

IN CAMP AND FIELD.

A Medical Man's Memory of War-Time.

BY O. B. JOHNSON.

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SECTION III—PROGRESS OF THE WAR AS NOTED FROM A QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD.

Not even many weeks had the war been in progress, when the powers that be came to realize that the Southerners were terribly in earnest, that putting down the rebellion was no child's play, and that for its accomplishment there would be needed a large number of men and vast sums of money.

Congress convened in extra session July 4, 1861, and in his message to that body President Lincoln recommended that four hundred thousand men be enrolled and four hundred million dollars be appropriated for war purposes.

While the authorities seemed thus early to realize the magnitude of the uprising in the South, the people did not seem to do so fully till after the battle of Bull Run.

This battle, that at the time seemed so disastrous to the Union cause, occurred July 21, 1861. The newspapers were filled with accounts and narrations of the battle, some of them in a little while after referring to it facetiously as the Bull Run.

But this battle, the crisis which was the immediate cause of the great uprising in the North that ultimately saved the Union, came almost precisely six months after the secession of South Carolina.

General Fremont had command of the Department of Missouri during most of the summer of 1861, and as he started in with considerable reputation, the people naturally believed he would be one of the prominent figures of the war, but he some way failed to develop as expected.

In August 10, 1861, was fought the battle of Wilson's creek near Springfield, Mo., when our forces attacked and grossly demoralized the enemy who outnumbered

them three to one. But the Union cause sustained what, at the time, seemed almost irreparable loss in the death of General Lyon. Our forces, after General Lyon's death, fell back to Springfield, Mo., and finally to Rolla. General Sigel, upon whom the command devolved, gained much reputation for the mastery manner in which he brought off the little army in the face of a foe which numerically was so much his superior.

General Lyon's death was greatly deplored. He seemed to combine qualities in his person so much needed at the time—qualities lacking in many even in the highest places.

His energy, promptness, sagacity and bravery made him a great favorite in the West and gave promise of a brilliant future, had his life been spared.

He first came into prominence May 10, 1861, when, as Captain Lyon of the regular army, he promptly seized Camp Jackson at St. Louis and thus early saved that city to the Union.

her" bonnet looked the eagle eyes of Captain Nathaniel Lyon of the United States army, who carefully took in the whole situation.

Shortly afterwards a body of armed soldiers were marched out to Camp Jackson, halted in front of it when their commander, Captain Lyon, demanded and promptly received the surrender of the Confederate camp with its twelve hundred embryo soldiers.

This bold and sagacious act caused great rejoicing throughout the West, but especially in such parts of Illinois as were tributary to St. Louis. The newspapers of the day were filled with accounts of the affair and Captain Lyon at once came into prominence. But his career of glory was doomed to be short, as he fell precisely three months later at Wilson's creek.

Our little county, as stated in a previous paper, furnished a company of three months' men at the first call in April, 1861; these, before their time had fully expired, came home on furlough, preparatory to entering the three years' service, for which period they had re-enlisted. Those from our community came walking in from toward the railroad station one bright June morning, dressed in their fresh, new uniforms. Coats of dark or navy blue with bright brass buttons, pants light blue, neat caps with long visors, and their blankets of gray woolen, neatly rolled and thrown gracefully over their shoulders. Thus seen, "soldiering" looked inviting to a boy not yet eighteen.

During the summer of 1861 a man came along and hired out upon the farm where the writer was working. He stated that he was from near Springfield, Mo., where he had owned a well-stocked farm, but that the country being overrun by the contending armies every thing had been "stripped off" and he was glad to get away. His family had gone to some relatives in Indiana while he sought to earn a little money by hard work. He was the first Union refugee seen by the writer.

The battle of Bull Run in the East, and Wilson's creek in the West, were the principal engagements during the summer of 1861.

The writer remembers anxiously watching the papers during the summer and autumn of that year, instinctively hoping to read of the Confederates being overwhelmed by our forces. But his hopes were not gratified; that bit of philosophy: "The mills of the gods grind slowly but surely" he had yet to learn.

During the winter of 1861-2 the writer taught a district school in a remote and sparsely settled section, seven miles from a post-office, where papers a week off were not considered stale.

Not till long after it was fought, January 19, 1862, Mill Spring, General Thomas' first battle, was read an account of the whole matter. Here the Confederate forces were beaten and put to flight, General Zollicoffer killed, their lines penetrated and broken at Bowling Green. Even in this early period every neighborhood had one or more representatives in the army, and during the winter the writer remembers serving upon several occasions as amanuensis to some of his employers, who were poor penmen, answering letters from soldiers at the front.

Towards night one dreary, foggy day in February, 1862, the boom of cannon was heard away off to the southwest. Next day it was learned that a great victory had been won. That Fort Donelson, on the Tennessee river, had fallen. Fifteen thousand Confederates were reported captured, with all their arms and accoutrements. The cannonading heard proved to be the firing of a National salute at St. Louis, more than forty miles distant. Meeting a party next day who had seen the papers and read an account of the whole affair, the writer inquired the name of the Union commander.

The answer was: "General Grant." "Grant?" "Grant?" said the writer, "never heard of him, who is he? what's his rank?" where's he from?" "I don't know just who he is," was the reply, "except that he is a Brigadier-General and is from Illinois."

The writer remembers feeling a shade of disappointment at the time that an entirely new and unknown man should all at once come into such prominence and, so to speak, eclipse men with familiar names.

Fort Donelson surrendered February 17, 1862, and it must have been the evening of February 14 that the salute was heard. It is unusual for cannonading to be heard forty miles and more distant, but the damp, heavy atmosphere of the time together with the level prairie over which the sound waves traversed had much to do with the long distance reached.

In singular contrast to this experience was that at Perryville, October 8, 1862, when in the afternoon a severe and bloody battle was fought by McCook's corps of the army of the Ohio, two and one-half miles from the headquarters of the Commander, but he notwithstanding failed to hear the sound of battle.

In a recent article on the battle of Shiloh, General Buell expresses surprise that the Commander of the army should unwittingly permit the foe to approach with a large force, encamp over night within one and one-half miles of his lines, and next morning attack with large army. Not stranger is it that the Commander should remain so quietly at his headquarters for a whole afternoon in blissful ignorance of the fact that one wing of his army was engaged in perilous battle, but two and one-half miles distant!

But that the latter circumstance happened, Buell himself testifies and offers in explanation the peculiar configuration of the country and the prevalence of a strong wind from his headquarters toward the corps engaged. War as well as peace has its anomalies.

In the autumn of 1861 the people began to be impatient with what was deemed the needless inactivity of the Army of the Potomac under McClellan, and concerning him and that organization the phrase: "All quiet on the Potomac," first used as an expressive indication of no demonstration by either friend or foe in Virginia, came as the period of inaction lengthened, to have a satirical meaning.

high command, and some even made the remark that he was the "biggest man never to have done any thing on record."

His most excellent service in Western Virginia in July, 1861, was for the time forgotten or ignored, and his great ability as an organizer was not yet understood.

In April, 1862, in the West all eyes were concentrated upon the Army of the Tennessee based at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee river. Here on April 6, 1862, Grant came near being overwhelmed, and, for a time, passed under a shadow of public distrust as dark and forbidding as the previous two months—after the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson—sunshine of popular approval and confidence had been warm and cheering.

The 6th of April, 1862, made memorable to the writer by the death of a relative, is remembered as a typical April day—now a cloud, now a shower, now sunshine, a little wind, a little warm and a little mud, but pleasant withal and full of the promise of spring.

Little did we of the North know when the sun went down that quiet Sabbath evening, through what peril one of our great armies had passed.

In the same secluded, sparsely settled section, seven miles from a post-office, where the writer spent the winter of 1861-2, he also spent the spring and summer following, contentedly farming and dreaming of the college life, which he hoped was near at hand.

About this time too he first saw a national bank note. The man who had saved five and ten-dollar bills of this species said they were "legal-tender."

Their bright, crisp appearance and artistic workmanship were in striking contrast with the State bank—sold-out currency, up to that period the only paper money in circulation.

This State bank money was of such uncertain value that many of the old-fashioned, but sturdy, people refused to receive it in payment of dues, and insisted upon having only gold and silver. Consequently paper money naturally held a lower place in the public estimate than had heretofore.

The National currency soon banished the State currency. Gold and silver disappeared from circulation in 1862, and fractional currency was issued by the Government of fifty, twenty-five, ten, five and even three cents values.

The daily newspaper was almost never seen and even a good weekly but seldom. However, the neighborhood was by no means deprived of news as a party, whom we will call Brown, amply supplied the place of a local paper.

Brown was of middle age and medium size, of rough-strong build, had coarse red hair, never wore whiskers, but seldom shaved oftener than once in a fortnight, hence his face was usually covered with a porcupine-like growth of an uncertain yellow.

Gen. Franz Sigel.—From Portrait in Harper's. lowish red hue, often covered with tobacco juice as was the front of his brown domestic shirt that fastened at the neck with a large horn button, but left a great gaping space of eight or ten inches below, displaying his hairy breast. He wore a pair of brown-jeans pants held up by one, sometimes two, "gallions" made of striped bed-ticking, and in any thing like mild weather had on neither coat nor vest.

On his head was the remnant of a coarse wool hat, his pants invariably short, failed when he was sitting to meet the tops of his blue wooden socks and the interval thus left was uncovered by underwear; on his feet, summer and winter, were coarses brogan shoes, in size about number eleven.

In the eyes of Brown any man who wore any thing finer than Kentucky jeans was proud, and every woman stuck up, who of Sundays, donned any thing save a "sun" bonnet.

Brown believed he was just as good as anybody, but, fearing others would not think so, took occasion every now and then to assert the fact.

He probably never missed a meal of victuals in his life on account of sickness, but when accosted with the usual "Howdy do, Brown," invariably answered, "only today." His family consisted of a hearty wife and some half-dozen healthy children, but he never would concede their healthy status, and when asked regarding their health always answered with some qualified phrase as: "Party peart considering," "all stirrin' when I left," "so's to be round," "all about now," "only tobbie like," "all at rigge but the old woman, she's powerful weak," "jist middlin'" etc., etc.

But once seated in your house and having satisfactorily compromised the health of himself and family, Brown lost no further time, but at once began unloading his latest batch of war news.

"Hain't heard 'bout the big fight on the 'Tennesse, I recort that Grant's boys (helped) the gunboats take them an' forts down there, whar they ketchesed so many sojers—Donelson's and Henry, I believe they call 'em. I forgit his name—O yes, Grant. Well, he got whipped mighty bad, him and his army—got his nall cut up and lots of 'em took prisoner."

"Some's sayin' they recen he must a ben in licker to get whirped that away." "They fit two whole days, and if it hadn't ben for them air gunboats helpin', him and his whole army ben tuck prisoner, shore. They are sayin' 'Pears like Grant's awful lucky gittin' hope from gunboats."

house, hospital, sutler's stores, etc.; in the center was a large open space, the drill ground.

At other end, at about its middle, was a large high gate for teams, and beside it a smaller one for persons to pass through; at each of which stood a soldier with musket, guarding the entrance.

Life within soon grew to be veritable prison experience. A company was assigned to each of the buildings, which, as said before, was a long, narrow structure, and had at one end a kitchen and storerooms and at the other two or three small apartments for the officers. Through the center of the main room ran a table made of rough boards from which all ate.

At the sides of the long room were boxes structures, open in front, having tiers of boards laid wide enough for two to sleep upon. These were bunks.

The barracks were made of rough boards put on "up and down," with no ceiling overhead save the shingle roof. Windows and doors were few, purposely so to economize space.

Here began the crude, coarse fare of soldier life. Rations in abundance were of course supplied, but their preparation lacked the delicate, skilled hand of woman. Two men were daily detailed from the company to serve in the kitchen two days.

These, the first day, served as assistants to two other men who, but the day previous, were assistants, and with the ripe experience thus gained in one day's apprenticeship, were now full fledged cooks.

With these constant changes in the kitchen, the food was at nearly all times ill prepared, and chance to often an important factor in the results, obtained. For illustration, meat that was put in the oven to bake or rather roast, from the presence of too much fat, turned out a fry, and beef put in the kettle to boil, from there being a scarcity of water towards the last, ended in a bake.

Potatoes were almost never well cooked, even when apparently done a raw core would be found in the center. Coffee was sometimes a little stronger than water at others like lye.

But rice, white beans and dried apples, gave the new cooks most trouble. In cooking these the novice invariably filled the camp kettle, a large sheet-iron vessel holding two gallons or more, with one of these articles and then poured in water and set it upon the stove. In a little while the rice, apples or beans began swelling and the vessel commenced running over; the novice meantime dipping out the superfluous quantity and putting it in another vessel, this process goes on till he finds he has been compelled to take out more than there is left and still the camp kettle runs over and seems to have lost none—and in the end there is enough for a regiment and utensils of all kind were furnished by the Government. The tableware was all of tin or iron.

Through the day there was company drill, occupying an hour or two after breakfast and before supper. The rest of the time was spent reading, writing letters and playing checkers and pitching quoits with horse-shoes.

Occasionally a pass was procured from the commander of the post, and a trip made to Springfield or to the woods or into the country across the fields. The camp had grown terrible monotonous and any chance to get out, where the view was less circumscribed and the pure air in more abundance, was welcomed.

The Best Physicians Outdone. J. A. Crawford says: "I have had the worst form of Eczema two years, and found no relief from some of our best physicians who have made this disease a specialty. I was persuaded to try Papillon (extract of flax). The relief I received was like a charm and I am well. I think Papillon one of the blessings of the age."

Lars Kimson, a Norwegian, who has lived several years in Otter Creek and "kept back" lately, was found dead by the railroad track near Kernan, on Monday last. He is supposed to have fallen in a fit while walking along on the railway.

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Try Papillon (extract of flax) Skin Cure when all others fail. Large bottles \$1.00, at T. E. Gapsen & Co's Drug store.

Braidwood is said to be in a worse fix now than last summer. The Eureka nit is have shut down, throwing 250 men out of employment, and in the C. W. & V. mines there are only three and four men in every room.

Dr. Bigelow's stomach and liver pills are superior to all other. Prices 25 cents of E. Y. Griggs.

A hunting contest, with 86 men on each side, has just ended over in Knox county. In four weeks one side caught 4,493 rats and 3,081 mice, while the other killed 2,501 rats and 4,698 mice.

The Sterling Standard of last week relates that while attempting to break up the ice gorge with dynamite, a piece of ice from one of the blasts struck a spectator, Geo. Klienberger on top of the head, nearly killing him.

OTTAWA POST OFFICE. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MAIL. C. R. I. & P. R. R. Eastern mail, 11:00 A. M. Western mail, 11:30 A. M. Night mail, 8:00 P. M. Southern mail, 11:30 A. M. Northern mail, 11:30 P. M. Streetcar, 1:30 P. M. Office open at 7:00 A. M. Office open Sundays from 10 to 12 o'clock.

Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. NEW TIME TABLE. GOING EAST. No. 10, Peru Accommodation, 7:02 A. M. No. 12, Omaha, Peoria & St. Paul Express, 11:30 A. M. No. 14, Peoria Accommodation, 1:30 P. M. No. 16, Kansas City Express, 3:30 P. M. No. 18, Omaha & St. Paul Express, 5:30 P. M. GOING WEST. No. 20, Omaha & St. Paul Express, 7:02 A. M. No. 22, Peoria Accommodation, 11:30 A. M. No. 24, Kansas City Express, 1:30 P. M. No. 26, Peoria Accommodation, 3:30 P. M. No. 28, Omaha, Peoria & St. Paul Express, 5:30 P. M.

Chicago, Burlington and Quincy R. R. TIME TABLE. JUNE 20th, 1880. GOING SOUTH. P.M. No. 1, Chicago, 4:45 A.M. No. 3, Chicago, 8:15 A.M. No. 5, Chicago, 11:45 A.M. No. 7, Chicago, 2:15 P.M. No. 9, Chicago, 5:45 P.M. No. 11, Chicago, 9:15 P.M. GOING NORTH. P.M. No. 2, Chicago, 4:45 A.M. No. 4, Chicago, 8:15 A.M. No. 6, Chicago, 11:45 A.M. No. 8, Chicago, 2:15 P.M. No. 10, Chicago, 5:45 P.M. No. 12, Chicago, 9:15 P.M.

Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad. On and after May 9, 1880, trains on the C. & A. R. R. as follows: For East, 1:20 P.M.; for Aurora, 10:00 A.M.; for St. Louis, 5:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M., and 10:00 A.M. For West, 1:20 P.M.; for Alton, 10:00 A.M.; for St. Louis, 5:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M., and 10:00 A.M. For Chicago, 1:20 P.M.; for Alton, 10:00 A.M.; for St. Louis, 5:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M., and 10:00 A.M.

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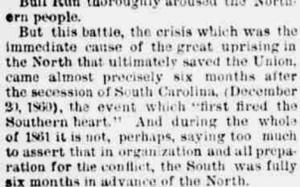
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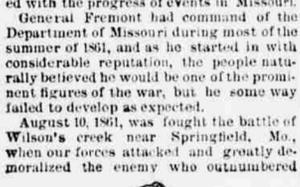
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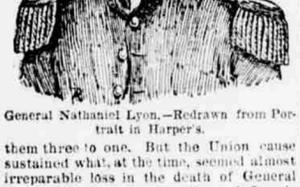
Lincoln—From a Photograph Taken in Springfield About 1860. Property of Dr. Johnson.



Gen. Franz Sigel.—From Portrait in Harper's.



General Nathaniel Lyon.—Redrawn from Portrait in Harper's.



Shiloh Meeting-House.—Redrawn from Cut in Harper's.

