

DO NOT BORROW TROUBLE.

BY MRS. A. M. KIDDER.

Do not borrow trouble!
Do not ring Hope's knell!
Trust your cause to Him who daily
"Doeth all things well."

He will never give you
One more drop of woe,
Than will serve to make you better,
While you live below.

He will never rob you
Of a jewel bright,
But you'll find it far more radiant,
In your crown of light.

And will never let you
Feel the cross' rod,
But to draw your spirit nearer,
To the throne of God.

INVESTMENT OF FORT PULASKI.

(Condensed from Ried's "Bio in the war.")

Up the river a few miles from Fort Pulaski lies Jones' Island, the southern shore of which forms for several miles the northern bank of the stream. Near the middle of this stretch rose the trifling elevation of Venus' point, on which it was proposed to make a battery. This would isolate Pulaski. The nearest spot where the soil was sufficiently solid to permit the encampment of troops was Dafuskie Island, four miles distant. From this place there was water communication between New Wright and Mud River to the shore of Jones' Island opposite Venus' Point. Thence across the oozy, spongy marsh of the island the artillery must be transported by hand for a distance of three-fourths of a mile.

Across this uncertain slime a wheel barrow track of plank was laid. Poles were cut on Dafuskie Island and taken by boats into Mud River to make a wharf for the landing of the guns, and bags filled with sand were carried over by the batteries. Finally on the 10th of February, the hope of aid from the navy being abandoned, the flats on which the guns were loaded were towed out through the sluggish rivers by row-boats, against the tide, and landed at the wharf. At the same time another party on the opposite side of the island, at Venus' Point, was at work on the platforms of the battery. First bags of sand were laid down on the oozy soil, till the whole surface was raised five or six inches; then over these went a flooring of thick planks nearly but not quite in contact with each other. Across these at right angles, other planks were laid till finally, the platform was raised some twenty inches above the natural surface. All the while this work went on, the unsuspecting rebel gunboats were plying up and down the Savannah river, in full view. Then at daylight the work was left, and all hands went back to Dafuskie.

The next night came the hardest task. Over the twelve feet deep mud of Jones island were to be dragged back on Mud River to the site for the battery at Venus Point, three 30 pounder Parrotts, two 20 pounders and a great 8-inch siege howitzer. The Captain shall tell us how this seemingly impossible task was accomplished:

"The work was done in the following manner: The pieces, mounted on their carriages and limbered up, were moved for ward on shifting runways of planks about fifteen feet long, one foot wide, and three inches thick, laid end to end. Lieutenant Wilson, with a party of thirty-five men, took charge of the two pieces in advance (an 8 inch siege howitzer, and a 30 pounder parrott), and Major Beard and the Lieutenant, with a somewhat larger force, of the four pieces in the rear (two 20 and two 30-pound-

er Parrotts). Each party had one pair of planks in excess of the number required for the guns and limbers to rest upon, when closed together. This extra pair of planks being placed in front, in prolongation of those already under the carriages, the pieces were then drawn forward with the drag ropes, one after the other, the length of a plank, thus freeing the two planks in rear, which in their turn, were carried to the front. This labor was of the most fatiguing kind. In most places the men sank to their knees in mud; in other places much deeper. This mud being of the most slippery and slimy kind, and perfectly free from grit or sand, the planks soon became entirely smeared over with it. Many delays, and much exhausting labor, were occasioned by the gun carriages slipping off the planks. When this occurred, the wheels would suddenly sink to the hubs, and powerful levers had to be devised to raise them up again. I authorized the men to encase their feet in sandbags to keep the mud out of their shoes many did this, tying the strings just below their knees. The magazines and platforms were ready for service at daybreak."

When day dawned, therefore, the Savannah river was closed. But now a fresh peril arose. The artillerymen as they stood around their newly planted guns, presently perceived a foe creeping up around and upon them, against which their Parrotts and mortars were of no avail. The tide rose within eight inches of the surface! A high wind would have sent it over. And the worst was not yet, for the spring tides were approaching. Again Gillmore met this new danger by constructing a levee entirely around the battery, sufficient to secure it against ordinary seas. If storms should come it must take its chances.

A few days later and other batteries were planted to co-operate with this one, in completely investing Pulaski below, and blockading Savannah above. Then Captain Gillmore was ordered down to Tybee Island to undertake his greater work.

On the 21st of February the first of his requisite artillery, and ordnance stores for the siege arrived. General Sherman now determined that his hopeful young engineer should have all the honor of success, or bear all the burden of defeat; and he accordingly authorized him to act as a brigadier general (pending the appointment to that rank, which he had so solicited for him from the President) and to assume command of all the troops required for the siege. Thenceforward he had all the matter entirely in his own hands.

The point on which batteries were now to be erected was not unlike that at which General Gillmore had recently been labouring. Tybee Island, like Jones' Island is a mud marsh. Several ridges and hummocks of firm ground, however are to be found upon it, and along Tybee roads, where the artillery was to be debarked, stretched a skirt of low sandbanks, formed by the action of wind and tides. From this place to the proposed site of the advanced batteries was a distance of two and a half miles. The last mile was in full view of Fort Pulaski, and within range of its guns. It was, besides a low marsh, presenting the same obstacles to heavy artillery that had been encountered in the work at Venus Point.

The first difficulty was not in landing the guns. The beach was open and exposed, and often a high surf was running. The guns were lowered from the vessels upon which they had been sent down from the north upon lighters, over which a strong deck had been built from gunwales to gunwales. Then at high tide, row-boats towed

these lighters to the shore. Ropes were then attached to them, and the men on shore careened them, thus rolling the heavy masses of iron overboard in the surf. When the tide receded they were left dry, and the troops then seized upon them and dragged them by main strength up the sand-bank, out of reach of the next high tide.

Then came the task of planting them in battery in the yielding marsh, in sight of Pulaski, without being discovered. "No one" says General Gillmore "except an eye-witness, can form any but a faint conception of the herculean labor by which mortars of 8 1/2 tons weight, and columbiads but a trifle lighter were moved in the dead of night, over a narrow causeway, bordered by swamps on either side, and liable at any moment to be overturned, and buried in the mud beyond reach. The stratum of mud is about twelve feet deep, and on several occasions the heaviest pieces particularly the mortars, became detached from the sling carts, and were with great difficulty, by the use of planks and skids, kept from sinking to the bottom. Two hundred and fifty men were barely sufficient to move a single piece on sling carts. The men were not allowed to speak above a whisper, and were guided by the notes of a whistle.

The work went on without discovery, and apparently without even arousing the suspicions of the fort. Its seeming impracticability was the safeguard. The batteries nearest the fort were carefully screened from observation by gradual and almost imperceptible changes in the appearance of the brushwood and bushes in front of them—no sudden alteration of the outline of the landscape being permitted. Thus, in silence and darkness, 11 batteries, mounting heavier guns than were ever before used in the United States service, gradually arose before the unsuspecting fort. As the dangerous part of the work was completed, less care was taken about discovery, and the enemy finally learned the location of two of the less important batteries; of the very existence of the others he would seem to have had no conception.

By the 1st of April a change in the command had been made. The popular impatience at the lack of results under General Sherman's management had led to his removal. General Hunter, on taking command, found the investment of Pulaski complete, and the preparations for opening the bombardment had advanced. He inspected the work, but made no change whatever. General Gillmore was left in command, and eight days later was ready to open fire.

For eight weeks the troops had been engaged day and night in the most exhaustive labor, at an inclement season, and in the most malarious of localities. They had completed 11 batteries along the coast of Tybee Island nearest Pulaski, at a distance from the fort ranging from 2,500 to 1,650 yards, and had mounted 36 heavy guns, of which 10 were rifles, as follows: Two 54-pounder James, 2 64-pounder James, 1 45-pounder James, and 5 30-pounder Parrotts. The smooth bores were, 2 13 inch mortars, 4 10 inch siege mortars, 6 10 in. columbiads, and 4 8-in. columbiads. It was soon to be seen that most of this array of smooth bores on which three-fourths of the time and labor had been spent, were useless. The whole length of the line formed by these batteries was 2,559 yards. In front of it, with 7-2 ft. thick brick walls standing obliquely to the line of fire, on a separate little marshy island a mile or more distant, stood Pulaski, isolated from Savannah by the bat-