

FIGHTING FOR HIS COUNTRY IN A FOREIGN LAND **&&&** HARDSHIPS AND DANGERS. By Quartermaster Sergt. John F. Tatham, Company M., 29th U. S. V. I.

Calbayog, Samar, P. I., December 10, 1900.—I promised some time since to give you a resume of the actions of Company M, 29th U. S. V. Infantry, at an early date, and if I be tardy in so doing please accept as an excuse the fact that I have been very busy—how busy I will try and prove to you in the following:

June 26th, 1900, and we were stowed away on the United States Transport Pennsylvania, bound for the far Southern islands of the Philippine group, where, if report be true, the insurgents are active in their attacks upon the slimly garrisoned towns.

General McArthur, the official head of military operations on these islands, had for some time past been called upon for reinforcements at these places. Coming out of the Bay of Manila, on the way to this place, a distance of five hundred miles or more, we got out of sight of land but once, so many are the islands, bumps of land, jutting out from the face of "old ocean," and standing in mute appeal, as if calling upon us as representatives of the United States for protection—protection from any and everything from a cholera famine to the disastrous and destructive typhoon, which has a birthplace in the China Sea, an insignificant mill pond at the southern extremity of the Celestial Empire, and which serves no other purpose apparently than to be a dividing line between our island possessions and the Flowery Kingdom.

Two days from Manila and we anchor in the harbor of Masbate, which is the principal city on the Island of Masbate. It was here our Colonel with four companies of the 29th distinguished themselves in May of this year by capturing some hundreds of armed insurgents, together with their arms and munitions of war.

At this place we took on board Companies "G" and "E" and proceeded on our way southward, and on the afternoon of the next day anchored at Laguan, where we landed Companies "G" and "K" and took "A" and "G," or more correctly speaking, the remnants of the two companies of the 43d Infantry, which had been in garrison at this station for the past four months, in which time they had suffered a loss of fully one-third of the command by reason

of wounds and disease. Terrible indeed were the tales they told us of our willing ears of skirmishes with and attacks by the wily "neuroto," who, to judge by the stories told, were as numerous as the trees in the trackless forest and gifted with a keenness of scent and ability to make their "get-a-way" equaled only by the sly "John Fox" of our native country. Some of these narratives were in the main true, as we afterward found out on our sorrow and chagrin; but speaking generally they were but the products of a fertile brain and elastic imaginative power.

We left Laguan the morning of the 28th and landed in Calbayog harbor the afternoon of the same date, unloading by means of "cascoes," a kind of native boat, on the following day. Here we found two companies of the 43d Infantry, together with more hair-raising tales of hardships and privations which were as the others mere fabrications.

We relieved two companies and took entire charge of this station June 20th, and for a few days could not have told whether we were in the enemy's country or doing garrison duty where everything was quiet. But all things, good or bad, have an ending, and 1.30 a. m., July 6th, found us tumbling and rolling from our cots and hastily getting within our outer wearing apparel, for that stirring call "to arms," which causes even the sluggish to be "up and doing," is ringing peal after peal in stentorian notes upon the night air, and the boys in "khaki" know something is "up." What that something is we are soon made aware of, for no sooner have we reached the street in front of quarters than the zip, zip, zip of flying missiles of destruction and death inform us that the "gugus" have "opened up" and are trying their hand at target practice, with our men as targets; but they are poor gunners and we escaped without injury. Not so the natives, for after a sharp running fight of some two hours duration, they retired to the mountains near by, leaving upon the field some fifteen or twenty of their one-time fighting strength, silent now and lying with faces upturned to the starry heavens, mute witnesses to the fighting ability and fearlessness of the American soldier, before whom they had suffered a loss of fully one-third of the command by reason

of the enormity of one of their detachments under command of our First Lieutenant, while on a mile or more from town, trying to kill a beef, were suddenly fired upon by the enemy, who were heavily entrenched in our front and for a time had a warm time trying to show the followers of Aguinaldo the error of their ways, succeeding in so doing only after a sharp engagement, and then not to any great extent. In this we were the losers, two of our comrades suffering injuries, caused by coming in contact with sharpened bamboo poles, placed in such a position that any one charging their fortifications would run against them, and as a consequence retire with a puncture in their anatomy, which, if not fatal, would at least place them on the list of "sick in quarters," for a time at least.

During the next fifteen days we were in a constant state of siege, but the attacking party "reckoned on their host" and their feeble attempts were laughed at, and in reality we sympathized with them, giving them credit for valor, while deploring their discretion, for seldom did a day wane and a morrow come, but was recorded in the records kept at this place the death of one or more of the attacking parties.

July 25th, four months after the insurgents had evacuated this town, and as on previous dates by the months glided by, our copper-colored friend, with the desire to annihilate any and all Americans to be found on these islands, again hopped nimbly to the front of the curtain with his bamboo shot-gun and hoop-iron bale, and declared in terms emphatic, if untruthful, that "todos Americanos" must go, and stand not upon the order of their going, but go and go at once, "fronto"—quickly. A mistake, and a costly one, this blow and bluster proved to be, for we never once thought of going, besides which it is a long swim to the next landing place, and we staid just where it was intended we should, and gave to "John Gugus" such a thrashing as never was administered to an erring comrade in stubbornness to our long-earned friend, the mule, and continued their attacks by night and day for at least ten days more.

A detachment composed of fifty infantry men and ten marines from the gunboat "Isle De Cuba" gave the enemy a surprise at one of their strongholds north of town at 6.00 a. m., August 1st, and succeeded in capturing the same, sending a small number to the "happy hunting grounds" and the remainder on a "hot foot" chase to the mountains. During the remaining days of August we had frequent skirmishes with the enemy, each time being the winners. In this time we killed quite a number of private soldiers and two officers, besides capturing quite a quantity of ammunition and commissary supplies belonging to the insurgents. September proved to be a rather quiet month on both sides, though small detachments of "gugus" constantly fired upon the town, doing no damage, except it be to themselves. October was a repetition of September, nothing unusual happening. In the early part of November the insurgents planted some brass cannon on the hills surrounding the town and after loading them with every "old thing" that could be pushed down the muzzle, fired them at the city. This seemed to amuse them very much, though it was trying on the nerves for a short time, but we soon discovered them to be yet poorer marksmen with cannons than they were with small arms, and it was a common expression among the men: "The niggers fired a junk shop at No. 6 outpost this morning. Here is a cow horn and tin can that came my way."

It was amusing to pick up the different things contained in a charge fired from one of these old brass guns—bits of nails, taps, carrabow horns, and even chunks of wood helping to fill out the load. One day, while lying on our bunks in quarters, we were startled by a louder report than usual, followed by a great rumpus at the foot of the stairs. The funny man of the company was first on the scene, and came bounding back with this startling bit of information: "By George, one before. But the insurgents are here it is at last; just as I expected all the time. The cussed niggers have run out of railroad spikes and have shot a carrabow bull at us, and the old fellow wants to do as it is intended he should do, and wants a bold American to show up so he can get a reputation as a killer." This

was a mistake; his carrabow had been struck with a flying bit of trace chain, and, for the time being, was the wildest and most furious animal possible. It failed to kill him, however, and to-day he may be seen hitched to a cart hauling water to the cook houses. Two of these cannon we captured, and they now stand in front of the headquarters' building and look anything but dangerous, yet some four or five hundred years ago they would no doubt have been considered terrible implements of war. In the early part of November we were reinforced by Companies B and C of our regiment, which meant we were to go out and get the enemy instead of waiting for him to come in. If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain.

On the 26th of this month we started inland with one hundred and fifty infantrymen, one piece of light artillery and fifty or sixty Chinamen to be used as packers to take along our provisions. We had scarcely reached the outside of the city when we were fired upon and had a lively little engagement with the enemy, but we were going to the interior and to the town supposed to contain the headquarters of Gen. Lukebann, the leader of the rebel forces on this island, and did not intend to lose time on a few stubborn cranks, consequently we put them to flight quickly, and proceeded on our way. Books written about this country state that there are roads and trails throughout the islands. Possibly there are, but they are as difficult to locate as Aguinaldo, the swift-footed. We had three native guides, selected with great care, and after much difficult search, if they found a road at any time while we were scouring the mountains, we were heartily thankful. Any and all who try to travel without first finding a road, have our deepest sympathy. It was a good day's work done when we covered a distance of five miles or more. In most instances our path lay through a wild, mountainous country, and we toiled half a day going up one side of a mountain and fifteen minutes to reach the lowlands on the other side. Possibly we would find some two miles of fair traveling in this valley, wading in mud from one to four feet deep, and then go into camp for the

night at the base of to-morrow's work—one more mountain. This going into camp was camping in name only—our cots, in most instances, consisting of mother earth, and our covering the canopy of heaven, mosquitoes and sand flies. Coupled with these daily occurrences was the incessant rain, for the rainy season is on with a vengeance in this "neck of the woods."

Seven days from Calbayog, forty miles from transportation, unless we go the same way we came; or do anything to eat except what we capture, such as sweet potatoes, rice and carrabow—not a very choice bill of fare, and much less choice when it is known that we did not have either salt or pepper with which to season it. We had been out seven days, and had three days more to travel before we reach Montegenon, the reputed abiding place of the official head of the insurgent forces on this island. We were then at Tagnau, on the banks of the Gandara river, a noble stream, and one can but feel as he gazes upon its broad bosom what a blessing it would be if we could but transplant such waterways as these and drop them down on Columbia's shores, for such as these could not but be of benefit to us, both as food producers and in a commercial sense.

There is but one objectionable feature in connection with such rivers as these and that is the vast number of fierce crocodiles which are dangerous to haunt the shores. Of these crocodiles there are two varieties, one which grows to a great size, the other, smaller, yet quite ferocious. Besides these may be found the panican, or tortoise whose shell is very valuable. Fish abound, almost every known kind being found in great numbers. On the mountain side to our front, and in plain view of camp there are chattering hordes of monkeys, of all the species known or imagined. Here can be seen the ring-tailed monkey, the bald-headed monkey, and the brothers and sisters of the measley scamp that collects your small change, while the "dago" and the hand-organ do the rest. The forests abound in wild boar, bear and deer, and by night or day, when the minute hand points to the hour the air is made hideous by the cries of a

great bird, the calao, a kind of wild peacock. Leaving Tagnau, we travel in a northerly direction upward toward the mountain top, our path being the bed of a small, swift, running stream, a tributary of the Gandara. This may appear on the face of it to be a "hard road to travel," but our experience has proved it to be far ahead of cutting our way through the woods. In the early afternoon we reach the headquarters of Captain Bouki's, one of the most stubborn and unrelenting of all the insurgent officers, but he has flown, leaving behind the smoking remains of a once quiet, inland town. Here, buried in a deep ravine, we found vast quantities of supplies, consisting of rice, tobacco, cigarettes, and matches, the matches being used by the wily native as powder. We pass this by, neglecting to destroy it in our haste, as we now know the rebels are just ahead, and we desire to catch up with them if possible. Here we place our one field-piece of artillery on board a large casco and send a strong guard to proceed up stream with the same, hoping thereby to travel the faster, as this same piece of ordnance has been a constant source of trouble to us, it taking fifty men at times to get it up the mountain side, and then only after hours of wearying labor. From this place on we have to keep a sharp lookout for the enemy and their man-traps, which are holes of all sizes dug in the ground, generally in a path and filled with sharpened sticks so placed and concealed that the unwary in walking along will step therein, at which, if they do not sustain a mortal injury, they are at least left in such condition as to be of no further use for several days. Some half-dozen of our men were thus injured, and the thump, thump, thump of the crutches, as they amble slowly around quarters, testify to the efficiency of this method of warfare.

At Tiberan we are informed by two natives, whom we capture, that Lukebann and his insurgent crowd have left there two days previous, going down on the other side of the river, and as we rest a detachment proceeds forward to his old-time place of residence, there to find nothing but smoking ruins to gaze upon, the rebel crowd having disap-

peared. Two days we stop here and then start on our return journey, going in a backward direction over a known road in one day what had required three days of travel to accomplish and find a trail. At Captain Bouki's headquarters four privates and a second lieutenant of our company under cover of darkness proceeded down the river, a distance of some fifty miles, for the purpose of securing supplies and means of transportation. The following day we proceeded across the mountain to Tagnau, where the column was to await news from General Ibare, U. S. A. This morning we met with our first casualty, one man detached as guard on the boat which carried the cannon being shot and instantly killed by a volley from the rebels concealed in the brush alongside the river. Twenty-four hours after reaching Tagnau and after anxiously waiting and watching we were rewarded by the sight of a steamboat coming to our assistance, and despite the fact of our being half sick and starved, a shout went up which I am sure startled the natives for miles around. The camp cooks hurriedly made a pot of coffee, something we had been without for seven or eight days, hurried orders to get on board were given and at dark we were on our way to the home station, which point we reached shortly after midnight, and at breakfast time next morning were treated to the first half-way decent meal in fourteen days. All in all there were fourteen days of extreme hardships, but the end in view was accomplished by our men alone, as there were to be three other commands to start for the same place at the time we did, but one and all became discouraged and turned back before going any distance in the interior; but all same a bill will be given to this expedition will be given to the men of the 29th, and Company "M," is listed for the lion's share of the compliments. As a whole the expedition was a success, for despite the fact of our failure to capture the insurgent chief-tain, we did put a quietus to some of his soldiers, having killed or captured upward of a hundred of his followers and proved our ability to track him to his den. One old soldier of the other side aptly describes the soldier men as follows: "Americano soldado—let's name caballe, all same, picosco." Meaning "we can carry the load of a horse and swim rivers like a fish. Respectfully, JOHN F. TATHAM, Quartermaster Sergeant, Company "M," 29th Infantry.

Handsomest and Fastest Train Ever Run to the North and Northwest.

Leaving St. Augustine, Fla., every day except Sunday, at 12 o'clock high noon, the handsome and fastest train ever operated between Florida and the North and Northwest makes a smooth, quick run for Chicago, passing Jacksonville at 11:30 p. m., Macon at 8:20 p. m., Atlanta at 10:35 p. m., arriving at Cincinnati at 12 o'clock noon and Chicago at 8:30 p. m. This train is known as "The Chicago and Florida Special" and is a solid Pullman vestibule train of dining cars and sleeping cars, observation cars and dining cars, St. Augustine and Jacksonville to Chicago, through without change. The route of this elegant train is via Florida, East Coast Railway, St. Augustine to Jacksonville; Plant System, Jacksonville to Macon; Southern Railway, Macon to Chattanooga; Queen and Great Central, Chattanooga to Cincinnati, and from Cincinnati to Chicago the trains run on the Big Four route, C. H. and D. Monon Route, and Pontiac Lines on alternate days, leaving St. Augustine Mondays and Thursdays via Big Four Route; leaving St. Augustine Tuesdays and Fridays via C. H. and D. Monon Route; leaving St. Augustine Wednesdays and Saturdays via Penna. Lines. By using this train our St. Augustine and Jacksonville passengers are only one night out to Chicago, the run being made between St. Augustine and Chicago in 32 hours and to Cincinnati in 24 hours. Through sleeping cars are also operated on this train between St. Augustine and Detroit, Michigan, Cleveland, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, leaving St. Augustine for Detroit daily except Saturdays and Sundays; for Cleveland daily except Sundays and for Pittsburgh Wednesdays and Saturdays only.

The depth of water on the bar of Charleston harbor is now reported to be 30 feet at ordinary high water, the depth having been increased four feet by the scouring action of the jetties in the last six months.

Paraphrase on Mrs. Nation.

Kansas should either license saloons or license some one to demolish them.—The Houston Post. The rumor that Mrs. Nation is on the payroll of the glass trust is denied.—The Minneapolis Times. It is now up to Mr. Markham to write a poem about "The Woman with the Ax."—The Buffalo Express. Her platform is "Free and unlimited carnage without aid or consent of any other Nation."—The Chicago Tribune. If Hoyt were writing a Kansas play one of the characters would certainly be Carrie Consteration.—The Philadelphia Ledger. It is presumed that some poor man in Kansas will be known hereafter as "Mrs. Nation's husband."—The Baltimore American. The herculean task of smashing the trusts might with great propriety be referred to Mrs. Nation.—The St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Mrs. Nation evidently does not share the popular superstition regarding the ill-luck that follows the breaking of a mirror.—The Peoria Herald-Transcript. Mrs. Nation has declined to act in "Ten Nights in a Barroom," but she might consent to be the star for one night in ten barrooms.—The Chicago Record. The Kansas saloonkeeper who has his fortune told in these troublous times will doubtless be informed that he must beware of a tall, dark woman with a brick in one hand.—The Denver Republican. For the weakness and prostration following grip there is nothing so prompt and effective as One Minute Cough Cure. This preparation is highly endorsed as an unfailing remedy for all throat and lung troubles and its early use prevents consumption. It was made to cure quickly. J. W. Bell.

Reports show a greatly decreased death rate from throat and lung troubles, due to the prevalence of croup, pneumonia and grip. We advise the use of One Minute Cough Cure in all of these difficulties. It is the only harmless remedy that gives immediate results. Children like it. J. W. Bell.

Big Money Combination.

Perhaps the largest deal on record was made a few days ago by J. Pierpont Morgan and John D. Rockefeller in the purchase of Andrew Carnegie's vast steel interests and those of the other great steel makers of the country. The combination thus formed is by far the largest business organization in the world. The companies which Morgan and Rockefeller have gained control of represents a total capital of \$1,094,000,000. This gigantic deal throws Mr. Andrew Carnegie out of business and leaves him, perhaps, the richest man in the world. He dictated his own terms to Morgan and Rockefeller, forcing them to pay \$135,000,000 for his \$80,000,000 of stock and to guarantee 5 per cent on the \$100,000,000 of bonds which he retains under an agreement never to sell them. Mr. Carnegie is thus the possessor of \$235,000,000, but this is by no means all he owns. He has several million dollars' worth of real estate in New York and Pittsburg, probably a few million dollars' worth of other stocks and bonds, and valuable interests in Scotland and England. He has shown a disposition to use some of his money in philanthropic enterprises and it is hoped, now that he has freed himself of many business cares, he may be able to devote more entirely his time and money to benevolence.

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Ladies Fine Shoes ...a Specialty...



We sell and recommend JULIA MARLOWE SHOES at \$2.00, and AMERICAN GIRL at \$2.50. We carry in stock all the leading styles. If your Shoes are not exactly what you want, try one pair of the above.



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C. W. & J. E. BAUKNIGHT.

Persons who can take ordinary pills find it a pleasure to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. It is the only one that gives relief. J. W. Bell.

The most radical anti-cigarete measure yet proposed is now under consideration in the Minnesota Legislature, having been introduced by Senator Halverson, one of whose constituents recently died from smoking too many cigars. The proposed bill is modeled on the Tennessee law, which the United States Supreme Court has held to be constitutional, and makes it a misdemeanor to use tobacco in this form, bars merchants from bringing cigars into the State, makes giving away cigars conditional, and even prohibits the sale of the papers used in rolling cigars.

PISO'S CURE FOR GOUT. GOUT WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Gout Syrup. Gout cured. One month in time. Sold by druggists.

CONSUMPTION.

A TEXAS WONDER.

Half's Great Discovery for Kidney and Bladder Trouble.

One small bottle of Half's Great Discovery for Kidney and Bladder Trouble, removes gravel, cures diabetes, seminal emissions, weak and lame backs, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder in both men and women. Regulates bladder troubles in children. If not sold by your druggist, will be sent by mail on receipt of \$1.00. One small bottle is two months' treatment, and will cure any case also mentioned. Dr. E. W. Hall, sole manufacturer, P. O. Box 629, St. Louis, Mo. Send for testimonials. Sold by all druggists.

St. Louis, Mo., February 20, 1890.—This is to certify that I have suffered for 30 years with kidney and bladder troubles and have been treated by over a dozen different physicians and have used many so-called sure cures with only temporary relief. One bottle of the Texas Wonder, Half's Great Discovery, has given me more relief than all the remedies I have used in the 30 years, and I think the second bottle will make a permanent cure. Respectfully, Henry Jefferson, 1,405 Market St.

Starved Hair.

Slow growth of hair comes from lack of hair food. The hair has no life. It is starved. It keeps coming out, gets thinner and thinner, bald spots appear, then actual baldness. The only good hair food you can buy is AYER'S HAIR VIGOR.

It feeds the roots, stops starvation, and the hair grows thick and long, it cures dandruff also. Keep a bottle of it on your dressing table. It's a splendid dressing. It always restores color to faded or gray hair. Mind, we say "always."

\$1.00 a bottle. All druggists. "I have found my Hair Vigor to be the best remedy I have ever tried for the hair. My hair was falling out very bad, so I thought I would try a bottle of it, and I had used only one bottle, and my hair stopped falling out, and it is now real thick and long."

Wm. J. MOUNTGASTLE, Yonkers, N. Y. July 28, 1898.

Write the Doctor. He will send you his book on The Hair and scalp. Ask him any question you wish about your hair. You will receive prompt answer free. Dr. J. C. AYER, Lowell, Mass.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of entarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. Cheney & Co., Props., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm. West & Truax, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Wadding, Kimball & Marvin, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price, 75c. per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Testimonials free.

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Wanted. A man who can take ordinary pills find it a pleasure to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. It is the only one that gives relief. J. W. Bell.

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