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All communications intended for publication or containing intelligence, must be addressed to ALEX. A. PARSONS, Editor.

Curious Tale of the Late Civil War. WARNING OF FATE How a Union Soldier Gazed Upon His Own

Tombstone.

(Continued.) On the afternoon of the 23rd, after one of the pleasantest marches a body of troops ever made, though the weather was cold and we had to wade streams where the ice had to be broken, we reached our first halting-placethe banks of a little stream known as Bedsoe's creek. I was to learn years afterwards the romance which gave it that designation. That day the weather had moderated, the light fall of snow had disappeared and the 24th dawned as balmy and beautiful a day as a Southern winter sun ever shone upon. Our orders were to remain here until the afternoon of Christmas. We were camped in a splendid position, for the Colonel, though he had been in the service but six months, was a born soldier, and if some-

Of course, marching in light order, our rations were not overabundant, nor our bill of fare varied as it might have been. The old fields about the bivousc were full of game, rabbits and quail. The men used every device to catch the former whenever they could be started within the guard lines, but not with much success. The near approach of Christmas awakened a relish for luxuries as well as softened the hearts of those in authority. On the suggestion of the Quartermaster, it was decided by the Colonel to give the boys a rabbit

what reckless in undertaking difficulty, was

alert and watchful as a lynx.

'I am something of a sportsman, but I must confess that anything like that hunt I have never seen before or since. The regiments were marched out to regular positions selected by the commander and marked by the guides on the sides of various old fields where the sedge-grass grew waist high. These were intersected by small streams over which the cedars grew dense and dark. Here they stacked arms. The wood and roads were picketed and a guard was set over the guns. The field officers remained mounted, and one in each regiment was required to remain with the arms. Then each man was directed to cut a good stout club, and thus equipped, returned to the ranks. Thus far all was mystery to the men. When the companies were reformed, each regiment formed a hollow square in single file so as to inclose as much space as possible. Then the order "inward face!" was given and the four sides began to close in upon the centre. One universal shout of laughter went up from the men as they comprehended the character of the movement. Then every one addressed himself to the sport. It seemed as if every square yard of sedge-grass hid a rabbit, and as the lines closed in on each other the medley of staring eyes, flapping ears, cotton tails, and sticks and stones thrown by the men, was ludicrous. When one field was exhausted the same tactics was pursued with another. The sport was boisterous and exciting. Everybody joined in it except those detailed to keep watch, and when we marched back to our bivouac laden with rabbits, persimmons and mistletoe, I never saw a more jubilant and rollicking set of men. Booths of evergreen and mistletoe were made, the game cooked and eaten, we took our dinner in advance—for the soldier never gives credit to to-morrow for what may be enjoyed to-day. The jollification lasted well into the night, and in one of the brigade headquarter tents a jug of peach brandy and a can of honey which some one had been shrewd enough to purchase at a farmhouse we had passed the day before, enabled us to drink the

A loud smack interrupted the speaker at this

point, and looking toward the door of the saloon all were convulsed at the curious contortions of the porter, who was going through the manual of tasting and swallowing in a way to show that peach-and-honey was no stranger to his gustatory organs.

'La, Marse Capting,' he said, with a military salute. 'Nebber 'spected to heah 'bout dem times out here on dis railroad. Thought I knowed yer face, tho', at the berry fust.'

'What's that? Were you there, too, John? asked the brown-bearded man in pleased surprise; for after all old-comradeship takes small account of color.

' Wal, not adzackly dar, but I warz tharabouts,' said the porter, showing his teeth.

Where?

'Wal, sir, I war jest ober de odder side ob dat big swamp wid a crowd of Marse John Morg'n's raiders, sir. An' when you was got ter carryin' on so, dey jes' 'lowed dat wor de berry time ter go in un' stampede the whole lot. Dey wasn't enuff on 'em, yer see, ter fite. But de tuk an' sent out some scouts that crep up clus and spy out de lan', yer kno, an' fore God dey cum back, dey did, an' said dem damm Yankees wasn't drunk at all, but war jes' lettin' on ter git our folks to pitch in, don't yer know. Dey said dey hed der gyards all out an' war jes' cold sober singin hymns and psalm tchunes ez if ther war a big meetin' gwine on thar. So our folks-de Confederates, yer kno'-dey thout hit war best ter git up and git outer dan and let Marse Margin kno' all 'bout hit, yer kno'. But I wasn't able ter march myself dat night. Leastways I got lost in dat der swamp an' nex' mornin' blundered inter de camp an got tuk pris'ner, I did. So I 'cluded ter change sides an' been wukkin' fer myself ebber sense. 'But I never heard of that before,' said the

Captain in surprise. "Spect not," said the porter with a shrug. Hit all so, do', an' I went back to Nashville with you uns an' stayed dar till mos' de s'render, an' den come norf.'

· Why didn't you tell us about there rebs? 'Wal, ye see, in de fus place nobody ax me, an' in de nex' place I been roun' dese camps Punch Vol XCIII. The Golden Library, various vols., long nuff to know dat de best ting a nigger do on either side was t'jes keep his mouf shut jez

z much ez he could. Dat's de way I did.' The porter's philosophy was greeted with a round of approving laughter, after which the Captain, as I shall call him hereafter, who had gained confidence by this interruption and confirmation of his narrative, continued:

Well, gentlemen, I suppose you think I am a good while coming to the point of my story, but I will not detain you much longer. It happened that there was in our regiment, the

- Indiana, a lieutenant, who, for no special reason, was a kind of butt for the sport of all the line officers. His name was Bridges-a provocation to ridicule in itself. He was a good fellow in his way, but his way was not a popular one. He was not far from 40 years of age, rather below the medium height, with a squeaky voice and fussy manner-not a bit of dignity nor power of command in him. He was quite well educated, however, and was a successful man of business in a little town where he lived. He had married a young wife just before the regiment left for the field, and I think the inclination to talk about her was the chief reason of our combining to make fun of him. He knew he was being laughed at, but kept on doing his duty fairly well-very well, I should say, under the circumstances. He was no coward, but his young wife made him wish to live, and caused him to be more careful of his health and safety, I think, than he otherwise would have been. He had taken a sort of fancy to me, thinking perhaps, that I did not take part in the general mirth at his expense. I am afraid he was mistaken. Besides that, the second lieutenant of his company was a great friend of mine, and I was anxious to see a bar on his shoulder-straps. I should say that I was probably the only man in the command who was familiar with the appearance and location of the little Kentucky town which was our real destination. It was hoped that we would reach it about daylight of the 26th and defeat or perhaps capture a force of the enemy supposed to be stationed there. The Colonel was ambitious and would spare no

'After our little carousal-which was not extensive enough to produce any unpleasant results-I looked over matters to see if I had forgotten my duty, and turned in on a bed of cedar boughs with a saddle for a pillow. I was awakened by some one shaking me and calling my name in excited tones. I was on my feet health of absent loved ones in really enjoyable in an instant and rushed to the opening in the tent to see what was the matter.

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