

FIGHTING THEM OVER.

What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

LINCOLN TO SICKLES.

There was glory enough at Gettysburg to go to a front.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: There are many claims for the honor of saving Gettysburg that I must confess I am getting a little mixed. Strange, but true, each claim is well fortified with good reasons for being allowed.

The friends of Gen. John Buford claim that he saved Gettysburg, because with his dismounted cavalry he kept the enemy at bay nearly all the forenoon of the first day of the fight, thus giving our forces a chance to come up to the field just in time.

The friends of Gen. O. O. Howard claim that he saved Gettysburg, because with his mounted cavalry he kept the enemy at bay nearly all the forenoon of the first day of the fight, thus giving our forces a chance to come up to the field just in time.

The friends of Gen. Hancock claim that when he arrived on the field the first day of the fight the scene of confusion, wreck and ruin was appalling. But his commanding presence and energetic will were equal for the time being to a reinforcement of thousands of men.

The friends of Gen. Warren, of the Engineers, claim that to him is due all honor, because he was the first man on our side to discover that the enemy was about to take Little Round Top.

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railroad—which he informed Senator Wilson: "We are about to destroy it permanently."

Let us examine the records to see how he made good his promise. May 6 Gen. Heckman started at 4 p. m., instead of 4 a. m., to make his reconnaissance, when he met two brigades, which he engaged for a short time, with a loss of eight men killed and 60 wounded. Not much of a sacrifice was this for one brigade to make if the driving of Lee out of Virginia was to be the result.

On May 7 Gen. Brooks, with four brigades, advanced to Fort Walthall Junction, where he claims to have met a superior force, and retired "after destroying about 300 yards of the railroad and burning one saw-mill," with a loss of 20 killed and 229 wounded, which seemed to satisfy Brooks, and he retired, like Heckman the day before, into the secure place of the great bottle that Butler had wasted all his valuable time in fitting the cork into its place, which he informed Stanton that he was taking as a precaution, for fear of accident to the Army of the Potomac.

What a master of the art of war! to think that he would be allowed to remain at Bermuda Hundred if that army met with a repulse. The question was, with his army, "What can I do while Lee and Grant are grappling with each other? If Grant wins I am all right; if Lee wins, I will cut and run for Fort Monroe as soon as possible." But the idea of an army of 30,000 men stopping to trench a position which could be held by one-third of that number placed in line of battle across the peninsula, shows that he was more afraid of his men than of accident to the Army of the Potomac. The very idea of hesitating in the presence of not more than 10,000 rebels, was calculated to weaken the confidence of his men in their commander, and his repeated failures to effect a lodgment on their roads discouraged his men and encouraged the enemy to change from a defensive to that of an offensive.

On May 9 the battle of Swift Creek was fought by Gen. Weitzel's Division, aided by two brigades of Brooks's Division and one brigade of Turner's and Ames's Divisions, without anything being accomplished, not even making a lodgment upon the important lines of Lee's supplies and operations. Weitzel held his ground during the night of the 9th, and next morning was ordered to retreat to the bottle. It did not appear to be a long time between drinks for Butler's army, as the mouth of the bottle was so near at hand. Weitzel says he began to retire from Swift Creek at 11 a. m. on May 10. But, hearing that Geary was being pressed by the enemy from Richmond, he turned to his assistance, and did not reach the bottle until night, where Butler lay quiet all next day. During then, Hoke, with six brigades of the "rebel forces in North Carolina," which Comrade Welsh informs us it was Butler's object to prevent reaching Richmond, marched along the turnpike, so far as he was tempted to take on the night of May 5) unmolested.

Gen. Hoke made a junction with the forces of Beauregard on May 11, just in time to be used against the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac, which, under Phil Sheridan, met the rebel cavalry under Stuart at Yellow Tavern. The same day, whipped them and drove them into Richmond, leaving Sheridan in possession of the outside defenses of that city. When he moved between their lines to cross the Chickamauk, he found that the rebels held the eastern bank of which river, having burnt the bridges over which he expected to cross.

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In his genial moments he was a delightful companion. Some instances in his military life he talked about with great freedom.

In 1861, '62, the Chicago Times was furious in its opposition to the war. An order was issued for its suppression, and Gen. Ammen had charge of its execution. The excitement in Chicago was great, and many of the loyal people were fearful of retaliation and mob rule. At their solicitation President Lincoln revoked the order.

At this Gen. Ammen felt humiliated. He always insisted that the crisis had passed when the order was revoked and that no trouble would have resulted. He had his military force well in hand and had taken the precaution to place it where he could hurl it at the mob if necessary.

The other incident about which he talked was Gen. Buell's arrival at Pittsburg Landing the night of the next day's fight. Gen. Buell had been criticized for being tardy in advancing to Gen. Grant's relief, but Gen. Ammen insisted that the charge did Gen. Buell gross injustice. Gen. Ammen commanded the advance brigade on the march on the 6th April, 1862. He said if anybody was to blame it was the fact that he insisted that Gen. Buell went to Gen. Grant's relief as promptly as was possible, and that being able to participate in the next day's fight on the 7th saved the Union army from an inglorious defeat, and that, instead of being criticized and censured, Gen. Buell should be applauded by his loyal countrymen.

In his quiet moments Gen. Ammen was as kind and gentle as woman. When aroused he was a lion in his rage. Around Madisonville at that time hovered a good many disloyal people, who gave the enemy information of our movements. Some of these were arrested, taken to London, and imprisoned. The guards conducted them to Headquarters for examination. At his request we assisted Gen. Ammen in this work.

Once a Judge of high repute in his locality was arrested. In his examination Gen. Ammen and myself were alone with the Judge, and after a time we left the room. The General came out and asked us to return and labor with the Judge. While talking to the latter the General came in and stretched himself at full length on a lounge, lying on his back, but taking no part in the talk. The Judge made a remark that irritated the General. Like a tiger he sprang from the lounge. He poured upon the Judge volleys of denunciation; it was a torrent of abuse and threats. The Judge did not appear to be long time between drinks for Butler's army, as the mouth of the bottle was so near at hand. Weitzel says he began to retire from Swift Creek at 11 a. m. on May 10. But, hearing that Geary was being pressed by the enemy from Richmond, he turned to his assistance, and did not reach the bottle until night, where Butler lay quiet all next day. During then, Hoke, with six brigades of the "rebel forces in North Carolina," which Comrade Welsh informs us it was Butler's object to prevent reaching Richmond, marched along the turnpike, so far as he was tempted to take on the night of May 5) unmolested.

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PICKET SHOTS.

From Alert Comrades All Along the Line.

Guntown.

H. E. Brewster, Waterhouse Battery, Marlboro, N. H., writes: "I think Comrade Hathaway, Co. G, 3d Iowa Cav., is correct in regard to the Guntown retreat, as I know that a cavalry regiment was at the rear of the service position until the night of the 22nd, and there would give us a sketch of that ill-starred expedition and the retreat of 125 miles."

In Retrospect. N. N. Boynton, Major, 30th Ind., Warsaw, Ind., writes: "I have read in a recent issue the article by Gen. W. H. Powell in regard to the stand Gen. O. O. Howard took on the service position, about the time of the passage of the dependent bill. I wrote Gen. Howard, in answer to his question against the service bill, and asked the General to aid the service bill by his influence and not the dependent act; that the old soldiers needed his help. He answered by scoring me for my advanced views; said that I was not conversant with the needs of the soldier, not being on the ground, etc. I answered him pointedly that we were capable of noting the demands and necessities of the hour for the veterans and soldiers as he was in his high station and large salary; that I was surprised to see him standing up for that bill, when the service bill was just being introduced to the time in the service of the only fair and honest method of doing justice to the soldiers of 1861 to 1865."

Gen. Lyon's Wounding. Wm. Kerwin, Co. B, 4th U. S. Cav., was Ordered Bugler for Gen. Lyon on the day of his wounding, and says the General was struck in the center of the right leg. The writer was in attendance on the new order declared it was only a flesh wound. The writer wants to know what became of the General's bay horse.

J. I. McGinnis, Alexandria, La., writes: "I was Assistant Quartermaster, 2d Tex. of which Wm. Rogers was Colonel commanding the regiment. He was killed by a musket-ball when charged by Barry Johnston, just as the Federal command was falling back, but our Major (Muller) was killed by the artillery, and many of our men were killed and wounded in town, near the Tishomingo Hotel, by the reinforcements."

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Our prisoners had to get very scarce. They said the tide would soon be turned. The boys told them before we would surrender them we would stab every one of them. That dried them up.

When we came to where we could see the level country the rebels might get sight of Sherman's escape, and he would be shot. Sherman's men told us that swarms of rebel cavalry had come flying down in there and run into them before they were aware whom they were, and were sent flying back again as fast as they came.

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the border ruffians who infested that region for the supremacy of Missouri. Soon after Corinth was evacuated by the forces of Gen. Beauregard we were ordered South, and from that time until the close of the war side by side we fought with the Illinois, Iowa and Michigan boys.

I remember one incident in which I was most splendidly checked by one of the 7th Ill. boys. It was at night, just after we had driven the rebel hosts through Ripley, Miss., and the boys were searching to see what they could find. I went into a house and found a party of the rebels, and commenced search a door was opened, and "As I felt around, for it was very dark, my Illinois comrade thrust his hand into the desk, and fortunately for him, but unfortunately for me, took hold of a box containing gold coin. He hastily left me, with the remark that he had been abandoned, and commenced search a door was opened, and "As I felt around, for it was very dark, my Illinois comrade thrust his hand into the desk, and fortunately for him, but unfortunately for me, took hold of a box containing gold coin. 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