

remnant of the 5th moves up to the extreme right of Howard's new single line. But the rebel fire grows hotter and hotter, and owing to this, and a misunderstanding order, Howard's line begins to dissolve, and then retreats in confusion—Howard and others vainly striving to rally his now utterly exhausted men.

**SHERMAN'S GALLANT FIGHT.**  
Sherman's Brigade too has come over from our left, and now advances upon the deadly plateau, where lie the disabled Union batteries—the prizes, in full sight of both armies, for which each seems now to be so desperately striving.

Quincy's 13th N. Y. Rifles, in column of companies, lead the brigade, followed by Lieut. Col. Peck's 2d Wis., Cameron's 79th N. Y. Highlanders, and Corcoran's 69th N. Y. (Irish), "in line of battle." Down the slope, across the ravine and up on the other side, steadily presses Quincy, till he reaches the crest. He opens fire. An advancing rebel regiment retreats, as he pushes up to where the Union batteries and cannoniers lie wounded and dying—the other three regiments following in line of battle until they reach the crest, when the fire of the enemy's rifles and musketry, added to his heavy cannonading, grows so severe that the brigade is forced back to shelter in a roadway leading up the plateau.

Peck's 2d Wis. now emerges from this sheltered roadway, and steadily mounts the elevation in the face of the enemy's severe fire—returning it with spirit, as they advance. But the rebel fire becomes too galling. The gray-clad Wisconsin boys retreat to the sheltered road again, while the cry goes up from Sherman's ranks: "Our own men are firing at them!" Rallying at the road, the 2d Wis. again returns, with desperate courage, to the crest of the hill, delivers its fire, and then, unable to withstand the dreadful carnage, falls back once more in disorder.

At this, the 79th Highlanders spring forward to mount the brow of the fatal hill, swept as it is with this storm of shot and shell and musket-balls. With the lowering smoke, lit with the enemy's incessant discharges in the woods beyond, the brave Highlanders jauntily march, and, with Cameron and their colors at their head, charge impetuously across the bloody hill-crest, and still farther, to the front. But it is not in human nature to continue that advance in the teeth of the withering fire from Jackson's batteries, strengthened as they are by Pelham's and Kemper's. The gallant fellows fall back, rally again, advance once more, retire again, and at last—the heroic Cameron being mortally wounded—fall back in confusion under the cover of the hill.

\*For a part, but not the whole, but in Sherman's Report.

[To be continued.]

He Did Better.

TO THE EDITOR: While the 40th Ind. was being organized at Lafayette, Ind., in the fall of 1861, by Col. W. C. Wilson, we were camped on the hill near the city. We had a guard-house on our camp, and a guard-house in the city, which was called the guard-house. The guard-line was not sufficiently strong to always keep some of the wildest boys in camp. There was one noted character in A. J. Culver, a member of Culver, who broke guard one night and went out on a foraging expedition on his own account. In coming back into camp he was captured by the guard and put into the guard-house. The Corporal of the Guard went to his Captain's quarters and woke him up, telling him that Culver was in the guard-house for breaking guard and stealing goods. Capt. Kirkpatrick, dressed himself and went to the guard-house and lectured Culver for going out and stealing from his neighbors here at home, when there was no necessity for him doing so, as they had plenty to eat, but he would promise to do better, he would have him released. Culver promised to do better, and was released from the guard-house. Capt. Kirkpatrick went to the guard-house and told the Corporal that Culver was again in the guard-house. This being the second time in one night that he had been raised up on account of Culver's doings, he was considerably worried, and said to Culver, "I have had enough of you, and I promise you that you would do better if I would have you released from the guard-house." Culver says: "I have done better, I have six—JAMES BRAGG, Captain, Co. F, 40th Ind., Lebanon, Ind.

### CORPORAL S. KLEGG.

#### The 200th Indiana on the Eve of a Great Battle.

BY W. F. HENMAN, 65TH OHIO.

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No. XXV.

It was the morning after Christmas. The soldiers of the 200th Indiana had not suffered during the night from the gripings of indigestion, in consequence of having the previous day overindulged their stomachs with turkey, and the morning after Christmas it is unquestionably true that their abstemiousness from these time-honored accessories of this festive day of all the year was not wholly voluntary. It was a matter of course that they would have had no control. This does not, however, alter the fact of their extreme frugality in all matters pertaining to the appetite. The night before they were preparing for the prostrate arms of their friends at home, the soldiers quietly slept, wrapped in army blankets, in their camps that fringed the city of Nashville.

Not that they sleep any the less soundly because they were under orders to march. At 4 o'clock they must spring at tap of drum and blast of bugle, and at daylight the foremost Long trains of the road leading to Murfreesboro. The Army of the Cumberland was destined to look into the very eyes of its antagonist, and engage in deadly combat among the thick cedars on the banks of Stone River.

All the arrangements for an active campaign of a great army had been carefully made. The troops were thoroughly equipped and provisioned. Long trains of mules and wagons, with ammunition of all kinds, for infantry, cavalry and artillery, clearly indicated important business in the near future. The presumption that the army would be equal to the least emergency, well provided in this respect was shown by the suggestive array of ambulances, stretchers, medical stores and hospital supplies. Surgeons were summoned to their regiments, and put their instruments in order for the ghastly work before them. The sick were sent to hospitals and convalescent barracks. The army was stripped of everything that could impede its movements or impair its efficiency.

A day or two before this, Corporal Klegg, while walking just outside the camp, saw an enterprising idiot making a large placard to a tree. He naturally stopped to read it. It bore this legend:

**EMBALMING THE DEAD**  
AT LOWEST RATES.  
Bodies Carefully Preserved and Skipped.  
Satisfaction Guaranteed.  
Caskets a Specialty.  
COFFIN & GRAVES, Undertakers,  
Nashville, Tenn.

So read this cheerful announcement two or three times, as if to catch its full meaning, and then turned away, whistling softly to himself. The man—who wore a cap on his hat and looked like the head of a funeral procession—had gathered up his roll of hand-bills and was starting for another tree when Si addressed him.

"Say, mister, who is it yer guarantees satisfaction to—the corpse? 'Cause yer kin make his feel satisfied 'n com' table like 't'll be a fact, but none of 'em can say so."

"Young man," said the undertaker, "this is a serious business, and yer levity is unseemly." And he went on to explain to Si his beautiful system of embalming, and how he had succeeded in robbing death of half its terrors. But Si had never for a moment imagined that

Si comforted himself with the thought that something would be done for him, and another levy of new troops would appear in the field. He would square the account by taking out his revenge upon them.

We will not attempt to narrate in detail the incidents of this advance of 30 miles from Nashville to Murfreesboro. It occupied four days. Much of the time the weather was wet, raw and dismal. There was no trouble in finding the enemy. He made himself conspicuously obnoxious day and night, stubbornly yielding to the pressure of the long lines of blue, and falling back from one position to another.

It was one of those jerky, exasperating marches that put the temper and patience of the men to the extreme test. On the pikes they marched in the front with their rifles, reaching out a little way and then gathering themselves up, itching along like huge worms. The men, wet and weary, stood around and near with their eyes fixed on the enemy's cannon shot or a spluttering fire of musketry kept all on the alert for active duty at a moment's notice.

Between these columns the stretches of field and wood were swept by lines of skirmishers, supported by brigades and divisions moving in battle array. These forced streams of blue and white, and the long lines of blue, and falling back from one position to another.

"'TIS SWEET TO DIE FOR ONE'S COUNTRY." He was going to be killed, and the remarks of the melancholy man did not make the impression upon him that might have been expected. "Mebbe 't'll get yer 'n com' table 'long with us," he said, "but I might have a chance to find out yersef how yer embalmin' works."

"I would advise you to read these," was the solemn reply, and the man handed Si a package of tracts, and he would give them around to the boys.

The 200th Indiana had passed through the first stage of active life and experience, and the result was that the regiment, after two months of active campaigning, without destination by battle, always weeded out the two classes of men who were but an incubation to an army. There were two classes of men, one of whom he said the spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak. They were ready to do and dare, but physically unable to endure the fatigues and hardships of the service. The other class was composed of those who could march and eat well enough, but were deficient in "stomach." Every company had such men at first, but they died and were left behind, and the 200th Indiana was left with 600 soldiers—men who were to fight its battles and follow its flag.

The prospect of meeting the enemy had a variety of meanings to the soldiers. Many of those who at that time were fairly entitled to be called veterans had already, at Shiloh and Perryville, breasted the storm of battle. They always went to the front with a certain amount of curiosity. In their breasts the ardor begetten of a desire to engage for the first time in the deadly fray, and to hear the whistling of bullets and musketry cutting around the rear of conflict, had given place to a courage far more enduring. The truly brave man was not the one who rushed into battle "like a bull at a mill," but rather he who knew and appreciated the danger, and yet, at the call of duty, stood willingly face to face with death. This was the feeling that pervaded the 200th Indiana as they girded themselves for the trial that was before them.

The bulging patriotism of the new troops manifested itself in the usual way. Not all the blood-curdling rhetoric of the officers, and the blarney of the men, was sufficient to arouse their curiosity. In their breasts the ardor begetten of a desire to engage for the first time in the deadly fray, and to hear the whistling of bullets and musketry cutting around the rear of conflict, had given place to a courage far more enduring. The truly brave man was not the one who rushed into battle "like a bull at a mill," but rather he who knew and appreciated the danger, and yet, at the call of duty, stood willingly face to face with death. This was the feeling that pervaded the 200th Indiana as they girded themselves for the trial that was before them.

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were likely to follow, he was not dazzled by the splendor of martial glory. Shorty was no more a coward than Si. His "paw" would always find him at his side, whatever of danger might betide, but he did not hanker after and pant for it as Si did.

The prevailing idea among members of the 200th Indiana was that if Gen. Bragg only knew that their regiment was coming he would be wise and give up Murfreesboro without a fight. They hoped, however, that Bragg wouldn't hear of it, because they wanted to annihilate his army and end the war.

"Seems to me," said Si, as he was talking it over with Shorty, "we ought to use 'em up over quick. I ain't much on fingerin', but I've worked it out in this way: We've got a hundred rounds of cartridges apiece. There's six hundred of us, and that makes sixty thousand cartridges. I reckon the rebels 'll be thick 'n we kin hit a man every crack. We kin lead 'n fire once every two hours, easy 'n 't'll 'bout take 'em more 'n three hours to kill 'em all. I reckon 't'll be 'bout the 200th Indiana hadn't orber cook their goose for 'em."

"Don't be in a stew, Si, 't's 'told yer be-fore," said Shorty. "I don't believe 't'll be no more 'n longer, 'fore yer 'll get filled full. Tien Johnnies is 'foller fallin' back to jine the main army, and we're goin' to jump 'em 'n' suthin' solid purty quick. Now you mind what I'm a-tellin' yer, 'n' jist hold yersef level, 'fore yer goin' to have all the fightin' yer want this try."

But it was difficult for Si to restrain his impatience. The forward movement of the army was all too slow for him.

Four days of creeping along and picketing and skirting, and the army struck "something solid," as Shorty had predicted. Then another day was occupied in making the necessary arrangements for battle. Arms were cleaned and oiled, cartridges were counted and inspected, and such as had become wet and un-serviceable were cast away and replaced by others. Batteries were placed in position, with their guns, to be in readiness to open fire upon the powder form and fixed ammunition of all the various forms of grape, canister and shell. Hospitals were established in the rear; musketry, however, and the army struck "something solid," as Shorty had predicted. Then another day was occupied in making the necessary arrangements for battle. Arms were cleaned and oiled, cartridges were counted and inspected, and such as had become wet and un-serviceable were cast away and replaced by others. 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