

Letter from Surgeon P. G. Rockwell, of the 14th Regiment, C. V.

Communicated to the American.

HOSPITAL, FRENCH'S DIVISION, Washington Co., Md., Sept. 20, 1862.

MY DEAR — I last wrote you from our temporary station, Fort Ethan Allen. Your welcome letters made my heart leap for joy. A few days after the receipt of said interesting letters from you all, we were ordered by Gen. McClellan to march to Rockville, and report to Gen. French. The rebels in large force had crossed the river. We started on Sunday about noon, and marched ten miles, but did not reach Rockville. About 12 o'clock we turned into a lot and lay down in our blankets, having been ordered to leave our tents behind. We slept soundly. The next morning we responded to the assembly call, marched off without breakfast, and reached Rockville about 10 A. M. Here we found ourselves a respectable regiment, in an army of 100,000 men. We were then ordered to move two miles farther, where Gen. French's headquarters were supposed to be. On arriving at this place, we were brigaded with French's Division, our Colonel appointed Acting Brigadier General, and your old Doctor the acting Brigadier Surgeon, of the 2d Brigade, composed of the 14th Conn., 139th Penn., and 108th New York—a splendid looking body of men they were. We were bivouacked in the woods, hungry and fatigued—and here let me say, that we have been hungry and have suffered for want of enough of any kind of food ever since we arrived at Washington; probably owing to a lack of system on the part of the officials of the general government. The next morning we marched four miles—bivouacked in the rain; next morning marched seven miles, and bivouacked in the woods; next day, five miles, within seven miles of Frederick City, where we began to hear and smell rebels, our advance driving them out of the town.

We reached Frederick City at three o'clock, passed through under the old flags, with the exultation of the populace, who had been ransacked by the enemy, paying for the pillage in Confederate scrip. We bivouacked a little outside the city, but the rebels had eaten out the place. The next morning was the Lord's day, and no service, but orders to march towards rebel guns within a short distance, our advance following them up. We talked about making an attack on Sunday, but were assured from all past experience that we should be defeated, on account of violation of the day. As we marched, firing became nearer and nearer;—marched ten miles, fatigued and exhausted, and finally bivouacked an hour before sundown, as we supposed, for the night, and were about getting something for ourselves and horses to eat, when I noticed Gen. Sumner riding much faster than common across the various lines of his corps. Then rides up Gen. French's Adjutant, ordering the second brigade under arms. In fifteen minutes the whole body of the army were moving, with quick step and great enthusiasm, towards the South Mountain, two miles distant, where the cannonading had become frequent and sharp. We marched until dark, about which time the firing ceased. We were led into a low piece of ground, between two streams, and could not get out,—staved for three hours in the dark, and were finally bridged out; marched two miles farther through the carnage of the day's battle, with dead bodies all along-side the road. We came to a vacant lot about 12 o'clock, laid ourselves down in our blankets, chilly and hungry, and slept until morning. Here we learned that the brave Gen. Reno had fallen, probably by the carelessness of one of his own men. In the morning, we were again on the march—more tardily, to be sure, than on the day previous, but for five miles through the battle-field of the day before.

I left the lines and rode into the mountains, and on either side of the road, (which was through a deep ravine,) commenced my surgical experience of the war, in dressing the wounds and giving a draught of cold water to the enemy, who were scattered everywhere along the mountain sides. The advantages of the enemy in position were immense, and how our brave advance (occupying the ravine, with the rear of the enemy posted on the mountains) were able to whip them, with so little loss, I cannot conceive. A flag of truce then appeared, with two spent-looking rebel surgeons, to obtain the bodies of some of their officers. At length, we started along—marched to Boonsboro, a pretty village in Washington County, Md. Here we found 350 rebel wounded, with their surgeons. Oh! the horrors of war! Again we marched. General McClellan and staff passed through the lines two or three times, the air at the same time resounding with the shouts of the whole army, with more than human enthusiasm. "Mac" is the man for the soldiers, whatever he may be for the grumbling civilians and politicians! Then the gallant Burnside would ride along, with his hairless scalp exposed, and again the walls of heaven

that he had been in all the battles on the Peninsula, and for ferocity and hard fighting, they were nothing. But for once, our arms and our flags were victorious. General Cadwallader's brigade took five rebel flags, and 300 prisoners. Piles upon piles of dead Confederates, lie all over the field, which is two miles long. At dark the firing ceased; the two armies had seen fighting enough for one day, but our lines were unbroken.

I worked all that I could work, till I could work no longer, and lay down on a straw bed—the greatest luxury I had experienced for four weeks. The battle has not since been renewed. The rebels ran, as they always do before a superior force. We removed our wounded to a more permanent place, established by our division, and now we have 700 or 800 patients—operations in abundance. Our hospital is composed of several large barns, two or three large haystacks, and a large surface of out-doors. We are very busy, no luxuries for ourselves, and few comforts. The rebels are thick among us. They surprise me. They are larger, more intelligent, and better conditioned (physically) than I had supposed. All officers of the army are of the opinion that they are brave, well fed and well cared for, and fully equal to us, except in numbers, and this is our only salvation. We gave them, for once, an awful beating.

My experience is large and I would willingly give my time to obtain it, but it is awful rough, hard fodder—hard enduring. I am very anxious about you all, but getting anything from Washington. We have been on a constant march. We have over 100 wounded, most of whom are doing well. Capt. Curtis is doing well. Our regiment has gone to Bolivar Heights, across the Potomac. The Confederates are before them.

Please write soon, and don't write any bad news, if you have any to write. God bless you all. While I am suffering physically for every comfort, I am doing much good. I have taken odd spells, for a week, in which to write this; but "Doctor, Doctor, Doctor," oftener than ever before. Good bye. P. G. R.

Triennial Convention of the P. E. Church.

THE REBELLION UNDER DISCUSSION.

This large and important body is now in session in the city of New York, not as a unit, for the rebel States, having set up on their own account, have sent no deputies to represent them. Under this state of things, the friends of the loyal Church and the people had a right to expect that the seceders should be brought to a strict account by the Convention, and that the loyal part of the Diocese should take such measures as to clear the Church from any complicity or sympathy with the revolutionists, while at the same time it should unhesitatingly vindicate its own loyalty from aspersion. This was what was expected by the laymen of the Church, thousands of whose sons are now in the battle-field, to say nothing of the thousands whose blood cries trumpet-tongued for redress against the rebel enemy, at whose head stands the apostate Bishop Polk, thirsting for loyal blood.

How vain, however, were our expectations, when, in the daily reports of the Convention, we saw an attempt to introduce a mild and courteous preamble and resolution by Mr. Brunot, of Pennsylvania, touching the subject met with scorn, and summarily, without debate, laid on the table, in the hope to crush it in embryo. Mr. Brunot had just returned from the bloody field of Antietam, covered with loyal blood, had seen the wounded thousands lying helpless, maimed for life—all on account of this accursed rebellion, which instead of touching the hearts of the Convention, nearly two to one voted them down.

In offering the resolutions, Mr. Brunot said that he had just come from the field of Antietam, and he was surprised to see no indications before the Convention that we were at war with rebels; he was no radical, but he deemed it his duty to offer the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, It has pleased the Supreme Ruler of the Universe to permit sedition and piracy-conspiracy in our midst to culminate in an extensive rebellion against the civil power ordained by Him, and for the just punishment of our sins there is war in the land—friend against friend, brother against brother, son against father; and whereas, a portion of our brethren of the Church have attempted to sever by ecclesiastical enactments the visible bond of Christian sympathy heretofore existing between us and them, thereby grievously rending the body of Christ in his Church; and whereas, we acknowledge there is no help but from God, and rejoice that we are permitted to fly to Him for succor in our sore distress; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Bishops is hereby requested to set forth, for the use of this Convention during its present session, a special form of prayer, confessing and bewailing our manifold transgressions, pleading for God's fir-

the prayer-book, ignored the Church, and is in open rebellion against the Church. The men who have arrayed themselves against both the Church and country, ought to have been and might have been in the performance of their duty—the conservators of our national unity. It was the duty of that body, as intrusted with the keeping of the Church, to rebuke those who had offended. They owed it to their own self respect to take a manly and Christian course, and administer rebuke where sin was committed; otherwise, in the event of a future Union of the Church, their Southern brethren would despise them. The Rev. Doctor was exceedingly eloquent, and produced a profound sensation in the House.

The Rev. Dr. Godwin, of Penn., followed, in a calm, philosophical and exhaustive argument. He proceeded to answer every question raised against the resolution, and said that the adoption of a prayer for the country, in which they could all unite, was demanded at that moment. He quoted the rebellion of the South, and the treason of churchmen, some of whom might believe they were right, to show that private conscience could not be depended on as a guide in the matter.

The vote was then taken on the question of a reconsideration, and lost;—clerical vote, 12 against 8—laity, 5 against 10. But the subject would not stay killed, but came up the next day with renewed vigor, and several dignitaries and others spoke out their minds freely. How the subject will ultimately be disposed of we cannot say, but the right of free speech has been vindicated, rebellion rebuked, as well as an overbearing conservatism.

From the 15th Regiment, C. V.

CAMP CHASE, Virginia, Sept. 30th, 1862.

EDITOR AMERICAN:—At last we have received a positive order from Gen. Casey regarding the future destiny of this regiment, for a while at least. Probably it is known in your locality, ere this, that there has been many and important changes in the army of the Potomac, for the last few days, and no doubt from what you have heard, you might suppose that the Fifteenth had taken a part in the proceedings. But no; they still remain as before in the undisputed possession of Camp Chase, with a fine prospect of making this their home for the ensuing winter.

I think I wrote you of the review which was to come off last week, under the inspection of Gen. Casey and staff, in which we were to take a part, and where we expected to obtain a knowledge of the post to be assigned us in the coming campaign. This intended review passed off in a very satisfactory manner, and consisted of two brigades and three batteries under Generals Paul and Kane. Our regiment was then and there passed over and assigned to the brigade of Gen. Kane, formerly the Colonel of the famous "Bucktail Rifles," a regiment well known all over the country. We were ordered to guard Long Bridge, as before, until further orders, which unexpectedly came last Sunday evening, when nearly all the troops in this vicinity received orders at midnight to prepare for a march at four in the morning, with three days cooked rations, and without tents or knapsacks. This order was obeyed with all the promptness and zeal imaginable, and at the appointed time our regiment was in readiness for the march, with the exception of the two companies on guard at the fort and bridge, one of which was our own. The orders did not reach us there till morning, but we knew that something unusual was taking place on the Heights—as the long roll from the different camps could be plainly heard. There was great rejoicing when the truth was known, for the boys lately have had a regular war fever on—a burning desire to call on Mr. Davis, at Richmond, and repay the visit his friends made us at Maryland, in short time since.

The surprises as to our destination were many, but to Fortress Monroe seemed to be the general opinion, for we had heard of this vast army which had been secretly transported there, and also had the pleasure of bidding the New York 15th good-bye, that morning, as they passed by us for the same place.

Four o'clock generally means ten in breaking up camp, and we were not much disappointed in just seeing the Fifteenth file along at the appointed hour. But you can imagine our disappointment when a detachment of our men came along and relieved us—also bringing the intelligence that Gen. Casey had ordered our regiment to settle down again as before; had withdrawn us from the brigade of Gen. Kane, and sealed our prospects of an advance by informing us that we were to remain to guard the bridge as before. Two weeks ago this order would have been well received, but lately most of us have undergone a change of opinion. When we see the regiments pass our camp on their way to fight rebels—there is always a feeling and wish to be with them, and

with action then mel. ed.—e up- plied on to dy of l entory, pend er, if plied or the short The illard a her ight sition form- a re- do of , the their when ceive se so used nt of ng in qued re his thout had when less did it. spirits or of o the par- Per- -62. ocia- n this of the bells h our e has e that upon astice ve are h just- ough ambi- d sla- cadera- fall, if exter- and whole, r part, villing. Gov- them, a few air of a trea- will be do no when ay fort- us by ith the assed," bound and in- in the ing his is over ing the r is no s of a ear the of the every igh the ll sum- makes ty. To ion for melan- of au- l decay. ds and might

WATERBURY (CT) AMERICAN - 10/10/62

For the America- The Hr. is serving dearest. So like his d He has gone to May spare by Oh! how like a This hope of But his count- hold him When duty Is country won Is freedom a Ab, not they a With treasur bought. Who three-cent- try— To throate To spread thro- slavery— To desolate The sons of t ren- Have arose in While arraye justice. The North's son. The thunder-to Each liner to Till a million o ber, Are moving sight. He has gone t absence. But duty has Nor would I, if Say aught but Camden, New-Yo S. Clear and cool, By laughing sh Cool and clear, By shining shi Under the rag And the livel w Undefined, for t Play by me, bat Dank and foul, By the smokest Foul and dank, By wharf and se Darker and darl Baser and baser Who dare sport Shrink from me. Strong and free, The flood-gates a Free and strong, Cleansing by str To the golden sa And the landless As I love my-elf As a soul that h Undefined, for t Play by me, bat CENTRAL OF W The Sanitary C Halleck, Comma United States, m practice of sendi which it is suppo of their camp li mission, many h now piled uples upon old camp probably been d into the hands of of all that have b they were addre value to them, ex interest of their t and such other s transmitted by a ter. Larger gift- offering them a vices, which are a ch and thus of the s teers almost univ- der-bought exp- cessive amount of the excess ve bag, severest losses of war are attribut- ty. But even w tempt to secure unusual amount o rated; the benefi at the first long-e light one is retain