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GEN. STONEMAN'S GREAT RAID.

A NARRATIVE OF EVENTS BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT WHO ACCOMPANIED THE EXPEDITION.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Times.

HEADQUARTERS STONEMAN'S CAVALRY, Camp, Friday, May 8.

Thursday morning (April 30) the whole command was aroused from slumber before daylight; after a little shaking and wringing, "Boots and saddle" was whispered to the different commanders, and we were soon upon the road.

Being well within the enemy's lines, great caution was exercised; proceeding a few miles through a piece of woods in parallel columns, a large open space of rolling ground was reached, when a halt was made in the woods, and the whole district was probed for an enemy. These precautionary plans were carried out during the whole expedition. The exercise of caution was particularly necessary, because cannonading could be heard on the right—supposed to be in Gen. Averill's command. The advance of General Buford's column arrived near Minto's Ford, on the Rapidan, at 1 o'clock, P. M. Lieutenant Penn Gaskell, Aid-de-Camp, with a squadron of the Fifth Cavalry, crossed, and dashing up the river, caused some 1,000 rebel infantry, assembled to protect the crossing at Raccoon Ford, two miles above—to leave in great haste. They succeeded in carrying with a piece of artillery which they had intended to use upon the head of Gen. Gregg's column. Lieutenant Penn Gaskell followed the flying fugitives for five miles, on the road toward Orange Court House, (capturing a Lieutenant and nine men, mostly artillerymen,) and General Gregg crossed the River at Raccoon Ford without difficulty. At night the whole force encamped on a hill commanding the ford, with orders to be in the saddle at 2 A. M.

Friday, May 1st, another cold, wet night, was passed in the open air, and all pretended to enjoy it hugely, and the men were standing to horse at the hour indicated, but the march was not commenced till after daylight—a guide was wanted. Major Falls of General Gregg's Staff, foraged to supply the deficiency, and soon after caused much amusement by dashing along the line at the head of the column with a reliable contraband astride his horse behind. At Orange Spring, a Lieutenant on Jackson's Staff, named Mount, was captured while returning from Fauquier county, where he had been on a short leave of absence. He alleges he was captured only when his horse became unmanageable. The approach to Orange Spring was very quiet, and so close upon a column of rebel cavalry that they were forced to throw away several wagon-loads of provisions, and abandon their jaded horses and accoutrements.

A few stragglers were captured. Among the captures was a rebel engineer and team filled with the implements employed in his department. At 2 o'clock P. M. scouts reported that several hundred of the enemy's cavalry, with a train, were escaping by a side road on our right. Col. Wyndham was sent in pursuit, and went to the vicinity of Madison, without overhauling the force, however. There was some straggling to-day, owing to the desire of a few of the rear guard to obtain peach brandy, which the inhabitants dealt out liberally, with a view, no doubt, to make captures. The day and night being pleasant, the command marched until 3 1/2 o'clock Saturday morning, May 2, when a halt was made at Greenwood, one mile west of Louisa Court House.

Here was reached the Central Virginia Railroad. Detachments were sent up and down the road for miles, to destroy the track, culverts and bridges, and also to act as pickets to prevent surprise. The work was well done. Just at dawn Col. Kilpatrick charged into Louisa Court House. The visit of the Yankees was entirely unexpected, and the people were caught napping, just as they had rolled over for a morning snooze.

The possibility of the invading troops being Yankees was not dreamed of until several straggling rebel soldiers had been arrested. They supposed it to be Stewart's cavalry. When the scales had fallen from their eyes with the rising of the sun, the whole town was panic-stricken. Fully believing the villainous falsehoods so industriously and pertinaciously circulated by the Jeff. Davis despotism at Richmond, as to the treatment the people had everywhere received at the hands of our soldiers, they were much relieved when assured that their lives would be spared, and that private property would not be interfered with, except in such cases as all civilized nations consider ititimate—supplying the actual necessities of the troops. After this assurance, the people talked freely and unreservedly with officers and men. A breakfast—consisting of corn, hog, hominy and rye coffee—was obtained at the hotel for \$2. For shilling calico, \$2 50 per yard was asked at the stores; very poor whisky, \$32 per gallon, and everything else was proportionately high.

To-day the people of Louisa saw for the first time Uncle Samuel's postal currency, and offered any number of Confederate paper dollars for Uncle

Sam's paper representative of twenty-five cents. Greenbacks are held in high estimation. A pair of shoes, for which a storekeeper demand \$28, were offered for \$7, if paid in greenbacks. The reader should bear in mind that this was in a place where the rebel Government has heretofore held undisputed sway.

While halting in Louisa, a squadron of the First Maine Cavalry, picketing the Culpepper road, was attacked by a superior force, and, after a most gallant resistance, fell back, leaving two dead. The First Maine and Second New York were sent to their support, when the enemy fled. The ladies, yesterday, along the road, assured us that we should have "plenty of fight" at Louisa Court House. But like many other rebel boasts, the wish was father to the thought.

At 4 o'clock P. M. Saturday, May 2, the railroad having been destroyed for miles, and a number of cars and bridges—over Greenwood and Hickory rivers—burned, and horses and troops well supplied with rations, the command was moved upon a hill to the east of the town, and there for an hour awaited the threatened attack by troops known to be approaching from Gordonsville. But the two regiments at the west of the town were quite sufficient to induce a retrograde movement of both infantry and cavalry. At 5 o'clock the command started for Thompson's Cross Roads, (or Four Corners,) which point was reached at about 11 1/2 o'clock P. M. From here the different expeditions started to cut the enemy's lines. At 12 o'clock midnight, General Stoneman called all the principal officers together, and explained his general plan of operations. The commander of each detachment was directed to specific points to be destroyed—the special object of his mission accomplished, he was allowed the widest latitude for any further operations.

By 2 1/2 o'clock Sunday morning, May 3, the several expeditions had started. The moon was shining brightly, the roads were comparatively good, and for once in the history of the war, everything was in harmony. Colonel Wyndham, of the First New Jersey Cavalry, with his own and the First Maine regiments—in all about 500 men, took a southerly direction, and crossed Owen's Creek, Licking Hole Creek, Little Licking Hole Creek, Little Byrd Creek, and several other creeks, reached Columbia on the James river, at about 8 o'clock, A. M. The approach of the force had been heralded, but no one believed it. The man who went to the trouble of riding ten miles to give the inhabitants notice, was almost mobbed by the people—they doubted his sanity. "What! Yankees near Columbia?" said one citizen. "It is impossible; Jeff. Davis would not permit such an invasion" of the sacred soil. The furnisher of the unwelcome news had dirt thrown at him, was excited, and followed by a crowd of hooded people, who were threatening him with all sorts of vengeance, just as the advance guard of Col. Wyndham's force, under Major Beaumont, dashed into town. There were no soldiers there. A dozen or more citizens succeeded in escaping across the river and spreading the astounding intelligence, and soon after a squad of troopers appeared in the distance on the opposite bank. The people south of the river did not believe the story told by the fugitives. One man rode with his servant down to the river bank to see for himself. The servant seized upon the opportunity to ride into our lines. He was not pursued. A planter sent a son mounted on a valuable horse to ascertain the news, believing the force to be Stuart's cavalry. The boy asked an officer if the Yankees had been whipped, and was told that they had. He expressed his satisfaction and was about leaving, when the officer told him he wanted a horse—his own was jaded. An exchange was speedily made. The boy was evidently somewhat puzzled at this summary proceeding, but thought it all right, no doubt, as it was Stuart's cavalry, and he rode off to tell his father the news. A negro who manifested some joyful emotion upon hearing that the Yankees were coming, was severely whipped by his master, just below Columbia, a few hours before we reached the spot. The negro, upon being released, reiterated his former expression, and an attempt was made to whip him again. But he escaped, jumped into the river, and was drowned. The old negro preacher on the plantation where the above occurred, told me that his master "curs'd de Yankee cause dey made 'im loss a fifteen-hundred-dollar nigger."

In the canal at Columbia were found several boats loaded for Richmond with baled hay and commissary stores, all bearing the stencil mark of C. S. A.—Another boat from Lynchburg arrived during the day. The torch was applied to the boats; bridges across the canal—of which there were several—and a large quantity of medical and commissary goods found in a warehouse, were either burned or thrown into the river. The bank of the canal was cut at several points within five miles, and the locks destroyed. At Columbia, the canal crosses the James river in a massive stone aqueduct. No one seems to have known of this structure; at all events, nothing was brought along to secure its destruction.

The engineer of the command and Major Beaumont and Capt. Thomas of the first New Jersey Cavalry, each made special effort to destroy this structure. There were no blasting tools to be had; several kegs of blasting powder, however, were found in a storehouse, and three of the kegs were confined in a cask and the cask filled with pressed earth. The water in the aqueduct being eight feet deep, it was designed to sink this machine over one of the piers and destroy the same upon the Maillott plan of blasting rocks under water. Everything was arranged and the cask was being lowered into the canal by means of a rope, when, unfortunately, the rope broke and the cask could not be recovered again within the time prudently dictated that absence from the place would be desirable. Several negroes, who followed that night, allege that two rebel regiments, with eight pieces of artillery, entered the place within two hours after Col. Wyndham evacuated it. At about 4 o'clock P. M., the detachment marched down the canal bank for about five miles, formed byrd Creek, and taking the Fredericksburg pike so far as it went in the right direction, arrived at Thompson's Four Corners at 10 o'clock the same night. This command, during the day, captured several hundred horses, and was followed into camp by a drove of negroes.

The movements of Gen. Gregg's command upon the Fredericksburg and Richmond Railroad at Ashland and vicinity; that of Col. Kilpatrick and Col. Davis, upon the Virginia Central road, between the South Anna and Richmond, and the destruction of all the pike bridges on the South Anna, of trains of cars, of Commissary stores and depots, have been referred to in a previous letter. Each of these detachments captured a large number of horses, and destroyed immense amounts of property in use by or ready for the agents of the rebellion.

Sunday and nearly all day Monday, Gen. Buford's command was stationed near Shannon Hill, and a detachment under Captain Drummond was sent to destroy the canal and bridge near Cedar Point, which work was most effectually accomplished. Sunday night, the 3d, it is believed both Hampton and Lee's brigades were encamped within two miles of Gen. Buford. On the morning of the 4th a picket, consisting of 60 men, commanded by Lieutenant Stoddard of the Fifth Cavalry, was attacked. Fifteen of our men were captured. Among the number missing are two officers, supposed to have been captured. Tuesday, the 5th, the whole of the command concentrated near Yanceyville, and during the day divine service was held in the St. James' Church at that place. The Rev. A. O. Brickman, Chaplain First Maryland Cavalry, officiated, and a patriotic and fervent prayer was offered by Major C. H. Russell, of the same regiment. In the afternoon the retrograde movement was commenced. General Buford's division made a circuit, passing near Gordonsville. General Gregg's division crossed the South Anna at Yanceyville, and on Friday morning, May 8, the whole force reached Kelley's Ford in safety. On Thursday, just after crossing Raccoon Ford, Gen. Stoneman sent Lieut. Sumner, of his staff, as bearer of dispatches to Gen. Hooker, with whom he had not communicated since the 29th ult. Taking with him an escort of sixteen men, Lieut. Sumner went to the Germania Bridge, with a view to reaching, if possible, United States Ford. The result of the battle near Fredericksburg was not then known. Information obtained from residents near Germania Bridge satisfied Lieut. S. that it would not be prudent to go further in that direction. He accordingly proceeded to Richard's Ford, and with great difficulty succeeded in crossing in safety. The escort being unable to ford the river, moved back five miles to a farmhouse, where they stopped for the night, and next morning overtook Gen. Stoneman at Kelley's Ford. Not an armed rebel was seen by this party. To sum up—Gen. Stoneman moved about within the enemy's lines at will for nine days, with a force not exceeding 5,000 men; disabled every line of communication between the army of the Rappahannock and the rebel capital—and the canal through which more than one half of their supplies are received—so that in the opinion of competent judges, neither line, provided the rebels have every facility for the work, can be repaired in less than four weeks; destroyed millions of dollars worth of commissary stores, and other supplies; obstructed travel upon the main pike, by destroying all bridges over large streams; gave the citizens of ten counties, viz: Culpepper, Spottsylvania, Orange, Hanover, Henrico, Louisa, Goochland, Fluvanna, King William and New Kent, an opportunity to see for themselves that not only are the Yankee soldiers confident and in good spirits, but are really human beings and not inhuman savages, as represented by the Richmond chivalry; captured hundreds of horses, and above all met the one great objection made to the Emancipation Proclamation, so far as the counties visited are concerned, by letting the colored

population know that they are free, and weakening the producing class in rebellion by the removal of hundreds of able-bodied men, and sowing the seed of demoralization among the rest, so that the laboring class, in fact as well as theory, becomes a dangerous element. All this has been accomplished by the raid of Gen. Stoneman, with the loss, probably, of less than one hundred men—all told—only two of whom were killed. As an offset to this loss our troops killed a number of rebels, and captured between one and two hundred prisoners.

THE REBELS AT HOME. In the counties visited there were but few rebels found at home, except the very old and very young. In nine days' travel I did not see fifty able-bodied men who were not in some way connected with the army. Nearly every branch of business is at a stand still. The shelves in stores are almost everywhere empty; the shop of the artisan is abandoned and in ruins. The people who are to be seen passively submit to all that emanates from Richmond without a murmur; they are for the most part simple-minded, and ignorant of all that is transpiring in the great theatre about them. An intelligent looking man in Columbia laughed heartily when told that Union troops occupied New Orleans—Jeff. Davis would let them know it were such the fact; and I could not find a man who would admit that the Confederates had ever been beaten in a single engagement. These people do not even read the Richmond papers, and about all the information they do obtain is what is passed about in the primitive style, from mouth to mouth. Before this raid they believed that the Union soldiers were anything but civilized beings, and were stricken with terror when their approach was heralded. Of six churches seen in one day, in only one had there been religious services held in six months. One-half at least of the dwelling houses are unoccupied, and fast going to decay.

ARE THE REBELS SHORT OF PROVISIONS? The fear of famine was everywhere expressed; the Government seized upon everything that can go to sustain the army, leaving those who are not in the army to shift as best they can. Many have provisions concealed to avoid the searching eyes of the Government agents. Through the agency of negroes, large quantities of provisions thus hid away were brought to light for the benefit of Union soldiers. The farmer's field is regularly culled of all marketable sheep, swine and bees, and what is left behind is not fit for the butcher's stall. The larder of the largest planters contains little else than bacon and corn meal. The wheat crop, now coming forward is immense—in fact little else has been put in the ground.

The rich valleys of the James and Rapidan rivers are vast wheat fields—more in fact, than can be gathered, unless the army is turned to this work. The negroes are not numerous enough for the task, even were they not in a fair way of being so thoroughly demoralized as to refuse to work unless paid in "greenbacks."

THE NEGROES. The negroes everywhere have an idea—how it got into their heads they cannot exactly tell, but it is there—that the Yankee troops were their friends notwithstanding the contrary assertions of their masters, who from infancy they have been taught to obey. They everywhere crowded upon our columns and begged to be permitted to go along, and not unfrequently brought one or more horses with them as a sort of bribe. They pointed out where valuable horses were concealed, gave information as to the movement of Confederate troops, and at several places set up all night to bake corn cakes for the Yankees, and for which they asked no remuneration. Some of them were so overjoyed at the sight of our soldiers that they gave vent to their feelings in prayer, thanking Jesus fervently for sending us.

The man of one idea is like a man trying to walk with both feet in one boot; each has narrowed his base till the centre of gravity falls far without, and his efforts at progress are but spasmodic caricatures of the thing he attempts, likely to end in nothing more glorious than his sprawling length thrown prostrate.—Home Journal.

The best idea of weight was given by an Indian, who, when asked how much he weighed, replied, "As I am, I weigh one hundred and fifty pounds, but when I am mad, I weigh a ton."

Dean Swift said, with much truth, "It is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he was never reasoned into. The best argument will be thrown away upon a fool."

The all-seeing One, who judges the thought as well as the act, will make no distinction between life drained drop by drop from the soul, and that sent forth at a blow with the red hand. Neither men nor women become what they were intended to be by realising their progress with velvet; strength is tested by difficulties.

For the Gallipolis Journal. SOWING AND REAPING. Mr. HARPER: I am constantly writing and receiving letters in behalf of our brave soldiers, but the following just at hand, possesses unusual interest, and will touch many hearts. If you have room for it, I beg you will insert it in your columns. Yours sincerely, CHARLES R. BLAKE, Hospital Chaplain, U. S. A. U. S. General Hospital, Gallipolis, O., May 12, 1863.

Orange, May 4th, 1863. To THE REV. MR. BLAKE—Dear Sir: Your touching appeals for religious reading for your Hospital, have reached the hearts of the Ladies of the Orange Army Relief Association of N. J., the results of which, two boxes have been sent to the Quartermaster at New York, to be forwarded to you as soon as possible; one box contains books, &c., the other a few comforts for the sick and wounded. We hope they will reach you in safety, and with them we send many prayers that they may prove a blessing to our poor suffering soldiers.

Your appeal touched a chord in my own heart, which perhaps, will not be uninteresting to you to know now that your location has always caused a chord to vibrate for many years past in my heart. Twenty years ago my only son, a young man of 22 years, with his young wife, left us to become a farmer in Illinois. He commenced his journey with right principles, and with a firm determination that he would not travel on the Lord's day. He met on his journey discouragements which would have shaken the resolution of a more experienced christian. But he was firm. There were no facilities for traveling then as there are at the present day. The second Saturday evening found them at Gallipolis. They left steamboat, and on the Sabbath morning went to the Presbyterian church. As they were there some time before the service commenced, a gentleman, seeing they were strangers spoke to them, and enquired where they were from, and finding their object in staying there, told them that they must go home with them, as they never allowed any to stay at the public house who carried with them over the Sabbath for convenience sake. He took them home, and they forgot that they were strangers, and on Monday they pursued their journey refreshed in body, and greatly comforted by this act of christian hospitality. You will not doubt that act of christian love touched his mother's heart; and Gallipolis has been a place of deep interest ever since.—The next Sabbath they spent at Shawneetown, sick; but there they felt they were strangers, for no kind deacon took them by the hand. The next Sabbath was spent in St. Louis, where he remained but 11 days, and then entered into his everlasting Sabbath of rest and joy. When I knew you had a Hospital at Gallipolis, I was delighted to feel that I could, if even in a small degree, repay the debt of love I owe. Our hearts sympathize very deeply with our poor sick soldiers away from all the comforts and endearments of home.—I feel assured that the kind people of Gallipolis will do all in their power to alleviate their sufferings. And tell them, my dear sir, that there are constant prayers offered at the mercy-seat for them. They are not forgotten.

I am sure you will excuse this little narrative, though from a stranger; and be assured of our constant sympathy in your labor of love; and may you have the joy of seeing many, very many under your care, laying down the weapons of this rebellion, and yielding themselves in great obedience to Jesus, the captain of their salvation. With sympathy and respect, I remain yours in the bonds of Christian love,

The letter closes with a desire to hear of the safe arrival of the boxes, and mentions that the Ladies Association of Orange have already made up and distributed, no less than 80 such boxes!

"Honored be woman! she twines and writhes, Heavenly roses in earthly lives," as Schiller has well sung. C. M. B.

STEAMER BURNED ON BIO SANDY.—The steamer *Transfer*, in the Government service, left Callettsburg on Saturday morning last, for Louisa, and when seven miles above the mouth of the river, she was attacked by about forty guerrillas, and compelled to land. The boat landed on the Kentucky side. The guerrillas then crossed the river and set fire to the vessel, totally destroying her. Captain Davis said there were about forty of the enemy, but citizens of that neighborhood say the number did not exceed ten. There was no Paymaster, and no Greenbacks on board, as reported.—Fronton Times.

DAILY LABOR.—God never allowed any man to do nothing. How miserable is the condition of those men who spend their time as if they were given them, and not lent, as if hours were waste creatures and such as never should be accounted for—as if God would take that for a good bill of reckoning; *Rem, spent upon my pleasures, forty years!* These men shall one day find that no blood can privilege idleness, and that nothing is more precious to God than that which they desire to cast away.—Bishop Hall.

A WARD MEETS BOILEAU. Wun of the Poets, I forgit, which wun, sez "the proper study of mankind is man;" but to understand human nature perfectly requires some knowledge of the other animals, as for instance snails! There's a grate set of human nature in snails! Speak in of snails, reminds me of an incident which happened to me the other day. I was a traveling in the cars, was a man cum in with a countenance which looked as if it had been bled and the skum not properly took off.—He was accompanied by a very young man in a very dirty yellow shirt of close, the young man stared at me, whereupon I said, in my most innocuous manner, "Yure parvist, sur; do you see anything green about me?" "Neigh, revertent sur," he replied, "permit me to introduce to you a patriot."

"Where abouts," sez I. "Hur," sez he, pointin to his companion, "this sur, is Mister Balloo." "Air you enny way related to Hully Balloo?" sez I. (This was spoke sarkastical, for I hate traveling patriots like dog-pi.) "Nothing to speak of," said he, "I am simply a umbral patriot."

"How much kin you make a week at it?" sez I, if it foilered up well? "Sur," sez he, "I am surprised at such levity. I make wonds by it, sur; also stripes, likewise imprisonments. I hev ben incarcerated in fortis Lafayette, sur."

"Indeed?" sez I. "Yes, sur," sez he; "I was incarcerated in that federal bastill, becos I would not obey a tyrannickal government."

"Sumptink like Jano W. Hampton," sez I, "wen he objected to settling his skule tax?" "Its rather singular to find a peace man who is also a patriot. I should like to hev yure waxfinger in my show."

"You flatter me," sez he. "Not a tall," sez I. "Wot other business do you foiler wen times is dull?" "I am neditur," sez he. "I tole Mr. Linkun wot I thort of him, sur, in my paper, sur. I tole him the wor was an unholy war. That the rebels was a fitn for three burthrites on the constitution. That V. Davis was a grate man, an nobody couldnt stop him. I apeled to the people, sur. I told them to arise in their mite and magersty, hurl A. Linkun from power, and save the South in hur noble effort to save the Union. For this, sur, I was incarcerated in a dungeon."

"How did you git out?" sez I. "Wot you let loose on the rit of Hocus Pocus?" "Neigh, sur," said he. I woz deprived of my constitutional rite in that rit, witeh woz arrested from King John by the bowld barrens at Runnymede, an witeh hex bin wotered by the blood of our sires and antistaters."

"But how did you get out?" sez I. "The majesty of the Stat of Pennsylvania," he continued, bez bin a vileriated in my umbral person—that mity stalt witeh woz founded by W. H. Penn, in peace—which woz purchased by him from the noble red man of the forest.

"Togins is pizen wheresover found," sez I. "How did you get out?" "The Legislator of my natiff stait," he continued, "is resovlin—the Legislator of my natiff stait is a going to avenge hur vileriated suverreignty."

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"How did you git out?" sez I. "Wot you let loose on the rit of Hocus Pocus?" "Neigh, sur," said he. I woz deprived of my constitutional rite in that rit, witeh woz arrested from King John by the bowld barrens at Runnymede, an witeh hex bin wotered by the blood of our sires and antistaters."

"But how did you get out?" sez I. "The majesty of the Stat of Pennsylvania," he continued, bez bin a vileriated in my umbral person—that mity stalt witeh woz founded by W. H. Penn, in peace—which woz purchased by him from the noble red man of the forest.

"Togins is pizen wheresover found," sez I. "How did you get out?" "The Legislator of my natiff stait," he continued, "is resovlin—the Legislator of my natiff stait is a going to avenge hur vileriated suverreignty."