# With the WESTERN ARMY

## Opening the "Cracker Line."

By GEN. GREEN B. RAUM.

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Gen. Hooker reached Wauhatchie on the afternoon of the 28th. Gen. Howard marched promptly forward and joined Gen. Smith at the ferry, while Gen. Geary, halting three miles south, cut off the rebel pickets on the river below, who surrendered.

This movement took Gen. Bragg by surprise. With a greatly superior force he felt that the advantages were all on his side, and that he would soon starve out the garrison and force it either to retreat or surrender. Gen. Bragg did not lose any time in setting on foot an effort to regain his lost ground.

On Oct. 28 he sent Gen. Longstreet with his corps to attack the Union forces and capture Lookout Valley. Gen. Longstreet decided to make a night attack upon the forces at Wauhatchie. He formed in battle array near this place, extending his line toward the ferry, three miles away.

The attack of Longstreet was vigorous and determined. Gen. Geary, commanding the Union forces, met the attack with firmness. Gen. Hooker ordered Howard to reinforce Geary from the forces at Brown's Ferry. Howard marched out promptly, but was soon attacked by Longstreet's extended line. Howard at once faced his men to the left, charged up the hill and dislodged the enemy. Leaving a force to hold this position, Howard marched forward to aid Geary. The battle had now been raging for three hours.

During the darkness of the night it was difficult to distinguish friend from foe. The teamsters having charge of Hooker's transportation became frightened and deserted the mules. The roar of battle was too much for the nerves of the mules; they, like their drivers, became panic-stricken, broke their fastenings, and undertook to reach a place of safety. Fortunately for the Union forces, this army of frightened mules charged straight upon the rebel line, creating the impression that it was a charge of cavalry. Geary's firm resistance, Howard's timely reinforcement and that unexpected charge of the mules broke the Confederate line, which retired to return no more. The battle was over by 4 o'clock.

In this battle Hooker lost 416 killed and wounded. The rebel loss was no doubt much heavier, leaving 150 dead upon the field and 100 prisoners. Gen. Smith, in his successful enterprise, lost one killed and five wounded.

No further attempt was made by Gen. Bragg to recover Lookout Valley.

The effect of this short campaign was magical upon the question of supplies for the army in Chattanooga. Large quantities of rations and forage had been accumulated at Bridgeport. These supplies were brought on steamers from Bridgeport to Kelly's Ferry and taken thence by Hooker's army wagons to Chattanooga, so that the army was given full rations within a week after Grant's arrival.

Gen. Hooker established his camp in Lookout Valley, holding the country firmly from Brown's Ferry to Bridgeport.

Gen. Smith's troops marched back to their proper positions at Chattanooga, while Gen. Palmer remained for a time at Whiteside with his division.

### INSUFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION.

In a short time it became apparent that the single railroad from Nashville could not supply the troops encamped south of that city. The railroad track was in very bad condition and the rolling-stock was insufficient for transporting the needed supplies. The entire system of Southern railroads, from the Potomac and Ohio Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico, had been constructed with a gauge of five feet, while the Northern roads all had a gauge of four feet eight and a half inches; except the Erie, the Atlantic & Western, and the Ohio & Mississippi Railroads, which formed a line from New York to St. Louis, with a gauge of six feet.

This difference of three and a half inches in the gauge of the Northern and Southern railroad systems prevented the use of locomotives and cars of Northern roads on the tracks of Southern roads. Much of the rolling-stock of the Southern roads was destroyed by the contending armies, thus severely crippling their roads.

When the National forces captured a railroad they had to depend upon captured rolling-stock for operating it until the deficiency could be supplied by the purchase of new locomotives and cars of proper gauge.

The demands upon this railroad were very great.

There were strong garrisons at all important points between Nashville and Bridgeport.

Maj.-Gen. H. W. Slocum, commander of the Twelfth Corps, when he came west with Gen. Hooker, was assigned the duty of holding the country north of Bridgeport, and protecting the railroad. He established his headquarters at Tullahoma, and with two divisions of his corps performed the important duty assigned him. These troops, of course, were dependent for supplies upon the Nashville and Bridgeport Railroad. It therefore came to pass that while every effort was put forth to provide this great army of men and animals with food for fully a month after the capture of Brown's Ferry, the troops were on half rations, and the horses and mules were provided with so small a quantity of grain and hay that the most of them became unfit for use.

At least 10,000 horses and mules belonging to the Union army starved to death during Bragg's siege of Chattanooga.

### SHERMAN CROSSES THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

We left Gen. Sherman, Oct. 27, at Bear Creek Bridge, east of Corinth, with the dispatch from Gen. Grant delivered by Corp'l Pike.

The order of Gen. Grant to "Drop all work on Memphis & Charleston Railroad, cross the Tennessee and hurry eastward with all possible dispatch toward Bridgeport, till you meet further orders from me," coincided fully with Gen. Sherman's views. He had already caused the Fourth Division of his corps, now commanded by Brig.-Gen. Hugh Ewing, who had superseded Gen. Corse, to cross the river and march to Florence, Ala.

Gen. Sherman immediately issued orders to carry out Gen. Grant's instructions.

The Third Division, Brig.-Gen. John E. Smith commanding, was, on Oct. 29, ordered to cross the Tennessee at Chickasaw Landing.

The Second Division, commanded by Gen. Frank P. Blair, held the railroad and demonstrated against a Confederate force assembled in our front to embarrass and delay our march.

The Third Division moved promptly to the landing. One small steamboat and one open barge were the only means at hand for crossing the river. Gen. Matthias was assigned the advance, and began crossing the Third Brigade Oct. 30, at 10 a. m. The steamboat was used for crossing the men, but the artillery and wagons were ferried over on the barge.

Gen. Matthias had made considerable progress with his work, but about 8 o'clock at night the order of march was changed and my brigade was given the advance. I was directed to cross the river with my brigade during the night.

I entered upon this work with all the energy I could bring to bear with the limited means at hand. The loaded wagons and the artillery could not be drawn upon the barge by their teams. I detailed a large force of soldiers to do this work, constantly relieving the squads as they became fatigued. The wagons would be brought as near to the barge as possible by the teams; the teams would be unhitched quickly, and then the men would seize the tongue and wheels of the wagon and hurry it aboard the barge, the moment one wagon was aboard and out of the way another would be hurried forward to be treated like the first.

A number of officers aided in this work. I remained up during the night and superintended the operation.

The brigade train consisted of about 60 wagons, each drawn by six mules. We had four pieces of artillery, with their caissons, forge, tool chest and supply train.

It was a laborious job for the men to drag these heavily-loaded wagons and the artillery on and off of the barge; but the work was done by willing hands and without a murmur. During the night a staff of officers came down to the landing with a message to me that it was against orders to allow any colored women to cross the river with the army.

This was information I was not prepared for; no such order had been promulgated from any headquarters. At Vicksburg I had ordered the employment of company cooks, and in a number of cases both the husband and wife were so employed, and of course were marching with the proper regiments. The colored people soon learned of the order, and were thrown into a great state of excitement. Some of the women came to me as I was standing on the bank and plead that they be not abandoned among strangers.

I had no time to discuss the merits of this order with anyone; I simply said to the women, take to the wagons. They all crossed the river and most of them remained with the brigade to the end of the war.

I directed Adj't-Gen. Nicholson, Insp.-Gen. McCannon and Brigade Quartermaster Gorges to select a camp-ground on the north side of the river and see that the troops and train report there and go into camp as they crossed.

Early in the morning of Nov. 1 the crossing was completed, and I rode out to the camp. I found everything in perfect order, as though we had been encamped there for a week. My tent had been pitched, my baggage was in its accustomed place. My cot was up and the bed neatly made, camp stools were there, and a strip of two widths of brussels carpet was spread on the ground in front of the cot.

The country was new to me, but the arrangements about headquarters were familiar, and I felt at home. Two things, however, were necessary for my comfort—a bath and breakfast. When these were attended to I visited the river to see how the passage of the First and Third Brigades was progressing. Another steamer had arrived, and the ferrying facilities were much improved. In the afternoon I concluded to take some needed rest.

### TO LIVE ON THE COUNTRY.

I had scarcely fallen to sleep, however, when an orderly brought a message from Gen. Sherman, who was occupying a house hard by. I at once reported in person, and received orders to march out to Gravelly Spring and protect a long covered bridge which spanned a deep ravine.

I informed the General that my troops were practically without rations, but that we expected the supply train every hour to cross the river. He replied that we would have to live off the country until the supply trains overtook us. I immediately broke camp and was on the road within an hour. The march continued into the night, which was cloudy and dark. We reached the west end of the bridge about 9 p. m. This structure had a roof, and was weatherboarded at the sides; it was as dark as a cavern. I caused the advance guard to move cautiously across the bridge, feeling their way so as to avoid accident if any portion of the flooring had been removed.

Fires were built near each end of the bridge, so as to light it up. I moved three regiments and the battery across the bridge, leaving the 17th Iowa, commanded by Col. Clark R. Wever, to guard our rear. We formed lines of battle at each end of the bridge, threw out a guard and bivouacked for the night. The next morning bright and early Quartermaster Gorges was sent out with wagons and a guard to seize from the farmers in the neighborhood provisions and forage for men and animals for the day. The Quartermaster was directed to give receipts for all articles seized, and to observe due care, and not strip families of articles requisite for their subsistence.

We were in a prosperous country; the farmers had good crops of corn and plenty of fat hogs, besides cattle and poultry.

An ample supply of the raw material was soon obtained, but bread was not to be had, nor could a supply of flour or cornmeal be obtained; but parched corn is not a bad substitute for bread, so it was not long until the entire brigade had satisfied its hunger.

I had expected to remain at Gravelly Spring until Gen. Smith arrived with the First and Third Brigades, but at an early hour in the morning I received an order from Gen. Sherman to at once march to Florence.

I pushed on to Florence with all possible dispatch, believing that I would upon arrival there be able to secure bread for my men. I arrived about noon, Nov. 2. Gen. Ewing, who had occupied the place for some days with his division, had already departed. Upon inquiry I learned that there was a good water mill on a creek near by, and an abundance of corn close at hand.

Quartermaster Gorges was again put to work. A number of wagons were emptied, a regiment was detailed for the service, and the column marched out to the mill. Several wagon loads of corn were gathered, shelled and ground. The mill was kept going for about 24 hours, and every regiment was well supplied with meal. The brigade larder now had no stint of provisions. We had secured meat, meal, salt, sugar, molasses, besides chickens and a few fat cattle to be taken along on foot. The supply train was still in the rear with Gen. Smith and the First and Third Brigades. On Nov. 2, about 1 o'clock in the afternoon, Gen. Sherman, with his staff and body-guard, rode into town. He came directly to my headquarters. The General was in fine spirits. He informed me that the entire corps was now north of the river and that our march eastward would be continued daily. He stated that his plan was to have each brigade move as a unit, communicating constantly to the front and rear with the other marching bodies, the object being to stretch out along the road and cover as much territory as possible, and yet be sufficiently near to co-operate with each other in case of necessity. He directed me to move out at once and camp at Shoal Creek, seven miles away, that night, and the next morning to move forward without further orders.

Gen. Smith, with the head of his column, was not far in the rear of Gen. Sherman, but I was again on the road before his arrival. The road was fine, the weather was pleasant, and we were marching through a beautiful and well-improved country. The men enjoyed the march; they were perfectly orderly, and there was no straggling; individual foraging was not allowed.

We reached Shoal Creek in good time, and went into camp on a nice clean piece of ground, where wood and water were convenient and plentiful.

### RULES FOR MARCHING.

I was now able for the first time in my military experience to put into practice certain rules which I had formulated in orders for governing the movement of the brigade on the march.

I entered the service as a Major. As the junior field officer of the regiment, my position on the march was at the rear of the column. I was often Division Officer of the Day, which gave me quite a free hand in moving from point to point along the marching brigades. I soon discovered that at the rear of every regiment, brigade and division there were a lot of men straggling who were obviously fagged out.

In due time I was promoted, and assumed command of my regiment. This gave me an additional opportunity for observation. I found that orders would be given to be ready to march at 6 o'clock a. m.; that the troops would make every preparation for the march, and probably would not be ordered to move forward before 10 o'clock, and no notice or explanation was given for the delay. I had seen brigades and divisions of men marched two or three hours without rest. I had seen marches extended into the night with a column three or four miles long, and when the rear regiments came up there were no officers in waiting to show them into camp.

In such cases both officers and men, worn out with fatigue, felt that they were not properly cared for. These commanding officers were men of ability and courage, but had not carefully considered the question of the care of soldiers on the march.

In October, 1862, after the battle of Corinth, I issued an order to my regiment reducing the baggage of both officers and men. From that date forward the 56th Ill. marched in light order. The knapsack was practically emptied; in fact, in a few months the knapsack was discarded. When I assumed command of the brigade I encouraged the same practice in the other regiments; so that the regiments of the Second Brigade all marched in light order.

The plan of my marching order was as follows:

1st. That the Inspector-General and Brigade Quartermaster should superintend putting the regiments and train into the marching column of a morning and putting them into their proper places in camp at night.

2d. That all the regiments should be ready to march at the appointed hour; and the leading regiment should be on the road at the exact time named, but that each succeeding regiment should have their men remain at rest until they received notice from the Inspector-General to move out in 10 minutes.

3d. That the head of the column would march one hour, when it would halt, the brigade would close up and rest 15 minutes; that habitually the marches would be of one hour's duration, and, after the first, the rests would be for 10 minutes. If it was deemed necessary to march longer than an hour for the purpose of reaching a stream of water or for any good reason, information would be communicated to the commander of each regiment.

4th. As near 12 o'clock as practicable the brigade should halt, two regiments in front, and two regiments in the rear, each in line of battle; the artillery to be placed in a suitable position for defense and the wagon train to be concentrated between the lines of troops. Here the brigade was to rest for one hour for dinner.

5th. The Provost-Marshal, with a suitable guard, to be detailed for that purpose, to habitually march at the rear of the brigade in advance of the rear-guard, his duty to take charge of all stragglers of any command of the army and make such provision for them as their condition required; an ambulance was subject to the orders of the Provost-Marshal.

6th. The Assistant Adjutant-General, the Inspector-General, the Picket Officer and the Brigade Quartermaster at the proper time in the evening to go forward and select the camp ground for the night, having four points in view—its defense, its cleanliness and comfort for the men and proximity to wood and water.

7th. The Picket Officer and the Officer of the Day to arrange for posting the grand guard and camp guard at night, and to report to the brigade commander.

The result following from this arrangement was of great benefit to the command. In the first place every man knew exactly what to depend upon; he was not left in the dark as to what was expected of him. In the second place, the strength of everyone was husbanded; they were never overtaxed by long and exhaustive marches; consequently, if it was necessary to march the brigade 25 miles in a day, it could be done without injury to anyone.

Besides this the officers and men felt that the brigade commander had taken them into his confidence, and that he felt a profound interest in their comfort and welfare.

(To be continued.)

### Counterfeit Pennies.

(Harper's Weekly.)

A ton of pennies piled high in one wagon-load is a unique, but not uncommon, sight on lower Broadway. To an enlightened observer the wagon and its burden present no unusual appearance. The pennies are in 20 well-filled canvas sacks. The vehicle trundles along as jauntily as if loaded with salt or onions or any other commercial commodity.

Back of the bulky accumulation of copper coins is the curiosity of the American public. Trifling tributes to the number of 13,600 dropped in 500 slots go to make up the load, which, after all, is somewhat of an embarrassment of riches.

Pennies in any great quantity have but one outlet, the United States Sub-Treasury. Unless they have been previously counted and wrapped in paper, banks refuse them admittance. Obviously, with so great an accumulation of coin, this is impossible. It would necessitate the employment of too large a force of experienced clerks. Whatever profits might accrue from the machines would be seriously curtailed.

For a long time this counting of pennies was a serious problem for the various penny-in-the-slot machine manufacturers. At last it was solved by the construction of special scales which weighed the small copper pieces, not in pounds and ounces, but in dollars and cents. Of course, the accuracy of the process depends entirely upon the weights. Six months of careful experimenting was done before satisfactory results were attained. The smallest measured weight is 50 cents; the largest, $4. In appearance the scales are not unlike those seen on any grocery counter.

A copper penny is seemingly a piece within the limits of even the humblest purse. Yet the tricks people resort to in order to delude the ingenuous machines are unbelievable. An odd thing about it is that their efforts are usually barren of results. The wheels obstinately refuse to go round unless they are fed with a genuine penny or a counterfeit of the same size and weight.

After the accumulated mass has been collected from the machines, and before it is weighed, all apparent refuse matter is carefully sorted out. Because of the extremely dirty condition of the stuff, as well as to escape infection from germs, the boys who do the sorting wear antiseptic gloves.

The refuse itself is valueless, except as an example of the small meannesses (or weaknesses) inherent in human nature. When the real, natural-born cheat desires to swindle any person or institution, instinctively he uses as a first means an article closely resembling the genuine. Barring the fact that some may be dropped in the slot through ignorance, this peculiarity accounts for the hundreds of German pennies found in the machines.

Only carelessness can account for the valuable objects, such as small gold pieces, antique coins and bits of jewelry which are now and then dropped into the slots. Bangles, gold and silver, of all sizes, nearly always bearing tender inscriptions, such as "Darling" or "Dearest," are often sorted out of the original mass.

The percentage of loss from waste matter is small as compared with that resulting from the immense number of counterfeit pennies in existence, whose genuineness can be established only by the Treasury experts. Manufacturing "queer" cent pieces is a profitable industry. A pound of copper costs 16 cents. Its value made into pennies is $1.47. The probable cost of making is 47 cents, a clear profit of 84 cents.

Detection of these coins is difficult. It is only by the exterior finish it can be done at all. The copper used in their manufacture is identical in quality and gauge with that used at the United States mints, so chemical analysis is of no value. Even the Treasury men themselves are often misled. Persons in a position to know say that a goodly amount of honest coin is each year chopped, acidized, or otherwise mutilated in their zealous efforts to establish its genuineness.

Be that as it may, the fact remains that one per cent. of the pennies in circulation are spurious. The Bowery, for example, far outclasses all other New York districts in this respect, being only excelled by Coney Island when the season is on, where the percentage of spurious pennies is often two per cent. of the gross.

What is probably the finest counterfeit cent ever made is very much in circulation at the present time. It is an excellent imitation in all respects otherwise than the nose of the Indian, which is decidedly aquiline and typical, while the redskin on the genuine coin is almost Greek in profile—a fact which argues that the artist who drew the counterfeit presentment knew more of Poor Lo than did the man who designed the original. It is curious to think what will happen if any counterfeiter ever exactly imitates the dies used in the mints. Should this ever occur, it seems more than likely the Government output of these smallest of our coins must cease.

# VETERAN OF EARLY WARS.

## Sketch of Francis Doud, Who Enlisted Nearly 62 Years Ago, and Served in Florida and Mexico.

By CAPT. FREE S. BOWLEY.

I wish to introduce to the readers of The National Tribune an old veteran whom I claim is, in point of earliest enlistment, the oldest soldier in the United States. I refer to Mr. Francis Doud, of Monterey, Cal., formerly Sergeant, Company A, 2d U. S. Inf. I take the statistics from Mr. Doud's "Soldiers' Book," a little memorandum that all soldiers of the Old Army were required to have. From it I learn that Francis Doud, 21 years of age, enlisted Nov. 6, 1840, in Company A, 2d U. S. Inf., and that he was enrolled by

FRANCIS DOUD.
Late Sergeant, Co. A, 2d U. S. Inf.

Capt. J. G. Green, 2d Art.

Think of it; 1840! A time when most of the veterans of the civil war were yet unborn. Our old muzzle-loading Springfields have been obsolete for nearly 35 years, but here is a man who was armed with the smooth-bore flint-lock musket and was taught to "load in 12 times," part of which included "open pan," "prime," "shut pan," and "cast about," whatever that may have meant.

At that time the pay of an infantry private was $7 per month. His "wool jacket" cost $4.79¾, while that of his Sergeant was valued at $4.84¾. I would like to know what made the 5 cents difference in those two jackets.

In the same book official notice is given that "the commutation price of the whisky ration, to which extra duty men of the army are entitled, is hereby advanced to 3 cents." ("Three" is in italics in the official notice.) Also, that for desertion in time of peace "a soldier is liable to suffer stripes."

It was under these conditions that Private Doud left Bedloe's Island, New York, for Florida, where for a long time he served with his company in fighting Seminoles, and on one occasion was slightly wounded.

At one time while the troops were being transported up the St. Johns River some of the men obtained a lot of "nigger whisky" and became crazy drunk. The officer in command, Lieut. Lyon, attempted to quiet the riot and was seized and thrown overboard. A drunken soldier seized a musket and would certainly have killed the officer while he was floundering in the water had not Private Doud, one of the few sober men on the boat, promptly knocked the man down, and, by his firm action, squelched the incipient mutiny. This officer was Gen. Lyon, who was killed at the battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo., in 1861.

Mr. Doud went with his regiment to Mexico at the beginning of the Mexican war. He was promoted Corporal and Sergeant, and his warrants bear the signature of "B. Riley, B'vt. Col., 2d Inf.," and "Eil M. Canby, 1st Lt. and Adj't." and "J. W. Anderson, B'vt. Capt. and Adj't." He participated in all the battles and skirmishes of the famous "Cerro Gordo Brigade," viz., 2d U. S. Inf., 7th U. S. Inf., and 4th U. S. Art.

At Cerro Gordo he was severely wounded, which necessitated his retirement from active service and his subsequent discharge. In 1849 he came to the Pacific Coast. Fortune favored him, and for many years he has been one of the substantial and honored citizens of Monterey County.

When Memorial Day was inaugurated by the Grand Army Mr. Doud was from the first an ardent supporter of that day, and his influence did much toward its proper observance. For many years he has been a constant reader and firm friend of The National Tribune. His greatest regret is that his wound kept him from taking an active part in the war of the rebellion.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY
Take Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

### Oklahoma Encampment.

J. E. Burns, Department Commander, has issued General Orders from Headquarters of the Department of Oklahoma, Guthrie, Oklahoma, designating May 21, 22, and 23 as Encampment dates. The annual meeting will be held at Guthrie.

## MUSTERED OUT.

HACKELL.—At Youngstown, O., March 13, Lawrence Hackell, Co. G, 28th Pa. He was a member of Tod Post, 29.

McDONALD.—At Wilsonville, Neb., March 9, Marion McDonald, aged 56. Enlisted Feb. 22, 1864, in Co. I, 25th Wis.; was taken prisoner at Beaufort's Station; confined in Libby and Salisbury until Feb. 22, 1865; mustered out with his regiment at close of the war; was a charter member of A. A. Plumb Post and its Commander at time of death. He leaves a widow and three daughters.

MACKLIN.—At Youngstown, O., Feb. 23, S. S. Macklin, Co. I, 2d Ohio H. A. He was a member of Tod Post, 29.

PETERMAN.—At Youngstown, O., March 2, Benj. Peterman, Co. I, 6th Ohio Cav. He was a member of Tod Post, 29.

SNYDER.—At Wellsville, Kan., March 13, J. E. Snyder, 11th Ind. Battery, aged 69. He was a member of Lookout Post, 96.

STAMBAUGH.—At Youngstown, O., Feb. 21, John E. Stambaugh, Co. A, 105th Ohio. He was a member of Tod Post, 29.

# PICKET SHOTS

## From Alert Comrades Along the Whole Line.

### CAPTURING A REBEL AT ANTIETAM.

H. J. Wright, Co. K, 35th N. Y.; Co. C, 20th N. Y. Cav., Oxford, N. Y., writes: "On Sept 17, 1862, my regiment, the 35th N. Y. helped to open the battle of Antietam. We were in position on the right of the road that ran by the cornfield and just to the right of Battery B. After firing about 20 shots, we charged across the field to the sunken road, taking quite a number of prisoners; then returned to our former position, remaining there until relieved by another regiment. As we marched off the field, I stopped at a spring-house, but, owing to the large number of soldiers there, it was some time before I could fill my canteen; meanwhile my regiment had moved on. I hurried on, but not finding my regiment, returned to the hospital buildings, near the spring-house, where, upon inquiry, I learned from a wounded comrade that my regiment had moved to the left of Battery B. I hurried in that direction, passing Battery B, and entering the cornfield, where many dead and wounded lay. I gave a wounded Johnny a drink from my canteen; he was an officer, and was shot through the hips, and could not move his lower limbs. Some distance farther on I saw a rebel soldier passing through the cornfield, going from one dead soldier to another. He had not seen me. I dropped on one knee and drew a bead on him. We were between the two armies, and solid shot and shell were flying over us. The rebel did not see me until he had come within 20 yards of where I was kneeling. At sight of me he started to raise his gun, but I called to him to drop his arms and come forward; he surrendered. I marched him to our lines, near the edge of the cornfield, where I found a part of our division, the 14th Brooklyn, and a Wisconsin regiment. I turned my prisoner over to a Captain. Soon after, I found my own regiment and company."

### IN THE FILLD HOSPITAL.

Edwin Crockett, 65th N. Y., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, writes: "At Cedar Creek, as we were preparing for the last charge, my arm was broken. I was taken to the field hospital, where I found many wounded, including some rebs. About 10 rods from the hospital tents lay a dead rebel Captain, wearing a new suit of gray, with palmetto buttons, while close beside him was a Confederate Major, a fine-looking little man, with a very remarkable, hooked nose. He had been shot through the lungs, and appeared very near death; one of our men was trying to help him. The night was cold. A number of fires were burning, and many wounded men were sitting around them. One elderly rebel, a farmer, in a suit of well-worn butternut, told me of his home affairs; he had received a letter telling of the crops, etc. He also told of his share in the battle; how the 8th S. C. broke, and allowed our men to flank his regiment, the 3d S. C., and added: 'They were always a lot of cowards.'

"We lost nearly a third of our regiment, the 65th N. Y., in the battle. I found a number of our wounded at the field hospital. Corp'l Dick McCann was there, shot through the hip. Shuard, another of my company, was brought in with a shattered leg; he was left on the field during our retreat; he told me that a rebel infantryman took his shoes, hurting him terribly when removing the one from his wounded leg; another reb wanted his coat, but left it when poor Shuard told him he would need it during the cold night. Soon a horseman ordered him to give him the coat, and when Shuard urged his former plea the reb drew his revolver and threatened him with instant death. About a week ago I heard from Shuard by letter, the first time since the close of the war."

### THE 12TH W. VA. AT FORT GREGG.

James Ray, Co. D, 12th W. Va., and Commissary Sergeant of regiment, Park Miles, O., writes: "Comrade Campbell, 116th Ohio, says Capt. Case is mistaken in giving the honor to the 12th W. Va., 23d Ill. and 54th Pa., under command of Col. W. B. Curtis, 12th W. Va. I believe Capt. Case has given as correct an account as I have ever read. I was a member of Capt. Curtis's company (D, 12th W. Va.). He became Colonel of the regiment, and was in command of a brigade, composed of the three regiments named by Capt. Case at the time of the capture. I was on detached duty in the Brigade Commissary Department, and issued rations to those three regiments. I do not claim any honor myself, as I was at a respectable distance in the rear with the train of supplies. Three of my company were killed in the assault, viz., James Caldwill, Robert McQuown and William Ross. Two were given Medals of Honor and furloughed to go home, viz., J. M. Curtis and Joseph McCausland. This was in recognition of bravery displayed inside of the fort. The 12th W. Va. was presented with a beautiful silk flag, the staff of which was surmounted with a gold eagle perched on a golden globe, with all the battles of the regiment inscribed thereon, by Gen. Gibbon, for bravery, at the capture of the fort, and that flag can be seen at any National Reunion carried by someone of the old 12th W. Va."

### OSBORN'S BRIGADE.

H. T. Lucas, Co. H, 39th Ill., LeRoy, Ill., writing of the capture of Fort Gregg, says that Capt. Case, of Allerton, Iowa, and G. K. Campbell, of Coolville, O., both omitted mention of the 39th Ill. Sixty-four of this regiment fell at Fort Gregg, and 19 were buried almost under the shadow of the fort. The First Brigade, First Division, Twenty-fourth Corps, consisted of the Yates Phalanx (39th Ill.), 62d and 67th Ohio and the 199th Pa., all under command of Col. Thomas O. Osborn, 39th Ill. These were the troops who assaulted Fort Gregg, and the first colors planted on the rebel works were those of the 39th Ill. To commemorate the services of the 39th Ill, Gen. John Gibbon, commander of the Twenty-fourth Corps, had cast a bronze eagle, which he placed upon the regimental color-staff with his own hands at a grand review of the corps. The eagle bore the following inscription: "Presented to the 39th Ill. Vet. Vols. by Maj.-Gen. John Gibbon, commanding the Twenty-fourth Corps, for gallantry in the assault on Fort Gregg, Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865." For services at Fort Gregg, Col. Osborn was brevetted Brigadier-General, and Capt. Homer A. Plimpton, commanding the 39th Ill., was made Major by brevet. Color-Sergeant Henry M. Day, who was severely wounded while planting the colors on Fort Gregg, was granted a Medal of Honor.

### PERRYVILLE.

J. W. Homer, Corporal, Co. C, 63d Ohio, Louisville, Kan., writes: "At the battle of Perryville, Oct. 8, 1862, the 1st Wis., commanded by Col. G. Starkweather, was sent to the support of Bush's 4th Ind. Battery and the 1st Ky. Battery, which were pouring a destructive fire into the enemy's line. Gen. Bragg realized that those batteries must be taken in order to secure a victory, and had picked his best regiment for the charge. The battery was on the crest of the hill. The Confederate and Federal regiments started up the hill on opposite sides at the same time. As they reached the summit, the color-bearer of the Wisconsin regiment, Henry Kaylore, was shot dead; the colors fell. Col. Starkweather dashed forward and called to Durham to pick up the colors and advance. Durham rushed to the dead color-bearer, picked up the flag, and, followed by his comrades, dashed into the thick of the fight. The color-bearer of the Confederate regiment fired a revolver at Durham, but missed his aim. Durham steadily advanced on his enemy and thrust a bayonet through his body. He then picked up the Confederate flag and threw it behind him. The Confederates were driven from the ridge 13 times and sustained heavy losses. The Wisconsin regiment entered the engagement with 480 men; there were but 26 fighting when the enemy was driven down the hill the last time. He was granted a Medal of Honor, on which was inscribed the following: 'The Congress to Sergeant John S. Durham, Company G, 1st Wisconsin Volunteers, for distinguished gallantry at Perryville, Ky., Oct. 8, 1862.'"

### ALL QUIET ALONG THE POTOMAC.

R. B. Valentine, Co. B, Bucktails, Duncannon, Pa., writes: "About the middle of February, 1862, my company was detailed as picket on the Alexandria and Lynchburg Pike, about three miles from camp in the direction of Dranesville. We were guarding a bridge where the pike crosses a deep creek. Our headquarters were on the north side of the creek; on either side were old fields; about 80 yards from the creek was a heavy timber. On the right about 1,200 yards from our position a ravine started and ran east and west about 300 yards and then made a sharp bend to the south, following that general direction until it entered a main stream. Our videts were along the ravines. Several men had been killed while on picket along this ravine, and one had lost his life only a few nights before my company went on duty. The first night that we were on duty the weather was so disagreeable that none of the men could sleep; there was a heavy gale and rain and snow were falling. W. A. Holland, of my company, after returning from duty, wrote out the poem entitled, 'All Quiet Along the Potomac.' A few days later one of the boys sent a copy to Bloomfield; it was published in the County paper; our company received two or three copies. Later the poem was copied in a Washington paper. After the battle of Antietam it was set to music. There are 10 or 12 members of my company living here who will corroborate my claim that W. A. Holland is the author of 'All Quiet Along the Potomac.'"

### SCATTERING.

J. G. Nits, Co. F, 33d Ohio, enlisted in August, 1861. He participated in the campaign in eastern Kentucky, under Gen. Nelson, and later joined Buell's army at Bacon Creek; then was with Gen. Mitchel on his famous raid through Tennessee and Alabama. Later was at the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and in the Atlanta campaign. He was discharged at Rome, Ga., Oct. 10, 1864. He was three times wounded and participated in one more battle than his regiment. Comrade Nits favors a service pension bill.

Comrade C. A. Harding, of Andover, N. J., thinks that he has found the youngest soldier of the civil war. Comrade William Van Riper, of Tranquility, was born March 22, 1849. He ran away from home to enlist, and was enrolled in the 2d N. J. Cav., July 25, 1861. His father went to Washington to lay the case before President Lincoln, and secured the release of his son, who at the time of his enlistment was only 12 years and three months of age. The father and son returned to New Jersey, but within a few months the boy was again with the company. He later served as Aid to Gen. Kilpatrick.

Chas. A. Cole, Co. I, 49th Mo., Box, Okla., claims the honor of being one of the youngest soldiers of the civil war. He was born at Lexington, Mo., May, 1850; he left home in July, 1863, and joined the Missouri State Militia, and saw some hard service against Quantrell and Anderson. In August, 1864, he entered the United States service as a member of Co. I, 49th Mo. He was at Spanish Fort and Mobile; later, marched to Montgomery, and was there at the close of the war. He is Commander of Capt. Reeder Post, 92, Department of Oklahoma.

A. H. Hulburt, Lock Haven, Pa., writes: "In regard to the controversy that has been going on the past 35 years, without satisfactory settlement, as to who is the youngest soldier, I would like you to request all the young soldiers and comrades to write up their history, and let us settle the matter once for all, and whoever is the youngest, let us take off our hats to him. This is a matter of no great consequence, because there was enough glory in having been a soldier in the grand struggle to go around; but I would like to see the question settled for good."

R. H. Bolt, Cashier of the State Bank of Otterbein, Otterbein, Ind., writes that his father, W. L. Bolt, 22d S. C., was wounded at South Mountain, Sept. 14, 1862, and was cared for by a member of the Pennsylvania Bucktails. A canteen of water was given to him and he was placed under shelter of a rock on the mountain side and a blanket loaned to him for the night. Mr. Bolt would like to hear from the Pennsylvania soldier who probably saved his father's life.

J. C. Bartholomew, Co. C, 4th Ind. Cav., New Richmond, Ind., replying to an inquiry of Comrade Elbert M. Hendry, in a recent issue of The National Tribune, says that Col. J. P. Lesslie, 4th Ind. Cav., is buried in the Soldiers' Circle, Oakwood Cemetery, Warsaw, Ind. Col. Lesslie was a physician, and left a large practice to enter the army. His widow never remarried. Comrade Bartholomew thinks she is still living.

Chas. E. Potter, Co. A, 17th Ind., Columbus, Ind., presents the claim of Dr. O. H. Mennett, of Keath Post, 13, Columbus, Ind., of being the youngest Past Commander of the G. A. R. Dr. Mennett was born March 8, 1850. Comrade Potter himself is a very young Past Commander, having been born Aug. 9, 1848.

John Wells, Wilcox, Ill., requests that some comrade write for The National Tribune a sketch of "Fighting Tom Knowles;" where born, date and place of death, and also of his service in the U. S. Navy, especially with Farragut at Mobile Bay.

Byron L. Cave, Lancaster, O., would like some comrade to send him a copy of the war song, "Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching."

Comrade Wm. P. Lawrence, R. F. D. No. 1, Corning, Iowa, would like to see more in The National Tribune from the old Sixth Corps, especially Co. C, 122d Ohio.

Uriah Smith, Aurora, Mo., has a tablespoon that was made in England in 1748, and which has been in the family for over 150 years.

M. O. Beddell, 8th Mo. Cav., R. F. D. No. 1, Springfield, Mo., wants some comrade to send him the song, "Twenty Years Ago."

J. F. Farrar, Sterling, Kan., would like some comrade to write a history of Battery H, 3d N. Y. L. A.

### The Sixteenth Corps.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In the issue of Feb. 6 "Picket Shots" Comrade Hendricks, 57th Ill., says that two colored regiments served in that Second Division, and that Gen. Oglesby commanded the division in the battle of Corinth, Miss., Oct. 3 and 4; that the colored troops fought with great gallantry, and helped to win the victory of the Sixteenth Corps.

I served in the Second Division, Army of the Tennessee, under its first commander, Gen. C. F. Smith, at Fort Donelson, Tenn., Feb. 13 to 16, 1862, and he died at Savannah, Tenn., April 25, 1862. Gen. W. H. L. Wallace commanded the division at Shiloh April 6, 1862, and was mortally wounded. Gen. T. A. Davis commanded the division in the siege of Corinth, Miss., May, 1862, and in the battle of Corinth, Miss., Friday and Saturday, Oct. 3 and 4, 1862, consisting of three brigades, the First, by Gen. Hackelman, who was killed Oct. 3; 2d and 7th Iowa, and 52d Ill; Second Brigade, Gen. R. J. Oglesby, who was severely wounded Oct. 3, contained the 9th and 12th Ill., 81st Ohio, 13th Mo. (later 22d Ohio), 14th Mo. (later the 66th Ill., Western Sharpshooters). After Gen. Oglesby was wounded Col. Aug. Mersey, of the 9th Ill., commanded the brigade. The Third Brigade, Col. Baldwin, 7th, 50th and 57th Ill. Gen. Oglesby did not command that division until April, 1863, after he got well from his wound. There was no Sixteenth Corps at the time of the battle of Corinth—not until December, 1862. Again, there were no colored troops in the battle, as the Government did not enlist nor accept colored troops until July, 1863. Gen. Mower did not command a division in the battle. He was Colonel of the 11th Mo., a No. 1 regiment; he commanded a brigade at the battle.

I served in the Second Division, Army of the Tennessee, from Fort Henry, Feb. 10, 1862, to the battle of Lovejoy Station, Ga., Sept. 3, 1864, when the Sixteenth Corps—that is, the Second and Fourth Division—was