

WAR STORIES.

Battle of Fredericksburg.

Editor of The Atlanta Journal:

The following is an account of the battle of Fredericksburg, which I copied from a "Southern Recorder," published in Milledgeville, Ga., December 30, 1862:

Near Battle Ground at Hamilton's Crossing, Dec. 14, 1862.

Since the close of my letter yesterday the battle has been raging fiercely and furiously along a line of six miles, reaching from a point just about Palmouth along the river as far down as Pratt's.

The ball opened on our left with artillery about 9:30 a. m., and was carried on with heavy guns until about 1:30, when the infantry first went into action on our right. Then it was that for hours the combat raged with an intensity at least equal to, if not greater, than anything that has occurred during the war.

Your correspondents were on the right, and of course can speak with more accuracy in regard to the fighting on that wing than on the left.

Jackson sustained by A. P. Hill, bore the brunt of the battle, and nobly did they sustain themselves. The Yankees fought well, but were repeatedly driven back. At one time it was said they had been forced back to the extent of one and a half miles.

Our line of battle extended along the railroad track, whilst that of the enemy was formed on the country road running parallel with the river. They have the benefit in case of being forced back, of the natural fortifications which the ditching, for the purpose of drainage, on either side of the road, will give them. It may be asked why were they allowed this advantage? The answer must be that the enemy's guns from the north side of the river commanded this position and that the position chosen by our generals was for defensive operations, far superior, being all along on the rise of gentle slopes, skirted by the woods. The troops of the enemy on this wing were mostly old ones, being Meade's Pennsylvania Reserves, and Stoneman's corps, under the immediate command of General Reynolds. The prisoners captured by our men, some 250 in number, said that Burnside commanded in person.

We have some seven Yankee commissioned officers. The prisoners seemed by no means dissatisfied at being taken.

The victory was much more important than was at first generally believed.

A gentleman who spent last night at General Lee's headquarters, informs me the general is highly pleased with the result of the battle, and says that our troops behaved nobly and bore down the enemy at all points.

I shall now attempt to supply some of the deficiencies in my last.

The abolition troops beaten by our right wing on yesterday, were "Fighting Joe Hooker's," supported by Franklin's corps, and numbered thirty thousand men. We had fourteen thousand men in the fight on the right. The enemy during most of the day fought as well as they have ever done, but about four o'clock p. m. lost heart and gave way on all quarters.

It was then that Franklin's men were brought into action, and were also repulsed. Walker's artillery, which I have already mentioned as stationed in the open plain on our extreme right to the east of Hamilton's crossing, was late in the day reinforced by the Second Howitzers. The Thomas artillery and several other batteries drove the enemy's batteries, posted higher up the valley, from all their positions and shattered his columns of infantry with an enfilading fire. The enemy's batteries at this point were strongly posted behind a road crossing the valley, and fired through gaps out in a brush fence.

Behind the same fence the Yankee sharpshooters kept up an incessant and deadly fire on our batteries. The enemy was not dislodged from this position until we opened on them at two hundred yards distance with grape and canister. Having routed these batteries, our artillery opened on others more distant. After his infantry had been repulsed the enemy's artillery ceased firing. During the engagement our artillery in the valley suffered greatly from shell, and sharpshooters. Their gun carriages and caissons were literally peppered with canister balls, and the number of horses killed is almost incredible.

The Parcell battery occupied an exposed position on a hill opposite the enemy's center. Their loss, which, we give below, exceeds that of any artillery company we have yet heard from. That some idea of the extent of the artillery fighting may be formed, I will state that nearly all of the batteries engaged on the right fired two hundred rounds to the gun.

A Georgia regiment, about 3 o'clock, took a battery of eight guns, but being unsupported and having exhausted their ammunition, were forced to relinquish it.

Our loss in killed, wounded and missing on the right wing will, we think, be found to be about 1,200, though Dr. Gill, General Lee's medical director, is reported to have said that that number will cover our loss along the whole line. All of our wounded that I have conversed with say that our killed will bear no proportion to our wounded, the latter being eight or ten to one of the former. Our artillery suffered more severely than the infantry.

Our loss in officers is, as usual, very great. General Maxey Gregg was shot through the spine with a minnie ball and now lies, it is thought, mortally wounded at the home of Mr. Thomas Yerby.

The enemy's loss on his left is estimated at 5,000 men, killed, wounded and prisoners. I have seen about 500 of the latter, the only officer of note on the other side that we hear of being killed is General Jackson. One of his aids, Major Zentmeyer, reports the death of his chief.

The battle on the left was equally as disastrous to the enemy, and much less serious to us. About 3 o'clock p. m., the enemy sallied out of Fredericksburg and advanced against Longstreet. His first attack was made on a hill south of the railroad, upon which the Washington artillery battalion was posted behind breastworks. Between the hill and the town there is a wide, clear plain, over which the enemy had to advance. The Washington artillery reserved their fire until the Yankees arrived within two hundred and fifty yards, when they opened on the heavy masses with grape and canister. At the first broadside of the sixteen guns of the battalion, hundreds of the Yankees went down, and at every successive discharge great furrows were plowed through their ranks. They staggered repeatedly, but were as soon rallied and brought forward. But, when within less than two hundred yards of the foot of the hill on which the battalion was posted, being unable longer to withstand the murderous fire that at every discharge was decimating their ranks, they broke and fled in confusion—upwards of a thousand—thinking to escape the fire from which they were suffering, ran forward and jumped into a cut of the railroad, but found little safety in the movement, as the cut was swept from end to end by a battery further up the road. The main body of the enemy, however, fled precipitately back toward the town.

While the Washington artillery had been mowing down the center, three brigades of our infantry had been busy on the flanks and when the enemy gave way, pursued them into the town. During the greater part of the action Generals Lee and Longstreet were in the Washington artillery's breastworks, and are said to have enjoyed the sport intensely. Our whole loss on this wing amounted to five hundred killed and wounded.

The Washington artillery had twenty-five wounded. Among our killed is General Thomas R. R. Cobb. We have heard no estimate of the enemy's loss in this engagement, but it amounts to many thousands.

Hoping this report, will interest the "boys who wore the gray," and every one else who reads it, I remain, Yours very truly,

W. D. Lyles, Co. I, Twenty-Sixth, Ga. Gordon, Ga.

"LEE TO THE REAR."

Since the war, the story has been repeatedly published that on the 6th of May, 1864, in the battle of the Wilderness, Gen. Lee appeared before the Texas brigade and offered to lead it in a charge but the brave man told him that he must go to the rear for that was no place for him. The story may be true but it is certainly exaggerated for Gen. Lee was not a man to be rattled in any such way. We remember the day and the time when the Texas brigade marched into position on the battlefield. At that point on the line Hill's Corps met the enemy on the afternoon of the day before and fought into the night. When the firing ceased they rested on the field, holding the position from which they had driven Grant's army. It was understood in Hill's Corps, whether by order or not we do not know, that Longstreet's men were on the field and in position and would open the fight in the morning. It was also understood that Hill's Corps would support the movement of Longstreet. So Hill's Corps was not in the line of

battle when Grant moved forward at daybreak on the 6th and it was driven back in great confusion except McGowan's Brigade which had been formed in line just as Grant's movement began. We had not gone back more than a quarter of a mile when the Texas Brigade came into position on the left of the plank road. They were as steady as the Old Guard of the Tenth Legion, and every man of Hill's Corps knew that the tide would turn and they stopped their retrograde movement and formed line right there. Every man of the Army of Northern Virginia who survives knows that the Texas Brigade was never so hard pressed that anybody was needed to lead it in a fight.

We do not say that this theatrical exhibition did not take place, but we affirm that there was no necessity for Gen. Lee to lead the Texans or any of Longstreet's Corps when they came upon the field that morning or at any time during that battle.

The battle of Spotsylvania was fought on the 12th of May, 1864, just six days after the Wilderness, and a similar story is told about that day but this time it was not the Texans that Gen. Lee offered to lead but the Georgians and the Virginians. The other day a newspaper correspondent gave a graphic description of the incident. Gen. Gordon was the great man on that occasion. He is described as galloping around on "his foam-covered charger." It is said that "with both rows pressed to his horse's flank Gen. Gordon with one great bound took Gen. Lee's horse-Traveler by the bridle, turned him around requesting Gen. Lee to go to the rear and take care of himself.

We heard nothing of this story till years after the war but upon investigation we find that it appeared just after the war in a book styled "Lee and His Lieutenants," written by Edward A. Pollard, of Richmond, Va. He was a newspaper man and set up the story in good shape. We don't see how it could be known that Gordon's horse was covered with foam, when it was raining in torrents that morning. Gordon's troops must have been in great panic if Gen. Lee thought that Gordon himself was not able to get them up to the scratch. If they were standing up to their duty as they usually did we can't see why General Lee thought his presence was necessary to get them to move forward.

We will conclude this article by narrating an incident of that great battle. Early that morning Gen. Hancock assaulted our line at a point held by Gen. Edward Johnson and his division. He captured Johnson and his men and a lot of artillery. That particular part of the line was called the "Horseshoe bend" and it was necessary for it to be retaken and held till the line could be rectified. Gen. Lee selected one brigade from each corps to do the work. Harris' Mississippi Brigade and Perrin's Alabama Brigade went in first but Gen. Lee did not think it necessary to place himself at their head to get them to do the important work they were called upon to perform. Harris stayed with his men. Perrin fell dead as he reached the point where he was ordered to go. At that time McGowan's Brigade was in the front line, a mile and a quarter away, ready to hold back the line of the enemy which was advancing on that position. Gen. Lee rode up and ordered the brigade out of position, filling the place vacated with other troops. Then it was made known to us that we were to take our place in the Bloody Angle and to hold it at all hazards. Gen. Lee sat on his horse near a large brick kiln as we passed by. He showed no nervous excitement but looked with admiration upon us. He made no offer to lead us for

he knew that it was not necessary. He had seen us tried on many fields. If Gen. Lee had offered to lead us we would have done just as he said, for there was nothing that Gen. Lee could require of us that we would not cheerfully have performed, even unto death.—R. R. Hemphill in Abbeville Medium.

Romance of the Civil War.

State Senator Benjamin Starr has sent to Benjamin Starr Reid, of Charleston, Mo., a beautiful solid silver loving cup and several other silver pieces of rich design. The recipient is a baby less than a month old that has been named for the Senator, and the latter, in acknowledging the honor conferred upon him, adds another chapter to a pretty and romantic story that had its beginning during the civil war days.

Senator Starr was a member of the 2d Indiana cavalry and during a Kentucky campaign was stricken ill with typhoid fever in camp. The regiment was near the plantation of James Wardlaw, who, though not a soldier in the Confederate army, was in full accord with the Southern cause in the conflict then raging. The suffering of any man, Union or Confederate, however, found sympathy in him, and upon learning of Starr's serious condition, he had him brought into his home, and there the Union soldier was nursed back to health and strength. The mother of the babe that bears the name of Senator Starr is a daughter of the Wardlaws, now Mrs. Reid, of Charleston, Mo., and in thus christening her boy she has extended the friendship and love of the two families into another generation.—Chicago Tribune.

An anti-cigarette orator predicts that the cigarette will be extinct in ten years. And by that time a good many of the boys who smoke it will be extinct, too.

A girl always thinks a man is impressed with the beauty of her face when he turns around to take another look to see how in the world she keeps her hat on.

"I am a self-made man," said the proud individual. "Well, you are all right except as to your head," commented the other part of the conversation. "How's that?" "The part you talk with is out of proportion to the part you think with."

To Cure a Cold in One Day Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. Price 25c.

The Carrying of Pistols.

The State of July 23d commenting on Judge Gage's ruling requiring witnesses to "put on their coats before coming into court to testify," says:

"We would for the cause of justice, reverse his ruling and require that every witness and juror should appear in his shirt sleeves and that their hip pockets and the contents thereof should be exposed to view. We would extend the ruling to the gentlemen of the bar and are confident that if required to remove their coats in the presence of the judge several lawyers would be found with pistols in their pockets. Certainly, according to reports, such would have been the result during the recent session of the criminal court held in Columbia."

That reveals a deplorable condition of things in our State. The question is pertinent, are we a civilized people? Is the spirit of lawlessness so rife among us that it is really necessary for a man to go "armed to the teeth" to protect his life against the murderous hand of the assassin? We were under the impression that pistol-carrying was confined to unrefined braves among the whites and to cowardly negroes. We have always regarded carrying concealed weapons in time of peace as an evidence of cowardice. A man who obeys the laws of his country and treats his fellowmen with proper respect—who deals truthfully and honestly with all men, can transact his business affairs, discharge the duties of his office and walk the streets or travel the highways without fear of molestation. Our public men above all others should be law-abiding citizens—should respect and obey the law against carrying concealed weapons. A lawyer who appears in a court room with a pistol in his hip pocket lowers the dignity of the legal profession—dishonors himself and brings reproach upon the bar. We cannot believe that the practice to which the State refers prevails to any large extent among the members of the bar in South Carolina. The bar of our State has always been noted for men of conspicuous ability and manly courage. And the legal fraternity today is composed of high-toned, honorable gentlemen who love truth and justice, and uphold the majesty of the law—the few who go into a court room with pistols in their pockets are the exceptions, not worthy representatives of the bar.—Southern Christian Advocate.

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McCormick Vertical Lift Mower. The McCormick Vertical Lift Mower, a view of which is presented herewith, is specially designed for cutting on rough and stumpy ground, but is also well adapted for general use. This machine combines all the essential features of the most perfect grass-cutting machine. By virtue of its achievements on rough and uneven fields, as well as on smooth and level meadows, the Vertical Lift Mower is generally recognized as being the best all-purpose Moving Machine manufactured. The McCormick is equipped with devices by means of which the cutter-bar can be raised to a vertical position and lowered by the driver, the machine being thrown in and out of gear automatically without stopping the team. This form of construction is found invaluable, as it enables the operator of the McCormick Vertical Lift to cut close up to tree, stump or rock, and save all the hay. The cutter-bar is easily raised for passing any obstruction, and the machine is thrown out of gear automatically, without any loss of time that would otherwise be consumed in operating an ordinary machine under such adverse conditions. SULLIVAN HARDWARE CO.

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We have about Twenty Excellent SECOND-HAND ORGANS, In perfect condition, better goods than many of the Cheap new ones, at \$25.00 up. New ones, such as—MASON & HAMLIN, ESTEY, CROWN and FARRAND. All the very highest quality, at prices we have never been able to give. Come and see our Stock; we may have just what you have been hunting. THE C. A. REED MUSIC HOUSE.

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NOW FOR THE HOME STRETCH!

Our race for business the past season has been more than satisfactory to ourselves. We find ourselves far in advance of all past records, having done the best year's business up to this time ever before in our experience. From now 'till September 1st we propose to keep up the record, and so—HERE GOES. A first-class, elegant three-quarter Percalé, beautiful styles, worth 6c, to go at 5c. A 40-inch Percalé, newest designs, worth 10c, our price 7c. A 40-inch White Lawn, worth 6c, going at 5c. A better quality Lawn, same width, worth 10c, to go at 8c. Summer Shirts, worth 75c, now going at 50c, to keep from carrying them over!

TRUNKS, Of all grades at prices to please. If you're going to the mountains you want a strong one. If you go to the Association you'll need a big one. We can fit you in both. Prices on FLOUR have advanced sharply, but with the quality we give you we will be found lower than the prevailing markets justify. Always Ready for Business.

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