"Constitutional Cowards."

Speaking with Colonel Greene, says a writer in the Philadelphia News, about the irresistible impulse among soldiers to lie down when shells whizzed dangerously near, he replied, 'Yes; that impulse is uncontrollable, and I recall just now a laughable occurrence at Fredericksburg in Virginia. You remember the enemy had a number of siege guns there, and every nov and then they would throw a tremendous shell across the Rappahannock and send consternation and panic through our camps. At first these shells created great confusion and dismay but the boys soon became used to them, and unless one came very near little attention was paid to the cannonading.

'I was standing one day, however, in the midst of our camp, where perhaps a hundred soldiers were to be seen, when suddenly one of these great shells was heard coming through the air, and as it whirled with a terrible crash directly over our heads every one of those hundred forms crouched down behind the shelter tents in little blue heaps, myself included, and when they recovered themselves and raised up once more the blood had fled from every face and they were blanched to an ashy whiteness. As soon as they saw the danger was passed the blood came mantling back to their cheeks with the plush of their shame and their fears vanished with a loud laugh as an old sergeant of the regiment, whose face had been of the whitest, realizing how ridicalous it was to hide behind a shelter tent to find safety from a shell that would have knocked a horse down, shouted so that every man could hear him, I say, boys, when the Johnnies fling another of them grave diggers over this way 'spose we get a sheet of note paper and hide behind that.' And yet,' added the colonel, 'within a week these same men were part of a line which marched up to Mary's Heights over a field that was literally plowed with shot and shell until they were so close to the siege gun that threw the grave diggers that you could have tossed a copper into their trenches where the iron monster laid.'

The other incident mentioned by Colorel Greene was more touching: 'We had,' he said, 'in our command a man who could not go into a fight. He was a good fellow, and everybody liked him, and he was really more pit. ied than condemned for his cowardly infirmity. Finding that he was of no service in the company, and fearing that his example might be demoralizing, he was detailed as a teamster, and he served with the wagon trains throughout the whole war and was never in a fight. After hostilities had ceased and there was not an armed yolunteer in the field, this man, who was still on detached service in the field, was one day engaged in removing a lot of muskets from a wagon preparatory to their being sent North. A comrade who was assisting him cautioned him to be careful as some of the guns might be loaded. He replied that there was no danger, as they were old and justy, and had long been out of use. Scarcely had the words escaped his lips when one of the guns was discharged and he was instantly killed.



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