

the occasion at Kencsaw in June, when an officer from Wheeler's Cavalry had reported to him in person that he had come from General Wheeler, who had made a bad break in our road about Tilton Station, which he said would take at least a fortnight to repair; and, while they were talking a train was seen coming down the road, which had passed that very break, and had reached me at Big Shanty as soon as the fleet horseman had reached him (General Johnston) at Marietta!"

"This passage is full of interest now, to those of us who remember those early days:

"Among these was the intended assignment to duty of many officers of note and influence, who had, by the force of events, drifted into inactivity and discontent. Among these stood prominent Generals McClellan, Burnside, and Fremont, in the East; and Generals Buell, McCook, Negley, and Crittenden, at the West. My understanding was that General Grant thought it wise and prudent to give all these officers appropriate commands, that would enable them to regain the influence they had lost; and, as a general reorganization of all the armies was then necessary, he directed me to keep in mind especially the claims of Generals Buell, McCook and Crittenden, and endeavor to give them commands that would be as near their rank and dates of commission as possible; but I was to do nothing until I heard further from him on the subject, as he explained that he would have to consult the Secretary of War before making final orders. General Buell and his officers had been subjected to a long ordeal by a court of inquiry, touching their conduct of the campaign in Tennessee and Kentucky, that resulted in the battle of Perryville, or Chaplin's Hills October 8, 1862, and they had been substantially acquitted; and, as it was manifest that we were to have some hard fighting, we were anxious to bring into harmony every man and every officer of skill in the profession of arms. Of these, Generals Buell and McClellan were prominent in rank, and also by reason of their fame acquired in Mexico, as well as in earlier part of the civil war.

"After my return to Nashville I addressed myself to the task of organization and preparation, which involved the general security of the vast region of the South which had been already conquered, more especially the several routes of supply and communication with the active armies at the front, and to organize a large army to move into Georgia, coincident with the advance of the Eastern armies against Richmond. I soon received from Colonel J. B. Fry—now of the Adjutant-General's Department, but then at Washington in charge of the Provost Marshal-General's office—a letter asking me to do something for General Buell. I answered him frankly, telling him of my understanding with General Grant, and that I was still awaiting the expected order of the War Department, assigning General Buell to my command. Colonel Fry, as General Buell's special friend, replied that he was very anxious that I should make specific application for the services of General Buell by name, and inquired what I proposed to offer him. To this I answered that, after the agreement with General Grant that he would notify me from Washington, I could not with propriety press the matter, but if General Buell should be assigned to me specifically I was prepared to assign him to command all the troops on the Mississippi River from Cairo to Natchez, comprising about three di-

visions, or the equivalent of a *corps d'armee*. General Grant never afterward communicated to me on the subject at all; and I inferred that Mr Stanton, who was notoriously vindictive in his prejudices, would not consent to the employment of these high officers. General Buell, toward the close of the war, published a bitter political letter, aimed at General Grant, reflecting on his general management of the war, and stated that both Generals Canby and Sherman had offered him a subordinate command, which he had declined because he had once outranked us. This was not true as to me, or Canby either I think, for both General Canby, and I ranked him at West Point and in the old Army, and he (General Buell) was only superior to us in the date of his commission as Major General, for a short period in 1862. This newspaper communication, though aimed at General Grant, reacted on himself, for it closed his military career. General Crittenden afterward obtained authority for service, and I offered him a division, but he declined it for the reason, as I understood it, that he had at one time commanded a Corps. He is now in the United States Service, commanding the Seventeenth Infantry. General McCook obtained a command under General Canby, in the Department of the Gulf, where he rendered good service, and he is also in the Regular Service, Lieutenant Colonel Tenth Infantry."

The old text about a proud stomach recurs to the mind very forcibly in reading all this.

Modern Young Men.

"Young men are not what they used to be," is a remark no one can fail to hear constantly made by many a veteran and many a finished gentleman of the old school, and attention being thus called to the subject, few of us can avoid making observations and comparing the facts of the present with the well remembered incidents of the past. The conclusion is then inevitable, that young men generally, but more especially young officers, are not what they were. We will not say that in essential quality the young man has degenerated, or that when the actualities of service have worn off the superficial incrustation which has accumulated on him, just as barnacles accumulate on the supports of a scapier, he may not present himself with a very different aspect to that which he now frequently presents in a garrison town. But in some cases the young officer of the present day is not either a good or a fair specimen of what the young Englishman should be, nor is the young man of the present day what he used to be even a very few years ago.

It is not a popular thing in such cases that the truth should be spoken plainly, and yet the evil pointed at is so great that we content ourselves with the approval of those who blush for the present state of things, and are content to bear the odium which others may cast on our endeavors to further an amendment.

Imagine a friend of the ordinary positions in which the young man of the present day displays his character. Take a Channel steamer crossing from Folkestone to Boulogne; notice two young men whose incipient moustaches and general appearance proclaim them to experienced eyes as young English officers. A name on a bag tells us that one at least belongs to a marching regiment.

There is much in an attitude, and one of our specimens is leaning back with his

arms spread widely out on each side of him occupying much room. His legs also widely splayed, whilst his head thrown back and half-closed eyes indicate that this young gentleman is excessively well pleased with the figure he thus cuts. A lady and an old feeble gentleman approach the seat and look for room, but the gallant youth, immovable, gazes at them, so they walk past him, and avoiding with difficulty his outstretched legs seek a seat further in. Now listen attentively to that young man's remark when at length he deigns to speak in reply to some words of his companion, "Not if this child knows it," is the deliverance of the oracle, and both individuals maintain a most rigid expression of countenance.

Into conversation the pair do not descend. They talk, but in jerky sentences, somewhat trite and weak, and not always too refined, these sentences are uttered as though they were the result of profound thought and the deepest meditation, skimmed from the conversation or writings of philosophers, as cream is taken off milk, and presented to listeners in homœopathic quantities only, lest a stronger dose should be too powerful for their nerves.

After a while the young man changes his attitude; he now folds his arms, and having looked round him, and been satisfied that all is worthless, he simply nods his head confidentially to his companion, and loses his eyes.

Our impression is that a few years ago such a specimen of the youth of England did not exist, that formerly no gentleman would allow a lady and a feeble old man to stumble past him in search of a seat, whilst he sat immovable occupying a double space, with the attitude and style of a man of unbounded conceit and selfishness.

We may perhaps speculate as to the causes which can have produced such a youth as that before us, and nothing his length of limb and certain other peculiarities, may imagine his antecedents in a very matter-of-fact way. The youngster was, perhaps, successful as an athlete at school, passed well at his competitive examination, is in a regiment where prominent self-sufficiency is not put down as it ought to be, a lion among the ladies in the garrison, and not lacking in private means.

These antecedents, simple as they are tend, with very large development of self-esteem, to produce about as obnoxious a specimen of the *genus homo* as can be found.

Again, we are in a drag proceeding to some sports; there are some young ladies, and two young officers, guests of a gentleman and lady who are on duty as chaperones. The young officers, are of course, occupied with the young ladies, and conversation is carried on freely, rather too freely, we conclude, as we listen to the remarks, and hear how particularly slangy is the tone, and how the young ladies seem rather to make advances to the other sex, than to be the retiring parties in the affair.

"It is nearly eleven o'clock!" exclaims one of the subs., and I have not had a pipe yet. Miss A., you don't mind smoking, I know. Do you, Miss B.?"

"Oh, no! Mr. C. I like it!" Straightway, without reference to the host, without even a word to the lady chaperone, who is close to the party, a pipe is lighted, and the smoke is freely puffed in the faces of the elders, who, after a moment's hesitation, politely ask that the pipe may be put out.

"Young men are not what they used to be," remarks the lady. "A few years ago