A STAMPEDE OF COWARDS. Disgraceful Panie of the Riffraff of an

Army with the Wagon Train. Here on the broad acres on each side of the highway for two miles are the wagon trains belonging to the two corps which are fighting two miles down the road. With a wagon train you must count the vehicles belonging to the sutlers, scores of ambulances, hundreds of extra horses and mules, fifty ammunition wagons which may not go the front, and, in this instance, a drove of three hundred beeves to be slaughtered as needed. The wagon train is the tail of an army. As it creeps along over the highways sprinkled with blood it gathers unto itself cowards, fugitives, refugees and what not. Discipline is lax and vice rampant. When darkness falls upon a field of battle it is the wagon train which sends forth scores of ghouls to prey upon the dead and dying. When there is no battlefield they rob each

It is not a blunder that our trains have approached thus closely. It is



A STAMPEDE OF COWARDS.

simply that the enemy was found in force two miles nearer than was expected. The right thing has been done in clearing the highway and sending back a heavy guard. An enemy's wagon train is worth fighting for. Our two trains are worth the sacrifice of three thousand lives. They can be attacked only from a certain direction. The infantry takes position to ward off the blow. Here are three thousand noncombatants swaggering about, all wearing revolvers and many of them carrying carbines taken from the hands of our own dead, but not ten men out of the lot could be induced to fight. It isn't ten minutes after the infantry comes up before there are signs of a panicky feeling in both eamps. Sutler wagons begin to pull out for the rear, wagons are over-hauled for plunder which can be car-ried off by hand; here and there a teamster makes an excuse to strip the harness off a horse and have him ready to mount in case of need; the men in charge of the ammunition wagons move to the front with their vehicles rather than the other way, and they of all will try to stand their ground in case the enemy makes a dash. They are soldiers.

"There they come!" A thousand men shout the words in chorus. Half a mile away, just rounding a wood-covered point, is a body of cavalry not over fivebundred strong. It is a "feeler" to see if the trains are guarded. They are advancing at a trot, but one volley from the infantry will excuse for a panic. The herd of cattle are excited by the roar of battle down in front, but not one has broken away. Some of the drivers of the ammunition wagons are playing cards as they wait, and they do not even look up at the

"Look out! We shall all be killed!

Out of the way!"

Two or three men are responsible for what follows. There is a sudden uproar, which drowns the noise of battle,



THERE THEY COME. and next instant the spectacle is one which no beholder can ever forget. It is a stampede of cowards. A panie in the ranks means confusion, retreat and rally. Hence three thousand raving maniacs are turned loose at once. They upset wagons. They apply the torch to bales of hay. They shoot and slash at each other. Some kneel down and weep and try to pray, while others rush about shouting and screaming and hit at everybody within reach. The cattle herders take to flight and the frightened beeves go dashing through the camp to gore horses and toss men on their horns. This causes a stampede of horses and mules. Every loose animal gallops about and those in harness crash the big wagons together or upset them and fall in struggling heaps as they try to kick themselves clear.

In twenty minutes not a man is left in sight. There are two miles of wreck and ruin left behind them. Here and there is a wagon and its mules undamaged, but there are not ten instances to be found. Wheels have been shattered, tongues wrenched off, axles broken, and forage or rations set on fire. At least one-half the animals have been killed or crippled and most of the others scattered. Thirty new ambulances have almost been ground into the cartli; twenty sutlers' wagons are

WAR REMINISCENCES. beyond repair; the wreek of sanitary ly one escaped. The ground is littered with clothing, bedding, harness, forage and rations. We count sixty-six dead men amid this scene of desolation sixty-six dead and forty-one wounded. Half a million dollars will not make good the government loss on stores alone. Not a shot had been fired into the trains. Not an enemy was within musket range. It was simply a stampede of the cowards who make up the tail of that monster we call war. - N.

WAR MEMORIES.

the Sharp Tricks That Were

Played in the Army. It must be conceded that the soldiers of the late war were intensely human. There was a reason for it. They had, as a rule, all the weaknesses of more favored mortals, intensfiled, perhaps, by being barred out, as it were, from the outside world, and having but little to occupy their minds when off duty to relieve the dull tedium of camp-life, save the diversions which were the resultant conceptions of their own creative genius. A hundred men, banded together in one company, were, in one sense, a municipality unto them-

The writer, while conversing recently with a comrade of Phil. H. Sheridan post, G. A. R., drew from him some

amusing incidents of army life.
"Capt. B.," said the comrade, "had
had for some weeks nothing to issue to his men in the way of rations but slabbacon and hard-tack, in fact the offieers were mainly living on the same fare. The captain received one morning, from a source not yet explained, a dozen sausages, and he inquired for the cook, who it was found had not returned from an errand to Newberne. The captain asked me if I couldn't fry the sausages, and I said yes.

"I went about my task, and, strange as it may appear, the distaste I had had for sausages when at home suddenly disappeared under the fragrant aroma of the sizzling cylindrical edibles. Yes, they smelt awful good, so good that I took two of them out of the half canteen in which they were frying and ate them. This did not satisfy me in the least, but rather served to whet my appetite for more. I next detailed four more for my gnawing stomach, thinking all the while how I should explain matters to the captain. I hit upon it at last, and, which was better still, my plan, or the explanation I had formulated would involve me no deeper in



trouble if I ate the dozen sausages, which I did, and I verily believe I could have eaten a dozen more.

"Noontline came, and so did the captain, all hungry for his dinner. I can settle them. There is not the slightest better explain matters by putting what subsequently occurred in the form of a dialogue. ok, where are my sausages

"'Up near the bushes there. I put them there so they would be safe. "Where did you say they were? I

"'Just behind that bush, captain." "'Oh, yes. I see them now. Cook!

can't find them.

there's nothing in the frypan!' "'I can't see how that can be. Somebody must have stolen and eaten them,

then. "You had better believe there was some strong language used by the captain on that occasion. He never suspected me. While I cannot justify my act I think that under the strong temptation I was subjected to, and the promptings of a yearning empty stom-ach, I was an object of charity and forgiveness rather than of censure."

"When we pitched our tent at Newberne we had no straw or anything else to sleep on. The following morn-ing the captain discovered, concealed in a rebel's barn, two bales of straw. He immediately ordered a detail of four men from Company G to secure one bale for his tent.

"The straw was confiscated and placed in the captain's quarters. The men then went to the barn for the remain-ing bale for their own tent and found that it had disappeared. They soon learned whither it went. It was nicely

spread in a tent near their own.
"The shades of evening had settled about the camp, and the four men from Company G were on the alert. They reconnoitred about the captain's tent and found that he was away. Two tent and found that he was away. Two
of the men kept watch while the others removed every vestige of straw
from his quarters to their own. It
was a ticklish business, and the men
on guard had to keep a sharp lookout. It was near midnight when their
task was completed. One thing more
remained to be done and that was remained to be done, and that was to scatter straw from the captain's tent to the one occupied by the men who had appropriated the second bale.

"The captain came back early the next morning, and his feelings can be better imagined than described. In a word, he was mad clear through. Unfortunately for the fellows to whose tent the straw had been scattered, the captain discovered it, and they were immediately summoned before him. They tried to explain, but he would not listen. He was inexorable. The

next day they explated their crime, not exactly upon the gallows, but by doing extra guard duty."

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