

The Michigan Argus

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The Volunteer's Wife to her Husband.

Don't stop a moment to think John, Your money calls, they go, Don't think of the children, John, I'll care for them you know, Leave the corn upon its stalks, John, Potatoes in the hill, And the pumpkins on the vines, John, I'll gather them with a will, But take your gun and go, John, For Ruth can drive the oxen, John, And I can use the hoe.

I have heard my grandfathers tell, John, How he counted all his life and wealth, His country's offering still, Shall we shame the brave old blood, John, That flowed in your veins, John, No, take your gun and go, John, If you've ever come back again, Yes, take your gun and go, John, do.

Our army's short of blankets, John, Then take this heavy pair, I got them from a soldier's girl, And worked them with great care, There's a rose in every corner, John, And here's my name you see, On the cold ground they'll warmer feel, But they were made by me, Take your gun and go, John, do.

And if it be God's will, John, You never come back again, I'll do my best for the children, John, In a soldier's uniform, In winter nights, I'll teach them all, That I have learned at school, To love the country, keep the laws, O, take your gun and go, John, do.

And in our village church, John, And at our humble board, We'll pray that God will keep you, John, And Heaven will bless your country's cause, Shall love and bless you too? And night and morning they will pray, For those who fall in the war, Take your gun and go, John, do.

And now good-bye to you, John, I cannot say farewell; We'll hope and pray for the best, John, God's goodness more can tell, Be his great arm and hand, John, To guard you night and day, Be our beloved country's shield, Till the war is passed away, Then take your gun and go, John, do.

A Hole in the Pocket.

A great many men have a hole in the pocket, and so large that the little change they put in falls out. And the worst of it is they do not know it—if they did, they could mend up the hole and so put an end to the loss. Every day they are minus a few dimes, and they wonder how they come so short. When bills are to be paid they wonder how they come so short of change. At the end of the year they are surprised to find so poor a footing up. They work hard rack their brains on plans, and still they do not get ahead much. Bills accumulate, income diminishes and still they do not discover the hole in the pocket.

One man has had fences, gates and bars. The cattle break through every now and then and destroy crops, and occupy time in driving them out. The pigs creep through the holes. The geese find many entrances. The horse gets away. The boys and men and servants and dogs are kept on the run after rough cows and jumping horses and climbing boys. The stock becomes uneasy and does not thrive. The crops are injured. The fences are often broken down. Time is consumed. The trouble is—that a man has a hole in the pocket. One man has no tools, nor bars, nor granaries, nor schools, nor hay, nor grain for his stock. His land is overgrown with weeds. The rain spoils much of his hay. His grain is much injured and wasted. The rats eat his corn; and the damp weather moulds it. His potatoes rot. His pumpkins are destroyed. His apples do him but little good. His tools are rotted and rusted in the open weather. His stock is chilled and stunted for want of shelter. His trouble is a hole in his pocket, out of which slips all his profits much of the fruits of his hard labor.

One man has poor plows of the same stamp of his ancestors. He only skins the land with iron. He doesn't believe in a modern plow. He doesn't believe in sowing. Draining off the nonsense of scientific fools. Drills are a humbug. Deep plowing would spoil the land. So he plows and sows as his grandfather did, on the worn-out soil of his venerable ancestor. He has a hole in his pocket, and will have till he wakes up to the importance of good tools and good culture of himself and soil.

One man don't take a paper; can't afford it; has no time to read; don't believe in book farming; likes the old way best; believes all the stories he has heard from rumor, about large cattle and crops and profits, doesn't believe in new notions. For forty years he has planted his corn on the same ground; sown wheat in the same field; pastured the same land and mowed the same meadows. He has heard of "rotation of crops," but doesn't know what it means nor cares to know. A bad hole has this man in his pocket.

And who hasn't got a hole in his pocket? Reader, haven't you? Look and see. Is there not some way in which you let slip the dimes you might better save; some way in which you waste time and strength and mind? If so, then you have a hole in your pocket. Indeed, many a man's pocket is like a sieve. Whose pocket is a treasury, safe and sure?—Valley Farmer.

"SIR, WE ARE TOO POOR TO BE ECONOMICAL."—These are the words I once heard a woman use to a rich relative of her husband, who had followed up his refusal of assistance by allusion to many little shortcomings which he had noted in the domestic details of the family.—But a little consideration will show even the most superficial thinker that it expresses a truth. Great is the power of ready money. Ready money can save by wholesale purchases. Ready money can save by choice of place of purchase. Ready money can save by discount obtained by threat of discontinuance of trade—a threat futile in the mouths of the poor. Ready money can save in furniture and wearing apparel, by being able to provide the best in fabric and construction, and therefore the most lasting. But it is needless to extend the catalogue of ready money's powers.

THE BATTLE OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Times.

ON THE BATTLE FIELD, Sept. 14.

Although the battle of Oct. 14 was of long duration, still it was not so sanguinary, considering the forces engaged, as a spectator would be first inclined to suppose. Our loss in killed and wounded will not probably exceed 2,000, and that I judge to be a high estimate.—Since Gen. Pleasanton's brigade of cavalry advanced from Rockville, we have had a skirmish daily along the route.—During those skirmishes the enemy's force consisted of about two regiments of cavalry, and two or three pieces of artillery. On Saturday, however, more regiments of cavalry were added, making a force equal, if not superior to our own.

The force that opposed our advance until day was the rear guard of the enemy, and the battle-ground of yesterday was evidently selected with a view of staying our further progress.

THE BATTLE GROUND.

The rebel position was on the sides and summit of the Blue Ridge Mountain on each side of the Gap, known as Frog Gap, through which the main road on the turnpike, from Middletown to Hagerstown, passes. The Gap is distant from Middletown three miles, and from Frederick twelve miles. Boushore, the next important town to Middletown, on the turnpike, is two miles from the Gap, on the other side of the mountains. The mountains in the vicinity of the Gap are steep and rugged, and rendered difficult to ascend unless by the ordinary rougher, on account of the numerous ledges and loose rocks, which afford no permanent foothold. From base to top they are covered with a thick wood, thereby giving protection to the party in possession, and making the progress of the attacking force doubly hazardous. Bolivar, a village boasting of six or eight dwellings, is situated on the main road, between Middletown and the Gap, and about one and a half miles from the latter place. At Bolivar a road branches off from each side of the main road, the two roads taking a circuitous course to the mountains, and gradually ascending them, join the main road at the Gap.

The early position of the Union army, or where the line of battle was formed, was on a piece of rising ground on the right and left of the main road between Bolivar and the mountains. As the day advanced and the morning wore away, the position was changed but never for the better. The nearer we approached the mountains, the more successfully could the enemy bring his artillery to bear on our columns. No matter what position we held, the Blue Ridge mountains commanded that position. It will be observed at once, that the enemy had a formidable ground of defence, and nothing but undaunted courage wrested it from him.

THE FORCES ENGAGED.

The first division to enter the field on our side was Cox's and Reno's corps.—Next came the Pennsylvania reserve corps, Ricketts' and King's divisions, under the command of the gallant and brave Hooker. We had batteries stationed on both wings, but at no one time was there over ten or twelve pieces in practice. The enemy's force is supposed to have amounted to about 30,000 men. He probably used twelve pieces of cannon. The forces of General Longstreet and D. H. Hill were engaged.

THE BATTLE.

The battle commenced with artillery, at 7 A. M., Robertson's U. S. battery, of four light field pieces firing the first shot. This battery was stationed about six hundred yards to the left of the turnpike, the fire being directed to no particular place, but with a view of shelling the woods generally, so as to draw a reply over an hour, but the enemy did not respond until Cox's division appeared in the main road, advancing to take a position. Two pieces stationed in the Gap then opened upon the column. The troops however, turned into a field at the left of the road, and got out of harm's way before any serious fire was directed. Here they remained in line of battle for an hour and a half. In the mean time the enemy's position having been discovered, Robertson directed the fire of his pieces to the Gap. Soon after the rebels opened another battery at the right of the Gap, and subsequently still another battery at the left. It was then evident that the rebels intended to make a vigorous stand on the mountain. Since the preceding day had brought up six or ten pieces of cannon, for as before stated, the skirmishes during the week, the enemy was now firing from nine pieces, consequently, to make a vigorous stand, Hayne's U. S. battery of six pieces moved up to the left to the assistance of Robertson.

A heavy cannonading then ensued, but as usual in artillery duels little damage was effected on either side. At 10 A. M., the enemy withdrew his pieces on the left and right of the Gap and worked principally with those in the Gap. A half an hour later all the enemy's guns were silent, but on the moving of Cox's division soon after to the edge of the woods on the right of the mountain at the left, the rebels again produced their pieces at the right of the Gap. Cox's Massachusetts battery of six guns was now brought up to the assistance of Robertson's, and a concentrating fire was poured into the Gap, many of the shells bursting directly over the rebel guns.—At first the enemy threw solid shot, but after a while changed his projectile to shell.

Three times during the day the rebels were forced to change the position of their pieces, and late in the afternoon their guns were silent altogether.—By 11 o'clock Cox's division had arrived at the woods, and a few minutes later had entered for the purpose of getting round the enemy's right.

At this juncture Gen. McClellan and Burnside, with their staffs rode upon the field, where they remained during the continuance of the battle.

Cox's battery took a favorable position for shelling the woods in advance of the rebels, and had hardly got to work when the rebels fired a tremendous volley of musketry at the cannons. This was repeated several times in quick succession, until at length the cannoniers abandoned their pieces, and ran to the rear, leaving four or five of their comrades dead upon the ground. The drivers of the caissons also partook of the panic, and dashed headlong through the ranks of Cox's division, which was drawn up in line of battle a few yards to the rear. Two companies of a cavalry regiment, which were supporting the battery, also galloped through the line of infantry, thus leaving four pieces of artillery (the other two having been detached to another part of the field) to fall into the hands of the enemy. The event caused temporary, and only temporary confusion among the troops. They quickly straightened the line, and prepared to resist a demonstration observable on the part of the enemy to seize the abandoned pieces. The rebels marched forward to secure their anticipated prize, and at the same moment the Twenty-third Ohio and One Hundredth Pennsylvania Regiments advanced in splendid order to repulse them. The rebels had approached to within ten feet of the guns when the contest commenced. Each side seemed desperate in its purpose, and the struggle was most exciting. At length the Fifty-fifth New York came to the rescue, and turned the tide of fortune in our favor. Both parties suffered severely in the action. The rebels retreated in great confusion, while our men made the woods resound with their cheers.

For the succeeding two hours the line of infantry under the command of Reno ceased operations, and the artillery alone continued the duel. The guns used thus far were 6, 10 and 12-pounder pieces.—Simmons' Ohio battery of 20 pounder pieces was now placed in position on the left, and commenced throwing shells to the right of the Gap, at which point the rebels had again stationed a battery.—The firing for a while was exceedingly animated, but the 20 pounders proved too much for the rebels, and they were compelled in the course of half an hour to change the position of their guns. At the expiration of the next half hour their guns were silenced. In this battle the enemy did not appear to have so many guns as usual, or if he did have them, he did not bring them into practice. The 32-pounder which he was so fond of using against us on the Peninsula did not make its appearance here.

At 2 P. M., the rear of Gen. Hooker's column appeared coming from the turnpike to reinforce Reno. The column took the road branching off from the turnpike to the right, near Bolivar, and proceeded to the foot of the mountains. All along the line the utmost enthusiasm was manifested for Hooker. Every man in the corps was evidently impressed with the idea that he had a General able and willing to lead them forward to face the enemy.

At 3 P. M., the line of battle from right to left was formed in the following order, near the base of mountains on the right, and at the edge of a piece of open ground on the mountain. The First Brigade of Ricketts' division on the extreme right, which was about one mile north of the turnpike; the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, the right resting on Ricketts' left; the Second Regiment U. S. Sharpshooters on the road branching off from the turnpike on the right; the Second and Third Brigades of Ricketts' Division between the branch road and the turnpike; King's Division (commanded by Gen. Hatch) at the left of the turnpike, the right resting on the turnpike; Gen. Reno's force on the extreme left, about a mile and a half from the turnpike.

The Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Pennsylvania, Sixth New York, Third Vermont and First Massachusetts Cavalry Regiments, were on different portions of the field performing picket duty, acting as guards to the roads and supporting the batteries.

Up to this time all our batteries had been stationed to the left of the turnpike, as the positions secured there enabled the gunners to work their pieces to advantage.

About one hundred yards in the rear of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps was stationed Capt. Cooper's First Pennsylvania battery of six pieces. Capt. Lee's company of the Fifth United States Battery of four pieces, took a position at the extreme right in the rear of the First Brigade of Ricketts' Division.

Immediately after the line of battle was formed, the right, left and centre commenced moving simultaneously towards the enemy on the slope of the mountains. The rebels opened on the column with two pieces of cannon, directing the fire of one to the right, and of the other to the left of the line. They were replied to by one of Simmons' 20-pounders on our left, and Cooper's battery on our right. The enemy continued the firing first upwards of an hour, when, on account of the severe punishment he was receiving from our guns, and the near approach of our infantry to his pieces, he disappeared on the other side of the mountain.

The enemy's shells for the most part went over the Union troops, consequently they did not effect much damage.

Steadily onward went our long unbroken line of infantry, until the right wing had gained a piece of woods on the mountain, a short distance from the base, when the Bucktails, who were skirmishing on the right, discovered the enemy's pickets. A desultory rambling of musketry was next heard, which indicated the commencement of the battle on the part of the infantry. The column from right to left still remained unbroken, and advanced cautiously but firmly up the steep. In a short time the enemy's main force was encountered, and then came heavy volleys of musketry on the right. The Pennsylvania Reserve corps and the First Brigade of Ricketts' division were now both engaging the enemy. The enemy stood their ground for a while, but after a contest of thirty minutes they wavered, and commenced falling back in disorder towards the summit of the mountain. Our forces pushed them vigorously, and kept up a continuous fire.

The valor displayed on this occasion by the Pennsylvania Reserves, and the corps formerly under the command of McDowell is deserving of the highest praise. Not a straggler could be seen on the field. Every man was at his post in the line. They all seemed determined to force back the enemy, and take possession of the mountains, in spite of any opposition that might be placed in their way. Gen. Hooker, accompanied by his staff was where he always is on such occasions—the front. The line did not give way for an instant, but kept moving forward and upward, pouring volley after volley of musketry into the enemy's ranks, until at last the rebels broke and ran precipitately to the top of the mountain, thence down to the other side.

Reno's corps on the left did its part nobly.

The men were called upon to do some severe fighting, and they performed their duty with will and heroism seldom before displayed. The engagement on the left succeeded that on the right, and lasted about an hour and a half. The enemy costed every inch of ground, but eventually yielded it up to the conquerors.

The centre column was the last to come into the action. The same success that marked the advance of the two wings also attended the centre. At 6 P. M., after an engagement of three hours duration, the rebels fled, leaving the top of the mountain in possession of the Union troops. Darkness prevented us from pursuing the enemy further at the time.

THE RESULT.

The result of the battle secures to the Union troops a very important position, inasmuch as it commands the approaches on each side of the mountain, also a vast area of the surrounding country. It is estimated, as before stated, that 100,000 men will cover the list of our casualties. I think that the enemy's loss in killed and wounded will not exceed our own, although we captured 2,000 prisoners.

Gen. Reno was killed on the field of battle. At the time of the calamity he was observing, by aid of a glass, the enemy's movements. He was struck in the spine by a musket ball—the ball lodging in the breast.

MONDAY MORNING.

Summer's corps came up from Frederick last night. During the night our forces slept on the mountain. Banks' and Porter's corps are on the turnpike between Frederick and the mountain. The exact position of the enemy this morning is not definitely known to us. It is supposed that he has retreated in the direction of Hagerstown. Our forces are now advancing rapidly and may possibly overtake him before night. The troops are in the best of spirits.

Sketch of Generals Reno and Miles.

GEN. RENO.

Gen. Reno who was killed at the battle near Hagerstown on Sunday, was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1825. He entered the Military Academy at West Point when seventeen years of age, and graduated in the year 1845, as seventh in his class. In that year he was commissioned as brevet Second Lieutenant of Ordnance. In the Mexican war he accompanied Gen. Scott's army on its triumphal march from Vera Cruz to Mexico, and participated in every general engagement that took place. His gallantry at Cerro Gordo was rewarded with the appointment of First Lieutenant; at Chapultepec he was wounded, although not seriously, and on the 13th of September, 1847, was breveted Captain. Reno was employed on the U. S. Coast Survey; on topographical duty in the North-west; in constructing a military road from Big Sioux River to St. Paul, from 1854 to 1857 on duty at the Frankfort arsenal, near Philadelphia; as chief ordnance officer to General George Johnston in the Utah campaign; on duty at the Mount Vernon Arsenal, Ala., and was afterwards stationed at Fort Leavenworth. He was solicited by Gen. Burnside to accompany him on his expedition to North Carolina. At the battles of Roanoke Island and Newbern he was distinguished for courage and good generalship, and was ever afterward considered one of the bravest and best officers of the army.

On the 12th of November, 1861, he was appointed a Brigadier General of volunteers. General Reno was placed in command of a division when Gen. Burnside's army arrived at Aquia Creek. In the recent battles before Washington he fully sustained his reputation as an able commander, and was most honorably mentioned in the official reports of his superiors in rank.—With his subsequent fate the public are familiar. It is a fact worthy of mention that Generals McClellan and Stonewall Jackson were both classmates with him at West Point.

GENERAL DIXON H. MILLS.

Acting Brigadier General Dixon H. Mills is a native of Maryland, from which State he was appointed a cadet in 1819. He is nearly sixty years of age, and graduated on the 20th of June, 1824, ranking No. 27 in a class of thirty-one members. Among his classmates were several noted men, some of whom have figured in the Senatorial halls, others have died in battle, &c. On the 1st day of July, 1824, he was appointed a brevet Second Lieutenant of the Fourth United States Infantry, and on the same day was made full Second Lieutenant of the Seventh Infantry. He held the important position of Regimental Adjutant from 1831 to 1836, having, on the 30th of April, 1833, been promoted to a First Lieutenant. On the 8th of June, 1836, he was further promoted to a Captain. On the 16th of January, 1839, he was made an Assistant Quartermaster, with the rank of Captain, on the staff. This commission he, however, resigned on the 30th of September, 1845. On the 9th of May, 1846, he was breveted Major for gallant and distinguished conduct in the defense of Fort Brown, Texas. He was further breveted Lieutenant Colonel, with rank dating from September 23, 1846, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the several conflicts at Monterrey, Mexico, on the 21st, 22d and 23d of September, 1846. On February 10, 1847, he was promoted to the Majority of the Fifth Infantry. On the 15th of April, 1851, he was further promoted to the Lieutenant Colonelcy of the Third Infantry, having previously, in July, 1848, held the position of military and civil Governor of Jalapa, Mexico. He commanded the So. Gila expedition, and became distinguished in the conflict with the Coyote and Magallon Apaches of New Mexico, on the 27th of June, 1857, and in several conflicts with Navajos. New Mexico, during the month of September, 1853. On the 19th of January, 1859, he was again promoted—this time to the Colonelcy of the Second Infantry, his commission dating from January 19, 1859. He held the command of the fifth division at Bull Run, and successfully covered the retreat of the Union army.

War is a lottery in which every customer may expect to draw a sword.

Gen. McClellan's Order Against Straggling.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac, Camp near Rockville, Md., Sept. 7. GENERAL ORDERS No. 155.

The mischievous practice of straggling, it is observed, is again instituted in this army. This in many cases, without the most apparent cause, is a part of the commanding officers of either the higher or lower grades. Straggling is habitually associated with cowardice, marauding and theft. The straggler must not be taught to leave the ranks without authority, and skulls at the severest risk, even to that of death.

Commanders of regiments will see that the rolls of every company are called before the regiment starts on the march, at every halt, and at the close of the march. The absentees at these roll-calls will be reported to the Adjutant General. Regimental Adjutants will retain lists of absentees thus reported to them, and if upon the straggler joining his company, he have not a good excuse for his absence, the word "straggled," and the date and time absent will be set against the soldier's name on the next muster roll. The judges of the validity of this excuse will be the three senior officers of the regiment in session together. Loss of pay for the time absent, as a matter of course, follows this entry, but Colonel's of regiments will see that stragglers are besides brought to punishment. Field officers have, by law, all the power that a regimental court martial had for the punishment of offenders. In the absence of a field officer, an acting field officer may exercise these powers. If the professed excuse exhibit laxity or neglect of duty on the part of the company commander, their names will be reported for dismissal, or they may be brought to trial.

On the march, corps commanders should allow rest at proper intervals, that the troops may have an opportunity to adjust their equipments, obey the calls of nature, &c. Except at these rests, no man should be allowed to leave the ranks, save for some extraordinary cause, when the company commander will give the soldier a written ticket of permission to leave the ranks; these tickets should be prepared in blank beforehand. Every soldier thus leaving the ranks will leave his musket, haversack and knapsack with the company, which the Captain will have carried by soldiers of the company till the soldier returns. If the soldier be sick and fall out, his sickness will be no plea in his favor for escape from the penalties of stragglers, unless furnished with a written certificate of his sickness from the Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon of the regiment. No man should, in all cases, be properly taken charge of by medical officers of the regiment, that they may not be accused of straggling if really sick or wounded.

Each division should have a strong rear guard, behind which no straggler of whatever corps or regiment, should be permitted to remain, unless the straggler's company is to the rear. If the division have any cavalry with them, it will scour the country on the flanks; if not, then infantry flankers of the rear guard must perform that office. The bayonet must be used to enforce obedience to these orders.

The inspector generals of corps should be especially active to see that these instructions are executed.

Protest marshals will send cavalry when they have it on all roads to their rear to hurry up stragglers. No straggler should be permitted to halt until he has joined his proper regiment.

On all forks of roads, corps commanders should leave mounted men, if they have them; if not, then footmen, to remain during the passage of the corps and come up with the rear guards, to show which way the troops have marched.—The protest marshals of corps or divisions should take measures to cover every straggling in the vicinity of the line of march, and to prevent any unauthorized intrusion on the part of officers or men. All damages to fences or crops, all marauding and trespassing will be prevented as far as possible. Marauders will be at once brought to trial by division commanders, and the sentence of death will be executed, if awarded by the court, with promptness and as publicly as possible.

Any officer of any regiment or corps whatever is authorized to order forward or arrest any straggler of any regiment in the army. Resistance to such exercise of authority will be at the risk of death.

By command of Major General McCLELLAN, S. WILLIAMS, A. A. G.

TAWAS BAY PLASTER.—We have been shown a specimen of Nova Scotia Plaster, taken from a bed one hundred and fifty acres in extent, recently discovered by Bacon & Conrad upon land owned by them in Town 21, N. Range 7 E., bordering upon Tawas Bay. The bed ranges from twelve to eighteen feet above the surface of the bay, the soil overlying upon an average seven feet in depth, with no intercurring rock. It is pure, white plaster, and is estimated to be mined for not to exceed fifty cents per ton. The plaster crops about sixty rods from the bay, and has been bored into fourteen and a half feet at one point and twenty-three feet at another, without getting through. The land is covered with beech and maple, with some pine and hemlock. There is an old Indian sag-bush on the tract. Considering the fact that Tawas Bay affords the finest harbor on Lake Huron, and the facilities for shipment incident to its being in close proximity to the route which

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