

loss on either side. At 1 P. M. came in some deserters from the enemy's ship, who say the boat chased on shore at Hanev's plantation had in her the commodore and some officers of their fleet, who, having escaped, returned to their ships (after lying two days and nights in the woods), and that they are much disconcerted at the loss of the gondola which was intended to carry over some 18-pounders to the battery on the plantation.*

Capt. Mowatt also (by his usual diligence) obtained information that a degree of mutiny prevailed in the enemy's against the commodore, who notwithstanding the resolves of several councils of war, and the urgent solicitations of the General to make another attempt on the King's ships had hitherto declined it for fear of losing some ships; but that, in consequence of another council, held this morning on board the *Warren*, it was determined to force the harbor next tide, and take or destroy the men-of-war; that five ships were destined for this service, one of which was the *Warren*, but that the *Putnam*, of twenty guns, was to lead, and that each ship was doubly manned with picked men. This information was confirmed at noon by five of their fleet getting under weigh and coming to an anchor in a line, the *Putnam* being ahead. Two marines were now called on board their respective ships, the batteries strengthened, guns double shotted, and every disposition made for the most vigorous defence. The *St. Helena* transport was brought into line and fitted out with what guns could be procured, and the crews of the transports (now scuttled and laid on shore to prevent them from falling into the enemy's hands) turned on board to fight her, and the General had also advanced five pieces of cannon under cover of an epaulement, to salute them as they came in. But at 5 P. M. the appearance of some strange sails in the offing disconcerted the enemy's plan, and the five ships getting under weigh again, stood off and on the whole night. Guard-boats watching the motions of the enemy's fleet, and the ship's companies standing to their quarters till daylight. This night had been fixed on to storm the north battery with sixty seamen under the command of Lieutenant Brooks, supported by Lieutenant Caffine, of the Eighty-second regiment, with fifty soldiers; but the enemy's operations, and the appearance of the strange fleet, prevented the execution of it.

August 14. At daybreak this morning it was discovered that the enemy during the night moved off their cannon, and quitting the heights of Majibagluce, silently embarked in small vessels. At 4 A. M., after firing a shot two, they also evacuated Nautilus Island, and leaving their cannon spiked and dismounted, got on board a brig lying to receive them, and made sail with the transports up the Penobscot river. The whole fleet now got under weigh, and upon one of the brigs heaving in sight off the harbor's mouth, with various signals around, they bore up with all sail after the transports. There remaining now no doubt but the strange fleet was the relief expected, the off-side guns of the *Albany*, *North*, and *Nautilus* were got down from the fortress, and being taken on board, the three ships shipped their stern moorings, hove up their bow anchor, and working out of the harbor, joined in about the centre of the King's fleet in pursuit of the flying enemy, who were now crowding with every sail they could set. The *Hunter* and *Hampden*, two

of the enemy's ships, of twenty guns each, attempted to escape through the passage of Long Island, but were cut off and taken; the former ran on shore all standing, and was instantly deserted by her crew, who got safe on shore; and the *Raisonné*, Sir George Collier, being the sternmost ship in the fleet took possession and got her off, and came to anchor near her. The rest of His Majesty's ships continued in chase of the enemy until it grew so dark as to render the narrow navigation exceedingly dangerous, and they were obliged to anchor for the night, while the enemy, having good pilots, ran some miles further up the river. The *Defiance* (brig of fourteen guns) ran into an inlet, where she could not be pursued, and was set on fire by her crew to several ships and brigs, which blew up with vast explosions.

In short, the harmony and good understanding that existed among the forces by sea and land, enabled them to effect almost prodigies; for so ardently did they vie with each other in the general service, that it may be truly said not a single officer, sailor or soldier, was once seen to shrink from his duty, difficult and hazardous as it was. The flying scout of fifty men, commanded by Lieutenant Caffine, of the Eighty-second, in particular distinguished themselves to admiration, marching almost round the peninsula, both by day and night, and with drum and life playing the tune called "Yankee," which greatly dispirited the enemy and prevented their small parties from galling our men at their work. In one instance they even drove back to their encampment 300 of the enemy who had been sent to storm an outwork.

The manoeuvres of the three sloop-of-war under the direction of Captain Mowatt, were moreover, such as enabled the King's forces to hold out a close siege of twenty one days against a fleet and army of more than six times their number and strength, inasmuch that, on the first appearance of the reinforcement from New York in the offing, the enemy debarked their troops and sailed with their whole fleet up Penobscot river, where they burnt their shipping, and from thence marched to their respective homes; and the loyal inhabitants, who were taken in the time of the siege and cruelly treated on board their ships, had their irons taken off and were set at liberty.*

Thus did this little garrison, (?) with three sloop-of-war, by the unwearied exertions of soldiers and seamen, whose bravery cannot be too much extolled, under the judicious conduct of officers whose zeal is hardly to be paralleled, succeed in an enterprise of great importance, against difficulties apparently insurmountable, under circumstances exceedingly critical, and in a manner strongly expressive of their faithful and spirited attachment to the interests of their King and country.

*To give them a good airing, as the enemy called it, once a day the irons were knocked off their feet, and they were put into a boat alongside the ship, where they remained about an hour, and had the fifth of the ship poured on their heads.

(†) When the account of an army coming to besiege this place was received, the curtains in some part of the intended fort were not more than four feet in height, two bastions were but just begun to be built, and the other two were only marked out.

KRIEGSSPIEL.

To the Editor of the *Army and Navy Journal*.

Sir: Even since you were kind enough to allow our zealous young friends, Costigan, the use of your columns to publish to the service his interesting memoir on the mili-

tary capabilities of this locality; his martial soul has been on fire, and he has been urging us to recreate, and at the same time improve ourselves at the ingenious game of Kriegsspiel. We are four—Lieutenants O'Dwyer and Costigan, the doctor, and myself—forty miles from a railroad, a one-company post, a tri-weekly mail subject to the vicissitudes of imperfect horseflesh, a dull season for Ku-Klux; we languish for excitement. Upton, when illustrated by the manoeuvring of four sets of fours, becomes monotonous after a season, even though one exercise his ingenuity to be highest in all the situations possible in double and single rank, in overcoming American topography, and in indulging the fancy to an unlimited extent to skirmish hypothetical enemies from the fastnesses of the adjoining piny woods.

Being red-legged infantry, although the exigencies of service debarred us from exercising with real guns, yet a well meaning attempt was made to improvise a light 12-pounder out of a practicable log and a pair of old wheels kindly loaned to us by a sympathizing citizen. But as it was impossible to inspire numbers 5, 6, and 7 with a firm belief that a soup-box perched on a stump six yards in rear of the trail handspike could properly represent a lumber, it was deemed advisable to mitigate our zeal as artillerymen, especially as our citizen friend, while observing the ambitious Costigan engaged in the dismounting of the carriage (in which manoeuvre he prided himself on its celerity) filled with a just fear as if the ultimate fate of his wheels, expressed the opinion that "if them tellers slammed them wheels on the ground so derved hard they'd sartinly break."

So we subsided. We had read all the books in the lost library. O'Dwyer and the doctor, the only ones, whose position allowed them to "bet at hazard" had reduced their fifty corns to corn meal, during which process of attrition the impassive O'Dwyer had possessed himself of the doctor's fifty cents, and therefore when Kriegsspiel was suggested we all assented. "If it is anything like this," said the doctor, "I'm out." As the eloquent Costigan expatiated on the pastime as "the manes by which old Moltke had learned to bate the Frinch," the doctor was inspired with the hope of becoming able to command the Pennsylvania reserves in a future war, and O'Dwyer, who had read with mingled feelings of terror and awe the editorials and communications in the *Army and Navy Journal*, and was not certain that even a perfect acquaintance with Roberts would make his election sure, assented, and undertook the command of an invading army. The arrangements were speedily made. The dining table was metamorphosed into a theatre of war—mountain ranges of putty, covers of mutilage, forests of pine shavings, *teles du pont*, lines of entrenchments, and railroads, were laid down according to previous agreement, each army, with all its appurtenances, was to be gotten up by the rival commanders. "As the metric system is to supersede all present methods, every thing must be made accordin'," said Costigan. The doctor was to command the defending army, Costigan was to be umpire, and your correspondent undertook to be timekeeper. A slight disagreement arose as to the relative reliability of the several watches. The timekeeper's was a Waltham; O'Dwyer's was an Elgin; and the doctor proposed to regulate the movements of his command by a venerable and rotund turnip with which his great grandfather had timed the pulsations of invalided soldiers at the hospitals of Valley Forge. After the various certificates of

*That one of the officers (Captain Ross, of the *Monmouth*) had broke his leg in the woods.