

BY E. B. MURRAY & CO.

A CONFEDERATE ROMANCE.

The Young Color-Bearer of a Virginia Regiment Who was Killed with the Colors in His Bosom—A Battle-Field.

At a meeting of the Southern Historical Society recently held in Louisville, Kentucky, Maj. E. H. McDonald submitted the following paper, which is full of interest to all who love thrilling war incidents:

In the Spring of 1863, while the army of Northern Virginia was encamped on the Rapidan River, preparing for that memorable campaign which included the battle of Gettysburg, there came to it from Hampshire County, Va., a bareheaded boy scarcely eighteen years of age, the eldest son of a widowed mother. His home was within the enemy's lines, and he had walked more than one hundred miles to offer his services to assist in repelling a foe who was then preparing upon the fairest portions of his native State. He made application to join Company "D," Eleventh Virginia Cavalry, which was made up principally from his County, and therefore contained many of his acquaintances, and seemed much surprised when told that he was not to be accepted. He then turned to the commanding officer and said: "I will furnish my cavalry horse and equipments. Some members of the company present, who noted his earnestness and the disappointment caused by this announcement from the officer, said: 'Enroll him, Captain, and we will see that he has a horse and equipments the next night we get into.' In faith of this promise he was enrolled James M. Watkins, Company 'D,' Eleventh Virginia Cavalry, Jones' Brigade. Shortly afterward the campaign opened with the fight at Brandy Station, in which twenty thousand cavalry were engaged from daylight to sundown, and before the battle was over Watkins was mounted and fully equipped and took his place with his company. It was not long after this engagement that General Lee advanced the whole army and crossed into Maryland, Watkins' command covering the rear. During the battle of Gettysburg, on the 3d and 4th of July, we were engaged several times with the enemy's cavalry on our right, upon which occasions he was always found in the front, and while on the march was ever bright and cheerful. On the evening of the 4th, Gen. Lee, in preparation for his retreat, began to send his divisions very intently to the rear. Williamsport, when it was found that the enemy's cavalry had gone around our left and taken possession of a pass in South Mountain through which lay our line of march. To dislodge them required a stubborn fight, lasting late into the night, in which Gen. Jones' brigade was engaged, and he himself was severely killed from his men in the darkness, was supposed to have been captured or killed.

Finally the Federals were repulsed, and the wagon train proceeded on its way to Williamsport. In the morning Watkins' command was ordered to march. The command was to march in a column, and to prevent a renewal of the attacks upon it, and an approaching Hagerstown those in the rear of the column heard loud and repeated cheering from the men in front. After having been in an enemy's company fighting night and day, in rain and mud, and others who had never seen a battle, they heard them in the distance as the first rays of sunshine after a storm. Many were the conjectures as to their cause; some said it was fresh troops from the other side of the Potomac; others that it was the ammunition wagons, for the supply was known to be short; while others thought that it was Gen. Jones reappearing after his supposed death or capture. Whatever the cause was, its effect was wonderful upon the morale of those men, and cheers went up all along the line from those who did not know the cause in answer to those who did. The command had reached a point some miles South of Hagerstown, they found the cause—only a little girl about fourteen years of age, perhaps the miller's daughter, standing in the door wearing an apron in which the colors were so blended as to represent the Confederate flag.

A trivial thing may seem to those who were not there, but to those war-worn men it was the first expression of sympathy for them and their cause that had been openly given them since they had crossed the Potomac, and their cheers went up in recognition of the courage of the little girl and her parents, who had dared to give their sympathy to a traitor's army, almost in sight of a revengeful foe. When Company D was passing the house the Captain rode up and thanked the little girl for having done so much to revive the drooping spirits of the troops and asked her if she would not give him a piece of the apron as a souvenir. The girl said: "Yes, certainly," and replied: "You may have it all." And in her enthusiasm she tore it off, not waiting to unpin it, and handed it to the officer, who said it should be the flag of his company as long as it was upon Maryland soil. Let me be the color-bearer, Captain," said young Watkins, who was by his side. "I promise to protect it with my life." And fastening it to a staff he resumed his place at the head of the company, which was in the front squadron of the regiment. Later in the evening, in obedience to an order brought by a courier, the Eleventh Cavalry moved in the direction of Williamsport, where the roll of musketry and report of cannon had been heard for some time, and, rejoining the brigade, was engaged in a desperate struggle to prevent the Federal cavalry from destroying the wagon train. The enemy's cavalry, which was being unfordable, were halted and parked at this point, their principal device against the whole cavalry force of the enemy being the teamsters and stragglers that Gen. Imboden had organized. The Eleventh Cavalry charged the battery in front of them, which was supported by his apron flag, riding side by side with those who led the charge. The battery was taken and retaken and then taken again before the Federals withdrew from the field, followed in the direction of Boonsboro until darkness covered many retreat.

In those desperate surges many were thrown on both sides, and it was not until after it was over that men thought of their comrades and inquiries were made for the missing. The Captain of Company D, looking over the battle-field for the killed and wounded of his command, found young Watkins lying on the ground, his head supported by the surgeon. In reply to his question, "Was he badly hurt?" he answered: "Not much, Captain, but I've got the flag!" and putting his hand in his bosom he drew out the little apron and gave it to the officer. When asked how it came there he said that when he was wounded and fell from his horse the Federals were all around him, and to prevent their capturing it he had torn it from the staff and hid it in his bosom. The surgeon told the Captain aside that his leg was shattered by a large shell, which was imbedded in the bone; that amputation was necessary, and he feared the wound was mortal. "But," he added, "he has been so intent upon the safe delivery of that apron into your hands as to seem utterly unconscious of his

A REMARKABLE INVALID.

The Singular Freaks of Pretty Miss Collins. From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

MILLSBURG, Ky., March 15. The case of Miss Lizzie Collins, whose queer somnambulistic propensities were first brought to the attention of the general public by the letter of a local correspondent, is attracting considerable attention among medical men. The *Courier-Journal* correspondent, in company with the representative of the New York *Sun*, visited her on Saturday last. Her father, Mr. William Collins, is a well-to-do farmer, living about three miles from here, on the right-hand side of the Ruddle's Mill road. He is well known in this vicinity, and bears an excellent reputation for honesty and truth. Lizzie is a beautiful girl, about fifteen years of age, and is the daughter of the late Mr. Collins. In figure she is about the average height of women, measuring five feet seven and one-half inches. She is of delicate frame, and weighs ninety-nine pounds. She has a pretty face, inheriting the beauty of her mother, who was a remarkably handsome woman in Nicholas county. From infancy Lizzie has been delicate, and all told has had but about seven months schooling, yet she is intelligent beyond her years, and very lady-like in manners. Last New Year's she began to trouble her mother, and was forced to take to her bed. Dr. D. Eads, her medical adviser, says that the nerves in all parts of her body are super sensitive, so much so that the pressure of one's hand on her feet, legs or back are excruciatingly painful. Her lungs, heart, etc., are normally healthy, and she has a good appetite. Some days the nerves of her body are less sensitive than on others, and she is allowed to move about the house on crutches. About six weeks ago, strange phenomena in connection with the disease began to manifest themselves. At regular intervals she began to utter an incoherent cry in the early evening, which on all appearances falls asleep, always on her right side, with her right arm doubled under her head. Her eyes close, her breathing becomes short and spasmodic, and a low moan escapes her lips. Her hands are clenched, and she convulsively, and her mouth is frequently thrown to one side. While in this condition she manifests what in mental philosophy is called double consciousness. The nervous sensitiveness vanishes or is damped, and she has been known to jump out of her bed and walk about the house, aided and without apparent effort. When in her normal condition the weight of her hand laid upon any portion of her spine will cause her to scream with pain. In the abnormal state a brisk rubbing of the back is unnoted. But stranger than all this is her peculiar manner of somnambulism. As soon as she enters into the present state, she acts like one in somnambulism, but very unlike her natural self. In fact, in her normal and abnormal conditions she appears to have two separate identities, physical and mental. In her normal condition she is a healthy, bright, and cheerful girl, and in her abnormal condition she is a sensitive, nervous, and somewhat morose being. She is very quiet in her normal condition, and in her abnormal condition she is very noisy and restless. She will frequently call for her books and slates and proceed to study her lessons; do difficult sums in arithmetic, write letters to relatives, etc., all with her eyes closed entirely. She recently wrote a letter of four pages to a relative, and, on reading it over, she discovered several misspelled words. While in this state of somnambulism she calls Dr. Eads and his wife her grandpa and grandma. Dr. Eads has attended her from her infancy, and when attending her from this strange state she has been laughing, and before waking has been in a camp with those near her bedside. When awake she has no recollection of what she did or said in the somnambulistic state, and is really two separate persons.

When awake she writes with her right hand, and when asleep she writes with her left hand altogether, and in either state pens a fine but very different handwriting. Dr. Kenney, of Paris, made a careful examination of her while in a state of somnambulism, and states that her eyes are really closed all the time. He has never seen a case of this kind in all his practice, and does not know of a similar case on record in all the works known to the medical profession. The gentleman who accompanied your correspondent on his recent visit had paid professional visits to a young lady nearly blind, named Miss Fouchier, of Brooklyn, New York. Miss Fouchier was a very interesting case, and puzzled the medical men and was the wonder of the ignorant and superstitious last spring. Dr. Hammond, of New York City, who has had nearly a half-century's experience in the treatment of nervous diseases, says that people are often deceived by the desired object, and without being able to see it she described its general appearance, color, peculiar marks, etc. In her normal condition she is very fond of knitting lace, and while we were examining her she called for her lace, and did the delicate needle-work so deftly as though her eyes were upon the work. One of the "13-15" puzzles was placed in such a position that the sick girl could not have seen the printed page, even had her eyes been wide open. Without hesitation, she correctly read the passage selected. A number of objects were scattered about her, and she was asked to reach up to each one of them with her hand, but in such a position that she could not see any of the articles were her eyes really open without turning her head. 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