

From the 14th Regiment C. V.

Communicated to The American.

PARK NEAR PETERSBURG, PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, July 17th, 1864.

DEAR PARENTS:—How do you all do, on this pleasant afternoon? It is very cool and pleasant down here to-day, and reminds me of home very much—and as I had not much to employ myself to-day, I thought that I would write and give you a few particulars of our summer's campaign, commencing on the day we left Stony Mountain.

On the morning of the 3d day of May, we received orders to pull down our log-houses and pitch our tents on the ground, which was done. At four o'clock in the afternoon, orders came to hold ourselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice, and about eight in the evening the notice came, and before nine we were all packed up and on the road. We continued to march all that night, and at daylight found ourselves on the bank of the Rapidan River, which we crossed a short time after daylight on the morning of the fourth. After crossing the river, we continued to move in a southerly direction, and passing over a portion of the old battle-field of Chancellorsville, we crossed the river at Ely's Ford about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 4th, and bivouacked for the night about two miles to the south of the Chancellor House.

On the morning of the 5th we again moved forward at 4, our corps taking a road leading to Orange Court House, where it was thought that the enemy was in force. We moved out on the road as far as Tod's Tavern, where we took up a position, and remained for about two hours. While laying here we could distinctly hear firing in the direction of Orange Court House, and after we had remained at the tavern for about two hours, moved back along the road we came, until we reached a large iron foundry, where we left the main road and kept to the left. After passing along this road for about a mile, we were greeted with the sound of musketry up near where the right of our corps lay, and we made up our mind that the ball had opened in earnest. After marching about two miles further, we came to the place which was destined to be the scene of blood-shed and carnage. Passing to the right of the first division of our corps, we immediately took position, and in less time than it takes me to write it, we were advancing in-line of battle, and the balls were flying about us as thick as hailstones; but we kept steadily advancing until we had gained a good, safe position, then the order was given to halt, lie down, and send out skirmishers.

I fell on me, with my company, to take the skirmish-line that night, and I gave the order, "Fall in, Company F" and every man was on his feet in an instant. I advanced my line to the edge of a swamp, about fifty yards in front of the line-of-battle, and told them to lay down behind anything that would afford them protection. I then went down to the left of the line of skirmishers, to see that they were properly posted, and while passing along there were several balls came very close to me. After getting the men into proper positions and safe ones, I went back to the right of the line, where two of my Sergeants lay, and while I stood giving them some directions I saw a rebel on the opposite side of the swamp. I spoke and told the Sergeant that there was a mark for them, but had no sooner got the words out of my mouth, than whizz went a bullet through the top of my hat, but did not hurt me—but it kinder made me vexed, and I picked up a rifle that was laying by me and thought I would try my hand at it. In a few moments I saw him moving through the bushes, and bringing the rifle to my shoulder, I drew a bead on the infernal gray-back and pulled the trigger; he gave a bound and fell forward on his face. In the evening, when the boys went over there, he had a bullet-hole right through his forehead. We held our position until about 2 o'clock at night, when the Colonel sent out and relieved us. I went up to the regiment and laid down, and in the morning I was sick—I could not stand up without help, and the doctor sent me to the hospital. I remained at the hospital three days, when I rejoined my regiment.

Well, from the 5th to the night of the 13th, it was one continual fight all the time. We fought days, and fortified nights, until we had driven them to Spottsylvania Court House.—Here they had very strong works, and although we tried several times to take them, we could not do it. It was in one of these assaults on their works that I got a shot in the arm that laid me up for about two weeks. Finally, on the morning of the 15th, we moved off down on to their flank, and they had to abandon their works, and thus we continued to flank

towards the Capital. Well, I am glad that they went up there, for it has been a benefit to the Government, as we have now more troops than we had before, and it is my opinion that there will be more before there are less. I see by the Washington papers, to-day, that the enemy is in full retreat, and that our forces are in full pursuit, and I hope that they will punish them for their audacity in thus molesting the peaceful quietness of the citizens around Washington and vicinity.

At some future time, I will give you some few particulars concerning some of the fights in the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, &c., but not at present.

JULY 19th.—There is no news to-day. We have a rainy day—the first one since the 3d day of June, something over a month.

L. F. NORRIS, Lieut. Company-F, 14th C. V.

A Chapter of Fires—Incendiarism.

From the large number of fires that have occurred within the past week, it would seem as if the fire fiend had been let loose upon mankind—and what is worse than all, the largest portion of the fires that have laid waste so much valuable property, has been the work of incendiaries. This exhibits a most frightful state of things, and calls for the utmost vigilance of every household. From our exchanges we compile such as have come under our notice for the last few days:

On Thursday last week, about 2 o'clock P. M., the beautiful village of Farmington, in this State, was visited by a most disastrous conflagration, undoubtedly caused by the incendiary's torch. The fire broke out while the people were at work in the hayfields, and by the time they reached the scene of disaster the fire had spread beyond control, enveloping in flames one store, five dwelling houses, three large barns, and several smaller ones, besides sheds, all of which were destroyed with their contents. All the men and women turned out, and by their efforts saved some of the two-story buildings. C. Rowe, C. D. Cowles, E. D. Cowles, G. D. Cowles and W. W. Wadsworth were the principal sufferers. Loss from \$30,000 to \$40,000, partly insured.

Springfield, Mass., was visited by another disastrous conflagration, about 12 o'clock last Saturday night. The fire was first discovered in James Malley's fancy dry-goods store, on Main Street, which spread rapidly, destroying all the buildings north of it to the corner of Pynchon Street, including Music Hall, the extensive clothing store of Tilly Haynes & Co., Hitchcock's Block, Skiff's jewelry store, Law's clothing store, the house of American Hook and Ladder Co., the stables of Thompson's Express Co., several offices, Hutchins' drug store, Moore & Brothier's photograph gallery, &c. The City Hall and the Republican and Daily Union blocks were greatly endangered, but were saved with much exertion. It was believed that Music Hall might also have been saved, but the water gave out at the critical moment. The entire loss is estimated at over \$120,000—the insurance, \$30,000.—Malley has since been arrested on suspicion of having set fire to his own store, to obtain the insurance, which exceeded the value of his goods.

Abijah Bradley's store, in New Haven, was damaged by fire on Saturday evening last. It was caused by the igniting of some kind of burning fluid one of the clerks was drawing. Mr. B.'s loss is from \$1,500 to \$2,000, covered by insurance. Maj. B. F. Mansfield had some \$3,000 worth of commissary supplies stored there, on which the loss is about \$1,500—no insurance.

Granger Block, situated in the business center of Syracuse, N. Y., was burned at 4 o'clock Sunday morning. The offices of the Journal and Standard newspapers were destroyed, also Luce's job printing office. The Journal's loss is \$18,000, insured for \$12,000; the Standard \$9,000, insured for \$4,500; Luce's office \$4,000, insured for \$2,000. The building was owned by Sedgwick & Cowles, and was insured for nearly \$15,000, which will cover their loss.—Not incendiary.

On Friday night of last week, a fire at Defiance, Ohio, destroyed a floring mill, woolen factory and iron foundry. Loss about \$30,000.

The army wagon factory and lumber yard, covering three acres, in Kensington, Philadelphia, was burned on Friday night last. Loss \$300,000. The adjoining factory of Wilson, Childs & Co., was saved. Incendiary.

A large paper mill at Manayunk, near Philadelphia, was burned a few days ago. Quite a loss at this time.

About half the business portion of Mexico,

The Waterbury American.

Literary Notices.

THE NORTH GRANVILLE QUARTERLY.—The July number of this very creditable periodical, conducted by the pupils of the North Granville (N. Y.) Ladies' Seminary, is received, and is an improvement upon the first number. It contains about twenty original articles, most of which will compare, in point of literary merit, with its senior contemporaries. As the organ of the school, it speaks well for its literary character, and the proficiency of the young ladies under its superintendence.—Among the contributors to the present number, we notice the name of Miss Emily J. Welton, of this city.

The examinations and anniversary exercises of the seminary were held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the past week. The concert on Monday evening, held in the gymnasium, was opened by a grand duo for two pianos, played by Miss Sarah H. Booth, of this city, and Prof. J. D. Kerrison. Miss Carrie Wilcox, the vocal teacher, was unable to fulfill her duties the last term, on account of ill health, and her place was supplied by Mr. B. F. Ellenwood, of Saratoga.

The closing exercises took place on Thursday, with the usual ceremonies. The Rev. A. L. Stone, of Boston, delivered an address, followed by the farewell address by the principal, Mr. Dowd, who afterwards, awarded the diplomas to the graduates. The class song, "The Reapers," words by Miss Emily J. Welton, music by Prof. Kerrison, was then sung, and after the benediction on the youthful band separated for a time, some of them probably forever.

The class song, which is really a gem, we transfer to our columns:

Through your gateway came we, strangers,
Came to garner golden grain,
We have toiled where toil is pleasure,
We may toil where toil is pain:
Sister Reapers,
Sing we now our parting strain.
With the sheaves which we have gathered,
Deep among the tasseled ears,
There are flowers of wondrous beauty—
These we keep for coming years:
Fragrant flowers,
Wet to-day with falling tears.

Earth has need of many reapers,
Whitened fields are calling, "Come!"
Sisters, thrust us in the sickle,
Resting not, till, through the gloom,
Fadless morning
Breaks upon our "Harvest Home."

ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE, for August, opens with the picture of a harvest scene, the gleaner, followed by sundry fashion designs adapted to the season. The reading matter as usual is attractive, mingling the useful with the pleasant. To be had at our city bookstores.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK, for August, contains the usual attractions and novelties which that magazine never fails to present. The embellishments, fashion plates, &c., are excellent.

THE LADY'S FRIEND, for the same month, opens with a beautiful steel engraving, called the "Harvest Home," followed by a steel fashion plate and several wood engravings. The reading matter presents a choice variety of intellectual entertainment. To be had at our city bookstores.

THE CONTINENTAL MONTHLY.—Abbott has handed us the number for August, which is decidedly a good one. Lieut. Phelps continues his valuable papers upon American Civilization; Lieut. Col. Tolles also his essays upon An Army, its Organization and its Movements; Colors and their Meaning, by Mrs. Gage; The English Press, by Nicholas Rowe, and The First Christian Emperor, by Dr. Philip Schaff, are among the leading articles. There are several poetic effusions, besides minor interesting miscellany. To be had as above.

THE ELECTRIC, for August, is at hand. It opens with a fine steel engraving representing the naval battle at the taking of New Orleans—a spirited picture. The table of contents embraces sixteen leading articles, representing the current literature of the day, selected from the foreign reviews and magazines. Among these are Capt. Speke's expeditions for the discovery of the source of the river Nile; The Basque Country—a description of it; The Last New Empire (Mexico)—speculations about its future; The Reefs of the Old World—Telegraph Line around the World, as well as across the Atlantic; A Resume of the Discoveries at Pompeii, and sundry other first-class contributions from eminent authors. To the cultivated reader the Electric is almost indispensable. To be had at Abbott's.

WATERBURY (CT) AMERICAN - 7/29/64

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At Springfield they fought desperately for four days, but it was of no use, they were forced to fall back to escape being captured.—They did not make a stand again, until they got to a place called Cold Harbor, this is within about seven miles of Richmond. We were now inside of the first line of the defenses of Richmond. Here the rebels had strong fortifications; we charged them several times, but it was of no avail, we could not carry them, and after remaining here for ten or fifteen days, we found that we could not dislodge them in that way—so we pulled up stakes, and Mr. Johnny wakes up to find that the Yankees were all gone, and the first thing they knew we are on the south side of the James River. They pull up and start for Richmond, "double quick" only to find that we are aiming at some other point, and they move on past Richmond—but Gen. Grant is too quick for them, and on the 15th day of June we drive a part of their forces from the heights in front of Petersburg, capturing a good many prisoners and 22 pieces of artillery—and in half an hour after, we occupy their works. The head of their column can be seen coming down on the Richmond pike, on the other side of Petersburg.

On the morning of the 16th there was but little firing, until in the afternoon, when there was some skirmishing for about two hours, when it became very quiet, not a gun being heard until about 15 minutes before 7 o'clock, when there was one single artillery shot fired, and in less than ten minutes after the fight became general all along the whole line. We gradually succeeded in driving them, until we had forced them back for over a mile, but the ground was covered with the killed and wounded of both sides. We now occupy the position that was gained that night, and there is not an army large enough in the world to drive us from our works. Our earthworks are about 15 feet thick at the bottom, and about 10 feet thick on top, and high as a man's head—then, between every brigade, we have built large, strong, heavy forts,—and we have got some large guns down here that will make them jump when they go off; such guns as 100-pounders, 64-pounders, 32-pounders—that is, guns that will throw a shot that will weigh 100 pounds, &c. We have also some 13-inch mortars, which throw shells that weigh about 250 pounds; and when we open all these guns on them, they will think that the "kingdom's coming."

It has been very quiet to-day,—much the quietest Sunday that there has been for a long time. Gen. Grant issued an order sometime ago, that there is to be no firing, on our side, on Sunday, unless the enemy opens on us first—and there has been but very little firing on the Sabbath, and to-day has been remarkably quiet; not even a single shot has been heard to mar the otherwise quiet and peaceful Sabbath. Never have I spent a Sabbath in the South that reminded me of home as much as it has to-day; all that it wanted was the sound of some "church-going bell" in the distance, and the stillitude would have been complete.

I expect that there has been considerable excitement at the North, within the last few days, on account of the invasion of Maryland and the threatening aspect of the enemy to-

burning fluid one of the clerks was drawing. Mr. B.'s loss is from \$1,500 to \$2,000, covered by insurance. Maj. B. F. Mansfield had some \$3,000 worth of commissary supplies stored there, on which the loss is, about \$1,500—no insurance.

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On Friday night of last week, a fire at Defiance, Ohio, destroyed a flouring mill, woolen factory and iron foundry. Loss about \$90,000.

The army wagon factory and lumber yard, covering three acres, in Kensington, Philadelphia, was burned on Friday night last. Loss \$300,000. The adjoining factory of Wilson, Childs & Co., was saved. Incendiary.

A large paper mill at Manayunk, near Philadelphia, was burned a few days ago. Quite a loss at this time.

About half the business portion of Mexico, Oswego Co., N. Y., was destroyed last Friday.

On Saturday, Bound's large furnace and machine shops at Lockport, N. Y., were destroyed by fire.

In Jamaica, N. Y., on Sunday, Curtis' Hotel and two or three dwellings were burnt.

Sherman's livery stable and contents, in Fall River, Mass., were destroyed by fire Tuesday night. Twenty horses were burned to death. Loss about \$12,000.

At Castleton, N. Y., last week, the freight house, a large hotel, four dwellings and two barns were burnt. Loss \$50,000.

Keating's steam planing mills and the Union Match Co.'s building, in Merrimack Street, Boston, were consumed last Friday. Loss \$40,000.

E. S. Goodwin's barn, in rear of his store in East Hartford, was burned about one o'clock last Sunday morning. Loss \$600.

Gowdy's gin distillery, at Enfield, was burnt on Sunday morning, the 11th inst.

A large barn in Bristol, owned by Eli Ely, was destroyed by fire, with a large amount of hay and grain, on Friday night, the 22d inst. Loss about \$1,000.

Ten dwellings and stores at Seabrook, N. H., were consumed July 20th.

A fire in Rochester, on Sunday, destroyed a shop connected with the House of Refuge, and a small church. Loss \$60,000.

Fires in the woods are reported in various directions. Large tracts of timber have been consumed in Maine and the adjoining provinces—also in New Jersey. The damage done is very great, and in some instances whole villages have been or are now in danger.

Near Tariffville, and in Litchfield County, in this State, the woods have been burning.—On Wednesday, the 20th, the old "Newgate" buildings in Simsbury were consumed. The west side of Mt. Tom has been burnt over.

A large fire in the woods, three miles west of Wobcottonville, was reported on Sunday night. Houses and barns were endangered, and the farmers were much excited and alarmed.

It is estimated that twenty millions dollars worth of property has been destroyed during the first six months of this year. Some stringent measures to put a stop to it must soon be adopted, or we shall have nothing but heaps of ashes to live in.

GRACE'S SALVE.—The unanimous testimony in favor of this article, wherever it has been used, and more particularly in various parts of Essex county, where the manufacturer resides, proves the high value which is placed upon it in all cases where a remedy of such a character is appropriate. The inventor of this Salve was no mere adventurer, who set the article a-going only to make money, without caring whether it injured or cured those who used it, but a skillful physician and surgeon, who, for many long years, used it in an extensive practice, and, dying, left the recipe as a valuable inheritance to the generations who were to come after him. For cuts, bruises, sores, and every species of inflammation upon the surface of the body, its use has been followed by the most satisfactory results, and it only requires a trial to prove it to be all that its manufacturer claims for it.—*Haverhill Publisher.*

ACCIDENTS.—A son of Francis Norton, aged 11 years, residing in Berlin, shot himself accidentally on Wednesday, 20th inst. He went into the yard to shoot a chicken, but for some cause unknown the contents of his gun were discharged, the shot entering his head under his chin, killing him instantly.

Willie Nevons, aged 17, while hunting in Newtown a few days ago, was accidentally shot by a comrade, the contents of the gun entering his leg below the knee, rendering amputation necessary.

a good one. Lieut. Phelps continues his valuable papers upon American Civilization; Lieut.-Col. Tolles also his essays upon An Army, its Organization and its Movements, Colors and their Meaning, by Mrs. Gage; The English Press, by Nicholas Rowe, and The First Christian Emperor, by Dr. Philip Schaff, are among the leading articles. There are several poetic effusions, besides minor interesting miscellany. To be had as above.

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THE ATLANTIC, for August, is received, and may be ranked among its best issues. List of contents—Charles Reade, by Harriet E. Prescott; How Rome is Governed, by George W. Greene; Concord, May 23, 1864, by Henry W. Longfellow;—What will Become of Them, by J. T. Trowbridge; Headquarters of Beer-Drinking, by Andrew Ten Brock; Friar Jerome's Beautiful Book, by T. B. Aldrich; Literary Life in Paris—the drawing-room—by "Spridion"; The Little Country Girl, by A. M. Diaz; Sweet Brier; House and Home-Papers, No. VIII, by Harriet Beecher Stowe; The Heart of the War, by J. G. Holland; Our Recent Foreign Relations, by G. M. Towle; Reviews and Literary Notices. To be had at our city bookstores.

MAP OF NEW HAVEN IN 1743.—Mr. James H. Hixson, now residing in Naugatuck, formerly of New Haven, has exhibited to our inspection a map of the town of New Haven, as it appeared in the year 1743, with all the buildings thereon at the time, taken by the Hon. Gen. Wadsworth, of Durham; to which are added the names and professions of the inhabitants at that period. Also the location of lots to many of the first grantees; respectfully inscribed to the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, by their most obedient servant, William Lyon, January, 1866. T. Kneiss, engraver.

The map is an old acquaintance of ours, having been published during the year before we entered the old *Herald* office, as a candidate for typographical honors—through to the present generation it is a great curiosity. The city or town proper was laid out in nine equal squares, at right angles, bounded east on State-street, west on Grove, north on York, and south on Georopol.—The squares have since been sub-divided, for instance, Crown-street, Court-street, and Wall-st., from south to north, have since been introduced. Orange and Temple, from east to west; the north squares, from College-street, stand east and west unmolested. Fleet and Meadow streets are defined as now, and the old road across the creek to Mount Pleasant. The number of dwellings, stores, shops, &c., on each original square, did not on an average exceed twenty-five—some not exceeding a dozen. The jail, county house, and court house, stood near where the State house now stands.—The rest of what was called the "green" was occupied by the old brick Congregational church, and the old burying-ground in the rear. The "old blue," as it was called (Congregational), stood where St. John's building now is, on the corner of Church and Elm streets. Those were the only two churches in the city in 1743. The north college of old Yale still stands as the germ of what that noble institution, spread over the east front of the square, is, and now greets the eyes of the beholder with pride and admiration. The names of many of the original inhabitants are extinct, though a fair share are still represented. The Atwaters, Sherburnes, Trowbridges, Townsends, Munsons, Bishops, Gorhams, Pecks, Joneses, Mixs, Biechers, Ingersolls, Smiths, Gilberts, Cookes, Thompsons, Bradleys, Thomases, Pundersons, and doubtless others that escape our recollection. The map is in an excellent state of preservation, and in contrast with the extension of the city at the present time, is an interesting relic of a past century—the great increase has transpired within the last thirty years.

The Mississippi begins to sensibly feel the effects of the drouth, and loses, it is said, no less than six inches of water daily.

Miss Lucy A. Snelair, died in Lowell, on Tuesday, of convulsions, caused by drinking too freely of cold water and bathing while in a state of perspiration.

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