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PARIS HILL.

MISCELLANY.

THE SOLDIER-BRIDE.

There were wild flowers in profusion, in bouquet and garland, scattered about the small but genteel mansion of Widow Stonington. Mirrors and antique picture frames were wreathed with them; windows were garlanded, and even the very goblets—serving a sufficient number to accommodate the excited guests—were made to serve the purposes of vases. The long table with its snowy cloth, the side-board, and the parlor mantle-piece bore a score of their fragrant ornaments, yet, queen above them all, was the pure white bouquet of syringas and white-thorn blossoms that lay upon the dressing-table in one of the neatest little boudoirs in New England.

What a stir! what a tumult! what a running here and there! what a pattering of slippers feet up and down the stairs! what a flying of nimble fingers among bits of ribbon and tulle and illusion! And why not? Sweet Lucy, the only surviving child of the widow, was that morning to marry Capt. Edward Burnet, a young and handsome officer, who had already distinguished himself in the Union Service.

Lucy is not handsome, but very pure and lovely in her bridal dress of pearl-white gauzy texture, looped up here and there with bouquets of the fragrant syringas; while among her golden curls peep out the white violet and moss-rose-bud, just opening its petals to the light.

And Lucy looked dreamily happy that morning, yet astonishedly to her own—so the bridegroom protested—to her own personal appearance. She had not once raised her eyes to the mirror before which they were turning her from one side to the other, as if she were but a moving wax figure, placed there to show to advantage the gauze and lace with which they were adorning her.

A light rap was heard at the door.

"That is Edward—let him come in," said Lucy, the slightest perceptible flush mounting to her cheeks at the well-known sound.

"Oh! no, no, no!" chimed a dozen voices; "not till this loop of ribbon is adjusted and the veil properly fastened."

But Edward did come in, though he paused for a moment on the threshold to contemplate the loveliness of the group. The next instant he was by Lucy's side, rumpling veil, tresses, ribbons and flowers in one confused mass, as he caught her in his arms and pressed his lips to her now burning cheeks.

"Goodness me!" "Oh my!" "Did you ever!" "The bear!" "The Hottentot!" to swallow her at a mouthful!" and various other exclamations of disgust escaped the group of bride-maids, who looked with dismay on the havoc the sunburst, but still handsome captain was making of the bridal finery of their pet Lucy.

"I beg pardon, ladies, but I couldn't resist the temptation," said Edward; "there, Lucy, shake yourself, and you'll be just as good as new. Who shall say the beauty of a bird is not enhanced by ruffling its plumage?"

Just at this moment Mrs. Stonington entered to say that "the guests had all arrived and the minister was getting impatient."

"Not more so than myself," said Edward, resigning his bride elect to her uncle, who was to give her away.

While the ceremony is being performed a silent prayer goes up from the heart of the far-furrowed cheeks, for her home will now be desolate indeed; and when at last the two are made one, and the mother pressed her daughter to her bosom—now hers no more forever—one long, moaning sob which she strives in vain to repress, escapes her, and she feels that the light has gone out from the hearthstone when the carriage containing the newly wedded pair rolls away from the door.

A month had passed. Captain Burnet's term of absence having expired, he joins his regiment, bearing his young bride with him—much against his better judgment—to that desolate portion of Eastern Virginia which was soon after the scene of a terrible battle.

But though he presented camp life and marches in their dreariest aspect to her, her reply was:

"Where'er thou goest I will go. Had I thought you would refuse to let me bear your company in your perils, I would not have married you."

"Lucy, dearest, how can a delicate form like yours bear the tedious marches which many a hardy soldier sinks under? and then to subsist for weeks on the hard, dry, oftentimes repulsive food—what a change from the delicacies you have been nurtured on."

"Let me but try, Edward; I am strong and brave and healthy, and I will cheerfully bear all the privations you mention, nay more, so I may be your companion."

And thus it was that the brave captain yielded to his young wife's entreaties.

The bride was for a time charmed with

the novelty of camp life, and while listening to the stirring beat of the drum as the different companies went through their drills, she almost wished herself a "bold soldier boy."

No prouder sight had her eyes ever witnessed than that of her gallant husband as, at the head of his brave band of cavalry, he set out for the battle-field.

"And am I to be left behind?" she asked, as Edward sprang from his saddle and entered the tent to give her a parting kiss.

"Certainly, dearest. What could we do with a woman on the battle-field?"

"I feel as if I could fight, too, Edward. Pray let me accompany you."

"Not for the wide world can I consent. Some ill would most assuredly befall you; and you would be, at least, but a stumbling block in our way. I have given Stanton the charge of affairs here, and until I return, or you hear from me, follow implicitly his directions. Should I fall, dear Lucy, and his voice trembled slightly, "go back to your mother without delay."

Lucy's eyes were dim with tears, but she soon wiped them away to watch the little band which her husband led as they galloped across the broad plain.

The battle-field was not far distant, and soon she heard the roar of artillery. The loud booming of cannon and the fiendish hissing of shells, that sped faster than thundering bolts through the air, set her nearly frantic.

"Stanton!" she cried, going to the door where he was busy putting things in march-order.

"Is there a horse here?"

"Yes, ma'am, a couple."

"Then saddle the swiftest for me. I am going out for a ride."

"But, ma'am, the captain said—"

"No matter what the captain said, I must have the horse and at once."

"I have no lady's saddle."

"No matter, a saddle of any kind will do."

"But madam—"

Stamping her little foot.

"Look yonder!" And she pointed to the north.

"A heavy rebel force is coming unexpectedly, upon our troops. With a swift horse, I can reach my husband's column and give the alarm in time to circumvent them. Now do my bidding at once!"

Stanton, in fear and wonder, obeyed, and when he led forth the high-mettled steed, Lucy appeared in a regular military suit of her husband's, with her curls so nicely stowed away beneath the close-fitting cap, that the man in waiting could scarcely believe the boyish looking soldier before him, was no other than the captain's wife.

"Shall I not accompany you, madam," he asked, as she sprang lightly into the saddle.

"I want no retainers, Stanton; stay where you are, and follow the Captain's orders."

Lucy did not wait for him to finish the sentence, but putting spurs to her steed, took the route her husband had taken, and was, after an hour's fatiguing ride, in full view of the battle. She paused but a moment and looked back. The enemy were advancing rapidly. She looked before her at the contending armies. Shells crashed past, and the force of artillery shook the very ground to tremble beneath her feet. Her steed curved his proud neck and pawed the ground impatient to proceed. She gave him the rein, for she saw where the dense volume of smoke was slowly rising, the form of Edward. At all events it was a cavalry company, and she dashed boldly forward.

Nearly deafened by the roar of artillery and stifled by the smoke, she still kept on, until having reached Kilpatrick's division, she was dismounted by the stumbling of her horse.

"Will you point me to Captain Burnet's company?" she asked.

"To the left," replied the soldier addressed, "but it is impossible for you to reach him."

"I must see him or die in the attempt," she cried.

And she did see him, leading on his brave but thinned company into the thickest of the conflict.

She called to him once, twice, thrice, ere he heeded her, and he then gave her but a passing glance.

"The enemy are coming in large force from the west. Make haste, they may be taken in the gorge; tarry till they reach the brow of the hill and the day is lost to you."

Her voice must have been strangely altered, for her husband did not recognize it. He left his company in charge of the first Lieutenant, sought Kilpatrick, and in a few minutes, with his own company and a reserved corps, was soon galloping off in the direction pointed out by his own brave little wife.

"He did not recognize me and it is well. It might have deterred him from going." She said to herself, yet a dizzy sensation crept over her when she looked upon the

wounded, the dead and dying who lay in masses about her; she thought she heard a groan; she listened—yes, she was not mistaken; half buried among the slain was a form familiar to her.

She removed as well as she was able the weight that oppressed him, and asked if he was much hurt.

The soldier addressed turned his face toward her, with a groan, saying, "I feel very faint and thirsty. In the name of Heaven give me a drink of water, and I shall die easy."

It was a terrible task that the captain's wife imposed upon herself—that of unstrapping and opening the knapsack of the dead. Several times a mist came before her eyes, as the ghastly upturned faces of the dead met her view; but well was she repaid by the gratitude of the wounded man when she returned and placed a canteen to his lips.

She seated herself, raised his head to her lap, and with her own handkerchief sought to staunch the wound in his temple. A moment after and her arm dropped powerless by her side; she felt a sharp cutting pain about the elbow, then sank insensible by the side of the poor soldier, who was too weak to render her any service; nor did she recover consciousness again until the tramp of soldiery announced the return of Captain Burnet and his corps, who had succeeded in totally routing the enemy.

When they reached the point from whence they had started, Kilpatrick and his forces were left in possession of the field.

The enemy, leaving their field pieces behind them, were flying in all directions.

"How did you get information of the approach of the rebels?" asked Kilpatrick, after having congratulated Burnet on his success.

"That is just what I have been trying to make out myself, General," replied Burnet. "As near as I could discern through the smoke, it was a boyish face and figure in a captain's uniform."

Suddenly he paused; for his eye fell on the pallid face of one of his own loved soldiers, and beside him—great Heaven! could he believe his eyes?—the drooping figure of his own wife, his Lucy, her long golden tresses, escaped from the cap, falling like sunshine about her, were dabbled in blood—a sacred baptism of the good deed she had that day done.

Never had Edward Burnet's cheek paled so before the enemy, as when he raised his wounded wife to his arms, and, turning to Kilpatrick, he said: "General, the mystery is solved. This is the boy captain who warned me of the approaching rebel force."

"And the boy captain has won for you a colonelcy, and for herself lasting fame, and the thanks of all true-hearted Unionists," replied the General. And being as gallant as he is brave, it is said, though I will not vouch for the truth, that he gave the fair lady, at parting, a kiss on either cheek in token of his just appreciation of her courage.

Lucy was placed in an ambulance, and with the soldier she had saved from death, borne to the camp, where, both, with care and good nursing, soon became convalescent.

Edward Burnet is still in the service of his country. Step by step he is ascending the ladder of fame, winning for himself fame which shall neither wither nor decay.

For the Oxford Democrat.

That "Indian Devil."

BY J. G. RICH.

Much has been said for the last twenty years, and perhaps longer, about a large and ferocious animal, existing in a wild region of country, south of Umbagog Lake, known as "Success Township," a border town in the State of New Hampshire.

Within this wilderness are lofty and craggy mountains and large unexplored swamps and deep ravines, and altogether repulsive to hunters, who only traverse the edges of said wilderness, occasionally setting a few marten traps up the sides of some mountain, or following up some trout brook with a pack load of Mink and Lynx traps. In fact, hunters and trappers, as well as explorers and all others, with common consent, ignore the place for any sporting purposes, except as aforesaid; and if any hunter chances to mention that he talks of setting traps in the vicinity of this region, the hearer immediately inquires who is going with him as a matter of course, supposing that no man would be foolhardy enough to go there alone.

This animal is represented as being of feline race—a species of Catamount, yet much larger than any panther known east of the Rocky Mountains—in fact, by some it is supposed to be the North American Cougar. I have sat for hours, year after year, listening to hunters, around the evening camp-fires, telling of this animal; and many are the conjectures about his habits, his travels, his size and color, &c.

Some suppose he travels throughout all the Northern part of New Hampshire and Maine, periodically. Others think he makes the above described region his home

and ventures out occasionally and cautiously. Some think he travels chiefly in the tops of trees, while others say they have tracked him on the snow as well as on the ground; but all, while speaking of him look ominous, and shake the head at each other with a peculiar shudder.

Allowing much for the credulity of imaginative and superstitious people, the idea will still force itself upon the mind of well informed and thinking persons, that there is a good foundation for believing in the existence of some large and shy creature of the wood, existing hereabouts; for the proof of which I will relate several incidents of various individuals, some of which your readers will recognize as men of probity and above suspicion.

Several years ago, four men started what they supposed to be a Bear, while out moose hunting, and followed on the track until noon, and then ate their dinners, their dogs being ahead, on the track; before starting after dinner their dogs came back looking very sneaking. The men however, followed on for about three miles, and then discovered the place where the creature had lain down in the snow, with his head on his paws, on a little knoll, and by exploring a little, they found that this spot was within sight of where the party dined. So the fellow lay watching the party while eating, and doubtless his great mouth watered for a taste of their dinner or themselves. This party immediately left the woods, after measuring the length of the claws of this monster.

Capt. John M. Wilson was in this region exploring, or running township lines, a few years ago, when one day he and his men heard a dreadful screeching over on the side of some mountain, and with an occasional screech the creature approached nearer, until within, perhaps, one hundred rods, at which distance it would continue whether they travelled fast or slow, and finding that he was followed obstinately by this animal, Capt. Wilson decided to make his way as fast as possible for some settlement which he reached that night.

Four years ago, Gideon D. Stone and Horatio R. Godwin were over in Success hunting Martens on the mountains. They went once or twice to their traps, and one day while on their line, they discovered the tracks of a large animal, (there having fallen about an inch of snow the night before,) and on examination, they found it to be an animal track they had never seen, and quite fresh; the toe nails or claws being continued to such a depth in the soft ground that they concluded to go home and sell what they had on hand before it fell.

Alexander Eames of Newry, was hunting at the south end of Success Pond, a few years ago, when one night after he had got nicely stowed away, with a brisk fire in front of his open camp, he heard a loud screech off on the side of an adjacent mountain. He said it sounded like a woman in distress, and chilled the blood instantly. He immediately prepared his gun for mortal combat. I think he had a person with him, but am not sure, as he is a brave hunter and has been in the woods alone considerable.

The sound came nearer, and nearer during the night, until the animal came up and put his fore feet on the back of his bark camp, and he could see that it was a heavy animal by the bending in of the bark. Mr. Eames stirred his fire to a big blaze, but thought it not prudent to discharge his single barreled gun on uncertainty, and after awhile the creature turned and screeched his way back to the mountains. With an expectation that the creature would try to take his life any moment, I could not envy Mr. Eames his night's rest. I believe he has never hunted there since.

Three years ago this spring, I set traps around Success Pond, and in June sent one of my workmen, a hunter by the name of Morse, out to collect the traps and bring them in. He brought the traps, but reported having seen a large, red animal, with a bushy tail, and long teeth, on a point of land on the shore of the Pond and not more than five rods distant. He owned up that my revolver, which he had with him was loaded in three barrels, yet he could not bring his mind to the scratch, and did not fire. He said that he thought in a moment, that if the animal would let him alone he would not trouble him. By waiting some time the creature moved off with a few bounds, and was soon buried in the forest.

Some ten years ago, I saw a track in the sand, at the head of Richardson Lake, the like of which I never saw before, although I had hunted alone in those woods nearly ten years. It was made by a very heavy animal, and had an oblong foot with long claws. He jumped the brook about twenty feet across and settled deep into the sand. After I went home, two men who were there, came back with me the next day, six miles to see the track, and they said they never saw anything like it before. I went better armed for a long time after that.

One year ago this month, I set marten

traps on Red Ridge, bordering on Success township, and I tended them with varying luck until April, when one day on my line I tracked a large animal, which at first I took to be a bear, but upon inspection I found was no such thing. I followed, however, on the track about a mile and a half, and suddenly came to the end of it, within about six feet of a tree. Of course he leaped into that tree, yet there seemed to be no extra exertion in the act. I circled about the wood for a long time and could make no other discovery, yet what I saw made so much impression on my mind that I did not go there again until after the snow was gone, then with another person I gathered up my traps. This track had long claws and resembled the one I saw at the head of Richardson.

I am now trapping on that township, and feel as if at any moment I am liable to hear from this creature, and go fully prepared for such an encounter. I could wish that I might have a good man with me if I should see the varmint and I will not say what I should do or how I should feel, but that I should act with much caution I have no doubt. Should I meet with an adventure worth publishing I will not fail to do so. Meantime let your readers consider that there are yet thousands of acres of wilderness hereabouts, which remains but partially explored, and likely to contain within its area the veritable "Indian Devil."

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. As a judge, Bushe was merciful, and owing to an incident in his early career as a lawyer, he was somewhat slow to convict on circumstantial evidence. A short time after he was called to the bar he was retained at the Wexford Assizes to defend a prisoner accused of murder. The victim's name was Walter Meyer, and it was supposed that he had been killed by a party of rebels, of whom one became an approver, and was chief witness for the crown. Like most approvers, the witness was correct and careful in all his details. He started that the body of Meyer had been buried close to the shore, wrapped in a coat of the same texture and color as that stated to have been worn by the deceased. Bushe neither cross-examined a witness nor called evidence upon the part of his client; and before the judge commenced his charge, the jury stated that they were prepared with their verdict. Bushe said, "Wait a moment, gentlemen; did any of you know Walter Meyer, the deceased?" the reply was that the jury knew him well; and immediately, Bushe shouted to the dismay of the auditors, "Meyer Meyer come into court." The supposed deceased rushed up to the table, and pointing to him, Bushe exclaimed: "There, gentlemen, is my defence!" [Irish Quarterly Review.

CALLING THE ROLL. It will be remembered that Hon. R. Toombs once declared that he would yet call the roll of his slaves under the shades of Bunker Hill Monument.

A Charleston correspondent of the New York Tribune says:

But however that may be, we have got ahead of R. Toombs. One of his chattels was enlisted as a soldier at Savannah recently, so that our officers are calling his slave roll for him.

I heard an officer of high rank in this department state that a daughter of Robert Toombs waits on his table, but that she does not dare to address by the endearing name of father; for her name is not recorded in the leaf of the family Bible, but in the roll which he threatens to call at Bunker Hill.

Hieroglyphic Puzzle.

The face side of a Federal cent shows several things most queerly blent:— An awkward, cowering little beast, A sacred haunt of ancient priests; A promise of one English tongue, Gay flowers by poets not meant; A font the Arabs highly prize, The place where grows our common grass; And boy who 'neath a acre is seen; Pray, tell us what these symbols mean?

ANSWER.

The face side of a Federal cent shows several things most queerly blent; The hare a cowering little beast, The temple haunt of ancient priests, Is the promise of one English tongue, Gay tulips by poets not meant; A font the Arabs highly prize, The place where grows our common grass; And boy who 'neath a acre is seen; And this is what these symbols mean.

CENTRAL STREET.

Boston, March 24, 1865.

(Boston Advertiser.)

The South made war for the sake of her negroes and has lost them. Soldiers have known so striking an exemplification of the saying about going for "wood" and coming home short.

[Louisville Journal.

RICHMOND IN OUR HANDS.

Desperate Fighting and Signal Victories!

THE REBEL ARMIES ROUTED.

The past week has been one of intense excitement. The movements of our armies which commenced last Wednesday, have forced Lee from his stronghold at Petersburg and Richmond, and sent his straggling columns to Lynchburg, unless Grant shall succeed in intercepting him and finishing the work so well begun. We have compiled principally from the Boston Advertiser, the following, which is as nearly a connected account as we can make.

The news from the army of Gen. Grant is today of the utmost importance. A series of great battles have been fought, and victory has crowned the efforts of our brave soldiers. The fighting may not yet be over, but it would seem that the enemy has received a crushing blow from which he can scarcely rally. As our readers already know, the advance movement was begun on Wednesday morning. Sheridan's cavalry taking the lead, supported by infantry. Our line, which had been massed on the left, was pushed out around the enemy's defenses towards the Southside Railroad. At the same time a sufficient force was left along our old lines on the east side of Petersburg and the north side of the James, to maintain them against the enemy. Then came a series of battles, at first with varying success, although our men always managed in the end to regain their ground and push the enemy back beyond their former rallying point. On Thursday, a heavy rain promised to retard our movements, but the next day the weather seems to have cleared, although the roads must still have been very bad. On Saturday, Sheridan appears to have routed the enemy, capturing three brigades of infantry, with artillery. Sunday morning an attack was made along the whole line. Wright and Parke both penetrated the rebel lines, while Sheridan, having flanked or broken up the enemy on the left, swept up from the westward, driving everything before him. Ord, commanding our right wing, broke through the enemy's lines at a later hour, and thus their discomfiture appears to have been complete.

FRIDAY.

There has been steady and severe fighting all day to-day, on our new lines beyond Hatcher's Run. The Second, Fifth and Twenty-fourth Corps have been engaged, the principal fighting having been done by the Fifth. Our right wing on the new line, which, with some variations, is about parallel with the Southside Railroad is commanded by General Ord in person, and holds a position very near that occupied a week ago by our extreme left, say about a mile beyond Hatcher's Run and two miles and a half beyond Humphreys Station. This portion of the line is confronted by a very strong rebel earthwork, covering the Southside Railroad, which is about four miles distant. Our forces are also intrenched, and though there has been very heavy musketry firing, with some artillery, this morning and afternoon, no material advantage has been gained by either party, and casualties on our side are not numerous. The negro troops are on this portion of the line, on the extreme front. They behave well, and aided in the capture to-day of about two hundred prisoners. Our centre, notwithstanding the storm and awful roads, had advanced about a mile during the day. The enemy's works here are of considerable strength, but not so heavy as in front of our right. The rebels need their artillery here with some effect, though the fighting was not so severe as further to the left. The front of this portion of the line is about five miles from the terminus of the military railroad and General Humphreys' command, and General Meade has his headquarters near the line and just inside of our lines.

The centre rejoices in the capture of two hundred and fifty to three hundred prisoners during the day. Among its casualties, which were not large, is that of Major Mills of General Humphreys' staff, who was killed. The heavy fighting has been upon our extreme left, where the battle has raged with fury all day. The country in that section is very rough, and movements are with great difficulty. The enemy opened the day with a vigorous assault upon our forces, in which they were at first partially successful. Our lines at one point were forced back nearly a mile with some loss in killed and wounded, and a further loss of about one hundred prisoners. The skirmish line, after being forced back, rallied on the main line, and our forces at once assumed the offensive with the most determined energy. The rebel defenses here are field works of light character. A charge was made upon them, which resulted in some hard hand-to-hand fighting, at the conclusion of which victory rested on our banners. The enemy were driven from their works with very severe loss, leaving their kill and wounded in our hands. Besides these, we captured one piece of artillery, two battle flags, and about five hundred prisoners. Our loss in this action, killed, wounded and missing, was, perhaps, seven hundred, while the rebel killed and wounded left on the field are much more than that. General Warren was on the field, as were also Generals Grant and Meade. This portion of the line is at least eight or nine miles in ad-

vance of its position a week ago. Still further to the left, in the unknown country beyond, Sheridan and his forces have been struggling with the enemy to-day also. The advices from his forces are of a general character, although reliable. Rebel deserters bring in a report that he has reached the Southside Railroad and effectually destroyed some five or six miles of it. This report is understood to have confirmation by a messenger directly from General Sheridan himself. The story is abroad in the army at least, and has produced great excitement and much loud cheering. I do not, however, regard it as entirely authentic. It is certain, however, that the cavalry has made a wide detour round the enemy's right, and pushed up toward the railroad. In the advance this morning, considerable resistance was met, and the cavalry suffered a temporary check.

The ground is represented as very unfavorable for marching or manœuvring, being covered to a considerable extent with undergrowth of small and tangled bushes. The weary and worn men at the time of the check were rallied by the commanding General himself, who appears to have repeated on a small scale the experience of the valley.

This action of Sheridan and his officers was greeted with thousands of cheers, after which it is scarcely necessary to add the enemy was rapidly driven from his position with heavy loss, and the capture of one or two of his battle flags, and a considerable number of prisoners. Some estimate of Sheridan's loss may be formed from the fact that he sent to headquarters for ambulances for five hundred wounded. He appears to be endeavoring to turn the rebel right upon itself, while also striking out for the railroad.

The position of our infantry force tonight indicates more fighting tomorrow. The rebels will not give it up yet. Between us and the railroad is but one line of breastworks, thrown up quite recently, and apparently not very strong. If we assault that tomorrow, the enemy will doubtless make a stubborn resistance. The rebel, however, cannot be doubtful. Both armies are fighting with desperation, but the rebels show signs of exhaustion.

Our aggregate losses during the day may be fifteen hundred. The rebel loss in killed and wounded will probably exceed that, while we have also some nine hundred prisoners, perhaps more. Our loss in officers is very severe, though the only general officer whose name I have heard mentioned as being wounded is Brigadier-General A. W. Denison of Maryland, who lost an arm in the battle of the Wilderness, and is now severely wounded in the leg.

SATURDAY.

The intimation in my last despatch as to the plan of this campaign, we trust the final one, against Richmond, proves to have been correct. It was at first believed by most persons that Gen. Sheridan had been merely sent to seize the junction of the Danville and Southside Railroads, and thus cut off the last remaining line of Gen. Lee's supplies. I wrote you therefore last night, that the report which stated that he had seized the Southside road and torn up five or six miles of its rails, was received with much confidence and great rejoicing, while saying it was brought on by deserters, and that it was also stated that Gen. Sheridan's own messenger had brought word to the same effect. I remarked that I did not regard the story as entirely authentic. The real plan never contemplated a movement so far west as Burkesville, which is the junction of these two railroads. Gen. Sheridan struck out from the left into the unknown country only far enough to completely turn the enemy's right flank. Our infantry advance of Wednesday night probably would have occupied the Southside road, had that been desired; but, as before stated, their march was parallel to it, rather than directly toward it. Gen. Grant appears to have purposely exposed the Second and Fifth Corps, in order to invite Lee to make an attack, and Lee appears to have fallen into the trap set for him. In a word, he has been completely out-generalled as well as out-fought. To-day there has not been much fighting on the main line, though all the troops have been under arms and all the guns have been shot for the last two days. Some of the troops, however, which were yesterday in the main line, have been here engaged, and have won a great victory, and doubtless have suffered heavy loss.

Gen. Sheridan's operations of yesterday (Friday) briefly detailed in my last, developed the fact that the enemy had massed his forces heavily on our extreme left, which was to a certain extent in Sheridan's front, for having turned the enemy's flank, his line of march lay in an easterly direction. In other words and on a large and general scale, the cavalry formed the western or southwestern side of a square, of which the Fifth and Second Corps formed the southern or southeastern side. Gen. Sheridan's attack of Friday, as I before said, developed that the enemy was in heavy force in his front, too heavy in fact for a mere cavalry attack. In the afternoon therefore he despatched word to that effect to Gen. Grant, who at once in a measure changed the plan of attack, or rather the disposition of the troops engaged in it. Orders were issued last evening, placing Gen. Warren and his Fifth Corps temporarily under the command of Gen. Sheridan, and before daybreak to-day this corps was moving by the left flank around the enemy's extreme right to form a junction with Sheridan's cavalry, which it did before noon. We know to-night that the battle has been raging furiously in that quarter to-day, and our hearts are cheered with the semi-official announcement through-

out the army that a great victory has been won, that the enemy have been driven from their positions by the combined action of the cavalry and the Fifth Corps, and that we have captured large numbers of guns and prisoners.

When the Fifth Corps was sent to Sheridan, the Second Corps was given the task of occupying and holding, not only the line it had held for two days, but also that which the Fifth Corps had been holding. General Humphreys assumed the double task with his usual promptness, and sent Miles' division of his corps to the Fifth Corps front. The whole line of the Second and Sixth Corps was drawn back some distance to earthworks which had been thrown up on Wednesday night, but Gen. Miles was ordered to hold his trusty division in readiness to move upon the enemy when the occasion offered. There has, not however, so far as I understood, been anything more than skirmishing in front of General Humphreys' line today.

Next in line this way was the Twenty-fourth Corps and part of the Twenty-fifth, under General Ord and General Gibbon, with General Birney in command of the negro troops here. There was a sudden dash of the enemy to recapture the picket line which they held yesterday. They were not successful, however, and they retired with a loss of thirty killed and wounded, and fifty or sixty prisoners, while a dozen will cover our loss. Things in front of the Sixth and Ninth Corps have been quiet all day along the whole of this part of the line. From the right of the Ninth to the left of the Second Corps, there has been unwarlike activity and watchfulness all day, and at this hour (10 P. M.) such orders have been issued as indicate that a general assault is contemplated. Such orders were however issued to one or two corps on Thursday night and then countermanded. Whether they are to be carried into execution remains to be seen.

SUNDAY.

The most important victory the army of the Potomac has ever gained in Virginia was won Sunday. The outer line of the rebel works has at last yielded to our victorious army and the greater portion of this army are to-night within one and a half miles of Petersburg. The struggle made by the enemy to retain this work has been of a most desperate character. The orders for the attack on the line east and south of Petersburg by the 6th and 9th corps were carried out punctually at daylight, the artillery having been hammering away nearly all night. A charge was made in front of Forts Hellard Rice, on the Jerusalem road, and was so successful that by 8 A. M. we were in possession of these fortifications, Fort Mahone being the most elaborate and extensive.

These works contained fourteen guns, some of which were at once opened on the enemy. About 100 yards from Fort Mahone was another work, to which the rebels retreated, and from whence they threw a most destructive fire upon our men, causing them to retire from the western end, when the rebels made a dash to recover it entirely, but the guns in the wing as well as in the centre had been manned and shot, and the assailants were driven back. From this time and until late in the afternoon the struggle continued, the enemy using every effort to recover the fort, while our men were as determined to hold possession of what they had fought so hard to gain. About noon the chances seemed to be that we should lose it, but soon the provisional brigade under Gen. Collins, and the engineer brigade under Gen. Benham, with Gen. Hawlin's brigade of the 6th corps came on the ground and by their timely arrival saved the gallant men in the fort from capture and again compelled the enemy to retire. At dark the condition of the combatants was the same as during the day.

Gen. Wilson with a part of his division made an attack in front of Fort McGilvery, near the Appomattox, and took part of the line, but was soon forced to retire to his former position owing to lack of supplies. The loss of the 9th corps will reach from 800 to 1000 in killed and wounded and prisoners.

The 6th corps struck the enemy's line in front of Fort Welch and carried them with very slight loss. They at once pushed for the Southside railroad, which they reached about 9 o'clock and tore up several miles of track. They then moved on down towards Petersburg before them, across Town Run and into their inner lines close to the city. They took about 300 prisoners and some twenty guns. No attack on the inner line has been made yet.

The 24th corps connecting with the 6th on the right, and the 21st on the left, advanced at daylight and took the works in the front with slight loss. Over 1000 prisoners were taken.

The 24th corps delayed advancing until Sheridan and the 6th corps got within sporting distance on the extreme left, when the entire line moved forward, carrying the work without much opposition, when the rebels retreated across the Southside railroad, but ran against Sheridan and made a show to fight. News to this effect reaching headquarters the 24th division of the 2d corps were at once sent to flank, and if possible capture the entire command. Our losses during the day cannot be given, but it is believed 2000 will cover them. Our captures will run up about 9000 prisoners and 24 guns.

The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded is not known, but in front of the 9th corps they lie on the ground very thick. Gen. Ramon is badly wounded and a prisoner in our hands. He was found at home on the Boydston road. Gen. A. Hill is reported killed by prisoners.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April 14, 11 P. M.

To Maj. Gen. Dix: The following telegram from Gen. Grant has just now reached this Department. What hour to day it left him does not appear, but probably in the morning. No details of the casualties have been received but they are expected here to-morrow. The statement that official information had been received of Gen. Custar being killed is not true. He was unharmful late this afternoon. (Signed) E. M. STANTON, Sec. of War.

Wilson Station, Va., 4th. To Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War: The army is pushing forward in the hope of overtaking or disposing of the remainder of Lee's army.

Gen. Sheridan with his cavalry and the 4th corps are between this and the Appomattox.

Gen. Meade with the 2d and 6th corps are following. Gen. Ord is following the line of the Southside R. R. All of the enemy that remains anything like an organized force north of the Appomattox and apparently heading for Lynchburg. The losses have been very heavy.

The losses through the country are used as hospitals for wounded men. In every direction I hear of rebel soldiers pushing for home, some in large and some in small squads, and generally without arms.

The cavalry have pushed him so closely that the enemy have been forced to destroy probably the greater part of their transportation, caissons and munitions of war. The number of prisoners which have been captured will exceed 20,000. From the 28th of March to the present time our losses in killed, wounded and captured will not probably reach 7000, of whom 1500 to 2000 were captured and many but slightly wounded.

I shall continue the pursuit as long as there appears to be any use in it. (Signed) U. S. GRANT, Lieut. General.

NEW YORK, April 4. The commercial special Washington despatch says it is regarded by military men as impossible for Lee to escape with any considerable portion of his forces. It is believed that Gen. Weitzel has pushed down the railroad line from Richmond to Barterville Junction to co-operate with Gen. Grant.

In an official dispatch, Gen. Weitzel reports that he found in Richmond a large number of locomotives and cars, and that a great destruction by the rebels of wagons, ambulances and other military vehicles had taken place. He also reports seventeen hundred more rebel prisoners taken.

Sweden Items.

Since my last, Ansil H. Holden, one of the drafted men who failed to report, has returned, reported and was exempted. Joseph Gamsoun I learn has been brought in by Deputy Farrington, and put into the service. J. G. Porter, Jr., reported and was excused, the quota having been filled.

George M. Evans of the 12th Reg. Vet. Vols., died in hospital at Alexandria in February last. His remains were brought home, and interred on Sunday, the 25th ult. This was a severe affliction to the family, being the second son who has laid down his life in defence of our country. The father, likewise, has been entirely unfitted for labor or business the past year, having lost his health, and reason partially, in taking care of his first son, who fell an early victim to disease.

The Soldiers Aid Society, sent to the Christian Commission the past week, \$20 in money; also a box containing 3 quilts, 2 pillows, 23 pairs footings, blankets, pads, &c., to the estimated value of \$30.

INTERNAL REVENUE. Under the present Internal Revenue Laws, all monthly taxes must be returned to the Assessors in the first ten days of each month, and payment must be made to the Collector in the last ten days of the month. Failure to make return before the 11th of the month increases the amount of the tax fifty per cent, and failure to pay on or before the last day of the month increases it ten per cent. It should be noted that these additions are not penalties to be imposed or not at the discretion of the Assessor or Collector, but taxes. Not even the Commissioner has authority to recruit them.

PARIS LODGE. At the stated meeting in March, the following officers were chosen for the present year:

John Bicknell, W. M.
Wm. R. Howe, S. W.
Alden Chase, J. W.
M. E. Haskell, T.
A. C. T. King, S.
A. Fitzroy Chase, S. D.
E. F. Stone, J. D.
Franklin Porter, S. S.
D. B. Farnum, J. S.
Alva Shortell, Jr., C.
T. J. Whitehead, M.
P. M. Holden, Tyler.

NATIONAL BANKS. Last week the following National Banks were established in this State and authorized to commence operations: Colosseum Bank, Gardiner; Capital \$100,000. Canal Bank, Portland; Capital \$600,000. National Village Bank, Bowdoinham; Capital \$50,000. Newcastle Bank, Newcastle; Capital \$50,000. South Berwick Bank, South Berwick; Capital \$100,000.

In the case of the St. Albans raiders, the Judge has decided they were belligerents, and that their act was justifiable. The criminals were immediately re-arrested on a charge of breach of neutrality.

Dud Clay proposes to start up the Age again. The Press is curious to understand by what process the skeleton can be extracted from the Portland Advertiser.

They have had a great frost at Montreal, this week. A mass of ice, as a jam broke, came near carrying away a tube of the Victoria bridge. Part of the railroad was submerged.

The last Company of the 12th regiment was to leave Boston on Tuesday of this week. Col. Kimball and Major Hastings accompanied the men. Dr. George Collins of Bethel has been appointed Surgeon to the regiment; Mr. E. W. Clark of Paris, goes as Butler, with A. M. Rawson for Clerk.

The first installment of one, two and three dollar notes has been issued to the National banks. These banks were authorized by the last Congress to issue such notes to the amount of one-sixth their circulation.

What the Town of Oxford has done for the War.

In 1860 Oxford had a male population of 613, and at the commencement of the war had but 163 enrolled soldiers, or persons liable to military duty, upon her rolls. This town was among the very first to respond to the call of the Government, for men. A large number of men volunteered in the first regiments that went out from Maine. Since then she has promptly filled every quota, with her own citizens and furnished men for other towns. Up to the 1st of March, 1865, Oxford had furnished the army and navy with 136 men, from her population. Twenty of this number have after three years service re-enlisted, making one hundred and fifty-six in all. She has furnished for regiments in other States at least a dozen men. Twenty-two of her sons, have laid down their lives upon their country's altar, having either died of disease or been killed in battle.

About a fortnight since, recruiting officer Dunn commenced recruiting in Oxford and adjacent towns, and to the astonishment of every body, about 100 men have enlisted and have gone to Augusta to organize. A full company has been raised and is composed of some of the best citizens in town. For this company, although all her quotas are full, Oxford has furnished SIXTY-SIX MEN making more than TWO HUNDRED MEN, furnished by this town for the armies of the Union. Can any town in the State show a better record? Last Sabbath a large number of these recruits went in a body to the Methodist Church, where, to a crowded house, the Pastor, Rev. A. W. Pottle, preached an eloquent discourse upon the "War." His concluding remarks to the soldiers, were exceedingly appropriate and impressive. Last Monday evening, the Ladies of the village, gave the Company a parting supper at Durell's Hall.

By this patriotic movement, Oxford loses many of her best citizens and young men. But they have gone in a noble cause, followed by the tears of relatives and prayers of all, that God would stand by them in the hour of peril, and "when this cruel war is over," safely return them to their friends and families. In justice to all we should add, that in raising this company, much credit is due Recruiting Officer Dunn and Capt. William S. Dodge, a citizen of Oxford and commissary Captain, stationed at Augusta, for the interest he has taken in the matter and in the welfare of the men, both before and after being mustered into the United States Service.

Glorious News from Connecticut.

The Annual Election in Connecticut occurred on Monday. Gov. Buckingham was re-elected by about 12,000 majority. The four Union candidates for Congress, Messrs. Buckingham, Sanford, Deming, and Harrison, are chosen by majorities from 1500 to 4000 each. In the Legislature chosen, the Senate is wholly Union, and the House three-quarters Union.

Success of the 7-30 Loan.

Our readers will notice that subscription to the popular 7-30 Loan are still continued in the most liberal manner. To the Old World success of these Peoples' Loans is a wonder of a Republic. The Government does not seek to borrow in foreign markets; it offers no premiums to bankers but appeals directly to the people, and with what success is sufficiently shown by the fact that during forty-three days they subscribed and paid the cash down for one hundred and sixty-one million dollars of the 7-30 Loan. There can be no stronger evidence of public confidence in Government securities. While nearly all other stocks have gone down from twenty to fifty, and even a greater per cent, within a few weeks all forms of U. S. bonds and stocks have remained firm except the slight fluctuations that are incident to all rapid changes in the money market. Our readers will remember that the subscribers to the 7-30 Loan receive semi-annual interest at the rate of seven and three-tenths per cent, per annum in currency, and the end of three years from June 15th, 1865, they will have the option of receiving payment in full, or converting their notes into a 5-20 six per cent, gold interest bond. The late great decline in the premium on gold makes these notes more desirable than ever as an investment and it should not be forgotten that their exemption from state or municipal taxation adds largely to their value. There is no interruption in the receipt of subscriptions or the delivery of the notes. All banks, bankers, and others acting as Loan Agents will pay subscribers the interest in advance from the day of subscription until June 15th.

The Governor has nominated Mr. A. P. Stone, Principal of the High School in Portland, as Superintendent of Common Schools, and Principal of the State Normal School.

We are indebted to Hon. E. P. Weston, for a copy of his last Annual Report on the Public Schools of Maine.

Our exchanges note extensive revivals at Skowhegan, Waterville, Portland, and at Buxton.

The Journal says that Lt. Col. Daggett, of Greene, of Hancock's corps, has received orders to continue enlistments for this veteran organization in this State.

Miss Annie E. Johnson of this town, has left the Normal School at Farmington, and again taken her place in the Normal School at Framingham, Mass., where an unusually high salary was offered her. (Brunswick Telegraph.)

A Proclamation for a Day of Fasting and Prayer.

The custom descended from our fathers founded in the sense of the utter dependence of man upon his Maker, of setting apart by public authority, a season for the communion of the sins of the people, commencing itself at the time with annual force and solemnity. Conforming thereto, I do, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint THURSDAY, the twentieth day of April next, a day of public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

I invite the people of this State on that day, foregoing their ordinary employments, to assemble old and young, in the temples of the living God, and there, bowing before Him in a contrite and humble spirit, confess our manifold transgressions, and invoke His pardon through the grace of His Son.

Let us on that day, in humility, give utterance to our gratitude for His goodness to our afflicted nation, and beseech Him in His own good time, to cause war to cease; let us thank Him that He has put it into the hearts of the people to accord that act of justice which breaks the rod of the oppressor and liberates the bondman from his chains; let us pray for His blessing upon all in authority, that they may have wisdom according to their necessity; that if it is His will the effusion of blood shall not be stayed, that life will be with our armies and navies in the day of battle, and crown them with victory; that He will, in His mercy, speed against the authority of the government, shall be subjected to peace and obedience to the laws, and the United States shall become a restored and enfranchised nation, hallowed by His stripes and purified by His chastisements.

Given at the Council Chamber, Augusta, this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-ninth.

SAMUEL CONY, By His Excellency the Governor.

EPHRAIM FLINT, Jr., Sec'y of State.

RELIGIOUS. Throughout the country, the people on Monday seem to have almost abandoned their usual occupations, and joined in celebrating the victories. In the larger places crowded meetings were held to exchange congratulations, upon the important event. Every speech has shown how fully is realized the fact that the power of the government has been triumphantly vindicated; and that a new and brighter era is about to dawn. Who shall now predict the future of a nation that has demonstrated so fully the magnitude of her material resources, and is to commence a new career with the right as the basis of her government.

Our Norway neighbors were wide awake, as usual, when the glorious news of the capture of Richmond was received. The big guns were brought out, and fired, both in the afternoon and in the evening, and the bells pealed out right joyously, giving expression to the irrepressible enthusiasm of the people. They were not without eleven hour men to rejoice with them.

In this village the bell was rung for an hour or two. The young men at South Paris, endeavored to celebrate in the same manner, but were not allowed to ring the bell. We have never seen more cheerful faces, or heard more hopeful words than have been met at every turn, during the week.

AN URGENT CALL. The recent victories have been purchased at a fearful loss of life and limb. What is now needed is large supplies of articles for the relief of the sick and wounded. Everything indicates that the calls for these purposes must soon nearly cease; and the Societies who have been the efficient distributors of the donations of the people are making urgent calls for money. Arrangements have been made by the Christian Commission, by means of the telegraph, to make available, at once at the front, the contributions at distant points. Let the people remember in the midst of their exultation, the necessities of those who have achieved the great victories.

MR. LINCOLN IN RICHMOND. A report from Philadelphia says Mrs. Lincoln received a dispatch Tuesday, from the President, dated at Jeff Davis' residence in Richmond. Gen. Weitzel reports that a fire was in progress when he entered the city, but it was extinguished. Many Union men were found, while Union flags were displayed freely by citizens. Gen. Grant ordered that no persons should be allowed either to enter or leave Richmond, unless belonging to the army.

ENTERPRISING. At the last December Term of Court, a jurymen had a one dollar bill, on a Portland bank, raised to a five. The April Detector describes it as a new counterfeit.

The President has issued a proclamation, offering a reward of one thousand dollars for the apprehension of raiders. This amount for the capture of those who have been guilty of such an offense; and a like sum for any who may hereafter commit felony against the property and life of the citizens of the United States.

A case of varioloid, of a very mild type, occurred at South Paris last week. The lady suffered very little inconvenience from the disease, and was allowed to remain at home, suitable precautions having been taken to prevent persons going into the house. There have been several cases at Wellsville, and, it is stated, at Mechanic Falls.

The ice went out of the Androscoggin, at Bethel, last Sunday. The Journal says that below the Falls it went out very quietly on Saturday. The river rose 15 inches at Lewiston, Saturday.

the remainder of his money, I hereby forbid all persons giving him credit on my account, as shall claim some of his earnings and shall not pay any debts contracted by him.

Hiram, Jan. 24, 1865.