

THE SCHOOL FOR IDLERS.

BY SIMON PURE.

At the next meeting, the President announced that he had received his first letter from Brother Penn, who, it will be remembered, was sent out as travelling committee, to gather useful information for the School. In this matter they could not, of course, claim originality, for the admirable Pickwickians did the same thing years ago, but they had the merit of following a good example, at least. After the debate, the President said he would put off the other exercises, and ask the Society to listen to the reading of the letter which was as follows:

ON BOARD STEAMER "DIOGENES' TUB,"
March 12, 18—.

DEAR FRIENDS—After waiting a week in New York, and pondering all the while which of all the routes offered to my travelling desires I should choose, as most instructive and beneficial to the inquiring mind, whether to go Hoboken or to Brooklyn, or to embark on one of the North River barges, or to exile myself in a foreign land, and revel among the green hills and brown marshes of Jersey, I finally chose a trip to the sunny South, and embarked upon this elegant steamer. As fortune would have it, I had been entirely fleeced in New York, and my last half dollar was reluctantly paid to the man who brought my valise and umbrella on board. But supposing it the ordinary lot of mortals to be X-sponged in New York, I tried to make nothing of it, and persuaded the purser to give me a seat at the second-cabin table, and a berth when he could, promising to pay as soon as I reached my destination. I had never been at sea before, and the idea exhilarated me. I felt about seven feet high, as I paced the deck, and though unaccustomed to smoking, I accepted a very strong cigar from a savage-looking Colonel, and went to puffing and spitting at a furious rate. The marble palaces of the Yankee Babel faded in the distance, we passed the forts and the bar, and could scarcely discern the minarets of the city of churches; Sandy Hook was close in sight, and so was the open sea. The open sea! how my heart jumped at the thought of it; but something below my heart jumped fully as much, for the tobacco was strong, and the swell of the sea was stronger. I threw away the cigar in disgust, didn't feel as tall as I did—had to keep swallowing hot saliva—seemed as if somebody was emptying a tea-kettle into my mouth. A beautiful young lady sitting opposite me, whispered to her father, something to the effect "that the gentleman was horrid pale." The father whispered in reply "that he was sea-sick," whereupon the young lady exclaimed, "How ridiculous!" and burst into a lengthened apostrophe, in which the Arabic words "hehe" and "tehe" were most prominent. I could but relish her sympathy, and as I am still young and susceptible, I fell violently in love, so that I turned nearly purple. I retreated at once to my state-room, but the waiter said I couldn't go in without a ticket. I went back to the purser and waited awhile for my ticket, then to the state-room again, but had to run somewhere else for a key, and when I got back my agitation had been too much for me. The breakfast for which I had paid 87 cents was at my feet! I was speedily in my berth, and as soon began, as I supposed, to recover. But, on getting up to take a look from the little window, with my mouth wide open to catch the fresh air, I found my mistake. The ship gave a lurch, and a big wave came in at the window, and a good portion of it went down my throat. It made me horribly sick, but when I

called the doctor, he said it was just the thing to cure me. And sure enough, when I had recovered from the effects of that dose, I could go upon deck without any qualms of stomach, and eat my scanty meals in the second cabin with a double relish. I suppose the reason fishes are never sea-sick, is because they take so much salt water when they go to sea. Their is a good deal in that.

Well, I had a glorious revenge upon the girl I loved. When I went upon deck, she half recognized me, and I was bold to ask her how she was. She scouted the idea of being sea-sick. It was blowing very strong from the eastward, and the vessel felt it, and so did the girl I loved. I remarked that she looked pale, but she didn't believe it. I asked her up to walk the deck: it was a relief to her as long as we kept moving, but when I stopped to introduce her to a friend, she felt the poetry of motion in her soul. I had no idea she had a stomach, till, all of a sudden, a pair of doeskin pants, worth \$13, were in ruins. My passion at once subsided—so did the young lady.

When we were assembled in the cabin at evening, we had various ways of passing the time. Sometimes we told stories, sometimes we sung, and among the songs was one I have thought proper to perpetuate among the Records of the School. It was sung by a seedy looking individual, who was going South to speculate in abandoned property. It ran nearly as follows:

SONG.

When I was young and tender too,
I had to mind and had to do
Whatever mother bade me;
She used to keep a walnut stick
That kept me on the double quick,
And that was when she had me.

When I was twelve, and quite a bean
Among the girls, I used to know
A Miss Priscilla Cadme,
And with the help of smiles and nods,
I fell in love at forty rods,
And that was when she had me.

When I was older, say nineteen,
I thought it time to have a queen.
And asked her if she'd wed me;
She said she didn't much object,
Or words to something that effect,
And that was when she had me.

But when, to make the matter straight,
I went up to negotiate
Affairs with Colonel Cadme,
He said he didn't care to sell,
And told me I might go to—well,
Just then was when he had me.

I hid my sorrows in the cup
Until I got my dander up,
I couldn't have been madder;
Till she proposed that we be one
In spite of pa;—the thing was done
And that was when I had her.

Two little urchins on my knee,
I'm proud to say, belong to me,
That is, to me and Madam;
For when we left our native sod,
We passed a year or two abroad,
And then was when we had 'em.

Hoping the above letter will be of benefit and amusement to the brethren, I remain, *au revoir*,
PENN.

DRAFT HORSE FOR SALE.—A LARGE, powerful, well-trained draft horse for sale on reasonable terms.
Inquire of Lieut. BEEBE, Post Quartermaster, Hilton Head.

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Always on hand a large assortment of Military and Fancy Goods; Meerschaum Pipes, Seers, Tobacco, &c.

[Official.]
HEADQUARTERS, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
HILTON HEAD, S. C., June 3, 1864.
GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 81.
THE FOLLOWING CIRCULAR, FROM THE War Department, is re-published for the information and guidance of all concerned:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJ'T GEN'L'S OFFICE,
No. 36, } Washington, May 2, 1864.

I. To provide for certain cases of muster, which may arise at the dates the original terms of service of Volunteer organizations will expire, the following regulations are established, and announced for the information and guidance of all concerned. Their execution will be under the supervision and direction of the Commissaries of Musters for Corps and Departments: MUSTERS-OUT AND DISCHARGES FROM VETERAN REGIMENTS WHERE THREE-FOURTHS THEREOF HAVE RE-ENLISTED.

I. In regiments where three-fourth (3-4) of the men have re-enlisted—and which are therefore Veteran—the organization they may have at the dates of expiration of term. (See Sec. 1, General Remarks,) will be maintained, but all men who have not re-enlisted, (except those who have joined since date of original organization,) will, on said date, be mustered out and discharged from the service.

The Musters-out will be made by the Assistant Commissary of Musters of the Division to which the troops belong, and that officer will be held strictly accountable that the muster-out rolls are accurate, and made out in accordance with the Mustering Regulations.

A separate muster out roll will be made, on the prescribed form, for the detachment from each company.

Particular attention is invited to the Mustering Regulations, in so far as the formal discharge paper of the Volunteer is concerned. (See Sec. 5, General Remarks.)

After the muster-out and discharge papers shall have been fully prepared, the Department or Corps Commander will cause the discharged men to be formed into detachments, under competent officers, and forward them to the States (See Sec. 6, General Remarks,) to which they respectively belong, there to be paid off, promptly, under such regulations as the Paymaster General may establish.

The senior officer of each detachment will take charge of the muster-out rolls and discharge papers, and be responsible for their safety until placed in the hands of the Paymaster.

OFFICERS FOR VETERAN REGIMENTS.

II. Under paragraph 9. of General Orders, No. 191, 1863, it is announced that officers in service whose regiments or companies may re-enlist, (now applicable to regiments or companies where three-fourths have re-enlisted,) will have their commissions and rank continued. To this end, officers will continue to serve, under existing musters, until the original term of their regiments shall have expired, when they will be re-mustered, under their existing commissions, for three years. To secure the back rank—not pay—of the grade in which they may be re-mustered, the Assistant Commissary of Musters will make the following remark upon the muster-in roll: "To rank from 186... under Paragraph 9, General Orders, No. 191, War Department, 1863."

No provision herein will be construed as authorizing the retention in service of unfit officers. All such should be reported by the Department, or Army Commander, to the Adjutant General of the Army, with the view to their discharge.

MUSTERS-OUT OF REGIMENTS NOT VETERAN.

II. Where regiments fall under the provisions of Section 1, General Remarks, and less than three-fourths thereof have re-enlisted, the re-enlisted men and all recruits (drafted and volunteer) who have joined the regiment since the date of its original muster-in, (Section 1, General Remarks,) will be formed into one or more companies of the legal maximum standard, and officered by such officers as may be selected by the Department or Army Commander. The remainder of the regiment will then be placed en route to the State, there to be mustered out and paid off in accordance with the Mustering Regulations of the Army.

In regiments falling under the provisions of Section 2, General Remarks, and where less than three-fourths have re-enlisted, at the dates the periods of service of the respective companies expire the men thereof entitled to discharge, and the company officers, (present and absent) will be mustered out by the Assistant Commissary of Musters of the Division, in accordance with the rules enunciated in Section 1, of Paragraph 1. The remainder (re-enlisted men and recruits who have joined since date of original organization) will be temporarily assigned to the last company to be mustered out. When the men of all the companies entitled to discharge have thus been disposed of, the remainder will be formed into one or more companies of the legal maximum standard, and officered by such officers as may be selected by the Army or Department Commander.

II. Nothing herein will be considered as interfering with the requirements of General Orders, No. 182, series of 1863, from this office.

GENERAL REMARKS.

III. 1. Where all the companies of a regiment were mustered in within two (2) months of the date at which the organization will be determined by reckoning the period of service on the 20th of May, 1861, (that date is considered as the date of original organization and muster-in of the Regiment,) the period of service of the regiment will expire May 19th, 1864, (expiration of original term) and, at that date, all the members of the regiment, except re-enlisted ones, and those who have joined since date of original organization, should be discharged.

II. Where there is a difference of two months or more between the dates of muster-in of the first and last companies, the companies will be mustered out separately, and the field and staff reduced proportionally, and in the inverse order in which they were mustered in, under Paragraph 85, Mustering Regulations. The field officers, however, to be mustered out at each stage of the reduction, will rest with the Commander of the Army or Department. The musters-out will be made by the Assistant Commissary of Musters for the Division.

III. When troops are mustered out of service, all officers and men, present and absent, who are entitled to be discharged, will be considered as mustered out at one time and place, except prisoners of war, who will be considered as in service until their arrival in a loyal State, with an allowance of time necessary for them to be returned to their respective places of enrollment. With officers and men of this class, commanding officers of regiments and companies will exercise great care in stating, in the remarks on the muster-out rolls, the dates and places of capture, thus:

Prisoner of War. Captured at.....
December, 186....

IV. Officers and men absent from their commands, on detached service, sick in hospital or paroled, (after the officer under whose command they may be, has satisfied himself that their terms of service have expired,) will be furnished with transportation by the Quartermaster's Department to the place where the Regiment is to be mustered out, in time to be present at the said muster. The transportation will be furnished upon the requisition of the Commanding officer under whom the officer or soldier may be serving, or of the surgeon in charge of the hospital where he may be sick. The descriptive lists of the men will accompany them, and be turned over to the officer who may be charged with mustering out the force, by whom—after the data therefrom has been entered on the muster-out rolls—they will be forwarded to the Adjutant General of the Army. If from sickness, or other proper cause, enlisted men cannot be sent in time, as above directed, they will be discharged at the hospital, and their final papers there made out, under direction of the surgeon in charge, and forwarded to the commander having the power to discharge, as in the case of surgeon's certificate of disability. The principles announced in Paragraphs 3 and 15, Appendix "B," Revised Army Regulations, will be applied in such cases; and, with a view to determining claims for pension, all information will be given in the papers which will throw light on the nature and cause of the soldier's sickness.

V. The following extracts, from the Mustering Regulations, are published for the information and guidance of all concerned:

"Whenever volunteers, or militia, are mustered for final discharge, on the expiration of their term of service, a discharge will be furnished for each officer and soldier, whether present or absent.

"The blanks for these must be filled with great care and neatness, and signed, with official rank affixed—at the left hand—by the Colonel or other regimental commander for the field and staff, by captains or other company commanders for their respective companies, and by the Mustering Officer, and by the Mustering Officer returned to the said commanders for delivery to the individuals."

Form of Discharge. TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

KNOW YE, That a of Captain company regiment of volunteers, who was enrolled on the day of one thousand eight hundred and to serve years, or during the war, is hereby discharged from the service of the United States, day of 186... at by reason—of being mustered out of service on the expiration of his term. *No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.

Said was born in in the State of is years of age, feet inches high, complexion, eyes, hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a
GIVEN AT this day of 186....

.....
Commanding company—or regiment, A. B.,

Captain U. S. Infantry and Mustering Officer.

*Where troops are mustered out of service, final statements are not to be given. The muster-out rolls take the place of final statements in such cases."

VI. As a general rule, in returning troops to their States for muster-out, they will be sent to the points, therein, where they were mustered in, there to be met by Mustering Officers and Paymasters.

VII. To hasten the muster-out of troops, it is hereby made the duty of regimental and company commanders, under the direction of the Commissary of Musters of the Corps or Department and Assistant Commissary of Musters for the Division, to look after the data necessary for the preparation of the muster-out rolls. To this end it is directed that each company commander shall have the muster-out roll of his company, or such men thereof as are to be discharged, made out in rough, so that it can be quickly arranged, and a fair copy made at the required time.

VIII. As the interest of an enlisted man is always prejudiced, if his record on the rolls is imperfect, Mustering Officers and Paymasters will promptly report all officers who may neglect to have the rolls of their regiments and companies accurately made out, with a view to their being recommended for dismissal from the service.

IV. In mustering out independent companies and batteries, or fractional parts thereof, the principles, so far as applicable, laid down herein for regiments, will be observed. Questions which may arise relative thereto, will be decided by Department and Army Commanders.

BY ORDER OF THE SEC'Y OF WAR:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Asst. Adj't General.
By COMMAND OF BRIG. GEN. J. G. FOSTER,
W. L. M. BURGER,
Asst. Adj't Gen'l.

OFFICIAL:
THOMAS J. ROBINSON,
1st Lieut. 21st U. S. C. T.,
Act. Asst. Adj't General.

* This sentence will be erased, should there be anything in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for duty in the army.

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HILTON HEAD, S. C. GILSON & RIDDELL
Proprietors.