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## THE NEW SOUTH.

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### The Soldier to His Mother.

BY THOMAS MACKELLAR.

"Kiss my little brothers and my sisters, and tell them I died for my country."

On the field of battle, mother,  
All the night alone I lay,  
Angels watching o'er me, mother  
Till the breaking of the day.  
I lay thinking of you, mother,  
And the loving ones at home,  
Till to our dear cottage, mother,  
Boy again I seemed to come.

He to whom you taught me, mother,  
On my infant knee to pray,  
Kept my heart from fainting, mother,  
When the vision passed away.  
In the gray of morning, mother,  
Comrades bore me to the town:  
From my bosom tender fingers,  
Washed the blood that trickled down.

I must soon be going, mother,  
Going to the home of rest:  
Kiss me as of old, my mother,  
Press me nearer to your breast.  
Would I could repay you, mother,  
For your faithful love and care:  
God uphold and bless you, mother,  
In this bitter woe you bear.

Kiss for me my little brother,  
Kiss my sisters, loved so well:  
When you sit together, mother,  
Tell them how their brother fell.  
Tell to them the story, mother,  
When I sleep beneath the sod,  
That I died to save my country  
All from love to her and God.

Leaning on the merit, mother,  
Of the One who died for all,  
Peace is in my bosom, mother,—  
Hark! I hear the angels call!  
Don't you hear them singing, mother?  
Listen to the music's swell!  
Now I leave you, loving mother—  
God be with you—fare you well.

### RIFLED AND SMOOTH-BORED ARMS.

The expediency of a general or promiscuous use of rifled cannon, and small arms in modern warfare, is just now attracting that attention from scientific and practical men, which the subject deserves. An inquiry into the matter has lately been inaugurated by Major G. L. Willard, U. S. A., an accomplished and erudite artillery and engineer (now colonel commanding the 125th Regiment New York State volunteers,) in a pamphlet entitled "comparative value of rifled and smooth-bored arms." The historical and scientific data produced, coupled with the results of actual observations and theoretical positions taken, establish conclusively the superiority of the smooth-bored small arm over the rifled arm, for general use, especially in close action, and at critical moments of battle. The destruction of life with the smooth-bored weapon is much the greatest in the end, although in the skirmishing or preliminary fighting, the rifled arm may be used with great execution and excellent results. It is very doubtful whether, under the present organization of our armies, the rifled arm could be adopted generally, without great disadvantages. This is explained by

Major Willard in a remark that "nineteen-twentieths of the most intelligent men usually enlisted have no knowledge of the use of the rifled arm." Indeed, this weapon could only be used by detailing one hundred of the best and steadiest marksmen from each regiment, as sharpshooters, to be thoroughly instructed in the use of the rifled musket.

In addition to these facts it is well known that a good, smooth-bored musket may be used with effect and kept in trusty order by a common soldier throughout an arduous and long campaign, whilst the rifled musket is very susceptible of injury and disorder, and no ordinary soldier will give that attention to its care that is so necessary to its advantageous employment, unless he be specially charged with the duty and instructed in the use of his weapon. After the necessary instruction has been imparted to these light troops, the work of the general officer begins in properly handling his men. He will study the topography of the field, taking up every consideration or conception of accident, and cover his men from the effect of the fire from the enemy's sharpshooters and rifled artillery, as far as possible, until the action becomes close and the smooth-bored arm can be used with the greatest effect.

Major Willard, in concluding his preliminary treatise, makes use of the following fitting and suggestive remarks.

"An army will no longer, as in former times, encamp or bivouac within two thousand or three thousand yards of the enemy's outposts, without exposing itself to the dangers of being shelled.

"With all the defects in the new arms, caused by the great curve of their trajectories, an army cannot now do without them: it would be placed in a position of inferiority to its adversary, perfectly unsustainable. Its battalions would be destroyed; its skirmishers decimated, at ranges where its own balls and bullets would not take effect, without considering the necessity it would be under, of separating its lines and placing its reserves at far greater distances than the enemy.

"It would be equally an error to fall into the other extreme, and discard entirely smooth-bored arms from our army, a result towards which we have been tending for several years past. The utility of the rifled muskets with the elevating sights is exhibited in perfection, when placed in the hands of thoroughly instructed light troops or skirmishers." In this character of soldiers our army is certainly deficient, but it is a subject of sufficient importance to demand immediate attention. At least one regiment in each brigade should be specially instructed in the duties of light infantry; and in the new regular regiments of our army, one of the three battalions should be similarly designated; these troops should be armed with the most approved rifled arms thoroughly instructed in the theory of firing and use of the weapon, as well as in all that relates to the duties of skirmishers and light troops in campaign.

"The remainder of the infantry and the cavalry should be armed with the smooth-bored arms. The infantry should have the buck and ball cartridge, (a ball and three buckshot.) The elevating portion of the sight should be immediately abandoned on arms intended for infantry troops not skirmishers, for reasons heretofore mentioned. It is believed that the experience of our armies within the last two years, has not sustained the generally entertained opinion that our army should be entirely armed with rifled muskets, but on the contrary, grave doubts of the advantage claimed for the weapons have entered the minds of many, while some of our best officers, who have had every advantage upon which to form an opinion, are convinced that we are laying aside manifest advantages in discarding the smooth-bored musket with the buck and ball cartridge.

"Battles must be fought and won, as in times past; decisive victories cannot be gained by firing at long ranges; at short ranges the buck and ball cartridge is certainly more effective, and it is susceptible of proof that it is a grave error to adopt for an army, rifled, to the entire exclusion of the smooth-bored arms."

Says an astronomer to a bright eyed girl, when talking of rainbows: "Did you ever see a lunar bow, Miss?" "I have seen a beau by moonlight, if that's what you mean," was the rejoinder.

### To the Loyal Citizens of the United States.

The times are full of important movements. The Nations are restless. The political institutions of our own country, the most perfect and sacred that man has ever devised, are fiercely assailed.

Armed bodies of rebels, under the control of what is called "The Southern Confederacy," are now insulting our flag and murdering our fellow-citizens, our fathers, sons, and kindred.

Base men, vile partisans, above "Mason and Dixon's line," encourage these blood-stained rebels. Both must be put down. Not a star must be allowed to break away from the National Galaxy. Our civil, religious, and social rights must be maintained unimpaired. These objects require combination and action. True patriots should be known. Here, under the shadows of the Capitol, within view of the marble that speaks of a Washington, and the bronze that tells of a Jackson, they should have a common place of meeting—a place dedicated to the unity of the Nation. Deeply impressed with these sentiments, "A Union League" has been established at No. 481 9th street, 2d floor of Lyon's Building.

At this room will be found a pledge for the signatures of residents as well as visitors; and also newspapers, books, and pamphlets. At times it will be enlivened by the melody and roll of patriotic songs and music.

Come, patriots, enrol your names, and proclaim your detestation of traitors and your love of the United States of America. Come, and at the selected spot warm the national fervor of your hearts, and by the swell of your numbers encourage the heroes of the battle-fields of freedom.

We aim to keep regularly on file all newspapers and periodicals favorable to our country's cause. Loyal editors are earnestly solicited to send us their journals for this purpose, and copy the above, and urge persons visiting this city to call at our rooms.

D. REES,  
OCTAVIOUS KNIGHT,  
J. S. BROWN,  
MARTIN BUELL,  
WM. F. BASCOM, } Executive  
Committee.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., March 17th, 1863.

A HARD WIND.—Old Peter H.—lived in a one story wooden house of not very extensive dimensions and when it was subjected to the force of one of those hurricanes so numerous of late years at the west, its powers of resistance were insufficient to withstand so great a pressure, and it yielded the point without a struggle—however, it was not upset, nor torn to pieces, but merely moved a few rods. In the course of the journey the stove was upset and the fire spilt out, and the danger of conflagration was imminent. Old Peter was too much excited to notice the removal of his house, and seeing the necessity of immediately applying water to the burning embers on the floor, he seized a bucket and darted out behind the house, when great was his astonishment to find all the traces of his well obliterated. After looking in blank astonishment a moment, he called to his wife:

"Sarah, I'll be blamed if the wind has not blown the well clear out of the lot!—There is not so much as a stone left!"

PROOF OF VALOR.—A good story is told of a certain officer who was accused of showing the white feather in an engagement with the rebels. The story got whispered around until it came back to the officer in the columns of a newspaper.—Seizing the paper, in a high state of indignation, he rushed into the presence of his superior officer, and exclaimed, "Now, Captain, didn't I wave my sword, and rave, and curse and swear, and do you suppose I would have waved my sword, and cursed and swore if I had been afraid!"

The Captain had nothing to say against such conclusive evidence of valor as this.

—Some officers, perhaps a little envious of his good luck, were abusing a brother officer who had recently been promoted. "Why, what has B, done," said a mutual acquaintance, joining the group. "Oh," replied a waggish Lieutenant, "his offence is rank!"