

IN MEMORY OF UNION DEFENDERS.

Presidio National Cemetery the Scene of Beautiful and Impressive Memorial Tributes.

IRVING M. SCOTT ORATOR OF THE DAY.

Fine Column of Fifth Artillery, U. S. A., and First Infantry, N. G. C.

GEORGE H. THOMAS POST IN THE LINE OF MARCH.

Flowers for the Dead and Help for the Living, Sentiments Expressed by Commander Vining.

The National Cemetery at the Presidio yesterday was the scene of most beautiful and impressive memorial ceremonies. This cemetery, famed for the charm of its location, seemed yesterday more beautiful than ever as the flags waved in the foliage and the children tenderly placed flowers on the graves. A vast concourse of people assembled to hear the music of the Fifth Artillery band, the voices of the Knickerbocker quartet and the eloquent words of the orator, Irving M. Scott. The view was especially enchanting as the veil of fog lifted from the Marin County hills and revealed the fair landscape in all its grandeur.

The temperature of the day was most agreeable. There was breeze sufficient to sweep away the smoke from Captain Thorp's light battery of the Fifth Artillery as the saluting guns were fired, and yet the invigorating atmosphere was not cool enough to cause discomfort.

There was very little delay in the execution of the programme. Some of the troops of the First Infantry Regiment of the National Guard were a little tardy in turning out, consequently the column did not move from the field near the terminal station of the Union-street cable-line until twenty minutes after the time appointed. The troops of the United States Army and National Guard made a highly creditable appearance. The regulars under command of Major John A. Darling consisted of four foot batteries and one light battery of the Fifth Artillery. Battery K was commanded by Captain Henry J. Kelly, Battery A by Lieutenant John W. Jones, Battery H Captain Elbridge K. Hills, Battery I Captain John McClellan and Light Battery D Captain Frank Thorp.

The National Guard troops consisted of the First Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel William Macdonald. The twelve companies of the regiment were formed in three battalions. The first battalion was commanded by Major Charles Borton, the second by Major H. T. Sime and the third by Major C. F. Tilden.

George H. Thomas Post No. 2, Department of California and Nevada, G. A. R.,

A. J. Vining commander, turned out in fine form, and the comrades were in line on time. Some of the disabled veterans rode in carriages, but 90 per cent of those attending marched.

The veterans were followed by Garrison 101, Regular Army and Navy Union; Sons of the American Revolution, Valentine Holt Society, Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, children of the public schools and guests in carriages.

The division composed of the foregoing troops and societies was commanded by General William M. Graham, post commander at the Presidio; Lieutenant William W. Galbraith, post adjutant, was on duty with the general.

The column, headed by the Fifth United States Artillery band, Frederick Frank leader, moved from the parade field, near the terminal station of the cable, and halted on the parade ground proper of the Presidio. There the Fifth Artillery and First Infantry, N. G. C., formed in column of mass, and halted, while Grand Army veterans and others passed by en route to the National cemetery. The veterans of the Thomas Post stepped to the inspiring music of "Marching Through Georgia." The regular troops were marched to their quarters and dismissed, while the National Guardsmen returned to the large parade field for evolution.

Facing the granite monument erected by George H. Thomas Post in the southeasterly section of the cemetery a platform capable of accommodating the band and 100 guests had been constructed. The seats for the assemblage were placed on the incline facing the speaker's platform, and on either side of the monument. The forest growth beyond the cemetery boundary formed the background of the assemblage. The people who listened to the music and oratory had a magnificent view of the bay and the mountains of the Coast range. A large floral piece representing a Grand Army badge, and another piece, anchor shaped, were placed against the railing in front of the stand. Between the two emblems was the post's portrait of General George H. Thomas.

Throughout the cemetery were scattered men, women and children in groups with flowers in bouquets, wreaths and garlands ready to place on the graves at the firing of the guns. While the people were assembling and taking positions on the grassy spaces not marked as graves the band discoursed delightful music. When all was ready the post flag was waved three times as a signal to Captain Thorp, and the firing began. Simultaneously the graves were strewn with flowers.

At the conclusion of the artillery salute, A. J. Vining, commander of Thomas Post, spoke as follows: Comrades and friends: The duty of to-day is of peculiar and impressive significance. We meet to honor and to deepen our reverence for their worth; to strengthen among ourselves the bond of fraternity which binds us together as comrades, recalling the memories of past experiences common to us all; to encourage a larger and more generous charity for those of our comrades who are sick or in distress, and for the needy widows and orphans of the Grand Army; to renew our pledge of loyalty to our flag and country, and to emphasize in the minds and hearts of all who unite with us to-day the privilege and duty of patriotism.

It is expected that throughout our services each one will manifest a noble and reverent decorum. Let our soldierly deportment be such that we may worthily honor the graves we decorate with the memories we cherish, "the flag we salute," and the Grand

Army of the Republic to which we belong. In the name of George H. Thomas Post, I bid you welcome.

Commander Vining then introduced the department chaplain, Rev. J. A. Cruzan, who offered prayer.

The Knickerbocker Quartet, consisting of D. M. Lawrence, D. B. Crane, R. P. Evans and L. A. Larsen, sang "Cover Them Over With Beautiful Flowers."

Mrs. Nellie Holbrook Biinn delivered



Some Features of the Grand Parade as Seen by a "Call" Artist as the Procession Marched Up Market Street. The Sailors of the Men-of-War in the Harbor and of the Naval Battalion Were Particularly Admired.

Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address and concluded with a quotation from William Winters' "Pledge to the Dead."

The Knickerbocker Quartet then sang "Rest, Comrades, Rest."

Commander A. J. Vining, who had practiced by introducing singers, the reader and the chaplain, now left equal to the emergency of introducing the orator, and made a little speech, which was complimented for rare felicity. He presented Irving M. Scott as the worthy and typical American who had "done more than any other man west of the Rocky Mountains to build our new navy." He was proud to be able to introduce the builder of the great battleship Oregon of the United States navy. The sentiment was very heartily applauded and several ladies felt like throwing a bouquet at Scott while he was alive.

Mr. Scott spoke thus:

Commanders and Comrades of George H. Thomas Post, Ladies and Friends: The Nation this day turns out as a unit in sentiment to decorate with flowers bedewed with tears of affection the last resting place of the loyal and Confederate dead. To these honored dead and to those who fought shoulder to shoulder with

them in the great struggle for the preservation of the Union and for the rights of man, the Nation feels that it owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude. To officer and private alike that debt is due—due not less to the hand than to the head. Indeed, heart, head and hand conspired to maintain the Union in its integrity.

Illustrative of the great worth of the saviors of the Union I propose to speak—without detracting from the claims of any—of him whose name is borne by your post.

George Henry Thomas was born July 31, 1816, in Southampton County, Virginia. His ancestry was Welsh on the father's side and French-Huguenot on the mother's. He received an academic education in his native country. He entered West Point Academy June 1, 1836, whence he graduated twelfth in a class of forty-five July 20, 1840. Those knowing him best describe him as "reticent, introspective, dignified and serious, a solid man, never hasty in judgment or expression, but always just and considerate of others." He served two years as second lieutenant in the Indian war in Florida and was brevetted first lieutenant for gallantry in capturing seventy Seminole braves.

He served in the Mexican War, fought in defense of Fort Brown, in the battle of Monterey and in that of Buena Vista, was distinguished in all of which and brevetted captain and major for gallantry in the last-named battles in 1845 and 1846. From 1851 to 1854 he was

instructor of cavalry and artillery at West Point and ordered to California with his regiment in 1853. From 1855 to 1860 he served in Texas. In a skirmish (1860) he was wounded by an Indian arrow in the chin and breast—the only wound he ever received in the numerous engagements he so valiantly fought, and in which he never lost a single battle.

He was held in high esteem wherever known. In Virginia, his native State, presented him a splendid sword in token of its appreciation of his services in the Mexican War. Now comes one of the severest trials of his eventful life. Dense clouds of the coming Civil War rolled up from the South, day by day becoming blacker.

Of his regiment Albert Sydney Johnson, Colonel Robert E. Lee, Lieutenant-Colonel N. J. Hardee, Senior Major Ruby Smith, Fitzhugh Lee, Hood and others resigned their commissions to enter the cause of the South, leaving him, as it were, alone with his regiment, shorn of its equipments through the treachery

of Twigg. His clear intellect foresaw that to remain at his post in the South, including his own State, would despise him and the North distrust him. But his honor, which he held dearer than life, and his conscientious admiration of the Union, which he held dearer than his own life, were registered in heaven. Come, weal, come, woe, no earthly power could swerve him from the path designated by honor and conscience.

The flash of the first gun fired on Sumter lighted up as the noonday sun that path. He followed it with unerring fidelity, until the Goddess of Liberty assumed her reign over the whole Union.

Major Thomas, promoted to the grade of colonel May 3, 1861, lost no time in reorganizing his regiment, and on May 14 reported ready for duty. Ordered South, he commanded a brigade in the Shenandoah Valley, at Falling Waters, Martinsburg and Berry Hill July 3, 8 and 15. In opposition to the distrust entertained of him by the Secretary of War he was, through the recommendation of General W. T. Sherman, promoted in August by President Lincoln to be brigadier-general.

December 31 he moved against the enemy, threatening the flank of General Bragg's army. In 1862, January 19 and 20, he defeated the enemy at the battle of Mills Springs. He had but 7000 men, his conscious admiration of the Union was the first Federal victory of importance.

The battle of Mills Springs proved Thomas a soldier and an accomplished general. General Buell, recognizing the consummate generalship displayed, thanked him for achieving the brilliant victory. But, unfortunately, the Secretary of War, though greatly praising the glorious achievements of the United States' forces, failed to even mention the name of Thomas.

This victory, due to the superior skill of General Thomas, was far-reaching in its results. It threatened the flank of General Bragg's army. In 1862, January 19 and 20, he defeated the enemy at the battle of Mills Springs. He had but 7000 men, his conscious admiration of the Union was the first Federal victory of importance. The battle of Mills Springs proved Thomas a soldier and an accomplished general. General Buell, recognizing the consummate generalship displayed, thanked him for achieving the brilliant victory. But, unfortunately, the Secretary of War, though greatly praising the glorious achievements of the United States' forces, failed to even mention the name of Thomas.

General Thomas commanded the center division of the Fourteenth Army Corps, under the command of General Sherman. On the advance of the enemy in the battle of Stones River, the first day (December 31) of this great battle seemed decidedly against the Union army. Contemplating retreat he awoke General Thomas at night and asked:

"Will you protect the rear on retreat?"

Starting out of his slumber Thomas exclaimed:

"This army can't retreat!" and at once fell asleep again.

That answer determined Rosecrans (his own words) "to fight or die." This battle raged between the armies—each 50,000 strong at first—until the night of January 3, 1863, when General Bragg rapidly retired to the south with the remnant of his defeated army, leaving 10,000 of his dead on the field. The Union loss was 8500. Thomas was the hero of the occasion.

"General Thomas," says Van Horne, "gained greater distinction in other battles, but never did he meet a crisis with more promptness and skill." 1863, January 9. General Thomas was assigned to command the Fourteenth Corps of the Army of the Cumberland. The order was, "Forward to Chattanooga." Passing unnoticed the occurrences of the march, suffice it to say that the Union and Confederate armies—nearly 100,000 each—were brought face to face in battle array at Chickamauga, September 19, 1863. Owing to General Rosecrans' misconception of General Bragg's position, the forces of the Union were placed at a disadvantage.

General Thomas commanded the right and center of the Union army. He fought with tremendous force and consummate skill. During the 19th, the flanks of the Union forces were several times pressed and driven back a mile and upward, but the center stood firm, and returned blow for blow during the entire day. On the 20th the assaults of the enemy seemed redoubled in strength and fury.

The right and left of the Union forces broke and fell to the rear. General Rosecrans telegraphed to Washington: "My army has been whipped and routed." He abandoned the field, and sent word to Thomas to use his discretion in withdrawing the army. Thomas laconically replied:

"It will ruin the army to withdraw it now; this position must be held till night." Hold it he did. He, with 25,000 men, with-

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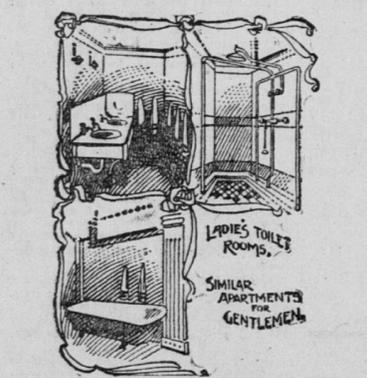
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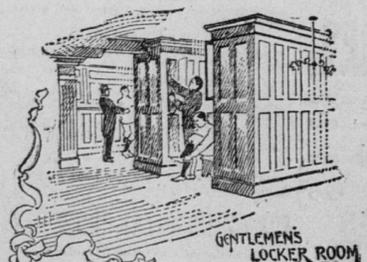
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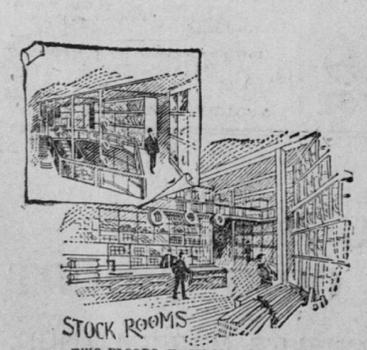
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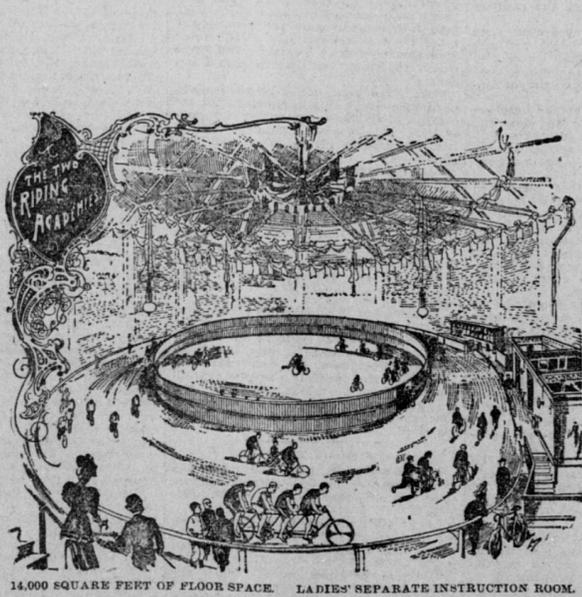
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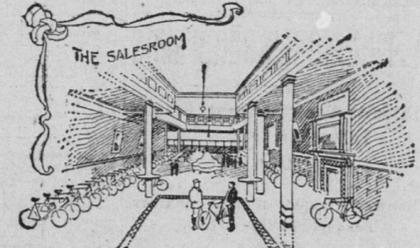
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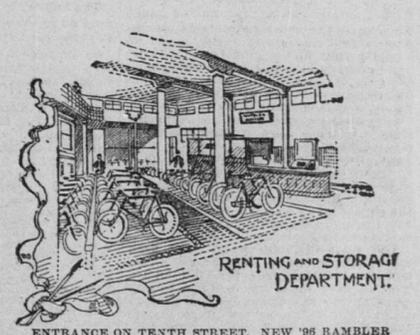
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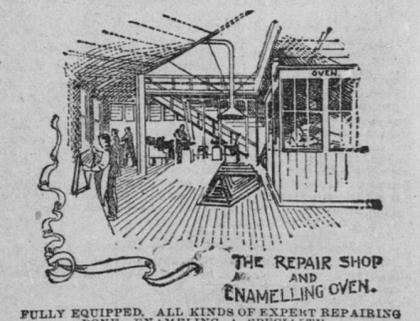
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