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Poetry.

The Snow-Ball.

A child's song.

Roll a snow-ball—that's the way
Keep it rolling, rolling!
Built for work, or built for play,
Keep it rolling, rolling!
Gathering, growing, for right or wrong,
Ready for sport and frolicksome song.

Roll a rolling snow-ball so—
How it grows by moving!
That's the way with you and me—
Advancing or improving!
The world by the march we raise
Day by day, and year by year.

Roll a rolling snow-ball on,
Willing hand or more willing;
There is room for all to join
Who love to work or play;
Work or play, our motto shall be
Home as home we are before.

Roll a rolling snow-ball on
Until we meet the ocean;
Then we will go forward—for,
Since we commenced our motion,
Whether work or play be in it,
Home will follow, we dream it.

—Dorothy Thorne.

The Way the Money Goes.

While Chase is raising money out,
And bankers fail to lend it,
And White House mutters—"Cabinet traitor!"
And Congress goes to spend it!
While thirty hundred soldiers poor
In hospitals are dying round,
Some thirty hundred well-dressed fellows
In White House drawers are lying round!
Gems, gold, of million prices, are
Kept with our troops while rats, or
Put up to increase Lincoln's staff—
Gen'ral Pope's Gen'ral Davis, &c.

—N. Y. Evening Post.

Miscellany.

(Our War Correspondence.)

From the Second Vermont Regiment.

The Second Regiment is in very good health, there being not over fifteen or twenty sick. We owe very much of this to the ability and industry of our Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon, who are not and probably cannot be surpassed in the army of the Potomac. We used to be expecting an advance and a battle, but these expectations are pretty much "played out" for the time being. We are now submerged beneath two feet of mud of the most approved quality. I used to think Vermont had mud at some seasons of the year, and when our Burlington neighbors accused us of having mud in Montpelier, more than a fair share of good mud, as might to have, I supposed there was any mud to be said, but I had not spent a winter in camp in Virginia then. This mud here, in the first place, is a good deal deeper than any mud I ever saw before, and besides it is a great deal muddier. There is no use in talking about an advance in the next six weeks, and I think that all of our active preparations a fortnight ago were only a ruse to deceive the enemy, and prevent the withdrawing of their forces from our front. Yet no doubt we shall make an advance as soon as the travelling will admit.

I enclose a list of promotions made in our Regiment recently by Gov. Holbrook, on the recommendation of Lieut. Col. Stannard, who is now in command of our regiment, Col. Whiting being absent.

First Lieut. Newton, Co. A, promoted to be Captain of Co. I, in place of V. S. Fullam promoted.

First Lieut. John S. Tyler, Co. C, to be Captain of Co. C, in place of E. A. Todd resigned.

First Lieut. A. Tracey, Co. K, to be Captain of Co. H, in place of Wm. T. Burnham resigned.

First Lieut. E. Johnson, Co. B, to be Captain of Co. D, in place of Charles Dillingham promoted.

Second Lieut. W. H. Cady, Co. A, to be First Lieut. of Co. A, in place of N. Stone promoted.

Second Lieut. H. C. Campbell, Co. C, to be First Lieut. Co. C, in place of J. S. Tyler promoted.

Second Lieut. O. Bixby, Co. E, to be First Lieut. Co. E, in place of Whitney resigned.

Second Lieut. H. F. Crossman, Co. F, to be First Lieut. Co. F, in place of W. A. Phillips.

Second Lieut. E. A. Appleton, Co. H, to be First Lieut. Co. H, in place of E. Johnson promoted.

First Sergeant Charles Canning, Co. D, to be First Lieut. Co. I, in place of Wadleigh resigned.

First Sergeant, P. P. Chase, Co. I, to be Second Lieut. Co. A, in place of W. H. Cady promoted.

Sergeant Major L. G. Ballou, Co. I, to be First Lieut. Co. K, in place of A. Tracey, promoted.

Second Sergeant Dayton P. Clark, Co. F, to be First Lieut. Co. D, in place of Wm. Henry resigned.

First Sergeant Ralph Wales Co. C, to be Second Lieut. Co. C, in place of H. C. Campbell promoted.

First Sergeant Harrison Dewey Co. E, to be Second Lieut. Co. E, in place of O. Bixby promoted.

Third Sergeant Francis M. Edgerton Co. B, to be Second Lieut. Co. F, in place of H. F. Crossman promoted.

The foregoing appointments are generally very satisfactory to the Regiment. It will be seen by the above list that we have had a good many vacancies by resignation. But I believe the vacancies are all filled, and we hope for no more changes. When I say 'we,' I mean the officers, for the non-commissioned officers and privates may hold the same desire that are said to prevail in the English army, viz: "a sickly season and plenty of battles," two good causes for vacancies.

The monotony of our camp has been often relieved during the present winter by the presence of our Vermont friends among us. Almost every town in the State have had their delegation here at one time or another, and it has made our camp have very much the appearance of a holiday scene. Among those from our county and vicinity, known to me, who have improved the opportunity to pay us a visit, and see, what probably there will be no other chance to see in a lifetime, viz: an army of one hundred thousand troops of all arms, are John S. R. Langdon and family of Montpelier, E. A. Eldridge of Warren, A. W. Wilder of Montpelier, Messrs. Bingham Williams, Morse, and others of Stowe, James Hutchinson and wife, and brother of Braintree, Messrs. Brewer of Burlington, and a good many more I do not now call to mind. I would here say that all the above persons did themselves the pleasure of staying in camp over night, and partaking in all things of soldiers' fare. And I am happy to say all of them praised our beds and our fare, which I presume they would have felt bound to do had they been a great deal poorer than they were. We, of course, were glad to have them appear to enjoy all these things; but I must say I could not exactly see what there is in the soft side of a plank for a bed to elicit praise. Fancy I hear some of my lady read as inquire, "Did the ladies stay in camp?" They certainly did, and slept in the soldiers' tent, on the rude structure called here a bed, which is made by driving four crotched sticks into the ground for bed-posts, and then by laying two poles across one at the head and the other at the foot. On these poles we put boards or other small poles lengthwise, and on this crazy machine spread our blankets. I have known novices in this mode of life to get up in the morning with the hide peeled off from their most prominent parts, and their bones aching like the toothache, and yet they would praise the bed. The army regulations provide that each soldier in the field shall have as furniture one tin cup, one tin plate, one knife and fork, and one spoon, but we don't always have this, and if we are a little short so it happens that two or three are obliged to eat off from the same plate, or drink from the same cup, our guests always praise the style, and declare they would not have more if they could. So you will see that we have no great trouble in entertaining them satisfactorily, and it would afford us great pleasure to see more from Vermont here.

We have at this time several ladies in camp. Mrs. Major Joyce has been here nearly from the beginning, with her little daughter, Ines, whose sprightliness and vivacity have rendered her a great favorite. Capt. Hope recently went home on leave of absence, and on his return brought his wife and little daughter; Chaplain Smith's also came with him. Mrs. Grimsby and Mrs. Spearns, also from Montpelier, are here and Mrs. Fay, of Burlington, who is matron in the hospital. Besides, there are ladies in all the other regiments from Vermont, among whom is Quartermaster Clark's wife, of the 6th Regiment, from Montpelier, and various others, so that we have quite a sprinkling of ladies who are ever ready and happy to entertain their Vermont sisters who may visit our camps.

It is due to the enterprise of our Vermonters to mention the fact that they are not satisfied with merely seeing the external part of this business, but they often want to make a thorough examination of everything connected with our duties. In other words, they want to know just how the thing is done. Among the number who left this anxious us, were my friends, Bingham and Williams, of Stowe, and several other gentlemen of equally inquiring minds. To afford them an ample opportunity to gratify themselves in this respect, Major Joyce, who happened on the day they were here to be on picket as field officer, advised me to show them out on the line. Accordingly, after having ate our dinner, I told the party that if they insisted on it, I would take them a little further into Virginia, and perhaps show them a Rebel. We started immediately on foot. This is the way soldiers make journeys of twenty to twenty-five miles in an afternoon. Our party consisted of about a dozen, all told, and on we went at a soldier's gait through the mud, which was about ankle deep at every step. I must confess I had a good deal of curiosity to see how these novices in this kind of business stood it. By the time we reached the main reserve, I had succeeded in walking the party out of their overcoats and before we reached the outposts, the Hero of Mansfield surrendered and said if I would lead them back, he would go home and pay his taxes willingly, but as for doing picket duty he would not. We, however, traversed the line of sentinels on the outposts opposite our Brigade and returned to camp just in time for supper, but our hard camp beds proved too much for them that night, for the party got up next morning too lame to walk. There was also a great demand for boots of a large size, the kind usually worn being decidedly too small. But we were a little too late to show them a Rebel, a patrol party of them having appeared in sight for a moment, and then disappeared before we got there. T. V. R.

"Why, Samuel, I am astonished!" said a very worthy deacon. "Didn't we take you into our church a short time since?" "I believe so," hiccupped Samuel, "and between you and me, it was the deadest take in you ever saw or heard of."

Capt Drew, at Columbia, S. C., writes home to his friends in Vt, under date of Jan. 27, that the men are well clothed, and comfortably cared for, having received from the government a large lot of blankets and clothing. The health of the men is good, and they continue to receive kind treatment.

(Our War Correspondence.)

From the Sixth Vermont Regiment.

Camp Griffin, Feb. 4, 1862.

Editor Freeman:—You cannot tell from actual experience with what pleasure we receive your paper here in camp, or with what avidity all hands devour its contents, when they are fortunate enough to get hold of it. It seems to us that we have a friend, almost from our own firesides visiting us when it makes its appearance among us. It is a fact that we learn more of what is going on around us, even in our own Brigade, and especially of Old Home, from Vermont papers than from any other source. But there are some things which come within our knowledge, that cannot be known to Vermonters, unless we inform them of them. That there is a great desire among the people of the North that the army on the Potomac make an advance and come in collision with the enemy, is pretty generally known among us, and we also know that you, at home, are wondering that we are not ordered forward; and some of us here in Camp Griffin are getting really nervous on account of our prolonged stay in this place. We all desire as much to move as you wish to have us, but some, even here, see no obstacles to hinder us from making a grand march with our "grand army." But for the information of those who have no chance from any other source of knowing how we are situated, I will give you a slight description of things as they appear to me.

In the first place, while you have been having snow, white and clean, good sleighing and passable roads, we have had freezing rains, and mud mud, mud, and no end to mud. Let us go about camp in the performance of the duties which must be attended to, and, be the journey never so short, on our return to quarters it is impossible to tell what was the color of our boots and lower part of our pantaloons when we started out. The sacred soil sticketh closer than a brother. For the last four weeks it would been impossible to have moved the baggage and artillery necessary in the successful advance of an army, and the prospect now is, that we can not move in less than three weeks, if we can at that time, as it continues to storm almost all the time, and the ground is very soft. The inhabitants who live and have lived about here, say that the stormy season continues six or seven weeks. If that is the case, we *cannot* move for three weeks to come.

Again, should we make a march at this time, many would inevitably die from exposure and disease, in consequence of lying upon the ground while it is so very wet, and the season so unpropitious. For these reasons, I am sure that we shall not make any move at present; but I do think that as soon as the traveling will permit, we shall start to some point where we may be of service in active operations. This morning the ground was frozen, and the snow deeper than at any one time previous since we have been in Virginia, thus making the walking in camp quite tolerable; but the teams are often fast in the mud today, I see. Vermonters can form but an imperfect idea of the badness of the traveling, unless they have traveled in some of the Southern or Western States in mud times.

The camp of the Sixth is so located that the water runs off considerably, thus rendering it less muddy than most of the other regimental grounds about us, and we can make ourselves quite comfortable in our tents during the wet weather.

I think your readers would like to know something of our tents, while we are in winter quarters. Those who visited us in Camp Smith at Montpelier, know the style of the Sibley tents which we used there. When we arrived at Washington we were provided with a sufficient quantity for the Regiment of the same kind, which we took to Camp Griffin and pitched as they were in Montpelier. But as soon as we made up our minds that we should winter here, we raised them from the ground, placing spiles around to correspond to the circumference of the tents, and covered them on the top of the tabernacle thus formed. These spiles were cut and split from timber found nearly by, and brought mostly on the shoulders of the men, driven into the ground from eighteen to twenty-four inches, and left above the ground from two and-a-half to three and-a-half feet, thus forming a spacious apartment in which we "dwellers in tents" abide, and by banking up the wooden part of our domicile we have quite comfortable quarters. We have stoves in each tent, and when we can get wood, we are in no danger of suffering from the cold. Wood is hard to get, and unless we can move soon our supply will be exhausted.

Feb. 5. To-day has been a very fine day.—This Regiment do picket duty to-day, going from camp at 7:45 in the morning. They consider themselves quite fortunate, inasmuch as the ground was frozen so that they could travel with more comfort than could have been done at any time before in several weeks. The Fourth did picket duty two days ago, when a sad accident happened to one of the soldiers while on duty. A private by the name of Cook in Company C, while on post, let his rifle cross a pile of brush, or something of that kind, and thinking he heard the officer of the day approaching, took hold of the bayonet or muzzle to draw it to him, that he might get his piece in the position, or in one of the positions in which it always should be, the hammer caught as he drew it toward him, and gave the discharge of his gun, the ball entering his leg above the ankle, and coming out near his knee, inflicting a severe wound and breaking the bone. There have been many accidents, such as shooting off thumbs and fingers, in our Vermont Regiments, and in each instance were caused by treating orders. When will men learn that their safety, and lives even, in many instances, depend on their discipline and obedience to commands given?

General news there is but little of. There is one thing, however, that I wish to say in regard to the Company to which I belong, (Company G, Sixth Vermont Regiment, which is known as the "Mad River Valley Company,") and that is this.—It appears that we have not forgotten our friends at home, and that we would help them bear the burdens of this war, inasmuch as from our little company of 78 men all told, we have sent to Vermont the handsome sum of $200.50 from monies received the last pay day.

The health of our Regiment is improving.—Capt. Randall has again taken command of his Company. At the general inspection on the last of December, the Vermont Regiments being classed as they proved on examination, the Sixth stood number three, which we call quite complimentary, as we have been the shortest time in the service of any, and rank ahead of those which have been here the longest. I think we are preparing for a march, as our sick are being sent to Georgetown and Washington, and small tents are furnished to some Regiments, which accommodate two, and are carried on the soldier's back on the march, and supported on the musket at night, under which the soldier is to rest when the day's march is over. Not quite so comfortable a place as that in which our friends in Vermont repose. But we will not complain, hoping we may soon be permitted to see the close of this war, and return to our families to pursue the various avocations of our choice, and be blest with peace and prosperity under the same old Stars and Stripes, and in the Union forever. A. M. N.

Correspondence of the Freeman.

From the Vermont Cavalry.

Camp Harris,
Annapolis, Md., Feb. 11, 1862.

Editor Freeman:—Day after day, week after week passes away, but they bring but little change in the programme of our daily exercises. Although we are deprived of the many comforts and pleasures of home and society, yet we are comfortably situated and enjoy ourselves well. We have good board floors, and our tents are raised upon stakes driven perpendicular into the ground, so that there is much more room than when the tents are pitched upon the ground in the usual manner. We have plenty of good rations, and the health of the soldiers is excellent. The fact that but two men have died out of the Regiment since its organization, nearly five months ago, is sufficient evidence that the health of this regiment has been almost unparalleled. Since pay-day peddlers have been hovering around the lines of the camp in great numbers, eager to take every cent of money from the soldiers. Their stock in trade consists of bogus jewelry, and other trifling articles of no value. Some of the aforesaid jewelry, &c., finds its way into camp, but not much money is paid for it, and the peddlers are becoming disgusted with the Vermont boys, since they have found out that they are as sharp as themselves. Their number has decreased rapidly lately, so that now it is only once in a great while that a victim peddler makes his appearance on the lines of the camp, for as soon as one is seen the boys make for him, and peddler sells out in double quick time, but complains that he makes very small profits.

There is a report that Gen. Hatch has given notice that he will have this Regiment fit for service in thirty days, but we do not place much reliance on it. But we hope that we shall have work to do before long. We enlisted to fight the enemies of our country, and we can hardly have patience to wait. We know that war is a terrible thing, but war with all its horrors is to be preferred before a dishonorable peace, despotism or Slavery. It is not so bad as a sacrifice of the principles that our forefathers paid for so dearly, and struggled with such mighty energy to maintain. We know that if we should surrender this glorious Government to those ungrateful rebels who are now making such superhuman exertions to subvert and overthrow it, we should be deserving of the scorn and contempt of every nation on the globe. Let us then go on with this contest for liberty with brave hearts and willing hands until our Government is again established, and the old days of peace and prosperity come again.

Truly yours. O. P. Q.

(Our War Correspondence.)

From Berdan's Sharp-Shooters.

February 10th, 1862.

The Second Regiment are temporarily armed at last with Colt's revolving rifle. They had been afraid of this and were very unwilling to take them for fear they would have to keep them. They even got so excited in the matter that they fairly mobbed their officers, hooting and yelling when they attempted to remonstrate with them, and actually burned Col. Berdan in effigy. Finally on the night of Sunday the 2nd inst., the Colonel called out eighty men of the First Regiment, and kept them on duty all night, armed with Colt's rifles, and arrested four or five officers and men of the Second Regiment.

Well, last Thursday the Second Regiment were called out and offered the Colt rifles, being told at the same time by their officers, and also by Col. Berdan, that every man who refused to take one would be taken to the parade ground and shot, and that this order was from McClellan himself. The men nearly all took the guns, and the few who did not were put into the guard-house for the time being. It was a sad sight to see, many of those noble looking men, who would not be daunted before a battery belching forth its iron hail, dragging those detested *Colt's* after them toward their quarters, while the bitter tears of disappointment rolled down their manly faces.

But the next day the matter took a new and more cheering aspect. Gen. McClellan heard what was going on, and sent one of his aids to inquire into the matter. He got the men together and told them to tell their story, and on the officers attempting to interfere, told *them* to hold on, he wanted to hear what the *men* had to say. After hearing their story he told them that they should have Sharp's rifles just as soon as they could be furnished, which would be in three or four weeks; that till then Gen. McClellan would like to have them use the Colt's to drill with, *if they were willing*, but if not he did not wish them to be compelled to take them at all; and as for his giving an order for those who would not take them to be shot, he never gave such an order and never would. He then ordered all who had been arrested on that account to be relieved. So the matter rests at present. W. W.

P. S. Yesterday (Sunday) a bugler of the Second Vermont Company named Hill, stabbed himself in the left breast with a bayonet, inflicting a dangerous wound, but is still living and some hopes are entertained of his recovery. The cause of the act is supposed to be some domestic grief. He had been in a melancholy mood scarcely speaking for three or four weeks.

The sick are recovering slowly. The First Regiment will probably get their Sharp's rifles before the 1st of March, and will be likely to move from here soon after. W. W.

Love at Sight and Without Sight.

Corporal Merrill, in his letters to the Rochester *Express*, relates the following romantic story:

"I have stated that some of the private soldiers from the upper rooms were employed in the officers quarters, a service which they gladly accepted as affording superior rations. Among these was Corporal M——n of New York, a young man of wealthy parentage, of attractive manners, good intellectual endowments—and withal, 'handsome as Apollo.'

At the request of some of the officers he was occasionally permitted to visit the lower floor, and upon one occasion was premitted to leave the prison on parole, for the purpose of purchasing supplies. While thus passing through one of the main thoroughfares, M——n was accosted by a little girl, who presented him with a bouquet, at the same time pointing to a young lady on the opposite side of the street as the donor. The corporal acknowledged the gift by a polite bow, and proceeded upon his mission. The lady, apparently fascinated, followed him at a distance to the prison, and as he entered it she reciprocated his bow and leisurely walked away.

For some inexplicable cause the corporal was not again permitted to go out, and a negro—I should have mentioned that quite a number of servants were in the prison—was dispatched in his stead. The negro had not proceeded far, when he was met by the young lady referred to, and the sequel to the interview was developed in a package, with which he returned to the officers' quarters and delivered to Corp. M——n.—It was found to contain a new suit of clothes, and upon one garment was pinned a small card, neatly inscribed with the name of his benefactress—

"Only this and nothing more!"

Corp. M——n instantly addressed himself to the task of epistolary composition, in which he gracefully acknowledged the receipt of the gift, and expressed his heartfelt thanks. This was delivered by the negro on the day following, and he returned with a package containing a number of pocket-handkerchiefs, socks and shirts.

As in the first instance, the only communication which accompanied the gift was the donor's card. The Corporal again acknowledged his obligations by a polite note, which was duly delivered through the same medium.

Thenceforth the corporal was in daily receipt of the choicest dainties, and a regular epistolary correspondence was carried on until the day of his release, which occurred on the 3d of January. A matrimonial engagement had been made during the interval, with the understanding that the parties would meet in Baltimore on the first of March next.

I have omitted to state that the corporal had been sent back to his old quarters, but, having ascertained that his fair *inamorata* daily promenaded within view of the officers' quarters, he obtained employment as a cook, and was thereafter unfailing at his post to reciprocate the loving smiles of his betrothed.

She had sent him her daguerrotype, which he frequently exhibited to me. It was a lovely image, and would have required no 'collateral' inducement to carry captive the most frigid and lethargic fancy. I learned that she was of a wealthy family, and of as good blood as was to be found among the F. F. V.'s, and her letters, I was assured, evinced that she was no less intelligent and refined.

When the glad tidings of our release came, the name of Corporal M——n was found in the list. The intelligence was quickly conveyed to his yearning admirer. We saw nothing of her, however as we marched through the streets of Richmond, though the Corporal's longing vision was strained at every animate object.

But when a halt was ordered, a fine carriage, driven by a negro, suddenly made its appearance, and halted a short distance from our ranks. A lady descended—there was a brief but earnest colloquy among the Confederate officers of our guard and the next moment the enraptured twain (Corporal M——n and his affianced) were face to face! A few words—the first they had ever exchanged in person—were exchanged in subdued yet melting tones; their faces were for a moment lighted, as with a flame—the engagement was secretly renewed—there was a fervent, thrilling pressure of their hands, and they separated.

A circumstance is connected with the daguerreotype above referred to which deserves a passing notice. Before it left the prison, the picture was taken from the case, and a small slip of paper closely written, and addressed to Gen. McClellan, was deposited therein, and the daguerreotype then replaced. It was safely delivered to the commander-in-chief, a meeting of the Cabinet was called, and the day following there was a leak stopped—a mysterious leak from high official circles, and which had inestimably benefitted the rebels for many months.