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THE NEW SOUTH.

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POETRY.

STRIKE QUICK!

Strike quick! and let the blow be strong!
Avenge the nation's cruel wrong!
"Fill up the ranks" without delay!
Nor in discussions waste a day!
Press on! and let your reckless foes
Find not a moment for repose,
'Till Freedom's banner proud shall wave
Secure above each patriot's grave.

Strike quick! before the traitorous band
On Freedom's soil victorious stand,
And with demoniac frenzy dare
To raze the altar sacred there,
And desecrate both home and heart,
(For naught's beneath their fiendish art,
While taunts crush those who could not yield,
Their moral force, or soldier's shield.)

Strike quick! ere our homes we see
Made desolate in Tennessee;
Who long to act their loyal part,
And show to us their brave true heart,
Who now beneath the tyrant's power,
Mourn when the clouds of darkness lower,
Still praying that they soon may see
The glorious sun of Liberty.

Strike quick! and bid all shackles fall,
Chains but retard the country's call;
Let every hand and heart be free
To grasp the boon of Liberty!
Then, when the rebel shrine shall fall,—
The prop on which they ventured all,—
We need but say, "you gave the power,"
We only "chose the fitting hour."

"DECISIVE, SHORT AND SHARP THE BLOW,"
Be now your watchword, as ye go,
Brave men, to battle for the right,
The "Stars and Stripes" for aye in sight.
Soon on its folds may there be traced,
In colors ne'er to be effaced,
Resplendent that the world may see,
God, Union, Peace and Liberty!

The Provost Marshal's.

Wherever men are massed together—whether in the courts of Commerce, or on the "tented fields" of Mars—there are always to be found offenders against the law, making a police organization necessary. In a civil system the police system is a cumbersome machinery of patrolmen, clerks, magistrates, counsel, juries and jailors, which drives the wheels of Justice slowly, often allowing the transgressor to escape punishment. But under military rule the system is not so elaborate. Justice is simple in her operations and likely to be certain in her aims. The Commanding General is both judge and jury, from whose fiat there is no appeal, and his executive officers are a Provost Marshal and guard of soldiers, whose bayonets will not brook the "law's delay."

To the police organization of Hilton Head we purpose devoting a little space,—first recounting a few of the duties which it is called upon to perform.

Besides a general supervision of the order of the camp, there are a variety of other offices pertaining

to its internal management, to which the Provost Marshal has to attend. All prisoners at the post—whether taken in battle, deserters from the enemy, arrested for violations of military rules, or sentenced by courts martial,—pass into his custody. No stranger can enter our lines without first undergoing his rigid scrutiny and receiving his official pass. Should a person be suspected of disloyalty the Provost Marshal must confine him to await the disposition of the General Commanding. The regulations prescribed for the government of sutlers and marketmen, it is the business of this functionary to see are not trampled upon. The sale of liquors being forbidden, he has to arrest and expel from the post those who infringe in this respect, confiscating their property for the use of the hospitals. One of the most disagreeable of his duties is the delicate one of examining the baggage of persons leaving the command, in search of Government property, which experience has taught was carried away to a great extent during the early occupation of Port Royal, under the guise of "mementoes from Secession." He has also to overhaul all packages and parcels, forwarded to soldiers by express, to prevent smuggling of liquor into the command. And it is curious to note the various ingenious methods by which inconsiderate friends at home have sought to evade the rule forbidding the supply of whiskey to the troops. It has found a lodgment in false bottoms fitted to trunks and boxes. It has come in snuff bladders, and been found in innocent looking tin-cases labelled "pie fruit." In short, every artifice has been devised for secreting the stuff that "steals man's brains," but the Provost Marshal has learned these dodges, and they meet with failure. As an illustration of his vigilance in this respect, it is only necessary to mention that during the last six weeks he has confiscated and delivered to the medical purveyor, a quantity of liquor which, in the aggregate, would fill fifteen barrels, all found in soldiers' packages. Such are some of the Provost Marshal's duties, and they are at once seen to be onerous and important. His powers extend over the entire post, and his department is like a sieve through which the worthy alone may pass, and the vile are retained by the meshes.

The Provost Marshal's encampment is situated between Fort Welles and the General Hospital. It fronts on the shore and the situation is one of the pleasantest and healthiest on the Island. It will soon be enclosed by a high fence containing a space of ground 325 feet square. At present the quarters for the guard and the accommodations for the prisoners are insufficient; but proper buildings are now in process of erection, and before a week passes there will be three prisons, each eighty feet long by twenty-six wide—the centre structure being one story high, containing thirteen cells on either side, and the others two stories, with lower floors similar to the first, and the upper floors likewise divided into cells, opening on a corridor which surrounds the interior of each building.

On an average there are one hundred persons in custody, and the committals and discharges are about ten each day. The prisoners are white and black, rebels and other rogues, and it speaks well for the reformatory character of the place that the latter class seldom find their way there a second time. Unless the prisoners are violent and refractory, or are confined for heinous offences, requiring handcuffs, the ball and chain, a solitary cell and a diet of bread and water, they live on fare similar to that

provided for soldiers; but it has to be earned before it is eaten. Idleness is not tolerated where the Provost Marshal holds sway. All the improvements now in progress at the encampment are being made by prison labor, and the Government is thus saved the expenditure of money which would otherwise be paid to free mechanics. When there is an overplus of labor, as is sometimes the case, the prisoners are kept out of mischief by cutting away stumps on the beach, or digging holes in the sand for the waves to fill up again. This employment which is profitable in one way, if not in another, is lately given to an assistant engineer of one of the transports who had connived with his firemen in furnishing liquor to the soldiers. The lesson which it taught is not likely to be lost upon him.

The Provost Marshal, Capt. Geo. W. Van Brunt, has had years' experience in police business, and the way in which he has systematized the affairs of his department must result in a salutary influence upon the command.

The Provost Guard is composed of about 200 men, consisting of

Co. A, 3d New Hampshire Regiment, commanded by Capt. R. F. Clark, Assistant Provost Marshal.

Co. I, 8d New Hampshire Regiment, commanded by Lieut. C. S. Burnham.

Co. K, 47th New York Regiment, commanded by Capt. G. M. Husted.

Co. D, 47th New York Regiment, commanded by Lieut. F. A. Butts.

HOW GUERRILLAS OPERATE.—The State of Louisiana, and some others of the Southern States, are divided into parishes. I shall take one parish as a type of the rest. Well, in this parish there is probably a large planter, the leading man in the community. Call him Jones, if you please. Well, Mr. Jones has great influence among his fellow-parishioners, and he uses that influence to induce his neighbors—say from thirty to fifty men—to arm themselves, each with his shot gun, rifle, or whatever weapon may be handy in the house, and to take his horse with him. As soon as a vessel is seen approaching, and even before—for swift horses are kept constantly running to give information—Jones and his men are concealed in a favorable spot—say under the shelter of thick woods or behind the levee—and when the vessel approaches, she is saluted with a volley of musketry, sometimes with flying artillery, and before the fire can be returned, if the vessel attacked prove to be a gunboat, they are off, nobody on board knows where. Similar operations are carried on landward. If they are chased by a superior force each man separates from the rest and flies homeward. Pursue one of them and he dodges you through the woods, turns his horse loose on approaching his house, and hides his saddle where you cannot find it; and when you get to his house you find Mr. Guerrilla complacently seated on his piazza, philosophically smoking the pipe of peace and presenting the appearance of innocence personified. This is a correct picture of the manner in which the guerrillas are organized.—*Cor. N. Y. Herald.*

RICOCHET SHOTS.—The motion of a shot in ricochet firing, where the guns are slightly loaded and elevated at a small angle, is the same as that of a stone skipped on the surface of the water. Ricochet shots do terrible execution.

NOVEL TARGET.—A new target, for rifle and fancy shots, has been contrived in England. A model of a deer is mounted on a curved railway, and made to descend slowly from behind one shield to another. The target is a bull's eye placed on the deer's shoulder. If hit in the haunches a fine is levied for a miss; if the bull's eye is hit, a prize is won by the shot.