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The Same Canteen.

BY CHARLES G. HALPINE.

There are bonds of all sorts in this world of ours,
Fetters of friendship and ties of flowers,
And true lover's knots I ween;
The girl and boy are bound by a kiss,
But there's never a bond, old friend, like this—
We have drunk from the same canteen!

It was sometimes water and sometimes milk,
And sometimes applejack fine as silk,
But whatever the tippie has been,
We shared it together in bane or in bliss,
And I warn you, friend, when I think of this—
We have drunk from the same canteen!

The rich and great sat down to dine,
And they quaffed each other in sparkling wine,
From glasses of crystal and green;
But I guess in their golden potations they miss
The warmth of regard to be found in this:
We have drunk from the same canteen!

We have shared our blankets and tent together,
And have marched and fought in all kinds of weather,
And hungry and full we have been;
Had days of battle and days of rest,
But this memory I cling to and love the best—
We have drunk from the same canteen!

For when wounded I lay on the outer slope,
With my blood flowing fast and but little hope,
Upon which my faint spirit could lean;
O, then I remember you crawled to my side,
And bleeding so fast it seemed both must have died,
We drank from the same canteen!

ANTIETAM.

One of the Great Battles of the War.

THE BATTLE-FIELD.

We can form some idea of the general plan of the battle of Antietam if we imagine the town of Sharpsburg to be the hub of a broken carriage-wheel, with one-half the rim held to it by two spokes projecting southward. This segment of the rim will represent the Potomac River, and the two spokes will represent the two roads leading to the river from Sharpsburg. These roads strike the river, not at the ends of the segment, but near the middle, and are probably two or three miles apart at the respective points of intersection. At the lower or eastern end of the broken rim the Antietam Creek flows into the Potomac river; at the upper or western end of the rim is a range of high hills which overlook the river. The prolongation of General Jackson's line touched the base of these hills on the west and the extreme right of Hill's corps rested on the Antietam Creek, not far from its junction with the Potomac. The creek curves from its mouth to the west and for five or six miles its course is substantially parallel with that of the river. Four spokes on the north side of the broken wheel, arranged at irregular intervals, will represent the roads leading from Sharpsburg to the north. The spoke corresponding to the Hagerstown turnpike will be nearly at right angles to the spoke corresponding to the Shepherdstown road, on the south side, while the Keedysville turnpike is, as it were, the northern projection of the Shepherdstown road, and of course these two spokes will be in nearly the same line, while the spoke representing the Rohrer'sville road leans considerably to the east. The two last-mentioned roads cross the Antietam Creek and the bridges, which the battle has made forever historic, may be represented by dots on the spokes, perhaps two miles distant from the hub.

THE SOUTHERN ARMY.

On the 16th of September, 1862, General Lee's army planted itself in front of Sharpsburg, forming, as it were, the segment of a circle which crossed all the roads on the north side, and of course covered all the approaches to the Potomac. The line was in most places something over a mile distant from the town. It ran through a succession of beautiful fields, in some of which the tall corn had not yet been cut, and others were being plowed and made ready for seeding. In front were the peaceful homes of the farmers, embowered among the orchards and surrounded by all the evidences of prosperous industry and thrift. No earthwork or other defenses were thrown up, except that wherever there was an available fence it was torn down and the rails were ranged in piles in front of such portions of the line as were supposed to be the most exposed. A country lane, the bed of which has been washed out by the heavy rains, proved to be a strong defense, and it most probably saved General Lee's army from utter rout, as will hereafter be explained.

While the confederate commander was arranging his line of defense, and getting his artillery into position, General McClellan's army was marching down the Keedysville turnpike. A signal station on the top of one of the spurs of the South Mountain overlooked the enemy's position, and the Union commander was kept advised of all that was going on in front. When the advancing column reached the Antietam Creek the several army corps deployed to the right and left, and before sundown another line of armed men stretched across the roads radiating northward from Sharpsburg. These soldiers faced to the

southward, and confronted those who occupied the inner and shorter line. General Burnside turned to the left and placed his corps in a position to assault the bridge, which now bears his name. Hooker crossed the Antietam and marched over to the Hagerstown turnpike, where his corps confronted that of General Jackson. Sumner remained in the centre and filled up the gap between the left of Hooker's line and the right of Burnside's line. There was some desultory skirmishing and artillery firing late in the afternoon, but no determined assault was made on either side, and when darkness came on the weary soldiers of both armies laid down to rest, with no covering save their blankets and the starry canopy above them. What visions of carnage, in its most appalling forms, must have filled their dreams!

THE PLAN OF BATTLE.

General McClellan's plan of battle was to engage the opposing line in the centre and at the same time break through both wings and seize the two roads leading to the river, which were the only avenues of escape open to General Lee, and were already blocked up with trains waiting to cross into Virginia should a retreat become necessary. It happened, however, that the two wings of the Southern army withstood the terrible assaults of Hooker and Burnside; and although they were forced back until the slightly curved line, which covered all the roads in front of Sharpsburg in the morning, resembled an irregular horse shoe at night, yet neither the hub of the wheel nor the spokes on the Southern side had been reached. The only substantial success obtained by the Union troops was in the centre, where Richardson's division of Sumner's corps broke the rebel line and doubled it back on the two wings. This was in the middle of the afternoon, however, and the troops on the right had been so roughly handled by Jackson's corps that they were unable to take advantage of the opportunity for winning a great victory; and Burnside, on the left, had not yet been able to get across the Antietam Creek; and while a small body of sharpshooters held a whole army corps at bay General Lee restored his broken line. He was glad, however, to be left alone for the remainder of the day on his left and centre. Whatever may be said or written to the contrary, there was no fighting on the battle-field of Antietam after the famous charge of the Irish Brigade, except by Burnside's corps, on the extreme left of the Union line.

THE LINES IN CONTACT.

I have only space to give the merest sketch of this most sanguinary battle. At break of day, on the morning of the 17th, General Hooker, with his accustomed impetuosity, began an attack on the extreme right. An army commanded by a less resolute and skillful soldier than "Stonewall" Jackson would have been swept away by the very momentum of the assault. A strip of woods on the east side of the Hagerstown turnpike formed a sort of base or rallying-ground for the Union troops, while Jackson's men occupied a considerable tract of timber land on the west side of the road. These tracts of timber are not opposite each other, and the road runs diagonally through the fields which separate them. Through these fields and across the turnpike Hooker's men and Jackson's men charged many times, only to be repulsed before they reached the woods, and the ground was thickly strewn with the dead of both armies. Hooker was wounded and carried from the field just at the very moment he supposed that he had won a great victory. Sumner's corps came into action about nine o'clock and relieved the shattered brigades which had been fighting since the early dawn. I do not know that Hooker's corps was again engaged in battle during the entire day. In fact, General Sumner, in his report, says that when he came upon the field General Hooker's corps melted away. Out of 14,856 enlisted men it lost 348 killed, 2,016 wounded, and 255 missing. Mansfield's corps, commanded by General Williams after General Mansfield was killed, fought on the right with Hooker, and, in fact, the two corps were blended together. The casualties in this corps were about the same as in Hooker's. Sumner went into action with 18,813 enlisted men and lost 5,209, of which 819 were killed and 3,801 wounded. Forty-five officers were killed and 89 wounded.

When Hooker's men fell back General Sedgwick's division of Sumner's corps renewed the attack on the rebel left (Jackson's corps) and fought over substantially the same ground that had been contested by Hooker, except that the rebel line was shortened, and the battle raged around a small brick church which stands in the edge of the woods on the west side of the Hagerstown turnpike.

THE ASSAULT ON THE CENTRE.

While General Sedgwick's division attacked Jackson and again compelled his corps to come out from the woods, only to be driven back with terrible slaughter, the other two divisions of Sumner's corps engaged the centre, and for the next two hours the work of destruction went on with indescribable fury. General French's division moved up in front of the sunken road already alluded to, and by repeated charges tried to break through this part of the line, but one brigade after another was driven back by the withering fire of musketry from the lane and the cornfield beyond. Fortunately for the assaulting column the ground rises gradually from the road to the place where their line was formed, and when the brigades recoiled from the attack, they quickly passed over the crest of this hill, and by falling flat on the ground, got out of range. For an hour or more a deadly game of sharpshooting was kept up on this part of the line. The instant a head appeared above the sunken road or in the cornfield beyond, it be-

came a target for the soldiers on the crest of the hill, but the man who stood up to shoot or got his head a foot or two above the ground was pretty certain to drop. The two lines at this point were not more than a hundred yards apart, and more men were killed here on both sides than on any other part of the battle-field.

THE CHARGE OF THE IRISH BRIGADE.

While this murderous work was going on in front of the sunken road, General Richardson's division engaged the enemy a little further to the left and pushed back the line until the flank of the brigade, which held the road, was uncovered; then the Irish Brigade, led by Colonel Barlow, of New York, charged down a steep hill into the cornfield, and before the troops that were lying in the lane could get out of the way, they were beset by bayonets and compelled to surrender; the charge was continued across the cornfield and the rebels were driven back nearly to the Hagerstown turnpike. If at this critical moment the divisions which were fighting on the right had made a vigorous assault, the war might have ended at Antietam. But after the Irish Brigade had cleared the cornfield beyond the sunken road the pursuit was stopped, and fighting ceased on this part of the battle-field. The rebel line was doubled back, but the Union army did not advance to occupy the ground or to capture the roads which had been so stubbornly defended. Both sides were utterly exhausted. General McClellan had 10,000 troops in reserve that he ought to have thrown into action, but he was afraid to take the risk.

BURNSIDE'S BRIDGE.

While the great battle was being fought by Hooker and Sumner on the right, Burnside was trying to get across to Antietam on the left. I do not think the enemy had two thousand troops on this part of the line during the early part of the day, but owing to the peculiar position which they held they were able to hold an army of 12,000 men at bay. The south bank of the Antietam at this point is a high bluff, covered with trees and underbrush. On this bluff, but concealed by the bushes, was a line of rebel sharpshooters, who could pick off a man at every shot without incurring the risk of being fired at in return. The Union batteries were posted on a hill opposite the bluff, and they wasted a great deal of ammunition without hurting anybody, except that now and then a shell went clear across the hill and exploded in the streets of Sharpsburg, to the great consternation of the people who had not been able to get out of the way before the battle began. A few days after the battle I was shown a shell that came through the roof of a house and dropped into a closet among the cooking utensils. Fortunately it did not explode. There was an old log barn standing in an open field about three hundred yards below the bridge. Behind this barn General Cox's brigade formed in column and started on the double-quick for the bridge, moving parallel with the line of the creek; but the sharpshooters on the bluff poured such a deadly fire into their advancing column that it broke, and the men ran back until they got under the shelter of the barn. The column was again formed and again essayed to reach the bridge, but with no better success. Other brigades were ordered up and ran the gauntlet of death with no better success. General McClellan kept sending his staff officers to General Burnside with orders to carry the bridge at every sacrifice; but the morning wore away, noon came, and the sharpshooters on the bluff were still the masters of this part of the field.

THE BRIDGE CARRIED.

A new plan of attack was then adopted. A brigade was taken back some three hundred or four hundred yards and formed in column immediately in front of the bridge. The Fifty-first Pennsylvania Regiment, commanded by General Hartranft, (now collector of customs at Philadelphia,) led the way, and the Fifty-first New York followed. The men held down their heads and ran for the bridge. Some of them dropped by the way, but most of them got across. The captain of one of the companies that led the way told me that none of the soldiers of the regiment at the head of the column went up the hill; they turned to the right and left and kept under cover of the bluff, close to the edge of the creek. But the troops that came after them, when the way had been cleared, quickly formed in line of battle and charged up the hill. The enemy ran away, and their line was pressed almost to the outskirts of Sharpsburg. This was about three o'clock in the afternoon.

At this hour the division of A. P. Hill's corps, which Jackson had left at Harper's Ferry to manage the capitulation, arrived on the battle-field and took up the fight. Burnside in turn was pressed back, and, fearing that he would be driven across the creek, sent to McClellan for reinforcements. Before they came, however, the rebels desisted from the attack, and the battle ended. Burnside lost 410 killed and 1,645 wounded. The success attained was not commensurate with the loss. The sun set on a battle-field on which 2,010 Union soldiers lay cold in death, and 9,416 wounded men had been carried into the field hospitals, many of whom died in the next few days. The Southern loss in killed and wounded could not have been less, and it most probably was much greater. The official report shows that 87,164 men were engaged on the Union side.

TODDLERINS is a very small man indeed, but he said he never minded it at all until his three boys grew up to be tall, strapping young fellows and his wife began to cut down their old clothes and cut them over to fit him. And then he said he did get mad.