

Soldiers' Correspondence.

A Splendid Present.

The appended resolves, relative to the presentation of a magnificent Photograph Album to Mrs. Eliza Shearer, of Pottsville, Pa., will serve to show the cordiality of feeling existing between the detachment of the 14th Regiment Veteran Reserves, stationed there for some time, and the citizens of that vicinity. This lady rendered herself particularly estimable to these men by her untiring efforts to render comfortable their sick comrades in hospital, and by various kindnesses shown them during their sojourn in that locality. The album was made to order by the firm of Altemas & Co., Philadelphia, and has a capacity for two hundred pictures. The binding is rich and substantial, the sides being heavily pannelled. A plate on the first side bears the name of the recipient in deeply engraved characters, while on the other side the inscription "Presented to Mrs. ELIZA SHEARER, by Co. A, 14th Reg. U. S. Invalid Corps, 1864," is elegantly impressed in gilt on the binding. On the gilt edge of the leaves are a representation of the U. S. Coat of Arms and the inscription, in raised letters, "To the Soldier's Friend." The cost of this gift was seventy-five dollars, and its presentation reflects credit alike upon the appreciative sentiment, taste and liberality of its donors:

HD. QRS. CO. A, 14TH REGT. V. R. C.,
RENDEZVOUS OF DISTRIBUTION, April 6, '64.

At a meeting of this company, held this 6th day of April, 1864, at 8 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of taking action with reference to the presentation to Mrs. Eliza Shearer, of Pottsville, Pa., of a Photograph Album, which meeting was organized by choosing Capt. Granville Fernald, Chairman, and Lieut. John F. Smith, Secretary. It was unanimously

Resolved, That in presenting this gift to our friend Mrs. Shearer, we evince but a slight degree of the unqualified respect and esteem we entertain for her. No ordinary token would be sufficient recognition of the services and merits of one who is so deserving the title of "The Soldiers' Friend."

Resolved, That in addition to this feeble testimonial of our gratitude, we tender anew our hearty thanks for all favors bestowed upon us by Mrs. Shearer; and at the same time, having in grateful remembrance the kindness and benevolence of numerous other ladies and gentlemen of Pottsville, we extend to them all a most cordial greeting of thanks through her whom we have selected as their worthy representative, to receive this gift.

Resolved, That we ever preserve in our hearts the most gratifying recollections of our sojourn in the town of Pottsville, and we shall never cease to wish abundant success to its loyal inhabitants in every department of business, and in all efforts tending to benefit the soldier, fighting and suffering for the salvation of our common country. May a kind Providence bless them with happiness and peace, and protect them from all the dangers to which they are exposed from disloyal and dangerous parties in their own community, and may we soon rejoice together in returning peace and prosperity to our beloved land and native homes.

Resolved, That a committee of five members of the company be selected to prepare a suitable address of presentation to Mrs. Shearer, in behalf of the persons who subscribed for the purchase of the gift, and transmit a copy of these resolutions with the same.

After the formal adoption of the foregoing resolutions, it was voted that Sergeants Gibson, Reed, Bowen, corporal Elliott and private Keck be selected as the committee of presentation.

Appropriate speeches were made by members of the company in support of the resolutions and complimentary of Mrs. Shearer, and the worthy people of Pottsville.

No other business coming before the meeting, it was voted to adjourn.

GRANNILLE FERNALD, *Chairman.*

JOHN F. SMITH, *Secretary.*

The following is the presentation address, by the committee, which accompanied the Album:

HD. QRS. CO. A, 14TH REGT. V. R. C.,
RENDEZVOUS OF DISTRIBUTION, April 6, '64.
MRS. SHEARER:—In behalf of Company A, 14th Regiment Veteran Reserve Corps, we present to you this Album. In presenting it we feel that it is but a slight remuneration for the kindness bestowed upon us at your hands. We present it as a token of respect that we feel we owe to you for the attention you have paid us while far away from kindred and friends, and the sweet surroundings of home comforts.

When we were sick your kind and administering hand was at our bedside in the hospital, and we cannot forget your cheering words that came to us in camp and buoyed us up in the performance of our arduous duties of enforcing obedience to the laws of our noble old Government, in the riotous section of the old Keystone State—districts where civil law was set at naught, and hurled back with defiance to the source from whence it came. We had the pleasure of knowing and seeing that this state of things had passed away, and law and order restored to its proper standard.

Whatever credit we of the Veteran Reserve Corps are entitled to for bringing about this state of things, we feel that the generous-hearted, Union-loving, loyal citizens of old Schuylkill will freely grant us by their will and hearty co-operation in the cause for which we labor—"the preservation of the Union, the Constitution and the Laws" of this, the best Government the God of the universe ever smiled upon.

We ask you to accept this as a slight token of our respect and esteem for your disinterested kindness to us while sick and unable to take care of ourselves. We again ask you to accept this gift from Company A, merely to show our appreciation of your uniform kindness and urbanity of manner, while in the discharge of your self-imposed duties.

May the blessing of God, and nature's choicest blessings, long life, prosperity and happiness attend you.

We subscribe ourselves, dear madam,

Your obedient servants,

A. H. GIBSON,
A. REED,
WM. E. BOWEN,
C. D. ELLIOTT,
B. F. KECK,

Committee of Presentation.

To which Mrs. Shearer replies as follows:

POTTSVILLE, April 14, 1864.

GENTLEMEN:—I have not command of language to express through you to Company A, 14th Regiment Veteran Reserve Corps, the pleasure and pride I experienced upon the reception of your most beautiful gift.

Its value is enhanced by the knowledge that it comes from men whose lives have been exposed upon many battle fields in defence of the liberties of our country and the blessings of self-government, and many of whom bear upon their persons scars of honorable wounds received in fighting bravely for our sacred cause. A gift from men like you is more to be prized by the patriot hearts than rich testimonials from princes.

I hardly feel that I have merited the testimonial. I endeavored in an humble way to discharge what I considered a duty to the sick and suffering among those of our country's defenders stationed in our midst, and I should have esteemed it a blessed privilege to have extended my labors even beyond the limits of our Mountain City in so sacred a work. I only regret that my means would not permit me to do more for our gallant soldiers than I have been able to accomplish.

The citizens of Schuylkill county recognize with gratitude the valuable service you rendered in preserving the majesty of the law in this region, while in the discharge of your duty; appreciate your uniform gentlemanly deportment, and trust that "when this cruel war is over," all of you will have been spared to re-visit the spot where you have gained many warm friends.

I thank you, gentlemen, from my heart, for your beautiful gift, and for the kind wishes you express in your letter accompanying it. That

God may bless, and keep you in safety and health to enjoy many happy years after this wicked rebellion has been crushed, is the sincere prayer of
Your friend,

ELIZA SHEARER.

To Messrs. Alex. H. Gibson, Alex. Reed, Wm. B. Bowen, Chas. D. Elliott, and B. F. Keck,
Committee of Presentation.

A SINGULAR TRADITION.—Among the Seminole Indians there is a singular tradition regarding the white man's origin and superiority.—They say that when the Great Spirit made the earth, he also made three men, all of whom were fair complexioned; and that after making them, he led them to the margin of a small lake, and bade them leap in and wash. One obeyed, and came out purer and rarer than before; the second hesitated a moment, during which time the water, agitated by the first, had become muddled, and when he bathed, he came up copper-colored; the third did not leap until the water became black with mud, and he came out with its own color. Then the Great Spirit laid before them three packages, and out of pity for his misfortune in color, gave the black man the first choice. He took hold of each of the packages, and having felt the weight, chose the heaviest; leaving the white man the lightest. When the packages were opened, the first was found to contain spades, hoes, and all the implements of labor; the second enwrapped hunting, fishing, and warlike apparatus; the third gave the white man pens, ink, and paper—the engines of the mind and the real foundation of the white man's superiority.

HOW BRAVE MEN SUFFER AND DIE.—In his report of the battle of Chickamauga, B. F. Taylor records the following solemn, yet creditable fact: "If anybody thinks, that when our men are stricken down upon the field, they fill the air with cries and groans, till it shivers with such evidence of agony, he greatly errs. An arm is shattered, a leg carried away, a bullet pierces the breast, and the soldier sinks down silently upon the ground, or creeps away, if he can, without a murmur or complaint; falls, as the sparrow falls, speechlessly, and like that sparrow, I earnestly believe, falls not without the Father. The dying horse gives out his utterance of almost human suffering, but the mangled rider is dumb. The crash of musketry, the crack of rifles, the roar of guns, the shriek of shells, the rebel whoop, the Federal cheer, and undertone of grinding, rumbling, and splintering sound, make up the voices of the battlefield.

A DISPATCH to *Cincinnati Commercial* from Catlettsburg, Ky., dated the 19th instant says: Capt. Patrick has arrived here with over 100 prisoners captured at the battle of Paintsville and Half Mountain, on Licking River. Hodge's Rebel brigade attacked Col. Gillepsie's force at Paintsville on Tuesday, but was repulsed. Gillepsie pursued the retreating Rebels with 300 men of the 14th and 39th Kentucky and surprised them on the 14th instant in camp at Half Mountain, capturing 70 prisoners, 209 horses, 400 saddles, 300 stand of small arms, and all their camp equipage. Eighty-five Rebels were killed and wounded. Our loss was one killed and four wounded. Col. Clay is one of the Rebel prisoners.

ON the 4th instant, Capt. Phelps of gunboat No. 26 captured a rebel mail carrier near Crockett's Bluff, Ark., with 5,000 letters from Richmond and other points, and 60,000 percussion caps for Gen. Price's army.