

HIS BROTHER'S BODY FOR SEVEN MONTHS LAY UPON THE BATTLE-FIELD AT SPOTSYLVANIA

Capt. James E. Phillips Returned to the Scene of the Conflict, Found the Remains, and at Night, Alone in the Woods, Buried Them - Remarkable Story Told by a Well-Known Confederate Veteran of Richmond.

"He is the man of most remarkable memory I ever met. If you were to ask him when he was thirty-nine years ago to-day he could tell you without a moment's reflection."

Such was the remark made to me a few days ago by a friend of Captain James E. Phillips pasting in the street. I subsequently found out that Captain Phillips was a walking vocabulary. On Thursday I had a talk with him with a view to verifying what my friend had



CAPT. JAMES E. PHILLIPS.

said. He could tell, as the baseball people would say, "right off the bat," the date when every battle in the Civil War was fought; he could name the place "where he was at" on any date suggested.

Captain Phillips has a good deal of humor about him. When he was asked where he was on a certain day in April, 1865, he replied:

"I was walking to Richmond. My feet were sore and I was ragged and hungry, but I was not discouraged, for I was a 'courting man,' and wanted to see my sweetheart. She is the present Mrs. James E. Phillips. As 'Old Grover' would say, our life has been a 'sweet song.' We are still lovers. I have had my 'ups and

downs' since the war, but, thank heaven, I am still able to 'have my 'pot licker and my corn bread.' DIDN'T RECEIVE A SCRATCH. There is at least one unique feature in Captain Phillips' record. It may be that there were some who participated in more battles than he, but he did not receive a scratch, but it is hardly likely. He was in thirty-five fights, and was always at the front; yet not a bullet struck him. A brother and many dear friends fell by his side, but he came out of the war without a mark upon his body. He was never sick and was regarded by his comrades as a man with an iron constitution. To-day, while he is a man, as far as years go, on the sunny side of the hill of life, he is a boy in spirit. He can run a race with a college athlete and he can do as much hard work as one many years his junior. There is no man in the world with the possible exception of former Policeman W. C. Wilkinson, who has a "stronger grip" on the hand than Captain Phillips. When he grasps your hand and brings down his iron "claws" upon your "soft wax," you will see not only stars, but the sun and the moon in addition.

AT APPOMATTOX. But what I started out to say was that of that gallant band of 122 young men who left Richmond with the Richmond Grays on the 21st of April, 1861, Captain Phillips was the only one who surrendered with the company at Appomattox. There were others of the original at that scene, with the possible exception of former Policeman W. C. Wilkinson, who had been promoted and transferred to other commands. He was with the Grays throughout the war, and was the acting captain at the surrender. Five ragged and foot sore Confederates constituted the company at Appomattox. James E. Phillips was acting captain; W. C. Mayo, sergeant; E. K. Gunn, L. J. Dickerson and J. M. Siddons, privates. The company was in striking contrast to other companies of the organization that went out of Richmond on a Sunday in April, 1861.

Captain Phillips walked back to Richmond. He had no money, but he had brains and industry. When he came back to his business men, had reasons of prosperity and adversity, to use his own language, "I am as yet able to keep my head above water, and every morning before I get up I read the news. I am a friend and potlicker, tell the old 'vets,' still constitute my favorite diet."

OUT OF THE BEATEN TRACK.

Unique Tales Picked Up Anywhere for Readers Looking for Something Unusual.

How the Oil Well Was Salted

As is not at all surprising just at this time, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat, the conversation turned upon the recent oil discoveries in Texas, and as there were several prospectors, promoters and speculators in the party, there were numerous stories of various kinds connected with mining developments coming thick and fast. "Booms always bring together unique specimens of humanity, and the fellow who makes a living 'z' his wits is sure to be in the party," remarked one of the party. "These fellows generally make a specialty of 'salting' claims. Sometimes they do it for fun, and much more frequently for the money that may be in it. I had a case of 'salting' come under my eyes only the other day which was rather amusing, but I should premise by saying that the salter in this instance was a reputable citizen of New Orleans, who had thought of cheating anybody who wanted little fun, and he had it. He lives away down in the Third District, and in his back yard is an old well with a pump in it. With great pretensions of secrecy he informed a dozen or more of his neighbors that he had found oil in his well and hoped to get a fancy price for the property. They hurried to his place to test the accuracy of his story, but not before he was ready. For the oil he took an old crock of large size from a rubbish heap, and, filling it about half way to the top with kerosene oil, deposited it, right side up, just at the base of the pile of refuse. When the neighbors came to the pump and then turned about to look for something in which to catch the oil he was about to pump from his valuable well. Of course it was but natural that his eye should fall upon the big tomato can, and, carrying it to the well with sublime confidence, he made one stroke with the pump handle and the can was filled. Naturally enough the oil floated on top of the water, and his neighbors stood in open-mouthed wonder as they passed the can from hand to hand and critically examined the contents. He was obliged speedily to undeceive them to prevent a general tearing up of much valuable real estate in the Third District."

What Mr. Cleveland Missed.

"If Grover Cleveland had possessed a little mining nerve," said an old Leadville miner recently, "he would be an owner in one of the biggest gold producers in Colorado. In the early nineties Jim Shinn formed a company which he called the Cleveland Mining Company, and sent Grover a block of the stock. "Prospecting was carried on until the treasury was depleted, and when the stockholders were asked to contribute further Mr. Cleveland was asked to do those who failed to respond. The company quit work and gave up its lease on the claim. "This claim is now one of the group owned by the new research company, and it is worth \$300,000 a month, and is the center of the rich ore shoot recently opened by Manager Tim Goodwin." - Denver Dispatch to N. Y. Commercial.

BICYCLIST ACROSS AFRICA.

Had Many Varied Experiences and Found Out a Good Deal. Reuter's representative has had an interview with Mr. J. A. Bailey, who has just reached London from Mombasa, having traveled overland, via Uganda, from the Upper Nile. Mr. Bailey's journey was undertaken specially with a view to ascertaining the conditions of transport by this route, and the practicability of its adoption as a means of communication between British Equatorial Africa and England. For a considerable portion of the way to Gondokoro-in fact, wherever it was possible to do so-Mr. Bailey rode a bicycle ahead of his caravan, and also with it, at about two and a half miles an hour, when necessary to keep with his men. Describing his experiences, Mr. Bailey said: "I traveled from Mombasa to Uganda by the ordinary means-by train to rail head, which was then at Mili 48 (Lake Nanyuki), thence marched and cycled to Port Florence, in Kavirondo, on Lake Victoria. I returned to Uganda by a route which I left the capital on January 19th. I had a very fortunate journey, with splendid weather to Khartoum. Thence I proceeded to Khartoum, where I arrived within seven weeks of my start from Uganda. The importance of this route to our Central African possessions cannot be over-estimated. Quite apart from its commercial standpoint, the political value of being able to reach these remote regions by an alternative route is very great. The marvellous development which has succeeded the downfall of the Derivishs now makes it possible for anyone to reach the very heart of British Africa in comparative safety and comfort with but two days' sea journey, though the Government is not prepared yet to open this route for general traffic. In Central African countries like Uganda, where the unexpected often happens, it is of great importance to know that if necessary troops could be poured into the country by sea routes, and that the East Coast route is no longer the only one to be relied upon. Speaking of the situation in the Uganda

Secret Service in the Shops.

Each year sees an increase in the "secret service" of the big shops. According to a trade journal, each department of each department store has its corps of "secret-service" detectives and workers. The chief of the department is the head of the corps. It is his first duty to keep closest tab on the doings of all competitors. The walls of his private office are lined with the advertisements of rival shops. That each advertised article may be carefully examined, shoppers are at once dispatched to purchase them-from the 50-cent taffeta marked down to 25 to the brass bedstead at \$3.50, worth double. There is a regular staff of these shoppers, some of whom never come near a house, but communicate by letter exclusively with the department. "In one store," says the trade journal, "these purchases are received and inspected in what is known as 'Room No. 2' a place as dreary by the buyers of the house as a dark room by an infant. Many a department head has suffered dejection as the result of deliberations in that court-room. The best of keeping such close watch is not alone to be posted upon the doings of rivals, but to compare the merits of various. -New York Evening Sun.

Dewey's Narrow Escape.

Very tangible evidence of the periling to which Admiral Dewey was exposed during the battle of Manila Bay was forwarded to the Navy Department recently in the shape of one of the starboard plates of the Admiral's flagship, Olympia. The plate is about three feet square, and in the middle is a heavy indentation 1.24 inches deep, made by a large fragment from a five or six pounder Spanish

The Captain is one of the best-known contracting plumbers in Richmond. He is a jovial, good natured man-one who loves his fellowmen. Wherever he goes there is sunshine in his face and warmth of heart in his greeting.

HIS BROTHER'S DEATH.

Captain Phillips had one very remarkable and sad experience during the war. On the 24th of May, 1864, his brother, Sergeant R. I. Phillips, was killed, with many others, at Spotsylvania Court-house. The Confederates charged the Federals in the woods east of the court-house. The Captain was in that battle, and he took part in the burying of the watch and finger-ring the latter had on him at that time. He had to leave the body with those of others who were killed at the same time, among them Sergeant C. E. Granger, James Nowland, Thomas Schriener, Dr. Disway, dentist of Petersburg, and others.

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