subscriber" is informed that the present address of General A. J. Smith is St. Louis, Mo. He is auditor of that city.

Comrade H. P. Woodward, M. D., Wamego, Kan., has the discharge papers of Nicholas Silas company C, 11th Kansas cavalry, which were given to him when that comrade was dying, and would be glad to send same to friends of the deceased upon application.

Comrade H. V. Hicks, Alden, N. Y., wishes to locate a soldier's homestead, and would like some comrade to give him some information as to the climate and soil of Dakota and Nebraska.

Comrade Daniel P. Byam, Signal Corps, U. S. A., South Chelmsford, Mass., would like some one to write up Colonel Spurling's raid through Florida and Alabama.

Comrade H. E. Landon, lieutenant, 16th Connecticut volunteers, writes: "What has become of my two companions—escaped prisoners of war from Columbia, S. C., February, 1865—Captain Rodgers, 4th Kentucky cavalry, and Lieutenant Baird (I think from Wisconsin)? The latter received three awful bayonet thrusts in his back after he had surrendered."

STILL THEY COME.

The Latest Reports From The Tribune's Recruiting Officers.

Inclosed please find $6 for six new subscriptions to your valuable paper. None of us could do without THE TRIBUNE.—John Rath, Ackley, Iowa.

Inclosed please find money order for $10 for ten subscriptions to THE TRIBUNE. I like your paper very much.—Robert Mayers, Canal Dover, Ohio.

Inclosed please find $6 for six subscriptions to THE TRIBUNE. Hoping to continue the good work by getting you more, I remain, Thomas T. Farrell, Waterbury, Vt.

Please find inclosed $10 for ten new subscriptions to your valuable paper. Send me Waterbury.—Warren White, Logan, Iowa.

You will find inclosed $12 for twelve new subscriptions to THE TRIBUNE. I will send you more soon.—Z. S. Sport, Newton, Kan.

Please find inclosed $11 for eleven subscriptions to your good soldiers' paper. I will send you more soon.—W. D. Sprague, Mapleton, Minn.

Inclosed please find $2 for two new subcriptions to THE TRIBUNE. All who have read your paper say it is the best paper published. My paper comes addressed Happey instead of Haffey. I would like it changed if convenient, though I am "happy" when I receive it.—Thomas Haffey, Woodlawn, Pa.

TRIBUNE PREMIUMS,

And What Our Club-Raisers Think and Say of Them.

I have a Waterbury watch that I have carried for over a year, and it still keeps as good time as ever. I should like to hear, through THE TRIBUNE, from some of the "boys" of my regiment.—W. Wilkins, company H, 48th Pennsylvania volunteers, Kane, Pa.

The watch which you sent me proves to be a good timekeeper. I set it by my clock, and it has not varied a second in a week.—M. Graham, Oil City, Wis.

I presented the watch you sent me to my boy. He is delighted with it. The Waterbury is all that you claim for it. Subscribers here express themselves as well pleased with THE TRIBUNE.—W. T. McClelland, Centreview, Mo.

The Waterbury I received from you is a No. 1 timekeeper and a beauty. Cannot imagine how you can afford to give such a good watch for ten subscriptions.—Samuel Hallcock, Dundas, Minn.

The watch I received from you is a "daisy" and a splended timekeeper. I would advise any person wishing a watch to try THE TRIBUNE Waterbury.—J. R. Lathrop, Prescott, Iowa.

The Waterbury watch is received, and I must say that I am exceedingly well pleased with it. It is really a beautiful watch—far ahead of my expectations.—Geo. W. Modie, Chesterville, Ohio.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

Replies to Questions on a Variety of Interesting Subjects.

[*To Correspondents.*—Write questions on a separate sheet of paper, give full name and address, and mark it "Correspondents' Column." No attention will be paid to communications that are not accompanied with full name and address of writer. Our readers are requested to inclose a stamp for reply to their inquiries.]

W. H. H. G., Cadillac, Mich.—The reply of the Detroit *Post