"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

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DOWIE should find lots of penitents in Wall Street just now.

ONLY get the man you don't like into South Carolina now, and you may shoot him when and how you please.

IF Cleveland would only start a newspaper, what fun we should have over circulation affidavits.

THE Czar is not saying a word about referring the evacuation of Manchuria to the Hague Tribunal which he did so much to create.

STILL Representative Littlefield maintains a silence on the trusts that can be felt. Possibly he feels that the trusts are smashing themselves more effectually than by any move he could make.

ENGLAND comes forward with the statement that she has had natural gas for years. She is as slow as usual. She has not done as much with it in all that time as America has in a minute.

GERMANY has shrewdly withheld from taking sides in the Balkan troubles until she could unload her stock of discarded muskets and last year's style of ammunition impartially on both sides.

THAT tip about Schwab at the gambling hell of Monte Carlo was not a bad one, after all. No trusted employee playing the races ever got away with anything like as many millions of the firm's money as Mr. Schwab.

THE Rock River Conference of the Methodist Church, in session at Aurora, Ill., has taken an action which is interesting, at least, and worthy of study. It is that Congress place the negro on the same plane with the Indian, making him a subject of training and education. If the example of the Rock River Conference is followed generally by the powerful Methodist Church, it may make an important change in the attitude of the country toward the negro.

ANOTHER victory scored by the Monroe Doctrine. The notorious and irresponsible little Government of Santo Domingo tried to embark upon a scheme which would permit its ports to be opened as naval bases for European nations. This was earnestly objected to by the United States Minister, and though the Dominican Government was sorely put out in its scheme to get some large revenue from concessions, it has finally yielded, and will not pass the bill granting the concession.

IT HAS been pointed out that only four years ago the United States army had serious work before it in establishing the National authority in the Philippines, but to-day a detachment of Filipino mechanics and laborers are hard at work erecting a $700,000 building in St. Louis to exhibit the wonderful resources of the archipelago. There is a suggestiveness as to this in connection with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, because 100 years ago the opposition to the acquisition of the Province of Louisiana was much more bitter than the anti-imperialists' outcry of to-day. A very large number of earnest, patriotic gentlemen whose advice had always been listened to with respect, were sure beyond a doubt that the acquisition of the swamps and bayous of Louisiana with their alien population and hated religion was a thing which would result in untold evils to the country. Others were sure that it would mean no less than a dissolution of the Union, and so on through the gamut. It is within the certainties that we shall not have to wait anything like a century for the acquisition of the Philippines to be extolled, as highly as the Louisiana Purchase now is, as an act of the highest wisdom and statesmanship. The resources of the Philippines are boundless, and are only waiting American energy to develop them into a source of the highest wealth. Before another 10 years the trade with the Orient will become so enormous that we can not get along without the Philippines for a naval and commercial base.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S SHAME.

South Carolina has deliberately chosen the worser part, released a cold-blooded, cowardly murderer, and said to the world that any man who thinks he has a grievance is at liberty to lie in wait for his victim and shoot him down without mercy. The acquittal of Ex-Lieut.-Gov. James H. Tillman is without a shadow of justification. If laws against premeditated murder mean anything, then Tillman had violated them to the utmost. The evidence educed on his side would not have been given any value whatever by the jury of any other State. The injuries which he claimed to have received at the hands of the murdered editor were three months old, and he had slept on his passion all that time waiting for an opportunity. He gave his victim no chance for self-defense, but shot him down with as little mercy as though he had been a wild beast. There is only one consoling thought. When things get desperately bad there is a chance for radical improvement, and the situation in South Carolina seems to be as hopelessly bad as it can be in a community claiming civilization.

THE EXAMINING-SURGEONS.

According to the Commissioner of Pension's report there were last year 1,377 Examining Boards, of three Surgeons each, making a total membership of 4,131; and there were 93 single Surgeons and 189 specialists, making a total of 4,413. The amount appropriated for the payment of these was $800,000, which was $102,604 less than the actual expenditure for the year ending June 30, 1901, and much less than the average expenditures for a period of years previous. In 1902 the average earning of these Surgeons was $178 per capita, and in 1893, with the reports not all in the average earning was $164. Of course very many of the Surgeons get comparatively little, but on the other hand many of them have a very handsome addition to their professional incomes derived from the fee of $2 per case examined. A position on the Examining Board is a coveted appointment, and eagerly sought. The Pension Bureau is evidently trying to get rid of these Boards, and there has been a revival, with modifications, of the old scheme of making travelling boards, which will go from place to place and examine applicants at stated times. In his report the Commissioner strongly recommends this, saying:

"I recommend a different method of examining applicants for pension. The present system is a most uncertain, expensive, and unsatisfactory method. The system is liable to outside control and political dictation, and generates an enormous amount of political friction.

"Those who are examined for disabilities desire to have the very best medical knowledge which is attainable. The pathological sequences of many diseases and disabilities are so obscure and remote that they can only be detected by careful examination conducted by those of learning and experience. The Government needs protection as well.

"I suggest boards constituted of experts under Civil Service rules who should go from place to place on fixed days, giving examinations and receiving testimony regarding the condition of the applicants and making reports thereon. The territory could be divided into circuits and the Board serve outside of the States of their domicile."

The Commissioner submits his idea of the change in a bill to be presented to Congress at the coming session. The bill authorizes the Commissioner to appoint 600 Surgeons, to make examinations of applicants and claimants. Of these 100 shall be taken from a list furnished by the Civil Service Commission, and they shall be divided into traveling boards of two members each. The United States and Territories, excluding Alaska, shall be divided into 50 districts. The Commissioner shall designate 500 convenient and accessible places in the United States which shall be the points for holding examinations, and at each of these shall be a local Surgeon. Two of the traveling Examining Surgeons shall go from one place to another, and with the local Surgeon constitute the Board of Examining-Surgeons to examine all persons presented by the authority of the Commissioners. Each of the Traveling Surgeons shall be in the employ of the United States, and engaged in no other business, receiving a salary for his services from the Treasury. The local members will continue to receive a fee of $2 for each examination made. The traveling members will receive in addition $3 a day each for expenses and their railroad fare in addition. The Commissioner of Pensions shall have power to discharge at will anyone of the Surgeons, local or traveling, and to reduce the number whenever he sees fit.

This proposition does not strike us at all favorably. The Commissioner of Pensions has at present an arbitrary power over the people who do business with his office not approached in any degree by any other officer of the Government, and it does not seem wise or just to give such an immense increase of his power as is contemplated by this measure.

In dealing with any other Department of the Government the man who has a claim against it has the ordinary rights of an American citizen to have his case fairly and fully presented and considered, and he can go to court if he has been ill-used. The courts have repeatedly given the administrative officials mandatory lessons as to the limits of their exercise of power and reminded them that they were overreaching their authority and depriving the citizen of rights to which he was entitled. Absolutely nothing of this kind has ever curbed the administration of the Pension Bureau. The Commissioner has always had the most unlimited authority over those with whom he did business, and it was solely within his discretion as to whether or not he would allow a claim. Differing absolutely from every other official, he was the sole judge of both the law and the fact, without any appeal. The so-called appeal to the Secretary of the Interior has always been more or less of a fiction, inasmuch as it is an appeal from one set of clerks of the Pension Bureau to another set. The Boards of Examining-Surgeons as at present constituted have been the only restriction upon the Commissioner's unlimited power. They have been able to see what the applicant before them was entitled to, and this gave him some show in equity. Now it is proposed to abolish even this little protection for the pensioners and claimants. The Traveling Surgeons will all be direct subordinates of the Pension Commissioner, receiving their appointment from him, having their salary determined by him, and holding their place subject entirely to his will. Consequently they will reflect in the most complete way his ideas and policy. The local member of the board, even if he has any independence, which is not likely, since he is also completely subject to the Commissioner of Pensions, will not be able to effect anything, since he will be overruled by the two representatives of the Pension Bureau who sit with him. Under a Commissioner like Lochren or Evans, the Boards of Examiners would be instructed to find reasons for not granting pensions, and they would not fail to do so.

The plan seems to us objectionable from every point of view, and no sufficient reasons have been given for its adoption.

THE Russian authorities have discovered a Jewish company which has been operating for the purpose of developing diseases of the eyes, ears, and teeth for young Jews to prevent them serving in the army. Why should a Jew want to fight for the Russian Government?

FOREIGN PENSIONERS.

With the assault upon the pension system was a loud outcry against the number of foreigners residing outside of the United States, and this was taken up by the Southern papers with great assiduity, as supporting their claims that the South was overrun by mercenaries hired abroad. There never was the slightest statistical basis for this claim of the South, because the records of enlistments show that 85 per cent. of the men who served in the Union army were native born. Of the remaining 15 per cent. of those foreign born, possibly one-half, if not more, had been born abroad, but had been brought to this country when they were so young that they grew up as thorough Americans as those born here. It never was the slightest consequence where a man was born, so long as he became a bona fide resident of the country and was willing to fight in support of her institutions. It is interesting, however, to study the Commissioner of Pension's report and see how few out of the great mass of pensioners have returned to their native place or live beyond the limits of the United States. Out of the total of 991,838 pensioners on the rolls but 4,709 reside outside the limits of the United States, and of these 90 are in Hawaii, or the Philippines, including Guam, and Porto Rico. The remainder are scattered all over the world in a most surprising manner. There is hardly a civilized country without at least one. Only a portion of these can be natives of the country where they now reside, the remainder being adventurous, enterprising veterans, who have gone thither for business or social reasons, or possibly because they thought their health would benefit by it. The largest number, of course, is in Canada, since we had several thousand Canadians in New York and New England regiments. Besides, there has been quite an emigration from the West into Northwestern provinces of Canada. Germany has about one-fourth as many as Canada, but these are probably men who came to this country to make it their home, but have for various reasons returned to the fatherland.

Next in number is Ireland, which can be expected, by the propensity of the Irishmen to get into any fight that is going on. The number of foreign pensioners and the countries in which they reside is interesting, and we give it entire:

Country.	No.	Amount.
Argentina	8	$1,026.00
Australia	49	6,859.61
Austria-Hungary	34	4,758.66
Azores	4	444.00
Bahamas	4	537.00
Belgium	14	2,567.27
Bolivia	1	144.00
Brazil	5	492.00
British Guiana	1	72.00
Canada	2,311	323,666.89
Chile	11	2,238.00
China	14	3,124.73
Comoro Islands	1	210.00
Costa Rica	4	486.00
Cuba	47	6,580.63
Danish West Indies	1	96.00
Denmark	32	4,478.68
Dutch West Indies	3	372.00
Ecuador	2	276.00
England	339	47,463.01
Egypt	2	276.00
France	70	9,799.30
Germany	584	81,755.17
Greece	7	1,002.00
Guatemala	3	410.93
Honduras	2	330.00
Hongkong	5	456.00
India	7	1,311.33
Ireland	449	62,855.53
Isle of Man	1	72.00
Italy	40	5,598.60
Japan	8	1,548.00
Liberia	10	1,223.67
Madeira	5	696.00
Malta	3	551.20
Mauritius	1	.....
Mexico	148	20,718.54
Netherlands	7	942.00
Newfoundland	5	475.47
New Zealand	6	678.00
Nicaragua	1	120.00
Norway	50	6,999.53
Paraguay	2	420.00
Peru	6	612.00
Portugal	1	54.00
Russia	9	1,222.50
Samoa	2	90.00
Scotland	121	16,938.79
Seychelles Islands	1	144.00
Siam	1	72.00
South Africa	2	225.00
Spain	5	588.00
St. Helena	1	144.00
Sweden	57	7,478.47
Switzerland	76	10,639.33
Turkey	6	960.00
United States of Colombia	3	288.00
Uruguay	2	450.00
Venezuela	1	72.00
Wales	11	1,448.67
West Indies	9	1,444.58
Total	4,619	648,053.04

ZIONISM.

The whole world is deeply interested in the progress of the Zionist movement which seems to be taking deeper hold upon the Jews each year. The original idea was to gather the Jews who were suffering persecution in Russia and elsewhere, into Palestine, give them a start in life and enable them to reclaim the Holy Land, and make it what it was in Biblical times. The religious aspect of this appeals powerfully to all Christian people, who look forward to the restoration of the Jews to the Promised Land as one of the things certain to come. The difficulties in the way are not regarded as insurmountable. Palestine is part of the vilayet of Syria, and the Turkish Government could be probably induced to give it a large measure of self-government for a comparatively small cash consideration. That is, if a revenue would be offered the Sultan equal to or a little greater than that which he now draws from the country, he would be willing to accept it. Revenue is what the Porte wants from the country, and the surer and easier it is gotten the better. It would come more easily and surely through the guarantee of Great Britain, France and other powers, than if collected through the ordinary channels of the Turkish officials. The European Nations would also insure the safety of Palestine against the depredations of the surrounding tribes until the Jews could protect themselves. This scheme would not lack proper financial support if it once looked feasible, because the wealthy Jews and Christians all over the world would not hesitate to contribute to it. The main question is whether the Jews would go thither if they were promised proper protection and the occupancy of the land. Probably those from Russia, Romania and elsewhere, where they have been subject to frightful persecutions, would only be too glad to go, but they lack the means to make the migration and to sustain themselves after they have settled there. It will require a great deal of money to bring Palestine back to its former condition. A large part of the land has to be irrigated, and the ditches and reservoirs have been destroyed in the thousands of years of wasting war to which the land has been subjected.

Possibly some of the more orthodox Jews in Germany, France, Great Britain and the United States would feel impelled to go there for religious reasons, but the younger generation does not evince any such desire, especially those in America. They say frankly "The United States is good enough for us. We will stay here." Unless these vigorous, progressive young men go, there is small hope for the country, because they are the ones who will build it up if it is to be built. The ignorant Russians and Poles have little capacity, and would probably starve if left to themselves on the arid soil of Palestine. Quite a decided movement toward colonizing Palestine was begun some years ago, many Jews going there, but the colonies so far have not been wholly successful. It is too early, however to say whether they have in them the elements of success. The Jews who have gone have proven to be poor farmers, and have made little progress. They have been living in crowded cities for so many generations that they know nothing of agriculture, and have no farming spirit. There has been enough lack of success so far to give a check to those who are not ardent in the Zionist movement.

In the meanwhile Great Britain goes to the Sixth Zionists Conference, at Basel, last August with an offer of a tract of 280,000 square miles in British East Africa, or a territory approximating the size of Texas, which the Jews could hold under an autonomous Government of their own, subject only to the over-lordship of the British Crown. The territory abounds in fertile lands, has railroads running through it, with Bombasa, an excellent seaport.

It now exports great quantities of gum, ivory, rubber, cattle and hides, and has high plateaus affording rich pasturage for the great herds. It will be remembered that the Jews under Abraham and Isaac were very successful at stock raising, and it seems that this would be a good opportunity to return to their hereditary occupation. The offer created a great deal of excitement in the Congress, where it was violently opposed by those who were sentimentally in favor of a return to Palestine. The Congress voted, however, by 227 to 177, to appoint a committee to visit the land and investigate it. Those who favored the acceptance of the offer insist that it will not militate against the recreation of Zion in Palestine, but will give their people an opportunity to become consolidated in race and religious unity and prepare them for Zion. If they can develop into a self-supporting, self-governing community, they will be the readier to reoccupy the Holy Land.

END OF THE STOCK-WATERING CRAZE.

The abject failure of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company, together with a cyclone of destruction which has come upon a number of much less meritorious enterprises, show that investors are at last beginning to return to a sound appreciation of business principles. Scores of the smaller companies which have gone down, inflicting a loss of tens of millions of dollars upon foolish investors, have had little merit, and their financiering and promotion was simply robbery of the gullible. For example: At least 25 of these companies have been energetically pushing stock on the market to the amount of about $41,000,000 while having real assets of much less than $1,000,000. It seems amazing that people could be got to buy such inflated stuff, but, as the gamblers say, "a sucker is born every second," and this country has an immense number of people who seem anxious to throw their money away.

The Consolidated Lake Superior Company was a corporation of a different class. It was organized in 1901, and took over the stock of enormous steel, iron, mining, railway, water, paper and power companies operating in the neighborhood of Sault Ste. Marie, and using the immense water power of that locality. The actual valuation of the companies so incorporated was $30,000,000, but it was capitalized and the stock put on the market at $117,000,000, or nearly four times what the property was actually worth. This was such a defiance of the ordinary business rules that it seems incredible that sound business men should have invested in the stock. They did, however, paying as high as 80 cents for the preferred stock and 36 cents for the common. This was still double or treble the rightful valuation, and though the company did a fine business manufacturing articles for which there was a good demand, producing them at a low cost, and selling them for a fair profit, the company has gone into absolute bankruptcy, and its $117,000,000 has shrunk to the pitiful sum of $885,000, or less than one-hundredth of its valuation. There is not money enough left in the treasury to buy feed for the horses, which are starving.

There has been much talk of restrictive laws for men engaged in performances like these and heavy fines upon them. The absurdity of these and their inefficiency compared with the swift and certain action of the laws of business are now finely illustrated. The chief promoters of this unconscionable inflation are now more bankrupt in money and character than they could be under the judgment of a court. The men who put in the original $30,000,000 and have financiered the enterprise up to this time have lost, virtually, everything they had. Before letting their greed overmaster their judgment they were worth, say, $30,000,000, were getting a good return upon that amount of capital, and enjoying at the same time a reputation of great value as capable, honest, successful business men. Now all this is gone. Their $30,000,000 has shrunk to less than $1,000,000, and that will probably be swallowed up in the legal proceedings, and they have, therefore, been "fined" and the fine has been mercilessly collected, $30,000,000. They have undergone a degradation of character and a moral punishment which many of them will naturally feel greater in suffering than a term in the penitentiary. Their dupes have been avenged, for the managers have duped themselves worse than they did the "suckers" they started out to catch.

THE Mafia have introduced a picturesque element into blackmailing methods by sending a hearse to the man whom they want to terrorize. Nothing could be more distracting to the man and his family than such an apparition as this, and it would seem that men who would do such things as that would be very agreeable accompaniments to a mouse from a telegraph pole.

Si Klegg, Shorty and their Comrades in the days "When Johnny Came Marching Home."

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A Visit to the Hospital for Paroled Prisoners at Annapolis, Md.

"Say, Si, they're bringing up a whole raft of prisoners from the South to Annapolis, just over here," said Shorty, reading the paper one morning after breakfast. "Of course, they're all let out now."

"That's so?" answered his partner. "Probably there's a lot of fellows we know. Mebbe some of that old 97th Detachment we were in at Andersonville. What do you say to going over and seeing them?"

"Just what I was thinking about," answered Shorty. "Some mightly straight-baired fellows in that lot. Then there's those fellows of our regiment. Like to see if they've pulled through."

"So'd I. They've been having a mighty tough time if they've staid in till now."

"They're not at all nice to see, the paper says," interposed Maria. "Living skeletons mostly. Lots of them plum crazy, and all in a horrible condition."

"Not a question of niceness," said Si. "It's a question of the right thing. "They likely need help, and mebbe we can do something for them."

"SAY, BOYS, DON'T YOU BELONG TO THE 200TH INJIANNY VOLUNTEERS?"

"Exactly," echoed Shorty. "We certainly ought to help those poor fellows as much as we can. Nobody knows what they've been through, and how much they need it, as well as we do."

"But the papers say that there are just terrible things the matter with them," shivered Annabel. "There's no telling what you might ketch from them."

"Yes: you must remember that you aint nigh well yet," agreed Maria. "You hain't nearly got your strength back."

"Ketch nothing," repeated Si scornfully, his old contempt of danger exhibiting itself.

"We aint the ketching kind," echoed Shorty. "Only them fellows ketch diseases that go 'round looking for them to add to their collection. We never caught nothing, no matter where we went."

"I'm going over there," said Si, in the old tone of brushing aside obstacles in the way of what he thought he ought to do. "I'm going to see if I can't find Wils. Holcomb, Larry Brannigan, Bob McQuade, Jonas Hunt, and Hank Grout, of Co. A. You remember, they were promised commissions in a Georgia regiment, if it could be raised, while we were there at Atlanta, and went outside the lines to get recruits, and were gobbled up and sent to Andersonville."

"Yes, we heard after that they'd passed us on the way. As we were being brought to Rough and Ready for exchange, they were being carried back to Andersonville, and were'nt allowed to go with Sherman's men. The rebels had it in for them," explained Shorty. "They shot the fellows they had already recruited. They were all mighty good boys. Remember how they dashed forward with empty guns to beat back the Johnnies and save us when we got those clips at Chickamauga?"

"No; I don't just remember it myself," said Si. "Me and you wasn't just remembering things about that time. A musket barrel across our thinkers had sent our memories off on furlough for awhile. But all the other boys said they did, which was just as good as recollecting it ourselves."

"Well, we must go over there and look out for them. We were hoping, all the way across Georgia and South Carolina, that we'd come up with them, somewhere, and that's why we tried so hard to get into Millen. I'm ashamed that we haven't thought more about them since we've been here."

"Look up the time-table, Annabel, and see when the train goes to Annapolis," said Si. "We can get back sometime to-night. You girls can put in the time shopping and seeing the sights. You won't be lonely for a few hours."

"Indeed, if you go we're going along with you," said Maria.

"Well, I never!" gasped Annabel. "The idea of going off and leaving us."

"But you are so afraid of ketching something, and seeing something," remonstrated Si.

"Well, we aint as liable to ketch things as you are," remarked Maria, with asperity, "and as for seeing things, you have no right to see things that your wife can't look at it." A man's no business to go anywhere where he won't take his wife," and she looked meaningly at Shorty, as if laying down the law of the Medes and Persians for their household.

"All right. That goes, Maria," laughed Shorty. "But I don't think you and Annabel would've looked well trotting after me and Si for the last few months."

"That's was before you were married, sir. Things are very different now."

"All right. All right, girls. Get ready and come right along," said Si, to avoid any further marital law-making. "We hain't much time."

The train carried them out through northeast Washington, past the great forts which guarded the valley of the Anacostia, past the great camps, being formed for the reception and muster-out of the armies, past Bladensburg, with its historic memories of the shameful defeat of Gen. Winder's militia by the British troops in 1814, and of the tragic duels there between public men, and arrived at Annapolis Junction. After tedious waiting there, they were carried by the wheezing, rattling old switch train down to the dingy little village which was the Capital of Maryland. Still under the superstition that a State Capital must be a place of extraordinary appearance and interest, and that of "Maryland. My Maryland," something quite wonderful in its [illegible] about in amazement at the [illegible] down buildings of Annapolis, the rough, narrow pavements, the unpaved streets, filled with mud-holes, and the inferior shops.

"So this is the Capital of Maryland," commented Si, looking at the antiquated State House, standing flush and bare on the crooked, muddy street. Here's where George Washington used to come, and where Congress met. Well, it don't compare with Indianapolis or Nashville."

"Taint deuce-high to Columbia, even," added Shorty. "'Bout the size of Milledgeville. That was about the meanest hole to pass an ordinance of secession in that we saw."

"Wouldn't give Pap's farm for the whole diggings," said Maria contemptuously. "The farm's at least cleared, and you can raise something on it."

The town was crowded with fearfully emaciated soldiers in blue uniforms, walking feebly about, with the aid of canes, or resting on the benches, and in the shade. They were all lately-released prisoners, reveling once more in the free air of "God's Country," and in food, clean clothes and shelter, and striving to regain the health lost in a few weeks of subjection to the horrors of Salisbury, Florence, Millen or Andersonville.

Si and Shorty talked to many of them, but found that they were generally from the Army of the Potomac, and mostly had been at Salisbury, and Richmond, so that they were likely to know nothing about his friends, or other Westerners.

But they learned that men from the prisons farther South were coming in daily by boats, and landing at the Naval Academy grounds. Si and the rest went on into the spacious grounds of the Naval Academy. The Naval School had been transferred to Newport, R. I., and the buildings appropriated for the use of one of the very finest and best of the many splendid hospitals established immediately around Washington.

The Surgeon-in-charge was not only a skillful and enlightened physician, keeping himself fully abreast of the progress of his art in alleviating human suffering, but he was a man of the highest executive ability, who could have commanded a brigade, a division or a corps in the field with the greatest success. He would have shone as a Chief Quartermaster.

He had selected this post of duty because of love of his great profession, and because he felt that he could there be much more use to his country than anywhere else. To him nothing was more inspiring that to organize a giant sanatorium where thousands of young soldiers, physically wrecked by march and battle, could at once be given the benefit of the highest human skill and the best surroundings and be returned to duty in the shortest time with restored health. This was as near the work of divinity as man could reach, and a noble ambition for any sincere patriot eager to serve his country.

He ruled everything within the grounds with a despotic sway, but it was a despotism of the highest intelligence, directed toward the best good. The discipline of Surgeons, Hospital Stewards, Wardmasters, nurses, attendants, cooks and helpers was iron in its rigidity, but it was the iron of a perfect system of doing everything at exactly the right time, and in the best known way. There could be nothing slip-shod, nothing half-done, nothing delayed, nothing left to chance.

The first thing that attracted Si and Shorty's attention was the scrupulous cleanness of the walks and grounds. The Surgeon's idea was that the first step toward making a sick man well was the most absolute cleanliness, and he began this with the litter on the sward and the walks upon which the sick man's eyes must earliest rest. First impressions are highly important, and the patient coming in would get his first and favorable ideas of his treatment and chances by the looks of the surroundings.

A fine band, in spotless uniforms, was playing inspiring and patriotic airs, upon a stand in the grounds. The Surgeon held that the money expended for this brought far better returns than that laid out in drugs. Sick men's minds needed as much ministration as their bodies.

The convalescents who were strolling about, or seated listening, were all in new, clean uniforms, without a suggestion of soil anywhere, and no "permanent detachment" of any Regular Army post could have been more fastidiously neat and trim in person and clothes than the officers and attendants seen hurrying about their duties, quick, alert, brief and decisive, but very considerate and polite.

As Si and the rest drew near the central building, in which were the headquarters, they mingled with a crowd of sad-faced civilians—fathers and mothers come to inquire for sons last heard of on the list of "missing," young girl-wives whose last knowledge of their husbands had been that the great gates of the stockades at Andersonville or Salisbury had closed upon them. Many wore deep-black for those reported killed, but still hoped against hope that they had been captured, and would return to them with the opening of the prison doors.

A few—alas, but very few—of these were to have their faith rewarded. An incomparably greater number were to have life turned to ashes by the stories told by the comrades, of the loved ones whom they had hastened to Annapolis to meet, of long, lingering deaths by starvation and scurvy, inside those awful stockades.

Aged mothers, crushed under their last grief; young widows, prostrated by their first awful bereavement, came sinking out of the office, supported by sorrowing kinsmen, and sank down upon the benches under the trees, to find what relief tears could bring. The bright Spring air was filled with the sobs and cries of women.

Si made his way through the throng into the office, where the clerks, quiet-mannered, low-voiced, patient and respectful, were dealing out happiness and misery in unequal portions, but with brief, business-like words, to the inquirers.

"Have you any men here of the 200th Injiany, named Holcomb, Brannigan, McQuade, Hunt and Grout?" he inquired of a Sergeant, who was standing outside the railing, directing the work.

"One name at a time, please," said the Sergeant quietly and pleasantly. "What was your first name?"

"Holcomb," answered Si.

"That's the H line over there," answered the Sergeant, pointing to a "queue" of eight or 10 approaching a clerk by turn. "Take your place in rear of it."

Si did so, and listened to the prompt answers given those ahead of him, as the clerk hastily turned the leaves of his record.

"Harrison, Levi G., 24th Ind., Ward H. Scurvy."

The girl-wife gave an exclamation of joy, and turned to the Sergeant, who directed an orderly to conduct her to Ward H.

"Henry, John H., 95th N. Y., Ward B. Scurvy. Died yesterday."

The old mother tottered and sank to the floor in a swoon, while the old father, with streaming eyes, hastened to her side.

"Hale, Robert B., 76th Pa. Ward A. Typhoid."

"This way, sir," said the Sergeant. "Orderly, show the gentleman to Ward A. Be very quiet when you go inside, sir. Many very sick men there."

"Heidlinger, 37th Ohio. Shot by the guards at Andersonville," A scream from a broad-faced German woman of middle age. "My poy! My only poy! I vould not believe it pefore."

"Come this way, madam. Come outside and take a seat," said the Sergeant, tenderly, as he offered her his arm. "War is an awful thing."

"Hooper, Aaron S., 41st Ill.," continued the clerk, in his low monotone. "Died at Wilmington, after release."

A white-faced woman hurried out of the line, without uttering a sound.

"Holcomb and Hunt," responded the clerk to Si. "200th Ind. No record of any of them yet. Boat just came in, though. May be on her. You might go down to the dock and see."

"Shortest way is right down through the hall, there, Sergeant," said the Sergeant. "Turn to the right at the last door, and avoid taking your ladies past the bath room."

The long hall down which they walked was scrubbed to such spotless whiteness as to excite the admiring comment of even such scrupulous housekeepers as Maria and Annabel. The little rooms into which they glanced as they passed were equally immaculate. In each were two iron bedsteads, with sheets, pillow-cases and blankets of impeccable whiteness, in the midst of which appeared the closely-cropped head, big, staring eyes, and wasted features of a boy who had lately been translated from the chill ground of a prison-pen to those health-restoring quarters.

"I's afraid the shock of the change will be too great for some of them," murmured Shorty, looking at the black, bloodless, parched lips of the poor sufferers. "It's like bringing a freezing man into a warm, comfortable fire. Mebbe it'd better've been done by degrees."

"Hello, look there," said Si, as they came out of the door, and looked down toward the bay, to see a single rank of men, most of them lame and halting through scurvy and rheumatism, file up from the ship to the iron steps at the rear of the building. "Girls, you go over to that seat behind that shrubbery, and wait for us. We'll be there in a few minutes. Shorty, let's walk down the line, and see if there's anybody we know."

They walked over to the iron steps, and watched with deep interest the swift, effective, systematic way the new arrivals were handled.

As each of the weak, lame, emaciated men hobbled up the steps to the platform, an active attendant, with a few deft clutches stripped him of the filthy, vermin-swarming rags in which he had come out of prison, and flung them over the railing, where they were pitchforked into a wagon, to be hauled away and burned.

At a gesture from the attendant the man stepped inside, and took a seat on a stool, where another swift, dexterous attendant, with sharp shears, in a minute or so removed all the hair from his head and face that the shears would cut, and passed him to next room, where others sponged him with hot soapsuds from the thick coating of grime and sand accumulated by weeks or months of lying on the ground, and hovering over little pitch-pine fires, which deposited a layer all over his skin of varnish-like resin. This was enough to have killed him, if nothing else had, and he had no soap with which to free himself from its pore-choking adhesiveness.

Passing to the next room, he was given new, fresh garments, and his chance for life increased a hundred per cent.

"Well, if they aint getting things down fine, in this war, I don't know anything about it," murmured Si in admiration.

"That comes about as near what the preachers talk about a man's being born again as I ever expect to see," answered his partner. "Those fellows are being made new men at about the rate of one a minute, as near as I can calculate without a watch."

They walked down the long line and attentively studied each of the thin, wasted faces, under its mask of soot and grime, under its shock of long, matted hair, under its distortions of the foul scurvy, to see if it bore any resemblance to countenances once familiar. They found none in the line, and the array was so heart-breaking that they were about turning away in the sadness of disappointment, when a feeble voice called out from a stretcher following the men able to march:

"Say, boys, don't you belong to the 200th Injianny?"

"Indeed we do," answered Si, turning quickly, and scanning a living skeleton, with a high, sharp nose, and big, preternaturally bright eyes. Nearly all the flesh on the figure seemed to be on the naked scurvy-swollen feet and legs. "Who are you?"

"I aint anybody in particular, just now," feebly answered the skeleton. "But here's about three cents worth, not more, of what was once Wils Holcomb, of Co. A, 200th Injianny Volunteer Infantry. The remnants of Larry Brannigan, and some more of the boys are just behind, if they weren't thrown overboard as we came up the bay."

(To be continued.)

AN ELOQUENT APPEAL.

Admittedly one of the very finest, if not the finest, speech made at the recent great Reunions of the Armies of the Ohio, Tennessee and the Cumberland at Washington was that made by Commander-in-Chief John C. Black at the great banquet at the Arlington, Friday evening, Oct. 16. It was an earnest, dignified, forceful appeal for justice to the old and needy veterans of the country, and made in Gen. Black's very best manner. Though Gen. Black was far from well during his stay in Washington, his old wounds troubling him sorely, his brain was never clearer, his manner never better and his language never stronger or more impressive. He pointed out what the veterans had done for the country, how it had prospered beyond the imagination of man, and from every land in the world wealth is now pouring into it in golden streams, and it was eminently right, proper and just that in this day of plenty the aged and stricken men who had made all this possible, and the poor widows of such, should be properly remembered and not allowed to eat the bitter bread of cold charity. The speech made a profound impression upon all who heard it, and will undoubtedly do an immense amount of good in helping to form public opinion in favor of a just and proper service pension.