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Religious Miscellany.

☞But not only do proverbs and experience condemn our faults; we ourselves condemn the same faults in others, whenever they affect our own interest and convenience. Then we are quite sure, that one might be more courteous, and another more reasonable, and a third more amiable, and a fourth far less talkative, if they would only try! Thus we see no difficulty to prevent them from being to us, all they ought to be; and no excuse for them, when they offend us. "Is it not very easy to be polite to one? What good do they get to themselves, from their high airs, or from their snappish humors, or from their capricious conduct? I have no patience with such insolence, nor with such impertinences." Even this is not the weakest nor the worst side of our hearts, in regard to our faults. We can condemn them in ourselves, and yet continue them. We can lament them, and yet allow them to go on. We can even give up excusing them, and yet expect others to forgive and forget them; or rather to overlook them entirely; for we do not like the idea of being *forgiven* by any one but God.

☞"The hope set before us" in the gospel, like the Sheckinah of the divine presence which went before the church in the wilderness, is "a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night;" neither so dim as to be indistinct, nor so bright as to be dazzling to the eye. It is, indeed, as full of immortality as the sun is full of light; but as the sun shines through an atmosphere which softens his rays, and occasionally shades them too, so the hope of eternal life takes so many of the sweetest forms of social life, and is so surrounded by the duties and trials of public, domestic, and moral life, that it never shines too brightly to be looked at, nor too darkly to be seen. It is emphatically a hope set before us; not so far off as to strain the eye in looking for it, nor so near as to pain the eye in looking at it.

☞Too much importance cannot be attached to a right creed, except when it is put in the room of a holy character, or of an humble spirit. Then, however, there is something equally awful and ominous in orthodoxy. Not that a sound creed itself is a dangerous thing. Far from it! Indeed, there can be no true holiness nor humility, without soundness in the faith, upon all *cardinal* points. There may be virtues of character, which are intended for holiness; and virtues of temper, which are intended for humility; but, as both holiness and humility have their chief reasons in the revealed character and will of God, the conduct and spirit (however good) which are not chiefly influenced by these reasons, are not those virtues.

☞There are moments of temptations and moods of temper, when one could almost fly into a passion, as well as get impatient, with the straight *meshes* of Peter's net. 2 Peter i, 5, 11. These tossings and twistings are not made, indeed, in order to escape from the fisherman's net altogether. We do not want the liberty of those fishes which kept out of the gospel net, nor of those "bad" ones which are the shores of eternity; but we are, alas, prone to take more liberty than God sanctions.

☞This is the *secret* of our reluctance to some duties, and of our failure in some graces; they require more diligence than we live to bestow upon them. If the fruits of the spirit would only grow and ripen as easily as the weeds of nature spring up and prevail, we should be quite pleased to bear a plentiful harvest of good fruit to the glory of God; but, finding that they are neither of spontaneous growth, nor independent vitality; and that we must "*sow* unto the spirit," if we would reap of the spirit, we yield to sloth, or event excuses for barrenness.

☞In business, the man that does not follow mere selfishness; the man that is willing to sacrifice a part or the whole of a bargain; the man that carries Christ with him behind the counter—that man can preach where he is, better than in any other pulpit. There is no place where men have more opertunities to bear witness for Christ than in their business. Every single place in which men do business is a Calvary, where is needed a cross, and some one to hang thereon. Wherever any man, for Christ's sake, and for the sake of the kingdom of God, suffers he is crucified for his fellow men.

☞Without the girdle of truth, you may fall into error. Without the breastplate of righteousness, you may fall into lethargy. Without the shoes of the gospel of peace, you may fall into despondency. Without the shield of faith, you may fall into apostacy. Without the helmet of salvation, you may fall into despair. Without the sword of the spirit, you may fall into cowardice. And without prayer and watching, you may fall into any thing, however bad or dangerous.

☞Sometimes it is said that the first step in a man's regeneration is the conviction of sin. The first step in spiritual life is the entrance into the soul of the divine illuminating and recreative spirit.—For it is the touch of God in the human mind that first lifts up our thoughts toward him, toward duty, toward newness of life.

☞So far from the earlier periods of a child's life being unpropitious for religious experiences, it is exactly that period which the child can take hold of such experiences are better then at any later period and take hold of them with sufficient intelligence.

The power of sympathy on children is wonderful. No one can do anything with them, who does not know how to awaken it.

Meeting of Conservative Members of Congress—Resolutions Adopted—A Platform for a New Party.

A meeting of the conservative members of Congress was held in the hall of the House of Representatives, at Washington, on Saturday last, 29th ult., at noon. We copy the subjoined report of the proceedings from the Washington *Chronicle*:

Hon. John J. Crittenden was called to the chair, and Hon. S. S. Cox acted as Secretary.

At a previous meeting of the conservatives, Messrs. Crittenden, Wickliffe, Richardson, Biddle and Cox, were appointed a committee to prepare resolutions, and Mr. Wickliffe reported a series for consideration.

Mr. Menzies, of Ky., said that he was not disposed to assert that even if the confiscation and emancipation bills should become laws, he had little hope of a speedy termination of the war. No, this hope was in the people, and he would appeal to them from the law makers.

Mr. Johnson, of Pa., thought that the hope of the gentleman was that the people would repudiate the laws, but if the laws were passed the presumption was they would be enforced.

Mr. Menzies explained that such laws would not be approved by the people, or suffered to remain on the statute books.

Mr. Allen, of Ohio, looked on the emancipation and confiscation schemes with abhorrence. In his opinion the border free States had more to dread from the scheme of emancipation than the border slave States.

Mr. Steele, of N. Y., said that the present meeting had not been sufficiently published, and as the resolutions were of a very important character, he suggested their further consideration be postponed. He thought that members who sympathised with the object of the meeting should have an opportunity of participating in their deliberations.

After some conversation the meeting refused to postpone the consideration of the resolutions.

Mr. Richardson said that if the authority of the government was to be restored, it must be by saying to the great masses of the South, "Lay down your arms, and you shall not be touched." He was in favor of saying this decisively.

Mr. Biddle was of opinion that they should not express any particular mode of reconciliation.

Mr. Richardson made an explanation, in which he said he was in favor of applying the halter to the leaders of the rebellion.

Mr. White, of O., wanted the language of the resolutions so plain there could be no mistake.

Mr. Holman said that, as a national man of the country, he could stand on the Crittenden resolutions heretofore adopted by the House—as to the objects and purposes of the war—better than on any others. The time for offering an amnesty had not yet come. When the authority of the government was everywhere established, it would be time to adopt a magnanimous and liberal policy toward those who were not leaders in the rebellion.

Mr. Allen, of Ohio, was sick and tired of hearing about the confiscation of property. When he saw a major general withdrawing from his command because he did not occupy as high a position as he thought he deserved, he confessed he had very little hope of the speedy close of the war.—He was in favor of the leaders of the rebellion suffering the extreme penalties of the law.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri, after adverting to the resolutions, declaring that such punishment should be inflicted upon such of the guilty leaders as would satisfy public justice, etc., suggested, as an amendment, that the government should adopt such wise measures of clemency as would tend to bring about a cordial reconciliation, and restore peace to the whole country.

Mr. Hall, of Missouri, believed that if the Abolitionists succeeded in their confiscation and emancipation schemes they would produce a serious embarrassment in the prosecution of the war. For himself he should not cease to struggle for the maintenance of the constitution, and to trust to conservative influences and upon the judiciary.

Mr. Holman said that if these schemes were not rebuked there would be but little hope for the country.

Mr. Rollins, of Missouri, was ready to vote for and sign the resolutions now. Although it was not a party meeting, they were laying the foundation of an organization which was to exert a great moral and political influence upon the country.

Mr. Foulke, of Illinois, regarded the meeting as one of the most important ever held, and for the reasons given by the gentlemen who had preceded him.

The following resolutions were then adopted:

Feeling the great weight of our responsibility as members of Congress, we have met in no party spirit nor for any party purpose, but for the purpose of deliberating and consulting together, how we may best perform our Congressional duties in the present great and perilous crises of our country's fate, and we have come to the following conclusions namely:

1. *Resolved*, That the Constitution and the Union and the laws *must* be preserved and maintained in all their rightful supremacy, and that the rebellion now in arms against them *must* be suppressed and put down, and that it is our duty to vote for all measures necessary and proper to that end.

2. *Resolved*, That the true interests of the country, as well as the dictates of humanity, require that no more war or acts of war should be prosecuted or done than are necessary and proper for the prompt and complete suppression of the rebellion.

2. *Resolved*, That the States are component and essential parts of the Union, bound together inseparable by the constitution of the United States; that none of them can cease to exist as such, so long as that constitution survives, and that it is the exclusive sphere and duty of the States to order and direct their own domestic affairs. While the rebellion, therefore, has not annulled or destroyed the constitutional relations of the so-called "seceded States" to the Federal government, neither has it divested these States of any rights or powers municipal or otherwise, properly belonging to them as members of the Federal Union. The actual exercise of those rights and powers may for a time be interrupted or obstructed by rebellion, and some illegitimate authority may be substituted in its place, but so soon as the rebellion is suppressed, those states will be entitled, as of right, to resume the exercise of all the rights and powers, dignities and immunities which properly belong to them as States of this Union.

4. *Resolved*, That the present war, as avowed by the President and Congress, and understood by the people, was commenced and prosecuted for the purpose of suppressing the rebellion, and preserving and vindicating the constitution, the Union and the laws, and for *that purpose only*. It was a great and noble purpose, high above any mere sectional or party objects and at once it inspired and united in its support all loyal men of every creed, party and section. At the call of the Government a mighty army, the most patriotic, sprung at once to the field, and is bleeding and conquering in the defense of its Government.

Under these circumstances it would in our opinion, be most unjust and dangerous to give any new character or direction to the war for the accomplishment of any other than its first great purpose, and especially for the accomplishment of any mere party or sectional scheme.

5. *Resolved*, That the many and great victories achieved by our armies and navies, whilst they ought to convince the world of the vast military power of our government, give us the pleasing assurance that our deplorable civil war will soon be brought to a close, should the proper objects of the war, as heretofore defined, be kept steadily in view. When that is done, and when such punishment is inflicted on such of the guilty leaders as will satisfy public justice, and upon such others as have made themselves conspicuous for crimes committed in the prosecution of the rebellion, it is our opinion that our government should adopt such wise measures of clemency as will tend to bring back cordial reconciliation and peace to the whole country.

6. *Resolved*, That the doctrines of the secessionists and of the abolitionists, as the latter are now represented in Congress, are alike false to the constitution and irreconcilable with the unity and peace of the country. The first have already involved us in a cruel civil war, and the others (the abolitionists) will leave to the country but little hope of the speedy restoration of the Union or peace if the schemes of confiscation, emancipation and other unconstitutional measures which they have lately carried, and attempted to carry, through the House of Representatives, shall be enacted into the form of laws, and remain unrebuked by the people.

7. *Resolved*, That Congress has no power to deprive any person of his property for any criminal offense, unless that person has been first duly convicted of the offense by the verdict of a jury. And that acts of Congress like those lately passed by the House of Representatives which assume to forfeit or confiscate the estates of men for offenses of which they have not been convicted upon due trial by jury, are unconstitutional, and lead to oppression and tyranny. It is no justification for such acts that the crimes committed in the prosecution of the rebellion are of unexampled atrocity, nor is there any such justification as "State necessity" known to our government or laws.

8. The forgoing resolutions are in explanation and reaffirmative of the resolutions passed at the extra session of the present Congress, known as the "Crittenden resolution," and which declared, "That this war is not waged on our part in any spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor for the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality and rights of the several States unimpaired, and that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease."

The Wool Trade.—There is great excitement in the wool market hereabouts at this time. The number of dealers in the article have increased in proportion to the increase of the crop, which is much larger than at any previous year. Wool buyers are visiting all parts of the country, and the contest between them is very warm. Heretofore the fleeces have been in the possession of a few individuals but now every farmer has become a wool raiser. The prices range from forty to forty-five cents per pound, according to quality some fine fleeces commanding a better price. The article seems to be going up.—*Wheeling Intelligencer.*

☞Commander Foote reached his home in New Haven, Conn., on Tuesday. His health is improving.

☞The Salt Company of Syracuse, N. Y., has advanced the price of salt 13 cents per bushel to cover the government tax.

THE WAR NEWS.

Battles Before Richmond on Thursday and Friday 26th and 27th June—Severe Fighting.

From the New York Herald.

Battle-Field near Mechanicsville, June 26, 1862.

The right wing of the Potomac army has been the scene of a battle to-day of more than common duration and fierceness.—The result has only been the carrying out to fuller confirmation the remark of General McClellan—that the Army of the Potomac has never yet sustained a check.—We have beaten the enemy, and a glorious victory is ours. Our loss, considering the time we were engaged, is small, about two hundred killed, wounded and missing lessing the present estimate. There is every reason to believe that the loss of the enemy is more than double ours, and that notwithstanding they had nearly twice as many men in the action.

The enemy made the attack. A demonstration had been looked for from them for several days, and hence our men were in readiness—and when are they otherwise—to repel the attack. About two o'clock this afternoon the rebels were seen advancing in large force across the Chickahominy, near the railroad, close by Mechanicsville, where [illegible] have encamped since occupying a position on our front lines. Planting their batteries in good position on our rear, they opened fire. Quickly the batteries of this division were wheeled into place, and a vigorous response began. The roar of artillery was deafening; but the crack of volleys of musketry noised in swelling the tumultuous roar of the battle.

Our men were drawn up in line of battle directly facing the enemy. It was a bold piece of work, seeing that the enemy was manifestly largely superior to us in numbers. It was no determination or wish of the regiments constituting the Pennsylvania reserves to seek the protecting cover of woods or marshes, either of which they might have selected, but come out in square, open fight. The work soon waxed warm as the enemy showed a disposition to accept the challenge to open combat—an acceptance, doubtless, based, however, on full confidence in their capacity to come out first best in the fight.

The First Pennsylvania Rifles (Bucktails) were on picket duty as the enemy first marched on us, making a rapid advance through the intervening lowlands and forests. The first thing the Bucktails knew they were almost completely surrounded. Seeing the position they were in, and having no disposition to go to Richmond in advance of the grand army, they set themselves at work vigorously to get out of the difficulty. It was no easy job, but they did more toward accomplishing their purpose than ten rebel regiments similarly situated, could have done. They cut their way fairly out, but most of company K, who happened to be the first surrounded, were taken prisoners. The rest were seen in rifle pits, and they peppered the enemy with a sauciness carrying with it a feeling of revenge. And they had their revenge. The rebels left as many dead on the field shot by Bucktail rifles as members of the regiment they bore away captive with them.

About six o'clock the battle raged with fiercest fury. Advancing down at the rear of Mechanicsville, on a low, swampy piece of ground, where our men were drawn up behind earthworks and rifle pits, the conflict became indescribably terrific. With desperate courage, the rebels attempted to spring forward over the marshy ground, but they were mowed down without mercy in their wallowings in the mire.

A charge of cavalry was attempted about this time, but the horses, like the men, became mired. Some of our cavalry seeing their condition charged down the hill; the rebel equestrians left their horses and took to their heels.

Disappointed in these attempts to win the day, the enemy attempted a flank movement. Now came the time of closest contest. Our men would not yield a rod from their position.

During the height of the cannonading General Morell's division arrived on the ground. They reached the scene of the engagement about six o'clock in the evening. With [illegible] division marched [illegible] shells Gen. [illegible] the advancing [illegible] was called into [illegible] under command of [illegible] only three hours before had [illegible] command by right of seniority over Col. McQuade. The brigade came up on double quick, ready and willing to lend a helping hand in securing to our side the fortunes of the day.

The brigade was ordered to relieve the centre of General McCall's column. The Fourth Michigan, Colonel Woodbury, and Fourteenth New York Volunteers, Col. McQuade, formed in line of battle in front, taking the place of two of Gen. McCall's regiments, while behind them, likewise drawn up in line of battle, were the Sixty-second Pennsylvania, Colonel Black, and Ninth Massachusetts regiment, Col. Cass.

Meantime a battalion of Col. Berdan's Sharpshooters, who had also been ordered to reinforce Gen. McCall's forces, arrived on the field under command of Lieut. Col. Ripley, and were formed in line of battle. Two companies—C, Capt. Giroux, and G, Capt. Drew, were on detached service with Gen. McCall's division, and had previously been out as pickets and skirmishers.—These companies had been stationed by Col. Berdan two days previous in anticipation of the enemy crossing at the point where they did actually do so. Their orders were not to fire until the enemy actually crossed in force, and then to retreat firing, in order to draw them on until they reached the rifle pits and intrenchments which had been previously placed for the purpose of giving the enemy a warm reception. These orders were carried out to the letter. On the rebels approaching and crossing in force they were led on by the retreating sharpshooters, who fired rapidly and fell back, until the rebels suddenly found themselves in front of the earthworks and rifle pits in which they (the sharpshooters) had ensconced themselves.

From the time of the arrival of the reinforcements the firing continued without intermission until half-past nine o'clock. Such volleys of musketry, so sharp, quick and incessant, have never been surpassed in any battle of the present war. And the roar of artillery was tremendous, constant and deafening. Gen. Griffin's regiments each fired about twenty thousand rounds. Gen. Griffin, in the hottest of the fire, rode along the lines frequently, unmindful of the shower of shot and shell. He was so pleased with the coolness and valor of the regiments of his brigade that he remarked to Capt. Auchmuty, of Gen. Morell's staff, who also rode back and forth with [illegible] equally heedless of the storm of iron rain and leaden hail, "Good God! what have I ever done to have such a fortunate inheritance?" And the men did fight well. They drove back the enemy in front of them. The position of each regiment was on the brow of a hill, happily secured their comparative safety from the musketry of [illegible] execution in the rebel ranks. This accounts for the small list of casualties sustained by this brigade.

During the progress of the engagement Gen. Morell was actively moving here and there, superintending the disposition of the brigades of his division to meet any contingency that might require their united services. Of course it will be understood that Gen. Fitz John Porter, who is never so much at home as when superintending an exciting battle, was omnipresent.

During the most part of the firing Gen. McClellan was on the field. His presence did much to inspire the men, and they doubtless fought with more determined resistance than, perhaps, they would have done otherwise, considering the odds against them. Gen. McClellan expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the day's work, and complimented Generals McCall and Morell in person for the handsome manner in which they had managed their men.

The boys had won the day and the praise of their commanders, and were satisfied.

According to the statements of prisoners, the bulk of the enemy comprised Gen. Hill's division, mostly Georgia and South Carolina regiments. They had twenty thousand men in the action. It was the same party who annoyed Gen. Stoneman in the morning in the direction of Hanover Court House.

All our men are sleeping on their arms to-night. It is expected that the engagement will be renewed in the morning.—Meantime those who are not sleeping are attending to the wounded and dying who survive the day's slaughter.

In the field near the Chickahominy, June 27—10 P. M.

The Potomac army is seeing active service enough now to make up for the masterly inactivity of months past. At every call to duty in the field, and face to face contending with the enemy, most nobly do the men rally to the work. To-day another battle has been fought by our gallant Union troops—another glorious victory to be added to the brilliant records of Wednesday and Thursday. Each new day's fight only shows more strikingly the stern and patriotic stuff our soldiers are made of; that they are gradually fulfilling the brightest expectations entertained of them, and that they must be invincible against any force the enemy can send against us. I call to-day's battle a victory, for so it is set down by those claiming to understand the purpose of the movement. It is possible we got more than we bargained for; and there is ground for the detractors of Gen. McClellan, who—in the depths of their hatred of him, would, doubtless, many of them, rather see our army lose a battle than that he should win it—to allege defeat as the result of the day's struggle. Giving up ground that we had held, and burning commissary and ammunition stores while fleeing from a pursuing enemy, looks like defeat. But it was not defeat—it was part and parcel of a strategetic plan. We gave up ground that it was deemed inexpedient, with the force at command, to hold any longer. Our retrograding column fell back to a specified point, made a stand there—fought to hold the point as they had been told to do—fought firmly, bravely, furiously, as it was known they would—held the position against greatly superior numbers, and hold it now. The enemy fought desperately. It was evident they appreciated the importance of the contest. But their desperate valor and keen appreciation of the value of victory were not a sufficient match for the steady unflinching coolness and courage of our men. Their fighting was as the wild lashings of the tiger whose power of fury is nearly expended. Our fighting was the slow, determined, crushing hug of the anaconda upon the victim writhing within its folds.

Our loss in to-day's fighting is estimated at twelve hundred—killed, wounded, and missing; that of the enemy is deemed much greater. There is no trusting estimates now, however. Of to-day's contest no definite results can be given.—Should all the floating rumors be credited, whole regiments would be recorded as no more, and entire brigades be swept out of being. It is certain that to-day's battle has been one of the fiercest fought in front of the rebel capital. Many officers lie cold in clay to-night, having heroically fallen at the head of their commands.—Soldiers unambitious of shoulder straps and chevrons, have reaped the richest reward of the ambitious patriot—death in defence of their country.

In the state of confusion and excitement prevailing to-night, I can only attempt to give a general outline of the day's work. No one could do more than this, and the result of the attempt to give a general [illegible] I can only attempt to give a general outline of the day's work. No one could do more than this, and the result of the attempt must, of necessity, be unsatisfactorily vague and indefinite. It will be two or three days before anything like accurate [illegible] can be given and through [illegible] details proper credit accorded to the different [illegible] brigades and regiments engaged in the action. It is [illegible] every regiment [illegible] so that there is this consolation, that in this regard there is no danger of detracting from the credit due the men either now or in the future full accounts.

Shortly after the close of Thursday's fight came an order from General McClellan to General Fitz John Porter, directing the withdrawal of his corps to a position two miles this side of Gaines' Mill, the ground we now occupy. At three o'clock A. M. the moving back of the corps, who had been sleeping on their arms all night, began. General McCall, in accordance with instructions, opened with his artillery upon the enemy. The latter [illegible] fight, and [illegible] a vigorous [illegible] from their guns. Shot and shell flew in antagonistic directions with danger or liveliness. Gradually Gen. McCall's troops withdrew, which the enemy naturally mistaking for a victory on their side, caused them to follow on in hot haste. Of course our rear column yielded the ground slowly, the more to make the enemy believe that they were being beaten. Meantime Gen. Sykes' division led the retreating column, followed by Gen. Morell's division. Along the advance there were but little indications of a retreat. The men moved slowly, and all, ignorant of this backward movement, were anxious to know the cause of it.

"We are not beaten, are we?" eagerly asked a Fourth Michigan boy.

"Faith, no! Don't never believe you are whipt till you are whipt yourself," responded a gallant son of Tipperary, a fighting "member" of the Ninth Massachusetts regiment. "An' sure we are all thet only drawing the rebels on."

And so it was; and the rebels continued to come on, a mutual cannonading being continually kept up. The retreat was decidedly against the will and wishes of the bulk of our troops. All [illegible] the position they had gained [illegible] evening. There was no resisting [illegible], and so on came batteries, regiments in marching order, a cortege of ambulances, stragglers, convalescents, contrabands, and a miscellaneous coterie of [illegible] always [illegible] to be in close proximity [illegible] a moving army.

I do not know whether it happened from an unaccountable blunder, and I have not yet found any one able or willing to explain it, but soon a huge column of smoke arose from near the late headquarters of Gen. Sykes, and on the ground occupied by the Second brigade of Gen. Morell's division. At the former place a large quantity of commissary stores were set on fire, and at the latter place commissary stores and ammunition. The rolling up of the huge smoky wreaths increased no doubt the belief of the enemy that our retreat was a necessitous one; it certainly added to the eagerness of their pursuit. I should here state that General McClellan had previously ordered the removal of all tents and commissary and quartermaster's stores across the Chickahominy. This order was given on Thursday before the first attack on the enemy by General McCall, and shows the object to have been a concentration of all our troops on the other side of the river, in accordance with the programme alluded to above.

Hardly had the chapel tent bearers crossed the bridge at Gaines' Mills when a squad of axemen appeared to cut it down. The bridge is about twenty feet wide and some fifteen feet above the water. The blows came down rapid and hard; one side of it soon lay angular-wise in the water. There was one other way for the enemy to cross here, a narrow footpath leading over the dam adjacent. Of course he could not move his artillery over this narrow viaduct, and the only thing he could do was to plant his pieces on the opposite bank, and send his shells over in our direction. This he at once proceeded to do, at the same time waiting for a construction of a means of transit for his cannon. The latter piece of work was prosecuted with some difficulty, as the Ninth Massachusetts regiment blazed away at them from their muskets with destructive effect. Our cannon, too, were not backward in responding to the rebel grape and cannister.

From this point our retreating column started on in the same order as heretofore, but soon branching off into divergent roads, Gen. McCall's division, and the troops under General Sykes, went by way of Cold Arbor, while General Morell's men and the batteries took a diagonal road leading to Kidd's mill. Soon the designated place for halting was reached. During the latter part of march there was less disturbance from rebel cannon and muskets although they kept within respectable distance, till our men passed into the woods skirting the corn fields and fallow land extending back from the ravine through which runs the creek and pond furnishing the water over Dr. Gaines' Mill. Beyond these woods the rebels did not show themselves for some time afterwards. It was about ten o'clock when, what afterwards proved to be, the field of the day's contest was reached. It will be seen from this that over six hours were consumed in the backward march from the scene of the preceding day's conte...