FIGHTING THEM OVER.

What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

LITTLE ROUND TOP.

A Comrade Tells When Weed's Brigade First Occupied the Mountain.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

IN the controversy that is being carried on through the columns of your paper regarding the occupancy of Round Top at Gettysburg Comrade Potter, of the 83d Pa., is rather indefinite in his statements. He says that history has given his regiment a place upon Round Top. Now, there are two hills—Big and Little Round Top. Which one was it that the comrade refers to? Col. John B. Bachelder, the historian of the battle, in his isometrical drawing of the field, locates the 83d Pa. in the valley between the two hills, at the extreme left of the Union line; and if he was as correct in locating that regiment as he was in giving the position of my own regiment and the other regiments of Weed's Brigade, to which we belonged, I don't see how the 83d Pa. can claim a position on Little Round Top, unless it may have been at the foot of it.

As you were there, comrade, you certainly ought to know where your place in the line was. I assume you were in the front line and on the extreme left, as you say, which would naturally bring the left of your regiment close to or even up the side of Big Round Top. Am I right in my conjecture?

Weed's Brigade consisted of two New York and two Pennsylvania regiments, disposed in line as follows across the front face of Little Round Top: The 155th Pa. on the right, the 146th N. Y. and 91st Pa. in center, and the 140th N. Y. on the left, they being well down the southern slope of the mountain.

I send herewith a sketch of our position and also that of Battery D, 5th U. S. Art., whose guns we supported.

POSITION OF WEED'S BRIGADE ON ROUND TOP.

The object of this little article is to answer the question of Thomas Huggins in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE of Oct. 1, 1891, as to "which army occupied Round Top at the battle of Gettysburg," and also to get a more definite explanation of the position of the 83d Pa.

In reply to the first question, I will give my regiment's experience as to the occupancy. The early morning of the 2d found us enjoying a short rest in the edge of a piece of woods, some distance to the rear of Cemetery Ridge. Soon after eating our breakfast the order came, and we moved out and double-quicked past the base of Little Round Top. Continuing on up the road, we crossed Plum Run, and nearly up to a piece of woods in our front, when an order to about-face reached us, and none too soon, for a little further and we should have reached the rebel lines. We were not slow in getting back, and passing the front of Devil's Den, a shot from which killed Serg't Robert England, of Co. K. We were halted at the foot of Little Round Top, and after loading our guns we scrambled up the rugged sides of the mountain without regard to order, and forming in line we soon became engaged, as the Johnnies were climbing up the other side. I believe it was during this first trial for occupancy that Col. O'Rourke, of the 140th N. Y., was killed, and Gen. Weed and Lieut. Hazlett, of Battery D, both fell. I received a slight wound myself, and retiring under cover of the trees on the summit of the hill (shown in the picture), investigation proved it to be nothing serious, and I returned to my place in the ranks.

I am particular as to the foregoing incidents, because I want it distinctly understood that the summit of Little Round Top was in possession of the Union troops from three to four hours before the charge of Longstreet's forces was made, to which Comrade Potter refers, and which charge was repulsed.

I will give another incident, Brother Potter, which I think should convince you that you are in error as to the time the guns of Battery D were drawn to the summit.

From an elevated position we had a magnificent view of the field. A Confederate battery was seen to move along the Emmetsburg road, toward the extreme right of their line, and taking shelter under cover of a piece of woods opened a furious cannonade on our position for about 20 minutes, but failing to make any impression on us, as we laid low, they moved back the way they came till they got directly in our front, and halted in rear of some farm building, near a road that comes from the west and intersects the Emmetsburg road at that point. Then the fun commenced from our side—Battery D opened on them. The first shell fell a little short, but the next and the next, in rapid succession, were dropped in among them, and in less than a minute's time that was the most demoralized rebel battery we had seen in a little while, as a perfect stampede of men and horses took place. How many were killed and wounded, of course, we knew not, but in a short time two ambulances came down the road to carry off the injured.

I make another reference to Col. Bachelder's picture here. According to it the rebel General (Semmes) was mortally wounded near the intersection of the two roads mentioned above. That point in the picture agrees exactly with my recollection of the incident narrated. The time of this affair was, according to my memory, pretty well along in the afternoon. Gen. E. M. Law, in his article in the *Century Magazine* for Dec., 1886, "The Confederate Right at Gettysburg," says it was nearly 5 o'clock when they advanced to the attack. The artillery on both sides had been warmly engaged for about 15 minutes, etc. Gen. Hunt, Chief of Artillery, in his article in same magazine, entitled "The Second Day at Gettysburg," places the hour of attack between 4 and 5 p. m. He also mentions the fact of a lot of cattle being between the lines of the contending forces, and of the terror and fright of the poor animals as they rushed from one side to the other as the shot and shell exploded over and among them. I have a distinct recollection myself of seeing the poor creatures in their frantic efforts to escape from their terrible predicament.

But whatever the hour may have been when the attack was made, I am positive that we occupied the summit, and had had our first brush with the Johnnies on the side of the mountain from two to three hours before, as the wound that I received is a reminder of the time; and also a few minutes after we drove them back, Lieut.-Col. Jenkins, of my regiment, ordered the colors to be flung out on the extreme front summit, but Col. Garrard ordered them back, saying it was no use exposing the men needlessly, as they were in short range of the rebel sharpshooters in the Devil's Den.

Serg't Van Vleck, of my own company, now of Syracuse, N. Y., makes the time of our reaching the summit even earlier than I do. He says in a letter to me: "It must have been about 10:30 when we went on Round Top"; and Comrade E. C. C., formerly a member of Battery D, whose guns we supported, states that "Weed's Brigade were the first organized troops on Round Top."

And right here I will corroborate Comrade Potter's statement regarding Gen. Griffin, former commander of Battery D, as to the estimation in which he was held by most of the boys. He was like a guardian angel to us. Whenever we got into a tight place, if his guns could be brought to bear upon those of the enemy, they would silence them every time.

In conclusion, I will say to Comrade Hoggins, who asked the question, that Weed's Brigade occupied the front face of Little Round Top, from as early as noon of the second day until the close of the great battle, when we moved out on the afternoon of Sunday, the 5th of July, in pursuit of the enemy, who were then on the retreat. But mind, I do not claim that we alone held Little Round Top; for, if I remember right, there were supporting regiments in the rear of the battery as well as in front.

I should state that very soon after the attack mentioned above, we moved part way down the slope to the position shown in the picture, and during the night piled up the loose stones and connected them with the huge boulders that were scattered about on the mountainside, making a good wall of defense for us against the sharpshooters in the Devil's Den.—JAMES COLLEDGE, Co. C, 146th N. Y., Redfield, S. D.

BATTLE OF CORINTH.

A Hot Fight in More Ways than One—Iowa Losses in the Action.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

DR. S. H. M. Byers, 5th Iowa, in his book, "Iowa in War Times," writes of this battle: "First day, Oct. 3, 1862—It was a hard battle-day. The rays of an almost tropical sun poured an intense heat straight down on the unprotected heads of the soldiers. Scarcely a breath of air moved. The thermometer registered 108 degrees in the shade. Water was scarce, and almost too hot to drink from the tin canteens. Added to all were the heat and smoke of tons and tons of burning powder, the awful explosions of massed artillery, the heated crash of musketry, men and horses crushed and bleeding and dying; mangled human beings begging for a drop of water, and no one to hear. But that was war, and this was a battle.

"The 2d Iowa Cav. was everywhere about Corinth in every conceivable sort of service. 'Hatch's cavalry is the eye of our army,' said Rosecrans. By night and by day they were in the saddle. It was a trusted regiment, with energetic officers and dashing men. They had been brigaded with the gallant Sheridan, and greatly aided in making his fame.

"The 2d Iowa battery, Capt. Nelson T. Spoor, fired the last round of ammunition in their chests.

"In the charge of our men fell Col. James Baker with a mortal wound, gloriously leading the 2d Iowa. 'I die content,' he cried; 'I have seen my regiment victoriously charging the enemy.'

"The next day (4th) Lieut.-Col. Noah W. Mills, commanding the 2d Iowa, fell, mortally wounded, while leading a charge. The 2d Iowa lost 191 men killed and wounded.

"Maj. Banbury, 5th Iowa, commanding the 17th Iowa, led that regiment in its splendid charge in which they captured the flag of the 40th Miss.

"The old war-horse of the 7th Iowa, Lieut.-Col. James C. Parrott, was severely wounded, and his regiment lost 122 men killed and wounded.

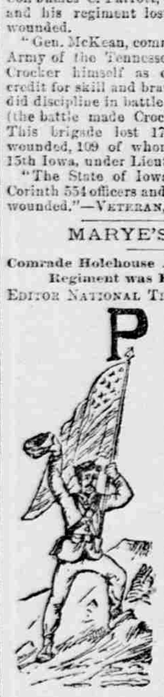
"Gen. McKean, commanding Sixth Division, Army of the Tennessee, reported 'Col. M. M. Crocker himself as entitled to the highest credit for skill and bravery, and for the splendid discipline in battle of the Crocker Brigade' (the battle made Crocker Brigadier-General). This brigade lost 172 men in killed and wounded, 109 of whom were from the gallant 15th Iowa, under Lieut.-Col. W. W. Belknap.

"The State of Iowa lost in the battle of Corinth 554 officers and men, mostly killed and wounded."—VETERAN, Salem, Mass.

MARYE'S HIGHTS.

Comrade Holehouse Again Insists that His Regiment was First Up the Hill.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:



PLEASE to bear with me once more, and insert this article. Again I assert our claim to be the first on Marye's Hights. I have fired no blank cartridges. We of the 7th Mass. went up the Telegraph road, and to the left of the Marye House, from which the Hights derive their name. Yes, Mr. Bowles, the two columns did receive the first fearful fire of the Confederates. Right you are, there. Then the supporting lines of battle acted their part of support, and advanced to our aid, which was the part of the program assigned to them.

If any one will read each of my articles, they cannot help but acknowledge that I have been consistent, notwithstanding the charge of H. H. Bowles that Comrade Holehouse makes some curious statements about supports and skirmish-lines, getting them badly mixed. I now quote from a paragraph by H. H. Bowles: "When, in the flush of young manhood, I stepped out with 320 others of my regiment—the 6th Me.—to lead the forlorn hope against those Hights." The leaders generally receive the first fire, yet you concede that Col. Spear's and Col. Johns's columns received the first fire. Strange, isn't it? Oh, consistency, thou art a jewel.

I tell you again, the 6th Me. did not go up in column. You went up the hill, or the regiment did, in line of battle two deep. Do you know so little of military as not to distinguish the difference in formation of marching in line of battle and marching in column?

My first article was printed in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE of Dec. 24, 1891, in reply to H. E. Matthews's claim for the 6th Me. If he had not made that claim, I should most probably never have been a contributor to your columns. But seeing his claim, and knowing that my regiment had the right to that honor, I could not remain silent, for silence in such a matter would denote cowardice. Then, on Feb. 11, 1892, appeared the second article from H. E. Matthews giving the very graphic account by H. H. Bowles. Allowing almost six years to intervene between my reply and this second article, they were not very hasty in asserting the same untruthful account. By the insertion, after such a lapse of time, they found that Comrade Holehouse was still a citizen of the United States, and had not departed from this sublunary sphere, as note my article of March 10, 1892, which most effectually disposed of their claim, if the evidence adduced should be weighed and given its proper value.

If I lived in the West or South, and owned some thousands of acres of land, and wanted my land boomed, I should most assuredly employ this very picturesque writer to set forth its beauties and advantages to settlers; for he would make white appear black, and vice versa; as note his shifting subterfuge in saying that it was not Marye's Hights we carried, but the Hights of Fredericksburg. Gen. Newton's testimony was too strong; so, like a good General who knows all about military, calling a line of battle an assaulting column, he, H. H. Bowles, changes his base, and assigns us to a new position. From the right to the left of those Hights is one continuous line, without any break in their formation, sometimes called Marye's and sometimes Fredericksburg Hights. The two charging columns, the one on the right and *ours* in the center, and the lines of battle, all faced those Hights. Then how could we attack the enemy's rear? Please to explain. We'll put that down as mixed. If it were in war times, I would put it down to too much commissary.

When our regiment and the 36th N. Y. were ordered to advance, which we did in column of fours, the orders were given by word of mouth. Had the bugle sounded the advance at this time the rebels would have understood it as well as we did. As they saw our line nearing their works, they were expecting that the column would deploy into the field in their front, into line of battle. So, at least, some of the prisoners who were taken in the rifle-pits in the sunken road told us afterwards.

As we started to advance (as I stated in my first article) our supports to the right of us and to the left were lying down in line of battle, hugging the earth closely, as we passed them by. The other column to the right, I suppose, started at the same time. This is why we received the first destructive fire of the enemy; and the first shot fired killed Elihu J. Faxon, of the 36th N. Y., and wounded some others of that regiment, who were directly in our rear. What, then, becomes of the claim that the 6th Me. were the leaders of the forlorn hope? Mixed again, must be the verdict of a discriminating public.

As to my not being near enough to hear bugle notes, I will not defend myself, because I have answered that in my former articles. H. H. Bowles, after saying this, calls me Comrade Holehouse. Is there any comradeship implied by such an inference? Such comradeship as this I do not recognize. Again, he says: "Comrade Holehouse's efforts to be facetious at the expense of Mr. H. E. Matthews are in poor taste, and beneath the dignity of a true soldier."

To write and maintain the truth is a true soldier's duty, as well as to fight, and if an untruth can be washed away by a little labor, soft soap and warm water, so much the better for truth and honesty. Mr. Matthews may be honest in his claim. His good lady may also share with him in believing the same, but they were not there. The letter of Maj.-Gen. John Newton, the word of Maj.-Gen. Doubleday, (they did not belong to our regimental organization, nor to the State of Massachusetts), Col. Huntington T. Jackson, of Gen. Newton's staff, (my favorite authority, as H. H. Bowles calls him,) gives us this distinguished honor in the *Century Magazine*—all outside authorities; whilst the claimants of the 6th Me. give no authority but that which is interested in their behalf.

Gen. John Newton is yet living. He commanded the assaulting columns and the supporting lines of battle that day. Cols. Spear, Johns and Burnham were his subordinates, and each performed what was assigned to them under his command. I have faith in him, as he was faithful to our country's flag in the time of its dire necessity and in need of its true sons' services. He will still be faithful and indorse his letter to Gov. Andrew. Then ask him, in a fair and square manner, without any equivocation, and, my word for it, you will receive a square confirmation of the position that I assume, namely, that the 7th Mass. was the first in the embrasures of Marye's Hights.—JAMES HOLEHOUSE, 85 East Grinnell street, Fall River, Mass.

AS TO GEN. GREGG.

Comrade Taylor Thinks He Clears Up the Mystery Regarding His Death.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

COMRADE James E. Taylor, of New York City, the artist who painted the celebrated picture of the battle of Atlanta for Gen. G. M. Dodge, says he has read with interest the letter of Comrade Dolton regarding the death of the rebel Gen. Gregg at Chickamauga, and sends us a letter received by him from Mr. S. A. Jonas, brother of Maj. E. Jonas, of Louisiana, who was one of Gen. Dodge's bravest staff officers, which gives the fate of Gen. John Gregg, who was reported killed by Gen. Boynton at Chickamauga, as a kind of supplement to Comrade Dolton's article. The correspondence was entered into by Comrade Taylor to try and secure photos of some of the Confederate Generals, as he proposes to paint a picture in which they will be used. The following is the letter:

"MY DEAR SIR: I am glad to believe you rely upon me as one always ready to help you in your good work. To begin with, there was only one Gen. John Gregg in the Confederate army; the other Gregg was Gen. Maxcy Gregg, of South Carolina. Gen. John Gregg sleeps under a massive "soldier monument" in a lovely cemetery in the suburbs of this city, erected by his devoted widow, who is one of our prominent citizens; nee Miss Mollie Garth, daughter of Gen. Jesse Garth, of north Alabama—a noted belle in her day.

"The photo which I reinclose is, she says, a speaking likeness, and better than any one she has, and she is anxious to obtain a copy if published.

"He was born in Lawrence Co., Alabama, Sept. 2, 1828; went to Texas in 1852; was one of the youngest and most distinguished jurists of that State when the war broke out; was a member of the Secession Convention; was a member of the Provisional Congress at Montgomery, and served one term in Richmond; returned to Texas after the battle of Manassas and raised the 7th Texas; was taken prisoner at Fort Donelson, and promoted to Brigadier-General after his exchange. After long service in the West, was assigned to the command of Hood's old Brigade, Longstreet's Corps, Lee's army, one of the most noted commands in the Confederate service.

"He fell on the morning of Oct. 7, 1864, in Lee's attack upon Grant's forces on the north side of the James. He—Gregg—fell, to be more specific, shot through the neck, while leading a charge upon Fort Harrison, on the Darbytown road, seven miles from Richmond. He never spoke after he fell.

His widow can furnish a full sketch of his civil and military life, but I do not suppose you want it. He was a grand scholar, able lawyer, brave and skillful soldier, and a simple-mannered gentleman.—S. A. JONAS, Aberdeen, Miss.

Business Sense.

[*Indianapolis Journal.*]

First Pickpocket—Say, you getting religion? I hear you have been going to church pretty regularly lately.

Second Pickpocket—I went there to work. And I haven't had a bite to eat for two days.

First Pickpocket—You never did have any business sense. Come on and I'll fill you up. I have been out to the races—where people take their money along.

Half Rates to New York and Return via Royal Blue Line.

The Baltimore and Ohio R. R. Co. will sell Excursion tickets from all stations to New York and return for all trains July 5th to 7th inclusive, at the rate of one fare for the round-trip. The round-trip rate from Baltimore will be $5.30, and from Washington, D. C., $6.50. Correspondingly low rates from other stations. Tickets will be valid for return journey until August 15th. As such a low rate to New York is seldom offered it will be a most favorable opportunity for a visit to that city with side trips to Long Branch, Saratoga, Newport, Narragansett Pier, Coney Island and other famous resorts within easy access of New York.

ANOTHER COMPARISON.

Comrade Kelly Again Goes for Comrade Dolton on the Gettysburg-Chickamauga Subject.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

IN your issue of May 19 appears a communication from G. E. Dolton, in which I notice a marked improvement in his style of writing over that indulged by him Feb. 25 on the same subject, namely, Chickamauga and Gettysburg—the latter article showing a larger measure of common sense, except where he appears to lose his temper and say some uncomplimentary things about the writer and other Chicago people.

I don't heed that in the least, coming as it does from that moldy old village beyond the bridge. As for his strictures of a personal nature, I regard them as simply ludicrous. In closing he demands the truth, and not a waste of words, etc. In his reference to the figures in the editorial columns of your issue Sept. 3, 1891, he disregards alike the truth and the intelligence of his readers by placing the number of Union troops participating in the battle of Gettysburg at the absurdly high figure of 80,000, thereby making the percentage of losses sustained by them appear lower, while with the Army of the Cumberland he reverses his method of computation, placing the number engaged at Chickamauga at the ridiculously low figure of 45,000, or a bare two-thirds of the reported strength of that army, that he may make the percentage of loss appear very high, or make it out the "bloodiest battlefield," a phrase so often repeated May 19.

Now, I don't care a straw which is shown to have been the bloodiest battlefield, nor where the breaking of that metaphorical Confederate backbone occurred.

But if he adopts the minimum as the basis in ascertaining the percentage of losses at one engagement, why not do so with both, always bearing in mind that it is the readers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, and not either disputant, who are to be the judges of the arguments adduced and the language they are couched in.

Until quite recently it has not been claimed by anyone but rebel authorities, or their copperhead sympathizers, that Meade had as many as 80,000 troops in action at Gettysburg, and no fair-minded man, knowing the history of that campaign and the situation and environments of the Army of the Potomac, will believe it.

Never, after the battle of Gaines's Mill, did the rank and file of the Army of the Potomac have the slightest doubt of their ability, when properly handled, to cope successfully with the Army of Northern Virginia, and yet they were afterwards led to defeat after defeat, and always by a different commander. They took that bungling affair at Second Bull Run rather good-naturedly, and were not more than half satisfied with their victory at Antietam, but were perfectly disgusted with the fruitless slaughter at Fredericksburg, and mad clean through at the fatal hesitation of their commander at Chancellorsville, which lost them the opportunity of a fair stand-up fight with Lee's veterans.

And now they marched to battle again under a new and untried commander appointed but three days before. It was not known against what point the enemy would direct his main attack, consequently our army was strung out over 60 miles of territory, where straggling was not only perfectly safe, but was a most delightful affair. The country people, in their simple patriotism, cheerfully entertained our soldiers at their houses. Such was the situation when our old reliable, John Bufort, with his division of cavalry (of which I had the honor to be a member present for duty), encountered the enemy's infantry beyond Gettysburg. A few hours later the army commences to arrive by forced marches, under a blazing July sun, through suffocating clouds of dust, a corps at a time, until the third day of battle, when the Sixth Corps, the last to arrive, came on the field, but is not put into action. Does any sane man suppose that our trains were left unguarded, that every other point was uncovered, stripped of every man, when the enemy's advance on Gettysburg might, for all we know, be only a feint to cover the movement in some other direction? Or that the full reported strength of the army was in the ranks, and remained in them during those long, hot marches, until they arrived on the field? And yet this is what should have been done in order to put 80,000 men in action without the Sixth Corps.

On the other hand, the situation is quite different. The Army of the Cumberland is preparing for battle under an old and tried commander, who has hitherto been uniformly successful. The weather is cool and bracing, and straggling decidedly unsafe. And yet if we are to believe this "seeker after truth" from St. Louis, from an army 67,000 strong, there is but a bare 45,000 put into action at Chickamauga, where a few thousand more might have rendered incalculable service. He reiterates the statement that a majority of the best authorities take his view of the subject, yet he doesn't name a single authority on the subject, except Longstreet.

Now we do not regard that foxy old rebel as a reliable authority, if it is a question of the number of troops arrayed against him, the amount of damage his cause may have received at their hands, or the condition of the Confederacy after the engagement in dispute, as he is but human like the rest of us (whether considered so in St. Louis or not), and no doubt is willing enough to belittle the results of Gettysburg, for the reason that he got a good sound thrashing there. I would like the opinion of some disinterested party on the whole subject, some one whose statements might bear the stamp of truth.—JOHN KELLY, Co. F, 2d U. S. Cav., 734 West Superior street, Chicago, Ill.

BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS.

Comrade Beyland Corrects Capt. Webster as to the Troops which were in the Fight.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

WITH surprise I just now read your paper, issued Thursday, April 21, in which the remarkable article of Capt. I. B. Webster, of Co. I, 10th Ky., appeared, entitled "Gen. Zollicoffer's Death. A True Account of the Death of the Confederate Leader at Mill Springs, Ky.," etc. In it he recites the narrative of how "Zolli" came to be killed by Gen. Speed S. Fry, of the 4th Ky., and the same is in all essentials correct; as I know the facts from having been a participant in that memorable battle, and also from the General himself—having had a conversation with him in Danville, Ky., near where I was first married. But I certainly must correct Capt. Webster in the matter of who the participants were in this memorable battle, that cleared Kentucky of rebels at that time, as some of them, if not all, did not stop running until they arrived at Nashville; and the oversight being so glaring, and so outrageously unjust, I must ask you to correct it in your next number in a vigorous manner. For the truth of which I refer you to any history of the war, more especially to Harper's. However, the participants were—and all should have credit—2d Minn.; Woolford's Cavalry; 9th Ohio, Col. Robert L. McCook; 4th Ky., Col. Speed S. Fry; 10th Ky., Col. John M. Harlan; 10th Ind., Col. M. D. Mansur; 14th Ohio, Col. J. B. Steedman; Gen. Geo. H. Thomas in command. Why were all quoted excepting the 2d Minn., 9th Ohio, and Woolford's Cavalry? To my certain knowledge, it was the bayonet charge of the 9th Ohio and 2d Minn. that broke the rebels' front, and produced the famous stampede that did not stop short of Nashville, Tenn. Capt. Webster should rake his memory better before he starts in to write history for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.—E. A. HERMAN BEYLAND, Aid-de-Camp National Staff, G.A.R.; Co. A, 9th Ohio, Box 422, Newport, Ky.

Save your money on wheeled vehicles, harness, saddlery, etc. See our great offer in issue of June 16.

PICKET SHOTS.

From Alert Comrades All Along the Line.

Cracker Line at Brown's Ferry.

THOMAS J. BOND, Co. G, 2d Ohio, Newport, Ky., writes: "In your issue of May 12 Chas. Banks, Co. H, 1st Ohio, is correct about pontoon boats being used, and not canal boats, to open up the cracker-line at Brown's Ferry. I was a steersman in one of the boats. With two others I was detailed from our company to report to headquarters without rations, as all steamboatmen were wanted, and we thought we had a soft snap. We were marched down to a large shed, where we found some large oars about 14 feet long, which we shouldered, and marched to the river, where we found a number of pontoon boats. There were two oarsmen and one steersman to each boat, and we practiced all afternoon pulling around the harbor. In the evening we were ordered to our regiment and told to report at midnight at the river, with one day's rations. Arriving at the river we found the bank filled with soldiers, embarking in the pontoon boats. We were ordered to the opposite side, where we pulled down the river in the shadow of the bushes and trees, around Moccason Point to a light on the bank. We were ordered to cross the river to the south side, where we disembarked our soldiers; then we crossed the river, filled our boats with soldiers, and ferried them over. We were ordered to the other side of the river to tie up our boats and report to our regiment. The night was as dark as a 'stack of black cats'; and it was not at Mission Ridge, but at the foot of Lookout Mountain. I had the honor of being the pilot of Gen. Hazen's boat."

Late Discharges.

Lewis V. Porter, Co. A, 13th Mo. Cav., Plattsburg, Mo., says: "Knowing the fact would be recorded in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, and desiring to get ahead of the 128th Ind., which, according to Comrade G. W. McBride and others, was mustered out April 10, 1866, he fixed it so that the 13th Mo. Cav. was discharged April 18 and paid on the 20th."

Mistook the Bird.

In the issue of May 19, P. J. Knapp, Co. H, 5th Iowa, undertakes to correct Charles A. Hobbs in regard to the first regiment entering Vicksburg, July 4, 1863. W. H. Posson, Co. G, 45th Ill., West Berne, N. Y., says P. J. Knapp must have mistaken the game rooster carried by one of the colored cooks of the 45th Ill. for the eagle of the 8th Wis., as the writer was present with his company and regiment, and stacked arms facing the courthouse on the north side at precisely 18 minutes of 2 o'clock on the day mentioned. If the 8th Wis. were in the vicinity of the courthouse at the time it was unknown to the writer.

Homes for Settlers.

J. H. Griffin, Argyle, Minn., writes: "This is a good locality for anyone looking for lands at a fair price. This, the Valley of the Red River of the North, is about 100 miles wide, or 50 miles on each side of the river. There are small rivers flowing east and west into the Red River every eight or 12 miles. The soil is rich and dark. Good farms can be had for from $10 per acre up, and on long time. Land has increased in value 25 per cent. since last year, as the crops of wheat raised on many farms last year averaged 40 bushels per acre, and sold for from 72 to 87 cents, or more than paid for the land, labor, etc., in one year."

Should be Known.

J. W. Conard, Washington, D. C., writes: "I notice that the only infantry company of the D. C. National Guard that wears the full dress regulation uniform is Co. A, 3d battalion, all veterans, the other three companies being sons of veterans. I think the company wore the uniform the first time on Memorial Day, and that it was issued to them by Gen. Ordway, as a reward for being the best or most efficient company in the Guard, it is stated; and if true, the fact should be made known, to the credit of the veterans."

The Youngest Sailor.

Dr. B. F. Clough, U. S. S. Black Hawk, 46 Austin street, Worcester, Mass., writes: "I inclose you the photo of W. H. Davis, known throughout the Mississippi Squadron by the name of 'Jeff' Davis, which shows for itself. Little Jeff came on board the flagship Black Hawk at Fort Hindman in January, 1863, and my impression is that Admiral Porter gave him the name of Jeff Davis. He was the pet of both officers and men, and was a good, honest, faithful boy, and, if alive to-day, I will guarantee is a good man."

Wants to Hear from Them.

Frank Myers, Co. B, 6th Iowa Cav., Miller, S. D., writes: "Not a word do I see from the Indian war of the Northwest under Gen. Sully's command against the hostile Sioux during the years 1863, '64 and '65. What has become of all those boys? During those three years of soldiering I kept a diary of all the most important transactions, and have had it rewritten and published in a 60-page pamphlet. Let's hear from you, boys, and I will send you one of those books. At that time this country was inhabited by the Indian and buffalo. Now it is one of the finest farming countries in the Union, covered with thousands upon thousands of acres of wheat, that at this time (June 1), gives promise of one of the best crops that has ever been raised in South Dakota."

Information Asked and Given.

P. C. Glassman, Co. F, 11th Mo., Opdyke, Ill., wants to know by letter the last resting-place of Brig.-Gen J. B. Plummer, who was Colonel of the 11th Mo. before Mower was promoted Colonel of that regiment. Plummer died Aug. 8, 1862, from the effects of a wound received at Wilson's Creek, at Camp Gaylord, near Corinth. He was then in command of the "Eagle" Brigade, Stanley's Division. He was buried Aug. 9, near Farmington. Whether the remains were afterward sent home the writer wishes to know.

J. L. Warren, Clear Lake, Wis., writes: "I am Commander of Emerson Opdycke Post, 142. Will your readers please give me a history of Emerson Opdycke—who he was; what offices he held during the late war, and to what regiment he belonged? Will some one write me a personal letter?"

C. F. Craw, Caro, Mich., writes: "Thomas McClane (or McLean) was a member of some New York regiment that was at Tallahassee, Fla., in the Fall of 1864, and he was discharged from the hospital at that place. He is a very illiterate man, and has forgot his company and regiment. His pension attorney has lost the discharge. He says he has applied for a duplicate discharge, but as he cannot give his company and regiment he has not been able to find his record, or get a certificate of service. What New York regiment was at Tallahassee, Fla., in Fall of 1864; and was a man of that name among them?"

Where Is the Owner.

A veteran, Marshalltown, Iowa, saw the article regarding the badge of Kearny's troops, which reminds him of the fact that he was in the battle of Chantilly, where the gallant one-armed Phil was killed. He has in his possession a German-silver badge with a portrait of Gen. Kearny mounted on one side, empty sleeve and all, while underneath is the General's name, date of death and battle in which he was killed. The badge was found on Lookout Mountain. The writer has been intending to advertise this matter in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE for sometime, so that the owner, or his friends, who could prove property, could have the medal restored to them. (The comrade failed to give his name with his communication.)

The Part They Played.

One of Sherman's bummers who served with the 2d Iowa, takes exceptions to remarks made by Col. D. B. Dailey, of the 2d and 6th Wis., Army of the Potomac, at a Reunion of Iowa soldiers at Ottumwa recently, in which he said that the part taken by the Western armies in putting down the rebellion was so trifling that they should take very little honor for putting down the rebellion, and a lot more such rubbish, telling the Western boys present that they were not in the war. The writer would like to ask the Colonel if he does not know that the Army of the Potomac got licked in nine out of every 10 battles they fought. He would ask the Colonel to count the victories they gained on one hand, and the defeats they suffered on the other hand, and see which comes out ahead. In the West the boys marched all night, many times, to be ready to fight in the morning, while in the East it was generally "all quiet along the Potomac." The Western troops fought from start to finish without having a Bull Run or Chancellorsville, or establishing a record for speed, except in pursuit of an enemy. He thinks the Colonel is lacking in brain power to start such a controversy. The writer's regiment belonged to an army that was never whipped, the grand old Army of the Tennessee, while Col. Dailey's two regiments belonged to an army that was whipped in two out of every three battles in which they were engaged.

Lookout Mountain.

N. P. Calkin, 42d Ind., First Brigade, First Division, Fourteenth Corps, Parsons, Kan., having seen the article on Lookout Mountain, says that his command lay on the east side of Chattanooga Creek. He does not wish to steal any of the glory from Comrade Davis, who says "the heavy fog or mist which hung over the valley and around the foot of the mountain prevented us from seeing that the enemy had given up their hold on the valley, and in order to develop their position our regiment was sent forward to reconnoiter, advancing down the east side of the mountain into the valley. The evidence of an evacuation was complete, as the rebel dead, abandoned guns, and stores proved flight by night." The reader would infer that the only regiment that did any fighting was that of Comrade Davis, but the writer wishes to say that the Fourteenth Corps took part in the closing struggle on Lookout Mountain. About 3 o'clock p. m., Nov. 24, the First Brigade, First Division, Fourteenth Corps, crossed Chattanooga Creek and advanced up the eastern slope to the White House, then filed south and formed line of battle up and down the slopes of the mountain, no Federal troops being in front of them, and they were under fire from the top of the mountain. The writer's company had three men wounded, one mortally, before the lines were formed. They were under fire until 1 o'clock next morning, when the word passed down the line that the rebels were coming and the boys opened up and gave them a few volleys, which closed the night's entertainment; but they lay on the ground until daybreak, when they were ordered to fall back in rear of a ridge. After breakfast they marched south, during which they saw a great many dead rebels and abandoned stores, which showed plainly what their fire had been during the night. They marched down the valley and took position south of the road and guarded Hooker's flank, after which they recrossed Chattanooga Creek and took position with their corps.

Fighting the Indians.

A. C. Tucker, Co. G, 1st Minn. M't'd Rangers, Marshall, Minn., says the first engagement his regiment had with the Indians was at Big Hills, at which place the Surgeon of the regiment—Dr. Wissner—was killed. He had gone on in advance, hoping by his influence to bring the Indians to terms, having been an agent for them, and therefore had considerable influence over them. Gen. Sibley had been ordered to go into camp and fortify, which had been partly obeyed. Two companies were body-guards for Sibley, while the rest of the regiment were to the right of the camp, facing Alkali Lake. While in line of battle an object was seen through the Colonel's glasses to the west and north of the line, which proved to be the Doctor. The Doctor came up and said that he was confident the Indians would surrender, and that if Gen. Sibley and staff would come to the front and meet the Chiefs they would speak for peace. After the Doctor had refurnished his haversack, he started back to the Indians, against the protest of Gen. Sibley and staff. The Doctor had gone but 100 yards when an Indian appeared and signaled him to go back, while another Indian, mounted on a pony, rode up, discharged his gun at the Doctor, the contents of which passed through the Doctor's bowels. The Indian immediately wheeled his horse and was soon out of sight. The rangers immediately dismounted and deployed skirmishers, and for five miles fought the Indians, who fought like devils to hold the lines until their squaws could break camp and scatter through the hills.

In Front of Petersburg.

Thomas Christie, Co. E, 6th N. H., Hatley, Canada, says that in the issue of March 17 Comrade Plimpton, Secretary of the 11th Mass. battery, verifies statements made by Comrades Peare and Cogswell concerning the Second Brigade, Second Division, Ninth Corps. The writer wishes the comrades to understand that the Ninth Corps was organized anew at Annapolis in March, 1864. At this reorganization the Second Brigade of the Second Division consisted of the 6th, 9th, and 11th N. H., 31st and 32d Me., 17th Vt., and he thinks the 2d Md. On the 17th of June the Second Brigade was drawn up in line of battle in front of Petersburg thus: 17th Vt., 11th N. H., and 32d Me. in the front line; 6th and 9th N. H., 31st Me., and 2d Md. as the supports. At Pegram's Farm the brigade formed line, the 6th N. H. in the center of the line, with the 9th and 11th N. H. and 17th Vt. on the right and 2d Md., 31st and 32d Me. on the left and 2d N. Y. M't'd Rifles deployed as skirmishers. The regimental history of the 6th N. H. shows that there was changes in the organization of the Ninth Corps early in December, 1864, and the following regiments composed the Second Brigade, Second Division: 6th, 9th, and 11th N. H., 2d Md., 17th Vt., 31st and 32d Me., 56th Mass., 179th and 186th N. Y.

Rebel Prisons.

H. Bristol, Cos. K and A, 16th Conn., Westville, Conn., says that Robert H. Kellogg, who wrote the book "Andersonville and Other Prisons," and who also testified in the Wirz trial, was a Sergeant in Co. A, 16th Conn., with the writer, and a more honest, pure-minded, and brave patriot never lived in our country. Kellogg told the writer that he truthfully could have told more about the barbarities practiced in the Southern hells, but it was difficult to find a publisher to print it, because they thought the story would not be believed. The writer thinks Kellogg lives in Cincinnati, O., where he is State Agent for the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company. He wants THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE to give the soldier-haters what they deserve in every issue. He also thanks God that he was not in those pens, or else he would not be penning this, very likely.

The Discomfiture of the "Rain Doctors."

Owing to the drought in the States west of the Mississippi, a contract was made with certain gentlemen for the artificial production of rain, and arrangements were made for the carrying out of their proposed operations. Early this Spring circulars were issued by a Kansas rain company announcing that on May 20 they would cause copious rains in various Counties of South Dakota. They may have been able to carry out the program, but they failed to take into consideration one necessary condition to success