

OUR CONFEDERATE COLUMN

PROPOSED JOINT HISTORY. THE PLAN CRITICISED AS UTTERLY IMPRACTICABLE. FIVE FORKS ENGAGEMENT. MANY INTERESTING INCIDENTS GRAPHICALLY DESCRIBED. THANKS TO GENERAL MAURY.

His Johnston Article-The Stars and the Bars-The Liberty Hall Volunteers-A Roll of That Gallant College Company.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: The idea started by the Chicago Herald, and seemingly approved by a number of papers, both North and South, that there shall be a commission of northern and southern editors who shall have prepared, under their direction and subject to their approval, a joint history of the United States which both sections shall use, is very plausible and very attractive, and would be worth trying if there was a remote possibility that it could be carried out.

The commission would have to be appointed by some common tribunal, such as the Grand Army of the Republic in their "national encampment," and the United Confederate Veterans in their encampment.

Now the Grand Army of the Republic already have a commission, which they designated last year, to employ a "historian" who should prepare for them a history of the United States for schools, such should show more clearly than before in use that the South was "in rebellion" that southern leaders and soldiers were "traitors," and that Union soldiers and not "rebels," are entitled to credit for "provinces of arms, blood and honor."

On the other hand, the Confederate Veterans have had for four years a "history committee," the object of which has been to procure the manufacture of a Confederate book which should set Confederate at the expense of the Federal or, indeed, to procure the writing of any book at all, but to select from histories already written, or which may be hereafter written, such books as do not vitiate or misrepresent the South, but which "do justice to every section of our common country, and all periods of our history."

These committees have already put on their list of "revisions," and that the war was the result of a wicked "slave-holders' rebellion" against the best government the world ever saw; an attempt to "destroy the life of the nation," and that in the war justice and right and patriotism triumphed over injustice and wrong and rebellion, and crime.

The South on the other hand, believes that we had a confederacy of independent sovereign States—a "republic of republics"; that each had a right to judge

for herself when she should annul the compact between these sovereign States, and that having, for just cause, exercised that right, she was made upon us by one of the most iniquitous of history, and its result a triumph of overwhelming numbers and resources over justice and right and heroic patriotism.

How can these theories be compromised, or ignored, or set aside? Both cannot be right, however euhemistic a caustic may asseverate that they are, for—"Blue is blue, and gray is gray." And shall be so "till the Judgment-Day."

THE CLOSING SCENES OF THAT EVENTFUL ENGAGEMENT. General Sherman, in his highly romantic story of his own prodigious exploits, tells how, with Merritt's two divisions of cavalry, following rapidly on our heels, he drove us pell-mell inside of our works at Five Forks, all of which is pure fiction, the "driving" a sample of his peculiar rodomontade, and the "works" a flimsy of his fertile imagination.

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THE RICHMOND DISPATCH-SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1897

and, hurrying back, I drew out the largest regiment (the Eleventh) and ordered Colonel Ransom Hunter to go to the relief of General Ransom's LATE REPORT.

I received his report at Barnum's Hotel, in the city of Baltimore, about the last of April, 1865, as he was returning home from Johnson's Island, and, needless to say, it was highly satisfactory.

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the command, though badly scattered, fell back across Pickett's Run with trifling loss, and soon reached the railroad at Ford's Depot. Here we halted before our disordered array, and when we again moved on in the direction of Exeter Mills, on the Appomattox, I found myself at the head of 300 men, and a determined fellow, as high spirits as if they had been to a ball, and mounted by the kindness of Cadet Nelson (who had picked it up running loose in the woods), on the lightest and cleanest sulk—a horse more rounds left, Colonel," cried Captain Bond, of the Third, "and Mr. Sheridan will get them before he gets us." Having to bring up the rear, it was near on midnight when the brigade reached its destination and went into bivouac with the rest of the command.

Recurring to the battle, it was always General Pickett's opinion that the fine gap in his line between Ransom's left and Hatcher's Run being filled, we would have successfully resisted the enemy's assault. However, that might have been, it may be readily seen, that had we been in reality as well fortified as we were in Sheridan's purport fancy, there is little ground to doubt what would have been the upshot of the affair. As it was, before the attack of the Fifth Corps struck Ransom's unprotected flank, not the slightest impression had been made upon our lines, main or skirmish, and even then, for three-quarters of an hour, that gallant officer held every inch of his ground, repulsing charge after charge and inflicting heavy loss on the enemy, until Crawford, coming to Griffin's aid, he was forced back by the overwhelming weight of numbers. The blint of the terrible assault fell on him and Stuart, and my four regiments of Terry's Brigade, in all not over 5,000 men, appeared like a miracle that every mother's son of them was not crushed and ground to powder. True, they lost heavily in killed, wounded, and captured, but they were badly cut up and disorganized; but they were neither dismayed nor demoralized, and rallied promptly at the word of command. For the remainder of the day, my "Corps" and "Division" Lee went off the field in perfect order with flying colors, while the greater part of Fitz Lee's Division and Rosser retreated, for the most part, in good order, but were cut up and disorganized.

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Sixth and Seventh Arkansas regiments consolidated into one regiment, and the Eighth and Nineteenth Arkansas consolidated, the latter fighting on the extreme right flank in open fight. They lost ninety men in about five minutes. We were a part of Pat. Cleburne's Division. Suffice it to say that we held our ground and inflicted terrible loss on the enemy. My recollection is that we picked the next day 1,000, but I see others say 500. We repulsed every assault they made, and after dark routed them from a deep ravine in our front in which they took refuge. We captured prisoners a week afterwards who told us that Howard's Fourth Army Corps was not yet organized from the rout at Pickett's Mill.

Sherman does not mention a two days' fight we had with him on the 29th and 31st days of June, 1864, in which we gave him a general thrashing. I did not intend to write much, but when I got started on the events of our great war I do not know when to stop.

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Taylor, David Trevey, John Welsh, W. Willbourn, S. P. Williams, G. W. Whitmore, D. Whitmore, S. Whelton, J. E. White, W. W. Wilburn, William A. Young. This company left Lexington on the 8th of June, 1864, and was formally mustered into service by Colonel M. G. Harman at Staunton, Va., June 16, 1864. From Staunton, it moved to Winchester, Va., where it was made a part of the Fourth Virginia Infantry, of which Colonel J. P. Preston was colonel. This regiment, with the Second, Fifth, Twenty-seventh, and Thirty-third Virginia regiments, composed what was afterwards known as the "Stonewall Brigade." The company remained in this brigade during the entire war, and participated in all its marches and battles.

The following is a list of the officers of the company during the war in the order in which they succeeded each other: Captains—James J. White, Henry Ruffner, Morrison, Hugh A. White, and G. B. Strickler.

First Lieutenants—John N. Lyle and Samuel H. Lyle. Second Lieutenants—Joseph I. Sherrard and H. B. Jones. Third Lieutenant—James B. Culton. First Sergeants—William A. Anderson and J. S. Raymond. Second Sergeants—D. E. Ruff and Alex. S. Paxton. Third Sergeants—E. A. Mitchell, Joseph T. Chester, and J. Moore. Fourth Sergeants—C. W. Bell, J. W. Arnold, and S. A. Johnson. Fifth Sergeants—C. P. Nelson. First Corporals—H. H. Myers and W. O. Gwynn. Second Corporals—M. Meade, G. K. Davidson, and J. M. Paxton. Third Corporals—William I. Paxton, T. J. Godwin, C. R. Page, J. T. McKee, J. Moore, and G. W. Tackey. Fourth Corporals—P. T. Brooke, S. R. Moore, and G. W. Tackey. A. T. Barclay, a member of the company, served as an ensign of the regiment with honor.

Complete list of casualties in the original company: 1. First Manassas—Killed: Sergeant C. W. Bell, Corporal W. L. Paxton, Benjamin Bradley, W. R. Ott, Calvin Utz, H. L. Wilson, and C. P. Strickler. Wounded: Sergeant W. A. Anderson, Corporal G. B. Strickler, Samuel N. Lightner, H. A. Paxton, C. P. Neal, and B. B. Gwynn. 2. Kernstown—Killed: Sergeant C. P. Nelson. Wounded: Lieutenant J. N. Lyle, Corporal J. T. McKee, Andrew Brooks, H. A. Paxton, A. B. Ramsay, John A. R. Varner, J. W. Woods. 3. First Winchester—Captured: W. O. Gwynn. 4. Second Manassas—Killed: Captain H. A. White, W. C. Preston, J. W. McCoughtry. Wounded: Lieutenant G. B. Strickler, Sergeant D. E. Ruff, Corporal J. M. Paxton, Charles Brooks, E. Meade, J. T. Godwin, and C. P. Suddarth. 5. Sharpsburg—Wounded: Corporal S. R. Moore and J. H. Roberts. 6. Kearneysville—Wounded: Sergeant J. S. Raymond, Corporal S. A. Johnson, and Chancellorsville—Killed: A. Brooks. Wounded: Lieutenant S. H. Lyle, Sergeant A. S. Paxton, Corporal T. J. Godwin, J. P. Amole, B. B. Gwynn, H. A. Paxton, and C. P. Suddarth. 7. Gettysburg—Wounded: Corporal J. M. Paxton, Corporal T. J. Godwin, P. T. Amole, and H. A. Paxton. Captured: Captain J. S. Raymond, Sergeant J. T. McKee, Corporal J. M. Paxton, Corporal T. J. Godwin, J. T. McKee, T. M. Turner, J. A. R. Varner, and J. L. Suddarth. 8. Benton's Station—Wounded: Lieutenant J. S. Raymond and A. B. Ramsay. 9. Palme's Farm—Wounded: Lieutenant S. H. Lyle, J. P. Amole, and A. B. Ramsay. 10. Spotsylvania Courthouse—Killed: Sergeant J. S. Raymond. Captured: Lieutenant S. H. Lyle, Ensign A. T. Barclay, Sergeant J. S. Raymond, J. P. Amole, and T. H. Roberts. 11. Monocacy—Wounded and captured: T. P. Amole. 12. Second Winchester—Wounded: Corporal G. W. Tackey. 13. Bell Grove—Captured: A. B. Ramsay. 14. Fort Steadman—Killed: N. B. Logan. The following names were added to the original roll at different times during the war: Alex. Adair, J. Anderson, Robert Anderson, B. Almond, J. W. Barclay, A. S. Bacon, H. A. Bartley, H. M. Bee, Charles Brooks, William L. Brown, J. W. Buchanan, A. Bushong, G. Cash, J. B. Culton, George Chapin, J. H. Coffman, J. M. Cooper, G. Crist, G. A. E. Cline, R. Carr, Robert Clifton, W. E. Day, R. K. Dunlap, S. M. Dunlap, John Dunlap, W. K. Ebbard, J. H. Irvine, James Gay, A. M. Glasgow, John Grove, E. Gordon, John H. Guzy, J. Hooper, A. H. Hall, P. W. Holt, R. J. Johnson, W. M. Johnson, J. Jackson, William Helwick, N. A. Lackey, M. H. Lam, J. L. Lackey, A. T. Link, E. Lewis, M. F. Lerow, William Lunsford, J. W. Miley, J. C. McCray, R. McCallin, A. McClung, William Moore, William McCurdy, Charles B. McCune, Benjamin F. McNeill, W. A. McClann, W. D. Moore, J. P. Moore, J. P. Moore, Henry Ott, Dennis O'Brien, W. Patterson, J. M. Pettigrew, Samuel Pettigrew, W. B. Rollins, W. H. Ross, E. Rowsey, D. Rondap, J. Spahr, W. Steel, G. H. Stoner, J. D. Streett, W. Stoner, D. Snyder, A. Snyder, W. Sheltis, D. Sheekle, T. Stratton, W. Smiley, I. M.

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are related which have not been copied here. The Stars and Bars. (Newton N. C. Enterprise.) We were shown a few days ago by Captain R. A. Bost, of Newton, a handsome battle-flag, which was made and presented to him by Mrs. General John R. Cooke and daughters, of Richmond, Va. The centre and thirteenth star of this flag was cut from the battle-flag of the Forty-sixth North Carolina Regiment on the day of the surrender at Appomattox, on the 9th day of April 1865, by Captain Bost. On one side of this flag is the following inscription: This flag was made and presented by the wife and daughters of General John R. Cooke. The centre star was one of the original from the battle-flag of the Forty-sixth North Carolina Volunteers, Cooke's Brigade, Heib's Division, A. P. Hill's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, captured by the Union forces at Appomattox, April 9, 1865. He preserved it until 1897, when he sent it to Mrs. John R. Cooke, of Richmond, Va., to be used as the centre star in this flag, which is to be carried at the reunion in Nashville, Tenn., June, 1897. After the reunion this flag will be presented by Captain Bost to the North Carolina Regiment, Confederate Museum, in the old Jeff. Davis mansion, Richmond, Va.

On the reverse side is the following inscription: The flag from which this centre star was cut was carried through the following battles: Battle of Hatteras, July 1, 1862. Capture of Harper's Ferry, Va., September 15, 1862. Sharpsburg, Md., September 17, 1862. Recapture of Left Centre, at old Burnside church. Marye's Hill and Stone Fence, Fredericksburg, Va., December 15, 1862. Bombardment at Charleston, S. C., March and April, 1863. Near New Bern and Gum Swamp, N. C., May, 1863. South Anna Bridge, Va., June, 1863. Bratton's Station, Va., October 14, 1863. Mine Run, Va., November 27th to December 2, 1863. Battle of the Wilderness, Va., May 5, 1863. Spotsylvania, May 10, 1864, and May 12, to 20, 1864. Cold Harbor, Va., June 3, 1864. Trenches in front of Petersburg, July and August, 1864. Benton's Station, Va., August 25, 1864. Davis House, or Farm, Va., 1864. Near Hatcher's Run, Va., September, 1864, and February 6, 1865. Hatcher's Run, Va., April 2, 1864. Sutherland Station, Va., April 2, 1865. Farmville, Va., April 8, 1865. Surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, Va., April 9, 1865. In addition to the above, Captain Bost informs us that the original flag was also in the following battles: Seven Pines, Va., June, 1862. The seven days' battles around Richmond—viz., Gaines' Mill, Cold Harbor, Mechanicsville, Chickamaugh, White Oak Swamp, Grapevine Ridge, and Malvern Hill from 25th to 31st, and July 1, 1862. Second battle of Manassas, September, 1862. Captain Bost is a very enthusiastic veteran, and an ardent supporter of the idea to keep the memories of those who were the gray. He loves the cause, and never tires of talking over and reviewing the scenes of those terrible days. He appreciates this gift from the wife and daughters of his honored and beloved commander beyond measure, and says no man was ever loved more fondly than General Cooke was loved by his brave men. The star was the centre star of original battle-flag of Forty-sixth North Carolina Volunteers, Colonel E. D. Hall's regiment.

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