Washington in War Time.

EARLY'S MARCH TO WASHINGTON.

Battle of Fort Stevens, where President Lincoln Was Under Fire.

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After the battle of New Market, May 15, 1864, Maj.-Gen. Hunter assumed command of the Department of West Virginia, at Cedar Creek, May 21; and the Lynchburg expedition, through the Army of the Shenandoah, assumed prominence. Hunter started with about 8,500 men of all arms, and after uniting with Crook and Averill his force was about 18,000. During the advance of the Army of the Shenandoah it was successful in several actions, and on June 14, 1864, Secretary Stanton telegraphed to Gen. Hunter:

"This Department has received, with great satisfaction, your special dispatch (June 8) announcing the recent brilliant victory won by your army, and their occupation (June 6) of the city of Staunton. These brilliant achievements wipe out the antecedent disasters to our army in former campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley, and induce strong hope that, led on by the courage and guided by the experienced skill of its commander, the Army of the Shenandoah will rival other gallant armies in the successful blows against the rebels. For yourself and the brave officers and soldiers of your command the thanks of the President and of this Department are tendered."

Unfortunately, the great satisfaction, as thus announced, was followed by the heavy gloom connected with subsequent important operations.

EARLY BEGINS HIS RAID.

Lieut.-Gen. Jubal A. Early's forces of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia moved from Gaines's Mill to Lynchburg, to defend that place from Hunter's meditated attack; to strike Hunter's force in the rear, if possible, to destroy it; then to move down the Shenandoah Valley, and to cross the Potomac at Leesburg, or at, or above, Harper's Ferry, as might be found most practicable. Early has said: "Gen. Lee did not expect me to be able to enter Washington. His orders were merely to threaten the city; and, when I suggested to him the idea of capturing it he said it would be impossible." As to this movement Gen. Early, in a telegram dated June 16, 1864, sent to Gen. Breckenridge at Lynchburg, said: "My first object is to destroy Hunter, and the next it is not prudent to trust to telegraph. Hold on and you will be amply supported." Hunter failed in his attempt on Lynchburg, and, owing to want of ammunition, retired from before the place and fell back into West Virginia. He was pursued by Early's force for three days—about 60 miles—until Hunter reached the mountains, en route by way of Salem and Lewisburg. He left Charleston, Kanawha, July 3, and reached Parkersburg July 4, by water. June 22 the pursuit ceased, as Early did not deem it proper to continue it. Sheridan, during his Trevilian Station cavalry raid, was to have united, by way of Charlottesville, with Hunter at Lynchburg, and their combined forces were to have destroyed Lee's communications and depots, and then to have joined Grant before Richmond. After the severe battle at Trevilian Station, Sheridan learned, from prisoners, that Hunter, instead of coming to Charlottesville, was near Lexington, moving upon Lynchburg; that Early's Corps was on its way to Lynchburg; and that Breckenridge was at Gordonsville. Therefore, he concluded to return to the Army of the Potomac. Hunter's movements had rendered it impracticable for Sheridan to execute his orders in the presence of the cavalry forces of Hampton and Fitz Lee. In communicating with one of Hunter's subordinates as to this movement, Stanton said: "Gen. Sheridan, who was sent by Gen. Grant to open communication with Gen. Hunter by way of Charlottesville, has just returned to York River without effecting his object. It is therefore very probable that Gen. Hunter will be compelled to fall back into West Virginia."

Early, after his pursuit of Hunter had ceased, became subject to the orders of Gen. Lee directing him, "after disposing of Hunter," to return to Lee's army, or to carry out the original plan of an expedition across the Potomac.

EARLY DETERMINED TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY

of the latter. He marched to Buchanan, June 23, reached Staunton in advance of his troops on the 26th, his troops arriving on the 27th, and on the 28th resumed the march, after detaching portions of his corps to destroy the railroad bridge over the south branch of the Potomac, and all the bridges on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between the south branch and Martinsburg. On July 2 he was in Winchester, and there received orders "to destroy the Baltimore and Ohio Road and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal as far as possible." On July 3 the Union forces evacuated Martinsburg, skirmished with and fought the enemy en route, and during the night retreated across the Potomas, at Shepherdstown, to Maryland Hights. During the night of July 4 the Union forces evacuated Harper's Ferry, burning the Potomac Railroad pontoon bridges. It was not until the 5th that Gen. Grant was positive that Early was not in front of Richmond!

On July 5 and 6, Early's troops crossed the Potomac at Shepherdstown, a detachment advancing towards Maryland Hights, when the Union forces there took position in the works. Early has said: "My desire had been to manuver the enemy out of Maryland Hights, so as to move directly to Washington; but he had taken refuge in his strongly-fortified works, and I therefore determined to move through the gaps of South Mountain, north of the Hights." At an early hour on the morning of July 8, the entire force moved, a part through Crampton's Gap, another through Fox's Gap, and a third through Boonsboro Gap with the trains and rear-guard which had started the night before from Harper's Ferry, after burning the trestle railroad works. Early had been informed by Gen. Lee that an effort would be made to

RELEASE THE PRISONERS OF WAR

at Point Lookout; and he was directed to take steps to unite them with his command. Early has said: * * * "On the 9th, Johnson with his brigade of cavalry and horse artillery, moved to the north of Frederick, with orders to strike the railroads from Baltimore to Harrisburg and Philadelphia, burn the bridges over the Gunpowder, also to cut the railroad between Washington and Baltimore, and threaten the latter place; and then, if we should succeed in getting into Washington, to move towards Point Lookout for the purpose of releasing the prisoners." The other troops moved towards Monocacy Junction. The battle of Monocacy was fought on the 9th, and on the 10th the victorious Confederate army moved at daylight, and bivouacked that afternoon at and near Rockville. Thence, at daylight on the 11th, the movement was resumed, and Early rode ahead, on the Seventh Street pike, arriving in sight of Fort Stevens a short time after noon. Thereupon he ordered his advance division to form line as rapidly as possible, throw out skirmishers, and move into the works, if it could be done; but before the division could be brought up, a column of Union troops entered the works, skirmishers were thrown out in front, and an artillery fire opened upon the Confederate force. The attempted surprise was thus defeated, and it became necessary for Early to reconnoiter, which consumed the remainder of the day, with the result that he determined to make an assault upon the works at daylight the morning of the 12th. That morning "as soon as it was light enough to see," Early "rode to the front and found the parapet lined with troops." After that discovery we have his own words: "I had, therefore, reluctantly,

TO GIVE UP ALL HOPES

of capturing Washington after I had arrived in sight of the dome of the Capitol and given the Federal authorities a terrible fright." The Sixth Corps had arrived the evening of the 11th; and Maj.-Gen. Alexander McD. McCook, in command of the northern line of defense, "deemed it absolutely necessary that the immediate front should be picketed by experienced men." Accordingly, he directed Maj.-Gen. Horatio G. Wright "to furnish a force 900 strong of this (his) Veteran Corps for picket duty during the night, constant skirmishing being kept up between the lines until after dark on the 11th." Troops from that corps, also, at 6 p. m., on the 12th made the successful assault upon the two important points held by the enemy; and the Sixth Corps was selected because McCook, as said by him, believed that its veterans could do the work better, and with less loss of life, than any other troops under his command.

"Inadequately manned as the fortifications (of Washington) were, they compelled, at least, concentration on the part of the assailants, and thus gave time for the arrival of succor." The Third Division of the Sixth Corps, which had been detached by way of Baltimore, contributed, mainly, to the delay of Early's forces at the Monocacy, and that delay proved important in connection with the timely arrival of the other two Sixth Corps Divisions, under the command of Wright. At the battle of the Monocacy, July 9, the Third Division of the Sixth Corps, under Maj.-Gen. James B. Ricketts, fought, practically, as an outpost force, in aid of the First and Second Divisions of that Corps, at the time on the way to Washington. Therefore it is pertinent that the part performed by the Third Division should be noted, for it had much to do connected with the march of Early.

THE BATTLE OF THE MONOCACY.

Maj.-Gen. Lewis Wallace, who commanded at the battle of the Monocacy, and fought from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m., telegraphed, July 9, to Gen. Halleck:

* * * "I am retreating a foot-sore, battered, and half demoralized column. * * * You will have to use every exertion to save Baltimore and Washington. * * * I think that the troops of the Sixth Corps fought magnificently. I was totally overwhelmed by a force from the direction of Harper's Ferry arriving during the battle. Two fresh regiments of the Sixth Corps are covering my retreat. I shall try to get to Baltimore."

Wallace reported more fully from Ellicott's Mills, on July 10, to Gen. Halleck, in part as follows:

* * * "The column of cavalry and artillery of the enemy worked rapidly around to my left and crossed the river in face of my guard and charged confidently upon Gen. Ricketts's Third Division, Sixth Corps. The General changed front and repulsed them, and charged in turn and drove them gallantly. The enemy then advanced a second line. This the General repulsed and drove. Meantime the enemy placed at least two batteries in position, so that when he made his final charge with four lines of infantry, about 3:30 p. m., the resistance of Ricketts's Division was under an enfilading fire of shell really terrific. The moment I saw the third rebel line advance I ordered the General to make such preparation as he could and retire his command by a country road up the river to the Baltimore pike. This was accomplished with an extraordinary steadiness. The men of the Third Division were not whipped, but retired reluctantly under my orders. They bore the brunt of the battle with a coolness and steadiness which, I venture to say, has not been exceeded in any battle during the war. Too much credit cannot be given Gen. Ricketts for his skill and courage. * * * Each one of his (the enemy) four lines of attack presented a front greater than that of Gen. Ricketts's Division all deployed. * * *

"I had three objects in view: first, to keep open, if possible, the communication with Harper's Ferry; second, to cover the roads to Washington and Baltimore; the last, to make the enemy develop his force. * * *

"The men of the Sixth Corps reached this place (Ellicott's Mills) in perfect order, and covered the retreat."

SPLENDID CONDUCT OF RICKETTS'S DIVISION.

On July 10, Maj.-Gen. Wright, from the headquarters of the Sixth Corps—then at Fort Stevens with the First and Second Divisions—in transmitting a copy of the report from Gen. Wallace presenting the part taken by Ricketts's Third Division at the Monocacy, said: "The terms in which Gen. Wallace commends the conduct of Gen. Ricketts's Division is no more than I expected, but is so complimentary that I take pleasure in bringing it to the notice of the military authorities."

In August, 1864, Gen. Wallace made his report in full of the operations of his command in the vicinity of Frederick, Md., which resulted in the battle of Monocacy, July 9; and to that report he appended his informal report, July 10, from Ellicott's Mills. On July 5, from information that he had received, he viewed that the probable objectives of Early's forces were reduced to Washington, Baltimore, and Maryland Hights; and, as to that situation, he has said:

* * * "With an enemy north of the Potomac, and approaching from the west, having in view any or all the objectives mentioned, the importance of the position on which I ultimately gave battle cannot be overestimated. There, within the space of two miles converge the pikes to Washington and Baltimore, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; there also is the iron bridge over the Monocacy, upon which depends communication to Harper's Ferry. Moreover, as a defensive position for an army seeking to cover the cities above mentioned from the direction I was threatened, the point is very strong; the river covers its entire front. In the low stage of water the fords are few, and particularly difficult for artillery, and the commanding hights are all on the eastern banks, while the ground on the opposite side is level and, almost without obstruction."

After Gen. Wallace had actively and carefully matured his plans and determined the place for battle, he telegraphed to Gen. Halleck, July 8: "I shall withdraw immediately from Frederick City and put myself in position to cover road to Washington if necessary;" and in the morning of July 9 he made disposition for battle. The right, forming an extended line from the railroad, was given to Gen. E. B. Tyler. His troops—scant 2,500 of all arms—were, with the exception of one regiment and part of another of the Potomac Home Brigade and a Maryland battery, "100-days men." On the left, likely to be the main point of attack, Gen. Ricketts was directed to form his command—3,350 men—in two lines across the Washington pike, so as to hold the rising ground south of it, and the wooden bridge across the river; and still further to the left was placed Clendenin's squadron of cavalry, to watch that flank and guard, by detachments, the lower fords. Ricketts and Tyler each received three guns, and later Ricketts was given two additional.

It is not necessary to recite the details of the battle, so fully and candidly given in the reports of Gen. Wallace, but his following words may well be quoted:

* * * "It would be a difficult task to say too much in praise of the veterans who made this fight. For their reputation and for the truth's sake, I wish it distinctly understood that though the appearance of the enemy's fourth line of battle made their ultimate defeat certain, they were not whipped; on the contrary, they were fighting steadily in unbroken front when I ordered their retirement, all the shame of which, if shame there was, is mine, not theirs. The nine regiments (First and Second Brigades, Third Division, Sixth Corps) enumerated as those participating in the action represented but 3,500 men, of whom over 1,600 were missing three days after, killed, wounded, or prisoners—lost on the field. The fact speaks for itself. "Monocacy" on their flags cannot be a word of dishonor. * * * As to Gen. Ricketts, attention is respectfully called to the mention made of him in the (previous report). Every word of it is as deserved as it was bravely earned.* * *

"It is also certain, as one of the results, that notwithstanding the disparity of forces the enemy was not able to move from the battlefield in prosecution of his march upon Washington until the next day about noon." * * *

Gen. Grant has said:

"I had previously ordered Gen. Meade to send a division to Baltimore for the purpose of adding to the defenses of Washington, and he sent Ricketts's Division of the Sixth Corps (Wright's), which arrived in Baltimore on the 8th of July. Finding that Wallace had gone to the front with his command, Ricketts immediately took the cars and followed him to the Monocacy with his entire division. They met the enemy, and, as might have been expected, were defeated; but they succeeded in stopping him for the day on which the battle took place. The next morning Early started on his march to the Capital of the Nation, arriving before it on the 11th.

"Learning of the gravity of the situation, I had directed Gen. Meade to also order Wright, with the rest of his corps, directly to Washington for the relief of that place, and the latter reached there the very day that Early arrived before it."

CONSTERNATION REIGNED SUPREME.

The act of Feb. 24, 1864, established "the will of the President as the authority for raising troops," and March 14 a call was made for 200,000, and April 23 for 85,000, numbers that indicate an energetic struggle for the Union, and in July we had in service about 900,000 in the aggregate. Notwithstanding that vast force, Washington was not prepared for defense by the 31,000 aggregate present July 10, composed mainly of invalids, military hospital guards, recruits under instruction, and provisional forces. The Department of Washington had been stripped of veterans, sent to aid important operations elsewhere; and the 944 heavy guns in the forts were without skilled men to fire them. Consequently, it is not astounding that in late June and early July consternation reigned supreme. Aside from the impaired finances of the Government and the fear of foreign intervention, the tentacula of Early's army had broken railroads and destroyed much property; Washington and Baltimore were filled with fugitives; two passenger trains on the rail between Philadelphia and Baltimore had been upset and destroyed by the enemy—Maj.-Gen. William B. Franklin captured in one of them; the forces in the Department of West Virginia were paralyzed; troops from Pennsylvania and New York were hard to obtain, and important movements of the Army of the Potomac had been delayed. Moreover, in Kentucky conditions were assuming a troubled appearance; external raids and internal troubles in other States promised a warm Summer's work; a treasonable and forged proclamation, in the name of President Lincoln, calling for 400,000 men, and appointing May 26 as a day of fasting and prayer had, through deception and fraud, been imposed upon prominent journals, and by them published, to the injury of the Union cause; Cincinnati and Camp Chase were thought of as probable objectives for a raid; the Navy was applied to for gunboats to patrol the river between Louisville and Wheeling, thus to protect Ohio; Indian troubles existed in the West, tending in one instance to international complications; and organizations were reported throughout the Western States having for an object the destruction of Government property and to burn the vast Government depots at St. Louis and Indianapolis. In June, while the aggregate of the Union forces, present and absent, was very large, the aggregate present was only 683,058!

VETERANS BADLY NEEDED.

Under such adverse conditions, the President, in almost utter despair, telegraphed July 10, 2:30 p. m., to Gen. Grant as follows: * * * "Gen. Halleck says we have absolutely no force here fit to take the field. * * * Wallace, with some odds and ends and part of what came up with Ricketts, was so badly beaten yesterday at Monocacy that what is left can attempt no more than to defend Baltimore. * * * What we shall get in from Pennsylvania and New York will be scarcely worth counting, I fear * * * Now, what I think is that you should provide to retain your hold where you are, certainly, and bring the rest with you, personally, and make a vigorous effort to destroy the enemy's force in this vicinity." * * * That date 10:30 p. m. Grant replied that he had sent the Sixth Corps, commanded by an excellent officer, besides over 3,000 other troops and one division of the Nineteenth Corps. He added: "Before more troops can be sent from here, Hunter will be able to join Wright in the rear of the enemy, with at least 10,000 men, besides a force sufficient to hold Maryland Hights." * * Here it is well to note that Hunter was forced to remain at Cumberland until July 14, "pressing forward his troops who continued to arrive slowly from the West"—that date he left Cumberland, reached Martinsburg (occupied by Sullivan's Union Cavalry on the 10th) and arrived at Harper's Ferry, on horseback, the same night. The morning of the 14th Early had crossed the Potomac at White's Ford, and continued his retreat.

When Early's army reached the gates of Washington, and its able commander, from his position at Fort Stevens, gazed upon the dome of the Capitol, it is evident that could he have unfurled the Confederate colors from that dome, "it would have been the signal of 'recognition' by those foreign powers whose open influence and active agency was likely to be too willingly thrown, with whatever plausible pretext, into the scale of dismemberment, to become decisive of the event." The enemy was at Fort Stevens, with good chances of occupying Washington, dispersing the United States Government, and destroying the archives—all of which could have been completed by a single day's possession.

LINCOLN'S INSPIRING PRESENCE.

Lincoln's presence at Fort Stevens proved a grand inspiration to the troops defending the Capital. The army recognized him as the foremost of the men who were "alive to the great questions of the hour, and watching the development of minds and of events." With his military service in the Black Hawk War as a basis, his subsequent study, particularly from 1861 to 1865, developed him "into a great military man; that is to say, a man of supreme military judgment." We have the evidence of this through the pointed questions and memoranda propounded by him, and submitted to his Generals, during the civil war.

When the Sixth Corps arrived, the President's anxiety was so heavy that he went to the Seventh Street Wharf to welcome the troops and to inspire them to move with haste to Fort Stevens; and at that for his fearlessness, characteristic of his entire life, led him to expose himself to the bullets of the enemy until he was forced to occupy a safe position behind the parapet. That marked bravery of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy gave magnificent encouragement to the forces defending the fort!

SAVED WASHINGTON.

The Sixth Corps, under the distinguished Wright, saved Washington! Halleck telegraphed to Grant on July 13:

"The enemy fell back during the night. * * * From the most reliable estimates we can get of the enemy's force, it numbers 22,000 to 25,000, exclusive of cavalry. They state that a part of Hill's Corps is coming to reinforce them, and that, without them, they would have captured Washington, if the Sixth Corps had not arrived."

The historic battlefield of Fort Stevens should for all time, stand well to the front in the memory of the people as a sacred place of inspiration; Fort Stevens should be perpetuated in granite—at least the place where Lincoln stood—and be the base for figures in bronze of Lincoln and Wright!

So intense was the gloom preceding the battle of Fort Stevens that, July 7, the President promulgated, as expressive of the sense of the Congress of the United States, the following self-explanatory Proclamation:

"By the President of the United States:
"A Proclamation.

"Whereas, the Senate and House of Representatives at their last session adopted a concurrent resolution, which was approved on the second day of July instant, and which was in the words following, namely:

"That the President of the United States be requested to appoint a day for humiliation and prayer by the people of the United States; that he request his constitutional advisers at the head of the Executive Departments to unite with him as Chief Magistrate of the Nation, at the city of Washington, and the members of Congress, and all magistrates, all civil, military, and naval officers, all soldiers, sailors, and marines, with all loyal and law-abiding people, to convene at their usual places of worship, or wherever they may be, to confess and repent of their manifold sins; to implore the compassion and forgiveness of the Almighty, that, if consistent with His will, the existing rebellion may be speedily suppressed, and the supremacy of the Constitution and laws of the United States may be established throughout all the States; to implore Him, as the Supreme Ruler of the world, not to destroy us as a people, nor suffer us to be destroyed by the hostility or connivance of other nations, or by obstinate adhesion to our own counsels which may be in conflict with His eternal purposes, and to implore Him to enlighten the mind of the Nation to know and to do His will, humbly believing that it is in accordance with His will that our place should be maintained as a united people among the family of nations; to implore Him to grant to our armed defenders and the masses of the people that courage, power of resistance, and endurance necessary to secure that result; to implore Him and His infinite goodness to soften the hearts, enlighten the minds, and quicken the consciences of those in rebellion that they may lay down their arms and speedily return to their allegiance to the United States, that they may not be utterly destroyed, that the effusion of blood may be stayed, and that unity and fraternity may be restored, and peace established throughout our borders.

"Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, cordially concurring with the Congress of the United States in the penitential and pious sentiments expressed in the aforesaid resolution, and heartily approving of the devotional design and purpose thereof, do hereby appoint the first Thursday of August next to be observed by the people of the United States as a day of National humiliation and prayer.

"I do hereby further invite and request the heads of the Executive Departments of this Government, together with all legislators, all judges and magistrates, and all other persons exercising authority in the land, whether civil, military, or naval, and all soldiers, seamen, and marines in the National service, and all the other loyal and law-abiding people of the United States, to assemble in their preferred places of public worship on that day, and there and then to render to the Almighty and Merciful Ruler of the universe such homages and such confessions, and to offer to Him such supplications as the Congress of the United States have in their aforesaid resolution so solemnly, so earnestly, and so reverently recommended.

"In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the city of Washington this seventh day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-ninth.

"(L. S.) ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
"By the President:
"WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
"Secretary of State."

THE SUPPLICATIONS OF THE PEOPLE,

offered to the Supreme Ruler of the world: That the civil war might be suppressed and the supremacy of the Constitution and the laws of the United States might be established throughout all the States; that we might not be destroyed as a people, among the family of nations; and that the effusion of blood might be stayed, and unity and fraternity restored throughout our borders, were answered.

Within nine months the channel of peace was opened at Appomattox, on April 9, 1865, by the illustrious chieftains Grant and Lee and the example of their armies was soon followed by the other contending forces. "The raging war that had divided the country had lulled, and private grief was hushed by the grandeur of the result."

The stupendous struggle from 1861 to 1865 involved, from first to last, Union and Confederate forces numbering 3,700,000 and witnessed the wealth of the country scattered like sand, and the blood of the country lavished like water. Further contributions were not longer to be made to distorted features, ghastly ruins, and the "hidden anguish in the harvests of horror breathing from the silent ground." The blood of the land was to course anew—to mark the activities of life; and, as a reward, the now inseparably united North and South are harvesting the unbounded blessings of peace, with unsurpassed prosperity and greatness.

Let us have peace!
(To be continued.)

FORT STEVENS AS IT APPEARED IN WAR TIMES.

SI KLEGG AND SHORTY.

(Continued from fourth page.)

"We're from Indiana, too—Posey County," replied Mrs. Klegg. "Where are you from?"

"Vanderburg County—Evansville."

"Why, we know lots of folks in Vanderburg County. What regiment do you belong to?"

"I belong the the 3d Ind. Cav., Custer's Division," answered the Sergeant, proudly pointing to his red necktie. "I was knocked out at Cedar Creek last October, and have been in the hospital ever since. First time I've been able to travel. I've been awful anxious to get to Washington, where I'm to take my examination for a commission in the colored troops, but the Surgeon wouldn't let me go before."

Mrs. Klegg's motherly heart immediately warmed up to him, for he was very pale and weak, and while the train waited she bustled about doing whatever she could to make him more comfortable. She began with her panacea for all bodily ills—a dose of "No. 6," a big bottle of which she was carrying on for Si's and Shorty's benefit. It almost burned out the Sergeant's throat, but he took it bravely, and protested that he felt it doing him good at once.

His gratitude was still more evident and sincere for some of the remains of their lunch that Mrs. Klegg pressed upon him. They had divided their bounteous provisions with half a dozen or more hungry children and their weary mothers during the trip and the supply was low.

"My, how good this home-made bread and butter tastes," he exclaimed. "I feel as if I could eat a barrel of it without stopping, and then want more. It'll do me more good than all the stuff they've given me in the hospital since they first dressed my wound. If I could've only had this to live on, I'd've got well long ago. But I'm afraid I'm robbing you," he continued, looking rather shamefacedly at the crumbs, which were all that he had left.

"No, no," they all protested. "We're very glad to have you have it. We can get all we want when we get to Washington, which can't be very far off now."

"You'll never get anything there as good as that, by the length of several divisions," answered the Sergeant, greedily gathering up all the crumbs. "There's nothing half so good as this outside of Indiana."

"What we want most is some place to get a good wash and sit down to our victuals like Christians, with nobody hollering 'All aboard.' I feel as if I'd been away from home a year and hadn't washed or slept in all that time."

During the conversation that followed it developed that his name was Scott Ammon, that he was a law student when he enlisted, that he was related to some people whom the Kleggs knew, and that he was engaged to a young lady whom Maria had heard of. He was taken at once into the bosom of the family and put on the standing of a lifelong friend.

For all of them the weary ride took on fresh interest. The Sergeant was exhilarated and healed far better than he could have been with drugs by the mere presence of sweet, good women from home. The other soldiers in the car watched him with envious eyes, but they, too, were made better by the gracious sight and hearing of women like their mothers and sisters.

The women became intensely interested in his pointing out the places of interest—historic Harper's Ferry, with John Brown's fort, the direction of the battlefields of Antietam, of Winchester and the scenes of a hundred other bitter struggles along the "All-quiet Potomac." Sugar-Loaf Mountain, rising like a watch-tower for the land, excited their wonder, and before they realized it they were running through the line of forts surrounding Washington.

Serg't Ammon produced his furlough and orders for the inspection of the provost-guard as they descended from the cars, as he knew something of the city, and piloted them to a neat boarding house not far from the depot, kept by the widow of a comrade who had been killed at Gettysburg. As she had been an Indiana girl the women found themselves at home at once.

"I'll show you about the city after we have breakfast in the morning," said Serg't Ammon, after supper, and they were all thinking of going to bed. "I've been here several times, and know Washington tolerably well."

"No, no, no," they all answered decisively. "We shall have no time for looking around. What we shall look for is the first boat to take us to Goldsboro."

"I should feel criminal if I stopped an instant to look at anything before going right on to Si," said Mrs. Klegg.

"Me, too," echoed Annabel.

"Or I before seeing Will," said Maria internally. "I'm just crazy to see Washington, but I don't want to look at a single thing until Will can see it with me. We'll see it all on our wedding tour."

"I'm afraid there'll be one difficulty," said Serg't Ammon gravely. "I haven't mentioned it before, because we've had so much else to talk about, and I've been turning over in my mind ways to get around it. There's a very stringent order against allowing civilians to go through the lines to nurse sick and wounded, or to recover dead bodies."

"What's that? What's that?" they all exclaimed.

Serg't Ammon gravely repeated.

"Why, that's absolutely inhuman," gasped Mrs. Klegg.

"It's barbarous," echoed Annabel.

"The awfulest thing I ever heard of," said Maria. "It's worse than Injuns."

"All that, and more, too," answered Serg't Ammon. "But war is a pretty rough proposition, anyway you look at it. If it wasn't rough it wouldn't be war, and the rougher you can make it the better war it is. But there has been a strong reason for this, as for almost everything else. It seemed at one time as if the whole North was coming down to see about their sons and brothers. They crowded everywhere, worried the Surgeons nearly to death, disorganized the hospitals, and got into all sorts of trouble themselves, for there was no place for them to sleep and nothing for them to eat. They packed the trains and boats, and filled up all the roads leading out of Washington with every sort of a rig they could hire. Undoubtedly there were a world of spies and blockade-runners among them, taking all sorts of things to the rebels. The whole thing had to be prohibited."

"But we got a dispatch from father saying that Si—I mean our boys," she corrected herself, remembering Maria—"were very ill, sick, and for me to come on at once," said Mrs. Klegg, in a tone that settled it, the orders of the Secretary of War to the contrary notwithstanding.

"Sad to say, there have been many thousands of boys just as badly off, possibly worse, for they have died, which I sincerely hope yours will not, and they have had relatives that loved them just as dearly. The order was issued against them."

There were fresh exclamations of indignant protest.

"Do you mean to say that we may be stopped here from going on any farther, after we have come all the way from Posey Co., Ind.?" demanded Maria, her soul up in arms.

"I was thinking what we could do. I know a Congressman from Indiana—Geo. W. Julian; he's from Wayne County, up on the Ohio line. His wife's a distant relative of my mother's. He's as sharp as a brier, though he does come from among those Quakers. He's a big man here, and they all stand around and listen when he talks. I'll go up and see him immediately after breakfast and see if he can't fix it for you. If he can't nobody can. He don't live far from here."

In the morning they waited anxiously for Serg't Ammon's return. Presently he came in with a slender, nervous man, with iron-gray hair and a sharp, incisive, but rather complaining, manner of speech.

"Serg't Ammon has told me all about your case," he said briskly, as soon as the introductions were finished. "I know all about your husband. I've met him down in Posey County, when I was stumping the State. It's a mighty hard case. If I'd known you were coming I'd've telegraphed you not to before you started, for Stanton is like iron. But now that you are here I'm going to do the best I can for you. Let's go right up and see the Secretary of War at once. I haven't much hope, but we can at least try, and we'll get at him early in the morning, before the crowd has ruffled him up unbearably. Get on your things as quickly as you can and let's start."

They got in a stage and went directly to the dingy, rough building which was then the headquarters for the greatest army of fighting men that the world had ever seen mustered.

Early as it was the entrance and waiting-rooms were filled with a crowd of men, officers and soldiers in uniform and civilians in smart street dress.

"Sharks, cormorants, vultures, shoddy contractors," said Julian bitterly, with a toss of his thumb toward some of the more pretentiously dressed. "Greedy jackals, fattening on a war which is bringing mourning every day to homes all over the land."

The messengers and watchmen immediately made way for the powerful and influential Representative. The doors flew open, and he and his party were ushered directly into a large, excessively plain room, with clerks writing at desks as busily as if their fortunes depended upon getting through a specified amount of work during the day.

At the farther end of the room, near a window, leaning, pen-in-hand, upon a standing desk, stood a short, thick-set man, with full black whiskers, and his piercing eyes gleaming through gold-bowed spectacles. He was addressing a large, imposing-looking man, faultlessly dressed and carrying a silk hat in his gloved hand.

"No, sir; I tell you I shall do nothing to arrest the course of justice. I don't care if your client is a wealthy and influential man. He should be using his wealth and influence in aid of the Government instead of robbing it. If he is in danger of the penitentiary it is because he deserves it, and ought to go there. I only wish that many more like him could keep him company. I'd like to fill half the penitentiaries in the country with just such men. I'm tired of hearing about the suffering of his innocent wife and family. Why don't such men think of their wives and families before they begin robbing a suffering country. Mr. Wickham (to a clerk), return these papers to the Attorney-General, with directions from the President, to proceed at once with the case. Good morning, sir."

A Brigadier-General in full uniform stepped up as the discomfited attorney turned away, and spoke in a low tone to the Secretary, who listened impatiently.

"No, no," he broke in impatiently; "I'll hear no more excuses or pretexts. Too much time has already been wasted by them from you and such as you. You'll either leave for the front to-day and report to Gen. Meade to-morrow for duty, or you'll resign your commission and get off the pay-roll. I'll not allow you to stay here another day, to the prejudice of men who are at the front doing the fighting and being denied promotion, because there are so many Generals loafing around Washington."

"Secretary Stanton," said the General, drawing himself up haughtily, "I'll"——

"Not another word, sir," interrupted the Secretary, "or I'll drop you from the list this minute. I'm determined to make a clearance in answer to Gen. Grant's complaints that he cannot get promotion for the men who are doing the country gallant service, and if you say another word I'll begin with your name."

"The Secretary has got up a full head of steam quite early in the day," remarked Mr. Julian, sarcastically, to the ladies. "He's mad yet because Sherman let Johnston get away. But we'll tackle him. Come on."

"Good morning, Judge. What can I do for you?" said Secretary Stanton, curtly, turning away from the Brigadier-General to greet the Congressman.

Mr. Julian briefly explained his mission.

"What! Give a pass to three women to go down to Goldsboro, when we are straining every nerve to get supplies and provisions down there to Sherman?" exclaimed the Secretary. "Send three women down there to augment the mob that's already swarming over that little burg? The women would be starved, insulted and unutterably miserable. The idea is preposterous. I'm amazed at you, Judge, for asking such a thing."

"Now, see here, Stanton, said Julian, whose temper was not the gentlest, "I don't want any such tone or such ruffles. I won't stand it. I know just as well what I'm asking as you do, and I won't have any frills. These women are from Indiana, and are abundantly able to take care of themselves. They know what they're asking, as well as a Secretary of War, and I'll trust them to come out all right. The boys they're going down to see, and who are now at death's door, have been through the whole campaign, and have done splendid service. I know all about it. If you'll send these women through it'll probably save those men's lives. You certainly owe that much to them."

"It's against express orders," replied the Secretary. "You know that as well as I do, Judge. You know I have refused thousands of just such requests, and shall refuse thousands more, if they're made to me. This is war, and while we are at war we must be warlike."

"But this is a very exceptional case, Stanton," urged the Congressman.

"Oh, they're all exceptional cases. Every one of them would move a heart of stone, but while we are at war we cannot have hearts, even as soft as stones. I won't give the pass."

And the Secretary turned to the next to signify that the interview was at an end.

"Then we'll go and see the President," said the Congressman to the crushed women, as he led them out of the War Office.

(To be continued.)

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