The Peninsular Campaign

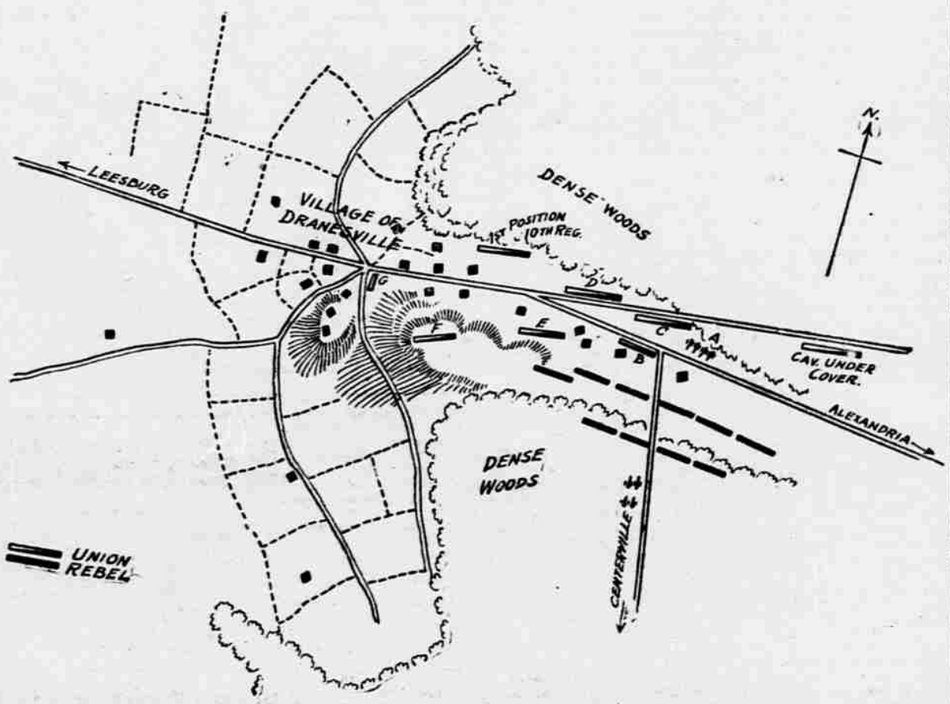
By JOHN McELROY.

CHAPTER V.

ALL QUIET ALONG THE POTOMAC.

McClellan's Explanation of His Losing Favor With Administration—Retirement of Gen. Winfield Scott—The Trent Affair—The Army of the Potomac Wins Its First Victory.

In spite of the humiliation of Ball's Bluff and its maddening effect upon the North, in spite of the immense accretion it gave to the forces of Secession, Gen. McClellan still remained inactive thru October, November, and the first half of December. Every day heard rising higher the murmurs of discontent at this inaction of the mighty army which was costing the people millions more than the wildest among them had ever contemplated expending. Every day showed that McClellan's hold upon the people was waning, that the "young Napoleon" idea was becoming a matter of satire. The restless people and soldiers demanded action. President Lincoln said, sadly, that if McClellan could not be induced to move "the bottom was likely to drop out of the whole thing." All this, however, was lost upon McClellan, who every day seemed to grow more infallible, more scornful of the influence of his official superiors, and actually haughty in his treatment of them. He would only see the Executive at his pleasure, and more than once President Lincoln was denied access to the quarters of his subordinate, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army. In McCellan's own book he gives an explanation of his course that is startlingly variable from the general belief, and which to most people would seem utterly inadequate. For example, we all know that President Lincoln wished above everything to have victory. He was willing to give all else, except principle, for victory. As he himself repeatedly said, his sole purpose was to save the Union. If he could save it with slavery he would, if he could not save it without abolishing slavery, slavery must go; everything else was subordinate to this question of saving the Union, and McClellan was only required to use the military powers of the United States to disperse those organized to destroy it. McClellan's explanation of his course begins by saying how he had saved Simon Cameron from being put out of the Cabinet by simply objecting to his removal, thus giving an idea of McClellan's power at that time. McClellan then goes on to say:



SKETCH THE AFFAIR AT DRANESVILLE, VA., DEC. 20, 1861.

A. Eaton's Battery.
B. Kane's Rifles, 1st Pa. Reserve Corps
C. 6th Pa. Reserve Corps.
D. 10th Pa. Reserve Corps.
E. 12th Pa. Reserve Corps.
F. 9th Pa. Reserve Corps.
G. Rear Guard of Rifles.

JAMES M. MASON.

McClellan's Explanation.

"Finally, one day, when I returned to my house from my day's work and was dressing for dinner, a lady of my family told me that Col. Key, one of my Aids, had just been there to inform me that Mr. Cameron had resigned and that Mr. Stanton was appointed in his place. This was the first intimation that I had of the matter. Before I finished my toilet Mr. Stanton's card came up, and as soon as possible I went down to see him. He told me that he had been appoinetd Secretary of War, and that his name had been sent to the Senate for confirmation, and that he had called to confer with me as to his acceptance. He said that acceptance would involve very great personal sacrifices on his part, and that the only possible inducement would be that he might have it in his power to aid me in the work of putting down the rebellion; that he was willing to devote all his time, intellect, and energy to my assistance, and that together we could soon bring the war to an end. If I wished him to accept he would do so, but only on my account; that he had come to know my wishes and determine accordingly. I told him that I hoped he would accept the position.

"Soon after Mr. Stanton became Secretary of War it became clear that, without any reason known to me, our relations had completely changed. Instead of using his new position to assist me he threw every obstacle in my way, and did all in his power to create difficulty and distrust between the President and myself. I soon found it impossible to gain access to him. Before he was in office he constantly ran after me and profesed the most ardent friendship; as soon as he became Secretary of War his whole manner changed, and I could no longer find the opportunity to transact even the ordinary current business of the office with him. It is now very clear to me that, far from being, as he had always represented himself to me, in direct and violent opposition to the radicals he was really in secret alliance with them, and that he and they were alike unwilling that I should be successful. No other theory can possibly account for his and their course and on that theory everything becomes clear and easily explained.

"Had I been successful in my first campaign the rebellion would perhaps have been terminated without the immediate abolition of slavery. To gain their ends with the President they played upon his apprehensions for the safety of Washington—growing out of his complete ignorance of war—as well as upon his personal aspirations. I believe that the leaders of the radical branch of the Republican Party preferred political control in one section of a divided country to being in the minority in a restored Union.

"Not only did these people desire the abolition of slavery, but its abolition in such a manner and under such circumstances that the slaves would at once be endowed with the electoral franchise, while the intelligent white man of the South should be deprived of it, and permanent control thus be secured thru the votes of the ignorant slaves, comprise so large a portion of the seceded States.

"Influenced by these motives, they succeeded but too well in sowing the seeds of distrust in Mr. Lincoln's mind, so that, even before I actually commenced the Peninsular campaign I had lost that cordial support of the Executive which was necessary to attain success. It may be said that under these circumstances it was my duty to resign my command. But I had become warmly attached to the soldiers, who already had learned to love me well; all my pride was wrapped up in the army that I had created, and I knew of no commander at all likely to be assigned to it in my place who would be competent to conduct its operations."

Gen. Scott's Retirement.

In spite of all, Gen. McClellan retained influence enough to be appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the Armies of the United States by the same order which retired the veteran Lieut.-Gen. Winfield Scott from active service. Gen. Scott was little inclined to give up the reins of authority, but his rapidly increasing infirmities, the representations of those immediately around him, and every day's reminder that the baton of absolute command of the army, so dearly prized by him, had virtually passed into the hands of McClellan, decided him to withdraw.

Still another reason came which was kept very quiet. Gen. Scott's son-in-law, of the same name, had been a member of his staff for 11 years, and held the rank of Colonel. He was a North Carolinian and disloyal at heart, tho he made a show of being faithful to his father-in-law and General. Several important leaks of information from headquarters directly to the enemy were traced to him. Out of consideration for his father-in-law, and part of the conditions of the General's retirement, he was allowed to go on the retired list and leave the country. He went abroad with Gen. Scott.

Gen. Scott's letter to the President, taken in connection with the long and brilliant record of the proud old war chief, is strongly pathetic.

"Headquarters of the Army,
"Washington, D. C., Oct. 31, 1861.

"The Hon. S. Cameron, Secretary of War.

"Sir: For more than three years I have been unable, from a hurt, to mount a horse or walk more than a few paces at a time, and that with much pain. Other and new infirmities, dropsy and vertigo, admonish me that a repose of mind and body, with the appliances of surgery and medicine, are necessary to add a little more to a life already protracted much beyond the usual span of man.

"It is under such circumstances, made doubly painful by the unnatural and unjust rebellion now raging in the Southern States of our so late prosperous and happy Union, that I am compelled to request that my name be placed on the list of Army officers retired from active service.

"As this request is founded on an absolute right granted by a recent act of Congress, I am entirely at liberty to say that it is with deep regret that I withdraw myself, in these momentous times, from the orders of a President who has treated me with distinguished kindness and courtesy—whom I know, upon much personal intercourse, to be patriotic, without sectional partialities or prejudices, to be highly conscientious in the performance of every duty, and of unrivalled activity and perseverance.

"And to you, Mr. Secretary, who I now officially address for the last time, I beg to acknowledge my many obligations for the uniform high consideration I have received at your hands, and have the honor to remain, sir,

"With high respect, your obedient servant, WINFIELD SCOTT."

The fact of Gen. Scott's retirement was announced in the following highly complimentary order by the Secretary of War:

"War Department,
Adjutant-General's Office,
Washington, Nov. 1, 1861.

"General Orders No. 94.

"The following order from the President of the United States, announcing the retirement from active command of the honored veteran, Lieut.-Gen. Winfield Scott, will be read by the Army with profound regret:

"'Executive Mansion,
"'Washington, Nov. 1, 1861.

"'On Nov. 1, A. D. 1861, upon his own application to the President of the United States, Brevet Lieut.-Gen. Winfield Scott is ordered to be placed, and hereby is placed, upon the list of retired officers of the Army of the United States, without reduction in his current pay, subsistence, or allowances.

"'The American people will hear with sadness and deep emotion that Gen. Scott has withdrawn from the active control of the Army, while the President and a unanimous Cabinet express their own and the Nation's sympathy in his personal affliction, and their profound sense of the important public services rendered by him to his country during his long and brilliant career, among which will ever be gratefully distinguished his faithful devotion to the Constitution, the Union, and the Flag, when assailed by parricidal rebellion. Abraham Lincoln.'

"The President is pleased to direct that Maj.-Gen. George B. McClellan assume the command of the Army of the United States. The Headquarters of the Army will be estabilshed in the City of Washington. All communications intended for the Commanding General will hereafter be addressed to the Adjutant-General. The duplicate returns, orders, and other papers, heretofore sent to the Assistant Adjutant-General, Headquarters of the Army, will be discontinued.

"By order of the Secretary of War.
"L. Thomas, Adjutant-General."

Still Quiet Along the Potomac.

In the elation over their victory at Ball's Bluff the Confederates again advanced their lines, covering what few miles they had yielded some weeks before. They reoccupied Centerville and Fairfax Court House, holding Leesburg with a strong force, and their blockade of the Potomac became more rigid than ever. The officer in command of the Potomac flotilla was obliged to officially announce the humiliating fact that the Potomac River, the main avenue of supplies for the army, was closed to navigation. Looking at the matter in the light of today, it is impossible to find the slightest reason for McClellan permitting this. He had, on the Virginia side of the Potomac, within easy reach of the blockading batteries, more than 100,000 effective men and in a single day could have cleared out the Potomac as far as Aquia Creek. The sole reason given at the time was his old story of preparing for a short, sharp, decisive movement which would end the war at one blow. To have cleared out the blockading batteries would not in any manner have compromised his campaign; on the other hand it would have saved us much of the imminent danger to which we were exposed at that time of recognition by France and Great Britain of the independence of the Southern Confederacy. Those two Governments were only too ready to believe the United States destroyed; it was something all their statesmen, writers,

JOHN SLIDELL.

orators, and nobility earnestly desired. Even Gladstone, who later in life became the Great Commoner, was certain that "Jefferson Davis had created a nation." Mr. Gladstone had the courage of his convictions and invested £20,000 — $100,000 — in Confederate bonds which, I understand, still remain as part of the unavailable asests of the Gladstone estate. The ability to blockade the principal highway of the National Capital seemed to furnish abundant justification for recognition by France and England, and this led to an incident which came perilously near involving us in a war with Great Britain.

The Trent Affair.

It was not that the Confederate cause was so ripe that a little additional effort might bring the desired fruits, and Oct. 12, 1861, James M. Mason, of Virginia, formerly Minister to France, and John Slidell, of Louisiana, who had been accredited as special Confederate Envoys, slipped out of Charleston harbor in the night on the steamer Theodora, reaching Havana in time to take the British mail steamer Trent. They were accompanied by their secretaries, and Mr. Slidell by his family. Capt. Charles Wilkes, the antarctic explorer, who was cruising in the San Jacinto after the Sumter, learned at Havana of the presence of the Envoys, and leaving the harbor lay in wait for the Trent in the Bahama Channel, 240 miles from Havana. He sighted the Trent Nov. 8, at 11:40 a. m., and ordered her to heave to, and when she declined fired a shell across her bow which stopped the ship. A boat's crew was sent on board the Trent under Lieut. D. McN. Fairfax, a nephew of Mason, who found the Envoys. These latter declined to leave the ship except by force, when, calling up his marines, and with the assistance of another young Lieutenant, the Envoys and their Secretaries were placed in a boat and sent to the San Jacinto.

There was a great deal of loud talk in the operation, but Lieut. Fairfax behaved himself with the greatest dignity and courtesy, altho Miss Slidell is represented as having struck him three times in the face with her fist. No search was made for papers or other effects, and after a detention of about two hours the Trent was allowed to proceed on her way. Upon reaching the United States the Envoys were sent to Fort Warren, and Capt. Wilkes's act received the most unslinted praise from all sorts and conditions of people. Great Britain had been acting very ugly from the first, and there was not a little satisfaction at the bold and summary methods adopted by Capt. Wilkes. He was absolutely justified in what he did by the doctrines and practices of Great Britain in searching American vessels, which had led to the War of 1812. We, of course, at that time took the opposite view, but it was now held that the English, having gone to war in support of just such acts as Capt. Wilkes's, were in this instance now estopped from complaining of them. Secretary Welles, in his annual report approved Capt. Wilkes's action, saying:

"The prompt and decisive action of Capt. Wilkes on this occasion merited and received the emphatic approval of the Department; and if a too generous forbearance was exhibited by him in not capturing the vessel which had these rebel enemies on board, it may, in view of the special circumstances, and of its patriotic motives, be excused; but it must by no means be permitted to constitute a precedent hereafter for the treatment of any case of similar infraction of neutral obligations by foreign vessels engaged in commerce or the carrying trade."

President Lincoln had kept his head amid the enthusiastic plaudits of Capt. Wilkes. He said at once to his intimate friends:

"I fear the traitors will prove to be white elephants. We must stick to American principles concerning the rights of neutrals. We fought Great Britain for insisting by theory and practice on the right to do precisely what Capt. Wilkes has done. If Great Britain shall now protest against the act, and demand their release, we must give them up, apologize for the act as a violation of our doctrines, and thus forever bind her over to keep the peace in relation to neutrals, and so acknowledge that she has been wrong for 60 years."

The Trent by carrying the Envoys in their well-known character had clearly disobeyed the Queen's proclamation of neutrality, issued with such haste May 13, 1861, and which was intended to benefit the Confederates. Excitement over the affair ran high in Great Britain when all the papers and speakers inimical to the unity of the United States demanded the humiliating backdown by the United States or war. A peremptory demand was made on the United States for the immediate surrender of the Envoys. In after years it was claimed that Queen Victoria had greatly softened the language of this demand. For a few exceedingly anxious days it looked almost certain that we should have war, but our Government acceded to the British demand. Secretary Seward, in a very able dispatch, based our compliance more immediately upon the failure of Capt. Wilkes to bring the Trent into port for adjudication on the legality of his act, whereby her voyage had been temporarily arrested and several of her passengers forcibly removed from her decks.

The Victory at Dranesville.

One little star of brightness and hope saddenly twinkled thru the gloomy clouds resting over the Union in the closing weeks of 1861. After Ball's Bluff the Confederates harried the rich Loudoun country for recruits and supplies. They knew that they would in time be compelled to abandon it to the Unionists, and they wanted to leave nothing of value there for their enemies.

After his reconnoissance thru Dranesville before the Ball's Bluff affair, Gen. McCall had retired to the Suspension Bridge. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart went up into the Loudoun country on a great foraging expedition with four regiments of infantry, 150 cavalry, and a four-gun battery. His troops were the 11th Va., 6th S. C., 10th Ala., and 1st Ky., with a South Carolina battery and two companies of Virginia and North Carolina cavalry. He says that his aggregate was 1,600 men. He convoyed all the wagons of the army that could be spared for the duty, and took up a strong position at Dranesville to cover the movement of his wagons. Gen. McCall, learning of his presence, decided to do something to disturb his operations, and sent forward Gen. E. O. C. Ord, who commanded a brigade of Pennsylvania Reserves, to beat up the enemy and stop the foraging. Gen. Ord's command consisted of the 6th, 9th, 10th, and 12th Pa. Reserves, with a detachment of the 1st Pa. Reserves under Lieut.-Col. Thomas L. Kane. Apparently the size of the two commands, which were soon to come into collision, were about equal, with the preponderance, if any, on the side of the Union forces. The advancing Federal skirmishers drove off the few Confederates they found in front of them about 2 o'clock, Dec. 20, and then the advancing Union forces were snarply attacked by a regiment which Stuart hurled against them and driven back in some disorder. Gen. Ord brot Easton's Pennsylvania Battery up to within 500 yards of the Confederate battery, which it soon destroyed. The various regiments of the brigade came into action one after another, and all pushed forward in whatever direction they could find the enemy, driving him back thru the pine woods and open fields for some two hours. Gen. McCall arrived on the field, but found that Gen. Ord was pushing the enemy everywhere and simply directed him to keep on in his well-doing. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart saw that the battle was going against him, his artillery had been almost destroyed, and his regiments were giving back in all directions. He ordered a general retreat, with his Colonels extricating their regiments as best they could from the melee. His official report gives his losses at 43 killed, 143 wounded, and eight missing. Of course he claims to have killed great numbers of Yankees, and Gen. Ord is not behind him in claiming an unusual slaughter of Confederates. The official report of the Union loss is:

	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
1st Pa. Res. Rif..	3	26	29
6th Pa. Res.....	2	13	15
9th Pa. Res.....	2	20	22
10th Pa. Res.....	—	—	—
12th Pa. Res.....	—	1	1
1st Pa. Res. Art., Bat. A.....	—	1	1
1st Pa. Res. Cav..	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total	7	61	68

This victory, the first in a square, stand-up fight with even numbers in the history of the Army of the Potomac, brot much joy to the whole country, and most of all to Pennsylvania.

The Thanks of Pennsylvania.

Secretary Cameron sent his acknowledgments to Gen. McCall thus:

"War Department,
"Washington, Dec. 28, 1861.

"Brig.-Gen. George McCall, Commanding Division, Camp Pierpoint, Va.

General: I have read your report of the battle of Dranesville, and altho no reply is necessary on my part, yet as a citizen of the same Commonwealth as yourself and the troops engaged in that brilliant affair, I cannot refrain from expressing to you my admiration of the gallant conduct displayed by both officers and men in this their first contest with the enemy. Nearly all of your command upon that occasion are either my personal friends or sons of those with whom for long years I have been more or less intimately associated. I feel that I have just cause to be proud that, animated by no other motive than patriotism, they are among the first to revive the glory shed upon our country by the men of the Revolution and the soldiers of the War of 1812. It is one of the bright spots that give assurance of the success of coming events, and its effect must be to inspire confidence in the belief that hereafter, as heretofore, the cause of our country will triumph. I am especially gratified that a Pennsylvania artillery corps, commanded by officers who have necessarily had but limited systematic instruction, have won not only the commendation of their friends, but an unwilling compliment from the enemy for the wonderful rapidity and accuracy of their fire. I wish I could designate all the men who, nobly discharging their duty to the country, have added to the glory of our great Commonwealth. Other portions of the army will be stimulated by their brave deeds, and men will be proud to say that at Dranesville they served under McCall and Ord.

"I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"SIMON CAMERON,
"Secretary of War."

(To be continued.)

MONUMENT TO EMMA SANSOM.

The Girl Who Helped Forrest Capture Streight's Command.

The Gadsden Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, has erected at Gadsden, Ala., a monument to Emma Sansom, the girl who guided Forrest to a ford at a critical time in his pursuit of Col. Streight's command. The monument, which was unvalled July 4, cost $3,500, and is the third monument erected to the Southern women in the civil war. The story told at the unvailing differs very markedly from some of the exaggerated accounts which have been current. May 2, 1863, Col. Streight found Gen. Forrest with an immense supporting force in hot pursuit of him. Being in a hostile country fresh troops could be brot up constantly to reinforce those who were wearied in the pursuit and give the Union troops no rest. Col. Streight saw that his only hope of escape was getting across Black Creek, a deep, rapid stream, and burning the bridge, which would stop the pursuit until he could have time to rest and feed his jaded horses and give his men some sleep and time to eat. He succeeded in getting across the bridge at 9 o'clock on the morning of May 2, and setting fire to it just as Gen. Forrest appeared with his advance guard. The story of what followed was thus told by Miss Sansom, who died in 1900, three years after her husband, whom she married after the war:

"As we got to the top of the hill we saw the rails were already piled on the bridge and were on fire, and the Yankees were in line on the other side guarding it. We turned back towards the house and had not gone but a few steps before we saw a Yankee coming at full speed, and behind were some more men on horses. I heard them shout 'Halt! and surrender!' The man stopped, threw up his hand, and handed over his gun. The officer to whom the soldier surrendered said, 'Ladies, do not be alarmed, I am Gen. Forrest; I and my men will protect you from harm.' He inquired: 'Where are the Yankees?' Mother said: 'They have set the bridge on fire and are standing in line on the other side, and if you go down that hill they will kill the last one of you.' By this time our men had come up, and some went out in the field, and both sides commenced shooting. We ran to the house, and I got there ahead of all. Gen. Forrest dashed up to the gate and said to me: 'Can you tell me where I can get across that creek?' I told him there was an unsafe bridge about two miles farther down the stream, but that I knew of a trail about 200 yards above the bridge on our farm where our cows used to cross in low water, and I believed he could get his men over there, and that if he would have my saddle put on a horse I would show him the way. He said: 'There is no time to saddle a horse; get up here behind me.' As he said this he rode close to the bank on the side of the road, and I jumped up behind him. Just as we started off mother came up out of breath and gasped: 'Emma, what do you mean?' Gen. Forrest said: 'She is going to show me a ford where I can get my men over in time to catch those Yankees before they get to Rome. Don't be uneasy; I will bring her back safe.'

"We rode out into a field thru which ran a branch or small ravine and along which there was a thick undergrowth that protected us for a while from being seen by the Yankees at the bridge or on the other side of the creek. This branch emptied into the creek just above the ford. When we got close to the creek, I said: 'Gen. Forrest, I think we had better get off the horse, as we are now where we can be seen.' We both got down and crept thru the bushes, and when we were right at the ford I happened to be in front. He stepped quickly between me and the Yankees, saying: 'I am glad to have you for a pilot, but I am not going to make breastworks of you.' The cannon and the other guns were firing fast by this time, as I pointed out to him where to go into the water and out on the other bank, and then we went back toward the house. He asked me my name, and asked me to give him a lock of my hair. The cannon balls were screaming over us so loud that we were told to leave and hide in some place out of danger, which we did. Soon all the firing stopped, and I started back home. On the way I met Gen. Forrest again, and he told me that he had written a note for me and left it on the bureau. He asked me again for a lock of my hair."

SAN FRANCISCO.

What an Iowa Veteran Saw on Revisiting the City.

Editor National Tribune: What I wish to say is this: Last month I spent eight days in San Francisco. How changed the scene from 1904. I watched the finish of the wrecking of that splendid hotel where we passed such a delightful time with our old comrades. I could almost imagine the scenes in the Iowa Headquarters when old comrades met, tho the place was now high in the air with no building around it. The owners of the Palace contracted with a wrecking company to take the old wreck down and clear the grounds; $110,000 was the contract price, and the wrecking company was to have all they could save. It took 300 men, 50 teams and four engines, together with derricks, rock crushers, etc., six months to complete the job. The company saved 7,000,000 whole brick, sold at $10 per M., many hundreds of tons of iron, brass, copper, lead, granite, marble, etc. The half brick and mortar were crushed and sold for $1 per yard. This netted about the same as the brick.

There was but one familiar place in the city. This was the Ferry Building, with its high clock tower. Col. Jesse B. Fuller, our Pension Agent, showed my wife and myself thru the Post Office Building. Tho the building was not wrecked, it was damaged badly inside. The hollow tile partitions were broken and fell out. The marble and granite were chipped and cracked in many places, but thanks to the strong steel frame the building stands firmly. Col. Fuller and some soldiers remained in the building thru the fire, and saved $2,500,000 for the Government. In the residence portion of the city little has been done toward rebuilding. Not more than one building in 10 of the number destroyed has been touched since the calamity. There is herculean effort being made in some quarters to rebuild and restore the city to its former greatness. All efforts are handicapped by the present industrial situation. Gen. Funston has expressed in few words the true situation, "The city is still in the control of, as yet, an unwhipped mob." My own experience on the street was trying to me. Tho I wore the little bronze button, it seemed no protection from insult, and my only offense was to declare I was a loyal American and in favor of law and order. The highwaymen of this coast are more loyal than are these strikers, for they have refused to take the offered money from men who wore this button, saying they "make no war on the little bronze button."

Say to your readers that you have heard from one comrade who served 1,309 days in the civil war and was twice a prisoner of war and was confined in Andersonville from the 25th day of December, 1864, until the armies surrendered in April, 1865; that he is satisfied with the actions of the Congress as far as pension legislation is concerned. I feel that I have been fairly dealt with; more than was ever promised has been given me. I am truly grateful, and always hope to be truly loyal to my country's flag.—Frank Hobart, Co. F, 1st Iowa; Co. F, 17th Iowa; Co. F, 17th Iowa Vets., Ventura, Cal.

The Lenox Collegiate Institute.

Editor National Tribune: Noticing your editorial on the Pittsburg High School boys setting forth their claim for unsurpassed service in the war of the rebellion, I beg to present the claim of Lenox Collegiate Institute, of Hopkinsville, Iowa, for the first honors in this respect, and challenge the entire Nation for a better example of patriotism and devotion to country. The male enrollment of this college during the years of the war is not exactly known, but it did not exceed 200. Of this number 92 enlisted and served in the 9th, 12th and 21st Iowa and the 2d, 4th and 8th Iowa Cav. In the Summer of 1862 Cos. K and H, 21st Iowa, took nearly all the boys of the college and town, and finally, in the Spring of '64, a recruiting officer appeared at the college chapel at prayer time, and asked for recruits. Every male student but one enlisted, while the preceptress, teachers and young lady pupils looked with streaming eyes on the scene. At this time 30 young men enlisted, also the President of the college, Rev. James W. McKean, who was chosen Captain of the company. This broke up the school, the teachers and pupils going home to assist on the farms and in the homes. On Nov. 17, 1865, a beautiful and costly monument was erected on the college campus in memory of its soldier students. On that monument is inscribed the names of 44 brave boys who lost their lives in defense of their country. On June 12, 1907, that monument was rededicated, and the Legislature of the State appointed a committee of 10, five Senators and five Representatives, to attend, among whom was Senator Allison, one of the trustees of the college. This was due to the fact that the college sent her President and 92 of her students, and at her last call every male student but one to the front. This monument is no doubt the first of its kind ever erected in the State, and no older soldiers' monument has been discovered in the whole country, except National monuments or monuments erected to distinguished Generals who fell in the war.—H. G. Porter, Co. K, 21st Iowa, Central City, Iowa.

Did Evangelist E. C. Avis Slander the Soldiers?

Rev. J. Harmon Dutton, Argenta, Ill., wishes to correct the entirely erroneous impression given by Comrade Whitlock in his item regarding a statement made by the Rev. E. C. Avis, of Comrade Dutton's town. The Rev. Dutton should be qualified to speak on this subject, since it was in his own church that the statement referred to was made. He thinks it a shame for ministers of the Gospel to enter into any controversy, but in this case the reputation of a good and true man is at stake, and he feels it only right for him to set the matter straight if possible. Comrade Whitlock quotes Rev. Avis as saying "that he would sooner associate with a real skunk than an old soldier." The reverend gentleman did not say this, but confined his remark to but one class of veterans—those of the inmates of Soldiers' Homes who when they receive their monthly pension go out and spend it in drink. In this same discourse he paid the highest tribute to the loyalty and fidelity of the boys of 1861-65, and referred feelingly to the blessings which their devotion brought to the country. He spoke of the thousands who since the war have led the most honorable and useful of lives, and then, by way of contrast, of these others who live at the Homes and spend their pension money in drink. The veteran has no better friend than the Rev. Avis, who from his pulpit is ever ready to speak a good word for him, but he is a preacher of righteousness, and denounces vice wherever and in whatever form he finds it.

THE 71ST N. Y. AT BULL RUN.

It Suffered Quite a Heavy Loss.

Editor National Tribune: I am and have been very much interested in your history of the different armies. In your issue of June 6, in your account of the losses of Burnside's Brigade, you mention the losses of the 1st and 2d R. I. and 2d N. H., but not of the 71st N. Y. S. M. As I have the published report of Col. Martin, of the 71st, in my possession, I can add to your record. The report is dated Aug. 1, 1861, and gives the name of every man: Killed in action; 10; died from wounds, five; wounded, 36; prisoners, 19; missing, 5; total, 75. I was wounded and lay at the Sudley Church when the retreat was made from the extreme right flank. When Johnston's reinforcements arrived Co. I, Capt. Ellis (afterwards Colonel of the 124th N. Y.) commanded the battery of two Dahlgren howitzers and did effective work. Gen. Beauregard, in his account of the battle, says that the two howitzers did more damage than the Parrott guns. As far as my judgment, after the experience of over five years later service, the battle of Bull Run was miserably managed. Several thousand troops were not brot into action, and, as you say, the battle was fought by piece meals. I can say this, that Burnside's Brigade went in action as a brigade. As the brigade marched out of the timber beyond Sudley Church and was clear of it the order was given "By the left flank," and the brigade went into action as a unit. When they arrived at the top of the knoll on the left flank of the enemy a volley was poured into the enemy, we receiving one in return, by which I was wounded, then taken to Sudley Church Hospital, not knowing of any further action of the brigade afterwards. This was the only time I was wounded in three and a half years of service. I look back to the battle of Bull Run as a small affair compared with what I was in afterwards, more especially durin gthe siege of Port Hudson and Sheridan's Shenandoah campaign and the Red River campaign.—Robert Welch, Co. H, 71st N. Y. S. M., 203 Tompkins avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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