# FIGHTING THEM OVER.

## What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

### GEN. McDOWELL AGAIN.

**The Ignorance of These Men Who Knew Not the Man.**

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

INTRIGUE and treachery of McDowell are the expressions used against him by L. R. Lackey, 16th Mich., Third Brigade, First Division, Fifth Corps, in his communication on Second Bull Run, published in the issue of August 11. I had come to the conclusion some time ago that further attacks on the character of that brave and patriotic Christian soldier would cease, and that comrades would find other subjects to write about other than defaming the memory and character of this gallant and patriotic man; for such he proved himself to be, even if on no other field than that of the First Bull Run. I have not THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE of May 19, which contained the communication of Serg't Thomas, but think he is somewhat mistaken when he puts the strength of the Fifth Corps at 30,000 at Second Bull Run. The corps at that time did not average more than 18,000 men of all arms; 20,000 at most.

However, let that be as it may, I wish to ask Comrade Lackey why it is that he did not take up the march of the Fifth Corps in all its details from Aquia Creek to Rappahannock Station, a distance of only 45 miles? Instead, he jumps the corps from Aquia into the battlefield of Bull Run, as if that battle must come off the next day. Comrade Lackey forgets the fact that the rebel army was pushing from the southwest to the northeast along the Orange & Alexandria Railroad, in order to get in Pope's rear before Porter could close the gate at Rappahannock, which he should have done were he not treacherous to Pope, of which there was ample proof in his conduct and actions at the battle of Groveton on August 29.

Here is where Comrade Lackey should dwell, before carrying the Fifth Corps into Bull Run second, and tell us something of Porter, and the aid he gave the patriotic and well-meaning Gen. Pope on the 29th day of August, 1862. Porter—let us bear in mind that this was Fitz John—from the time that he left Aquia Creek with the Fifth Corps, manuvered along the road, a distance of only 45 miles, for four days before he reached Rappahannock Station, on the pretense of having the enemy in force on his left flank to the south. This was done in order to retard the corps from giving any aid to Pope, if possible. Then, when Porter did arrive with his troops at Rappahannock Station, he could not move northeast from there toward Bristow and Bull Run to the aid of Pope, simply because he did not want to, as he was senior in rank, notwithstanding that Pope had been placed in command of the army by the direct orders of the President. Consequently, rank or no rank, and as a good soldier, and having the love of country at heart, Porter ought to be prompt to join Pope and obey his every order. But he did neither one nor the other.

When Porter, with his corps, on the morning of August 29 found himself face to face with Pope and McDowell at Manassas Junction, and there received orders from Pope to accompany McDowell on the road toward Thoroughfare Gap, but before reaching that point McDowell was to break off to the right while Porter would continue on his way to the Gap and with all his force prevent Longstreet from passing northward to join Lee, or if he did succeed in passing, Porter should fall upon his rear and crush him, did Porter do either one or the other? No; he sat astride of his horse in that very gap and watched Longstreet through his field-glass passing north to reinforce Lee on the field of Groveton, and between them crush Pope by force of numbers. Porter in the meantime gave orders to his several commanders to move back a quarter of a mile, stack arms, and rest; which the troops did, and during that afternoon picked peaches and apples from a neighboring orchard. All this from about half-past two o'clock until dark, the battle still raging in the meantime at Groveton.

Now, then, Mr. Lackey, tell us of Gen. Fitz John Porter's loyalty on that occasion, if you can. And, furthermore, I well remember what a poor showing some of the Fifth Corps made to help Pope on the following day, Aug. 30, at Second Bull Run. But, on the whole, suffice it to say that Porter proved himself in the campaign of Pope to be a very treacherous or jealous subordinate, and, I verily believe, received his just deserts at the hands of the court-martial that followed. Furthermore, I believe it was wrong to restore him to the Army and place him on the Retired List.

The history of that campaign shows that Gen. McDowell did all that he could do to avert disaster in one field as well as on the other.

In his much-muddled communication Comrade Lackey trusts that in 25 years more McClellan's conduct of the Peninsular campaign may be vindicated, at the end of which time, it is to be presumed, the humiliating actions of Halleck and the treachery and intrigue of McDowell, as he puts it, will be proved to the satisfaction of Comrade Lackey. The gallant Warren needed no vindication at the hands of the Cannoneer. The conduct of Sheridan in relieving Warren of his command was mere jealousy and spite. Warren, after being relieved, asked for a court of inquiry, or court-martial, but failed in obtaining either, Sheridan having no charges to bring forward against the gallant Colonel of the invincible 5th N. Y. and Major-General of United States Volunteers, in command of the Fifth Corps, which Phil saw fit to deprive him of at the opening of the battle at Five Forks without investigation. Warren was equally as good and dashing a soldier as was Little Phil, but the latter had a "pull."

Now, Comrade Lackey, we will try right here to vindicate Little Mac. When Fitz John Porter with the Fifth Corps opposed the great bulk of Lee's army at Gaines's Mill June 27, 1862, did McClellan aid him from the south side of the Chickahominy with any part of the 60,000 men he commanded on that bank of the stream? Not seeing his way clear to reinforce Porter, and knowing as he did that Lee was sending heavy reinforcements to Jackson, thereby endangering the defenses of Richmond, why, then, did not McClellan, with his 60,000 men, move up and attack Richmond, only four miles away, capture it, and then with two-thirds of his remaining force wheel to the right and fall upon Lee and Jackson's rear at Mechanicsville, which would compel them to change front, by which means Porter would then be able to follow the new rear of the rebel army, and between himself and Little Mac crush Lee right then and there?

Grant would have done it. Instead, McClellan kept 60,000 men idle all day long, excepting at about sundown, or a little before, when he sent over the brigades of French, Meagher, and Slocum to the aid of Porter to cover his retreat.

In this engagement Porter showed himself to be a good General and a brave soldier. But, oh! for a Grant at the head of the Army of the Potomac on that 27th of June. Certainly the Army of the Potomac proved itself on many a hard-fought field to be not inferior in fighting qualities to any other army in the field, Federal or rebel, but up to the time that Meade took hold of it it was without doubt badly handled. Ninety thousand of as good men as ever took up arms went into the Peninsula under command of McClellan, and very poor use he made of that army while there. How much better did he do at Antietam? A drawn battle was the result, and no attempt to follow up the next day. It was three days after that we crossed the Potomac at Shepherdstown, only to be driven back inside of an hour for want of artillery and cavalry, and did not make an attempt again for three weeks. Comrade Lackey, this is about as good a vindication of McClellan as you can get 25 years hence should you live to see that time pass over.—PATRICK BREEN, First Sergeant, Co. C, 24 U. S. Inf., Second Brigade, Second Division, Fifth Corps, Vincennes, Ind.

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### CUMBERLAND ARMY.

**A Comrade Does Not Think it was "Slow by Habit."**

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

IN your issue of June 16 Comrade G. E. Dolton, of St. Louis, Mo., brings forward the letter of Gen. Sherman to Gen. Grant, bearing date June 18, 1864, as a probable cause for the desire to supersede Gen. Thomas at Nashville in December, 1864.

The statement of Gen. Sherman that the Army of the Cumberland was "dreadfully slow, and slow by habit," should be refuted, even if the remark was made by our old commander.

The letters and general orders of commanders will be read and studied by millions of readers whose knowledge of the armies must necessarily be gained from the reports of the commanders, and all readers are not careful to investigate and prove the correctness of unofficial letters.

Let us recapitulate, and see if that statement will bear investigation. The writer was among the number who assembled at Louisville, Ky., in November, 1861, as an enlisted man, and was with the army continuously until November, 1865, serving in all four years and nearly two months. Consequently was in the service in that department before the organization of the Army of the Cumberland, and was still in service when the Army of the Cumberland was disbanded and scattered or mustered out.

When we left Louisville, in November, 1861, and went South, wintering on the Cumberland River, and in the Spring marched west to join Grant's army at Pittsburg Landing, where we rendered aid to Grant (and Sherman as well), wresting a victory from their defeat, we did so with no other protection than our flannel blouses. It would have been a display of generalship had there been a line of earthworks to protect their front previous to the advance of the rebel army.

We will now follow the Army of the Cumberland through all its marchings and countermarchings, out to Corinth, Miss., and down across Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and again south through Kentucky and Tennessee; with all its retreats, skirmishes, battles at Perryville, Stone River, Crab Orchard, Liberty Gap, Shelbyville, Tullahoma, Chattanooga, and on out to Chickamauga. And where, tell us, was the line of earthworks, the rifle-pits, the slow movements, habitually slow? Sherman must have made the discovery at Missionary Ridge, when with his numerous divisions and a division from Hooker's Corps, and one from Granger's Corps, he was three days flanking, fighting, pounding and being pounded, without moving the enemy away from his position, while the Army of the Cumberland stood by and looked on, with the fight all gone out of them, as was supposed, until at 3:30 on the last day's battle, when the four divisions of Baird, Wood, Johnson, and Sheridan moved out and over two lines of rebel fortifications and up the hights of Missionary Ridge; and accomplished in less than two hours, with half the force, more than Sherman with his three days of battling. There was nothing slow in that.

The Army of the Cumberland might have retired with great honors then and there. What it could not do was not discovered during the war. It was not until the following Spring, when Gen. Sherman took command of us, that orders were issued by him which required us to carry our intrenching tools on the march and not in the wagons, as previously, the number, kind, etc., being assigned to each company, and for which the privates in ranks were held responsible.

When Sherman sent Thomas back to Nashville with the Fourth and Twenty-third Corps, a few untried colored troops, and the promise of another corps, it was apparently as senseless an act in military science as can be imagined.

Sherman himself left us with this insignificant force to meet and defeat Hood's army, that had opposed him from Chattanooga to Atlanta, lasting from May 1, 1864, until Sept. 2, 1864, his army being composed of seven well-equipped corps. When he left for Savannah he took with him the Fourteenth, Twentieth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Corps, and a large body of cavalry, with only a small force of rebels in front of him. He left Thomas to annihilate the army that had baffled him or eluded capture for four months.

The work we did at Columbia, Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville was not slow, and the Army of the Cumberland can well afford to ignore the imputation.

The letter of June 18, 1864, was uncalled for and unofficial, and, even if it could be proven as the basis for Grant's desire to remove Thomas, must certainly detract largely from the reputation of both Grant and Sherman.—JACOB REEP, Co. G, 19th Ohio.

### AT GETTYSBURG.

**Another Account of What Carroll's Brigade Did in the Battle.**

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

THE article of Owen Wright, Sergeant, Co. D, 14th Ind., in your issue of June 30, is very interesting reading to me, as it brings to my recollection the old 14th Ind., which, together with the 4th and 8th Ohio, and our regiment, the 7th W. Va., were brigaded together from 1861 to the close of the war, and I must say, without fear of contradiction, that we were always on hand for duty and ready for a fight with the Johnnies at a moment's notice.

Personally, I was not present at the battle of Gettysburg, being Quartermaster of the regiment at that time. However, I find in my diary a copy of the following order from Maj.-Gen. O. O. Howard, which may possibly throw some light on the controversy now going on in your columns in regard to the part Carroll's Brigade took in the battle of Gettysburg. It reads as follows:

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, THIRD DIVISION, SECOND CORPS, Aug. 1, 1863.

The following communication has just been received from Maj.-Gen. O. O. Howard, which is published for the information of regimental and detachment commanders:

HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH CORPS, WARRENTON JUNCTION, Va., July 29, 1863.

COLONEL: I wish to thank you for the prompt support you gave me on the evening of the 2d of July, at Gettysburg, on the extreme right of Gen. Ames's Division. I was particularly weak at that point, having only a single thin line, through which the enemy were just breaking. You came up quickly, deployed and moved into position after your old style. For this and for your subsequent patience in strengthening that position till the close of the attack on the 3d of July, I tender you my sincere thanks.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
O. O. HOWARD, Major-General.

To Col. S. S. CARROLL, commanding First Brigade, Third Division, Second Corps.

Official:
(Signed) J. H. CARR, A. A. A.-G.

I find, also, by referring to my diary, that the loss in our regiment (the 7th W. Va.) was 47, killed and wounded. At that time we only had about 175 effective men in the regiment. All this loss occurred while they were supporting the Eleventh Corps, and would certainly indicate that some fighting was done in that immediate locality. I would be pleased to hear through your valuable paper from some of my old comrades of the 7th who took part in that battle, on the subject.

I expect to be at the National Encampment in September with quite a number of our Post, 548. We are going to unite with Post 117, of East Liberty, Pa., and have applied for quarters for 100 comrades.—ROBERT COLLINS, First Lieutenant and R. Q.-M., 7th W. Va., Wilkinsburg, Pa.

### GEN GARNETT'S BODY.

**Comrade Bancroft Shows that the Remains Were Taken to Grafton.**

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

IN your issue of Aug. 25 Comrade Connett, 7th Ind., is again "in the saddle" regarding my statement in issue of May 19 of the disposal of the rebel Gen. Garnett's body, killed at Carrick's Ford July 14, 1861. That Comrade Connett, who admits he did not accompany the escort, being detailed for another duty, and Gen. Morris, are wrong entirely on this question, I submit the following telegram sent to the Mayor of Washington, D. C., by Gen. Charles W Hill from Grafton, viz:

BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS, GRAFTON, July 15, 1861.

The remains of Robert S. Garnett, late a Major of the United States Army, and more recently in command of the rebels at Laurel Hill, have been forwarded to this point by Brig.-Gen. Morris. The corpse will be inclosed in a metallic coffin, and is at the disposal of his friends.

By command of Brig.-Gen. C. W. HILL.
JOHN W. FULLER, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Minor details of what was found on the body and effects of the General, Comrade Connett and myself agree upon, but on the main question of the disposal of the remains I still maintain the assertion made that I saw his body at Grafton. The casket came from Wheeling, and the Adams Express Co. volunteered to forward it. Another clincher to my statement as to its correctness. The well-known war correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* of that day in the army was Whitelaw Reid, present National Republican candidate for Vice-President, who, under the signature of "Agate," furnished its columns with what was going on. Comrade Connett, if he could have access to the files of the *Gazette* for July, 1861, would find some interesting letters on this question. Reid (Agate) was with the troops and come through to Grafton. If Comrade Connett is yet so positive in his denial of my statement, would advise him to get Agate's statement of the matter. Why Gen. Morris's order was not carried out to take the body to the rebel lines I know not, but the solid fact that it did come to Grafton and was encased in a handsome casket and then delivered to the Adams Express Co. for transportation is sustained by the records. Now, Comrade Connett, I have you, and I hope to see you at the National Encampment. Please equip yourself with some fragrant Havanas and a bottle of wine, and call around at the Headquarters of the Buckeye Department, Riggs House, where we can set down and chat while we move on the "works," is the wish of—Comrade CARL N. BANCROFT, Past Commander McCoy Post, 1, Department of Ohio, Columbus, O.

### MILL SPRINGS.

**What Troops Did the Fighting in That Well-Conducted Battle.**

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I see in your issue of June 30 that Comrade Beyland, of the 9th Ohio, in correcting the statements of Capt. Webster, of the 10th Ky., concerning the participants in the battle of Mill Springs, in his zeal to do justice to all parties has overdone the thing a little in regard to two regiments, and unintentionally, I think, neglected to do full justice to three other regiments who took part in the battle. I believe myself fully qualified to set Comrade Beyland right, as I was there on that Sunday morning, and, in addition to my memory of the affair, I have before me Volume VII of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, containing the official reports of the commanding Generals of both the Union and Confederate forces and also their subordinates' reports.

The regiments that were in the hottest part of the battle and bore the fierce onslaughts of the enemy, named in the order of their entrance into the contest, were: One battalion of Wolford's cavalry (1st Ky.), 10th Ind., 4th Ky., 9th Ohio, and 2d Minn. Kenney's, Stannard's, and Wetmore's batteries also took part in the fight. Gen. S. P. Carter's Brigade, belonging to Schœpff's command at Somerset, had crossed Fishing Creek late in the evening of Jan. 17, 1862, and joined us. This brigade was composed of three regiments—1st East Tenn., Col. R. K. Byrd; 2d East Tenn., Col. Carter, and 12th Ky., Col. W. A. Hoskins. At the first alarm on the morning of the 19th of January, 1862, these regiments formed with alacrity, and were eager to pitch into the contest; but Gen. Thomas ordered them into line on the left of the main position to guard the Somerset road and a possible attack from that direction.

The enemy not appearing on that road, Gen. Carter received information that the enemy were advancing through the woods, and, liable to turn the left flank of the troops engaged, advanced his force to meet them. The brigade now pressed the enemy's right, opened fire upon them, and they began to fall back. All three of these regiments captured prisoners. The battalion of the Michigan Mechanics and Engineers and a company of the 38th Ohio guarded the camp.

As eager as the 10th Ky. and 14th Ohio were to show their mettle, they were not in the fight, though it was no fault of theirs. While camped eight miles from the battlefield on the night of the 17th they had been ordered some distance on the Jamestown road to attack two rebel regiments reported to be there, but, not finding them, they returned to their camp on the night of the 18th. As soon as they were notified of the fight the next morning they started on the double quick to the scene of action, but the fight was over, and they followed on, reaching the other forces, which were before the enemy's works, late in the evening. They marched 18 miles through mud and slop in six hours.

We all remember with admiration the gallant bayonet charge of the 9th Ohio and its valuable results, and how it hurried the enemy's movements. My own recollection always has been that it was the 2d Minn. that charged with them, but the records do not show it. Col. Van Cleve, the commander of the regiment, does not mention the bayonet charge in his report. Col. Mahlon D. Manson, in his report, claims that when Col. McCook ordered his 9th Ohio to charge bayonets that Lieut.-Col. Kise, commanding the 10th Ind., repeated the command to his own men, and it was splendidly executed by both regiments.

The 1st Ky. Cav. (Wolford's) and the 10th Ind. brought on the difficulty that morning. They were both camped in front, the 10th to the left of the Mill Springs road and the 1st to the right and a little retired, owing to the shape of the land. Wolford's pickets were the first to encounter the advance of the enemy. They had a few shots fired at them the morning before, which raised an alarm. On the morning of the 19th, when the advance of the enemy appeared, supposing it to be only a small squad like the one of the morning before, they fought until they were nearly surrounded before giving back.

Our pickets were select spirits on that occasion. I remember one of them was "Big Horse" Logan, a worthy descendant of the Indian fighting Logans who lived in the days of Boone. He was fighting on his own family's soil, as the battle took place in Logan's fields.

Only four companies of Wolford's cavalry were engaged, A, B, C and H; the rest were detached, two at Somerset and six on the Big Sandy. Wolford commanded in person. In order to enhance his personal appearance on that day, his face had been undefiled by water or razor for some time and he wore a homespun brown jeans coat, an old slouched hat and rode an old roan horse. Little did he care for the approbation or censure of plebeian or patrician.

In closing I would remark that the 10th Ind. and Wolford's men held the enemy in check for about an hour before the other regiments, which were camped at different distances in the rear, reinforced them.—E. TARRANT, Sergeant, Co. A, 1st Ky. Cav., Liberty, Ky.

### RUN AGAINST A SNAG.

**A New York Cavalryman Tells a New Story About Gen. Grant.**

MAJ. D. E. CRONIN, a New York artist and journalist, has been engaged for sometime past on an illustrated history of his regiment—the 1st N. Y. Mounted Rifles—for a member of the New York Historical Society. The work contains contributions from various members of the regiment, among which is the following by Serg't A. C. Prince, a prominent manufacturer of Bethlehem, Pa., regarding an encounter with Gen. Grant. Maj. Cronin furnishes THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE with the yarn, thinking it will interest our soldier readers:

"Our regiment—the 1st N. Y. Mounted Rifles—with many other troops lay in front of Richmond in March, 1865. We had been hustled around pretty lively for several weeks and had no permanent camp. One night the word was passed along the line, and soon became common property, that there was to be an early advance the following morning, and everywhere was bustle and confusion. Every man was ordered to be in his saddle by 2 a. m. I was at this time clerk in the Quartermaster's Department, under Lieut. Corby. About 10 or 11 o'clock Col. Sumner sent word to the Quartermaster to send me to his tent mounted. I reported at headquarters in a few moments and the Colonel handed me a dispatch and told me to go to City Point with it at once, and to go lively and deliver it to one of the departments, which I do not recall now, as it did not impress me as much as what occurred afterward.

"There was no moon, but the weather was pleasant and it was a starlight night. I started off on a lope and had reached the James River and crossed the pontoon bridge and had followed the road probably a mile, keeping the right of it. I had met no one up to this time, but now in the distance I heard a horseman approaching in the opposite direction, riding fast. I did not slacken my regular gait, as I supposed the rider, like myself, was a private soldier, or he would not be riding alone at this hour of the night (probably midnight). As we approached each other my left leg struck his left leg with such violence that both of us were nearly unseated and swept from our saddles. My first involuntary exclamation was, "Why the devil don't you keep on the right side of the road, you chuckle-head," or something to that effect. He replied in a similar strain, as we were both mad and felt sore. This kind of talk was kept up for a few minutes pro and con, each blaming the other for the accident, and it was give and take all the time, as I felt perfectly secure in my position, having the right of the road, until he asked the question, 'How does it happen that you are galloping your horse?' I replied that I had the same right to gallop my horse that he had to gallop his. 'Yes,' said he, 'but I thought I had issued orders that there should be no galloping of horses in this department.' This was the first intimation I had received that I was not talking to a private soldier, as it was too dark to see anything but the outlines of a man and horse. I at once took a back track and was profuse in my apologies. But he answered me curtly and said, 'Come along back to the pontoon bridge, and I will place you in charge of the officer in command.' I turned about and started back with him. I was satisfied by this time I had struck a snag, and had nearly knocked the breath out of a commanding officer, but who it was I had not the remotest idea. I now explained to him my errand and the importance of haste in its execution, and that I had been ordered by Col. Sumner to ride quick. We had only proceeded a quarter or half a mile when he turned and said, 'I guess you can go on. My name is U. S. Grant. Look out that you don't run into my staff; you will find them down the road somewhere.' And sure enough, when I got down the road about half a mile, I met his staff clattering along at a rapid pace.

"Gen. Grant was on his way to the front to be ready for the movement that was to take place the following morning, and had ridden out of sight and hearing of his staff."

### THE 6th N. Y. H. A.

**A Comrade Who Saw Them Thinks They Were Heavily Loaded.**

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Y attention was called to an article in your issue of June 16 under the head of "Reunions," written by Comrade Chas. A. Knox, Cos. K and D, 6th N. Y. H. A. He wants to know if his regiment has ever had a Reunion; and if not, he suggests they have one at the National Encampment.

I was not a member of that devoted band of heroes, but I should say by all means they should have one, and a good old-fashioned gathering at that (providing there is enough of them left), in commemoration of saving the Eighth and Nineteenth Corps from total annihilation on the 19th day of October, 1864, at Cedar Creek, Va. Glorious old 6th, how they could march and fight!

Yes, I remember of seeing them march past us on the morning of Sept. 20, the next day after the battle of Winchester, or Opequan, and we thought they were Sheridan's supply train going up the Valley to feed Early's fleeing and defeated army; for we had never seen soldiers so completely loaded down with knapsacks, camp-kettles and stewpans as they were. Oh! how they must have marched that day; for long before night we came along and discovered they had marched themselves completely outside of that outfit, for it lay for miles along both sides of the pike.

Glorious old 6th; how they could march! Yes, and they could fight, too, according to Comrade H. L. Bleakley's account of them in the issue of June 9; for if all that account is true (and we must not doubt what a comrade writes) Gen. Sheridan never did the 6th Heavy justice, for it was they that saved his army from being swept off the earth on that never-to-be-forgotten morning.

I wish to make a statement in answer to Comrade Bleakley's remarks in regard to Gen. Emory's action in relation to the pickets reporting to him the evening before the battle of which he wrote. I served under Gen. Emory for three years, and was quite frequently near him, and at some very trying times, and never heard him speak a disrespectful word to a private soldier. I can't say the same in regard to other officers. Gen. Emory has answered the last roll-call, so cannot answer this last charge of Comrade Bleakley. Neither will I, for I do not know what was said to the pickets. But I want to inform Comrade Bleakley that by order of Gen. Emory the Third Brigade of the Second Division, Nineteenth Corps, was up and dressed and ready to eat our morning meal (which, however, we failed to get) when Early's army pounced down on Crook's command. We in just one-half hour more, in all probability, would have been across Cedar Creek hunting for Early's army. So it was no particular surprise to us, only we found him a little sooner than we anticipated. And if the 6th Heavy could have held their ground the Nineteenth Corps would never have allowed Early's army to get the pike. But the retreat of all the troops east of the pike gave the enemy possession of it in the rear of the Nineteenth Corps, which caused them to abandon their position, which left Early master of the day for the time being.

I started to write something to Comrade Knox, and I have drifted far away, and I must get back. Comrade, I don't see how you are going to have a Reunion, for I infer from Comrade Bleakley's statement that 500 were "done up" the first hour in the morning, and certainly the other 300 of the 6th N. Y. H. A. had to succumb during the rest of the day's fighting, for I know they would be in it. However, you and Comrade Bleakley might have a little one by yourselves.—J. E. HOUGHTALING, Co. B, 156th N. Y., Knox, Pa.

### PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

**A Sixteenth Corps Man Thanks the Army of the Cumberland.**

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In a recent issue I notice an article, "Why did Grant want Thomas superseded at Nashville?" I cannot answer the question, except in the Yankee way, by asking others, and if I don't ask enough, why, let me know. Why did Sherman say that "Grant's history would have ended at Donelson if Smith had lived?" and then deny that he "ever wrote it, or could think such a thing." But he did.

Why did Grant blame Lew Wallace for approaching our army at Shiloh "on the flank instead of base"? and assert that he would never do it again; or, to be plain, that he had learned a lesson.

Grant also learned a lesson, viz. not to leave his army each night "after it was too late for an attack," when the whole rebel army was encamped within three or five miles and no General left in command.

Grant did not have breastworks, "because it would curtail our supply of water (?), and the time would be better employed in drills." The boys who were there will have nothing to say in answer to this; others will find that I have quoted from Grant's article on "Shiloh."

The Army of the Tennessee were slaughtered in detail, and I, for one, will ever hold the Army of the Cumberland in grateful remembrance for saving us on the second day. We don't believe that Buell was in any way related to Fitz John Porter, and no one can read the action of Grant as a soldier and Grant as President in the Porter case without being ashamed.

Yes, build him a monument ever so grand, and it will cover no dust more precious than lie in a thousand graves on the banks of the Tennessee.

"A fresh furrow in a plowed field will stop the whole column and all begin to intrench," and "that the men of Thomas's army had been so demoralized by the battle of Chickamauga that he feared they could not be got out of their trenches to assume the offensive"; but when the time came to relieve the pressure in front of Sherman, which had lasted nearly two days, the boys who were afraid of "a fresh furrow" made a "demonstration" on the center and won a great part of the battle, and about all the glory—at least, all that will live in history.

"These two divisions—Sheridan's and Wood's—lost in one hour's work storming Missionary Ridge 2,287 men, and there was captured by the Army of the Cumberland 40 pieces of artillery, 58 artillery carriages and caissons, 6,175 stand of small-arms, and 5,471 prisoners."

All of the army fought well, but there was in several of our Generals too much jealousy to admit of there being—a *man?*—WILLIAM HARVEY, left wing Sixteenth Corps, Army of Tennessee, Bradford, Ill.

With pure blood and good digestion given by Hood's Sarsaparilla, you need not fear disease.

# PICKET SHOTS.

## From Alert Comrades All Along the Line.

**First into Vicksburg.**

David Shmid, Co. E, 20th Ill., Earlton, Kan., says: "I see in your issue of June 30 a letter from Comrade W. H. Parsons, Co. G, 45th Ill., sustaining the statement of Charles A. Hobbs in regard to what regiment of our army first entered Vicksburg after its surrender to Grant, in which he says that P. J. Knapp, of Co. H, 5th Iowa, must have mistaken the game rooster carried by one of the colored cooks of the 45th Ill. for the eagle of the 8th Wis. The foregoing conclusion is also shared by myself, because I distinctly remember that before entering Vicksburg on the morning of the 4th there was an order from Division Headquarters read giving the First Brigade, of the Third Division, of the Seventeenth Corps, the honor of first entering and taking possession, and the brigade commander, John M. Leggett, ordered the 45th Ill. to be in advance, on account of their valuable service in the mining operations before and under Fort Hill. I don't see why others should try to claim the honor for themselves when they have no claim. Comrade Hobbs can find all the evidence he wants if the old 20th, 31st, 45th and 124th Ill. and the 23d Ind., which composed the brigade, will speak out and tell what they know about it. The 45th was composed largely of practical miners and therefore proved very valuable in the mining operations as well as using the musket to good advantage. They were a regiment the whole brigade was proud of, without detracting in the least from the gallantry of the rest of the brigade."

**The Hard Time at Chattanooga.**

Henry Cordes, 18th U. S. Inf., Millersburg, Pa., writes: "Noting an article written by C. D. Brigham, Washington, D. C., in the issue of Aug. 18, in regard to Gen. Wm. F. Smith, in which he says when the siege at Chattanooga was raised the famine was ended, and the army, which had been cooped up for weeks under close siege, drew a long breath and once more had a square meal. Gen. Grant, in his book, says the army had been on short rations, but in a few days had plenty. We have been telling our children and friends that we lived upon almost nothing from the latter part of September, 1863, until the 24th day of January, 1864, the date at which the first train of cars came to Chattanooga. The siege was raised Nov. 25, 1863. Two months of starvation were then still in store for us, and this is what C. D. Brigham, Gen. Grant, and other officials call a few days. There is no doubt both Gen. Grant and Mr. Brigham, if he was there, had plenty of square meals, but why call two long months a few days? These statements upset all the assertion the boys have made in regard to their long fast. We of the rank and file being in the majority, and having endured the hardest part of that siege, protest against such history."

**A Hard March.**

Amherst Spofford, 3d Me., Skowhegan, Me., sends us a copy of an old letter written in November, 1863, from Brandy Station, Va., in which he tells of a march made by a company of 100 old soldiers under a Captain and two Lieutenants, who were detailed to guard a paymaster. The march was terribly hard on the men, and after stopping at night they were compelled to lie down in a swamp without wood to make a fire, the night being very cold, with little to eat. They marched early in the morning to Warrenton Junction, where a halt was made from 10 a. m. until 3 p. m. While waiting here for the cars the detail went among a lot of negro soldiers stationed there to guard the railroad and eat the stale soft bread they had thrown away. The boys thought it pretty hard lines to have to live off the leavings of former slaves, but such was their necessity that they had to do it. After seeing the paymaster safely on the train they marched back, and a weary time they had of it. They finally got an order on the sutler from one of their officers and filled up on cheese, canned lobster, etc.

**Hard Times in Texas.**

J. L. Taylor, Co. L, 3d Ark. Cav., Pendletonville, Tex., enlisted in October, 1862, and was mustered out in August, 1865. He does not say that they did all the fighting, but knows that they were always on hand when the bugle called them into line for any duty. They met the Johnnie rebs at every turn, and had many hot fights with them. He has never seen a pen-scratch from any of his comrades in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, and hopes they are not all dead. When tickets were offered by our great friend, the only soldiers' paper in the country, for subscribers, the State of Texas was left out. Why this was the writer cannot say. He knows Texas was a rebel State, but he wants everybody to know that there are a great many of as good Union soldiers in the big State as there are anywhere in the country, and they have more to bear than anywhere else. If any preference is to be shown they ought to have it. They can hardly have a meeting down there but what the old rebel rag is flaunted at them. The writer frequently stays at home because of this. He would like to hear from old comrades.

**Wants a Ticket.**

Richard Clifford, Ware, Mass., writes: "I have 386 copies of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, which I will exchange for a ticket to the National Encampment, commencing with No. 178 and ending with the last issue. A ticket from Ware, Mass., to Washington and return and nothing else, takes them. They will be sent at the expense of purchaser, all in a fine state of preservation."

**Information Asked and Given.**

Comrade William Simmons, Historian of Naval Veteran Legion of Philadelphia, Pa., wants name and present address of naval veterans generally, with vessels on which they served. This information is desired for the purpose of assisting worthy shipmates whose claims for pension are pending for want of evidence from those who knew them in the service. Comrade Simmons is also Chairman of the Naval Legion and Naval Post, 400, Pension Committees, and this information will be especially valuable and gratefully appreciated. Address 1432, Wharton street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Lewis H. Dyer, who now lives on Thirty-seventh street, West Washington, D. C. (formerly Georgetown), served as Corporal in Co. F, 76th Pa., Second Brigade, Second Division, Tenth Corps. He was on board the U. S. Government transport Quinnebaug when she was wrecked off the North Carolina coast in July, 1865. He would like the address of any of the boys who are yet living who belonged to his company or who were on the Quinnebaug when wrecked, as he would like to meet them at the National Encampment.

C. D. Haskins, Adjutant Carnes Post, 374, Dunlap, Mo., would like the name and address of the comrade who at that time hailed from Wisconsin, who was with a comrade from Trenton, Mo., and the writer during the Grand Army review at St. Louis, Sept. 27, 1887. After the review had nearly passed, going east, while pouring down rain, we three strolled down Sixth street to see the sights and have a little sport. We had a fly time together that day. The Wisconsin comrade had to report to his State G.A.R. Headquarters, agreeing to meet at the same place shortly after, but the writer had to leave and did not see him again. Would like to hear from him once more.

**Brown's Ferry.**

Charles Banks, Co. H, 1st Ohio, Silver Lake, Kan., writes: "I did not intend to say anything more on Brown's Ferry, as the charge on me by the comrade of Co. I, 11th Ohio, and the counter-charge by Capt. Webster, 10th Ky., weakened my line very little; but since I have been attacked in the rear by the Fifteenth Corps I must defend myself. In the issue of July 21 Capt. J. B. Ridenour, 55th Ill., calls a halt on Charles Banks, Co. H, 1st Ohio, and says in the first place the Second Division never reached Chattanooga until the cracker line was opened and fully established from Stephenson. Now, I would like to ask if there is in my article a place where I mention anything about the Second Division, Fifteenth Corps? What the Captain means I don't know. The Captain might have mistaken the heading of this article for something else. There is nothing in my article which infers that Hazen's Brigade took part in the expedition which the Captain speaks about. Brown's Ferry, as the Captain says, is below Chattanooga, and the place he speaks about is above; the one on the extreme right of our army, the other on the extreme left. Capt. Ridenour says Capt. Webster has reference to a different time and place. I will have to say to Capt. Ridenour it is he who has reference to a different time and place, and if he will read my article over he will find his mistake. In the issue of June 2 T. L. Steward corrects me and I am ready to stand so corrected, as I got the cart before the horse."

**It was the Lieutenant-Colonel.**

J. H. Bowman, Lieutenant, Co. D, 47th Ill., Oak Lodge, I. T., writes: "I find in reading your paper a dispute about the Colonel commanding the 47th Ill. on the 19th and 22d days of May at Vicksburg. I was in both charges and know that Samuel Baker, the Lieutenant-Colonel, commanded the 47th Ill. at that time and place. Col. John Cromwell, the Colonel of the 47th Ill., was killed at Jackson, Miss., on May 13, which placed Lieut.-Col. Samuel Baker in command of the regiment."

**Entitled to Some of the Honor.**

John E. Cary, 212 Greenwich avenue, New Haven, Conn., writes: "In the issue of June 23 John E. Hayes, Co. C, 16th N. Y., speaks of the clearing of the ground for Fort Lyon and constructing the fortification. Now, if I remember rightly, there was some one else there who helped to do some of the work, and who did not belong to the 16th N. Y. I was but a boy of 17, but I remember that the 27th N. Y. did a great deal of chopping and digging at Fort Lyon and picket duty down around Pohick Church and around Dr. Mason's plantation, and it seems to me we were not far from them at the First Bull Run, where our noble Col. Slocum was wounded soon after we got on the field, and that the 27th counted one in that brigade, when they went to the Peninsula with McClellan and served in it till their time expired in June, 1863."

**More "Youngests."**

Lester L. Burton, Flushing, Mich., writes: "I was born on Dec. 5, 1850; enlisted Sept. 2, 1864, in the 1st N. Y. L. Art., for one year, or during the war; served until June 16, 1865, and was discharged on last-mentioned date by reason of the end of the war." Am I not entitled to the medal as one of the 'youngest soldiers' who did actual service, and was lead teamster in the first detachment of Co. E, 1st N. Y. L. Art."

E. A. True, 8th Me., Boston, writes to present as a "youngest soldier" Norris E. Bancroft, who was born about June 15, 1849. He enlisted in the 8th Me., Aug. 14, 1861; re-enlisted as a veteran; was mustered out with his regiment January, 1866, having served four years and five months. He enlisted at the age of 12 years and two months, and carried a musket from the beginning.

**Here's a Chance.**

Dr. S. Rinehart, Hemlock City, Mich., has six years' issues of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, which he will send to the first comrade whose request for it reaches