WHAT A FIFER SAW.

An Episode of the "Fuss and Feathers" Period.

BY J. A. JUDSON,
Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General, U.S. Vols.

THERE is no quasi-military event in the civil war that comes more vividly to my mind than the circumstances of one I am about to relate, which transpired several years before the advent of those stirring times. On one occasion during the rebellion it became my painful duty, in my official capacity, to superintend the details of the execution of six of our Union soldiers who, having been convicted of desertion in the presence of the enemy, had been sentenced by General Court-Martial "to be shot to death with musketry."

Vividly as I recall that terrible scene, it is, in some respects, dwarfed by the recollection of that other execution I had part in when a boy, and which came more nearly home to me, in that the unfortunate victim of the wretched culprit was my old and personal friend. But for the terrible denouement my tale would be trivial indeed.

More than forty years ago I lived in a town in northern New York where there has been a military post since before the old French and Indian wars, and where one or more companies of United States troops have occupied the fort as they do to this day.

As a youngster, among the good people of the town I was rich in three ancient military friends of widely dissimilar antecedents. One was an old Frenchman, M. Justin J——, who had been a drummer in Napoleon's army at Waterloo. He had worshiped his Corsican God from the beginning to the end, and old M. J——'s heart was nearer Longwood than his own fireside when I knew him.

Another was an Irish gentleman, Mr. James R——, who had been a Sergeant in Wellington's infantry in the same Sunday battle in June, 1815, where he had stood in the unflinching squares and received the tempestuous charges of the French Cuirassiers.

The third was an old United States soldier, affectionately known among his many friends as Uncle Josh H——. An ancient "Regular," he had fought the British in 1812; had hunted Black Hawk in 1832; had chased Osceola and Billy Bowlegs in the Florida Everglades in 1836, and had worn out his iron nerves in following old Harney over the Indian trails of the "Far West" beyond the Mississippi. Age crept on apace and, worn out with "marching, pipe-claying, and starching," old Uncle Josh had received his honorable discharge and retired to spend his latter days in the town he loved so well, where, surrounded by his friends, he—

"Wept o'er his wounds, or tales of sorrow done,
Shouldered his crutch and showed how fields were won."

Old M. J—— had a fine market garden and a hot-house of rare plants in those days near my father's house, conducted, mainly, as I now recollect, by his Americanized sons and daughters. It was a picturesque spot—down in the valley—the quiet, quaint, Frenchy sort of a home, mostly balcony and porch, and out-of-doors vine-clad, standing away back from the dusty country road, with trim pathways, box-lined and clipped, winding to the beautiful doorstep.

In another way, and after a different pattern, was the home of the other old Waterloo veteran, M. J——'s friend and mine, Serg't James R——, between whose family and my own, in times long past, such tender intimacies have existed that I may say only that I have been nursed by his daughter, when a baby; have been danced on his knee when a boy, and have been in battle with his son when we had grown to manhood.

Old Uncle Josh and his wife had a wee cottage on the hillside near the river, neat and trim as could be, embowered in grateful shade, and covered with climbing roses that it seems as though I can scent them even now. Here the old couple, devoid of care, and devoted to each other, lived out grew gray together. Her neat and dainty house, her vines and flowers, her poultry, and her cow were the daily care of the faithful old housewife, whose pride it was to have her cottage, simple as it was, as sweet and pure as any palace in the land.

"The whitewashed wall, the nicely sanded floor,
The varnished clock that clicked behind the door;
The chest contrived a double debt to pay—
A bed by night, a chest of drawers by day."

As for the old man, when he wasn't gossiping among the infantry at the garrison, or beating the drum with the militia, or fussing around an old job-printing office in the town (for he always had a vague idea he could set type), usually passed his time on the front porch of his cottage in his shirt sleeves, vigorously either blacking or pipe-claying, or polishing or brushing something—a gentle, kindly, simple-hearted, brave old man, who was rich in friends, and who never had an enemy, and yet his chief boast was that old Harney cursed him once down in Florida; and while he, somehow, derived a vast deal of satisfaction from the episode, it was said that upon being closely questioned he, somewhat unwillingly, admitted that Gen. Harney had mistaken him for some one else.

It was the delight of my life, as a youngster, to make the rounds between these three veterans and the Regular Army garrison at the fort, at which latter place I usually consorted with the music boys, and down in the dry ditch behind the barracks I learned from these noisy embryo soldiers to beat the drum and play the shrill fife.

Old M. J—— had an ancient snare-drum about three feet tall that he always swore he beat with Napoleon at Waterloo; which tale, of course, I fully believed, especially as I was permitted to thump it in his flower garden to my heart's content. My old Irish friend, who lived in a dainty vine-clad cottage not far away, and did nothing but sit in his doorway the livelong day, had a wonderful old brass-mounted, shiny black leather shako, the front whereof was adorned with a brass blotch that I was taught to regard as the Royal Cypher of His Majesty King George III., and out of the top of which sprouted a wonderful pompon, the glories of which I was led to believe had dimmed in the battle-smoke at Hoguemont and La Hayne Sainte or Quatre Bras, and which, well guided with the *Journal of Commerce* and the *Country Gentleman*, I was permitted to strut under up and down the garden path.

Now, dear old Uncle Josh had a real sword, hung in a frog from a well pipe-clayed belt which he himself actually cut down to fit my slender boyish waist. This "sword" was, in reality, a so-called sober-bayonet, at one time used in the army, rediscovered and inflicted upon some of our long-suffering troops in the early days of the civil war, derived for the most part from some of the French and Sardinian Crimean leavings of 1855-'56. Josh had brought this sanguinary tool home from the wars in Florida, and cherished it as the apple of his eye. Just how many Seminoles had fallen beneath the alleged keen edge of this Andrea Ferrara I dare not say at this late date, but it certainly played an important part in a dreadful tragedy while I was still a youngster.

About this time my father, who was a West Point graduate, was invited to command the local company of the New York State Militia, the Guards. It was a very swell organization, gorgeously uniformed and savagely armed with about a hundred flint-lock muskets and two honeycombed brass 6-pounders, one of which had already distinguished itself on a preceding Fourth of July by blowing off the right arm of a very nice fellow, whose military name, for that occasion only, was "No. 1." He went to the war afterward, as a Captain, with his sword in his left hand, and though he has slept many years in a soldier's grave, those who knew and loved him from childhood, as I did, still have a tender recollection of that gallant soldier and true gentleman, Lieut.-Col. James Doyle, of the 147th N. Y.

Of course the paternal accession to military rank and command fired my martial aspirations also, with the result that, although I was barely four feet high, I was, at my earnest solicitation, duly elected and installed as fifer (and the only one) of the company. No one who was subsequently brevetted for the bloody battle of the "13th of March, 1865," could have ever enjoyed such delirious delight as I did when that exalted dignity was conferred upon me; while the awe with which my schoolmates and chums regarded me was only equaled by the lofty contempt with which I regarded those young worms, whom I considered mere "civilians."

I was at once fitted out with a new uniform, like all the others, in pattern not unlike that of a Major-General of the period, consisting chiefly of a double-breasted swallow-tailed coat, trimmed elaborately with gold lace; a pair of dark-blue trousers to match, with a dazzling stripe down the seams; a large pair of epaulets, which I grieve to confess were constructed of yellow worsted, made to look as nearly as possible like bullion fringe; a tarbucket hat weighing about two pounds (though I would not own that, of course), decorated with an immense red-and-white "fountain plume" nearly as tall as myself, and as good as a jib when the wind blew. In fact I was complete, with my fife under my arm—including an old aguillet, which I insisted upon wearing, although much in the way—except, alas! that the resources of the armory did not afford a sword suited to my stature.

Of course I could not afford to risk my sacred person upon the public streets without side-arms, and a bayonet was offered me, which I rejected, as I remember, with scorn and contempt. Although it was wonderfully heavy, and invariably skinned my hip, I therefore, until otherwise supplied, wore Uncle Josh's old Florida Indian sticker. I polished it until its hilt was like gold and its blade like silver, and when my new sword came I returned it to him, and he hung it in its old place on a nail in the wall near his cottage door, where I had often sat and listened to his wonderful tales of camp and march and battle.

Alas! one day a desperate wretch quarreled with someone in a neighboring mill, struck his opponent with a mallet, and fled. Late in the day he approached Josh's cottage and asked for food and drink. While the good old woman went to prepare the homely meal with her kindly hands old Josh, who knew him not, civilly asked him in and seated the fugitive in his best chair. The Devil was loose that day, for as Josh bent down to light his pipe from the embers this arrant villain—God only knows why—suddenly snatched the old sword from the wall, and with one fearful blow cleft the old man to the very chin, flung down the sword, and ran.

Though her husband of nearly half a century was thus wantonly and instantly killed in her very presence, the brave old lady ran to the nearest neighbor, a long country distance, across fields and walls, and gave the alarm. The farmers turned out at once, and before many hours the murderer was securely lodged in jail. Indignation was great, but he had a fair trial and was sentenced to be hung.

I had been summoned as a witness to identify the instrument of death, and my soul was so full of wrath at the burly young ruffian who had so wantonly murdered my good old friend that, boy as I was, I determined to see him hung. How to accomplish this was not very clear, but an unexpected way was opened to me, and I took advantage of it.

This wretch, it seems, had a large following of rough "friends," who, it was given out, intended, on the day set for the execution, to storm the jail and rescue the murderer. So convinced was the Sheriff of the imminent danger that he not only called upon the Mayor for the militia but also asked of the General Government the company of Regular United States Infantry at the fort to guard the jail.

Both bodies of troops turned out, several rounds of ball-cartridges being served out to each man. Of course, my father, on that eventful morning, said to me sternly at breakfast that no fifer was wanted on that occasion, and bade me stay at home. To all of this, of course, I did not pay the slightest attention, but slipping into my uniform, hid behind the bass-drum or otherwise kept out of my father's (the Captain's) sight until I had succeeded in thrusting myself within the jail yard among the long legs of the soldiers. Though peremptorily ordered to go out I stubbornly refused to budge, and there I stood, revengeful little imp that I was, and saw the death penalty paid. Then I fifed the company back to the armory to the tune of the "Bold Soger Boy," and the Captain never said a word.

Minnesota's Climate.

[Nature's Realm.]

"Curious Winter phenomena we have here," remarked the St. Paulite to the visitor from St. Louis. "You notice that icicle up there on the cornice of that eight-story building? Should say it was 10 feet long. Well, this very morning one just like that dropped as Sam Bones was passing, and the point struck him square on the top of the head. It went through him like a shot and pinned him to the sidewalk, bolt upright and stiff as a statue."

"Kill him?"

"Hardly. As soon as the icicle melted he walked off all right enough. See?"

"An extraordinary escape, truly—perhaps an isolated case. But I should think he would be liable to take cold from the draft through the hole in his body."

"Not at all! You see, the Winter climate here is so dry that——"

"Bosh!"

Enemies No Longer.

[Stephenville (Tex.) Empire.]

"Of the dead speak naught but good," applies as well to Gen. Sherman as to any other dead. The editor fought Sherman alive on over 1,000 miles of ground and wore out at it; he certainly does not wish to keep up the fight through all eternity.

MAJ.-GEN. B. F. BUTLER.

He will Return to the South for the First Time Since the War.

It seems hardly necessary to say anything of the history of Gen. B. F. Butler. No man in the whole nation has been more constantly in the public eye for the last four decades than he. As a successful lawyer and influential politician before the war, as a patriot who was among the first to respond to the country's call at the firing upon Fort Sumter, as the man who gave New Orleans the best government the city ever had, as Commander of the Army of the James, as a Representative in Congress and a leading politician since the war, he has had public attention constantly focused upon him. No man in the country has received more praise and more abuse than he, and no man has more warm, personal friends and admirers. Many of the people of the South have been particularly bitter against him, and have tried to make his name the synonym for all that was detestable. He is now about to return good for evil, and heap coals of fire upon the heads of his detractors by a great enterprise to help restore prosperity to the region which suffered so severely from the ravages of the war. He is at the head of the great Georgia-Alabama Investment and Development Co., whose advertisement appears elsewhere in this paper, which is made up of capitalists whom he has associated with himself in a scheme to rebuild and develop large portions of Dixie. Early next month he intends to make a tour of the South, visiting that section for the first time since the close of the war—twenty-six years ago. He will go to New Orleans, and to all other prominent points, and survey the field of operations of this company carefully, to inform himself personally as to the possibilities of each locality. There is something phenomenal in such a tour by a General whose first visit was sword in hand, but who now goes as a restorer. It will be watched with great interest by all sections of the country.

SONS OF VETERANS.

News from the Various Divisions. Elections of Officers, etc.

THE DIVISIONS.

[TO THE BROTHERS.—THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE has the interest of the Sons of Veterans at heart, and wishes them to consider that its columns are always open for the publication of matters of moment to the Order. Let us have newsy letters from your Camps and items of personal interest to the brothers.]

ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE.

Camp 26, Division of Alabama and Tennessee, was mustered at Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 19, by Mustering Officer Capt. J. R. Quinlan, of Gen. Edward F. Noyes Camp, 75, Cincinnati, O., with 19 members. The following officers were elected: Capt., Harry White; First Lieut., G. B. Barker; Second Lieut., Thomas McDonald; Chap., Frank Van Houten; First Serg't, H. M. Kirke; Q. M. S., P. R. Morrow; C. S., Wade P. Harding; S. of G., G. D. Barker; C. of G., H. M. Swartz. This is the first Camp in the State of Georgia, has a bright future before it, and is bound to grow.

INDIANA.

A joint installation of the G.A.R., W.R.C. and S. of V. of Wayne was held at Bass Post Hall Jan. 9. T. N. Blair was the Installing Officer for the Sons of Veterans. After the installation vocal and instrumental music made the evening a very enjoyable one.

KANSAS.

Division Orders, No. 14, series 1891, issued at Norton, Kan., by command of C. D. Jones, Colonel—J. C. Newell, Adjutant—contain the following:

The ninth annual State Encampment of this Division will be held in Hutchinson April 28, 29, and 30. The Colonel's headquarters will be room No. 48, at the Brunswick Hotel, where he will be pleased to meet every brother in attendance upon the Encampment. The G.A.R. and W.R.C. Departments have also established their respective headquarters at said hotel. All members of the Division Council then in Hutchinson are hereby called to meet at the Colonel's headquarters at 8 o'clock of Monday evening, April 27.

Officers of the following Camp are:

Tecumseh, 218, Marvin—Capt., Jesse L. Pratt; First Lieut., R. Thornton; Second Lieut., George Kronk; Chap., Samuel Gibbs; First Serg't, A. W. Gibbs; Q. M. S., W. O. Lee; S. of G., P. T. Leighley; C. S., John Stout; C. of G., Thos. Duncan; Principal Musician, W. O. Lee; C. G., Robert Fix; P. G., Clarence Fearing; Council, George Kronk, P. T. Leighley and John Stout.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Gen. S. M. Weld Camp, 75, gave their second ball in Memorial Hall, Dedham, which was well attended. The hall had been handsomely decorated for the occasion. Arthur Odin, Captain of the Camp, led the grand march, and he with W. B. Gould, jr., and E. W. Jordan constituted the floor committee. During the evening refreshments were served, after which the dancing continued until the "wee sma'" hours of the morning.

NEW YORK.

J. V. B. Clarkson, Captain of Lafayette Camp, 140, organized a new Camp under the auspices of E. D. Morgan Post, at Grand Opera House, New York, March 30. The Mustering Officer was assisted by an able and brilliant staff, and the members of the Post were in full attendance to witness the ceremony, and to give the new Camp encouragement. There were 39 charter members, and the officers are: Capt., William D. Spear; S. V. C., Edwin Demarest; J. V. C., George K. Manchester. The officers were publicly installed at the Grand Opera House April 6.

Camp 3, Newport, is one of the many hustling Camps in New England. Its members have organized a Sons of Veterans Relief Association for the purpose of establishing a benefit fund for the relief of sick and needy brothers. A weekly benefit of $5 for those in distress has been established for the present year, with the hope of being able to increase the amount in the future. The following officers of the Association have been elected: Pres., E. O. Riggs; V.-P., P. B. Dawley, jr; Sec., Geo. N. Freeborn; Treas., S. N. Millington.

Officers of the following Camp are:

Francis C. Green, 1, Phenix—Capt., Chas. D. Remington; First Lieut., Wm. L. Bergin; Second Lieut., W. W. Taylor; Council, Chas. Johnson, Geo. Miller, Geo. Lawrence; Delegate, Jas. E. McCaffrey; Alternate, Wm. L. Bergin; Chap., H. L. Green; First Serg't, J. T. Whittemore; Q. M. S., F. H. Miller; S. of G., Jas. E. McCaffrey; C. S., C. Johnson; Prin. Musician, Wm. Potter; C. of G., A. S. Wood; C. G., Eeske Weaver; P. G., Zeph Brownell.

VERMONT.

Camp 37, Poultney, known as Charles C. Ruggles Camp, is one of the most prosperous in Vermont. The Camp was organized Oct. 17, 1889, with 17 men, and its membership at present in good standing is 30. This Camp claims to have the oldest member in the Order, whose name is William Lamb. Brother Lamb was born Jan. 28, 1821, and his son and grandson are members of the same Camp.

Capt. E. B. Foost Camp, 18, St. Johnsbury, will give an entertainment April 21, 22 and 23. T. W. Wilson, Dayton, has consented to take the chief part, and the talent needed will be taken from the Camp and from the Ladies' Aid Society.

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. Postal cards will be replied to by mail *only*. Replies by mail will ordinarily be made within a week, and if in this column within three weeks.]

E. A. G., Fontana, Kan.—1. To whom should I write to obtain a tombstone for the grave of a dead comrade? 2. Please give me the address of Mrs. Gen. George A. Custer. 3. A soldier who is drawing a pension has a claim on file for increase. Can he now file another claim for increase on new disability? 4. Soldier was wounded and taken prisoner while by himself, no comrade or officer being present at the time, he being on permanent detail as company forager with Sherman in North Carolina. After he was paroled he was treated in our hospitals for wounds. Is there any decision by which he can be pensioned? *Answer.* 1. To the Quartermaster-General, U. S. A., Washington, D. C. 2. At last accounts she was at Atlantic City enjoying a much-needed rest. 3. Yes. The rest of his claim will be taken up in regular order by the Pension Bureau, and will not be prejudiced by the filing of a claim for additional disability. 4. We do not exactly understand the facts of the case. Assuming, however, that he was honorably discharged, he is probably entitled to pension. If he was not so discharged, then he cannot be pensioned without having his record cleared.

G. W. A., Jackson City, Wash.—Has a National Bank the right to charge a pensioner any exchange for cashing and collecting a good check for pension? *Answer.* Certainly it has. There is no law to compel a National Bank to cash the checks issued by the Pension Agents, and the banks charge exchange on these as well as on any other checks collected by them.

H. D., Leavenworth, Kan.—1. My pension claim was allowed in 1884, and I did not marry until 1888. Upon my death can my wife draw $12 per month pension, or does the fact that I married her after my claim was allowed debar her? 2. She has three children of a tender age by a former husband. Upon my death can she draw pension for each of these children as are under 16 years of age? *Answer.* 1. The fact that you married after the allowance of your claim cannot in any way affect her title to pension. The act of March 19, 1888, however, provides that all widows who married the soldier prior to such date shall, upon the allowance of their claims, receive $12 per month, while those who should marry the soldier subsequent to such date could receive $8 per month and no more. Therefore your wife, in the event of your death, could receive but $8 per month under any law. 2. No. She could only be pensioned for your children.

M. V. S., Knoxville, Ky.—Can a widowed mother who remarries draw pension for her son who was killed in the army or died from the effects of his service? *Answer.* Not unless she was dependent upon the son on whose account pension is drawn. If she has remarried since the death of the soldier, then she has no title to pension under any circumstances.

J. C. B., Hazlewood, O.—1. How much income is considered by the Pension Bureau as sufficient to support a widow, and consequently to debar her from pension under the act of June 27, 1890? 2. A soldier served in the war of the rebellion five years. Can he now therefore take out a homestead entry for 160 acres, or a quarter section, without residing upon the same? *Answer.* There is no specific limit, and the Pension Bureau will take into consideration the various circumstances of the case. Thus, if a woman has 12 living minor children, she will of course require a larger income to support them than if she had no children. We cannot speak more definitely than to say that where the widow's income appears to be reasonably sufficient for her comfortable maintenance and support, the Pension Bureau will on that account reject the claim; but where she is to some extent dependent upon her own daily labor for such support, notwithstanding she has a little property, the Pension Bureau will probably not reject the claim on this account. 2. No. He would have to reside upon the land one year.

E. J., Leroy, Fla.—I served in the 95th Pa. for three years and four months. Since the war I have resided in New Jersey, where I was exempt from poll-tax and allowed $500 worth of property clear of tax. I have recently removed to Florida. Am I not legally exempt from the above-mentioned taxes here also? *Answer.* No; the laws relating to such taxes are governed wholly and entirely by the Legislatures of the various States. There is a poll-tax of $1 in Florida levied upon every male citizen.

R. C. J., Woodville, Mass.—I am drawing pension for heart disease and rheumatism. Three years ago I put in a claim for two new disabilities. Can I put in a claim for increase on heart disease and rheumatism while my other claim is pending, as these disabilities have much increased? *Answer.* Yes.

G. W. T., Guthrie, Okla.—1. A soldier is allowed to file his claim for a homestead by an agent and is allowed six months thereafter in which to settle upon the land. In the meantime can anyone else file over the first filing and occupy the homestead before the end of the six months? 2. Can there be two filings on one homestead? In other words, can one person file over another and cause a contest to be instituted on account of non-residence on claim? 3. What is the benefit of allowing a soldier six months, if his claim can in the meantime be entered by someone else? *Answer.* 1. No. 2. Yes, but not until the expiration of six months. 3. It cannot be done.

F. N., Fairfield, Iowa.—1. Has the guardian of an insane soldier the right to charge anything for his services as such? 2. Has he the right to appropriate his ward's funds to his own use? *Answer.* 1. No; the court will permit the person chosen as guardian to decline to accept such trust, but he will have no right to charge anything for his services, and if he takes a compensation for himself out of the funds he can be sued by the *prochein ami* of the ward. He can of course be reimbursed for necessary expenses. 2. Certainly not. See Sec. 5485, Rev. Stats. U. S.

S. D. F., Bado, Mo.—My claim for increase was filed a year ago last May, and I was examined by a Board of Surgeons a year ago last December. Should I not have heard from my claim before this? *Answer.* Yes; and if you write to the Commissioner of Pensions, clearly and fully setting forth the circumstances of the case and requesting early action, it is our belief that your request will be complied with.

N. F. R., Troy, N. Y.—A soldier's widow who is drawing a pension of $12 per month remarries another soldier who is also a pensioner, and her pension is of course dropped. In case her second husband should die, leaving her a widow again, could she be restored to the pension roll as the widow of the second soldier? *Answer.* Yes; from the date of death of second husband.

J. E. G., Farmington, Me.—During the war a man was drafted. Before being examined he received an injury. When he was examined he was rejected on account of said injury. Can he now receive pension for this injury, it having been received while on his way to be examined? *Answer.* As the party was never mustered into the service of the United States he has no title to pension under any law.

A. D. E., East Liberty, O.—1. I received a letter, dated March 5, from the Department stating that my claim under the act of June 27, 1890, had been received. I also received a letter, dated March 7, stating that my claim had gone to the Board of Review for consideration. I applied under the old law 13 months ago, and under the new law seven months ago. Did both of the Pension Office letters refer to the new claim? 2. If the last bureau letter referred to my old claim, when may final action be expected in this claim? *Answer.* 1. No; the letter dated March 7 referred to your old claim. 2. In about a month.

Several Subscribers.—What changes in the laws relating to attorneys' fees were made by the act of March 3, 1891? *Answer.* The act referred to reduces the fee in all increase claims on original disability thereafter filed, or filed previously thereto, where there was no express or implied contract, from $10 to $2. This is the only change made in attorneys' fees by said act.

H. C. L., Rochester, Ind., and others.—In invalid claims under the act of June 27, 1890, what evidence, if any, will be required? *Answer.* Ordinarily no evidence will be necessary in new law invalid claims, but in some cases the Pension Bureau will require evidence showing that the disabilities claimed for are not the result of vicious habits. Further than this no evidence will be necessary.

W. C. C., Monongahela City, Pa.—We must positively decline to answer your questions, for the reason that you do not give your name. By reading the notices at the top of this column you will observe that no communication not accompanied by the full name and address of the writer will be answered in this column.

H. H. H., Bar Harbor, Me.—If I apply for increase of pension and am rejected, should I appeal to the Commissioner of Pensions or to the Secretary of the Interior? My claim has been rejected and I appealed to the Commissioner, but he took no notice of my appeal. *Answer.* You may appeal to the Secretary of the Interior, stating specifically the grounds of your appeal. As the Secretary is over a year behind in appeal cases, of course a decision will not be made in your claim for a long time. As your claim was rejected by the Commissioner of Pensions, your appeal to him was not proper.

G. M. B., Bangor, Me.—A soldier was born in 1844, his father died in 1854, and in 1858 his mother remarried. The soldier enlisted in 1861, and in 1864 was killed in battle. He had never married. Can his mother draw a pension as dependent mother on his account, under the new law? *Answer.* Yes; providing, of course, that she has no means of support other than her own manual labor, or the contributions of others not legally bound for her support.

Hood's Sarsaparilla cures rheumatism by neutralizing the acidity of the blood which causes the disease.

LABOR NOTES.

The English printers are very much disturbed over the provisions of the Copyright law which provide that all foreign works must be set up and printed in this country. It seems hard to make a law for the benefit of our own workingmen that will meet the approbation of those abroad.

In 1890 there were in Germany 1,131 strikes, in each of which more than 10 men participated. The total number of strikers was 394,440. In 420 cases they were entirely unsuccessful; in 468, partially successful; in 187 they got all they demanded.

The rights of labor have gained a victory in the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, affirming the law of Tennessee making judgments against railroad companies for labor or material, or damages sustained take precedence of all other liens. The defense held that this would be an "impairment of contracts," to the injury of the bond and stockholders, but the court decided against this.

Isn't She Kate Scott-Raymond-Howe?

A newspaper item is going the rounds that a woman named Mary Hooker, Goshen, Ind., has applied for a pension for injuries received while serving in Co. F, 26th Ohio, in men's clothes, and under the name of Charles Dewey. She claims that she was engaged to be married to a young man named Benjamin Brown, who enlisted in Co. F, 26th Ohio, and she donned male attire and followed him, and was wounded in the leg at Spottsylvania. The story appeared decidedly fishy on its face, particularly as every well-informed man knows that the 26th Ohio was in the Western Army and not at the battle of Spottsylvania. It seemed to us likely that Mrs. Hooker was our old acquaintance, Kate Raymond-Hooker-Scott-Howe, etc., coming to the surface again with another one of her remarkable fictions. Capt. Walden Kelly, who was the last Captain of Co. F, 26th Ohio, and who served in the regiment from the time of its organization, in June, 1861, until Oct. 21, 1865, and shared in all its services, writes us from Osborn, Mo., that no such person as Charles Dewey served in the regiment. The last time Mrs. Kate-Scott, etc., came to the surface, she claimed to have been a member of the 27th Mass., we believe, and to have been wounded in the groin at Lookout Mountain.—EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

Polar Bears.

"Thanks to the high latitudes which it inhabits, the polar bear is not likely to be killed off. The polar bear is an enormous animal, weighing about as much as a fair-sized ox, but it is not hard to kill. I once saw an Aleut woman dispose of one in a very remarkable manner. She found it asleep on the ice, and approached it with great caution from the leeward side, having previously improvised a weapon by fastening the knife she carried to a stick with lacings of seal leather which served to hold together her garment. Having got close to the unconscious beast, she thrust this spear deep into its body behind the left foreleg. It died almost without a struggle. It is a curious fact that the liver of the polar bear is actually poisonous, though the meat is very wholesome, and toothsome as well, resembling beef somewhat."

Italians Head the List.

According to official statistics at the Barge office, in New York, the immigrants landed there during the month of March, according to nationality, were as follows: Italians, 7,869, including 891 females; Germans, 7,091, including 3,000 females; British subjects, including English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh, 4,388; Hungarians, 3,589; Austrians, 3,494; Russians, 2,923; other nationalities, 14,435; total, 42,767, or 13,434 more than during March, 1890.

Minute Men of '61.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Minute Men of '61 was held at Boston, Mass., March 26, and arrangements for a Reunion and Campfire at Faneuil Hall, April 15, were completed. Several committees were appointed and also a general finance committee from cities and towns where three months' volunteers reside.

Chinese Insults.

A considerable quantity of foreign bank notes circulate on the China coast, and a favorite practice of the Chinese is to write on these the most insulting things their imagination can conceive against the foreigners. If they could only be sure that the foreigners to whom these notes finally return could read them they would be happy indeed.

A Good Reputation.

"BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES" have been before the public many years, and are everywhere acknowledged to be the best remedy for all throat troubles. They quickly relieve Coughs, Sore Throat and Bronchial Affections. Price, 25 cents. For sale everywhere, and only in boxes.

The recent death of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman has started considerable discussion as to his birthplace. Many claim he was born in New England, but the fact is he was born Feb. 8, 1820, at Lancaster, O.

$620 in GOLD Given in Premiums ARE YOU IN IT?

To the first person telling us before June 15th, next, the correct birthplace of the late Gen. Wm. Tecumseh Sherman we will give $50.00 in gold; to the second $20.00; to the third $10.00; to the next twenty first $5.00 each, and to the next hundred $2.00 each. To the person sending the last correct answer we will give $50.00 in gold; to the second last $25.00; to the third last $10.00; to the next twenty five, counting backwards, $5.00 each, and to the next hundred $2.00 each. With your answer send 30 cent postal note or silver for a box of Reid's Electric Remedy for headache the greatest remedy for immediate ease of headache ever discovered. Remember the cash prizes are sent absolutely free, and are given away to advertise this great cure. Thousands suffer lecture from headache that would be cured in ten minutes by Reid's Electric Remedy. For 30 cents we send enough for eight doses. Read the following from Mrs. Martha W. Hancock, Morgans Mill, Erath Co., Texas. "One dose of your Reid's Electric Remedy gave me instant relief and complete cure in ten minutes. Have been a great sufferer from headache for twenty-five years and your electric remedy is the only thing that ever cured it." We have many letters similar to above all showing that Reid's Electric Remedy is the most marvellous cure for sick, nervous or bilious headache ever produced. A CERTAIN WINNER. On June 25th we shall announce the list of persons to whom we have sold the gold premiums. Send 30 cents at once for Reid's Electric Remedy and secure the gold offered. Address the selling agents J. BRIDE & CO., 122 Nassau St., New York.

Mention The National Tribune.

A GREAT SEED SACRIFICE.

A $10,000 Loss turned to your Gain.

CHOICEST FLOWER SEEDS come from France. A German merchant saw my advertisement bringing a dollar for a single seed. A large importing house had an immense shipment of the finest grown seeds ever brought to America, and, as you see, on account of a delay in getting an awful sacrifice occurred. Now, as each kind must be put up in small, separate papers, this would have been a costly job for any one, but, having of late had growing in variety, we bought the whole charge of expense for covering seeds, gaining in the whole assortment some of the finest kinds we have grown. We have thoroughly mixed them all kinds, and put them up in elegant packets, containing over 500 choice seeds, to give every as generous to Customer. All you have to do is to sow them in a box, and when they get large enough to transplant, you can set them out, and have a most elegant flower garden for nothing, and, as the rarest seeds are mixed in, you obtain what has sold for dollars and dollars for nothing, and in the Summer and Fall can pluck beautiful bouquets of Pansies, Petunias, Asters, as well as the many rare flowers here shown.

Special. Having found a box of ASTER-DRAGON-CHRYSANTHEMUM seed in the lot of 500, we are going to sell one package of this popular seed also.

OUR OFFER is this: To every sending us a 25 cents for a 3 months' subscription to Cottage Home, we will send perfectly free, postpaid, three packets of seed and our TREASURE BOOK ON MANDRAKE, guide to the seeds and plants. Its many pages are handsomely illustrated, with practical hints and helps to everybody, on all sorts of plant life, and description of many choice and garden-worthy novelties; is worth a Dollar to any one, but, being determined that you and all your friends shall take COTTAGE 3 months longer, we give all of these free if only 12 cents is sent to pay postage and expense. 6 subscriptions and $6 has been sent us, we will send 12 packets.

$10,000 CASH GIVEN AWAY! BEST YET. To the person sending in the greatest number of these 12-cent subscriptions, at rate of 6 per 50 cents, before June 1st, we will give the person $50.00 in gold; to the second largest, $25.00; to the third, $15.00; to the fourth, $10.00. Remember, you get 12 cents for each lot, and send us 50 cents at time once, then you also stand a chance to secure your part of the $10,000 in addition to your profit. Publisher be more liberal than this? Send your 12 cents to-day for sample lot of Seed Packets, Manual and Magazine, then get up clubs. Address Reidell & Co., Box 1097, V, Augusta, Maine.

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Genuine Dueber solid silverine, full engraved watch, guaranteed to wear and keep its color equal to coin silver for a lifetime, unequaled in appearance and perfect as a timekeeper. The engraving on this watch is a marvel of perfection and cannot be duplicated elsewhere in the World for less than three times our price. The movements in our own special full plate ruby jeweled worth, celebrated for its handsome appearance and perfect timekeeping qualities. Many watches sold at $15.00 that will give no better results than this, and we guarantee it in every respect. We send with each watch a solid guarantee giving you the privilege to return it at any time within one year if it does not give perfect satisfaction. Cut this out and send it with your order and we will ship the watch to you by express C.O.D. subject to examination at the express office you find it as represented pay the express agent the amount, $3.98 and express charges and it is yours, otherwise you pay nothing and it will be returned at our expense. Address, THE NATIONAL MFG. & IMPORTING CO., 191 & 193 Clark Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

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This Magnetic Belt, for either lady or gent, is the Most Powerful Curative Agent ever made for Lame Back, Weakness of Spine and Kidneys, and pains arising from derangements of the abdominal organs. It is Nature's Substance concentrated, and will give immediate comfort and relief by restoring Natural Action to every organ in the body.

IT IS NATURE'S BOON TO WOMANKIND! Language but faintly describes the health-giving power of this Natural Support.

The Belt is made of genuine magnets, and the genius of man has not produced its equal since the days of Paracelsus, the world-renowned physician who cured all diseases with magnetism. Every lady, young or old, should wear this vitalizing health-giving Belt and Abdominal Support.

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Nothing will WRITEN and CLEAR the skin so quickly as DERMA-ROYALE Vegetable (French Formula) Medicinal and Toilet Preparation. We will send you a FREE TRIAL BOTTLE To prove its merits. Sent in Rich Cut Glass Cologne Bottles. "TRY IT." Address The DERMA-ROYALE CO., Cor. BAKER & TINE Streets, CINCINNATI, OHIO, U. S. A.

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The greatest discovery of the age. A soft, pliable, comfortable and durable *Air Pad*, for all kinds of Trusses. Cures Ruptures. Every soldier can get one free of cost. Write for Illustrated Catalogue, free. Address *The Rorick Air Cushion Truss Co.*, No. 637 Mass. Ave. N. E., Washington, D. C. Hon. S. S. YODER, President.

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PENSIONS

Under Act of June 27, 1890.

ATTENTION!

Officers, Soldiers and Sailors of the War of the Rebellion.

You, or some of you, have asked these questions.

Have they been answered to your complete satisfaction?

DO YOU thoroughly understand the Act of June 27, 1890?

READ THE FOLLOWING.

Act of June 27, 1890.

To