GEN. O. O. HOWARD'S REMINISCENCES.

[Continued from 1st page.]

Salem, to urge his acceptance of the command. Burnside at first made strenuous objections, claiming his pleasant relations with McClellan, and insisting on his own unfitness. But finding that McClellan would be relieved in any event, he finally, with considerable reluctance, yielded to Mr. Stanton's wish. The two then rode to Salem, and taking the cars were soon in Rectortown. Buckingham says: "About 11 o'clock we found him alone in his tent examining papers, and as we both entered together he received us in his usual kind and cordial manner."

Burnside betrayed more feeling than McClellan. The latter, after reading the dispatch, passed it to Burnside, and said simply: "You command the army."

In order to complete the concentration of the army in the vicinity of Warrenton, the orders, already prepared, were issued and executed. My command made a march of eight miles during the 8th of November; this brought us to the neighborhood of Warrenton, where we encamped in a ravine to shelter ourselves from a severe wind storm. The next morning I turned out my troops and drew them up beside the road to give a parting salute to General McClellan. He rode along the line, the tattered colors were lowered, the drums beat, and the men cheered him. Burnside rode quietly by his side. At my last interview he said to me: "Burnside is a pure man and a man of integrity of purpose, and such a man can't go far astray."

One other remark I have preserved: "I have been long enough in command of a large army to learn the utter insignificance of any man unless he depend on a Power above."

It is easy to see from the details which I have given why the officers and soldiers were so much attached to McClellan.

Soon after this interview I met Burnside, who appeared sad and weary. He had been for two nights almost without sleep. He remarked in my presence that he had concluded to take the command of the army, but did not regard it as a fit subject for congratulation.

[To be continued.]

PRISONERS' PENSIONS.

The Memorial of the National Prisoners' Association to Congress.

The following memorial, prepared by Comrade John McElroy, himself an ex-prisoner, and now managing editor of the Toledo *Blade*, presents in concise form the reasons why our ex-prisoners are entitled to special consideration at the hands of Congress.

HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EX-UNION PRISONERS OF WAR.
CLEVELAND, O., April 3, 1884.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:

Your memorialists, the ex-Union Prisoners of War, through their National Association would respectfully set forth that they were soldiers and sailors in the service of the United States in the late war for the suppression of the rebellion, and that while acting under the orders of their superior officers, and performing the duties incident to such service, they were made prisoners by the armed enemies of the United States, and endured prolonged terms of imprisonment, and, for various reasons, this imprisonment was attended by the most extraordinary hardships. Even the very imperfect and incomplete records in the possession of the War Department of the mortality among the Union prisoners of war, show that these hardships must have been incomparably greater than those incident to service in the field. Without going into details, it will only be necessary to point out that the death rate among any given number of prisoners, and at any given time was very much higher than among a corresponding number of soldiers engaged in the prosecution of an active campaign. For instance, the report of Prof. Joseph Jones, the Confederate surgeon in charge of the prison at Andersonville, shows the following percentage of deaths to the mean number of prisoners confined there in each of the first five months that the prison existed:

March, 1864	3.77	June, 1864	5.38
April, "	3.76	July, "	6.64
May, "	4.72	August, "	10.9

Prof. Jones' report goes on to say: "We observe a progressive increase of mortality from 3.77 per cent. in March, to 10.09 per cent. of mean strength in August. The ratio of mortality continued to increase during September, for, notwithstanding the removal of one-half of the entire number of prisoners during the early portion of the month, 1,795 deaths are registered from September 1 to 21.

"The entire number of Federal prisoners was about 49,611, and during the period of near seven months, from February 24 to September 21, 9,479 deaths were recorded; that is, during this period nearly one-fourth, or more exactly, one in 4.2, or 23.8 per cent. terminated fatally."

But even these figures fail very short of properly representing the terrible mortality, for the reason that of the total of 49,611 prisoners received at Andersonville over 30,000 came in after the opening of the great campaigns in May, and the bulk of those that survived were taken away in September, so that many thousands who were brought to death's door there, died in other prisons or on the road to them. Of those who were left behind in Andersonville, one in every three died in September, and one-half of the remainder died in October. When it is remembered that these were vigorous, healthy young men, nearly all from the fighting lines of Generals Grant and Sherman, and consequently seasoned to privation and hardship, and that the average imprisonment in Andersonville was less than three months, the destructive strain upon the constitution of even a short confinement becomes better understood.

It is the universal testimony that the conditions in the other prisons were much worse, and the accompanying loss of life much greater than in Andersonville, for in no station of Charleston, Cahawba, Columbia, Macon, Millen, Mobile, Camp Ford, Jackson and Montgomery have ever been found, and those of Salisbury, Richmond and Danville are very vague and imperfect, it is impossible to sustain these assertions with the proof of figures.

Enough is known, however, to make it beyond dispute that of the 125,000 prisoners who were taken from the time of the battle of Gettysburg, when the exchange was interrupted, to the close of the war, at least 60,000 died while in prisons or immediately after passing through our lines. The War Department has a record of 29,956 of these, and presumptive proof enough to swell the number to 47,845.

Your memorialists would therefore submit, as an undeniable scientific truth that where the exposure of a body of men to privation and hardship has resulted in killing fully one-half of them in an incredibly short time, that the strain on the constitutions of the survivors must have wrought hopeless and irreparable injury. All physicians agree that no man ever wholly recovers from any physical strain or injury. It is simply impossible that the man who managed to survive what killed so large a proportion of his comrades should not have his vital energies lowered, his capacity for work diminished, and his days shortened by what proved so fatal to them. It could not help disabling him as effectually as a crippling wound would have done.

Therefore, your memorialists respectfully pray your honorable bodies to award to each prisoner of war such measure of relief as is contemplated by Senate R. bill No. 1189 and Senate bill No. 44.

Your memorialists would further submit as a sufficient reason for granting the pensions prayed for, that the terms of their imprisonment were undoubtedly protracted, and the evils from which they suffered, greatly aggravated by the military necessity which compelled a refusal of exchange for many months toward the close of the war, that the Confederacies in their military extremity might not have the benefit of 100,000 well-fed, vigorous men, whom the Government had in its military prisons. The retention in Southern prisons during the last part of 1864 and the early part of 1865 of some 50,000 or 40,000 starved and broken-down Union soldiers, neutralized, at the most critical period of the war, three or four times that number of stalwart and well-fed Confederate soldiers, who, had they been on the field, would have greatly increased the perplexity of the situation, protracted the war much longer, and added immensely to its cost. Your memorialists freely recognize that it was their soldierly duty to remain in prison if that would contribute to the advancement of the Government's military objects, and they did it with such cheerfulness and resignation as they could muster for any duty that the Government required of them, but they sustained grave physical injuries by so doing, and they claim that this entitles them to the same consideration and relief as if they had received the same amount of injuries upon the march or the battlefield.

And thus your petitioners will ever pray.

C. C. SHANKLIN,
President, Cleveland, Ohio.
B. R. FINLAYSON,
1st Vice-President, Detroit, Mich.
JOHN C. HAWLEY,
2d Vice-President, Washington, D. C.
REV. J. S. PRESTON,
Chaplain, Lyons, Mich.
J. C. PALMER,
Secretary, 58 Huron St., Cleveland, O.
A. S. MCCORMICK,
Treasurer, Rockfield, Carroll Co., Ind.

The Lady Davis Gun Again.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

The description given in your issue of April 3 of the Lady Davis gun almost exactly fits the Lady Davis gun at Port Hudson, La. The right-hand wheel of that gun was very badly shattered—the tire and half of the wheel carried away. The gun was dismounted and slid back on the carriage twelve to fifteen inches. One of the pivots was broken and a ball lodged in its muzzle and split the gun for twenty inches. I have a photograph of the gun, and as I was stationed at Port Hudson at the surrender I saw it many times. H. H. BACHELDER,
OAKLAND, ME. Co. A, 81st U. S. C. T.

Grand Army Posts.

Committees having to do with refitting the G. A. R. rooms cannot do better than write to A. H. Andrews & Co., Chicago, Ill.

SAVING THE NATION.

[Continued from 1st page.]

the advancing troops. But his line has become disordered by the charge. Hill improves the opportunity and hurries up his reserve brigades, which fire while advancing.

The gunners of the German batteries leave their pieces. McCall rides among them, rallies them a moment; but the drivers are panic stricken. They dash off to the rear, breaking through the infantry and trampling down the men.

It is 6 o'clock. The sun is still an hour and a half above the horizon. The 55th and 60th Virginia (Confederate troops) see their opportunity. They charge upon Randall's battery, shooting the few gunners who remain, and capture the cannon. McCall's line is broken. He tries to rally the fugitives which stream to the rear, dashing through Hooker's and Sumner's lines. Hooker has Grover's brigade on the right, Carr's in the center, and Sickles' on the left. The 16th Massachusetts and 69th Pennsylvania, of Sedgwick's division of Sumner's corps, join Hooker on the right. They pour in a fire upon the left flank of the Confederates. Along Sumner's front are five batteries, thirty cannon in all—King's, Kirby's, Tompkins', Owens' and Bartlett's.

On the side of the Union troops there are fifteen thousand; on the Confederate side more than twenty thousand. But the Union troops have the advantage of position. They are compactly formed. The thirty guns, flaming and thundering,—double-shotted,—make great gaps in the Confederate ranks. Grover's brigade of Hooker's division advances—the 1st and 16th Massachusetts, 2d New Hampshire and 26th Pennsylvania. Their charge is like the sweep of an avalanche. They drive the Confederate troops and recapture Randall's battery.

So complete is the repulse that a portion of the Confederate troops flee in consternation towards Richmond. The officers try to rally them, but vain are their efforts.

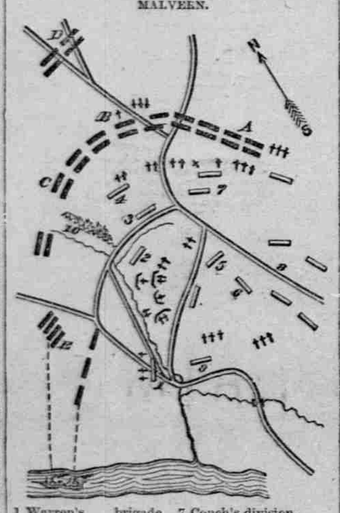
"Many of the officers," writes a Southern correspondent, "wept like children. Everything seemed lost, and a general depression came over all hearts. Batteries dashed past in headlong flight. Ammunition, hospital and supply wagons rushed along and swept the troops away from the field. In vain the most frantic exertions, entreaty and self-sacrifice of the staff officers. The troops had lost their foothold." The arrival of General Magruder's division alone saved Hill from a disastrous rout.

AN OPPORTUNITY LOST.

Again McClellan lost an opportunity. At that sunset hour if the whole line had been ordered to advance it would have swept all before it. Napoleon at Austerlitz improved just such an opportunity; but McClellan was not Napoleon. He was not on the field, but on one of the gunboats in James River, four miles away. Neither at Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Mechanicsville, Gaines' Mills, Savage's Station, nor at Glendale had he been on the field to improve opportunities.

The sun went down upon the gory field lost to Lee, for he had suffered a severe repulse. He had committed a great blunder in dividing his army. Jackson, with more than one-half of the army, had been easily kept at bay along the sluggish stream winding through the swamp. Instead of crushing McClellan, as he expected, he had suffered a signal defeat, dimming the glory of the victory at Gaines' Mills.

MALVEEN.



1 Warren's brigade, Sykes' division.
2 Buchanan's brigade, Sykes' division.
3 Chapman's brigade.
4 Griffin's brigade, Morrell's division.
5 Martindale's brigade, Morell's division.
6 Butterfield's brigade, Morell's division.
7 Couch's division.
8 Sumner's and Heintzelman's corps.
9 McCall's division.
10 Abatis.
A Jackson, D. H. Hill, and Ewell.
B Longstreet.
C Magruder and Huger.
D A. P. Hill.
E Holmes.

Two miles south of Glendale, overlooking James River, rise the Malvern Hills, an undulating swell of land sloping towards the north. The Crewe house is on the hill, built of red brick, surrounded by elm trees. West of it are the Strawberry Plains, through which winds a little brook.

The northwest side of the hill is sharp and steep, and General Barnard places the batteries one above another, with the heavy siege guns on the summit. East of the hill towards Harrison's Landing is the house of Mr. Binford.

General McClellan posted his army around the hill. On the west side, overlooking the plain, was Porter's corps; General Sykes' division on the extreme left, nearest James River; then Marshall's division. Behind these two divisions was Couch's, on the side of the hill.

Next in line was Heintzelman, with Kearney on the left and Hooker on the right. Beyond Heintzelman was Sumner's corps, reaching to Mr. Binford's house. Behind Sumner was Franklin, while Keyes was still farther east, near Mr. Carter's mill. Porter's troops faced west; Keyes' faced east, the army being a semicircle.

LEE'S LINES.

At daybreak Jackson, with Ewell and D. H. Hill, are in motion crossing White Oak Swamp. They are to attack the northeast side of Malvern, by the Binford house, while Magruder and Huger are to attack the northwest side. A. P. Hill and Longstreet's corps have suffered so terribly that they cannot go into the battle.

Through the forenoon the Confederate troops are marching to get into position.

Jackson selects Armistead's brigade to begin the attack, but it is hurled back by Howe's brigade. The 102d Pennsylvania and 36th New York rushed forward and captured the flags of the 14th Alabama.

Lee sends an order for the army to wait till all are ready. He hopes by one grand assault to rush upon the hill from all sides and produce a panic in the Union lines, capture the cannon, and make a complete victory.

MAGRUDER'S ATTACK.

It is 4 o'clock before Magruder is ready. Huger's division advances. Armistead's brigade is to begin the battle by rushing on with a yell. As soon as Jackson hears it he is to move upon Sumner.

Magruder sets his batteries to work, but the Union guns on the hill quickly silence them.

The battle opens. Armistead rushes on, but is met by a withering fire, and his troops are hurled back broken and disorganized.

Magruder is angry. He was blamed yesterday for not being on hand when wanted, and now, without any judgment, orders up regiment after regiment singly to attack Porter. Every attack is repulsed.

JACKSON'S ATTACK.

The wind is northeast, and the roar of the conflict does not reach Jackson. From 4 till 6 o'clock his troops wait. D. H. Hill is impatient. Lee wonders why Jackson does not begin. The wind lulls, and the rattle of musketry and the thunder of the cannonade falls on the ear of Hill.

"FORWARD!" IS HIS ORDER.

The Confederate troops come out from the woods in which they have been standing, rush with a yell upon Kearney's division, only to be rolled back as the waves are broken upon the rocky ledges of the ocean shore.

There is little concert of action on the Confederate side. The plan has miscarried. Malvern is aflame with the flashes of more than one hundred guns, hurling solid shot and shell into the Confederate lines. General Hunt, commanding the Union artillery, keeps the batteries in constant play, while the gunboats in the river send shot and shell across the Strawberry Plains. General McClellan is on the Galena. Each general manages his own corps as seems to him best. There is no general-in-chief on the field.

The sun goes down and night comes on. At 9 o'clock the uproar dies away. Lee has suffered another repulse with terrible loss.

HARRISON'S LANDING.

"Retreat to Harrison's Landing," is the order from McClellan. It is six miles down the river, and during the night the army makes its way to that point, where steamboats are arriving with supplies.

"Although," says General McClellan in his report, "the battle of Malvern was a complete victory, it was necessary to fall back still farther, in order to reach a point where our supplies could be brought to us with certainty."

That was not the opinion of some of his officers. General Martindale was so angry that he shed tears.

"I, Philip Kearney," shouted that general, "enter my solemn protest against this order to retreat. We ought, instead, to march into Richmond. In full view of all the responsibility of such a declaration, I say to you, all such an order can only be prompted by cowardice or treason."

In the morning the Union army is at Harrison's Landing and the Confederate army moving towards Richmond. During the seven days' fighting McClellan has lost twenty thousand and Lee twenty-five thousand men.

END OF THE CAMPAIGN.

The campaign for the capture of Richmond was over. It was undertaken against the judgment of President Lincoln, who could see with his plain common sense what General McClellan, with all his military education, could not see—that the Confederate army would be stronger at Richmond than it possibly could be at Centreville; that it would be easier for McClellan to strike a blow at the enemy near Washington than at Richmond, far from his base of supplies, and in the enemy's country. General McClellan planned the campaign. It had resulted in failure. He had waited at Yorktown a month when he might have gone on to Richmond. He had made the mistake of dividing his army in front of Richmond, and had been forced to retreat to James River. His soldiers were dispirited. They were losing confidence in him; for he had not been present in any of the battles, and during the battles of Glendale and Malvern, instead of being on the field, he was on one of the gunboats. He had still nearly ninety thousand men. General Lee had lost more than McClallan, but the latter, instead of moving on toward Richmond, or instead of crossing the James—as he might have done—and seizing Petersburg, threw up intrenchments at Harrison's Landing and called for re-enforcements.

[To be continued.]

An Englishman on the Treatment of Prisoners.

[*Goldwin Smith in "The Week," Toronto.*]

The treatment of prisoners by the North, so far as I had the opportunity of observing it, was in keeping with the general tone. Through the kindness of Dr. Duggan, the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, whose acquaintance I had made and whose hospitality I had tasted, I was enabled to go over the large prison camp at Chicago. The prisoners of course looked listless and unhappy, as caged eagles always do; but they seemed to me to be suffering no other hardship, and the food was certainly good. Presenting myself at the prison hospital for convalescents at Baltimore, I was refused admittance on the ground of recent attempts at escape. But it happened to be Thanksgiving Day, and as I stood in the entrance hall I could look into the dining-room, where I saw the table spread with roast turkey and all the good things of the season. Afterwards I called on the commandant, General Warren, who was so good as to take me down at once to the hospital and permit me to look over it. I looked over it, I believe, thoroughly, and came away convinced that its inmates were being treated with all possible humanity and kindness. It was said in England that Confederate prisoners were dying in heaps, of maltreatment, in the Northern prisons. I can oppose to such statements the evidence of my own senses with regard to the two prisons which I saw.

The humanity of the North was all the more creditable because it was the universal belief that thousands of Northern soldiers were all the time undergoing the most cruel ill-treatment at the hands of their Southern captors in the Libby prison and in the prison camp at Andersonville. As to the hideous mortality and the other horrors of Andersonville, there can, unhappily, be no doubt. I went on board the first ship that arrived at Annapolis with exchanged prisoners, and a more pitiable sight I never beheld. The men were absolute skeletons. I should hardly have thought it possible that life could linger in such frames. Where the blame lay, is a much controverted question which I cannot pretend to decide. For my part, I believe that slavery has always been the parent of inhumanity. The resources of the South were, no doubt, running very low, though the prisoners and deserters from their army under Lee appeared not to be ill-fed, and they were lavish of shot and shell. By the North, at the time, the alleged cruelties were generally coupled, whether rightly or wrongly, with the name of the only one, I believe, among the Southern leaders who, when the wreck came, did not stay by the ship. General Grant, as is well known, has often been accused of having ruthlessly refused to exchange prisoners because the enemy was more in want of men than he was.

Soldiers' Papers of the Old War Days.

Comrade James H. Jackman, company M, 7th Indiana cavalry, China, Ind., sends us a copy of the *American and Union*, a three-column sheet, about six by eight inches in size, published at Winchester, Va., March 14, 1862, by Messrs. Bell, Alvord, and Webster, of the 12th Indiana volunteers, Colonel Link commanding. It contains quite a number of interesting items regarding movements in the valley, and editorially cautions the citizens of Winchester against staying out after 9 p. m., unless they want to spend the night in the guard-house.

Comrade William Williams, company F, 5th Pennsylvania Reserves, Catawissa, Pa., writes us that in July, 1861, his regiment took possession of the office of the Piedmont (West Virginia) *Independent* and issued a newspaper from it called the *Pennsylvania Reserves*.

Comrade Charles W. Falls, company E, 5th Pennsylvania volunteers, writes from Pottsville, Pa., as follows:

On the 3d day of June, 1861, the 5th regiment, Pennsylvania volunteers, went into camp at the foot of Shuter's Hill, where it was assigned to the brigade of Brigadier-General Irwin McDowell. A portion of the regiment was daily assigned to duty in Alexandria, Va., as city police, and the remainder detailed for labor on Fort Ellsworth, then in process of construction. While stationed at Camp McDowell the 5th regiment had a printing press in camp, where several numbers of a large and well-printed newspaper were issued. It was headed the *Pennsylvania Fifth*, and edited by John P. Ely, first lieutenant of company G, and was principally gotten up by members of that company. The original articles and the communications from members of other regiments were, for the most part, spirited, and were interlarded with wit and humor well suited to the leisure of the camp. I find that First Sergeant F. C. Bender, company E, 5th regiment, Pennsylvania volunteers, has now in his possession and in a good state of preservation one copy, dated June 17, 1861, Vol. I, No. 2, but this was not one of the first issued; the first paper having been issued some days before.

REMARKABLE RESTORATION IN THE CASE OF A CLERGYMAN.

Rev. A. W. Moore, of Darlington, S. C., sends us for publication the following results in his case:

"DARLINGTON, S. C., Jan. 16th, 1883.

"Messrs. STARKEY & PALEN:—Though you have not solicited ti, I feel it to be my duty to give the following testimonial in favor of 'Compound Oxygen.' I inherited the *pulmonary taint* from my mother; and have suffered with *Bronchitis* from my youth. For the last three or four years, in the early fall, I have been prostrated with an acute attack of severe *Bronchial Asthma*. Last fall this attack was unusualy perilous, being complicated with a general derangement of the liver, kidneys, &c. *My medical advisers could not give much hope of any further work in the ministry.*

"In December I commenced the use of your Home Treatment. Shortly after I began its use, nearly all the symptoms were greatly aggravated, but for the last three weeks I have been improving. The constant expectoration has to a great extent ceased. I have a fine appetite; my digestion is good. I sleep well. *I am now preaching twice on Sunday without lassitude. I feel more vigor—more life than I have for years.* I believe the 'Compound Oxygen' a blessed, providential discovery, to which you were unconsciously directed by the Great Healer.

"Gratefully, (Rev.) A. W. Moore."

Our "*Treatise on Compound Oxygen*," containing a history of the discovery and mode of action of this remarkable curative agent, and a large record of surprising cures in Consumption, Catarrh, Neuralgia, Bronchitis, Asthma, etc., and a wide range of chronic diseases, will be *sent free*. Address, DRS. STARKEY & PALEN, 1109 and 1111 Girard St., Phila.

THE SHILOH CAMPAIGN.

[Continued from 1st page.]

up a constant stream of fire upon the enemy. He several times recoiled and rallied, but did not advance his line after the action commenced until we were ordered to fall back upon the Purdy road, which we did in good order.

"Lieutenant-Colonel Canfield, in command of the 72d regiment, was mortally wounded early in the engagement and was carried from the field. Major Crockett had been taken prisoner on the Friday previous, which left the 72d regiment without any field officers, except myself. The captains of companies A and B, and quite a number of the other company officers, were sick and unable to go into the action, consequently I remained on the right of the brigade and took command of the 72d regiment, having full confidence that Colonels Sullivan and Cockerill would maintain their parts of the line, which they did gallantly until the regiment on the left of my brigade gave way and we were ordered to fall back."

The comparatively small loss in Buckland's brigade indicates, however, that his success was rather due to the advantage of position than to the superior courage of his men.

WHAT BECAME OF THE BATTERIES.

Raith's brigade, in support of Watterhouse's battery, defended it stubbornly, but upon the fall of its leader was driven back by Stewart's brigade, leaving three of their guns on the ground. Burrows' battery, from its position in the center, opened a brisk fire, but was soon captured, while Schwartz's battery, more successful, silenced a Confederate battery, and its supports, after repulsing a charge made by Russell's brigade, brought the battery off the field by hand, with the loss of one caisson. McAllister's battery had a raking fire across an open field, which it strewed with Confederate dead, but was forced to retire with the loss of one piece. Taylor's battery, after performing signal service for two hours, was withdrawn with the loss of two caissons. Behr's battery, in position on the Purdy road, in rear of McDowell's brigade, on the fall of its commander, fell into the hands of the Confederates. Finding his position exposed on the left and in imminent danger of being cut off from the remainder of the army, General Sherman gave the order at 10:30 a. m. to fall back to a new position, leaving the camps in possession of their hungry antagonists.

SHILOH CORRESPONDENCE.

Captain W. McK. Heath, 5th Ohio cavalry, editor of *Field and Stream*, Philadelphia, thinks there was considerable surprise on the morning of the attack. He says:

It is enough to make a sensible man's blood boil to hear some good men deny that Shiloh was a surprise. In every usual, just sense it was a "surprise,"—needless, bloody, shameful. Of course, many regiments and brigades had ample time to form, and all that; but our army, as an army, went to sleep on Saturday night and woke on Sunday morning, having made no preparations whatever for a battle, because it didn't know it was coming. How differently would we have spent most of that Saturday night had we known that a rebel army was even then camped right under our noses, ready to spring upon us!

M. H. Yard, 17th Iowa, of Norborne, Carroll county, Mo., gives the following account of what was said in the 25th Missouri after the fight:

Our regiment (the 17th Iowa) did not reach the front until some time after the battle; yet to me it had a peculiar interest, as I had several friends and acquaintances in regiments that were engaged, and my first step, on arriving, was to learn their fate. Some of them I found among the slain. I made a careful study of the battlefield, aided by information gleaned from those who had participated in the fight.

Subsequently I re-enlisted in the 1st Engineer Regiment of the West, with which the 25th Missouri was consolidated. This regiment, it will be remembered, was the one which opened the fight. For eighteen months I messed with former members of that regiment and had a good opportunity to learn the part they took in the fight.

Colonel Peabody, of the 25th Missouri, was in command of the three companies of the 25th that brought on the action. They started out about 3:30 a. m., and came upon the rebel pickets about three miles in advance of the Union camp. They skirmished about a half hour with the Confederate pickets before they were driven back by the advance of the main force of the enemy. The morning appears to have been a damp, muggy one, and the country was likewise heavily timbered. These conditions seemed to have so deadened the sound of the firing that it was not heard in camp. As will be readily surmised, the Confederate forces did not long delay their advance after this unexpected surprise. They had lain on their arms in battle-line during the cold night, anxiously waiting for the dawn to begin their advance; hence it was but the work of a moment to prepare for action. So rapid was their advance that when the 25th reached their camp the bullets of the rebels were cutting through their tents. Was the Union army surprised? The testimony of the 25th was unanimous that a part at least of Prentiss' division was surprised and thrown into confusion. They all represented that when they were driven into camp no battle-line had yet been formed, and that the men were called up to fall-in under fire. General Prentiss was just mounting his horse as Colonel Peabody, with the remnant of the 25th, retreated on the camp, the whole rebel army at their heels. Eye-witnesses told me that this remarkable colloquy then occurred:

General Prentiss: "What did you mean by bringing on an engagement when you knew we were not ready?"

Colonel Peabody: "I did not bring it on; it is coming without my assistance!"

General Prentiss: "Get your men out and stop the rebel advance till we have time to form a line!"

Colonel Peabody, smarting under this rebuke, ordered his men to charge, and, without turning his head, rode forward until shot dead. The 25th always spoke of the loss of their colonel with feelings akin to indignation.

Much allowance, however, ought to be made for General Prentiss. He was undoubtedly laboring under great excitement at the moment. His heroic efforts to rally his men and stay the rebel advance, which was of the most desperate and determined character, deserves great praise. That his men withstood the repeated assaults of the foe until late in the afternoon in a struggle begun under such adverse circumstances, shows good staying qualities, to say the least. There were many, however, who, seized with terror by the suddenness of the rebel onslaught and the confusion incident to a surprise, fled panic-stricken to the river, and the 25th had one man who accomplished the remarkable feat of swimming the cold and swollen Tennessee. Had the proper vigilance been exercised by those high in authority, I am satisfied that the disaster of the first day would have been avoided and there would have been no stampede. That the whole army was surprised is a gross exaggeration; but it is true that a considerable portion of one division was surprised and hurried into action amid so much excitement and confusion as to demoralize many who, under favorable conditions, would have given a good account of themselves.

Had the spade been employed in the two weeks preceding the attack, no such disaster would have threatened the army as at one time seemed imminent. As "Carleton" remarks, "the army had to learn a lesson—the lesson of the spade." But here we have the verification of the old adage, "extremes meet," for in the ensuing Corinth campaign the spade was used to a degree bordering on the absurd.

Grant's failure to use the spade is not enough to condemn him, for as high a military authority as Gen. Von Moltke rejects the spade as tending to render an army timid and reluctant to act on the aggressive without cover.

My object in writing this is to call out some of the old 25th to corroborate testimony that I have heard them give orally around the campfire, and settle the long dispute that has raged about this battle and get at the truth.

My account is a private soldier's view of a great struggle, and as no official report was ever made by the commander, I trust mine will receive a respectful hearing.

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