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[Written for The Palmetto Herald.]

THE BATTLE-CRY OF THE NORTH.

BY MRS. C. M. SAWYER.

Saw ye the storm-clouds that darkened the sky?
Heard ye the tempest go hurdling by?

*Twas a Nation uprising, stern, wrathful and grand—

*Twas a great people's cry that rolled over the land.

Strike for the Union our fathers achieved;

Strike for the flag that from them we received;

Strike and spare not, till, through all the wide land,

Old Liberty's altars triumphantly stand!

From the homes of New England, the plains of the West;

From the lakes of the North to the Cumberland's crest;

Like the leaves of the forest, the waves of the sea,
Swept on the proud ranks of the loyal and free!

Strike for the Union our fathers achieved;

Strike for the flag that from them we received;

Strike and spare not, till, through all the wide land,

Old Liberty's altars triumphantly stand!

The Capes of the Delaware caught the refrain,
Blue Chesapeake thundered it over the main,

Old dark, stormy Hatteras reeled at the sound,
And the Isles of Port Royal re-echoed it round.

Strike for the Union our fathers achieved;

Strike for the flag that from them we received;

Strike and spare not, till, through all the wide land,

Old Liberty's altars triumphantly stand.

From the founts of Missouri far down to its grave,

Where the Mexican Gulf rolls its billowy wave,
Mid thunder of cannon, and clashing of steel,
Ever sterner we hear the same battle-cry peal.

Strike for the Union our Fathers achieved;

Strike for the Flag that from them we received;

Strike and spare not, till, through all the wide land,

Old Liberty's altars triumphantly stand.

On to the strife, then, invincible Grant;

On Farragut—hero, whom death cannot daunt;

On Gillmore, and sweep, like the bosom of God,
The shores where the foot of rebellion first trod.

Strike for the Union our Fathers achieved;

Strike for the Flag that from them we received;

Strike and spare not, till, through all the wide land,

Old Liberty's altars triumphantly stand.

Who is he shall dare say: "Thrust the blade
in its sheath.

And with garlands of peace the torn battle-flag
wreath,"

While Rebellion still rears its red front to the day,

And Treason stalks boldly to ruin and slay?

Strike for the Union our Fathers achieved;

Strike for the Flag that from them we received;

Strike and spare not, till, through all the wide land,

Old Liberty's altars triumphantly stand.

Aye! swell the grand War-cry! Ne'er let it be
hushed,

Till rebellion and treason lie broken and crushed,
And the sun, as it dips in the far Western wave,
Sets not on a land that is trod by a slave.

Strike for the Union our Fathers achieved;

AFFAIRS IN FLORIDA.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 22d.

FLAGS OF TRUCE.

Major Eddy, of Gen. Seymour's Staff, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Chapman, Chaplain of the 69th N. Y. Volunteers, rode out to the lines of the enemy yesterday under a flag of truce. Mr. Chapman sought admission for the purpose of looking after our wounded at Tallahassee; but after waiting till dark without receiving any reply from the rebel commandant, the party returned. The rebels sent us a flag of truce on Sunday, concerning a Catholic priest and two sisters of charity, whom we received, and it is not unlikely that when the answer to Mr. Chapman's request is sent in, it will be of a favorable character.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR.

Surgeon A. Majer, U. S. V., has been relieved from duty in the District of Florida, and Surgeon S. W. Gross, U. S. V., announced as Medical Director.

PILATKA, FLA., March 23d, 1864.

SKIRMISH.

We had a skirmish with the rebels here on Monday, the 21st, in which the enemy, who made an attack in force upon our pickets, was repulsed and driven in full retreat. Between a hundred and fifty and two hundred of the rebels made a dash upon our mounted pickets on the right, comprising a portion of the 115th New York, driving them in a little way. A portion of the same force then passed our center and went to our left, where our outposts were also attacked. The enemy fought dastardly, firing from behind the trees; but notwithstanding this advantage, our own men being in the open space, the rebels were driven back in confusion, and taking to their horses made the best escape they could. In the fight, which was of very brief duration, not one of our own men was hit. One of our officers, however, asserts that a rebel officer, mounted on a magnificent grey horse, was seen to fall after one of our volleys. The Ottawa, Lieutenant-Commander Breese, fired over the town during the engagement, and one or two of her shells burst prematurely, the fragments falling among our lines, happily doing no injury.

PICKETS CAPTURED.

Last Saturday the rebels caught two of our pickets napping by a fire, over which they were cooking their coffee, and took them prisoners. Their horses, hitched to saplings close by, were also taken. Let this be a warning to our men. The previous admonition of the officer of the picket had failed to put them on their guard.

GOOD QUARTERS.

Col. Barton, the commandant at this post, is most agreeably located in the house of Mr. Hart, a prominent and wealthy secessionist. This dwelling, the finest in the town, was formerly the favorite resort of the rebel officers at Camp Dickinson. It is surrounded by grounds handsomely laid out, abounding in orange groves, evergreens, rare shrubs and choice flowers already in bloom. The Putnam House, formerly a large and well patronized hotel, is now the Post Hospital, under the charge of Dr. Mul-

ford, of the 48th. The St. John's House is the headquarters of the worthy Provost Marshal, Capt. Smith. Other fine dwellings are similarly appropriated.

REBEL RESIDENCE BURNED.

Yesterday morning, by order of Col. Barton, the torch was applied to a handsome dwelling on the hill in rear of the town, belonging to a surgeon in the rebel service. It was the desire of Col. Barton to preserve it, but the enemy having made it a bulwark to shelter themselves while firing on our men, its destruction was considered a military necessity.

PILATKA.

Dr. Pinneo Medical Inspector of the Department, in company with Surgeon Gross, Medical Director of the District, and Assistant Surgeon Tremain, are here to-day on a visit of inspection. In company with Col. Barton, they have made the tour of the post, with all the arrangements of which they justly profess themselves delighted. There is no prettier spot in all Florida than this. The choicest fruits, the most brilliant foliage, the balmy atmosphere, vocal with the music of birds; the majestic century-old live-oaks, burdened with pendant moss, with their shadows falling on green sward smooth as an emerald carpet; the evidences of wealth and refinement everywhere visible, strongly commingled with martial sights and sounds, all go to make the place one of the most attractive in the Department, or in the entire South.

SCENE OF REBEL ATROCITIES.

I visited one spot to-day, however, which made me sad to look upon. I stood under a rude gallows, where, but a few months ago, six colored men were hung for attempting to escape from bondage to freedom. A slender branch of a tree, growing not a quarter of a mile from the village, had been bent down into the crotch of an upright stick, and fastened permanently in that position by the weight of struggling, dying human beings, two of whom were thus murdered at a time. The graves of the martyrs are under the tree where they perished, marked by simple sticks, placed there by the blacks of the village, all of whom were compelled by the authors of the infamous proceeding to witness the horrible ceremony, and they say that one of the victims (though I can scarcely credit the story of such barbarism) was clubbed to death in his grave, after the wretches had commenced to heap the earth upon him, because the slip-noose failed in its work.

COMPLIMENTS TO WORTHY OFFICERS.

Lieut. M. McMartin, Quartermaster, and Lieut. H. S. Sanford, Adjutant of the 115th N. Y. Volunteers, were handsomely used by their regiments to-day. To each was given a fine horse, with equipments. The gifts were presented by Major Walrath, who, in an eloquent manner, recited the merits of the officers and of the regiment whose efficiency they had contributed greatly to sustain. Appropriate responses were made, and a "sociable" this evening is to wind up the affair.

Surgeon John L. Mulford, of the 48th N. Y. Volunteers, to whom his regiment gave a handsome gold watch a few months since, has been presented with a

magnificent gold chain and charm to match it. Upon the latter is a portrait of Gen. Gillmore, surrounded with a record of the 48th's battles, while on the reverse is the following inscription: "Presented to J. L. Mulford, Surgeon 48th Regiment N. Y. Volunteers, by the Veteran Members of the Ambulance Corps, at Port Royal, January 1st, 1864.

NAVAL MATTERS.

The Sumter and the Hettie, prizes to the naval tug Columbine, left here to-day for Jacksonville. They will probably be condemned as lawful prizes, and be set to work without being taken out of the St. John's. The Hettie is quite a fine boat, of the wheelbarrow pattern, and will prove of great service. She was built just before the war for the Pilatka and Jacksonville line, but never made the trip but twice, and may therefore be considered as good as new. Her saloon is large, her rooms well fitted, and her capacity for carrying freight or passengers is good. Aside from the wheel in her stern, she resembles the Darlington, which is advertised to be sold at Beaufort next May.

The Hettie had a motley collection of freight going down. One hundred and fifty bales of cotton, mostly ginned, comprised the leading item. Then there were turpentine, and rosin, and copper, fruits, hencoops and fowls, cotton gins, whiskey stills, sugar and rice, old railway iron in large quantities, more cotton, more fruit, and several families of loyal refugees, black and white, with their goats, cats, dogs and children. In tow was the Sumter, looking as much like a two-story pig-sty as like a river craft; and yet this vessel has done a good business in running goods and passengers through the inland passages of the Peninsula State. To us the Sumter will be comparatively worthless, but to the rebels her capture will prove rather disastrous. The Hettie, which has not been in use for a couple of years, will come very handy for us. Her speed is about seven knots.

The arrival of the Columbine was opportune. Had it been deferred a day or two later, an expedition for rescue or relief would have been sent out, so convinced was every one that she had been captured or destroyed.

Assistant Surgeon G. W. Woods, of the Ottawa, has been ordered North. Assistant Surgeon Willard, who was one of the officers of the Vanderbilt during her cruise for the Alabama, arrived to-day to relieve him. First Assistant Engineer Sprague, of the Ottawa, who has just been promoted, is soon to be ordered to another vessel.

EMPLOYMENT OF ENLISTED MEN BY CIVILIANS.—Gen. Gillmore has issued a General Order, in which the employing of enlisted men by civilians is strictly prohibited, except where such employment is authorized by the Major-General Commanding, or when the soldier is on furlough, duly approved at Department Headquarters.

We have now arranged so that we can supply complete files of THE PALMETTO HERALD to date, to a limited extent.