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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 10, 1893.

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THE FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS has begun its work. The Lord help us!

LET us have an examination of 1,000 consecutive cases, and stand or fall by the result.

GOV. ROSWELL P. FLOWER, whose good sense we have frequently had to commend, thinks that his party will make the most of letting the tariff severely alone.

THE soldier-hating papers have been clamoring vociferously for an investigation of the pension roll, but now they don't want it. They are afraid of the facts.

THE President's Message was received at too late an hour before going to press to allow its being reviewed editorially. That will be reserved for next week.

AGAIN we urge all Free Silver men to prove their faith by their works, and insist on silver, or least silver certificates, being paid them in every transaction in which they receive money.

SENATOR TERPJE, of Indiana, to whom the veterans are indebted for many acts of steadfast friendship, has been suffering from prostration due to overwork, but is now recovering rapidly.

THINK of the wrong that has been done a man like Justice Long. He served his country faithfully, at fearful cost to himself, and his standing as a lawyer and a citizen is best attested by his elevation to the Supreme Bench of the great State of Michigan. Yet, despite his services and his irreproachable life, he is suddenly put on the public pillory as a defrauder, and, contrary to one of the dearest principles of Americanism, is compelled to assume the burden of proving his own innocence.

COMRADES Everywhere will be glad to learn that Representative J. Logan Chipman's condition has passed the critical stage, and there is every hope of his complete recovery. Representative Chipman has always been one of the very staunchest friends of the veteran on the Democratic side of the House. He has never wavered in any crisis, and at one critical period last year had but one Northern Democrat to help him in the gallant fight he made for veterans' rights.

THE orders in the Pension Bureau were to begin the work of actually striking pensioners from the rolls yesterday. The first notices of suspension were sent out June 9, and these allowed the pensioner 60 days in which to make his proof that he was entitled to remain on the rolls. The time expired Aug. 9. The Pension Bureau does not, however, expect to do any considerable amount of striking off until after Sept. 1. The total number of suspended cases up to last Saturday was 5,292.

FEARS of hostile tariff legislation caused the shutting down of 700,000 spindles in Fall River, Mass., last Saturday. This throws 7,000 people out of work and stops \$65,000 a week in wages. The weekly production of cotton cloth in Providence, R. I., was reduced out-half on the same day.

THE BEST WAY

To get ready for the great fight for soldiers' rights is to get up big clubs for the veterans' champion, THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

THE LETTER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS.

Herewith we give the letter of the Commissioner of Pensions in response to our request that he examine 500 consecutive cases allowed by Commissioner Black and a like number allowed by Commissioner Raum, for the purpose of allowing the country to know from the records whether or not the charges of fraud in the pension rolls, so widely made, are or are not true:

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS, WASHINGTON, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, Aug. 1, 1893.

SIR: I have not complied with your repeated request that I should cause a test to be made to show the number of fraudulent pensions, by having 1,000 consecutive cases of admitted fraud, and examined. I have not done this for several reasons:

1. Fraudulent cases, if any exist, cannot be discovered in that way. A fraudulent pension must ordinarily be discovered by fact or by testimony. One of the facts of the papers such a case would probably appear to be well established and incontestable.

2. No one whose opinion is entitled to any consideration, and who is not a partisan, is authorized to claim that the great mass of adjudicated pension cases is permeated with fraud, open and plain on the papers, so that the examination of 1,000 cases would disclose an instance. And I, certainly, have not the right to make any such claim. It is not to be believed that any large number of them are scoundrels, who have sought and obtained pensions dishonestly. Especially, I believe that the pensions granted to soldiers who did actual service in the field, on account of disabilities of which the origin is usually honest and well deserved. No doubt rests on this class of cases, and no examination of them are being made, except where evidence is received tending to show that some particular case is fraudulent or has been fraudulently obtained. Even among the Twelve Apostles there was one who was unworthy, and among the brave and true soldiers of the Union army it cannot be denied that there were a few bounty-jumpers and men who were entitled to a pension on the ground of disability, and who have been perhaps among the most eager for a place on the pension-roll at a high rating.

The investigations as to the work of dishonest pension attorneys at Norfolk, New Mexico, and Iowa, show that fraud is large, but it would be far from fair to conclude from such cases that pension attorneys are generally unscrupulous dishonest. I think, on the contrary, they are ordinarily honest, painstaking, and conscientious business men. A case of alleged fraud is brought to the notice of the Bureau by information from some source. If the information is indefinite, or appears to be prompted by malice, it is disregarded. If it seems to be trustworthy the case is investigated, and the pension being suspended during the investigation, according to the uniform practice of the Bureau from the beginning. If the pension is improper it should not be paid; if not shown to be improper it should be paid. It is not the policy of the pension law to suspend the pension of a pensioner until the active co-operation of the pensioner in furnishing evidence and reaching a speedy result.

3. The examination of the June 27, 1890, cases is made, not because of any fraud on the part of the claimants, but because it was discovered that this Bureau had, by the adoption of an erroneous rule for adjudication, allowed many pensions not authorized by law. Under prior laws pensions were only granted on account of disabilities of which the origin was shown to be honest and well deserved. In many cases fixed specific rates of pension for designated injuries or disabilities, and provided generally that for inferior disabilities of permanent character, proper rates should be fixed, and under this general provision the Commissioner, with the approval of the Secretary, had fixed schedule rates for such inferior disabilities of service origin.

As I said before, all pensions granted under these former laws are presumed to have been properly granted, and they are not being examined except on information showing fraud in some particular case, as has always been the practice. But the act of June 27, 1890, provided that pensions should be granted for 90 days more, if suffering from a mental or physical disability of permanent character, not the result of their own vicious habits, insupporting them from the performance of manual labor in such a degree as to render them incapable of doing so, and such pensions not to exceed \$12 nor be less than \$6 per month, proportioned to the disability to earn a support by manual labor. Under this act the disability need not be of service origin; but to be granted under this act the person must be unable to render manual labor, or to be unable to earn a support. Specific disabilities, as such, were not pensionable at all under that act, nor entitled to consideration except as they might affect the capacity to perform manual labor. By Order 154, issued Oct. 15, 1890, the Commissioner, with the approval of the Assistant Secretary, directed that specific disabilities should be rated under this act, the same as they would have been rated under the former law, but that the disability be of service origin, up to \$12 per month.

The effect of this order was shown in the Bennett case, which called attention to it. There the claimant, applying under the act of June 27, 1890, was allowed a pension of \$12 per month for deafness not of service origin, and which manifestly would scarcely interfere with his capacity to perform manual labor. On inquiry the Medical Director reported that, acting under this Order 154, the capacity of the pensioner to do manual labor was not considered in adjudicating the claim. It was clear, therefore, that under that order the law was disregarded, with the necessary result of granting some pensions, like that of Bennett, which were not authorized by any law. A Board of Revision was therefore constituted of the ablest and most experienced men in the Bureau, to re-examine these cases, and to report to the Board of Pensions, with instructions to interfere with no case where, by the most liberal construction, a right to the pension could be made to appear, and in other cases where the pension could not be sustained under the law, and to recommend the rate, according to the previous practice, within which the pensioner may furnish additional evidence and show himself entitled.

It is clearly the duty of every official having charge of the administration of the law to enforce those laws fairly, and to stop such pensions as clearly appear to have been granted without authority of any law. This is all that is being done here. No one disputes the correctness of the decision of the Board of Pensions, and the Assistant Secretary Bussey, in January last, rendered a decision in the case of Henry H. Welke, announcing precisely the same interpretation of the act of June 27, 1890, and commending the construction of the Bureau to the Order of the Board of Pensions, and as contrary to law. My old comrades may feel sore of receiving everything which is not in accordance with the construction—mistakes there. Particular readers may be aroused feeling for partisan ends. But the execution of the law upon the construction given it by the heads of the same Department of opposite politics, who are able and fair men, and select from day to day from the cases examined, such cases as they deem unfairly allowed. If that was the class of cases you wished drawn and examined, the work is done every day by the Board. None of the pensions in these cases are suspended until a final determination by this Board. It is expected that in many of such cases the pensioners will be able to produce testimony showing them entitled to pensions under the law, in which case the suspensions will be removed.

I have perhaps written more than I ought, but my comrades who read your paper are interested in understanding this matter rightly and as it is. The man generally represented in the Secretary, who has in fact always been more considerate and liberal toward pensioners than any of his subordinates, myself included.

Yours, very truly, WM. LOCHREN.

We do not doubt that the Commissioner is sincere in his avowals of friendship for the soldier and his purpose to see that the law, as it exists, shall be faithfully administered. He was one of them. His record as such is highly creditable. He saw what they endured, what they suffered, and he appreciates the value of their services. But we submit that to do them justice it is not enough to administer the pension laws under

existing circumstances. There is another duty he owes to his old comrades-in-arms, and that is to protect them against the charge that they receive as pensions in through fraud.

Now, it cannot be possible that the Commissioner does not know that the country at large has been made to believe that the pension rolls are made up largely of cases that are fraudulent. The pensioners are entitled to have the country know that they are not a mob of scoundrels, and it is not sufficient for the Commissioner to say that he "does not believe that any large number of them are scoundrels who have sought and obtained pensions dishonestly." The country has been made to suspect or believe that they are scoundrels, and that they did obtain their pensions dishonestly. We desire that that suspicion or belief shall be removed if it has no foundation to rest upon, and that it shall be verified by the records if it has any foundation. We want this information freed from any taint of partisanship or political consideration, and hence we have asked and again ask that the test of the records shall be applied in two Administrations—the Democratic under Commissioner Black, and the Republican under Commissioner Raum. Let these records speak the facts; these facts will be more satisfying to the country than what the Commissioner "thinks."

But while we believe that he had every desire to meet the proposition squarely, yet, curiously enough, he has completely missed the leading reasons for such an investigation. The one burning question before the American public is: Do the men and women on the pension-roll deserve, as a rule, to be there, and at the rates they are allowed, or do they not? If they deserve to be there, then the aggregate amount paid them is not in question. No sum is too large to pay if it is owed them; and no amount is too small if it is not owed.

The friends of the veterans say that they do so deserve, and the Commissioner expresses his entire agreement with this view. Anti-pension writers and speakers say that they do not, as a rule, deserve what they are getting, and so the issue is joined.

Unsupported by any official facts, the Commissioner's favorable opinion goes no further than that of any other friendly-disposed person. The gravamen of the anti-pension press's charges against the pension rule is set forth in the following specific accusations, constantly reiterated throughout the country: 1. That the large proportion of the pensioners are men who rendered the country very little service, serving generally but short terms.

2. That they received but little injury in consequence of their service.

3. That in entirely too many instances pensions were allowed on slight and insufficient evidence.

4. That evidence of all kinds has been entirely too easily secured from kindly-disposed or corrupt witnesses.

5. That a large percentage of the pensioners are deserters, bounty-jumpers and similar disreputable characters, who did not receive honorable discharges, and who dare not allow their names to be published for the scrutiny of their old comrades and neighbors.

6. That in at least a moiety of cases the allowances made are extravagantly in excess of the disabilities incurred.

7. That this is a fair statement of the case that has been vehemently made against the pensioners for years by more than half the press of the country, we call upon every well-informed man to witness.

It is to meet this assault fully and fairly with a comprehensive official statement, that we have urged the investigation.

We believe that the publication of the exact facts concerning 1,000 sample cases—taken consecutively—will satisfy the public mind as to the character of the whole mass. We have asked there should be given of each claim in the 1,000—more or less—taken:

1. The number of the claim. This is to show that they are taken in regular order, so as to make a fair presentation.

2. The name and address of the claimant. This is to identify him among his neighbors and acquaintances.

3. His company and regiment. This is to identify him with his associates of the war, and receive the benefit of their knowledge of his services.

4. Dates of enlistment and discharge. These will show length of service, and at what period of the war he entered the service.

5. Has he an honorable discharge? Of course he has, or he would not be on the pension roll, but it will be well to repeat the fact each time.

6. When was the original claim filed, and when allowed? These dates will show how long the claimant was kept waiting, and incidentally some idea of the care the Pension Bureau took in investigating the claim, as it is not to be presumed that its immense clerical force was idle during the years that the claim was pending.

7. How many times was he officially examined by Government Surgeons? This will also give an idea of the care of the Bureau in investigating the claim, and the right of the claimant to his allowance.

8. What degree of disability was found at each examination? As each pensioner was, as a rule, subjected to repeated examinations, the concurrent testimony of several Boards will be a valuable indication.

9. What amount of pension was allowed him? It will be interesting to compare this with the opinions of the Boards as to what he should have.

10. What essential facts connected with his military service are shown by the records in the War Department? These may have

an important bearing in determining the justness of the claim.

11. By whose sworn testimony was his claim established, and what is his reputation and theirs for truth and veracity? This is a matter that the Bureau has investigated carefully, and it will be easy to give the results.

12. The present Commissioner's opinion as to the justness of the allowance. If adverse, his reasons why it was wrong. This will bring the general approval which Commissioner Lochren has expressed in the above letter down to specific expressions on each case, and enable us to understand just how far he approves or disapproves of the pension system.

We strongly believe that such a statement as this is necessary to be made, in order to satisfy the public as to the character of the payments which take up nearly one-half of the public expenditures. If it make such a showing as we feel confident that it will, the people will be entirely satisfied to have that amount of their money, and even much more, expended in that direction.

We repeat, that this is a matter which far transcends the boundary of legal technicalities, to which Judge Lochren seems to want to confine it, and enters into the broad domain of justice and equity.

We think that he will see this clearly, and make the investigation desired.

We know already from his letter what the Commissioner believes, for he says: "I believe that the pensions granted to soldiers who did actual service in the field on account of disabilities of service origin are usually honest and well deserved."

We respectfully ask the Commissioner to verify this belief, and set the public mind at rest on this point and silence the press and politicians of every party.

It is gratifying to know from the Commissioner's letter that the examination of cases under the act of June 27, 1890, is "not because of any fraud on the part of the claimant, but because the Bureau had adopted an erroneous rule for adjudication."

That relieves the claimants under the act of June 27, 1890, from the widely-believed charge of fraud.

But we take issue with the Commissioner in his assertion that there was an erroneous rule of adjudication adopted, and while it is not our present purpose to enter at any length into a discussion of that subject, we premise what we have now to say by stating that it by no means meets the case to assert that the Bureau is following an interpretation of the law made by Gen. Bussey. That interpretation was a very late discovery of Gen. Bussey. He had given a different interpretation to that same law, and had under that interpretation seen it administered to the extent of issuing over 400,000 pension certificates, running through a period of over three years. Then he received this new light (just before leaving his office), and this new interpretation is cited as authority to show that his first interpretation was wrong. Gen. Bussey having decided both ways, his opinion is not high authority, but if it is authority, what?

So the question may be believed of Gen. Bussey as an authority, and is open to discussion on the general principles involved, not only with reference to the true interpretation of the act, but also with reference to what is to be done in respect of cases already allowed.

The former (viz., the proper interpretation of the act) will be the subject of future consideration; we only here invite attention to the fact that the Commissioner lays stress upon the fact that the pensioner is required to show disability to earn support by "manual labor" as a requisite to the allowance of a pension under that act, and that this provision has been ignored or misinterpreted, and he cites as an illustration the Bennett case.

This act, like every other, is to have a reasonable interpretation. The intent of Congress is to be ascertained in the light of existing conditions. The conditions were that there were thousands of deserving soldiers who, by reason of the death of officers, comrades, etc., were unable to make the proofs required, and to meet just such cases the act of 1890 was created.

The act authorized pensions rating from \$6 to \$12 per month, thus by its very terms recognizing that total disability to earn a support by manual labor was not required, but, on the contrary, that the pensions could range from \$6 to \$12, according to the degree of disability to perform manual labor.

Bennett's infirmity was in his hearing, and the principle that seems to be contended for is that defective hearing would not disable from performing manual labor; and yet under the instruction of the Medical Referee of June 12, 1893, issued, of course, with the approval of Commissioner Lochren, total deafness of both ears is rated at \$12 under this new law. Now, a man who is totally deaf in both ears can hear as many potatoes or chop as much wood as a man who is partially deaf. What is manual labor? Is this to be taken to mean splitting rails, chopping wood, working as a farmer or blacksmith, had kindred employments? Or does it embrace the many other employments not merely intellectual in which mankind are engaged?

A man may be a telegraph operator, requiring acute hearing. Is he to be told that as he can chop wood or dig potatoes he is excluded? Or he may be intellectually as good as he ever was, even capable of serving his State well as a Judge in its highest court; an arm off, a bullet-hole through his body that he can't dress, and that must be dressed two or three times a day. Is he to be cut off? Such interpretations as exclude these are sticking in the bark, and will not reflect any credit upon anyone who makes them or sustains them, and will not be tolerated. And

there is another matter of the interpretation of this act that will not stand the test of examination. We allude to that which limits the rating to a single disability, although the claimant may have a half dozen. For example, suppose the rating is made according to a certain standard—that is, suppose the maximum is 18, the loss of a finger at that standard at 2, the loss of a toe at 2, the partial loss of hearing in one ear at 2, and suppose that one claimant has all three of these disabilities. Each one of them is a hindrance, and his actual disability is measured by all three, and whoever directs that in effect only one shall be regarded, or that the three shall be taken as one, and that the soldier shall be rated as though he had but one of them, cannot pose as a friend of the soldier, and such interpretation, by whomsoever made, will indicate a purpose to evade as far as possible the execution of this law according to its spirit.

The next question is, Is the course being pursued of suspending the payment of pensions pending investigations a just one to the pensioner? These claimants have furnished the evidence required. They have been subjected to examination by Government medical experts, and they have been adjudged entitled.

They have been subjected to no little trouble and expense in procuring this judgment.

Now comes along a new order of things. They are suspected of having had an allowance to which they are not entitled, and payment is stopped, and the claimant is required to prove his case over again within 60 days. (Yesterday extended for a further period of 60 days.) The burthen, including the expense, is cast upon him of proving the integrity of the allowance, instead of being placed upon the Government, where upon obvious principles it should rest. If he can now furnish the proof required within the time limited, how long will the Bureau be occupied in considering it after it is furnished? Thousands will be dead before the suspension is removed.

The principle applied here is a revival of the code of Rhadamanthus (Judge of Hell)—that punished first and tried afterward.

The fact is (and pensioners may as well awake to it) that there is a systematic effort being made to discredit pensioners and avoid recognition of the obligation of the country to the soldiers, and no specious words or loud pretensions can disguise it.

The Commissioner says: The man generally misrepresented in the Secretary, who has in fact always been more considerate and liberal toward pensioners than any of his subordinates, myself included.

If this be so, it is marvelous how well the Secretary has succeeded in concealing his real feelings. He must be subjecting his warm impulses to constant crucifixion, for we have read carefully every order and other direction concerning pensions that has been allowed to appear in the public prints, and as yet have not found a single expression which was not in the direction of curtailment of pensions, and of throwing obstacles in the way of their procurement.

The great length to which this article has drawn out admonishes us to stop, with much unsaid. We shall resume consideration of the letter in another issue.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

On the whole, last week was a marked improvement, in a business way, over the one that preceded it, in spite of the fact that dread of injurious tariff legislation caused a general shutting down of factories all over the country, with an aggregate stoppage of tens of millions of dollars in wages.

No important failures were reported, and but few runs on banks, most of which were successfully met. The gold in the United States Treasury increased until it was \$2,500,000 above the regulation reserve of \$100,000,000. News came of shipments of about \$12,000,000 of foreign gold to this country. A strong upward movement took place in New York stocks, and nearly all the disastrous fall of the week before was recovered. It was discovered that the crash had been occasioned by Chicago speculators, who had been badly pinched by their wheat and pork operations, having to throw their stocks on the market at whatever price they could get for them. The holders of stocks elsewhere generally stood firm, and there was a quiet but general grabbing up of the sacrificed shares.

Wheat, corn, oats, continued unwarrantably depressed, owing to the utter collapse of the great clique of large operators in them; but in spite of this, and the unfriendly attitude of Chicago banks toward all produce deals, the market responded to the situation, and prices became notably higher and firmer.

The best news comes from the corn crop, which is abundant over a large stretch of country. As every bushel of it will be needed—either at home or abroad—this means a vast amount of ready money for the growers, for the pork and cattle-raisers, for the railroads which carry it, and for the merchants. The President of the Atchinson, Santa Fe & Topeka Railroad reports that the prospect is better than ever before known in the history of the road, and equally good reports are received from the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and other roads.

If Congress will only act with patriotic promptness and wisdom, so as to dispel all fear of disastrous legislation, the recovery of business activity will be steady and solid.

The way a mad dog recently dispersed a crowd in New York suggests that this would be an effective method for the police to use in handling mobs. Mad dogs might be kept in cages ready for an emergency, or, just as well, a few worthless curs might be fed on soap for a few minutes, and then started toward the mob with the cry of "mad dog."

FOR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

The pension-hating Boston Herald volunteers some advice to the comrades:

It strikes us that the Grand Army of the Republic needs a man for its Commander in the coming year of cool head, calm judgment, and with a National reputation that gives him general public confidence. This is not at all the time for choosing a loud-mouthed partisan to that position. A Commander with the characteristics above described would be an important aid in meeting the subject of pension reform in the proper spirit. No one wishes to see the G. A. R. divided, and still less is desirable that it become identified with partisan politics in the country.

The Herald may possess its soul in peace. The next Commander-in-Chief will be a man entirely fitted for the position. There are several such in the field, and the National Encampment will not go astray whichever it selects.

THE Treasury Department reports the following amounts of the various kinds of currency in circulation July 1, 1893:

Table with 2 columns: Currency type and Amount. Includes Gold coin, Standard silver dollars, Subsidiary silver, Federal Reserve notes, Treasury notes, United States notes, Currency certificates, National bank notes, and Total.

The population of the United States is estimated on the same date at 66,946,000, which would make the per capita circulation \$23.86.

If each subscriber to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will charge himself with getting one new subscriber the circulation of the paper will be doubled at once, and with little trouble. Let each subscriber try it.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris arrived in New York last week, and it is said that she will make her home in the city. She has been considerably bothered by Col. L. T. Michener during the last year, and has been harassed for remuneration in 1896. He says: "Gen. Harrison's friends all know that his remuneration could only come through conditions which were not to be met. It is not to be expected to expect to bring it about by any organization made at this time."

Joseph P. Clark, an old Union soldier of Baltimore, Md., has astonished the members of his Grand Army Post and other friends by surrendering his pension of \$12 a month to the Government, so it is reported. His disability was the leg. He had been affected since the war. A serious surgical operation a week ago removed the trouble, and Mr. Clark sent a letter to the Commissioner of Pensions returning his vouchers and declining to accept any more money from the Government.

Aaron T. Bliss, a well-known resident of Michigan, has recently presented to the town of Peterboro, N. Y., a handsome granite monument commemorative of his soldier comrades. The gift was gratefully accepted by the patriotic citizens of the town, and the monument unveiled and dedicated on Independence Day. The donor lives at Saginaw, Mich., and is a native of New York, and served in the 10th N. Y. Cav., reaching the rank of Captain. He served six months in the different regiments of the 10th N. Y. Cav., and was captured from Columbia and reached the Union lines after 18 days' work. He migrated to Michigan in 1865, and has ever since been engaged in large lumber interests. He was elected a Representative to the 51st Congress from his home in Saginaw, Mich.

Mrs. Harriet Beesler Stowe, the celebrated author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," has passed her 81st birthday. Notably active for her years, she is ever on foot, and her bent, slight figure, with its white hair crowning the dark, wrinkled face, is a fine sight to the people. She wears a dress of the old paths and gaiters gathered from sun and shade and wind. She has the freedom of the fields, and the birds and the flowers know her. The love she shows for all growing and lonesome things no man can keep her from. She has been married and has preserved her in remarkable bodily vigor.

A very pleasant reunion recently occurred in Chicago, the happy parties being Comrades William Gannon, of Hartland, Mich.; John A. Sunday, of Hamburg, and Robert Commons, of Chicago. Sept. 1, 1864, these three men escaped together from Andersonville, and after a long and arduous journey, rather night, they reached the Union lines 12 miles south of Atlanta. The success of their escape they attribute to a blunder. In leaving the prison they followed a line stream for several hours, only to find that it brought them back to the original starting-place. But it was a fortunate error, as the bounds, which were put in place immediately on the discovery of escape, did not track them, as his roundabout circuit was, or did prove, too much for the dog. Mr. Commons was the only one of the three who was nearly played out in making the escape, having five gangrene sores on his legs and feet. "We could not leave him behind, or would not, so we made bandages of our shirts to protect Mr. Commons' feet, and we all were barefooted. It was difficult to get anything to eat. By eating berries and green corn we pulled through. One colored man gave us some flour. We undertook to make a fire, but had to put it out on account of the smoke it made, as it might be seen by the guard. Mr. McArthur was the first Union man we met, and we went to Atlanta, arriving after his fall. Gen. Sherman was reviewing the troops. We were provided with clothing and transportation to our respective commands. We were not in the least in the excitement of parting neglected to take each other's addresses."

Rear-Admiral Gherard tells a vivid story of a phantom hurricane on the Pacific Ocean. It was long ago, he said, "when I was Captain, and in the days of the ship's log, and lofty masts, before the era of ironclads, that we were cruising off the South American coast. We had not a capful of wind during the entire day. It was in the dog-watch, about eight o'clock, when the wind rose to a gale, and the sea was below, when an orderly brought word that the Lieutenant thought I had better come on deck. I knew something unusual was up, for Lieut. Patch was an officer in whom I had the utmost confidence in any emergency. When I went on deck I cast one eye aloft and saw that the top-sails were close-reefed, sail shortened, and everything in readiness for a blow. It was as calm as a duck pond, not even a whisper of a breeze, and I looked at Lieut. Patch, who was standing at the helm, and I saw that he was not a sign of wind, and we stood there amazed. Then a bucket was sent over the side and a puffal brought up. Well, it was only a mass of animalcules, such as whales and porpoises, and the relief of course, but the impression was a standing joke on board after that."

Col. W. A. H. Silway is reported to be now living in a small room in a back and obscure street in Boston, without friends and money, and with the poorest starving life in the face. He is the man who in May, 1863, rescued a disabled steamer from a disabled steamer near Topobaco, on the Potomac, which was under fire from a Confederate battery, a shot from which had crashed through the port pilot-box, and conveyed him in an open boat to the Maryland shore to safety. He was commissioned Colonel by Lincoln, and received a personal letter of thanks from the great war President for his gallantry in saving him from what appeared certain capture.

Rear-Admiral Thomas O. Selfridge, who was placed on the retired list July 25, 1866, is said to be

the oldest naval officer living. Over 75 years ago he entered the Navy as a Midshipman. He served in the Navy for 25 years, and was promoted to the rank of Midshipman July 1, 1815. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant July 1, 1817; Captain, Sept. 14, 1820; Commodore, July 18, 1822; retired Oct. 19, 1825; Rear-Admiral on the retired list July 25, 1866. The late Commodore D. N. Ingraham, of Charleston, S. C., who served in the Mexican war and on the Confederate side in the late war, was a great friend of Admiral Selfridge, and was before his demise the only survivor of those entering the Navy in June, 1812, and serving in the war with England. He resigned Feb. 4, 1861, and entered the Confederate navy. While Commodore Ingraham was commanding the U. S. sloop-of-war St. Louis in the Mediterranean in 1853, he latered in the case of Maria Kosztka, who had resided in the United States two years, and had declared his intention of becoming a citizen. Kosztka had been seized by the Austrian Consul at Smyrna and imprisoned on board the Austrian man-of-war Huszar. Capt. Ingraham sent word that if Kosztka was not released within eight days, he would have her set free. The St. Louis was cleared for action, and prepared to attack the Huszar, greatly her superior in size and force. At the last moment the Austrian Commodore, the question by surrendering Kosztka to the French Consul, and the Austrian released him. For this action Capt. Ingraham was granted a medal by Congress.