

WAR STORIES.

The Attempt to Form a Northwestern Confederacy.

Col. T. A. Burr, a well known Confederate officer prints in the Philadelphia Times an account of the attempt to liberate the 20,000 Confederate prisoners confined in Chicago, Columbus and Sandusky in 1864, and to inaugurate a Northwestern Confederacy. Maj. C. H. Cole, of the Fifth Tennessee Regiment, was a leading spirit in the plot. He received his instructions in Richmond, and reported to the Hon. Jacob Thompson, then in Canada. Jacob assigned him to the command of the Department of the Ohio, with his headquarters at Sandusky.

At Camp Douglas, near Chicago, there were about 8,000 Confederate prisoners; at Camp Chase, near Columbus, Ohio, about 8,000 more, and at Camp Morton, near Indianapolis, about 4,000. On Johnson's Island, in Sandusky Bay, there were about 3,200 Confederate officers confined. The object was to simultaneously release all these prisoners and officer the men in the other three camps with the officers on Johnson's Island. With this force and the active aid of Northern sympathizers it was thought that a Northwestern Confederacy was not impossible. Major Tom Hinds, now judge at Bowling Green, Ky., had the State of Illinois, with his headquarters at Chicago. Major Castleman had Indiana, with his headquarters at Centralia. At all of these places Northern allies were working in conjunction.

The time selected for making the assault upon these camps was to be gauged by Gen. Early's attack upon Washington, so as to make it impossible for any of the troops to be sent North to reinforce the limited number of Federal soldiers then in the Northwest. The Northwest was selected as the basis of operations because there was great rebellion there against conscriptions, and the people were generally tired of the war.

It was at first intended to strike the blow while the National Convention was in session in Chicago. Four thousand Confederate soldiers and sympathizers were in Chicago at that time ready for the work. Early's delay in striking Washington caused a postponement. Among the Northern allies Col. Burr places Brick Pomeroy, who as Major Thompson gave Pomeroy money to establish the La Crosse Democrat.

On Major Cole's assignment to command at Sandusky he was instructed to capture the United States man-of-war Michigan. She was the only armed vessel on the lakes, and with her in their power, the Confederates felt assured of success. Cole went to Erie where the Michigan was lying before she was sent up as guardship to the prisoners on Johnson's Island. Through friends he made the acquaintance of the officers, entertained them handsomely, and was invited to the ship, so that when it came to Sandusky he was always a welcome guest. He established himself in Sandusky as an oil speculator, organized the Mount Hope Oil Company, and located a well near Titusville, Pa. Judge Fillmore, of Buffalo, was elected president and Cole was elected secretary. This gave him a business standing; and his position as secretary and practical manager of the company readily accounted for the travel it was necessary for him to do in furtherance of his military duty. It also explained the abundance of money he had and his willingness to spend it.

He received from Mr. Thompson \$50,000 in gold, a portion of which was deposited in the bank at Sandusky to his credit. There was also an account kept in Philadelphia with Drexel & Co., in the name of John Bell. He also had an account with Belmont, in New York. The Confederacy had plenty of means in its secret service fund. Cole says that there was something like \$86,000,000 altogether to the credit of the Confederate Commissioner and his colleague. Most of it, he believes, deposited in the bank at Toronto. He turned his attention to cultivating the acquaintance of officers of the Michigan and all military officers stationed at Sandusky, or who came there, as a prerequisite to success in releasing the Confederate prisoners. He dined and dined the officers continually, and was on excellent footing with them. He soon found it necessary to have men in his employ on board the Michigan and also on Johnson's Island. As the United States government wanted both seamen and soldiers two Confederates were enlisted as seamen and sent aboard the Michigan. Ten more men were enlisted as soldiers and went on duty as members of the regiment doing duty on Johnson's Island. Besides Cole's social relations with the officers, he was in a position to be fully posted as

to what was going on, both on the vessel and on the island. The men enlisted as Federal soldiers were of infinite value in communicating with the Confederate officers and in getting arms to them. Cole tells the following incident:

"Not long before our plans were completed Mr. Thompson, at one of our conferences in Canada, said he would like to visit and look over the steamer Michigan before we attacked her, and also personally inspect the details of my plans upon the ground.

"If you think it safe, Mr. Thompson, I should be glad to have you do so," I said.

"He did not reply, and we parted without my knowing what his intentions were. A few days after, while sitting in my room at the West House, Sandusky, the servant came and said: 'Your aunt is in the parlor and would like to see you.'

"I told Miss Annie Davis to go down and invite her up. Of course I knew it was not my aunt, but I was never taken by surprise at anything, and was always on my guard. I supposed, possibly, that it was a female courier with orders or information.

"Miss Davis went down to the parlor, and in a moment returned with an elderly lady, nicely dressed in a style that well became her age.

"When the veil was removed there stood Jake Thompson. I was wholly aback, as the disguise was perfect, and the assumption of the character easy and graceful.

"I sent word to the Michigan that I had a lady relative who had stopped over to visit what she had never seen, a man-of-war, and that I should like to bring her aboard. They returned a cordial invitation, and that afternoon Mr. Thompson and I went out to the ship. Mr. Thompson went all over the ship, and in a squeaky voice put such questions about her construction and arrangement as a rural female of well advanced years and small opportunities for gleaned information would be likely to propound. No one suspected him and the officers were exceedingly polite to the one that they afterward spoke of as my 'country aunt.'

After Thompson's visit to the Michigan Cole spent three weeks in Philadelphia recruiting. He established his headquarters at Twelfth and Chestnut streets, in the Girard Building or old Cadwallader House. He also had another rendezvous on Fifth Street, between Chestnut and Walnut where a man was ostensibly recruiting an artillery company for the United States service. It was here that most of the men for the capture of the Michigan were hired. They were paid \$40 a month and expenses. The money was drawn from Drexel's bank to meet the current expenses of these agencies and to pay the men.

The plan fully matured, it was decided to make the attack on September 19, 1864. The intention was the moment the Michigan was captured and the Confederate officers were released, to cut all the telegraph wires leading out of Sandusky, seize a railroad train, run down to Columbus, assist in releasing the prisoners there, then run back to Sandusky and establish the temporary headquarters of the the Confederate Department of the Northwest. Gen. Trimble, of Maryland, who was the ranking Confederate officer confined on Johnson's Island, was to be made commander-in-chief, and Cole had in his pocket a commission from the Confederate government appointing him to that position the moment he was released. Cole was supplied with other commissions in blank, all properly signed and attested, to give to all other men who enlisted in the Confederate army for this service. This was done to make them regular Confederate soldiers, so that their services would be legitimate acts of warfare as long as they obeyed orders.

Major Hinds, in command at Chicago, and Major Castleman, in command at Centralia, were to attack Camp Douglas and Camp Morton simultaneously with Cole's attack upon Johnson's Island. Major Hinds was also charged with the duty of capturing one of the iron steamers plying between Grand Haven, Mich., and Milwaukee, Wis. Through some misunderstanding none of the others made the attack although Cole telegraphed before leaving Detroit, on the morning of the 19th, to Charley Walsh, a citizen of Chicago, who was Major Hinds' assistant, and is now street commissioner of that city, as follows:

Detroit, Sept. 19, 1864.
Close out all the stock of the Mount Hope Oil Company before 3 o'clock to-day. Be prompt.
C. H. Cole.

This meant that the attack would be made on the Michigan at 5 o'clock that evening. Cole left Sandusky for Detroit on Saturday, with all arrangements perfected. He had previously determined to capture the Philo Parsons, a vessel plying in the lake trade for service in transporting our troops. The plan was to go aboard of her at Detroit and the men who were to assist in her capture were to get on at the various points at which she touched on the Canadian shore.

Cole went on board the Parsons at 4 p. m., of the 18th, and spent most of his time with Capt. Atwood, her commander. He had made his acquaintance some time before, and frequently came over on his vessel. She left her wharf on the morning of the 19th, and touched at her various stopping places on the Canada side of the Detroit River. At Windsor and at Malden Cole's men got on board. He was in the pilot house with Capt. Atwood when the boat touched at both places, so that he could note the men as they came on board, and be where they could see him. At Malden, Atwood, observing the unusual number of seedy-looking men getting aboard, said: "How many skeddaddlers are coming on this morning? Those fellows are all well off. They ran out of the United States to escape the draft, and are now returning. They look hard, but all of them have means, and are men of position."

"Yes, poor fellows," Cole replied, "they have had a hard time."

J. Yates Beale, Cole's second officer, was in readiness for the work. When they left Malden Cole gave a signal to assign the men to their positions. He did so. A fine engineer, well armed, was placed near the engine, and one of the men well equipped for the work appointed to every important place on the boat. Cole himself preferred to deal with the captain. When Beale had everything in readiness Cole gave the signal and clapped his revolver to Captain Atwood's head, and said: "Captain, you are my prisoner."

"What's the matter, Cole?" he asked in great astonishment.

"You are my prisoner. I take possession of this ship in the name of the Confederate States government. Go below."

The arrest of the Captain was followed by the capture of the men by other soldiers. They were sent below and the hatches put down. The passengers were assured that they should not be molested. The stars and bars were run up with the announcement: "This flag is a guarantee of protection to women and children." This assurance was sacredly kept, although it cost some effort. The regular Confederate soldiers were perfect gentlemen, but some of those hired from Philadelphia, New York and other cities, were not. It was necessary to put some of them overboard to make good the promise given when the Confederate flag was hoisted.

About 12:30 the Parsons caught the Island Queen unloading freight at Put-in-Bay Island. She carried a large number of passengers, among them 300 unarmed soldiers going to Cleveland to get mustered out. The Parsons ran alongside of her, made fast and captured her. The two steamers then went to Fighting Island, where the passengers were put ashore. There was no possible means of escape, and therefore no danger that they would give warning. The steamers then ran toward the Michigan, which lay in sight.

Cole left the Parsons in a small boat, and rowed directly to the Michigan. His plan was to capture the ship by strategy. Before going to Detroit he had arranged to give the officers an entertainment on board that evening at 5 o'clock, and had sent the wine and other requisites to the vessel before he left Sandusky. Therefore his coming on board that day excited no suspicion. The men selected to make the capture were to come out from the shore in small boats, ostensibly fishing, and surround the Michigan. When Cole went aboard they were to draw nearer the ship. At a given signal from him they were to board her, put down the hatches, and the vessel would be won without firing a gun. Everything worked like a charm. On the verge of success Cole delayed giving the signal a moment too long. He was himself captured, instead of capturing the Michigan. He was in the wardroom drinking wine with the officers, and was just making an excuse to go on deck to give the signal, when an officer from Johnson's Island approached him, saying:

"Captain Cole, you are my prisoner."

"Captain of what?" he asked, with a laugh. "Certainly no man will accuse me of being a soldier."

"No," replied the officer, "but here is a telegram saying you are a Confederate spy, and are in a conspiracy to capture Johnson's Island. It orders your arrest. We must at least take you into custody."

"Oh, that's all right," Cole answered although he felt that it was all up with him.

"Sergeant, search him," ordered the officer.

The sergeant began his work, and almost the first thing he found was a

commission from the Confederate Government. That was enough. Cole was put under arrest and closely guarded.

A Col. Johnson, of Kentucky, had betrayed him. He dropped a paper containing the information of his purposes upon the wharf just as they were leaving Malden on the morning of the 19th of September. It was picked up and the facts communicated to the provost marshal at Detroit. He telegraphed to the officers of the steamer Michigan, but the dispatch was by accident delivered to the commanding officer on Johnson's Island. It was merely by chance that the message reached the boat in time to save her from capture and upset Cole's plans.

On his arrest Cole was asked who were his accomplices. They were all around the vessel and were still unknown. Quick as a flash he devised a plan to save them. He named twelve of the most prominent citizens of Sandusky as his co-conspirators, knowing that they would be at once arrested. He felt assured that his female accomplice in the city, who was watching the bay for the signal of success, would be warned of his capture, and alarm the men in boats. He was not mistaken. The first man arrested was Mr. West, who kept the hotel where he stopped. Annie Davis knew he had failed the moment it occurred. Quickly slipping from the hotel, she took a small boat, rowed out and gave the alarm to the men in the fishing boats, and they to the Parsons and Queen. Beale scuttled the Queen and sunk her in sight of the Michigan, and running the Parsons over to the Canada shore, sunk her. Every man but Cole escaped. Annie Davis also got away, but she was captured a day or two after, when she came back to bring notice from the Confederate Government that they would hold two officers as a ransom for Cole, and would execute them if he was dealt with in any other way than as a Confederate soldier engaged in legitimate warfare.

Johnson cut his throat at the barracks in Cincinnati while being held as a witness for the Federal Government against Cole.

After Cole's arrest he was confined on the Michigan until after Gen. Dix, Heintzelman and Hitchcock visited the vessel to make an investigation. They came on board on a bright September day. It was thought that the Knights of the Golden Circle were in the plot, and they were in search of evidence. They asked for Cole.

Cole says that he was quietly smoking a cigar when the officer came below to escort him on deck. In going forward he knew that he had to pass directly over the magazine. He pulled vigorously at his cigar to get it well lighted, then taking it from his mouth he held it by his side, and in passing dropped it into the little air-hole which opened into the magazine. He, therefore, reached the deck, expecting that every moment the powder would explode and that the ship and all on board would be scattered to the four winds. The fire in the cigar, however, died away without reaching the powder. The three Generals heard his story, and Gen. Heintzelman, on learning of the trick played on the twelve citizens of Sandusky, thundered out:

"Captain Carter, why in the thunder didn't you hang that man to the yard-arm?"

The records of the War Department show that he was tried in Cincinnati by a military court, of which Gen. Heintzelman was president, and convicted of the charge of piracy and of being a spy. He was sentenced to be hung on the 16th of February, 1865, on Johnson's Island, the point against which he had directed his best efforts as a Confederate officer. He made two desperate attempts to escape while confined on Johnson's Island, and it was finally decided to remove him to Fort Lafayette. Legal proceedings had delayed his execution, and a petition gotten up by the ladies of northern Ohio, among whom were the niece of ex-Secretary Columbus Delano, and the daughter of Gen. M. D. Leggett, since Commissioner of Patents, softened the public feeling. The two ladies named were passengers on the Island Queen when Cole captured her, and were not only protected but shown perfect courtesy by him and his officers. These influences, combined with the appeal of powerful friends of the officers held in Richmond as hostages for him, secured a commutation of his sentence to imprisonment for life at the Dry Tortugas.

Before this, however, Cole was removed to Fort Lafayette. John Y. Beale endeavored to rescue him while on the way to the fort. They tried to wreek the train which he had taken on the Lake Shore Road, but they wreeked the wrong train. Beale was captured, tried, sentenced to be hanged, and suffered the death penalty on Governor's Island; while, as the sequel shows, his friend, first sentenced to death, and for whom he gave his life, escaped all punishment.

It is claimed by those who profess to know, that the execution of Beale caused the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. J. Y. Beale was from Jefferson County, West Virginia, but a

short distance above Washington, where many of his relatives now live. He was the intimate friend of John Wilkes Booth. When Beale was sentenced to death Booth made a powerful attempt to save his life. He enlisted all the eminent men he possibly could to aid him in his efforts, but there seemed no hope of success. As a last resort he begged his influential friends to secure him an audience with President Lincoln. Quite a number of them consented to do so, among whom was the late Col. John W. Forney. The audience was granted a short time before Beale was to be hung, and Booth made a plea for his life which moved Mr. Lincoln to tears. The kind-hearted President would doubtless have commuted Beale's sentence after the occurrence of the night but Secretary Stanton said: "There has been too much leniency in dealing with these fellows. Cole's sentence has been commuted. The law ought to take its course in Beale's case." It did, and Beale was hung. Booth's failure to save the life of his friend is said to have so preyed upon his mind that it gradually worked him up to the point of assassinating President Lincoln.

Cole remained in prison at Fort Lafayette, and, after making one ineffectual attempt to escape, was on the 10th day of February, 1866, brought out of prison on writ of habeas corpus issued by the District court of New York, at the instance of Jake Thompson and other Confederate leaders. He escaped to Canada and thence to Mexico, where he led a life of adventure under Maximilian. He was finally pardoned by the President, and returned to the United States with several prominent Confederates who were in Mexico for a time after the war, awaiting executive clemency. He is now a citizen of Texas, largely interested in the development of the railroad system in that State.

Girl Weds Mother's Husband.

A strange romance in the lives of James H. Nichols and his wife Amanda has just been made known. Thirty-five years ago the two were married. After living together three years his wife left Nichols because of his alleged mistreatment of her. Being discouraged, and feeling that reconciliation with her was impossible, Nichols went West and located in the mining regions of California, to begin life anew. Several years later his wife saw his name in a list of killed in a mining accident in California.

Believing Nichols dead, and having met another man with whom she fell in love, she was again married. Her second husband was Richard Vancouver, a wealthy manufacturer. A daughter was born to them. Twenty-five years passed away and this daughter had grown to womanhood. Mr. Vancouver had a brother living in Los Angeles, Cal., and having some important business to attend to there he went to Los Angeles, his daughter accompanying him. After looking into his business interests Vancouver returned, leaving his daughter, Sarah, to visit with her uncle during the winter.

Just before Christmas Sarah became acquainted with James H. Nichols, her mother's former husband, who had become a wealthy mine owner. The two fell in love and were married, neither knowing of the peculiar circumstances attached to the wedding until a few years later. When Mrs. Nichol's parents went to visit at their daughter's home the girl's mother and her husband recognized each other.

— The gas bill may be a light affliction, but getting it receipted is a heavy one.



A WOMAN'S THROAT
Is her fortune if she chances to be a Patti or Alboni, and that fortune is guarded day and night with the greatest care. Nothing frightens a singer so much as a cough.
Every woman ought to be afraid of a cough. It is nature's danger signal. Who does not know of some sweet woman-voice silenced forever by disease which began with a slight cough.
The use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery will ensure a permanent cure of the most obstinate and lingering cough. Even when the lungs are involved and there are hemorrhages and emaciation, "Golden Medical Discovery" is generally effective in restoring the diseased organs to sound health and strength. There is no alcohol in the "Discovery" and it is entirely free from opium, cocaine and all other narcotics.
"I am feeling quite well," writes Miss Dorcas A. Lewis, of No. 129 1/2 Street, Washington, D. C., "and I owe it all to Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I had been quite a sufferer for a long time, and after reading Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser thought I would try his 'Golden Medical Discovery.' I had not been sleeping well for a long time. Took one tea-spoonful of Golden Medical Discovery, and next day I continued taking it. I had been a great sufferer for more than ten years. I tried lots of different medicines and different doctors, but did not feel much better. I coughed until I commenced taking 'Golden Medical Discovery' and now I feel much stronger and am entirely well."
Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, in paper covers, is sent free on receipt of 21 one-cent stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

CASTORIA

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

What is CASTORIA

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS

Beware of the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*. The Kind You Have Always Bought In Use For Over 30 Years. THE CERTAIN COMPANY, 77 N. BROAD ST., NEW YORK CITY.

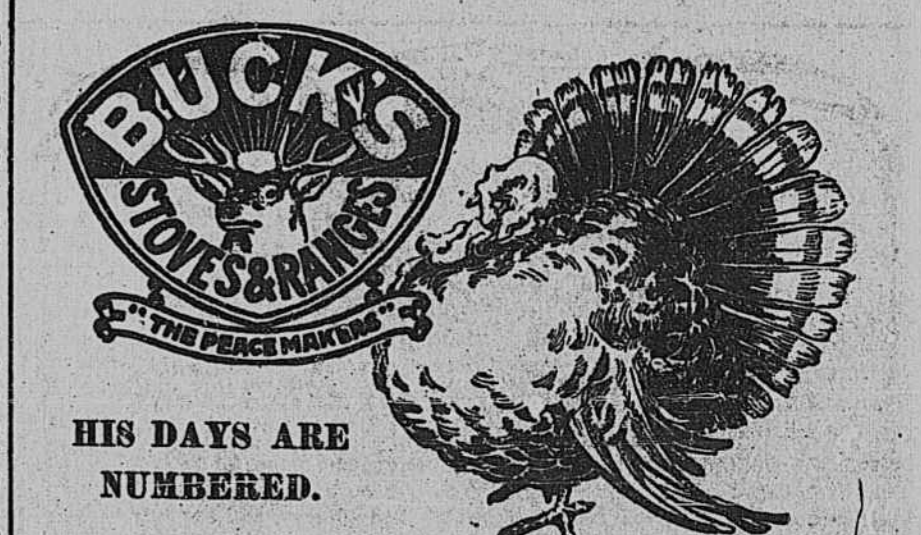


A Well Furnished Home

Is not necessarily an expensively furnished one, as at TOLLY'S handsome, even sumptuous, FURNITURE is procurable without great outlay. Not that we deal in knocked-together made-to-sell sort, but because we are content with a reasonable profit on really good articles of Furniture. Our best witness is the Goods themselves.

Yours truly
G. F. TOLLY & SON,
The Old Reliable Furniture Dealers, Depot St., Anderson, S. C.

Let Him Strut!



HIS DAYS ARE NUMBERED. He is big, but none too big to fill the roomy, white enamel oven of a Buck's Stove.

Do You Owe Me?

If so come in at once and settle, as I must make collections at once, and save expense of coming to see you.

Respectfully,
JOHN T. BURRIS.

A. C. STRICKLAND, DENTIST.
OFFICE—Front Rooms over Farmers and Merchants Bank.

The opposite cut illustrates Contingent Gum Teeth. The Ideal Plate—more clearly than the natural teeth. No bad taste or breath from Plaque of this kind.

A LONG LOOK AHEAD

A man thinks it is when the matter of life insurance suggests itself—but circumstances of late have shown how life hangs by a thread when war, flood, hurricane and fire suddenly overtakes you, and the only way to be sure that your family is protected in case of calamity overtaking you is to insure in a solid Company like—
The Mutual Benefit Life Ins. Co.
Drop in and see us about it.

H. M. MATTISON, STATE AGENT, Peoples' Bank Building, ANDERSON, S. C.