

A FILE OF INFANTRYMEN.

For Three Years, or During the War"—At Home in a Shelter Tent, and Abroad with "Three Days' Rations and Forty Rounds of Ammunition."

By JOHN McELROY.

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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS. Walter Armistead, a youth, employed as a compositor on a Chicago newspaper. The country being on the eve of the civil war, news of the bombardment of Fort Sumter...

CHAPTER XVII. RELUCTANCE OF PEERY AND HIS CROWD TO BATTLE THEIR HANDS IN THE GOLE OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN—CHECK-A-LUCK AND ITS PECULIARITIES—AN EXCITING GAME AND ITS ENDING.

"Peery" and his five companions were again in some intractable manner left on the Illinois side of the river when the company started on its expedition into Missouri.

Others beside the file began to notice that the heroes of the Check-A-Luck, from whom such fears of arms were expected, were very nervous in seeking occasions to wade in slaughter...

"There's a good deal in that, of course," responded Peery; "but that Eph Black there—see!—Curly has just struck him with that piece of board, out of his scalp open to the skull, and he's just as good as dead."

"If you'll watch the tactics of these fellows carefully a little while, you can't but understand them," said Walter. "Now, for instance, there is Eph—good-natured, easy, peace-loving, and rather diffident. These qualities are so plainly written in his face that 'Curly' recognized them instantly, and selected him for a victim on whom to make an impressive display of his talents as a fighter."

As the boys engaged on board they said to each other: "This means Columbus, of course." "We're off for the Gibraltar of the West," said Peery. "Well, we're coming for your souls. We'll teach you to dig your ditches on the right side this time."

CHAPTER XVIII. WAITING FOR ORDERS TO MOVE—SUMMER BECOMES FALL, AND FALL ALMOST WINTER BEFORE THEY GET THEM—AN EXPEDITION STARTS FOR BELMONT.

The long, intensely hot summer had burned its way into autumn, which in turn was scurrying away with biting winds and chilly rains into winter.

"Trust to fate, trust to luck, Saturee take in the face; Saturee take in the face, Saturee take in the face."

Looking in the direction of his glance they saw Stock, who had established himself in a narrow, crooked, and somewhat crooked street, the great smokestacks that rose through the deck. He had found out a place where he could boil some coffee.

McClellan had been succeeded by Fremont; Fremont by Hunter, and Hunter by Halleck, in command of the Department, and Grant, the unknown, unrepresented Colonel of the 21st Ill., had superseded the showy, effusive, speech-making Prentiss in command of the post.

In all these long months preparations for a coming contest had gone on incessantly at Cairo. The daily drills were pushed to utter weariness; fleets discharged great stores of warlike supplies into the mammoth warehouses. Great guns and hills of shot were piled up on the levee. The building of strong fortifications went on unintermittently at every available spot around Cairo. New and more powerful gunboats steamed down from Cincinnati and St. Louis, and anchored with the rest in the calm waters of the Ohio.

With every new accession to the concentrated strength the file said to each other: "Well, now, I suppose everything is at last ready, and the next thing will be an order to advance, and then the curtain will roll up for the great drama."

McDowell's men were gloriously beaten at Bull Run; Stone's at Ball's Bluff; Lyon died at the head of his troops at Wilson's Creek; Morgan surrendered at Lexington; and still there was no advance.

nothing done to-night; that we will lie here until morning, and then make an advance, or reconnaissance, or something of that kind, against the rebels in a little village called Belmont, which is opposite Columbus."

EDITORIAL NOTE.—Realistic and full of action is this story of a Union file of infantrymen in the civil war. Every installment contains interesting episodes or descriptions that reflect with mirror-like truth the life of the American soldier.

PENSION DECISIONS. Cases Disposed of by Assistant Secretary Davis. Webster Davis, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, has rendered a decision in the claim of John Norton, Co. B, 1st D. C. Cav., which is of importance to many claimants for pension, as laying down five rules affecting desertion and honor discharge.

2. In claims for pension under sections 462 and 463, Revised Statutes, on account of disability incurred in the line of duty during a term of enlistment for service in the particular war, the claim should be rejected for the reason that there is no period from which the pension could commence, as claimant had never been discharged from a subsequent enlistment and for the further reason that claimant having violated and repudiated his said contract of enlistment he thus forfeited all benefits thereunder that were incident to such enlistment.

3. If the claim for invalid pension under section 462, Revised Statutes, is based on duty during a term of enlistment from which the claimant was legally discharged, a subsequent enlistment, of itself, is not a bar to pension. If the claim was filed prior to July 1, 1890, the pension would commence from the date of discharge from the term of enlistment during which the disability was incurred, but such pension will cease upon re-enlistment and cannot be retained while in the service, nor will claimant be in desertion from such subsequent enlistment.

4. If the disability was incurred in the service under a subsequent enlistment, while the claimant was a deserter from a prior enlistment, which had not terminated at such time, the claim should be rejected on the ground that the disability was not incurred in the line of duty, but while claimant was absent from his proper service in violation of his former contract of enlistment.

5. The decision in the case of George Barnes, in which some conflicts with the rules laid down here, is overruled. The claim of the guardian of George and John King, minors of Rebecca King, minor of Orange Trace, deceased, Co. C, 17th U. S. C. Inf., was rejected in the Bureau of Pensions on the ground that there is no law granting pension to grandchildren of soldiers.

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COULD SCARCELY RAISE HIS HAND.

Yet took care of seventy head of stock.

The farmer who found a friend.

Serious results often follow a strain, especially when it is a strain of the back, and few people are so liable to strain as those who are lifting heavy loads of various kinds. Dr. J. C. Ayer's Pills are the only remedy that will cure such ailments.

WAR GOSSIP. Skirmish Shots at Various Phases of the Struggle. The name of Commodore Schley is pronounced Sly.

Gen. John W. Foster, who is the most eminent diplomat in America—having served as Minister to Spain, Mexico, and Russia, been employed by China to settle her differences with Japan, and constantly employed on great international missions—says that Spain is bound to lose everything but the Peninsula, if she persists in the war.

Santiago has bitter memories for Americans. It is the place where Capt. Fry and 33 of the crew of the Virginius were butchered Dec. 20, 1874. It then came very near producing war between Spain and the United States.

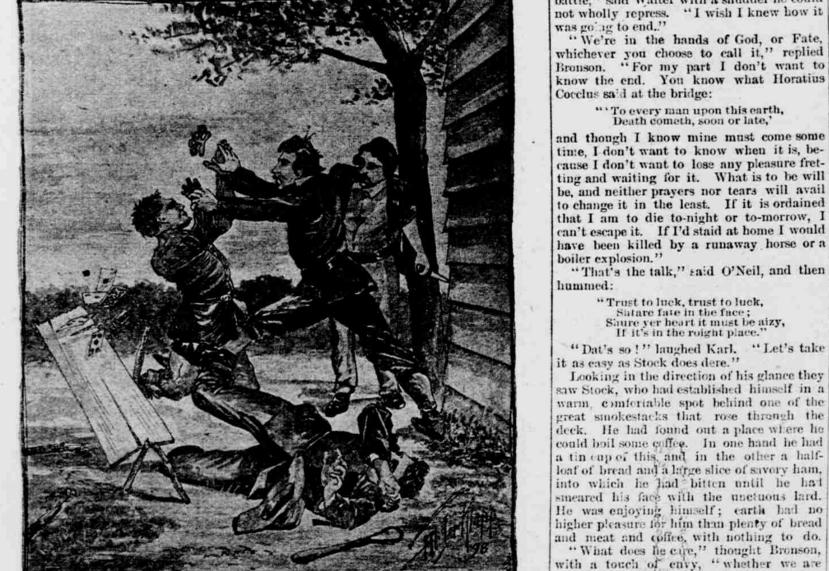
Col. C. of the 3d N. Y., now at Camp Alger, enjoys a rare advantage in going to the front under an experienced veteran who commanded a splendid fighting regiment during the rebellion. He is Col. J. G. Butler, formerly of the 14th N. Y., one of the "300 fighting regiments," and which lost 581 killed and wounded out of a total enrollment of 2,102.

Frank A. Kinne, a youngster just out of the San Francisco High School, and a son of Col. C. Mason Kinne, well-known in A. R. C. circles, and Mrs. Elizabeth D'A. Kinne, Past President, National Woman's Relief Corps, is Acting Second Lieutenant of Marines aboard Admiral Sampson's flagship, the New York, and took part in the bombardment of San Juan, as well as the other operations of the fleet. In a private letter to his parents he wrote a spirited account of the affair at San Juan, which has been printed in the San Francisco papers, and attracted much attention.

Thos. L. Rosser, of Charlottesville, Va., who has been appointed a Brigadier-General of Volunteers, and assigned to the command of a division in the Sixth Corps, under Gen. Wilson, is a picturesque, sensation-loving man, who now rounds up a variegated life in the uniform of the United States Army. He was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, and supposed himself to have torn off a large slab of military genius.

In the House Mr. Mason secured consideration of a bill to send to the Court of Claims alleged claims for property of citizens who had been destroyed by the late war, and to provide for the payment of the same. He declared that if the United States should annex territory into which we could not introduce our troops, the reflex action of such acquisition of territory and of people far inferior to our own would cause our Government to deteriorate.

In the Senate on June 21 Mr. McElroy continued the speech against annexation begun in his speech of the 19th. He declared that if the United States should annex territory into which we could not introduce our troops, the reflex action of such acquisition of territory and of people far inferior to our own would cause our Government to deteriorate.



STOCK BRINGS DISCOMFURE TO "PEERY'S" CROWD.

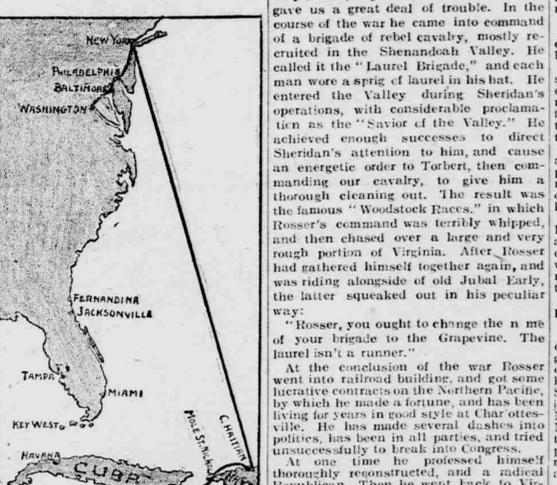
was one on whom the Goddess Chance always smiled when he approached a check-a-duck board.

One day he lounged up, open-mouthed, vacant-eyed, and heavy-footed, to a bank "run" by "Mississippi" with "Curly" and "Peery" assisting as "bookkeepers."

"That's his bin no come up for some time; guess I'll chance a half-dollar on that spot."

"The faces of 'Peery & Co.' lighted up at this, for the chances were evenly against the tray coming up again, and they were sure of getting all their losses back again. What was their amazement to find one tray up again, and Stock the winner of \$32 more."

"Peery's" first impulse was to break the game up, and avoid paying the \$74. Then his gambling instinct whispered to him that this run of luck was so unusual that it could not last, and in all probability the next throw would win all back.



HOW THE NEWS COMES.

Communication by cable between the Pacific coast and Washington was effected several days ago and the time of transmission is remarkably brief. One of the main objects in handling messages is to get them to the station at San Francisco as quickly as possible.