

NEW ULM'S DEFENDERS.

(Continued from first page.)

ents, the attention of those who do not readily understand words spoken in English.

It is 29 years ago this week that the battles of New Ulm were fought. Twice since then the old defenders have met here, have renewed old acquaintances and refreshed their memory on incidents that happened at that time. To-day it is the dedication of a monument erected by the state in commemoration of those days of danger that have brought us together. Since the beginning of history, we find that people have erected monuments to mark great events or in memory of great men in order to carry their names down to posterity. Although it has taken the state years to do that which, under the circumstances is simply an act of justice, we console ourselves with the proverb, better late than never. No doubt, some of the old defenders expected something more imposing, especially considering the importance to the state of those events and the state's well-known munificence in other matters, but the erection of even this monument is ample proof that our deeds are recognized, and the knowledge of this together with the feeling in every man's breast of having done his duty is fully satisfactory to us all. That there are errors in the inscription of the monument is much to be regretted, but may New Ulm prosper till the near future the buildings around the monument are so large that they overshadow it, till the traffic in her streets is so large that the monument is in the way; then it will be the more remind the people of the deeds which it was erected to commemorate.

As to the causes of the outbreak of the Sioux, I will make no remarks but simply express my honest conviction that as long as there are a sufficient number of able-bodied Indians within the territory of this grandest of Republics and as long as they shall be treated as they have been treated by the U. S. government and that part of the white population with whom they come in contact, so long will we have repetitions of the horrors of '62, '74, and '90. The patience of the red man becomes exhausted, he retaliates under the injustice of civilized man and innocent and guilty alike fall under the blow of his tomahawk.

As regards the battles of New Ulm you must allow me to give a short sketch for the benefit of those of you who were not participants. The settlers of the town and surrounding country lived in friendly communication with their Indian neighbors. None of our settlers of those days had the remotest idea that they would ever harm any of us. The first news of the revolt and of the deeds of horror at the Lower Agency arrived here a little after 12 o'clock, noon, on Monday, the 18th of August. A Frenchman came galloping along Minnesota St. on a pony covered with foam, stopped at the so-called French store (now Baarsches building) and told the clerks in that store what had happened at the Lower Agency. The news spread rapidly among the few business men along the street, but very little credence was given the report. The Indian's hypocrisy was incredible. A very short time after the remnants of a recruiting party, that had gone out in the morning through the town of Milford to get recruits in obedience to a call from Pres. Lincoln for more forces to suppress the rebellion, came back to town with several of the party dead and a number wounded. This, of course, left no doubt as to the intentions of our red neighbors. The then sheriff of Brown Co., Mr. C. Roos, immediately issued a call to all able-bodied men to organize, and appointed Mr. Jacob Nix commandant of the place.

According to Capt. Nix's own statement there were only from 60 to 70 men in the various companies and some of them armed with nothing but pitchforks, clubs etc. But no case is known where one of those present failed to do his duty. The afternoon and night of the 18th passed without any disturbance and some most primitive fortifications were erected. A little after 2 o'clock on the 19th the savages appeared and made an attack on the town, and succeeded in firing seven buildings in the northwestern part of town, but our men fought gallantly and when the first help from outsiders arrived, the combat was decided in our favor and the last Indians were fast retreating if they were not already gone. I give this sketch of the fight on the 19th only because several historians as well as public speakers have either ignored this first engagement or made it appear as if we had been saved from the first engagement or onslaught of the wild herds of Indians by outside assistance. I do not in the least wish to cast a doubt upon the bravery of our friends from Mankato, St. Peter and Le Sueur, for we all know that without their gallant assistance we could never have resisted the second, more violent and better planned attack that followed on Saturday the 23d. The old residents of New Ulm as well as those of to-day will never forget what we owe them. Without their help New Ulm would have been reduced to a pile of ashes and all of us would have found our graves beneath it.

THE GREATNESS OF IT.

Judge Flandrau dwells upon the importance of the New Ulm Battle.

Following the address of Mr. Scherer came that of Col. Flandrau, commander of the defenders after the first attack. The Judge spoke in the following eloquent strain:

Such a long period has elapsed since the battles of New Ulm were fought that nearly a generation has raised and taken possession of the active field of progress and civilization—a time sufficient to have calmed down all prejudices and animosities that may have existed between the white man and the

red man—that I think I am justified in stating my candid opinion in regard to the aborigines of this country.

At this point the speaker entered into an argument, claiming that the Indian was the original and rightful owner of the soil of what now constitutes the State of Minnesota, and showed how he had been forced to yield to aggressive civilization. Continuing he said: "I do not hesitate to say that no grander race of aborigines ever existed on this continent than the Sioux of the Northwest. They were magnificent horsemen, born hunters, and warriors from the cradle to the grave. The Sioux were at war with all surrounding tribes except the Winnebagoes, and their life from infancy to old age was one continual collision with their enemies. It is not for me to criticize the government of the United States in its treaties with these Indians. A great deal has been said about the impositions that were practiced upon them by the agents of the government and the traders who were licensed to live among them, but I do not believe that one-half that has been said is true, or nearly true.

I do not believe that any of the difficulties arising under the administration of the treaties with these Indians was the grand cause of the outbreak in 1862. It was the story which has been repeated in the earliest historical times, of a superior nation expanding itself over a country and demanding the lands of an inferior nation which previously possessed them. It has always been an irresistible march, carrying with it the success of the superior and humiliation and degradation of the inferior. The Indian was strong, brave and warlike. There was as you can readily see, a natural antipathy between him and the aggressors upon his country. It is deeply to be regretted that the American Indian could not have been assimilated into our grand and comprehensive civilization.

Recurring to the scenes that were enacted here in '62, he gave a short narrative of the attacks and noble defense, and recalling the Sunday, twenty-nine years ago, when New Ulm was evacuated, he burst forth in the following:

The procession which left New Ulm on that memorable day was perhaps the most graphic and lamentable exhibition that ever was witnessed since the settlement of the country at Plymouth Rock. It consisted of 153 wagon loads of women, children and wounded men, guarded by about 250 citizen soldiers, and was strung along over the prairies for a distance of over two miles. These poor people, who had a few days before occupied a beautiful city, and enjoyed a fair degree of prosperity and wealth, found themselves all at once homeless, beggared and with no possessions except the clothes they had on their backs going forth among strangers without hope for the future. But they were hospitably received wherever they went, and in a very short time some of the more enterprising and fearless of the inhabitants returned to their homes and commenced the rehabilitation of their city, and how well they succeeded you have but to cast your eyes around on the beautiful prospect which now lies before us and say that the inhabitants of New Ulm have not only been subjected to terrible calamities, but have had the strength, intelligence and courage to live them all down and overcome them.

Some critics may say that the battles of New Ulm were not of sufficient importance in an historical point of view to justify all this ceremony. I wish to say and emphasize it, that the importance of a battle is never to be measured by the number of men engaged in the conflict, or the amount of slaughter on either side. In the revolutionary war between this country and Great Britain there was an Indian fight on the Mohawk in the State of New York at a point called Oriskany. It resembles, as near as history tells us, very much in all its particulars the battle of New Ulm. I do not think that it was much more of a fight than the one we had upon this historic ground twenty-nine years ago and I doubt if the slaughter was much greater than occurred at this place—yet historians have classified the battle of Oriskany as one of the decisive battles of the world and the reason was this, that had St. Leger succeeded in forming a junction with Burgoyne it is very doubtful whether the independence of America would ever have been achieved. The defeat of St. Leger resulted in the demoralization of Burgoyne and American independence became possible.

Now, while I do claim that the battles of New Ulm possess any such interest or importance as historians have attached to the battle of Oriskany, I do say unhesitatingly that if these savages had not met with the gallant rebuff that they received at Fort Ridgely, and the equally heroic resistance that they met with at New Ulm, they would, encouraged by success, have carried everything before them through the whole extent of the valley of the Minnesota even to the capital city of St. Paul. Therefore, I say and insist that these battles are events in the history of Minnesota that the State does well to commemorate by an ever-living monument, which shall speak to future generations words of inspiration and patriotism when they may be called upon to act in defense of their country and its institutions.

THE MONUMENT.

A History of the Shaft which was the cause of Saturday's Celebration.

Freeman Talbot of Le Sueur county, it is admitted, was the first individual to publicly suggest the propriety of a monument in commemoration of the atrocities that were enacted here in 1862 and the noble defense of our city by its residents and neighbors. He embodied his ideas in resolutions which were submitted to the approval of Col. Flandrau and others, and aside from the adoption of the suggestion that the monument be built by the "whole d-d state," as

Flandrau said, instead of by the neighboring counties, the resolutions remained unchanged. Then in 1889, Senator Bowen introduced a bill for an appropriation of \$5,000, and supported it with an able speech, an extract from which is given herewith:

It is now over a quarter of a century since the event occurred which this bill seeks to commemorate, but during that time no step has been taken by the state to properly recognize the gratitude which it owes to the defenders of New Ulm. Nor has any measure been introduced in the legislature to honor their memory; and the privilege of attempting to secure from the state this tribute to their heroism has been reserved for me. Over the battle fields of the south, Minnesota has already erected monuments that stand as memorials of the gallant deeds of persons in defense of the Union, and at Fort Ridgely and Birch Cooley, she has placed other monuments to mark the resting place of individuals and of soldiers who rendered services against the savages in 1862; but nothing marks the spot where was enacted the greatest and most decisive drama in her history, where the last desperate stand of barbarism in America was made against the inevitable march of civilization, and where the noblest and most generous impulses of man's nature—valor and self-sacrifice—were exhibited. This bill is not local in its character nor is it urged by local prejudice. The city of New Ulm itself would promptly meet this demand if the call were made upon its citizens, but this memorial shaft should come from the state as a willing gift of its entire people—as something broader and grander in its meaning than local enthusiasm.

In the house the appropriation was cut down to \$3,000. A committee, consisting of H. H. Sibley, John F. Maegher, A. W. Daniels and Col. Pfander with Col. Flandrau as an honorary member, was appointed to prepare designs and proceed with the construction of a suitable monument. Considerable time was spent in getting down to business, but finally, in the winter of 1890, the shaft was erected.

The monument is of white bronze on a stone base 7 feet square by two feet 3 inches high. The spire and cap give a total height of 25 feet. The plinths are 5 feet and 8 inches high and the north and south sides show, in bass-relief, battle scenes, while the east and west plinths with the four tablets bear inscriptions, giving brief and concise accounts of the purpose of the monument, the event which it commemorates and the roster of those who were killed. A life-sized medallion of Col. Flandrau also adorns one side of the shaft.

COX'S ELOQUENT SENTIMENTS.

The Judge Makes an Address full of Brilliant Passages.

Capt. E. St. Julian Cox reviewed the historical part of the great outbreak portraying in vivid manner the scenes in which he himself played a part. The orator concluded his address with the following brilliant peroration:

"In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, let it be reverently said, as looking back through the dimming clouds of time, the fading of a third of a century, many a well-known face, once so familiar in the midst, is not here to-day. In the roll call of life they answer not. The rude hand of icy death touched the loved ones and snatched them from our midst, and mortality has immortalized them. The beautiful immortelle springs forth over the grassy mound, the weeping ash, the trembling elder rustle in summer-time verdure, when flowers bloom and nature is in full grown life, but that mound, sealed by the grim destroyer, is never to be opened to mortal eyes. To the survivors of those terrible days, to the defenders of what is now almost an empire, this state, this nation owes an everlasting debt of gratitude. Faster, faster, they pass away. A grateful people should never forget that the success of the savage Sioux meant the destruction of 20,000 homes in this fair land—a retrograde from civilization to barbarism. The recollection of the trials and sufferings of the men and women of 1862 is now forever perpetuated by this day's services. Let their memories never die in the hearts of their descendants. Friends of my manhood days, to whom I owe so many a favor shown, we may not, nay, cannot, all meet again; to some, perhaps, I must say farewell, but may the god of war and peace preserve, guard, guide you and yours many a year from the cruel hand of that inexorable reaper; but let us hope that we shall meet and greet, in closing ranks of time's declining sun, where the bugles of God shall sound a recall, and the battles of life is won. Farewell—farewell."

In his speech last Saturday Mr. Scherer made mention of the fact that the first battle of New Ulm on August 19th was fought and won by the citizens of New Ulm and vicinity under command of Capt. Jacob Nix before assistance from a distance further than Nicollet arrived. This is a fact to which every defender, now alive, who was present at the time, stands ready to make affidavit. When the first squad arrived from St. Peter, the Indians had been repulsed, and not one of them was near, nor had a single shot been fired in the first battle after their arrival. In justice to those, therefore, who defeated the first attack on New Ulm, it is to be hoped that the press of the state, which up to the present time has so persistently ignored or misrepresented this fact, will make amends or correction. In connection with this it might be said that the only assistance received in the first battle came from a Nicollet company commanded by A. M. Bean with C. A. Stines and Samuel Coffin as lieutenants. This company, we believe, has never been given the credit that it deserved.



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