Chancellorsville and Gettysburg

By JOHN McELROY.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

RECROSSING THE POTOMAC.

Meade Wants to Fight, but His Council of War Does Not—Urgency of the Administration—The Confederates Have a Terrible Time Recrossing, but Slip Away Again—Activity of the Cavalry. Disappointment of the Country—Meade Tenders His Resignation.

Meade's Difficulties.

In passing judgment upon Meade's failure to do what we now see he could and should have done, we must keep in mind all the time the peculiar difficulties under which he exercised the command of the Army of the Potomac. Gen. de Trobriand, in his "Four Years With the Army of the Potomac," describes these difficulties graphically. Gen. de Trobriand was in a position to be fully cognizant of what he wrote about. He says:

"But Gen. Meade was himself struggling with difficulties which absorbed all his attention. His promotion to the command of the army was not made without creating jealousies, more or less secret, amongst the corps commanders, his colleagues of yesterday, his subordinates to-day. He was not one of those formed to take the ascendancy over men by that greatness of character for whom power is an easy instrument and who appear born to command. On the other hand, altho his personal valor and his military capacity were incontestible, his services had not been so brilliant as to eclipse those of his rivals. He was, besides, more reserved than audacious, more modest than presumptuous, on which account he treated his corps commanders rather as friends than as inferiors.

"In taking command of the army he had been able to say, in all sincerity, that he had not expected it or sought for it; that he took it with a disrust in his own ability, but that he relied on the cordial assistance of his companions in arms to aid him in fulfilling all the duties of the important trust confided to him. Animated by these sentiments, in the night of the 2d and 3d, and in that of the 3d and 4th of July—that is to say, during and after the battle of Gettysburg—he had consulted his Generals as to what appeared to them the best course to pursue. This he did also on the 12th, when we found ourselves facing the Confederates near Williamsport."

As to the council of war, Gen. de Trobriand points out that of its members Gen. Pleasonton was only temporarily in command of the cavalry and Warren had only a consulting voice. The Second Corps was represented by Hays, since both Hancock and Gibbon were absent, wounded, and Wadsworth, a division commander, represented the First Corps in place of Newton. The Third, Fifth, Sixth, Eleventh and Twlefth Corps were represented by French, Sykes, Sedgwick, Howard and Slocum. These were actual corps commanders, and their votes had more influence than those of the other members, who were only temporarily representing their corps. All of these Generals but Howard voted against attacking, for the reason that a great victory had been gained, and there should be nothing done to risk depreciating its results. If the army should be badly defeated, there would be nothing between Lee's army and Washington. Warren, Howard and Pleasonton were strongly in favor of an attack, and Warren pointed out that even if the army were repulsed it could fall back into the passes of the South Mountain and be an effective barrier gainst any advance by Lee upon Washington. Gen. Meade closed the discussion by declaring that he was in favor of attacking, that he had come to Williamsport to find the enemy, and that he saw no convincing reason why he should do differently, but that in the face of the formal opposition of his principal corps commanders he would not assume the exclusive responsibility of giving battle.

Meade Determines to Attack.

Halleck's sharp dispatch to Meade showed that he appreciated the latter's hesitation in peremptorily commanding his late colleagues. Halleck's dispatch told him not to consult his subordinates, but to give them orders. Meade decided to order an attack on the 13th, but, somehow, he hesitated before taking action adverse to the advice of his corps commanders. Another rain set in, which gave still further excuse for delay, since it promised to raise the river again and cut off the Confederate retreat. In the meantime Lee's outposts were keeping up a very vigorous resistance to every movement of the Union troops which looked like a reconnoissance. It was Lee's purpose to keep his enemy as far out of sight as possible, so as to conceal his operations, and it must be said that none of the corps commanders showed any particular energy in reconnoitering his front and discovering what was actually before him. Even the cavalry seem to have lost the splendid enterprise which it had displayed, and made no effort to find out what was on Lee's left and on the banks of the Conococheague Creek. Howard and Kilpatrick felt that Lee's left could be turned from that direction, and we know now that this was likely easy of accomplishment, but they were kept back by Meade's very cautious orders.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon Gen. Meade received a dispatch from Gen. Kelley at Fairview, on the Upper Potomac, which stirred him to action. It was to the effect that he had reliable information that Lee's engineers had succeeded in throwing a pontoon across the river, and that the Confederate army was retiring by it. By 9 o'clock in the evening Gen. Meade had made up his mind to decisive action, and had sent out specific orders. He would make a direct attack. Each of the four army corps on his center and left would, at 7 o'clock the next morning, advance a division for a reconnoissance in force, to be supported by the rest of the corps. If a weak point were discovered in the enemy's line, the whole weight of the corps would at once be thrown upon it. These orders would have been admirable three days before, and probably resulted in a decisive victory.

Lee Begins Crossing.

Lee's engineers, working with desperate energy, had succeeded in laying a bridge at Falling Waters, which was ready for crossing on the morning of July 13. Some ferryboats had been used to carry over the Confederate wounded and afterward the 5,000 prisoners brought from Gettysburg. These ferryboats brought back a much-needed supply of ammunition. The warehouses along the canal were torn down and the timber used for bridges and pontoons. The river had fallen to a depth which permitted a part of the infantry to use the ford, and Ewell's Corps crossed in this way. The wagons and ambulances moved out during the day of the 13th, and the artillery caissons began to start at 4 p. m., with the infantry and artillery following as soon as it was dark enough to vail their movements. Longstreet's Corps crossed by the pontoon bridge, and was followed by that of Hill. Rodes's report describes the fording of the Potomac:

"My division waded the river just above the aqueduct over the mouth of the Conococheague. The operation was a perilous one. It was very dark, raining and excessively muddy. The men had to wade thru the aqueduct, down the steep bank of soft and slippery mud, in which numbers lost their shoes and down in which many fell. The water was cold, deep and rising, the lights on either side of the river were dim, just affording enough light to mark the places of entrance and exit. The cartridge boxes of the men had to be placed aroud their necks; some small men had to be carried over by their comrades; the water was up to the armpits of a full-sized man.

"All the circumstances attending this crossing combined to make it an affair, not only involving great hardship, but one of great danger to the men and company officers; but be it said to the honor of those brave fellows, they encountered it not only promptly, but actually with cheers and laughter.

"We crossed without loss, except of some 25,000 or 30,000 rounds of ammunition unavoidably wetted and spoiled. After crossing I marched a short distance beyond Falling Waters and then bivouacked, and there ended the Pennsylvania campaign."

Gen. Longstreet's Account.

Gen. Longstreet gives an account of the crossing by the pontoon:

"Gen. Lee, worn by the strain of the past two weeks, asked me to remain at the bridge and look to the work of the night. And such a night is seldom experienced even in the rough life of the soldier. The rain fell in showers, sometimes in blinding sheets, during the entire night; the wagons cut deep in the mud during the early hours, and began to 'stall' going down the hill, and one or two of the batteries were 'stalled' before they reached the bridge. The best standing points were ankle-deep in mud, and the roads half-way to the knee, puddling and getting worse. We could only keep three or four torches alight, and those were dimmed at times when heavy rains came. Then, to crown our troubles, a load of the wounded came down, missed the end of the bridge, and plunged the wagon into the raging torrent. Right at the end of the bridge the water was three feet deep, and the current swift and surging. It did not seem possible that a man could be saved, but every one who could get thru the mud and water rushed to their relief, and Providence was there to bring tears of joy to the sufferers. The wagon was righted and on the bridge and rolled off to Virginia's banks. The ground under the poles became so puddled before daylight that they would bend under the wheels and feet of the animals until they could bend no further and then would occasionally slip to one side far enough to spring up and catch a horse's foot and throw him broadside in the puddled mud. Under the trials and vexations every one was exhausted of patience, the General and staff were ready for a family quarrel as the only relief for their pent-up trouble when daylight came, and with it Gen. Lee to relieve and give us opportunity for a little repose.

"The division of the Third Corps, under Gen. Heth, formed the rear of the infantry line, which was to be covered by Fitzhugh Lee's Cavalry. But the cavalry Brigadier rode off and crossed the river, leaving, it is said, a squadron for the duty, and the squadron followed the example of the Brigadier. The consequence was that when Kilpatrick's cavalry rode up it was taken to be the Confederates ordered for their rearguard. Instead of friends, however, Gen. Heth found a foe. He was surprised by a dashing cavalry charge, Gen. Pettigrew was wounded, and died after a few days. Some artillery, three fertile cornfields, covered with serried rows of bannered stalks beginning to yellow for the harvest, were at one moment seen in their full glory of Autumn's fruitful opulence. At the next instant, as the heavy columns swept over them, they appeared as flat and shorn as if razed by a tornado. The sight filled the hearts of the soldiers with enthusiasm. It was such an exhibition of power as seemed well-nigh irresistible, and hope mounted high that the destruction of Lee's army was at hand. Another cruel disappointment, however, like that at Yorktown, was in store for them. A negro came out of the Confederate lines with the information that the enemy had retreated across the river. His statements were scouted at first, but as there was no trace of the heavy skirmish line which had confronted them the night before, and the columns moved out without encountering a single shot, the negro's report began to gain credence. At 8:30 Meade had not believed the enemy gone, for he sent orders to the corps commanders to push their reconnoissances until they found the enemy. Kilpatrick had learned at 3 o'clock in the morning that Stuart was retreating, and he ordered Custer to move at daybreak and reconnoiter toward Williamsport. It was 9 o'clock before Custer reached this place, and he was just in time to see the last of Ewell's Division reach the opposite bank. Kilpatrick, who had come up, took two brigades, and rushed down to Falling Waters in the hope of being able to catch somebody there. He encountered Heth's Division, the rear of which was thrown out two miles to cover the crossing. There was a brisk skirmish, which drove Heth's rear guard upon him with a loss of two cannon and a few prisoners. Kilpatrick pushed on, and came upon Heth's main line about 1,500 yards from the river. Lane's Brigade was in the works which had been thrown up on the left, while Pettigrew's was drawn up across the road, and Brockenbrough's, on the right, reached to the woods. Custer's advance was led by a portion of the 6th Mich. Cav., under Maj. P. A. Weber, which attacked with great spirit, thinking it only had a slender rear guard to encounter. The Confederates, mistaking the cavalry for their own, allowed it to come up quite close before the error was discovered, and then fell upon the Michigan men mercilessly, killing Maj. Weber, Lieut. Balza and many other valuable soldiers. In the melee Gen. Pettigrew was mortally wounded. The remainder of the brigade attacked Brockenbrough, who beat them off, when they went to the assistance of their comrades of the 6th Mich., and, dismounting, attacked Pettigrew's Brigade with such fierceness as to drive it back, and captured a number of prisoners. Kilpatrick by this time saw what a force he was contending against, and called his men off to keep up a skirmish fire until the infantry came up to their help. It was a fine opportunity for Slocum, who was near with the Twelfth Corps, to have crushed and captured Heth's entire command, but Slocum did not reach the ground until past 11 o'clock, when, the pontoon bridge being free, Heth moved over it, leaving Lane's Brigade to bring up the rear. The watchful Kilpatrick saw the movement, and renewed his attack. Buford came to his assistance, and assaulted Brockenbrough sharply and successfully. The Confederate infantry, however, managed to keep the cavalry back until 1 o'clock, when all that were not captured of Heth's Division passed over the bridge to Virginia soil, and the bridge was pulled over to follow them.

Back to Old Virginia.

Meade, who seems not to have been well served by his spies, apparently knew nothing of the location of the bridge at Falling Waters, and did not have any of his heavy infantry columns moving in that direction to support Kilpatrick's aggressive attack. The cavalry had therefore to show for this achievement some 2,000 prisoners, including one regiment, the 47th Va., two guns and three stand of colors, standards (of the Virginia infantry), and a large number of prisoners were taken. Gen. Meade claimed 2,000."

In the Union Lines.

The advance ordered for the morning of July 14 was one of the finest pageants in the history of the Army of the Potomac. The rain had ceased during the night, the sun came out in September glory, and the clear, open fields and rolling ground gave an opportunity to see a great part of the army at any given time. The corps moved with the precision of parade, each brigade in columns of regimental front, with the colors waving in the gentle Autumn breeze, and tens of thousands of bright gun barrels reflected the sun's brilliant rays. The artillery moved along the roads in the center of the corps, massed ready for deployment and action. Before each division a company of 100 pioneers leveled all obstructions of fences or outbuildings that interfered with the march. The while the infantry had almost nothing.

Meade saw at once the hopelessness of further pursuit, and a little after noon stopped the movements of his infantry. He immediately took the course that McClellan had followed after Antietam the year before. Instead of marching with all swiftness to Harper's Ferry and placing his army along the banks of the Shenandoah to arrest Lee's progress into the Valley Meade turned back on his tracks to march to the eastern side of the Blue Ridge and watch the gaps thru which Lee's army might come. Thus instead of taking the aggressive he threw his army again on the defensive. He only sent Gregg's Division of cavalry by the way of Harper's Ferry to strike at Lee's flank and annoy his retreat. Anticipating this, the engineers by heroic work had repaired the great bridge which had been torn down to prevent Lee's retreat.

The First, Fifth Sixth and Eleventh Corps marched back, on July 15 and 16, thru the familiar Turner's and Crampton's Gaps to where a double bridge had been laid across the Potomac at Berlin. The Second, Third and Twelfth Corps went down by the way of Harper's Ferry on the same days.

Lee united the two columns of his main army on the main road to Winchester, where the roads from Williamsport and Falling Waters come together. On July 15 he made camp on the beautiful plain between Darksville and Bunker's Hill, where he received the rations which had been sent him from Richmond to Winchester. In this position, sheltered by the Potomac on one side and by the Blue Ridge and the Shenandoah on the other, he could afford to give his army a few days of urgently needed rest.

While Lee had all his principal subordinates had committed the most flagrant faults and violations of the science of war at Gettysburg, they had in a measure redeemed their credit by the masterly way in which the Union army had been held off and an undisturbed passage to the swollen Potomac secured. Lee had again shown that amazing correctness of estimate of his opponent by throwing out the 50,000 men which remained to him in a long, thin line of 11 miles, and maintaining this with a bold front for days with confidence that his enemy lacked the aggressiveness to detect his weakness.

Meade's Report.

Meade dismisses this matter very briefly and unsatisfactorily in his report of the campaign. He says:

"After halting a day at Middletown to procure necessary supplies and bring up the trains the army moved thru the South Mountain, and by July 12 was in front of the enemy, who occupied a strong position on the hights of Marsh Run, in advance of Williamsport. In taking this position several skirmishes and affairs had been had with the enemy, principally by the cavalry and the Eleventh and Sixth Corps.

"The 13th was occupied in reconnoissances of the enemy's position and preparations for attack, but on advancing on the morning of the 14th it was ascertained he had retired the night previous by a bridge at Falling Waters and the ford at Williamsport. The cavalry in pursuit overtook the rear guard at Falling Waters, capturing two guns and numerous prisoners.

"Previous to the retreat of the enemy, Gregg's Division of cavalry was crossed at Harper's Ferry, and, coming up with the rear of the enemy at Charlestown and Shepherdstown had a spirited contest, in which the enemy was driven to Martinsburg and Winchester and pressed and harassed in his retreat.

"The result of the campaign may be briefly stated in the defeat of the enemy at Gettysburg, his compulsory evacuation of Pennsylvania and Maryland and withdrawal from the upper Valley of the Shenandoah, and in the capture of three guns, 41 standards and 13,621 prisoners; 24,978 small-arms were collected on the battlefield.

"Our own losses were very severe, amounting, as will be seen by the accompanying return, to 2,834 killed, 13,713 wounded and 6,643 missing; in all, 23,190."

The Disappointment of the Country.

The disappointment of the country and of the army was intense. It was firmly believed that Lee's army had been wrecked by the battle of Gettysburg, and that Meade had been given a much larger force than he had actually received. Halleck had kept up a good deal of telegraphing about the reinforcements and batteries he was sending, which had given rise to this idea. A part of these were the militia and emergency troops from New York and Pennsylvania. While these, of course, did not have the value of veterans, yet under efficient leaders, they would have been capable of very good work. Unfortunately Gens. Couch and Smith, while technically fair professional soldiers, were men of limited ability and negative character. They undoubtedly depreciated the raw troops they were commanding, just as a bad workman blames his tools for his own poor results. American militia and short-term men have always given very good accounts of themselves when led by men with a real earnestness of purpose and genius for command, such as Nathaniel Greene, Andrew Jackson, William Henry Harrison, Nathaniel Lyon and men of that type.

Neither Couch nor Smith had ever made any special credit when handling the best-seasoned troops, and it is no wonder that they excuse their nonperformance by blaming it on the rawness of their men.

Grant's brilliant generalship at Vicksburg, where he had, as usual, destroyed the army against him, was then only a few days old, and raised public expectations to a high point as to the victor of Gettysburg crowning his fame by a similar achievement. That he did not do so shook at once the confidence of the people and of his own soldiers in him. It must be kept in mind, however, that Meade had only recently risen to the command of a corps, and had been but a few days in command of the army. Among the corps commanders such men as Howard, Sedgwick, Slocum and Sykes were his seniors, as were also many of the division commanders. It was quite natural that he should feel a diffidence as to overriding the men who were lately his colleagues and even his superiors. His character lacked that self-confidence and mental hardness which would make him assume the role of master, and require unhesitating obendience from those so recently placed under him.

Meade Tenders His Resignation.

At 11 o'clock, July 14, Meade sent the following dispatch, which was received in Washington at 12:10, and, one can readily understand, produced an intense commotion in official circles:

"Maj.-Gen. H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief:

"On advancing my army this morning, with a view of ascertaining the exact position of the enemy and attacking him if the result of the examination should justify me, I found, on reaching his lines, that they were evacuated. I immediately put my army in pursuit, the cavalry in advance. At this period my forces occupy Williamsport, but I have not yet heard from the advance on Falling Waters, where it is reported he crossed his infantry on a bridge. Your instructions as to further movements in case the enemy are entirely across the river are desired.

"Geo. G. Meade, Major-General."

The discussion of the situation at Washington was not protracted, for 50 minutes later, or at 1 p. m., Gen. Halleck sent this dispatch:

"Maj.-Gen. Meade, Army of the Potomac:

"The enemy should be pursued and cut up, wherever he may have gone. This pursuit may or may not be upon the rear or flank, as circumstances may require. The inner flank toward Washington presents the greatest advantages. Supply yourself from the country as far as possible. I cannot advise details, as I do not know where Lee's army is nor where your pontoon bridges are. I need hardly say to you that the escape of Lee's army without another battle has created great dissatisfaction in the mind of the President, and it will require an active and energetic pursuit on your part to remove the impression that it has not been sufficiently active heretofore.

"H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief."

Gen. Meade acted with similar promptness, for at 2:30 he replied to Halleck, and his dispatch was received at the War Department at 3:10 p. m.:

"Maj.-Gen. H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief:

"Having performed my duty conscientiously and to the best of my ability, the censure of the President conveyed in your dispatch of 1 p. m. of this day is, in my judgment, so undeserved that I feel compelled most respectfully to ask to be immediately relieved from the command of this army.

"Geo. G. Meade, Major-General Commanding."

An hour and 20 minutes after receiving this, or at 4:30 p. m., Gen. Halleck answered as follows:

"Maj.-Gen. Meade, Army of the Potomac:

"My telegram, stating the disappointment of the President at the escape of Lee's army, was not intended as a censure, but as a stimulus to an active pursuit. It is not deemed a sufficient cause for your application to be relieved.

"H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief."

Halleck and the President knew it would not do to relieve the commander of the Army of the Potomac so soon after his glorious victory, especially as Generals capable of handling this army were not a plentiful growth on the banks of the river from which it took its name, and Meade had, at least, done better than any of his predecessors. There was no promising man in sight to replace him, and it was hoped that, as other men had gone, he would learn valuable lessons from his mistakes and acquire confidence in handling his army as he became more used to his responsible position. Therefore, Halleck softened down the censure as much as possible, and encouraged Meade to go on and try to do better the next time.

It is noteworthy that at the same time Gen. Lee was pleading to be relieved from his command, on the ground that his old enemy, sciatica, was incapacitating him for field service. Jefferson Davis refused to allow him to leave even temporarily, alleging that there was no one capable of taking his place. At that time Joseph E. Johnston and G. T. Beauregard, both full Generals, were without employment according to their rank, and Lee urged that one of them be made his successor. Davis, however, hated both Johnston and Beauregard, who were not so diplomatic as Lee in dealing with the Confederate President's arrogance, and would not hear to their being given any considerable prominence. He was trying to break down, not build them up. It is well known that Davis's rancor was merciless, and that he never forgave a man who assumed to know as much or more than he did.

(To be continued.)

Reception to Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief Nevius was in Washington for a couple of days last week on business before the Supreme Court—where, by the way, he won an important case—and was handsomely entertained by the veterans of the Department of the Potomac and their friends.

Past Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief McElroy entertained a party of 16 at luncheon at the Boston House in his honor. The Japanese tea room was turned into a bower of flags and flowers for the occasion. The guests included Past Commanders-in-Chief Burdett, Black, King and Tanner, Past Department Commanders Slaybaugh, Kimball and Ferree, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Jesse Wilson, Deputy Commissioner of Pensions Davenport, Mr. D. L. Rice, Corporation Attorney Thomas, Department Commander Walker, Senior Vice Commander Holbrook and Assistant Adj't-Gen. O. H. Oldroyd.

A reception was also given the Commander-in-Chief at Grand Army Hall, which was presided over by Commander Walker, who was surrounded by his entire staff; Senior Vice Commander Holbrook; Junior Vice Commander Johnson; Assistant Quartermaster-General McKenna; Assistant Adj't-Gen. Oldroyd; Chaplain C. W. Gallagher; Medical Director Dr. A. E. Johnson; Chief Mustering Officer John G. Maynard; Inspector E. C. Daugherty; Patriotic Instructor A. S. Perham; Chief of Staff B. F. Chase. Mrs. Isabel Worrell Ball, of the National Council, Woman's Relief Corps, was present, representing the National organization.

A ringing patriotic speech was made by Gen. Nevius, who urged the recruiting of the Posts by the establishment of picket posts, and suggested that the work laid out for the Woman's Relief Corps was that of paying per capita tax for those members who were unable to keep up their dues.

The Commander-in-Chief was presented with a great bouquet of Beatrice roses by Mrs. D. P. Holbrook, on behalf of the Daughters of Veterans.

Miss Annie Roberts, President of the Daughters of Veterans, made a little talk, which was highly commended for its conciseness and patriotism. In response the Commander-in-Chief said that the work of the Daughters would increase with time, and that this was an organization which would probably take the place of all others.

Other speakers were Past Commander-in-Chief Tanner, Department President Mrs. Newton, President of the Ladies of the G. A. R.; Mrs. Randolph, and many others. Mrs. Dow, Press Correspondent of the Department of Potomac, W. R. C., presented the Commander-in-Chief with a bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums. A reception followed the speaking, and over 300 guests shook hands with the Commander-in-Chief, the presentation being made by Chief of Staff B. F. Chase.

Commander-in-Chief Nevius in his speech spoke in terms of high praise of the Lincoln Day program, which has just been gotten out by Capt. O. H. Oldroyd. He said it was exactly what was needed by those who desired to observe the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. He considered it even better than that issued by his authority for the Grand Army of the Republic, as it had not only a program, but gave the words of songs, incidents and historical references about Lincoln.

The Commander-in-Chief expressed himself as delighted with the cordial reception he had received in Washington.

The 120th N. Y.

Editor National Tribune: If not asking too much, please give a short history of the 120th N. Y.—W. P. Sutherland, 110 E. 125th street, New York City, N. Y.

The 120th N. Y., one of Fox's fighting regiments, was organized at Kingston in August, 1862, and mustered out June 1, 1865. It was commanded by Cols. Geo. H. Sharpe, Cornelis D. Westbrook, John R. Tappan and Abram L. Lockwood in succession. With the famous Excelsior Brigade it was under fire at Fredericksburg, where its loss was light. At Chancellorsville it exhibited great steadiness and efficiency, losing four killed, 49 wounded and 13 missing. At Gettysburg it lost 30 killed, 154 wounded and 19 missing, among whom were eight officers killed and nine wounded. It belonged to Humphreys's Division, Third Corps, and lost 151 killed and 182 from disease, etc. Its total of killed and wounded was 587, and 51 of its members died in Confederate prisons.—Editor National Tribune.

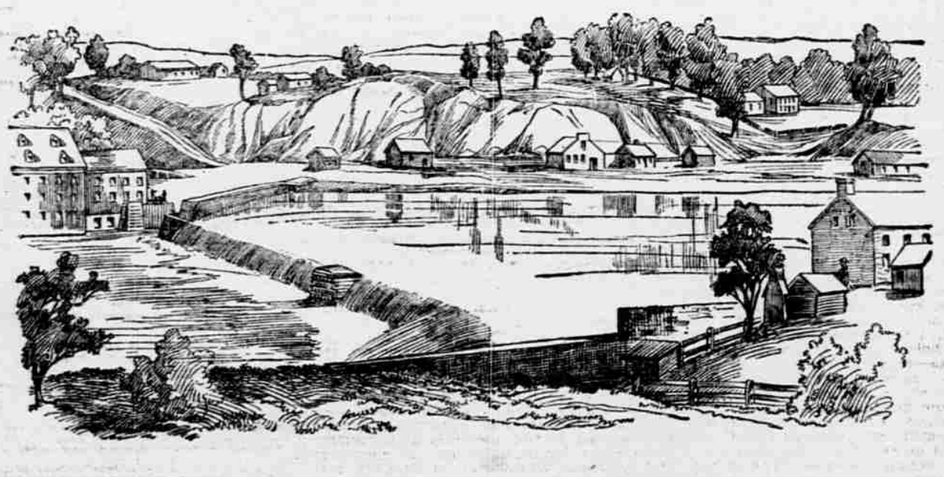
An Atlanta Physician Is Curing Catarrh by a Simple Home Remedy and will mail a Trial Treatment Free.

Those who have long doubted whether there really is a successful remedy for catarrh will be glad to learn that Dr. Blosser, of Atlanta, Ga., has discovered a method whereby catarrh can be eradicated to the very last symptom.

He will send a free sample by mail to any man or woman suffering with catarrh, bronchitis, asthma, catarrhal deafness, chronic colds, stopped-up feeling in nose and throat, difficult breathing, or any of the many symptoms of catarrh.

Dr. Blosser's Remedy is radically different from all others, being simple, harmless, inexpensive and requiring no instrument or apparatus of any kind.

If you wish a demonstration of what this remarkable remedy will do, send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Blosser, 320 Walton Street, Atlanta, Ga., and you will receive by return mail a free package and an illustrated booklet. Write before you forget it.



THE DAM AT WILLIAMSPORT WHERE MANY OF LEE'S ARMY CROSSED TO VIRGINIA.

CURE FOUND FOR CONSUMPTION

Prominent Michigan Scientist, Dr. J. Lawrence Hill, Says The Consumption Problem IS Solved.

He Gladly Sends A $2.50 Treatment by Mail Free to Prove That Even The Worst Cases of Consumption Can Be Quickly Cured.

Jackson, Mich., March 14.—A remarkable announcement, based on innumerable authentic proofs, has been made by one of the foremost scientists and physicians in this country, to the effect that consumption and throat and lung troubles may be positively cured in the patient's own home, without change of climate or environment. Dr. J. Lawrence Hill, 116 Hill Bldg., Jackson, Mich., is responsible for the discovery, and true to the physician's ethics, he is not keeping the method of treatment secret but will tell all those who send him their names and address just what to do and how to do it in order to cure themselves at home, and will also send trial treatment as test and proof. He says he believes that with this treatment made public and freely distributed, the "white plague," as well as all throat, nose and lung troubles may in a year or so be entirely rooted out.

Numberless proofs have been gathered which have shown remarkable results. A typical instance is that of Lafayette Bivin, of Glasco, Kansas, who had been sent by his physicians to Colorado and New Mexico for a year or two with hopes that he might live. He began to fail fast, coughing constantly, expectorating in large quantities. Pains in breast and shoulder blades tormented him, he grew weak and emaciated, and heart trouble came on. In this condition he submitted to the Hill Rational Treatment as it is called, treating himself at home, and was pronounced cured in 3 months, hale, hearty and fleshy—a resurrected consumptive.

Everyone who has weak Lungs, Catarrh of the Bronchial Tubes or Catarrh in any form, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, Chronic Hacking Cough, Loss of Flesh, Night Sweats, Hemorrhages, Soreness or Pain in the Chest or Under the Shoulder Blades, or any other Deadly Symptom of Consumption should send for this Free $2.50 Trial Treatment of Dr. Hill's Rational Method. This treatment checks at once further progress of the disease, develops atrophied cell tissues and brings on new resisting power, appetite, flesh and good health. All throat and lung sufferers should send at once for the $2.50 trial treatment. Enclose 20c as an evidence of good faith and to help cover the postage and packing.

Free $2 50 Trial Treatment Coupon.

Dr. J. Lawrence Hill,
116 Hill Building, Jackson, Mich.

I am suffering from throat and lung trouble, so please send me in plain, sealed package your free $2.50 trial treatment. I enclose 20c to help pay postage, packing, etc., and will give your $2.50 trial treatment a fair and impartial test.

Name .....

Street .....

City .....

STATUE OF GEN. HUMPHREYS.

A Monument to Pennsylvania's Gallant Sons.

Wednesday, Nov. 11, was a great day for Pennsylvania and a great day for Fredericksburg, Va. Dec. 13, 1862, almost exactly 48 years before, Humphreys's Division of the Fifth Corps, and largely composed of Pennsylvanians, made what has seemed in some respects the most gallant and determined of all the assaults upon the deadly Stone Wall at the foot of Marye's Hights. Humphrreys's Division was largely composed of new troops and that was their first battle. Gen. Humphreys himself was a magnificent specimen of the soldier and scholar. He was a man in whom courage was intellectual, and, therefore, rose to the highest plane. When he received his orders to assault the wall before which other troops had recoiled, he recognized that the only chance of success was the desperate one of leading his men forward with the bayonet. If the wall could be taken at all it could be taken only by the bayonet. He infused this idea into his subordinates and they went farward with determination, they rose to the highest plane of heroism. Nothing mortal could stand the tempest of death which beat from Marye's Hights, but it is claimed that the dead of Humphreys's Division lay a few feet nearer the wall than those of any other body of troops. The Legislature of Pennsylvania appropriated money to erect a statue in the National Cemetery to Gen. Humphreys and which would be at the same time a monument to the splendid valor of the men whom he led. Humphreys was a son of Pennsylvania, of whom the State could well feel proud.

The Monument.

The monument is near the center of the National Cemetery and is of Connecticut granite. It stands 20 feet in hight with the statue occupying nine feet and the pedestal and base 11 feet. The bronze statue of Gen. Humphreys is a fine work of art and received high praise from all who saw it. On the front of the pedestal is inscribed:

"Erected by Pennsylvania to commemorate the charge of Gen. Humphreys's Division of the Fifth Corps on Marye's Hights, Fredericksburg, Va., Dec. 13, 1862. 134th, 129th, 126th, 91st, 131st, 133d, 123d, 155th Pennsylvania Infantry."

The Legislature of Pennsylvania also made an appropriation for the transportation, free, of every survivor of the Division from his home in Pennsylvania to Fredericksburg and back. The veterans, many of them accompanied by their wives and children, began to arrive on Tuesday evening and they found the city decorated for their reception. The Court House was the meeting place, and there the Pennsylvanians were greeted by the resident Confederates. On Wednesday morning Gov. Stuart, of Pennsylvania, and his staff arrived by a special train, and this was followed by another special train conveying President George F. Baer, of the Philadelphia & Reading R. R., and his party consisted of his wife, Admiral Schley, Gen. Oliver and a number of other prominent men. From Pittsburg came 18 passenger coaches bringing 800 survivors of the Division. Altogether about 1,300 visitors were present. There came on a drifting rain which marred the pleasure of the occasion, but the skies cleared later as the hour for marching approached. The resident Confederate veterans and the Fredericksburg company of the Virginia National Guard appeared as escort to the visiting veterans, and the line of parade was nearly a mile long, with over 1,500 men in line. About 3,000 people gathered in the cemetery, and the exercises were presided over by President George F. Baer, who was Captain of Co. E, 133d Pa., and led his company in the charge on the stone wall. The invocation was pronounced by Rev. J. Richards Boyle, D. D., Past Chaplain-in-Chief, G. A. R., and Maj. Robert W. Hunter, representing the Governor of Virginia, delivered an address of welcome which was an oratorical gem. Judge John T. Goolrick, of Fredericksburg, made a fine address of welcome on the part of the Confederates. He was highly congratulated by Gov. Stuart, President Baer and others. President Baer then for the Commission delivered an address, thoughtful and soldierly in character, which reviewed the history of the battle, and concluded by transferring the monument to Gov. Stuart for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Gov. Stuart made an excellent speech in receiving the monument, and then Gen. Robert Shaw Oliver, Assistant Secretary of War, made a speech of acceptance on behalf of the United States Government. Col. Alexander K. McClure, formerly editor of the Philadelphia Times, delivered a fine oration, descriptive of the charge of Humphreys's Division, and setting it alongside of Pickett's charge for the loftiest heroism. At the conclusion of President Baer's address the cord attached to the covering was pulled by Miss Letitia Humphreys, daughter of Gen. Humphreys. The flags covering the monument fell apart, and revealed the beautiful and artistic creation, when the band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner."

The 1st N. Y. Dragoons.

Editor National Tribune: Please give a sketch of the 1st N. Y. Dragoons.—George W. Bills, R. F. D. 1, Millville, Pa.

This regiment was organized at Portage in September, 1862, as the 130th N. Y., and its designation changed to the 19th N. Y. Cav. Aug. 11, 1863. It was best known as the 1st N. Y. Dragoons, and was mustered out June 30, 1865. It was one of Fox's fighting regiments, and was commanded first by Col. Alfred Gibbs, a West Point graduate, who upon his promotion to Brigadier-General in December, 1864, was succeeded by Col. Thomas J. Thorp, in command at the time of muster-out. As the 130th N. Y. the regiment served at Suffolk and in Keyes's Peninsular campaign, making its first fight as cavalry at Manassas Plains. In the Wilderness it sustained the heaviest loss of any cavalry regiment in any one action during the war, its casualties amounting to 20 killed, 38 wounded and 35 missing. At Cold Harbor it gallantly defended the breastworks, its band playing with spirit all thru the fight. The Dragoons ranked high as a regiment of superior discipline and efficiency. It belonged to Torbert's Division, Cavalry Corps, and lost 130 killed and 131 from disease, etc. Its total of killed and wounded was 461, and 33 of its members died in Confederate prisons.—Editor National Tribune.

The 21st Wis. and 39th Ohio.

Editor National Tribune: Please give a short sketch of the 21st Wis., also the 39th Ohio.—B. F. Brainerd, Murry, Wis.

The 21st Wis. was organized at Oshkosh Sept. 5, 1862, for three years, the original members mustered out June 8, 1865, and the remainder transferred to the 3d Wis. It was commanded by Col. Benjamin J. Sweet, who resigned Sept. 8, 1863, succeeded by Col. Harrison C. Hobart, in command at the time of muster-out and transfer. It took part in the battles of Chaplin Hills, Jefferson, Stone River, Hoover's Gap, Stevens's Gap, Chickamauga, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahoochie River, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, Savannah, Averysboro and Bentonville. It belonged to Johnson's Division, Fourteenth Corps, and lost 122 killed and 183 from disease, etc.

The 39th Ohio was organized at Camp Dennison during August, 1861, and finally mustered out July 9, 1865. It was commanded by Col. John Groesbeck, who was discharged July 8, 1862, succeeded by Col. Alfred W. Gilbert, who resigned Oct. 1 of the same year. Col. Edward F. Noyes then took command, retaining the same till April 22, 1865, when he resigned and was succeeded by Col. Daniel Weber, in command at the time of muster-out. It belonged to Veatch's Division, Sixteenth Corps, and lost 64 killed and 132 from disease, etc.—Editor National Tribune.

The 135th N. Y.

Editor National Tribune: Please give me a short history of the 135th N. Y.; also the 6th N. Y. H. A.—Robert Swartrout, Trumansburg, N. Y.

The 135th N. Y. was organized at Yonkers Sept. 2, 1862, but changed the next month to heavy artillery, and designated the 6th, so it saw no service whatever as the 135th. Two companies were added to it in December, 1862. The original members were mustered out June 25, 1865, and the remainder consolidated into a battalion of four companies, to which additions were made from the 10th and 13th N. Y. Art., and the consolidated force mustered out Aug. 24, 1865. It was commanded by Col. Wm. H. Morris, of the Regular Army, who was promoted April 2, 1863, to Brigadier-General, succeeded by Col. J. Howard Kitching, who died Jan. 10, 1865, of wounds received in action. Col. George C. Kibbe then took command, retaining the same till discharged June 28, 1865, and was succeeded by Col. Stephen Baker, in command at the time of muster-out. It belonged to Ayres's Division, Fifth Corps, and lost 136 killed and 281 from disease, etc.—Editor National Tribune.

Spreading Like Wild Fire

All over America the news of the marvelous catarrh cures by the use of the Corona Medicator has spread.

Over 1,200 readers of this paper have ordered the Corona instrument with inhalent. The Corona is mailed to any reader of this paper on 5 days' TRIAL FREE, and to be paid for if it gives entire satisfaction. Price, $1.00. If not satisfactory to be returned to the Company (costs only 3 cents postage.) Try this treatment out free. Address

Corona Mfg. Co.

4 Elmore Block,
ASHLAND, OHIO.