

The Watchman.

Honors of the War.

FROM THE CAPITAL.—A MILITARY NECESSITY.

Our imperishable correspondent very justly holds the Government to strict account for the late Military Necessity of the still enthusiastic Mackerel Brigade at Paris, and gives a perfectly reliable report of a terrific drawn battle.

From Washington.

Editor T. T.—I am no longer on speaking terms, my boy, with the Governor of our district country, and beg leave most respectfully to inform it, that the inclement cold weather of the past few days may disgust, but can never discourage me. Being of a respectable though Democratic persuasion, I soon to associate with an Executive and a Cabinet so lost to all sense of national comfort, that it permits the weather to become a constant outrage on our Constitutions, frequently freezing loyal Democrats for no other offense than that of protecting defenceless lamp-posts after nightfall. I am very cold, and my hatred of the present Cabinet is intense.

But what shall I say about the agency of this same Government in producing a Military Necessity at the last great battle of Paris? Let me put on my overcoat and express my cold in a passionate cough, as I remark, that its agency in this matter forcibly reminds me of a chap I once knew in the Sixth Ward.

He was an aged chap of much red nose, my boy, and lived with his youngest broadcloth son in the same house with his Wayward Sister. The Wayward Sister being an old maid of severe countenance occupied such portions of the residence as seemed most safe from the intrusion of that sex which seeks to make Woman's life broken hearted slave; and as long as the patient old chap answered the door bell and didn't smoke in the house, she got along with him after the manner of a Methodist angel. Things went on pleasantly through the winter; the high-minded maiden using the coat of her aged kindred, and employing all his black tea without complaining; but in the spring she joined a Woman's Rights Convention, and commenced to hold indignation meetings of virtuously indignant females in the best room in the house.—These meetings have decided, my boy, that

"Whereas, Man is a *ojus* creature which is constantly preying upon that sex which it is his mother's, and denying to it those inalienable Rights without which Woman's sphere cannot exist.— Therefore, be it

"Resolved, That Women is the Superior sex."

"Resolved, That union with man is incompatible with the good of a sex which it is ourselves; and that we will immediately take that household furniture of which Woman is the only rightful owner, and only asks to be let alone."

The aged chap received a copy of these resolutions, my boy, and says the Wayward Sister:

"I can no longer consent to live in the same house with an inferior being."

The chap heard her in silence, and might have let her have her own way, under ordinary circumstances, but when he came home next night he found that she had picked up all the furniture in the house to carry off with her, and expected him to give her his watch and night-key. He scratched his head, and says he:

"I cannot permit this sort of thing; because I really want some furniture for my own use."

The Wayward Sister threw her thimble at him and says she:

"Our male parent bought this furniture only because he got married to one of the Superior Sex; and as it is Woman which solely occasioned its purchase, it clearly belongs to Woman."

But the chap could not see it in this light, my boy, and as soon as the sun came he told him

all about it. The manly youth took a look up the stairs to where the maiden and four or five other spring bonnets were entrenched behind the furniture and says he:

"It's an unusual thing to have trouble with 'relations'; but I'm just going up there to capture that big chair."

By this time some of the neighbors had come in, and commenced to urge the chap to take vigorous measures. He looked at his son, and says he:

"Can you do it, Tommy?"

The child of his bosom winked twice and immediately prepared to perform the feat, only pausing long enough to look in the glass and see if his necktie sat well. Then, gaining the head of the stairs, he leaned across a bureau barring the way, and was about to grasp the big chair, when the Wayward Sister hit him over the head with broom, and presently he found himself prostrate at the foot of the stairs, with a violent pain in his nose.

On witnessing the disaster, all the neighbors shrank with indignation from the aged father, and said it was all his doings. The poor old chap scratched his head and says he:

"I don't see how it is my fault."

"Why," says a neighbor of much fitness, "you're always interfering—thats what you are. Now, you'll never get back any of your furniture."

"Interfering?" says the paternal chap innocently. "Why, how could I interfere with Tommy, when I only let him do, in his own way, what he gave me to understand what he was able to do."

Here all the neighbors sighed grievously, and said one: "Miserable old man, we believe you mean well enough; but the fact is, you are a species of old idiot. It was your business to have had another son who would have been this one's brother; so that if one met with a heart-rending future on the stairs, the other could simultaneously have entered that back window by a ladder, and taken the chair by the rear. But you are always interfering; take our advice now, and either give up drinking altogether, or arrange it so that those who drink with you, may be persons not distinguishable from ourselves."

And they all departed, shaking their heads, my boy—they all departed shaking their heads; leaving the unfortunate old chap to bind up his offspring's nose, and to reflect upon the iniquity of interfering with ones son's success, by not having another.

The Government of our distracted country, my boy, is so very much like this well-meaning but imbecile old chap, that the failure of any one of its generals is entirely due to its interference in not having another general, who in case that general did not succeed, could take his place before he failed to do so.

The Military Necessity produced by the interference took place at Paris, very recently, and shortly after the new General of the Mackerel Brigade had so nearly won the battle by that revolution of manly Shape to which I referred in my last letter.

Finding that the terrible bombardment of Paris, my boy, had roused the straggling Confederates from that ancient city, the whole Mackerel Brigade marched safely across the Duck Lake, leaving only the Orange County Howitzers on this side. Scarcely had the spectacle host occupied the City when there appeared upon the main street the overwhelming Shape of the new General of the Mackerel Brigade mounted upon a steed which was almost as sagacious as a human being; and holding his hat in one hand, after the manner Washington entered Trenton. It was thought Frank Leslie's Illustrated artist had just been commanded to draw a warlike picture, my boy, representing one of those equestrian heroes who all appear in precisely the same attitude, and seemed to have lifted their hats for the particular purpose of showing with what mathematical precision their hair is parted.

Instantly there arose cheers so

loud, that they must have been heard by the cowardly Confederates on the hills behind Paris, and several Mackerels became so enthusiastic to be led against the enemy, that they actually started on the warpath by themselves and only turned back when they discovered that they happened to be going the wrong direction.

Having received all the cheers, and immediately dispatched them to the reliable morning journal around the country, the General of the Mackerel Brigade entered the 'Comic Section,' under (Capt. Bob Shorty, and Company 3, Regiment 5, under Captain William Brown, to march out of Paris, and form in a line under the guns of the Southern Confederacy; at the same time directing Captain Samyule Smith to take Company 2, Regiment 1, and strike through a defile in the hills.

Samyule formed his veterans in the shape of a horse-shoe, and says he:

"Comrades, now is the time to repent of your sins, for you haven't got much time left. As for myself," says Samyule, seriously "my sins are all those of commission, and those who gave me my commission are responsible for them."

If any of you younger Mackerels have in your possession the last things your mother gave you, now is your chance to look upon them for the last time."

As Samyule spoke thus a small blue object, carrying a drum, toddled forth from the ranks and saluted. It was a small Mackerel drummer boy, who had enlisted only ten days before, and his small eyes were wet with tears. The heroic child wiped his little nose on his little sleeve and says:

"My Mother gave me something."

"Was it a family bible, sweet cherub?"

"No-o-o," sobbed the innocent, as though his little heart would break.

Samyule wiped his tear dimmed spectacles, and says he:

"Perhaps it was her daguerotype?"

"The infant wept afresh, and says he:

"No-o-o," it must have been her blessing."

"No no-o-o," cried the small Mackerel drummer, with quivering lips.

"Then what in the thunder was it that your mother gave you?"

"It was a spanking!" screamed the affectionate little creature, crumpling both his little fists into his little eyes, and blubbering unrestrainedly.

Samyule gazed a moment at the child, and says he:

"Well my affectionate bid thee weep, thou tender one! When a sweet-heart blushing places a rose upon her lovers breast, the scene is affectionate; but my own memory of childhood tells me that a far deeper feeling is excited when the tender mother selects a different flower, and places upon the back of her child the modest lady's slipper." Immediately after this affectionate little incident my boy, Samyule led his men to their duty, and they marched into one end of the defile as soldiers, to pass out of the other end as spirits.

Along the front, 'Forward!' was the word, and the Comic Section swept to the assault, like a sea of bayonets dashed against a shore of adamant rock from the hollow of an Almighty hand.

Were it possible, my boy, for bullets to ascend perpendicularly until they just reached the top of mountain breastworks, and then slant down at an acute angle to where the foe lay hidden, it is possible that the frequent volleys from the Comic Section might have produced some carnage; but as the face of the hill before our troops was straight up and down, with the noisy Confederates on the extreme summit, the Mackerel musketry simply occasioned a rise in Federal led, without a fall of Confederate leaders.

Some of the Confederacies in their lofty entrenchments, just tipped over a few cannon, so that

the balls might roll out upon the Mackerels, and says, one of them:

"If you mudsills will stay there a little longer, we'll manage so as to drop the shells on you from our hands, without using the guns at all."

Captain Bob Shorty heard this jeer, and as he tied his handkerchief over a wound on his forehead, a sickly smile illustrated his ghastly face, and says he:

"We might as well all die here together. The grave, after all, is a softer bed than many of these Mackerel beings have been accustomed to."

Sergeant O'Pake, who always takes things literally, turned to Bob, and says he:

"What makes it soft?"

"Because," says Captain Bob Shorty, looking reverently at the Sergeant, "it is a bed of down.— Did you never hear the old song 'Down among the Dead Men?'"

But let me not linger over the scene, my boy? That night the remaining Mackerels silently recrossed Duck Lake, and the General penned the following

DISPATCH:

"I have withdrawn the Brigade across Duck Lake. The position of the Confederates is impregnable. It was a Military Necessity to attack the enemy or retire. I have done both."

"WOBERT WOBISON."

Just as the expected veterans gained this side of Duck Lake again, my boy, the Mackerel Chaplain was accosted by a Republican chap from Boston, and says he: "This really looks like a tation, at last, my friend. Our troops are evidently all enthusiastic to be led once more against the foe."

The Chaplain shaded his eyes with his hand, to look at the speaker, and says he:

"They are indeed enthusiastic, my friend. So enthusiastic, in fact, that at least half of them would not come back to this side at all."

"Ah!" says the Republican chap "the noble fellows."

"Yes," says the Chaplain, as softly as though he were speaking in a sick room, "they remain there, sleeping upon their arms. And, oh! my friend, they will never, never come back again."

He spoke truly, my boy; and may a kind heaven see naught in the blood welting from their loyal hearts but the bliss of a soldier's honor; the glow of a patriot's fire in which all their human errors went up to God as the smoke of a glorious sacrifice.

They sleep their last sleep upon the arms of their country;—and whether those arms, with which she folds them into her heart, be white with the ermine of winter, or green with the drapery of summer, the clasp shall be none the less strong with all a Mother's immortality of love.

Yours gravely,
ORPHEUS C. KERR.

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P. GRAY MEEK, Editor.

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