

REVERSING A DEATH SENTENCE.
The Brave Man Who Turned the Tide of Battle at Mission Ridge.

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What was done about it? I asked.
Well, Mason was tried before a Court Martial for striking a superior officer, sentenced to be shot, and the sentence was sent to General Jeff. C. Davis to be approved. And then poor Mason was imprisoned on bread and water, with a ball and chain to each foot.

Well, the next day before the approved sentence arrived came the battle of Mission Ridge, and our regiment was ordered forward. Mason, of course, was in the rear, under guard, with a ball and chain to his ankles. We heard the rebel cannon in front all the forenoon. We needed all our men, so I rode over to the guard-house and told Mason that we would have to leave him behind with his ball and chain till the battle was over.

Let me go with the boys, Colonel, pleaded Mason. I don't want to see the boys in a fight without me.
But you might escape, Mason. You know there is a sentence hanging over you.

By heavens, Colonel! you ain't going to let the boys go into this fight without me? and the tears came to his eyes.
Got to, Mason, I said. I can't trust you.

Then, continued the narrator, the order came from General Davis for our regiment to move up and charge a rebel redoubt, and the boys dashed forward. It was an awful fight. Twice they enveloped us, and the rebel bullets mowed down our men by dozens, while the rebel flag still waved on the redoubt.

Colonel, you must capture that redoubt, was the order that came from General Davis.
Our men were now badly tired out, and the dead and wounded lay all around us; but I got our men together and made the final charge. God's what a charge! My horse was killed under me. The man went forward in a shower of bullets. I thought they were going straight for that flag then all at once they wavered. The bullets flew like rain, and the advance men were all shot down. There was no one to lead and I thought all was lost. Just then I saw a man come rushing up from the rear. He grabbed a dead soldier's repeating rifle and pushed right through dead and dying, reached the head, and pushed up the redoubt. The boys saw him, took courage and followed. In a moment I saw the brave fellow swing his rifle around him on the top of the redoubt, grasp the flag staff and break it off, while the boys struggled up the side and emptied their guns into the retreating rebels.

The day was ours! As I came up I shouted:
Who took the flag, boys?
It was Mason, I said the boys, and looking down, I saw a broken chain and a shackle still on his ankle.

Then the narrator's voice choked him and the tears came into his eyes.
I couldn't help it, Colonel, said Mason. I couldn't see the boys fighting alone, so I got the ax and pounded off the ball and chain, and now, Colonel, I'll go back and put 'em on again.

Go back and put 'em on again? I almost cried. No, sir! Mason, I'll put them on myself first.
That's what the Colonel said. I reflected that this wasn't military and I told the brave fellow to stay with two of the boys.

That night, continued the Colonel, I wrote over to General Davis about Mason's bravery—how he captured the rebel flag and led the regiment to victory; in fact saved the battle, and begged him, if he had not approved Mason's sentence of death, to send it back to the Court unapproved. In an hour a messenger came back with the papers. The sentence had been approved before the battle, but General Davis took his pen and wrote across the bottom:
The finding of the Court disapproved, and private Thomas Mason, for distinguished bravery in capturing a rebel flag, promoted to a second Lieutenant.

JURIES.
The jury then retire to consider their verdict.
Foreman. Well, gentlemen, what shall it be? For the defendant or the plaintiff? I say for the plaintiff—damages, \$1,000.

Number Two. Nonsense! You mean the defendant. He was in the right, and nothing shall make me give in if I stay here all night.
Number Three. Don't say that because I have a dinner party at seven!

Number Four. And I promised my wife to be back at six.
Number Five. I say ditto to Mr. Foreman. Nothing shall make me from that.
Number Six. Which was the plaintiff?

Number Seven. Why, the one who refused to pay the bill, don't you know.
Number Eight. Lor' bless me, I thought he was the defendant!

Number Nine. Come, gentlemen, it's getting late. Make up your minds. I don't care which you give it for; in fact I thought both sides in the wrong.
Number Ten. Did you? I thought both sides in the right.
Number Eleven. It's no use talking. I tell you I mean to stick to the defendant.

Number Twelve. And I to the plaintiff. Damages, \$1,000. Not a penny less, mind you, not a penny less!
Foreman. I see, gentlemen, we must decide it in the usual way. I will toss the shilling if you will be good enough to cry heads or tails.

The jury returned after a few minutes' absence. Verdict for the plaintiff—damages forty shillings. From Punch.

Talmage on Journalism.
Said the Rev. Mr. Talmage last week: "The world will have to learn that the newspaper is an institution, and that it requires infinite brains. It is folly for any one who cannot succeed in anything else to try newspaperdom. To publish a newspaper requires the skill, precision, boldness, vigilance, and strategy of a commander-in-chief. To edit it requires that one be a statesman, an essayist, a geographer, in fact, an encyclopaedia. And to govern and propel it till it is an established fact demands more qualities than any business on earth."

A Plea for the Little One.
Said a mother to me one day: "When my children were young I thought the very best thing I could do for them was to give them myself. So I spent no pains to talk to them, to teach them, to read to them, to pray with them, to be a loving companion and friend to my children. I had to neglect my house many times. I had no leisure to indulge myself in many ways as I should have liked to do. I was so busy at doing their minds and cultivating their heart's best affections, that I could not adorn their bodies in fine clothes, though I kept them neat and comfortable at all times. I have my reward now. My sons are ministers of the gospel, my grown up daughter a lovely Christian woman. I have plenty of time now to sit down and rest; plenty of time to keep my house in order; plenty of time to indulge myself in many ways, besides going about my father's business whenever he has need of me. I have a thousand beautiful memories of their childhood to comfort me. Now that they have gone out into the world, I have the sweet consciousness of having done all I could to make them ready for whatever work God calls them to do. I give them the best I could—myself."

NO PLACE.
A great many boys complain that there are no places. Perhaps it is hard to get just such places as you like; but when you get a place—and there are places, for we are sure this big country has need of every good boy and girl and man and woman in it—we say, make yourselves necessary to your employers; make yourselves so necessary by your fidelity and good behavior that they can't do without you. Be willing to take a low price at first, no matter what the work is if it be honest work. Do it as well as you can. Begin at the very lowest round of the ladder and climb up. The great want everywhere is faithful, capable workers. They are never a drug in the market. Make yourself one of these, and there will always be a place for you, and a good one too.

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Men's Carpet Slippers, only 50
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