



CENTRE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

148th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

GENERAL REVIEW OF MAJOR AND MINOR EVENTS.

Experiences of the Rank and File—Anecdotes and Observations.

By T. P. Meyer, Sergeant Co. A., 148th Regiment, P. V.

[To be Continued.]

CHAPTER II.

In a battle, all soldiers disabled by slight wounds will generally hurry to the rear to find surgical aid. Life often depends on the immediate dressing of the wounds; so it was here, but the badly wounded who could not get out unaided, were left to the mercy of a "battle-furious" enemy, or to be burned up in the fire that was even then raging at several points in the forest.

The appeals and pleadings of some of the soldiers wounded to helplessness, to be moved or shot, were most distressing. One, a boy about eighteen, had his abdomen torn open by a fragment of shell, with tearless eyes and without a groan, was holding the wound to prevent the bowels from coming out. Another young, smooth faced soldier had a leg shot off and was dragging himself slowly along. He begged to be taken out, making offers of reward for help. When this could not be given, he pleaded as earnestly to be shot, and "finished", as he said. Another had the top of his skull taken off; the brain was exposed and throbbed with every pulse. The membrane seemed unbroken; though dazed, he still seemed rational. He spoke feebly in a half whisper. We could not understand him; we construed his words to be a request to have his head bandaged, and a message to his home, as he mentioned names. He tried to tell us his name; he looked for reply; we shook our heads, we could not understand; he gave it up and tears filled his eyes as he lay on his back in the brush, where he was abandoned. Books could be filled with incidents like the foregoing on every battle field. But these few may suffice at this point of the narrative.

We cannot imagine how badly these poor boys felt, when we, "per force," abandoned them in their pitiable, helpless condition, to the oncoming "battle-crazed" enemy and the forest fires.

When we were driven out of the plain and into the woods we were determined to give the "Johnnies" a warm reception if they came at us in our new position. Though it was night, very dark and rainy, the 148 P. V. by the light of sperm candles began to fell the oak trees and build a parapet along our front. We worked faithfully and hard for hours. We were strong handed and work progressed rapidly so that by midnight we considered ourselves well fortified and ready for attack. Shortly after our fortification was finished, Gen. Hancock and staff rode along the line and by the dim light of a few lanterns he spied our parapet and inquired what in — that meant. Maj. Fairbank, in command of the Regiment since the wounding of the Col.—James A. Beaver, explained that the boys, expecting an attack here, had fortified themselves. The General answered and said, — ! — ! the fortification; have them tear it down and clear it away immediately. The enemy may open on us with artillery at any minute and solid shot striking these logs would split them and the splinters would kill you by the dozen. This was doubtful bluster logic.

There was no appeal from this positive order and we worked in the darkness, rain and mud till near morning, when we had torn down our parapet and carried all the logs to the rear of us. We were tired and soaked; mud clear through and mud all over.

The battle of Chancellorsville was ended and lost, but skirmishing and artillery fighting was spasmodically kept up. During the afternoon of May 4th the Rebels shelled our position furiously, killing and wounding quite a number of our men. Charles Beirley and Henry Meyer of Co. "A" were struck by fragments of shell and temporarily disabled.

The scenes of the wreck of battle, flowing to the rear, are more terrible than the sights of the actual battle, where all is hurry and excitement and the horrors of war are not brought together. When a great battle opens in its fury the wreck at once begins to flow to the rear.

First the "stragglers," fellows that are not built for war, unable to stand up and look death squarely in the face without flinching, will always, somehow, unnoticed, slip from their places in the lines and fly to the rear, like leaves before the wind.

Then come the slightly wounded, running; men more seriously wounded, hobbling toward the rear; others

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BUILDING UP SOIL FERTILITY. Crop Rotation—The Clover Plant as a Soil Builder—Timely Topic Discussed from a Practical Standpoint.

By J. M. Stiffler, Freeport, Illinois.

Cheap land or a rented farm is often an excuse for indifferent methods of agriculture. The roving class of farmers are always looking for more and cheaper lands to till. They doubtless perform the part for which they were intended. They are the pioneers and often the forerunners of better and more thoughtful methods in everything that pertains to industry. On cheap land it requires little genius to make it yield in crops sufficient to pay a good rate of interest on the original investment—after all cost of production has been deducted. When land becomes valuable—is worth one hundred dollars or more per acre, on the market—is the time when genius and brains, as well as brawn, must come into play if we wish to make farming pay. Our rich prairies, at one time, required little further effort, on the part of the tiller, than sowing and reaping. The rich loam, many feet deep in some places, was considered inexhaustible of the elements of fertility. Straw piles were burned, and barns were moved when the manure accumulated in too large quantities. The manure heap was not utilized for building up soil fertility. Possibly there was no necessity, at that time, for utilizing organic substances by converting them into fertilizers.

The great west and northwest, to us of Illinois, is being cropped to its extreme limit, where the cereals can be grown. We often hear the remark that a certain section is being "wheat-ened to death," while perhaps another is "corned to death." Well, the lands are cheap and farms are large, and the farmers, in many instances, are not up to the required standard. The writer knows of instances, here in Illinois, where fields have been cropped with corn for twenty years in succession, and of others that have been cropped with corn and oats alternately, for an equal number of years. The yields resulting from such methods would hardly be satisfactory to the man who makes farming a business and a study, and who farms for profit. We do not lose as much from wear on our soils as is the case in the undulating and hilly portions in the east. Our subsoil is such (clay) that when once thoroughly saturated with moisture it will bridge us over quite an extended drought without material damage to crops. All we need is to maintain a dust blanket, to prevent the evaporation from below,—on the surface of the cultivated portions of our farms. Capillary action from our subsoil does the rest. We have reason to assume that our subsoil is still rich in potassium, especially where our growing crops can penetrate the underlying clay. Phosphorous and the minor elementary principles are still available in sufficient quantities, in many parts of this section for many years to come. We need nitrogen, however. This elementary principle is very essential when we grow the grain crops. Nitrogen forms about three fourths of the

bulk of our atmosphere; it is easily lost from our soils, and it is very expensive when we have to restore it by means of commercial fertilizers. The prices of grain must advance materially to balance the cost of production when it becomes a necessity for us to buy nitrogen in commercial form.

Very much attention is given to crop rotation, where improved methods in agriculture prevail. It is surely the only successful method of farming; it can be carried on indefinitely, with success, in almost every portion of the agricultural belt. The clover plant, and the other legumes, are very important parts in the rotation. We should, however, never lose sight of manure. Nothing contributes more toward building up soil fertility than well prepared manure. The manure pile is the farmer's saving bank from which he may draw when his needs require. As a rule the farmer here who can and does grow clover is prosperous and need not pay out money for commercial fertilizers. The clover plant is rich in nitrogen; it becomes affected with the bacteria that by intricate and mysterious process draws the nitrogen from the air and stores it in the soil where we may utilize it in growing cereals.

Continuous cropping with the grain crops destroys the humus in our soil, and exhausts it of its nitrogen. The oat crop is particularly severe on the nitrogen principle of our soil; the oat grain showing a richness in nitrogen.

By seeding to clover and the grasses, our cultivated fields, as a part of a systematic rotation, we give them a needed rest. Nature is given a chance to make repairs in a measure, often very needful. By turning under the clover crop we add humus to the soil; this is acted on by the soil bacteria—the regenerating agent of all organic substances in our soil—and is converted into active potential humus. By the addition of moisture the humus helps dissolve other inorganic substances that enter into plant life and growth,—putting them in available form for the growing crops to draw from. Humus keeps the soil loose, thus allowing the warmth and moisture to penetrate, and acts as a conservator of moisture in dry seasons. Humus keeps the soil in a good condition physically as it prevents the soil particles from washing away in wet seasons and from blowing away from exposed surfaces in dry seasons. We can ill afford to leave our cultivated fields exposed during the winter season. We must guard against exhausting the humus, and where possible, have a litter of organic substance spread over our fields that are inclined to wash during the winter. Fall plowing of anything but sod should be discouraged as we lose so much of our valuable soil when the thaws of spring set in. Too much of our Illinois soil takes a trip to the Gulf each season. We should place a hindrance when and where we can to check this tendency.

THE SALUS-GRADY LIBEL BILL.

Following is the libel bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Grady and in the House by Mr. Salus, as amended, and in the hands of Governor Pennypacker:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that from and after the passage of this act civil actions may be brought against the proprietor, owner, publisher or managing editor of any newspaper published in this Commonwealth, whether the same be published monthly, bi-weekly, semi-weekly or daily, to recover damages resulting from negligence on the part of such owner, proprietor or managing editor in the ascertainment of facts and in making publications affecting the character, reputation or business of citizens.

Section 2. In all civil actions which may be hereafter brought against the proprietor, owner, publisher or managing editor of any newspaper published in this Commonwealth, whether the same be published monthly, bi-weekly, semi-weekly or daily, and whether such owner be an individual, partnership, limited partnership, joint stock company or corporation, if it shall be shown that the publication complained of resulted from negligence on the part of such owner, proprietor, manager or editor in the ascertainment of facts or in the publication thereof, compensatory damages may be recovered for injuries to business and reputation resulting from such publication, as well as damages for the physical and mental suffering endured by the injured party or parties, and whenever in any such action it shall be shown that the matter complained of is libelous, and that such libelous

matter has been given special prominence by the use of pictures, cartoons, headlines, displayed type or any other matter calculated to specially attract attention, the jury shall have the right to award punitive damages against the defendant or defendants.

Section 3. That from and after the passage of this act each and every newspaper published in this Commonwealth, whether the same be published monthly, bi-weekly, semi-weekly or daily, shall publish in every copy of every issue on the editorial page in a conspicuous position at the top of reading matter the name of the owner, owners, proprietor or proprietors of such newspapers, together with the name of the managing editor thereof, and if said newspaper or newspapers shall be owned or published by a corporation, then the name of the corporation shall be published, together with the names of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and managing editor thereof, and if the said newspaper or newspapers shall be owned or published by a partnership or partnership, limited, then the names of the partners or officers and managers of said partnership or partnership, limited, shall be published in like manner.

Section 4. In the event of any change being made in the proprietor, owner, publisher or managing editor of any newspaper, or in the office of President, Secretary, Treasurer, of any corporation owning and publishing said newspaper, or any change in the name of the co-partners, the said change or changes shall be duly set

Continued at foot of next column.

LOCALS.

Frost Tuesday morning. Leslie Jacobs is in Winber. Fruit was greatly damaged by recent frosts.

W. W. Gonder, of Wall, arrived here Monday.

James A. Keller, secretary of the Patron's fire insurance company, made a business trip to Huntingdon Monday.

Mrs. Salter, wife of Rev. B. A. Salter, of Pleasant Gap, and interesting little daughter, were entertained by Mrs. W. H. Schuyler on Monday.

Henry Royer, of Centre Hill, was a caller at this office Tuesday. He is one of many who recently ordered his mail to be left at the Centre Hall post-office.

The board of directors of the Centre County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, P. of H., met in Bellefonte Tuesday to examine applications for policies, etc.

Miss Margie Sweetwood, of Spring Mills, who for the past few years has been living in Bellefonte, recently went to Wilkesburg, Pa., where she will stay for the present.

Read the advertisement of B. W. Ripks, general merchant Spring Mills. The new cash store continually advertises bargains that ought to be considered when purchasing.

Melchior Summers and Eliza Treasurer, of near Potters Mills, were married by Rev. A. J. Horner, of Colyer, Saturday evening. The wedding supper was prepared by Mrs. Davison, of Illinois.

The house occupied by John Shunk was destroyed by forest fires last week. The household goods were removed. The house stood along the pike where the road enters the Seven Mountains from Milroy.

Rev. William M. Jack, Ph. D., pastor of the Birmingham church, will preach in the Centre Hall Presbyterian church next Sabbath at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. The public are cordially invited.

Messrs. Wm. Homan and Wm. Fetterolf, of near Centre Hall, each had a snake killing experience. The former dispatched one black snake and the latter two. The reptiles were all more than four feet in length.

Carpenters have resumed work on the erection of the addition to the house of Miss Lizzie Dursi, that lady having recovered sufficiently from her recent illness not to be annoyed by the noise necessarily made by the mechanics.

Rev. W. A. McClellan ordered his Reporter sent to Pleasant Unity instead of Youngstown, Pa., from which it may be inferred that he has become pastor of the Pleasant Unity Reformed church. Rev. McClellan is formerly from Tusseyville.

James Beaver, a wholesale shipper of fruit and produce, of Millinburg, shipped two car loads of potatoes and apples from Coburn. One car was shipped last week, and one on Monday. The price paid for potatoes was forty cents per bushel.

Huckster W. F. Rockey, of Tusseyville, Monday shipped a fine lot of apples to market. These apples were purchased last fall at thirty-seven cents per bushel, and Mr. Rockey declares, considering the loss, he was obliged to sell at a price that yielded no profit.

Subscribers who wish their address changed to some free delivery mail route should notify this office, giving the former address as well as the number of route to which the change is to be made. It is impossible to make these changes except you inform this office personally or by mail.

The Millinburg Times says, Mrs. George R. Stover and son, of Coburn, came down Saturday to visit her mother, Mrs. Kate Charles, and help her celebrate the anniversary of her birth.—Luther Stover and wife, of Aaronsburg, were guests at the L. D. Kurtz home this week.

Miss May V. Rhone, of Centre Hall, daughter of Leonard Rhone, the state grange leader, will take the place of Frank S. Chapin, of Milton, as chief clerk in the office of State Economic Zoologist H. A. Surface, at Harrisburg. Miss Rhone held this position during the Hastings administration.

Section 5. Any person, firm, limited partnership or corporation publishing a newspaper in Pennsylvania which omits, fails or neglects to carry out the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 of this act and make the publication required by the preceding sections, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$500 and not more than \$1000.

Section 6. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

DEATHS.

WILLIAM JAMES WALTERS. Mr. and Mrs. William and Emma Walters, of near Centre Hill, mourn the death of their son, William James, which occurred Tuesday of last week. Interment was made Thursday, Rev. J. F. Shultz officiating. The child's age was eleven months and eighteen days.

MABLE JANE McFARLANE.

The death of Miss Mable McFarlane occurred at the Bellefonte hospital Saturday. It became necessary to perform an operation for appendicitis, and when this was done it was discovered that peritonitis had previously developed, which was almost certain to cause death in a very brief time. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Kyle McFarlane, of Bellefonte, and was highly thought of by every one who knew her. Her age was sixteen years. Interment was made Tuesday in the Branch cemetery, near Lemont.

Heart Beats Visibly.

Ephraim Lewis, of Towanda, was gored by a mad bull Sunday morning. Lewis' heart was laid bare and his body was bathed in blood. When he reached the hospital the throbbing of the heart could be plainly seen through the pericardium.

Are You Going West?

If you have any idea of going west, you will profit in a financial way by corresponding with the Reporter before leaving. Transportation can be secured in such a way that under certain conditions the fare will be refunded. Do not fail to correspond with this paper early.

Foot Ball at State.

The football schedule for 1903, as far as completed, is as follows: Sept. 19, Dickinson Seminary, at State College; Sept. 26, Geneva College, at State College; Oct. 1, Allegheny College, at State College; Oct. 10, University of Pennsylvania, at Phila.; Oct. 17, Yale University, at New Haven; Oct. 24, open; Oct. 31, Annapolis, at Annapolis; Nov. 7, University of Virginia; Nov. 14, Dickinson, at Williamsport; Nov. 21, open; Nov. 28, Steelton, at Steelton.

Dr. Valentine Leaves Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Milton Valentine, professor of systematic theology and chairman of the faculty of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, has sent his resignation to the board of directors of the institution, to take effect on September 1. The step has been taken because of Dr. Valentine's advanced age, and of his desire to enjoy some leisure and devote himself to literary work.

Rev. Daniel Gress Elected.

The members of the various congregations composing the Centre Hall Reformed church elected Rev. Daniel Gress to be their pastor. Rev. Gress will enter upon the work of his pastorate July 1.

Rev. Gress is a native of Pleasant Unity, Westmoreland county, Pa. He is a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, class 1900, and at the approaching commencement will graduate from the theological seminary connected with that institution.

The fact that the new pastor was unanimously elected by all the congregations in the charge, is evidence sufficient that he came up to the standard of efficiency in the pulpit. The call has been informally accepted.

Will Tell the Truth.

A western preacher has announced that hereafter he will preach only the truth at funerals, and that he does not propose to make immaculate saints of hell bound sinners. That's all wind. Whenever a preacher or an editor starts out to tell the entire truth in either funeral notices or wedding announcements there will be something doing. And yet there will be a happy medium which will meet the demand for reform. It certainly should be disgusting to read some of the sickening slush which appears whenever a couple get married, and this advertising of the bride as the fairest specimen of womanhood in all central Pennsylvania, when she probably is pug nosed and freckled faced and so pigeon toed that her tracks point east when she is going south, is just a little too strong to set well on the average human. The same thing happens when the preacher eulogizes a notoriously bad citizen right into the pearly gates, and the living know it is a sham, while it certainly don't do any good to the dead. No more sense is shown by a lot of long winded resolutions of respect on a part of people who would not associate with the man or woman while alive. A reasonable amount of soft soap is a good thing, but this overdoing of the thing is to be deplored, and is avoided by the Reporter.

Knepley makes a specialty of hooping wheels. Give him a call.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Centre Reporter, \$1.00 per year, in advance.

Local news matter on pages four and five.

Wm. M. Swabb, formerly of Pine Grove Mills, is now located near Lewisport.

At Knepley's blacksmith shop opposite the school building, all work is low in price and guaranteed.

The members of the Methodist church are very much pleased with their new minister Rev. George W. Mellnay.

David Glasgow, of near Tusseyville, had business in town Thursday of last week. He says crop prospects are good in his locality.

J. T. Potter, of Clairton, arrived Saturday to superintend some repairing to be done on his farm buildings. He likes his new home very much.

At the close of business for April the State Treasury contained \$10,095,204.65, in the general fund, deposited in 107 banks and trust companies all over the State.

James Gilbert Taylor, of Bellefonte, brother of Sheriff H. S. Taylor, successfully passed the physical examination for admission to West Point. This will guarantee him admission to that institution.

J. H. Philips, husband of Blanche Duck, died at his home in Hopewell, N. J. Mrs. Philips is the daughter of M. B. Duck, of Spring Mills, her marriage to the deceased having taken place in the fall of 1901.

Elmer E. Douty has taken the contract to peel three hundred tons of hemlock bark and cut five thousand saw logs in Brush Valley for the Laurelton lumber company. He will give employment to about two dozen men during the bark season.

The struggle between duty to self and duty to others, or, as Clara E. Laughlin puts it in the June Delineator, between the Struggle for Life and the Struggle for the Life of Others, is one that comes to thousands of young men and women with impressive significance.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stoner, of near Tusseyville, were in town Friday, when the former made a pleasant call at this office. Mr. Stoner moved to where he now lives from Millheim, in 1874, and has greatly improved his farm. He pays strict attention to farm work, and has little time for anything else, but with him farming pays.

H. V. Harshbarger, who until recently was located at Osceola where he was fireman in a large foundry, is now in Altoona, and is a motorman. Mrs. Harshbarger at present is at the home of her father, David Glasgow, of near Tusseyville, and will remain there until Mr. Harshbarger is either able to rent or buy a home in Altoona. He sold his Osceola home.

Dr. C. Sumner Musser, of Aaronsburg, is attending a meeting of the National Medical Association in session in New Orleans. Dr. Musser is one of the most skilled physicians in Central Pennsylvania, and takes the greatest interest in all gatherings of his profession. Dr. and Mrs. R. G. H. Hayes, of Bellefonte, are also in attendance at the meeting of the Association.

W. Harrison Walker, Esq., of Bellefonte, was in Centre Hall between trains Saturday morning, having come to town on business. He represented the defendant in a case before Squire Murray, in Boalsburg, later in the day. Attorney Walker is popularly known in Penns Valley as he is in Bellefonte, where he is mayor of a strongly Republican town, although himself a staunch Democrat.

Ex-Prothonotary Wm. F. Smith, of Millheim, was a caller Friday. Mr. Smith had been in Bellefonte, and on his return home stopped with James Kimpot, near Linden Hall, who had been seriously ill. The ex-Prothonotary, although out of office, continues to teach Democracy, believing the principles to be right. He holds the respect of the Democrats who elevated him to office by his actions since retiring from the prothonotaryship, which cannot be said of the majority of ex-office holders.

In the installment of his series on "Mankind in the Making," which appears in the May Cosmopolitan, H. G. Wells advances two very original and interesting theories. In planning his ideal community he asks, among other questions, whether polling is really essential to the democratic idea. There is a way, he says, of choosing your public servants of all sorts, and effectually controlling public affairs on perfectly sound democratic principles, without ever having such a thing as an election, as it is now understood, at all.