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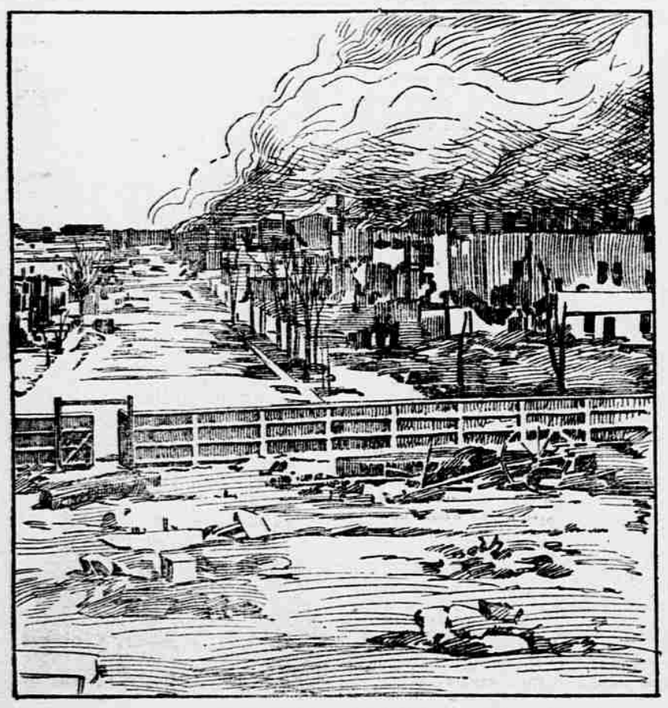
Burning of Columbia.

Editor National Tribune: I see that there is still contention about the burning of Columbia. I was in command of a forage company, detailed from the First Division, Fifteenth Corps, and was with the first troops that entered Columbia under Gen. Sherman, and the bales of cotton were then on fire in the streets, to my certain knowledge. Our regiment, 76th Ohio, was in camp outside of the city when the city took fire, as I presume from the burning cotton, and the Fifteenth Corps was called out to fight the fire, and fought it nearly all night. I was the last person in the burning Statehouse when the roof fell. I never had a trace of doubt that burning cotton caused the fire. The Union soldiers did their very best to put the fire out, but the best part of the city was in ashes before they succeeded. That Gen. Sherman or men of his command would have set the city on fire could not be believed; they would not, in such case, have fought all night to put the fire out, laboring to utter exhaustion as they did.—R. W. Burt, Captain, Co. H, 76th Ohio, Peoria, Ill.



RUINS OF COLUMBIA FROM THE CAPITOL GROUNDS.
(From a photograph taken while the fire was still raging.)

Editor National Tribune: If you will allow me a little space in your valuable paper, I will say a few words for the benefit of H. B. Allen, 23d Ind.; also, S. J. Phillips. Kilpatrick's cavalry were the first troops to enter Columbia, S. C. The morning it was burned we reached the river about daylight or shortly after. Our pontoon trains were back in the rear. They were sent for at once, and reached the river about sunrise. While laying the pontoons we saw a train of cars back up, take on the prisoners in the stockade and then pull out with their loads. In about one-half hour another backed up, and when it halted a shell from some direction struck the engine and put it out of commission at once. Kilpatrick's cavalry, with the 9th Mich. Cav. in the advance, crossed the river, and led the brigade into Columbia. The 9th Cav. went into camp between the stockade and Columbia, I think, on the east. The wind was blowing strong from the west. We relieved our horses of their loads, as they had marched all night, and were making coffee, when a smoke was discovered in the west part of the city. Soon the flames began to leap from house to house, and in less than a half hour we were compelled to move our camp around to the north, to avoid the dense hot smoke that was blinding us. At this time there was a yellow flag floating from the Statehouse. By 12 o'clock Columbia was nearly all in ashes, except the Statehouse, and I failed to see the Fifteenth Corps or the Seventeenth Corps in Columbia until some time in the afternoon, when I saw the yellow flag come down and the Stars and Stripes go up. By 3 or 4 o'clock the city was all in ashes except a few houses on the outskirts. These few remarks are not made to detract from or contradict what any of the Fifteenth or Seventeenth Corps may say. When they reached the city the smoke was so intense that perhaps they did not see the other troops, for the regiment lay only a few rods north of the city.

I am not claiming to know all, but I do know that the infantry did not do all there was done. The cavalry was nearly always in the lead, marching and fighting, while the infantry was sleeping. Please give a cavalryman a chance to say a word or two to tell what he knows. I was with you from Atlanta to the sea and clear to the end of the rebellion, and know whereof I speak.—H. H. Collins, Lieutenant, Co. C, 9th Mich. Cav., Howell, Mich.

EXECUTIONS AT LITTLE ROCK.

David O. Dodd, the Boy Spy, and Two Murdering Guerrillas.

Editor National Tribune: I will say to Comrade Henry Emerich that Dodd was captured out about three miles from Little Rock, on the Clarkeville and Little Rock stage road running southwest. He no doubt remembers an abandoned brick house where our cavalry pickets stood. They had been moved out farther, and Dodd had made a detour to pass them, but came out behind them. The Lieutenant of picket post examined his pass, and permitted him to go, but his Sergeant said that there was something wrong with that boy, and he called him back and examined him. He made the boy pull off his boots, and under a false insole he found the plat of our works, positions of batteries, the number of troops and the positions they occupied. He was turned over to Gen. Steele, who examined him, and told him that the plat was made by an older head than his, and that if he would confess who the ones were he would send him thru the lines north, and he should remain there until after the war was over; but he refused, and he was turned over to the Second Division, which was then holding a court-martial. Serg't Chas. L. Field, Co. C, 13th Ill. Cav., had charge of the Orderlies. He was sent to the penitentiary in the city. His father lived at Camden, Ark., inside the rebel lines, but he had aunts and cousins living in the city. I saw them go to the penitentiary several times. We were camped on Pine street, the main street leading there. They encouraged him to die the death of a martyr. My diary says it was the 8th of January, 1864, in front of St. John's Hospital. Two posts were set in the ground with a crossbar, a rope attached. The ambulance drove in between, with his coffin or rough box in, with him sitting on it. They then stood him up on his coffin next to the tail end gate of the ambulance, with his hands tied behind him. They blindfolded him. We hung several afterward and never blindfolded them. He was told then if he would confess he could go free, but he refused. A Chaplain prayed for him. I stood about 40 feet west of him and was six feet two inches tall, so I could look over all the rest. I saw the boy's face, and tears came in my eyes. I thought him about 16 or 17. When I thought the drum was about to start up I turned my face away, and when I looked again the Sergeant was standing in the ambulance trying to hold him up, but not on the scaffold. Twelve minutes after the fall life was extinct.

Now, we had other hangings. March 18, 1864, two guerrillas or bushwhackers were hung, but I didn't know their names. They were hung under the east side of the penitentiary. They were captured in Yell County, west of Little Rock. They had made a business of hanging Union men. One was a man from Pennsylvania who had moved in that County just before the war. His four sons were conscripted, but deserted the rebel army and came home. They hung the four sons and father, who told them when they hoisted him they would have to hoist the Stars and Stripes. This gang was credited with killing or hanging 35 men. Gen. Steele and some men up in that County killed or captured them all. They went disguised as rebel soldiers. Who knows anything of these two men and what their names were? I stood within 20 feet of them, looked up into their faces, but I didn't shed any tears. It was hard work to keep the soldiers from riddling their bodies with bullets. They were asked if they had anything to say. One, the Captain of the gang, accepted, praying.—M. Luther, Sergeant, Co. C, 13th Ill. Cav., White Pigeon, Mich.

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THE 14TH PA. CAV.

A Harvest of Prisoners by a Cavalry Division.

Editor National Tribune: In the campaign of 1864 I believe that our cavalry division, commanded by Gens. W. W. Averill and W. H. Powell, captured as many Confederates as any division in the army. I would like all survivors to look carefully over the following list which I have made out, and correct any errors they may see. I will say nothing about the number killed, only the ones captured. Besides the number I have given we might add several hundred more for good measure, captured on raids, scouts, etc.:

Wytheville Raid.

May 7, captured 36 rebels on picket in Tazewell County, Va.

May 8, fight at Jeffersonville, Va., captured five.

May 10, fight near Wytheville, captured a few pickets.

May 12, fight at Christiansburg, Va., captured 12.

May 13, fight at Blacksburg, captured a few.

While encamped at Lewisburg, W. Va., scouting parties of the division captured prisoners. On our way to join Hunter's army at Staunton, Va., in the skirmishes at Warm Springs, June 5, and Goshen Station, June 6, prisoners were taken.

The Hunter Raid at Lynchburg, Va.

June 13, at the fight near Natural Bridge, Va., prisoners were taken.

June 14, Averill's Division scouted the country and brought in many prisoners.

June 15 and 16, in skirmishing near Peaks of Otter and Liberty, Va., prisoners were taken.

June 17, in the first day's fighting near Lynchburg, Averill's Division captured prisoners.

June 21, at Salem, Va., we captured 20 Confederates; also on our retreat across the mountains many rebels were taken.

Shenandoah Valley.

July 19, Gen. Averill's Division drove 1,500 Confederates back from Martinsburg, and a few prisoners were taken.

July 20, the division charged the enemy near Winchester, captured their artillery and some prisoners.

Fights With the Burners of Chambersburg.

July 29, skirmish near Clear Spring, Md., where I am certain we captured one Johnny.

July 30, Averill's Division passed thru Chambersburg, Pa., and found the town burned by McCausland's and Johnson's Cavalry. Skirmished in the mountains around Hancock and Oldtown, Md., Aug. 1, 2 and 3, and I saw about 25 prisoners.

Aug. 7, charged McCausland and Johnson's camps at Moorefield, W. Va., and captured 600 prisoners.

Back in the Valley.

After skirmishing near Williamsport, Martinsburg, Buckletown and Bunker Hill, on Sept. 5, we drove the enemy toward Winchester, and captured a few prisoners.

Sept. 19, Averill's Division joined Sheridan's army at Winchester; fought all the way from Martinsburg to Winchester. In the battle it was on the extreme right of Sheridan's army. Averill's Division captured several hundred prisoners in this battle; also captured part of a wagon train.

Sept. 22, took part in the battle of Fisher's Hill, where our division captured some prisoners.

Sept. 24, the division captured 40 prisoners near Mercersville.

Sept. 25, Gen. W. W. Averill is relieved, and Gen. W. H. Powell takes command of the division. Near Mount Crawford we captured a small party of rebels.

From Sept. 28 until Oct. 18 we remained mostly in Luray Valley. We scouted thru the Counties of Page, Warren, Madison, Rappahannock and Fauquier, and captured hundreds of Johnnies, many of them Mosby's men.

Nov. 7, 8 and 9 our division went on a scout to Manassas Gap and back thru Ashby Gap, capturing about 20 of Mosby's men.

Nov. 12, our division on its way to Front Royal met three Confederate brigades commanded by Lomax, McCausland and Johnson. Gen. Powell ordered a charge. The enemy gave way, and we captured 25 officers, 282 men, with horses, cannon, etc. This is known as the battle of Nineveh.

Nov. 24, encamped near Winchester. Mosby's men charged on our camp and got the worst of it. His smallest loss was the 10 men we captured.

Dec. 19, Gen. Torbert, with two divisions of cavalry, Powell's and Merritt's, started on the Gerdonsville raid. We drove the enemy from Madison C. H. to Liberty Mills, fought a small battle on the 22d, captured four pieces of artillery and some prisoners. Of course, the prisoners captured on the Gordonsville raid. Thus ends the campaign of 1864.—James F. Hays, Co. K, 14th Pa. Cav., Baltimore, Md.

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THE ORIGINAL MONITOR.

It Was Foundered Off the North Carolina Coast.

Editor National Tribune: I was in Norfolk, Va., recently, and saw at anchor, in Hampton Roads, what they told me is the original Monitor that fought the Merrimac on that water March 9, 1862. Is it true that this is the same old Monitor, or did they probably give me that yarn because I am a Nebraskan? If this is not the original Monitor, what became of it?—E. E. Lyle, Wahoo, Neb.

It was not and could not have been the original Monitor. Dec. 29, 1862, the Monitor started for Beaufort, N. C., in tow of the Rhode Island, under the command of Capt. Bankhead. Knowing the defects of the old Monitor, the commander had chosen a calm, clear day for the start, but after he was well out to sea the weather became threatening, and as Cape Hatteras was passed it grew very bad. The wind increased and hauled to the southward, raising a heavy sea. The main defect of the Monitor was that the deck portion was insecurely fastened to the hull, and presented a wide flat surface to the lifting action of the waves. The sea broke over the pilot house and the turret, stopping the blower pipes. Every effort was made to get the vessel into calmer weather, but it was found impossible. The water began to force the two portions apart, and make its way in so as to be beyond the control of the pumps. It was soon seen that she had to go down, and then extraordinary efforts were made to save the crew. It was the work of the greatest difficulty and danger owing to the tremendous sea. Some of the crew were washed overboard, but by midnight all the remainder but 26 had been transferred to the other vessels. Finally all of the crew except a few poor fellows who were so dazed that they could not be gotten out of the turret were gotten on board of a lanch, and Bankhead himself was the last to leave the vessel. After the boat had pushed off the Monitor slowly settled into deep water, and is now many fathoms beneath the shifting sands of the shores of North Carolina.—Editor National Tribune.

The 11th N. Y. (1st Fire Zouaves).

Editor National Tribune: I notice in your issue of Sept. 5 a statement by Comrade Edward H. Walker, Brooklyn, N. Y., to the effect that a mistake was made in saying that the command of the regiment devolved on "Maj." Loeser after the death of Col. Ellsworth. The facts are that Lieut.-Col. Noah L. Farnham succeeded as Colonel. Charles McK. Loeser, West Pointer, never was Major. He was Adjutant at the first battle of Bull Run, and was appointed Colonel when the regiment was in New York, in August, 1861, vice Farnham, died of wounds. Loeser resigned at Newport News, Va., April 18, 1862. Maj. John A. Creiger succeeded Farnham as Lieutenant-Colonel, and resigned Sept. 21, 1861. He was succeeded by Spencer H. Stafford, who resigned March 5, 1862, and was succeeded by Joseph E. McFarland, who commanded the regiment as Lieutenant-Colonel at its muster-out June 2, 1862. The Major at this time, and who joined at Newport News, Va., was Alexander McC. Stetson.—Gen. Richard N. Bowerman, Captain, Co. E, 11th N. Y., Baltimore, Md.

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The 2d U. S. Cav.

Editor National Tribune: Would you please give a short history of the 2d U. S. Cav. during the civil war thru your columns of The National Tribune?—A. V. Bailey, R. F. D. 2, Aberdeen, Md.

The 2d U. S. Cav. began its existence in 1833 as the 2d U. S. Dragoons, under Col. David E. Twiggs. Col. Wm. S. Harney made it one of the best mounted regiments in the world, and its designation was changed to 2d U. S. Cav. by the act of Aug. 3, 1861. It was sadly disorganized by the outbreak of the war. Richard Anderson, Hardee, Pegram, Sibley, Robertson, George Anderson, Armstrong, Stuart and Field became Confederate Generals, while Cooke, Wood, Palmer, Davidson, Pleasonton, Buford, Gordon, Rodenbough, Sanders and Merritt became Union Generals. It was from the first in the Army of the Potomac, in Torbert's Division of Cavalry, took part in all of the fighting, was always at the front, and out of its diminished ranks lost five officers and 60 men killed and 226 wounded.—Editor National Tribune.

With Gen. Butterfield on the Atlanta Campaign.

Daniel Dell, Co. A, 85th Ind., Leavenworth, Kan., wishes to know if there are any of the comrades living yet who remember a little incident of the Atlanta campaign taking place down in the woods of Georgia at Gen. Butterfield's headquarters. Three Orderlies were on duty each day. One night about 10 p. m. the writer was called on to go to Gen. Hooker's headquarters, somewhere in the rear, and by inquiring at camp on the way finally found it. The General, not fully understanding the contents of the paper brought, referred the same back to division headquarters. The writer retraced his steps, or, rather, the horse did. After getting things righted and waking up his tentmate to go on duty, started out again, thinking, of course, he would be prompt in getting down to the General's tent near by; but he did not, and the third man who slept near by heard and answered a call minus his shoes. This did not suit the General's ideas of discipline, so he ordered all the squad out in line, and as they were all afraid of him and no one offered any explanation of the affair, he ordered those on duty that day tied up. The writer being ignorant of all this, returned to camp about 4 o'clock in the morning, and was advised of what occurred by the Corporal, who regretted to act, but orders would be complied with by my sitting down by a small pine tree, and he put a rope loosely around him. This caused thoughts of revenge, of course, but soon wore off. If this meets the eye of any of those concerned in the above he would be glad to hear from them. He only remembers several of the names. The Corporal's was Avery, of the 2d Mass; two German boys of the same regiment, names not recalled; one from the 22d Wis., named Rogers.

21st Ohio at Chickamauga.

O. A. Clark, Sergeant, Co. D, 21st Ohio, says with reference to "That Mysterious Volley" that the 21st Ohio took three different positions at Chickamauga. First it went by Gen. Rosecrans's headquarters, who said to them, "I'm going to let you go in and finish up the job." After marchig about half a mile the regiment took position behind the breastworks of rails, remaining there until the next morning about 10 a. m., when it went about two miles, and took position behind another rail breastwork. Some heavy firing in front drove our boys flying across the open field toward the regiment. The regiment filed out to the right and took a position facing the south. This was about noon, and immediately the Johnnies jumped them. Then the 21st Colt's revolving rifles did some talking. Two companies of the regiment were armed with Springfields. The regiment was soon out of ammunition, and many of the Colts were bursted by trying to use Springfield cartridges. The Colonel was shot, and the regiment captured some time after sundown, except 60 men and one Lieutenant.

The 77th Pa.

A sketch published in a local paper sent us by Alexander Stewart, of Beaver Falls, Pa., shows that the regiment was organized by Fred S. Stumbaugh, a lawyer of Frederick, Pa., and originally intended to have eight companies of infantry and a battery of artillery. The battery of artillery soon became an independent organization, and the regiment was completed in Pittsburg Oct. 13, 1861, with Fred S. Stumbaugh as Colonel. With the 78th and 79th Pa. it composed Gen. Neglee's Brigade, and was sent to the Army of the Cumberland. It claims to have made the last charge at Shiloh, receiving special compliments from Gen. Sherman. Gen. Rosecrans complimented it for the manner in which it held its lines at Stone River. At the close of the war the 77th Pa. was sent to Texas, where it lost many men by sickness, and was finally mustered out Dec. 6, 1865, being the last save one of the Pennsylvania regiments, so that it claims the credit of having served continuously longer than any other Pennsylvania regiment.

The 40th Ind. at Chattanooga.

S. Weaver, Sergeant, Co. H, 40th Ind., Hiawatha, Kan., replying to some articles about Wagner's Brigade, says that while Gen. Rosecrans led his main army across the Tennessee River below Chattanooga two brigades, commanded by Gens. Wagner and Hazen, marched to Waldron's Ridge north of Chattanooga, arriving there Sept. 3, 1863, where they lay while Wagner sent the 92d Ohio and 10th Ind. Battery down into the Valley north of Chattanooga to threaten that place. When it was found to be evacuated the two brigades marched over into Chattanooga, and Serg't Richard Napier, of the 40th Ind., raised the flag of his regiment on the Union Depot at 10:30, Sept. 9. On account of this Gen. Wagner detailed the 40th Ind. for provost guard duty in Chattanooga, so it was not at the fight at Chickamauga. These two brigades never were mounted infantry, as has been stated, but remained infantry all the time.

The 29th Iowa.

A. S. Edgerton, Colorado Springs, Colo., would be highly pleased if some of the boys would write up something of the 29th Iowa's experience in Gen. Steele's campaign to Camden in 1864, or on the Mobile in 1865. Let the old boys of the 29th Iowa speak up, and know where they are at.

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PICKET SHOTS

From Alert Comrades Along the Whole Line.

Capturing Columbus, Ga.

Solon Steere, Co. A, 5th Iowa Cav., Asherville, Kan., says that Col. Nourse's account of the Wilson raid is quite accurate, but there are things he did not know. When near Girard, Ala., just across the Chattahoochie from Columbus, Co. A, 5th Iowa Cav., was Gen. Upton's escort. There they met a boy about 12 or 13 years old on horseback, who was taken to the General. The General asked the boy about the country, the roads, the fortifications and the number of the enemy. The boy was chatty, but confident that the Yankees could not take the place. Incidentally he told of a byroad near the river that was nearly undefended, and piloted the command to it. Comrade Steere and John Owen were left behind to tell the troops where to go. Some were left behind to shout and make all the noise possible to attract attention from the real point of attack, and the movement was so successful that the place was captured almost without a struggle. One horse went down in the charge, and the rider was trampled to death. There was little fighting, because we had them before they knew it.

That Greenback Raid.

Charles Scott, 298 South 11th St., Newark, N. J., criticizes very severely the "Recollections of a Mosby Guerrilla," by J. W. Munson, published in Munsey's Magazine, particularly the account of the greenback raid on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. This is full of glaring errors. Comrade Scott, who was then a man-of-war's man on furlough, was near to Mosby during the whole affair. There was but one man on the train in United States uniform, and he had no arms. There was no officer in foreign uniform or a private who appealed to Mosby for the return of a ring or anything else, nor did any woman throw her arms around his neck and ask a favor. The conductor of the train asked to have returned his valuable watch, which was a gift by his Masonic brethren, but Mosby paid no attention to him. The Paymaster's fine overcoat was taken from him by one of the guerrillas, and Mosby did not prevent it. The Paymaster was the only "group of officers in the United States uniform," and his uniform was merely a Major's cap. There were about 200 passengers, who were robbed of everything, with their trunks burst open and rifled before being thrown back in the fire. It was not a warlike raid, but a robbery pure and simple. The guerrillas had been informed from Washington of the Paymaster's trip, and lay in ambush for him. As for the women, there were but four or five on the train, and they were the least disconcerted of the lot. Even the loss of a trunk by the wife of a Federal Colonel did not seem to dampen their spirits. As for the long rigamarole about the Austrian and Mosby and his horse, that is purely imagination. All of the robbers were on foot, not a horse in sight until they hastily decamped and were seen riding over the hill.

McClellan's Character.

John S. Blair, 142d Pa., Gate, Wash., says that he is reading the history of the Army of the Potomac with great interest, as he belonged to that army. Our estimate of Gen. McClellan's character is in accordance with his own. A light is thrown on McClellan's character in the life of Gen. Isaac Stevens, the first Governor of Washington, who was the associate of McClellan in the army, and describes him as lacking in decision and staying qualities. He made failures of several pieces of work given him to do.

Our Government Generous.

T. J. Beckwith, 65th N. Y., thinks that our Government has dealt very liberally with the veterans, who have received benefits that they did not bargain for in money and otherwise. He is sorry to see so many finding fault. The Soldiers' Homes are great institutions, and the inmates generally speak of them in the highest terms. He is proud not only that it was his privilege to fight for his country, but that it is his in all its greatness and benevolence, especially to old soldiers.

The National Tribune an Educator.

E. H. Lawyer, Sergeant, 2d U. S. Cav., Pennington, N. J., says that the Peninsular Campaign is as entertaining as a narrative of personal experience. The National Tribune from the first to the last, and in dealing with the present as with the past, is a great educator, and it should be read by everyone.

The Peninsula.

Findley W. Munson, Sanford, Fla., was all thru the Peninsular Campaign, and quite agrees with what The National Tribune history has said. If Grant had been in McClellan's place at Malvern Hill Richmond would have been taken at once. McClellan could have been in Richmond within a month from starting from Fort Monroe if he had had anything of the Grant spirit in him.

Representative Cushman.

O. Petersen, 20th Iowa, Bremerton, Wash., writes that the comrades were very much pleased by the response to a toast by Representative Cushman, of that State, at a grand banquet held at Tacoma. Col. J. J. Anderson, who served in the Confederate army, responded to the toast of the President of the United States.

Changes at Chattanooga.

J. B. Davis, Sandusky, O., was in 1864 Sergeant-Major of Engineers at Chattanooga, and had a map showing all the forts and defenses. Lately he was at Chattanooga, but found that he could scarcely locate anything by his old map. Forts and landmarks had been removed to give place to modern buildings. Where his quarters were workmen were building a fine apartment house.

The Army of the Ohio at Shiloh.

James Smith, 1523 Lamont Ave., Baltimore, Md., cannot agree with Comrade C. S. Meeker that Gen. Grant would have been victor at Shiloh whether Buell and Nelson had come or not. He believes that Gen. Nelson saved the army from destruction at Shiloh. Comrade Smith took a large share in the fight, and believes it required the combined forces to defeat the Confederates, and that the victory was due to no one man. Comrade Smith would like to have Comrade Meeker write him personally.

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