THE FAMILY.

By SENORA SARA.

There is surely no more grand and important work to be done in the world than the training of the children of to-day who are to be the men and women of to-morrow. The early stages of this work are almost exclusively in the hands of the home and the school, so that the mother of the child and the teacher of the child are the responsible parties. Are, or should be. It is far too common to see the mother breathe a sigh of relief as she hurries along the preparation for school in the morning, and to hear her say, as the door slams after the last pair of small feet, "There, thank goodness, the children are off for awhile!" And the children go to school, and at the end of the day the weary schoolma'am closes her door also, with a sigh of relief, and exclaims, "Well, thank goodness, another day is over." The poor children are thus tossed back and forth between school and home, like a new style of shuttlecock, and they must be dull indeed if they do not soon discover that they are considered a nuisance and a bore in both places, to be gotten rid of as soon as possible. And exceedingly phlegmatic and unimpressionable will be the child's nature which is not influenced by this discovery.

This feeling of relief on the part of the mother as the children are dismissed for the day is too often quite unwarranted. For if she could know exactly into what associations and under what influences she is sending them, her feeling of relief would sometimes be changed into one of shuddering horror. Mind, we say sometimes only. It has yet to be proved that the influences of the public school are in the main pure, healthful and helpful. But, as in any system which is so truly enormous in extent, which involves so many individuals and conditions, there are exceptions, and it is the duty of every mother to see that there it not one of these dreadful "exceptions" where her own are concerned.

For example, consider the matter of the teacher alone. Do you know him or her to be a fit person for the place? It was the late Dr. Holland who said that he considered the teacher's position second to none. "The Christian teacher of a band of children combines the office of the preacher and the parent, and has more to do in shaping the mind and the morals of the community than preacher and parent united. The teacher who spends six hours a day with my child spends three times as many hours as I do, and twenty-fold more time than my pastor does. I have no words to express my sense of the importance of the office. Still less have I words to express my sense of the importance of having that office filled by men and women of the purest motives, the noblest enthusiasm, the finest culture, the broadest charities, and the most devoted Christian purpose. Why, a teacher should be the strongest and most angelic man that breathes. No man living is entrusted with such precious material. No man living can do so much to set life to a noble tune. No man living needs higher qualifications for his work."

Many and many, the great and vast majority in fact, of "the noble army of martyrs," whom we call teachers, have even the high requirements suggested above; for, as a class, one can hardly find in any walk of life, more enthusiastic, devoted, consecrated men and women, especially the women. Yet there are exceptions, as a matter of course, among so many; women who teach merely from mercenary motives, whose influence is utterly sordid and frivolous; men whose lives are morally so rotten that the thought of their touch upon the minds and lives of young girls, and boys just growing into manhood, is enough to make one shudder. Do you know that your boy's or your daughter's teacher is not one of these horrible exceptions?

On the other hand, if your child's teacher belongs to the opposite pale as regards character and qualifications, it is no less your duty and privilege to know this man or woman as intimately as possible. If he is a conscientious and intelligent person he and you are each working for the same end—the proper development of the mental, physical and moral nature of your children. You can aid, each the other, by cooperation to an extent which will astonish you if you have never tried it. You may be able to tell him of some peculiarity of the child, some twist in his temperament, some trait of character inherited from his grandfather, of which the teacher would otherwise know nothing, and which may be a very important and necessary factor to consider in the child's training. He, on the other hand, will no doubt be able to inform you of the capabilities for good or bad in your child, which are called out in the school life as they are not at home, and which it should be yours to repress or encourage as the case may be. One might multiply these suppositious cases ad infinitum, and the writer from her own experience alone could give many interesting illustrations, but we feel sure that every reader can furnish them for herself.

In conclusion, then, let every mother see herself about making the acquaintance of her child's teachers, provided she has not already done so. Call on them, invite them to your house, talk with them privately—never before the children—as to the nature of their charges and of what can be done at home to help the work of the school, and vice versa. Co-operate with them, sympathize with them, sustain them whenever you can. If you have a difference of opinion talk it over with them, confidentially, first. Ten to one you will find there is no real disagreement after all, or if there is, it may be adjusted.

A very pleasant and helpful thing in this line was done in an adjoining town not long since. It started, as so many good things do, with the Methodist minister's wife, and it took the form of a reception given by the ladies of the church to all the teachers in the schools of the town. A short program of speeches and music was followed by simple refreshments served in the church parlors, and a "sociable" which was worthy of the name. By this means a great deal in the way of acquaintanceship and the establishment of friendly relations between parents and teachers was accomplished in a short time, and the good results flowing from such an evening's gathering are simply inestimable, reaching out as they do thru hundreds of channels, and literally going on forever. It would be a good thing to have "teachers' sociables" two or three times a year in every town. And even in larger places the thing might be done in sections. Though here individual calls, dinner parties, tea parties, etc., the usual social machinery would be more practicable.

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Friction after the bath is not only a protection against catching cold, but it increases the strength and improves the health. It is also a positive and wholesome beautifier. Every woman can't afford massage, and an alcohol sponge bath is a luxury beyond the means of the average. If after drying, the body is rubbed with a woollen or flannel mitten saturated with aromatic vinegar the effect will be almost as good. Brushes are cheap. If the long curved flesh brush with the short handle is wanting, a five-cent brush, such as good housewives buy to clean vegetables with, will answer every purpose. The bristles in these goods are stiff and so irritating to the skin that a single stroke will bring the blood to the surface. This is the very thing wanted, and if applied after the first drying the body will be in a glow with the blood pulsing thru the veins. There is always an appetite for breakfast after a rubbing of this sort.

Very few people have clean teeth. At least that is what a dental surgeon says, and as he has many more patients than he can treat without a previous engagement, he is in a position to know a great deal about the subject. Brushing the teeth does not always cleanse them, according to this authority—that is, the hasty application of the brush. To be of service the brush should be oval in shape, quite small, absolutely without decoration and of a long, fine and medium-stiff bristle, so as to reach into every space and dislodge every particle of food. It is of more importance that the inside of the teeth should be brushed than the outside, as the accumulations are to be found there that cause not only bad breath but the destruction of the dentine. The motion of the brush should be up and down. Frequent or long brushing is not good, as the gums are apt to recede from the torture of stiff bristles. Warm water is the best both for washing and rinsing the mouth. Warm soap-suds, made of palm-oil soap and used twice a week, is not agreeable, but the results are excellent; being an antiseptic, the soap dissolves the deposits on the teeth and refreshes the whole mouth as few tooth powders can. After this, the only sure way of knowing that the teeth are clean is to pass a silk thread between them and finish with another gargle or rinsing of warm water. The use of a pin, needle or pen-knife as a toothpick is painful to think of, and an excellent way to ruin the teeth. Many people lose their teeth by carelessness in eating or drinking very hot or very cold substances, and also in taking powerful drugs—whenever possible liquid medicines should be taken from a medicine spoon and aciduous drinks thru a straw.

Perfect health is impossible without good teeth; another reason for their preservation is the beauty they give the mouth. Loss of teeth puts hollows in the cheeks and makes the face old. A tooth should never come out while there is a nerve in it. Composition fillings are now not only inexpensive, but considered by the profession better than the finest gold—they do not wear as long, but neither do they require as much excavating as metal filling. Good work will last from one to two years, and a small outlay will renew it.

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The thing that a woman needs most essential to keep up her health and spirits is change—not necessarily a constant variation of scene and occupation, but a brief relaxation once in awhile from the humdrum duties of her routine existence.

Nothing thrives well that is not occasionally transplanted to some other spot, there to take in new ideas, to acquire fresh thoughts, to store up something that will be food for reflection when once more the burden of regulation existence is shouldered. There is a most harmful idea existing among certain good housekeepers and most excellent women that if they were to leave home for one day everything would at once collapse into a state of utter ruin.

This is a species of false conceit that prevents many a tired brain and body from obtaining the respite from grinding care that it is necessary for them to receive. Husbands should take it upon themselves to provide certain little pleasant happenings to vary the monotony of the domestic drudgery that is the wife's heritage. This does not necessitate undue outlay of money, for a change, bright, pleasant and inspiring, can frequently be obtained in many ways when not a cent is required to secure it.

If it is possible, a little trip taken once in awhile is the best tonic ever prepared. Seeing new places and new faces stimulates the imagination, braces up those forces that have been exhausted in the ceaseless round of humdrum doings at home, and thus helps to build up the body in the pleasantest manner possible.

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What a good idea it would be if we all, especially those of us who so religiously house clean every Spring and Fall, would once in a while do a little sweeping, dusting and arranging in our own thoughts and minds. What a lot of rubbish must be accumulated in them! There are corners dusty with malicious, spiteful thoughts, dark closets choked up with bad habits, carelessness, mean, wicked actions; boxes, old and musty, filled with troublesome pet grievances, opportunities rusty with disuse, moth-eaten good resolutions, and even bright, noble thoughts dull and faded. If we would only make a wholesale sweep of the rubbish, open the musty old boxes and let those grievances air a little while in the bright, warm sunshine, polish up the opportunities, mend up those moth-eaten resolutions, and, above all, scrub and polish those good thoughts and place them where they will always be handy and ready for use, how fresh and clean and cool we would feel after this. It would be better than a Summer trip, and wouldn't cost a cent; besides, we would be so deliciously comfortable that we would wish to always be cleaned up. We would watch more closely, clean up more frequently and finally come to be really happy and contented all the year round.

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All the lotions and creams in all the beautifying establishments in New York will not give an unhealthy woman a good complexion. Her digestion must be good; her blood must be well nourished and her skin must be absolutely clean if she wants to be attractive. That means a sensible diet, plenty of exercise to aid digestion, plenty of fresh air to refresh the blood in the lungs and full bath a day to keep the skin clean. The kitchen and gymnasium are more important than the toilet table in developing good looks and the bathroom is the most important of all.

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It is as bad for the hair to brush it with a soiled brush as it would be for the skin to use soiled towels upon it. The hair brush should be cleaned once a week in water and ammonia. If it is dried quickly before the fire it will not lose the stiffness which is the main requisite of a good hair brush. The hair will dry much more quickly after it has been washed if it is rubbed with warm towels than with merely dry ones. As fast as one becomes damp it should be thrown aside, and a fresh, dry, warm one taken. When the hair is moderately dry after this, it should be brushed quite dry with warm brushes. This method imparts a lustre to the hair which nothing else gives.

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If there is a disagreeable taste in the mouth in the morning a dose of powdered charcoal will remove it. It is wise occasionally to brush the teeth with a mixture of powdered charcoal and powdered orris root, which is both whitening and preserving in its effects. Charcoal is of too coarse a grain, however, for daily use. A semi-occasional polishing with powdered pumice-stone made into a paste with water is also good for the teeth, but used with frequency it scratches the enamel.

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Any one who walks a great deal or who is troubled with perspiring feet should rub them after the morning bath with alcohol. This keeps them dry without clogging the pores as powder does. It is also cleansing and delightfully refreshing.

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By hanging pictures low you increase the apparent height of a room.

Colored pictures should not be hung in hallways or on staircases unless there is plenty of light for them. In such places strong photographs, engravings and drawings in black and white go best.

A picture should not be hung from one nail; the diagonal lines formed by the cord have a very discordant effect. Two nails and two vertical cords, or, what is far more safe, pieces of wire cordage, should be used instead of the single cord.

Picture cords should be as near the color of the wall upon which they are put as possible, so that they may be but little seen. When one picture is hung beneath another, the bottom one should be hung from the one above, and not from the top; thus we avoid multiplying the cords, which is always objectionable.

A good hue for walls where prints or photographs are to be hung is a rich, yellow brown, or a leather color. Luster to the black of the print or the tone of the photograph is thus imparted.

The wall paper should have no strongly defined pattern, and should be of one uniform color, such as red inclining to crimson or tea green.

The center of the picture, as a rule, should not be much above the level of the eye.

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If you write in milk the writing will be invisible until the paper is warmed at the fire, when it will stand out in brown letters. A dilute solution of chloride of copper, when used for writing, is invisible until the paper is heated; it then turns yellow, and fades as the heat diminishes. The salts of cobalt have a similar property, and the materials of ordinary ink, if used separately, are "sympathetic." If you write with the sulphate of iron solution, the writing is invisible until washed with the solution of nut galls.

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Lemon jelly cake, cut in large slices and served to be eaten with a fork, is a good dessert. Make the layers thick and light, and for the filling use a cupful of sugar, the grated rind of one lemon, the juice of one and-a half, two eggs and two tablespoonfuls of water. Beat the eggs well, then put all of the ingredients together on the stove, and stirring them all the while, let it boil gently for seven minutes. Let it cool, then spread it over the cakes thickly. This cake must be served fresh; it stales quickly.

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A jelly flavored with oranges, lemons and sweet catawba wine, known as "jelly a la Russe," is delicious for luncheon or dinner dessert. Soak a half box of gelatine in a half cup of cold water for half an hour. Then dissolve it over hot water. Take a cup of orange juice, half a cup of lemon juice and half cup of water or sweet catawba wine—wine preferably—and mix the juices and wine with three-quarters of a pound of granulated sugar. Stir until the sugar is entirely dissolved. Add to this the gelatine and some simple coloring matter, if you be used to coloring desserts. Put part of this in a mold to harden and beat up the rest as soon as it begins to stiffen, beating it up till it is light and frothy. Put the molded jelly in the center of a dish with the frothy mixture around it, and further garnish with candied fruits.

The Encampment at Saratoga.

Charles Bissell, 31st Mass., Hannibal, N. Y., says that he is like Dan Rice used to say. He began with nothing, and has most of it yet. He is surprised that anyone should be opposed to holding the National Encampment at Saratoga. The great Empire State will receive the comrades with open arms and give them a royal entertainment. Everybody must come that can see how liberal and generous can be the people of the great State of New York, which furnished more troops for the war than any other and more than two or three others put together. It was only for President Lincoln to say how many men he wanted.

The Department of California.

Editor National Tribune: As a matter of interest to the comrades, and as an evidence of the fact that this Department is still very much alive, I write to inform you that I have mustered in a new Post with 21 charter members, to be known as Gen. Wm. R. Shafter Post, 190, Dinuba, Cal., with M. E. Weddle as Commander.

It is a matter of congratulation that this Department continues to maintain its interest and membership. We hold our Department Encampment on April 10th, 11th and 12th, and anticipate a large attendance.—John H. Roberts, Assistant Adjutant-General, San Francisco, Cal.

Annual Encampment of South Dakota.

Past Commander Philip Lawrence, Huron, S. D., writes that the Department Encampment is to be held in Huron which is a bright little city of 5,000 or 6,000 inhabitants, the first week in June. They hope to have Commander-in-Chief Brown present with them, and are looking forward to a very pleasant as well as fruitful Reunion of the comrades.

Moses Summers Post.

On Feb. 19 20 members of Moses Summers Post, 278, G. A. R., of Baldwinsville, N. Y., accompanied by the Woman's Relief Corps, attended the Presbyterian Church and listened to a very interesting discourse on Abraham Lincoln by the Rev. F. W. Fuess, who compared the martyred President to Moses in being led and directed by the Lord. The church was handsomely decorated with flags for the occasion.

Columbiana County Memorial Association.

There has been incorporated in Columbiana County, O., a Memorial Association, the object of which is to erect a memorial building in which the name and enlistment of every soldier in the County and those who now reside in the County will appear. Lisbon donated the site and a sum of money in aid of the enterprise. The following are the officers: Col. S. J. Firestone, President; George L. Miller, First Vice President; Charles A. White, Secretary; C. W. Ourant, Assistant Secretary; Bert Burns, Treasurer.

Memorial Services.

Mart Armstrong Post, of Lima, Ohio, assisted by the Woman's Relief Corps, held its annual memorial services for the dead of the year, who numbered eight. The chief address was made by Comrade Thomas H. Jones, Treasurer of Allen County, which the local papers pronounced a masterpiece of thought. The services were very impressive and deeply interested a large number of citizens who were in attendance.

Custer Reunion.

A Reunion of all the regiments that served under Gen. Custer, including the 7th Cav., will be held Aug. 21 and 22, 1907, at Canandaigua, N. Y. All Secretaries of Regimental Associations and each individual member of the regiments will please communicate at once with H. C. Beeman, Chairman, Canandaigua, N. Y., that he may send a beautifully illustrated invitation to each, giving full particulars of the Reunion. As this promises to be the greatest gathering of distinguished soldiers ever held, no soldier who served under this immortal commander should remain away. The widow of Gen. Custer has promised to attend the Reunion.

Reunion.

There was a pleasant Reunion in Tamaqua, Pa., the other day when Capt. A. C. Huckey, of the famous 48th Pa. (the Petersburg Miners), met Capt. "Billy" Simpson, 28th Pa., and Maj. H. C. Boyer, 96th Pa.

GEN. JOHN T. WILDER.

The Tennesseeans Want Him for Commander-in-Chief, G. A. R.

(Editorial, Journal and Tribune, Knoxville, Tenn.)

Some of the Grand Army Posts in Tennessee have passed resolutions indorsing Gen. J. T. Wilder for the next Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, and urging his election. Expressions favoring his election have come from other States, and when the Department Encampment for the Department of Tennessee meets at Johnson City in May it will formally and with enthusiasm recommend him to the comrades who will be members of the National Encampment, which will meet at Saratoga, N. Y., in September, to vote for and elect Gen. Wilder to the honorable position of Commander-in-Chief of that organization of surviving Union veterans.

Gen. Wilder is a native of New York, but was at the beginning of the civil war a citizen of Indiana. When the war began he promptly entered the service, and was made the Colonel of the 17th Ind. He soon had the command of a brigade of mounted infantry, something unheard of up to that time. He may be justly credited with being the father of such a branch of the service. Thru his own efforts he succeeded in having his brigade armed with Spencer rifles, and it became one of the most noted brigades in the noted Army of the Cumberland. Space will not permit of anything like a detailed account here of the splendid service rendered by the General and his brigade in the campaign which culminated in the capture of Chattanooga in the Fall of 1863, and the battle of Chickamauga, one of the bloodiest of the great war, in which he and his brigade took a most active and efficient part.

Being a man who always keeps his eyes open, while marching over the mountains, hills and valleys of Tennessee, he saw abundant evidence of latent wealth, and he resolved, as soon as the war was over, that he would come to the State and make this his home. He did, and for two-score years and more he has been engaged in developing and promoting the natural resources of Tennessee and the South. In doing this he has become one of the best-known men in this section, and has a host of friends here, including the survivors of the Confederate army, who have found him an energetic and useful citizen in time of peace as he was a gallant and efficient soldier in time of war.

His comrades in the South would take it as a pleasing recognition of the presence of the Grand Army in the South and at the same time a recognition of individual merit. They believe his election would be something to strengthen the Order in this section, and it would add to the respect in which it would and should be held by the Southern people. No Commander of the Grand Army has ever been selected from any one of the States that seceded from the Union, and it is believed that the time has come when the comrades who make their homes here may make such a request to their comrades of the Nation, and that in presenting the name of Gen. Wilder they present a man who is worthy of the great honor.

A CRACK DRUM CORPS.

Memorial Post Has One That Challenges Admiration.

Editor National Tribune: In your issue of Dec. 6, '06, I notice an article from Comrade Chas. R. Smith, fifer, Co. A, 184th N. Y., and a member of Griffin Post, 139, Scranton, Pa., telling of their Post drum corps of two drummers and one fifer, and asking to hear from other G. A. R. Posts that have drum corps. Memorial Post, 141, Department of Ohio, Cleveland, O., has one of the best drum corps in the G. A. R. All of them excepting the bass drummer served as musicians during the civil war. They are: John J. Ryan, fifer, 8th U. S.; L. J. Smith, fifer, Co. C, 135th Ind.; William M. Woodruff, drummer, 130th Ohio; G. M. Foster, drummer, 124th Ohio; C. G. Smith, drummer, Co. C, 137th Ohio; C. L. Gilbert, drummer, Co. D, 125th Ohio; Geo. E. Plumley, drummer, Co. F, 34th Mass.; Benj. F. Young, drummer, 125th Ohio; E. D. Foster, bass drummer, Co. A, 162d Ohio.

Our Chief Musician composes and arranges music for both the drum corps and orchestra. Wm. M. Woodruff and G. M. Foster have out a standing challenge to any two drummers in the G. A. R. They are all first-class drummers and fifers. Our Post is opened every Thursday night by their soul-stirring music. They also turn out with us when we bury a comrade, 20 of whom we laid away during 1906. Their music also adds great interest to our muster-in services. Memorial Post has attended every National Encampment in a body during the last 14 years, taking their drum corps, four color bearers and eight color guards. Can any other Post say as much? We will attend the next National Encampment, and be glad to have all Ohio boys fall in with us.—W. S. Rogers, Commander, Co. E, 60th Ohio, three-year regiment, Cleveland, O.

Tefft Post Installation.

The annual installation of the officers of Erastus T. Tefft Post, 355, Brooklyn, N. Y., was held Jan. 19, at their Post headquarters. Preceding the installation ceremonies was a very delightful musical entertainment given by the Tefft Post family, which is composed of the wives, children and sweethearts of the Post members. Col. George H. Jackson was the installing officer, and the following comrades took office for the present year: P. H. Brower, Commander; Past Commander A. S. Doremus, S. V. C.; Past Commander James H. Haig, J. V. C.; Charles H. Hawkhurst, Quartermaster; Past Commander Wells, Chaplain; Max Zimmerman, O. D.; C. A. Lester, Adjutant; L. A. Dennett, P. I.; John Lawton, O. G.; R. G. Shuck, Sergeant-Major.

During the evening Past Commander H. B. Masters presented the retiring Commander, Norm G. Cooper, with a box of solid silver tableware, which elicited from the latter an earnest speech of grateful thanks. Refreshments and a general good time finished the meeting.

Installation of Stanton Post, G. A. R.

At a regular meeting of Stanton Post, Department of Missouri, G. A. R., Carthage, Mo., the installation of officers was the principal business of the evening. L. V. Cupp was installed Post Commander. Many of the ladies of the W. R. C. were present, and their excellent work was complimented by the comrades. The annual report of the Post shows 94 members in good and regular standing.

Post Elections.

Workman Post, 31, Little Falls, Minn.—S. V. C., John Arnold; J. V. C., Joel H. Burrall; O. D., Will Clark; Chaplain, F. J. Farrand; Adjutant, C. A. Ramsdill; Q. M., J. J. Clark; S. M., Dura Corbin; O. G., Morrell Bryant; Surgeon, Dura Corbin. Comrade W. P. Green, who was elected Commander of this Post, died Jan. 9 before being installed.

Geo. W. De Long Post, Honolulu, T. H.—Post Commander, P. W. Rider; S. V. C., L. L. La Pieere; J. V. C., G. Dietz; Q. M., W. L. Eaton; Surgeon, Samuel McKeague; Chaplain, C. H. Dickey; O. D., Fred Turrill; O. G., Fred Sherman.

Joint Installation.

Strong Post, 91, G. A. R., and the W. R. C., of Minden, Neb., held a joint installation in their hall Dec. 11, 1906. Joseph Pinkham was installed as Commander of the Post, and Mrs. Funk as President of the W. R. C. It was a very enjoyable occasion.

PENSION DECISIONS.

Accrued Pension—Payment of Pension—Insane Pensioner—Marriage—Act of March 2, 1895.

Pensioner married one Eliza M. while he had a wife Louise living, from whom he was not divorced, and died Feb. 13, 1895. The accrued pension from the last payment, Dec. 4, 1894, to his death, was paid to Louise, as his widow. Upon competent and satisfactory evidence filed in the Pension Bureau that soldier was insane, having no guardian, and that Eliza M. was his wife (being a woman of good character and dependent upon him), his pension from March 4, 1893, to Dec. 4, 1894, was paid to her under the provisions of the Act of Aug. 8, 1882. Louise now contends that these payments to Eliza M. were illegal, and that the money so paid was accrued pension due the soldier, and should be paid to her.

1. Held: Accrued pension means the money unpaid by the Government to which a pensioner, or one who had a valid claim for pension pending, would be entitled at the time of his death.

2. That the only money unpaid by the Government to which the pensioner would have been entitled at the time of his death was that accruing from the date of the last payment, Dec. 4, 1894, to his death, Feb. 13, 1895, which amount appellant has received.

3. The legality of the payments to Eliza M. during the lifetime of the pensioner can not be made an issue in a claim by Louise for accrued pension; but said payments having been made upon competent and satisfactory evidence that Eliza M. was the wife of pensioner, such payments can not be held to have been illegal, and the former decision in this case is modified accordingly. 39. 1-21-'07.

Division of Pension—Divorce—Jurisdiction—Decree—Collateral Attack—Illinois—Act March 3, 1899.

1. While the Bureau of Pensions and this Department have authority to consider the questions of fraud and jurisdiction in cases before the courts involving the marital status of the parties in cases in which the Government is pecuniarily interested, and while decrees and judgments may be attacked collaterally for fraud upon the court for want of jurisdiction, yet in cases arising under the act of March 3, 1899, this Department has uniformly held that neither the claimant nor pensioner should be permitted to question or litigate the validity of a judicial decree or judgment of a court of general jurisdiction, regular and valid on its face, collaterally, in a procedure of this nature, before an executive and administrative branch of the Government, while the parties to the decree or judgment are living and the courts are open to their relief. This rule is based upon public policy and administrative duty.

2. The decree in this case, rendered Nov. 4, 1899, by the Circuit Court of Cook Co., Ill., is regular and valid on its face. It asserts that the court has jurisdiction of the parties; that the defendant, the claimant herein, had due notice of the suit for divorce; that after testimony taken in open court the court found and decreed that she had been guilty of desertion of the complainant, the pensioner herein, for more than two years, and dissolved the bonds of matrimony theretofore existing between them.

3. This decree is judicially unimpaired and in full force, and, until reversed, modified or otherwise judicially impeached, fixes the status of the parties under the law.

4. As claimant is thus shown not to be the lawful wife of pensioner she is not entitled to one-half his pension under the Act of March 3, 1899. 41. 1-23-'07.

Service—Act of June 27, 1890—56th Illinois Mechanic Fusiliers—Length of Service—Actual Service.

Under date of March 9, 1906, the War Department reported that the 56th Illinois Infantry (Mechanic Fusiliers), of which the appellant was a member, was enlisted under fraudulent promises; that upon learning of the deception and fraud practiced in their enlistment the members of the organization became dissatisfied and refused to me mustered in; that the War Department upon a consideration of all the facts directed that the regiment be mustered in and out of service as infantry; that nothing has been found of record to show that the members of the organization were armed or equipped, or to show that they performed any military service whatever. In accordance with said instructions Co. C of said regiment, was mustered in and out on the same date, Jan. 28, 1862.

It is held that the claimant did not render any military service for the United States, and that he had no title to pension under the Act of June 27, 1890.

This case and the cases of other members of the organization are distinguished from the case of Wardell Guthrie, formerly Captain of Co. I, and the cases of other officers of the organization who were actively engaged in organizing and recruiting the same. 42. 1-29-'07.

Declarations — Commencement—Amendment—Date of Executing Declaration. Invalid Declaration—Act of June 27, 1890.

Claimant executed her declaration for pension on June 18, 1890, filed it on July 10, 1890, and endeavored to prosecute said claim under the Act of June 27, 1890.

Held: A declaration executed prior to the date of the passage of an act under which the claimant proposed to prosecute a claim is absolutely void and invalid. It is not an informal declaration, and is not subject to amendment. 43. 1-30-'07.

Service—Nebraska Independent Scouts—Act of June 27, 1890.

Service "during the late war of the rebellion," as used in the Act of June 27, 1890, means a service contracted for and rendered with reference to and occasioned by said war, and not service rendered elsewhere with reference to Indian outbreaks not historically connected with the resistance of the Southern States to Federal authority, albeit said service against the Indians was rendered at a time when the war of the rebellion was in progress. 44. 1-31-'07.

MUSTERED OUT.

THOMAS.—At Oregon City, Ore., Feb. 22, of dropsy and heart trouble, Spencer Thomas, aged 73. Comrade Thomas served in Co. C, 4th Mich. Cav.

ANDREWS.—At Milledgeville, Pa., Feb. 4, Mathew J. Andrews, aged 82. Comrade Andrews served in Co. A, 169th Pa., and leaves a widow and five children.

REED.—Near Hadley, Pa., Jan. 27, John W. Reed, aged 70. Comrade Reed served in the civil war, and leaves a widow and three children.

LEECH.—At Andover, O., Feb. 20, William Leech, aged 70. Comrade Leech served three years in the civil war as Lieutenant of Co. A, 139th Pa. He leaves a widow and three children.

DUGAN.—At Milledgeville, Pa., Feb. 1, George Dugan, aged 65. Comrade Dugan served in the civil war, and after its close lived for a while at the Soldiers' Home at Dalton, O. He is survived by a widow.

GREENMAN.—At New Hamburg, Pa., Jan. 16, Dexter Greenman, aged 67. Comrade Greenman served in the 63d Pa. He was never married.

LEWIS.—At the residence of his son near Tipton, Ind., Moses Lewis, aged 75. Comrade Lewis served in Co. D, 39th Ind. H. A. He is survived by one son.

DENTON.—Near Cleveland, Tenn., Sept. 29, 1906, James C. Denton, aged 83. Comrade Denton served two and one-half years in the 7th Tenn.

EDWARDS.—At the Soldiers' Home, Johnson City, Tenn., Jan. 19, 1907, Col. R. M. Edwards, aged 81. Col. Edwards served in the Mexican War, and was a member of the 4th Tenn. Cav. during the civil war. He represented Bradley County in the General Assembly, on one occasion, making a strong but unsuccessful run for Governor of the State of Tennessee. He was a lawyer by profession, and was buried at Cleveland, Tenn.

DAVIS.—At his home in Elk River, Minn., Jan. 3, Eben H. Davis, aged 72. Comrade Davis was born in Lincoln, Me., but went to Elk River in 1850. He served three years in the civil war, was twice married and leaves a widow and seven children.

MESSINGER.—In Springfield, Mo., Nov. 24, 1906, Capt. Henry M. Messinger, aged 77. Comrade Messinger served in Co. C, 13th Ill., and was buried with G. A. R. honors in the beautiful National Cemetery at Springfield, Mo. He leaves a widow.

PEASE.—At Hamilton, Mo., Jan. 9, Cyrus M. Pease, in his 66th year. Comrade Pease served thru the war of the rebellion in the 60th N. Y. He is survived by a widow and two children. The business houses of Hamilton were closed during his funeral services.

LAYTON.—At Chariton, Iowa, during January, John W. Layton. Comrade Layton served in Co. E, 24th Iowa.

YOUNG.—At Chariton, Iowa, Jan. 16, Isaac Young. Comrade Young served in Cos. D and I, 23d Mo.

PARGELLIS.—At Daytona, Fla., Jan. 29, Andrew Pargellis, aged 66. Comrade Pargellis served in Co. K, 49th Ohio, and Co. B, 111th Ohio.

COPELAND.—At Clarinda, Iowa, Dec. 28, 1906, William Copeland, aged 88. Comrade Copeland served in Co. C, 25th Mo. Cav., and leaves three children. He was buried at Villisca, Iowa.

McCORMICK.—At his home in West Lafayette, Ind., Feb. 9, A. S. McCormick, aged 63. Comrade McCormick served in the 9th and 154th Ind. from '61 to the close of the war, being mustered out a First Lieutenant and Adjutant. He was a prisoner in Andersonville for some months, and suffered greatly. Comrade McCormick was a very active Grand Army man, and was made Senior Vice Commander, Department of Indiana, last May. His military life was glorious, and his life as a citizen all that could be asked for. He is survived by a widow and two children.

SPENCER.—Near Yountville, Cal., Jan. 13, Walter Spencer, aged 62. Comrade Spencer served in Co. I, 22d Me. He was accidentally killed by the cars. He was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

SQUIRES.—At Port Allegany, Pa., Dec. 18, 1906, Alson N. Squires, aged 65. Comrade Squires served as musician in the 12th N. Y. Band during the civil war, and was also employed by the Government on the railroad during the Tennessee campaign. Comrade Squires met his death instantly, and leaves a widow and four children.

HALL.—At New Burnside, Ill., Jan. 19, Lieut. W. J. Hall, aged 73. Comrade Hall served in Co. G, 130th Ill.

HATTINSTEIN.—At Overton, Pa., Jan. 25, Henry Hattinstein, aged 66. Comrade Hattinstein served in Co. B, 7th Pa. Cav., was taken prisoner in the Summer of 1864 and suffered much till the close of the war.

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