

...Lucas, Elias P. Keyler, Harrison Taylor, ... Terrell, Samuel L. Williams, Capt. M. B. ... Roger W. Cook, W. R. Post, Wales Porter, ... Harper, Wm. Rice.

Christmas.

Though the sky was overcast, the day, on the whole, was quite agreeable in temperature, and was welcomed with the usual compliments so freely exchanged on the occasion. There was general suspension of business in the factories, stores, &c., each one choosing his own way of passing the time. Some attended church, while others sought amusement on the skating ponds, or in casual intercourse at the fireside. "Santa Claus" was widely scattered in his favors with a liberal hand, bringing from the crowds that thronged the stores more Christmas favors were temptively displayed and claimed for distribution by that invisible personage. And from the scarcity of turkeys and such delicacies in the market, on Wednesday afternoon, we trust that there was no deficiency in the ministerial department of any family, including those whom "we always have with us."

Christmas Eve was handsomely celebrated by our German fellow-citizens, at Hotchkiss Hall, which was beautifully and elaborately decorated on the occasion, with evergreens, Christmas trees, &c. On the walls were displayed numerous illustrated notices in German and English, pictures, &c., all having reference to the advent of the Saviour, according to the verses in the Fatherland.

From the entrance the effect was quite engaging, the decorations at the platform being the most dazzling. Services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Klaus, who gave a sermon in English, in which the Rev. Mr. Magill made an interesting address. The presents were distributed to the close, and as the Hall was well filled, it is estimated that the German Sabbath School treasury had a good benefit. We should add that there was some fine music on the occasion.

St. John's Church the usual religious services were held both on Christmas eve and Christmas day. On Wednesday evening prayers were read by the Rector, Rev. Dr. Clark, and the Assistant Rector, Rev. J. Eaton Smith, preached an eloquent sermon from the text, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."—St. John, 1st chapter, 11th verse.

On Christmas day the church was opened at 10½ o'clock, the Rev. Mr. Smith reading the prayers, and the Rev. Dr. Clark preaching the sermon from the Gospels, 10th chapter, 3d and 4th verses— "All eat the same spiritual meat; * * * And all drink the same spiritual drink: (for they all drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them; that Rock was Christ.)" An excellent and edifying discourse, worthy of the theme, and appropriate, under the direction of Mr. Ditzge, all present on these occasions, was said to be very fine. The Christmas Anthem "And there came shepherds," and the tenor solo, "Father, thy will be done," followed by the thrilling chorus, "Gloria of Angels," sung in place of the hymn, on Christmas eve, were fine sermons and effectively rendered. The church was decorated with evergreens, not as elaborately as on previous occasions, but arranged with good taste.

We would express, on our own behalf, the compliments of the season to our readers, wishing prosperity and the return of peace and unity to another Christmas.

CORRESPONDENCE.—It will be seen that we have surrendered a good deal of room in this paper, in order to give publicity to the favors of our correspondents, which have accumulated on our pages since our last week's issue. On our next page will be found a letter from a member of the Connecticut, at Port Royal, which will interest the friends of the soldiers in this section; and another from a member of the 16th Connecticut, of the departure from Aquia Creek to the field at Fredericksburg.

On our editorial page we present a letter from Mr. L. W. Coe, the chairman of the legislative committee to visit the battle field at Fredericksburg, and investigate the condition of our veteran soldiers. He gives a gloomy account of the state of that quarter, and as will be seen, expresses himself very pointedly at the reputed mismanagement in that sad affair.

We give extracts from the letters of three Waterbury "boys," who were engaged in the battle, which will give our readers some insight into the horrors of the battle field. It is interesting to know that though passing through the furnace, no one from our place was killed. May they all live to return.

The House of Congress, on Tuesday, adjourned to January 5th—a long adjournment.

...of the people, the sooner it is done the better.— The Administration has a tremendous responsibility resting upon it—may it be able to weather the storm, and once more entrench itself behind the confidence and affections of the people, who will stand by it to the bitter end, so long as hope is left.

FIRE AT AN INSANE ASYLUM.—A fire broke out on the morning of the 21st instant, in the extensive building of the Vermont Insane Asylum, about two o'clock. The wind blew a gale from the north, and the two large wings running west were entirely consumed, also the center building. The east wings were saved, although somewhat damaged. All the patients were saved. Up to the present time the amount of damage cannot be estimated.

FATAL SUNDAY SKATING.—James Monroe Higgins, a young man eighteen years of age, was drowned Sunday afternoon, about half past four o'clock, in the Connecticut river, while skating on Keeney's Cove, a spot between Hartford and Glastenbury. He started in company with two others, in the morning, skated to Glastenbury, (where he belongs,) spent the day, and was returning home on the ice; he saw the dangerous spot, but could not stop in time to prevent his falling in. The water was eighteen feet deep. His companions tried in vain to rescue him.

Gen. Sigel testified in the McDowell court martial case on Saturday. His testimony would go to show bad generalship on the part of McDowell, and that said generalship was the main cause of Gen. Pope's defeat. After the battle of Bull Run, Sigel refused to have any private conversation with McDowell, in consequence of a sneering remark from McDowell relative to Sigel's fighting his own corps.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.—The following appointments have been made in the 1st Battalion Connecticut Cavalry:—2d Lieut. Elbridge Colburn, Co. B, to be 1st Lieutenant of Co. A, vice Wm. G. Bruce, resigned; sergt J. J. B. Rogers, of Co. A, to be 2d Lieutenant in Co. B. In the 14th regiment, 1st Lieut. James B. Colt is promoted to be Captain of Co. K, vice Robert H. Gillette, resigned; 2d Lieut. Samuel Flske, Co. I, to be 1st Lieutenant in Co. K; sergeant James R. Nichols to be 2d Lieutenant in Co. I; George C. Ripley of Norwich to be 1st Lieutenant in Co. A, vice Morton T. Hale, promoted.

M. H. Griffin, esq., of Middletown, has received the contract for the grading and masonry, in short, for the completion and equipment of the Rockville Branch Railroad, running from Vernon to Rockville.

A letter from Chaplain Morris of the 8th C. V., written the day after the battle, says "the wounded are in a more comfortable situation and condition than they were in ten days after the battle of Antietam."

Rev. Mr. Woodruff has been announced to deliver a discourse next Sabbath evening, at the Methodist Church, on the "Womanhood of the World."

At a meeting of the Waterbury Medical Association, held Dec. 24, 1862, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

It having pleased Almighty God to remove by death from this world to a better life, our worthy associate, Dr. Melrose C. Leavenworth; therefore,

Resolved, That we reflect with profound sorrow upon the death of our much esteemed friend and brother, occurring while in the patriotic service of his country, away from the endearments of kindred and home.

Resolved, That for his attainments in natural science and the literature of his profession, he was deserving of high regard, that he was a valued and honored member of this Association, and that in his death we sustain a serious loss.

Resolved, That in the character of our departed brother, it is our high privilege to record our recognition of his sterling integrity and honor, his gentleness and benevolent heart; and that in his self-sacrificing labors for the good of others, he has left a bright illustration of Christian character worthy of our imitation.

Resolved, That we tender and desire to mingle our sincere sympathies with the relatives of our deceased brother, in their bereavement; and that his virtues may be ever fresh in our memory.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolutions be published in the WATERBURY AMERICAN, and a copy thereof sent to the relatives of the deceased.

GIDSON L. PLATT, Chairman.
GEORGE E. PERKINS, Secretary.

General Headquarters, State of Conn.,
Adjutant General's Office,
Hartford, Dec. 13, 1862.
(GENERAL ORDER, No. 596.)
The State Medical Board will assemble at the ALLY HOUSE, Hartford, on FRIDAY, the 2d day of January, 1863, at 2 o'clock, P. M., for the nomination of Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons for the Connecticut Volunteer force.
By order of the Commander-in-Chief,
J. D. WILLIAMS,
Adjutant-General.
Dec. 13th.—941

The 14th at Fredericksburg.
No regiment that ever went from this State has seen a harder fate than the 14th, and no one has acquitted itself with more bravery and credit.—Hurried to the bloody field of Antietam by forced marches, after their arrival at Washington, without time to rest from the time they left home, they were forthwith placed in the line of battle, and no veterans could give a better account of themselves than they did on that memorable occasion. Having been obliged to leave their baggage to be sent on after them, by an unpardonable and cruel neglect they never received it for six or more weeks, during which they were without blankets or a change of clothing—their sick and wounded were neglected by those whose duty it was to take care of them—and taken altogether their treatment has been a reproach to the Government, through unfaithful officials, who, if properly rewarded, deserve a bumper cord. With all those wrongs unredressed they went into the front of battle at Fredericksburg, where they again bore themselves as heroes and patriots, as the list of killed and wounded, which will be found in another article, bears honorable testimony.

We have been favored with the perusal of several letters from members of the 14th Regiment, written to their friends here since the battle of Fredericksburg, all of whom describe the contest—so long as it lasted—as truly terrific, and the carnage awful to behold. We have only room for a few extracts. Col. Morris being absent at the North, the command of the 14th devolved upon Lieut.-Col. Perkins. A Lieutenant in Company C, from this city, who received a slight wound, after giving the particulars of the battle, concludes as follows:

"Anything which you ever heard or read cannot give you the faintest idea of a battle. It is one of those things that must be seen to be appreciated. The booming of cannon, the booming of shells, the whistling of rifle shot, the sharp passing of the bullets, the cries and groans of the wounded, and the awful sight of headless bodies, legs and arms shot off, and wounds of every description—these things can never be described. I have been in one battle, and never want to be in another."

The following extract from a letter of a member of Co. C, to his parents in this city, gives a brief but graphic sketch of the operations of the Fourteenth:

"Friday morning we crossed the river and marched to the upper end of the city. We lay there all day, receiving an occasional shell from the enemy's batteries. I had a good bed in a cellar for the night. At four o'clock the next morning we were ordered to fall in—I knew then that before the day closed I should either be back safe, or else lying on the battle-field. Our forces commenced to storm the enemy's works at 8 o'clock. At one o'clock we received the order, "Forward double-quick," and away we went up the main street. We charged up the railroad, outside of the city, under a terrible fire from their batteries—we gained the cover of a little hill, and lay down for orders. I saw then that it was useless to attempt to storm their works—still we were ordered to do so.

"We lay for some time waiting for orders, but none came. Finally, Lieut.-Col. Perkins, seeing that we were being cut to pieces by their shells, ordered us to charge. We followed him over the field in front of their rifle-pits, under a terrible fire of musketry and cannon. Antietam was not a circumstance. We got to within thirty rods of their works and then dropped on our faces and began to pepper them. It was here that Lieut.-Col. Perkins fell, together with Major Clarke and Captain Carpenter, Gibbons, Tubbs, Stanley, and most all our brave officers. We lost terribly. At this time the brigade in front of us broke and ran over us—that broke our regiment and we had to retire. Serg't Washburn and myself did not know that the regiment was gone till about five minutes after. At this time a shot struck the stock of my musket, and struck my knee. I got up and saw that all of our company was gone, and told Washburn it was all up with us. We went back, and I had not gone back more than five rods when a shot struck my blanket and knocked me over. I rose up and got back to the town safe, but rather disheartened.

"We lay in the town until Monday, when we evacuated the town, so we are back to our old quarters that we left a few days before. Captain Davis is in command of the regiment now. We have lost a great many men and accomplished nothing. Think God I am safe. I did my duty. I will give you an account, when I get home, of some of the scenes of that bloody ground."

The Great Eastern having been repaired, is advertised to sail for Liverpool, on Saturday, January 3d.

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