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Poetry.



THE WOODBURY RANGERS.

BY A SOLDIER.

Oh all you Woodbury ladies!
Come and listen to my tale,
About the happy soldier boys,
Who are on the rebels' trail.
We landed first at Huntington,
That night in the court house stayed.
Next morn we to Camp Crossman went,
Where we our flag so proudly waiv'd.

Camp Crossman is a lively place,
Just three miles from Huntington;
Our street we called Woodbury,
In memory of the loved at home.
It is there we learned to drill;
Learned how to use our arms;
That when we hear the bugle shrill,
We'll not fear "Secesh" alarms.

We have a Captain bold and true,
Who has never known of fear;
We've likewise brave Lieutenants, too,
Whom we love both near and dear.
If old grim Death appears to us,
With his horrors and his fears,
He ne'er can fright us Freedom's war,
The Woodbury Volunteers.

From my friends 'twas hard to part,
Also, from our homes so dear,
But with a stern resolve in heart,
Our flag in "Dixie's Land" we'll rear.
And when we on the field are taken,
We will fight like soldiers true,
If we are not much mistaken,
We'll make 'em sing "Red, White and Blue."

In the fearful hour of battle,
Where cannons roar the loudest,
We will think of the loved at home,
That we've left perhaps to see no more.
Oh! the Cymbals loud are sounding,
And the Trumpets shrill do blow;
A signal for platoons to form,
For we've orders now to go.

The above piece was, originally, written at Camp Crossman, by one of Capt. Brisben's lads, and revised by one of the "Boys at Home."

MIDWINTER.

The speckled sky is dim with snow,
The light flakes fall and fall slow;
Awhit the hill-top, apt and pale,
Slightly the far-off mountain's misty form
Is entering now a tent of storm;
And all the valley is shut in
By flickering curtains gray and thin.

But cheerily the chickadee
Sings to me on fence and tree;
The snow falls round him as he sings,
White as the down of angels' wings.
I watch the snow flakes as they fall
On bank and brier and broken wall;
Over the orchard, waste and brown,
All noiselessly they settle down,
Tipping the apple boughs, and each
Light quivering twig of plum and peach.

On turf and curb the bower-roof
The snow-storm spreads its ivory roof;
It paves with pearl the garden-walk,
And lovingly roves tattered stalk
And shivering steam its magic veaves
A mantle fair as lily leaves.

The hooded dove, small and low,
Stands like a maiden in the snow;
And the old door-slap is half hid
Under an alabaster lid.

All day it snows: the sheeted post
Gleams in the dimness like a ghost;
All day the blasted oak has stood
A muffled wizard of the wood;
Garland and airy cap adorn
The smother and the wayside thorn,
And clustering spangles lodge and shine
In the dark tresses of the pine.

The ragged bramble, dwarfed and old,
Shrinks like a beggar in the cold;
In surprise white the cedar stands,
And blesses him with priestly hands.

Still cheerily the chickadee
Sings to me on fence and tree:
But in my inmost ear is heard
The music of a holier bird;
And heavenly thoughts, as soft and white,
As snow-flakes, on my soul alight,
Clothing with love my lonely heart,
Healing with peace each bruised part,
Till all my being seems to be
Transfigured by his purity.

[ATLANTIC MONTHLY, FOR FEBRUARY.]

A pair of stockings sent by the ladies' committee for the use of some gallant volunteer, was accompanied by the following verse:
Have sentry, on your lonely beat,
May these nice stockings warm your feet;
And when from war and camps you part,
May some fair knitter warm your heart.

Keep out of debt—out of quarrels—out of law—out of politics—out of idleness—out of thin shoes—out of thin soled shoes—out of dump clothes—out of reach of brandy and water—out of office—out of matrimony, unless you are in love—and keep clear of cheating the printer out of his dues.

THE BURNSIDE EXPEDITION.

The News of the Victory fully confirmed—Roanoke Island in the Possession of the Union Forces—The Rebel Fleet completely Destroyed—Elizabeth City Attacked and Evacuated by the Rebels—The Rebel Army on the Island said to be 3000 strong—Nearly all Killed, Wounded or Taken Prisoners.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 11.

By the flag of truce to-day we have news of the complete success of Gen. Burnside at Roanoke Island.

The island was taken possession of and Commodore Lynch's fleet completely destroyed.

Elizabeth City was attacked on Sunday and evacuated by the inhabitants.

It was previously burned, whether by our shells or by the inhabitants is not certain. The first news of the defeat arrived at Norfolk on Sunday afternoon, and caused great excitement. The previous news was very satisfactory, stating that the Yankees had been allowed to advance for the purpose of drawing them into a trap.

The rebel force on the island is supposed to have been only a little over 3,000 efficient fighting men.

Gen. Wise was ill at Nag's Head, and was not present during the engagement.

When the situation became dangerous, he was removed to Norfolk.

All the gunboats but one were taken; that escaped up the creek, and was probably also destroyed.

One report at Norfolk says only seventy and another only twenty-five escaped from Roanoke Island.

Gen. Huger telegraphed to Richmond that only fifty escaped on the island.

There appears to be no bright side to the story for the rebels.

The Richmond Examiner of this morning says, in a leading editorial:

The loss of an entire army on Roanoke island is certainly the most painful event of the war. The intelligence by telegraph yesterday is fully confirmed—2,500 brave troops on the island in the sea were exposed to all the force of the Burnside fleet. They resisted with courage, but when fifteen thousand were landed against them, their retreat being cut off by the surrounding element, they were forced to surrender. This is a repetition of Waterloo on a larger scale. The following are despatches on the subject in Richmond papers of this morning:

NORFOLK, Feb. 10.—The latest news states that Capt. O. Jennings Wise, son of Gov. Wise, was shot through the hip and disabled, though his wound was not mortal.

Major Lawson and Lieut. Miller were mortally wounded. About 300 Confederates were killed. Our wounded numbers over one thousand. The number of Yankees wounded is about the same.

Midshipman Carnem had his arm shot off. The other casualties are unreported. A late arrival this morning, says Elizabeth City had been shelled and burned by the Yankees, and that the enemy was pushing on through to Edenton.

SECOND DESPATCH.

NORFOLK, Feb. 10.—A rumor has prevailed that Commodore Lynch's fleet of gunboats had been captured. It is not regarded as true, but it is believed that all were burned by the confederates to prevent their capture, with the exception of one, which was endeavoring to make its escape.

The fleet went to Elizabeth City from Roanoke island, and was probably burnt at the former point.

THIRD DESPATCH.

NORFOLK, Feb. 10.—[received in Richmond at midnight] A courier arrived here this afternoon, at four o'clock, and brought the intelligence that Elizabeth City was burned this morning by the inhabitants. During the occupation the Federals landed a large force. All our gunboats, excepting one, were captured by the enemy.

General Wise has not yet arrived at Norfolk.

The following is the very latest, which we copy from to-day's Day Book.

A courier arrived here yesterday afternoon about three o'clock, from which we gather the following information:
The enemy advanced in full force upon Elizabeth City yesterday at about seven o'clock and began an attack upon that place. The citizens finding resistance vain, evacuated the place, but before doing so set fire to the town, and when our informant left it was still in flames.

We have also to record the capture, by the enemy, of all our little fleet except the Fanny or Forest—our informant is not certain—which thus eluded the enemy and made up the Pasquotank river. It was pursued, however, and fears are entertained that she, too, was captured.

It is said that before our boats surrendered, they were abandoned, and their crews succeeded in making their escape. If so we are at a loss to conjecture why they were not fired before abandoned.

The disaster to our little fleet is attributed to the fact that it, having exhausted its supplies of coal and ammunition, proceeded to Elizabeth City for the purpose of obtaining a supply. Every effort was made to obtain coal, and without success, and it returned to the island to land any assistance whatever to the forces.

All the details published with reference to the capture of Roanoke Island are confirmed by the courier.

It represents our loss three hundred killed and wounded and that of the enemy not less than one thousand killed.

Great havoc was made amongst them while coming up the road leading to the fort.

Our forces brought to bear upon them two thirty-two pounders, and at every fire their ranks were terribly thinned. The places of the fallen, however, were quickly filled.

Park point battery was mounted by the Richmond Blues, and most nobly did they defend it during the conflict. They were attacked by a whole regiment of Zouaves, and, though completely overpowered, they stood their ground bravely, nor did they yield one foot until all, save seven, fell bleeding to the ground. There is good reason to believe that, had Col. Henningson, with his artillery, been on the island, they should not have been forced to surrender it. A lack of field pieces was most sadly felt, and had they been at hand the enemy, perhaps would never have been able to have landed their forces. Henningson had orders, we understand, to report at Roanoke Island, but by some misunderstanding he mistook Elizabeth City for the place of destination. Capt. Taylor of this city, is represented as having distinguished himself.

In addition to the above, there are many rumors that we might give, but as they are nothing more than rumors, we prefer withholding them.

Among them is one, however worthy of notice, that Gen. Wise had been shot while in an ambulance on the way.

The statement so far as we have been able to learn is not correct, and can only account for it by supposing that the name of Gen. Wise is confounded with that of his son who was reported among the killed.

It is reported that one regiment from Massachusetts was badly cut up, but it is impossible to ascertain which of the five that were attached to the expedition. The news received to-day occasions great excitement at old Point. A steamer with official despatches from Gen. Burnside is hourly expected.

The prisoners captured, numbering at least two thousand, will be here in a few days.

All the southern papers received are unanimous in admitting a complete victory to our troops and that the loss of the island is a very serious one.

FROM TENNESSEE.

The Gun Boat Expedition up the Tennessee River—Official Report of Lieutenant Commanding Phelps—The Expedition Highly Successful—Six Rebel Steamers with Military Stores Burned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The following is Lieutenant Commanding Phelps' official report to flag officer Foote, received to-day at the Headquarters of the army, by telegraph from Cairo.

GUNBOAT CONESTOGA RAILROAD CROSSING, Tennessee River, Feb. 10th 1862.

SIR:—We have returned to this point from our entirely successful expedition to Florence, at the foot of the Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

The rebels were forced to burn six steamers and we captured two others, besides the half complete gun-boat East Port.

The steamers burned were freighted with rebel military stores. The East Port has about 250,000 feet of lumber on board.

We also captured two hundred stand of arms and a quantity of clothing and stores, and destroyed the encampment of Col. Crews, at Savannah, Tenn. We found the Union sentiment strong.

Further from the Expedition up the Tennessee River.

The Union Gunboats Receive a Hearty Welcome From the Inhabitants.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 12.

Special despatches to the Gazette and Commercial dated Fort Henry the 10th inst., give the following accounts of the expedition up the Tennessee River.

After the capture of Fort Henry, the gunboats Lexington, Conestoga and Tyler gave chase to the rebel steamer Dunbar. Reaching the Memphis and Louisville railroad bridge our troops took a quantity of stores, &c., and passed on in chase of the Dunbar, but did not overtake her. It is supposed that she escaped by running into some creek during the night.

The gunboats went to Florence, Ala. at the head of navigation, and a distance of 250 miles from Paducah.

Everywhere along the river they were received with a hearty welcome from numerous Union families. In southern Tennessee and north Alabama and at towns along the river the old flag was looked upon as a redeemer and hailed with shouts of joy.

Capt. Gwin of the gunboat Tyler recruited 30 men for service on the gunboats and says he can get enough to man the whole fleet.

The people of Florence were so delighted at finding the stars and stripes once more their protection, that were prepared to give a ball to the officers of the gunboat, but the latter could not remain to accept their courtesies. However, our boats landed, and when the people became assured that we did not come to destroy but to save, they seemed to have no means too extravagant to express their delight and joy.

Our boats captured four steamers including an unfinished gunboat, and burned seven others.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF GEN. GRANT.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO, Fort Henry, Tenn., Feb. 6, 1862.

Captain J. C. Kellon, Assistant Adjutant General, Department of Mo., St. Louis, Mo.

CAPTAIN: Enclosed I send you my order for the attack upon Fort Henry. Owing to despatches received from Major General Halleck, and corroborating information here, to the effect that the enemy were rapidly reinforcing, I thought it imperatively necessary that the fort should be carried to-day. My forces were not up at ten o'clock last night when my order was written, therefore I did not deem it practicable to set an earlier hour than eleven o'clock to day to commence the investment. The gunboats started up at the same hour to commence the attack, and engage the enemy at not over six hundred yards. In little over one hour all the batteries were silenced, and the fort surrendered at discretion to Flag Officer Foote, giving us all their guns, camp and garrison equipage, &c. The prisoners taken are General Tilghman and staff, Captain Taylor and company, and the sick. The garrison, I think, must have commenced their retreat last night, or at an early hour this morning.

Had I not felt it an imperative necessity to attack Fort Henry to-day, I should have made the investment complete, and delayed until tomorrow, so as to secure the garrison. I do not now believe, however, the result would have been any more satisfactory.

The gunboats have proven themselves well able to resist a severe cannoning. All the iron-clad boats received more or less shots—the flagship some twenty-eight—without any serious damage to any, except the Essex. This vessel received one shot in her boiler that disabled her, killing and wounding some thirty-two men, Captain Porter among the wounded.

I remain your obedient servant,
U. S. GRANT, Brigadier General.

The following is the order referred to in Gen. Grant's report:

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF CAIRO, Camp in the Field near Fort Henry, February 5, 1862.

FIELD ORDERS NO. 1.

The First Division, Gen. McClernand commanding, will move at 11 o'clock, A. M., tomorrow, under the guidance of Lieut. Col. McPherson, and take position on the roads from Fort Henry to Donelson and Dover.

It will be the special duty of this command to prevent all reinforcements to Fort Henry or escape from it. Also, to be held in readiness to charge and take Fort Henry by storm, promptly on the receipt of orders.

Two brigades of the second division, Gen. C. F. Smith commanding, will start at the same hour from the west bank of the river, and take and occupy the heights commanding Fort Henry will return to their transports, cross to the east bank, and follow the first brigade as fast as possible.

The west bank of the Tennessee river not having been reconnoitered, the commanding officer entrusted with taking possession of the enemy's works there will proceed with great caution, and secure such information as can be gathered, and such guides as can be found in the time intervening, before eleven o'clock to-morrow.

The troops will receive two days' rations of bread and meat in their haversacks.

One company of the second division, armed with rifles, will be ordered to report to Flag Officer Foote, as sharpshooters, on board the gunboats.

U. S. GRANT, Brigadier General commanding.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF FLAG OFFICER FOOTE.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, St. Louis, Feb. 5, 1862.

Flag Officer, A. H. Foote, Cairo.

I have this moment received the official report of your capture of Fort Henry, and hasten to congratulate you and your command for your brilliant success.

H. W. HALLECK, Maj. Gen. Com. Department.

REPORT OF COMMANDER FOOTE.

CAIRO, Ill., Feb. 7.—SIR: I have the honor to report that, on the 6th instant, at 12 o'clock, P. M., I made an attack on Fort Henry, on the Tennessee river, with the iron-clad gunboats Cincinnati, Commander Stumble; the flag-ship Essex, Commander Porter; Carondelet, Commander Walker; and St. Louis, Lieutenant Commanding Paulding; also, taking with me three old gunboats Conestoga, Lieutenant Commanding Phelps; the Tyler, Lieutenant Commanding Given; and the Lexington, Lieutenant Commanding Shirk, as a second division, in charge of Lieutenant Commanding Phelps, which took position astern, and in shore of the armed boats doing good execution there during the action, while the armed boats were placed in the first order of steaming, approaching the fort in a parallel.

The fire was opened at seventeen hundred yards' distance from the flag-ship, which was followed by the other gunboats, and responded by the fort. As we approached the fort under slow steaming, till we reached within

six hundred yards of the rebel batteries, the fire, both from the gunboats and fort, increased in rapidity and accuracy of range. At twenty minutes before the rebel flag was struck, the Essex unfortunately received a shot in her boilers, which resulted in wounding, by scalding, twenty-nine officers and men, including Commodore Porter, as will be seen in the enclosed list of casualties. The Essex then necessarily dropped out of line astern, entirely disabled and unable to continue the fight in which she had so gallantly participated until the sad catastrophe. The firing continued with unabated rapidity and effect upon the three gunboats, as they continued still to approach the fort with their destructive fire, until the rebel flag was hauled down, after a very severe and closely contested action of one hour and fifteen minutes.

A boat containing the Adjutant Gen. and Captain of Engineers came alongside after the flag was lowered, and reported that Gen. Lloyd Tilghman, the commander of the fort, wished to communicate with the flag officer, when I despatched Commander Stumble and Lieut. Commanding Phelps, with orders to hoist the American flag where the Secession ensign had been flying, and to inform Gen. Tilghman that I would see him on board the flag ship.

He came on board soon after the Union had been substituted for the rebel flag, by Commander Stumble on the fort, and possession taken. I received the General, his staff, and sixty or seventy men as prisoners, and a hospital ship containing sixty invalids, together with the fort and its effects, mounting twenty guns, mostly of heavy calibre, with barracks and tents capable of accommodating fifteen thousand men, and sundry articles, of which, as I turned the fort and its effects over to General Grant, commanding the army, on his arrival in an hour after we had made the capture, he will be enabled to give the Government a more correct statement than I am able to communicate from the short time I had possession of the fort. The plan of the attack, so far as the army reaching the rear of the fort to make a demonstration simultaneously with the navy, was prevented by the excessively muddy roads and high stage of water retarding the arrival of our troops until some time after I had taken possession of the fort.

On securing the prisoners, and making necessary preliminary arrangements, I despatched Lieutenant commanding Phelps, with his division, up the Tennessee river, as I had previously directed, and, as will be seen in inclosed order to him, to remove the rails, and so render the bridge incapable of railroad transportation and communication between Bowling Green and Columbus, and afterwards to pursue the rebel gunboats and secure their capture if possible. This being accomplished, and the army in possession of the fort, and my services being indispensable at Cairo, I left Fort Henry in the evening of the same day, with the Cincinnati and St. Louis, arrived here this morning.

The armed gunboats registered effectually shot the boat of the enemy, when striking the case-mat.

The Cincinnati, flag ship, received thirty-one shots; the Essex, fifteen; the St. Louis, seven; and the Carondelet, six—killing one and wounding nine in the Cincinnati, and killing one in the Essex, while the casualties in the latter from steam amounted to twenty-eight in number. The Carondelet, and St. Louis, met with no casualties. The steamers were admirably handled by their commanders and officers, presenting only their bow guns to the enemy, to avoid exposure of the vulnerable parts of their vessels.

Lieut. Commanding Phelps, with his division, also executed my orders very effectually, and promptly proceeded up the river in their further execution after the capture of the fort. In fact, all the officers and men gallantly performed their duty, and, considering the little experience they have had under fire, far more than realized my expectations.

Fort Henry was defended with the most determined gallantry by Gen. Tilghman, worthy of a better cause, who, from his own account, went into the action with eleven guns of heavy calibre, bearing upon our boats, which he fought until seven of the number were dismantled or otherwise rendered useless.

Very respectfully, your ob'dt. servant,
A. H. FOOTE, Flag Officer,
Commanding U. S. Naval Forces,
Western Department.

To Major Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
Commanding Department of the Missouri.

CHANGE IN GEN. McCLELLAN'S POSITION.

We have seen no reference to this rumored change except in the Washington dispatches to the New York Tribune. A dispatch to that paper, dated Thursday evening, says:

The better opinion is that Gen. McClellan will not resign in consequence of the change which the censor allowed us partially to indicate last night, but will strive in the Department to rival Gen. Buell in Kentucky and Gen. Halleck in Missouri, on a level with whom the new arrangement places him. It is understood that he has consulted with several of his Generals respecting the course proper to pursue.

We think the country would be decidedly pleased with the change. The General is a young man, and more confidence can be placed in his ability to command an army, than in his statesmanship. The command of the army of the Potomac is a position high enough to satisfy the ambition of any man who has had so little opportunity of seeing active service. The country would be pleased to see him devoting all his military genius and energy to active duties in the field, at the head of that army.

Gen. Beauregard's Report of the Battle of Manassas.

The city papers of last week contain the official report of Gen. Beauregard of the battle of Bull Run, or of Manassas, as he more euphemistically designates it. From this report it appears that the rebel forces engaged in the fight amounted to over 31,000 men, and that their losses were 369 killed outright, and 1,483 wounded.

He puts down our opposing army at 55,000 men, when, according to the official report of Gen. McDowell, he had not over 18,000 men engaged in the fight during the day. Our losses were: killed, 481; wounded, brought in, 1,011; missing, 1,216.

Total Union loss 2,698
Total Rebel loss as reported by Beauregard 1,862

Which, perhaps, on each side is as near the mark as we shall ever be able to get. As usual in such cases, our heaviest losses in killed and wounded were doubtless suffered after the breaking of our lines and during the first hour or so of the confusion of their retreat. Putting the loss on each side in killed and wounded as high as ten per cent of the forces engaged, the battle of Manassas will bear no comparison in this view with some of the battles in our war in Mexico. Buena Vista, for instance, in which nearly twenty per cent of General Taylor's forces were killed and wounded; and Molino del Rey, where the victorious column of General Worth was cut up to the extent of twenty-five per cent.

In conclusion, Beauregard frankly confesses that his army was too much exhausted by their trying day's work to follow up their victory, and that the heavy and unintermittent rain on the next day and the want of a sufficient cavalry force, "made an efficient pursuit a military impossibility;" so that, after all, if our soldiers from the field of Manassas did not move "onward to Richmond" they did enough in that battle to prevent Beauregard from moving onward to Washington.

Proclamation by the Loyal Provisional Governor of North Carolina.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
HATTERAS, Jan. 22, 1862.

To the People of North Carolina:

The invisible arms of the republic at length advanced to the suppression of the great revolt against popular rights, and the national authority, which has essayed to rob you of your American citizenship, and to enslave you to the will of relentless domestic tyrants; the holy Banner of the Union, concentrated anew through its baptism of tears and blood, is borne by loyal hands, the symbol and pledge of your final and complete enfranchisement. Your silent and tearful prayers to God for rescue from the despotism that entrails you are heard, and the hour of your deliverance approaches.

The brave men who come among you are not foes but friends, and their mission is one of mercy and relief. The war they wage is not upon North Carolina and her people, but upon the rebels and traitors who have invaded your territory, and who hold you in constrained and protesting submission to their arbitrary power.

To co-operate with those who now pressed to your liberation, and who seek to restore to you your ancient and inalienable rights, is your sacred duty, and a privilege which you will accept with eagerness and joy.

A portion of your brother North Carolinians are already rejoicing in the restoration of the freedom, under the protecting ensign of the nation. Side by side with that glorious flag they have placed the recreated standard of loyal North Carolina, and, acting in concert with citizens of other sections of the State, they have proclaimed a provisional government for the Commonwealth.

An opportunity will soon be offered you to participate in the enjoyment of these precious and long accustomed privileges. And that there may be no complaint in any quarter that your brethren first liberated from rebel thralldom have forestalled your action or anticipated a decision in which you had a right to share, I do now, by these presents, notify and require the voters of this Commonwealth to attend at the usual voting places, as established by law, on Saturday, 22 February, 1862, an anniversary second in hallowed memory only to that of the proclamation of our national independence, at which time the ordinances of the Convention of November 18, 1861, a draft of which is hereto appended will be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection.

And in order that the State may forthwith resume her participation in the councils of the Union, I do furthermore direct that, upon the same day aforesaid, the polls be opened for the election of representatives in the Congress of the United States, to fill existing vacancies.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed, at Hatteras, this 22d, of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-sixth.

MARBLE NASH TAYLOR.

The men who don't take a paper was in town last week, and wanted to know if New England wasn't in New York.

Queer fellow—the editor who thinks "people should never kiss their own exes," because he never kissed "a boy in his life, except occasionally a pretty tom-boy."

A rigidly pious old lady down East, says this Civil War is a judgment upon the action for permitting the ladies to wear hoops.