

Mystery Of Heroism.

A DETAIL OF AN AMERICAN BATTLE

By STEPHEN CRANE.

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The dark uniforms of the men were so coated with dust from the incessant wrestling of the two armies that the regiment almost seemed a part of the clay bank which abated them from the shell. On the top of the hill a battery was arguing in tremendous roars with some other guns and to the eye of the infantry, the artillerymen, the guns, the caissons, the horses, were distinctly outlined upon the blue sky. When a piece was fired a red streak as round as a log flashed low in the heavens, like a monstrous bolt of lightning. The men of the battery wore white duck trousers which somehow emphasized their legs, and when they ran and crowded to little groups at the bidding of the shouting officers, it was more impressive than usual to the infantry.

Fred Collins, of A Company, was saying: "Thunder, I wish I had a drink. Any there, yeh? There's a member!" Then somebody yelled: "There goes th' bugler!"

As the eyes of half of the regiment swept in one machine-like movement there was an instant's picture of a death wound and a rider leaning back with a crooked arm and spread fingers before his face. On the ground was the crimson terror of an exploding shell, with fibres of flame that seemed like lances. A glittering smoke, the gray of the rider's back as he fell headlong to the ground, the man in the air was an odor as from a conflagration.

Sometimes, they of the infantry looked down at a fair little meadow which spread at their feet. Its long, green grass was rippling gently in a breeze. Beyond it was the gray of a house half torn to pieces by shells and by the busy axes of soldiers who had pursued firewood. The line of an old fence was now dimly marked by long weeds and by an occasional post. A shell had blown the well-house to fragments. Little lines of gray smoke ribboned upward from some of the members indicated the place where had stood the barn.

From beyond a curtain of green woods there came the sound of some stupendous scuffle as if two animals of the size of islands were fighting. At a distance there were occasional appearances of swift-moving men, noises, batteries, flags, and with the crashing of infantry volleys were heard, often, wild and frenzied cheers. In the midst of it all, Smith and Ferguson, two privates of A Company, were engaged in a heated discussion, which involved the greatest questions of the national existence.

The battery on the hill presently engaged in a frightful duel. The white legs of the gunners scampered this way and that way and the officers redoubled their shouts. The guns, with their de-monstrations of stolidity and courage, were typical of something infinitely self-possessed in this clamor of death that swirled around the hill.

One of a "swing" team was suddenly smitten quivering to the ground and his maddened brethren dragged his torn body in their struggle to escape from this turmoil and danger. A young soldier astride one of the leaders swore and tamed in his saddle and furiously jerked at the bridle. An officer screamed out an order so violently that his voice broke and ended the sentence in a falsetto shriek.

The leading company of the infantry regiment was somewhat exposed and the colonel ordered it moved more fully under the shelter of the hill. There was the clank of steel against steel. A lieutenant of the battery rode down and passed them, holding his right arm carefully in his left hand. And it was as if this arm was not at all a part of him, but belonged to another man. His sober and reflective charger went slowly. The officer's face was grimy and perspiring and his uniform was tattered as if he had been in direct grapple with an enemy. He smiled grimly when the men stared at him. He turned his horse toward the meadow.

Collins, of A Company, said: "I wish I had a drink, I bet there's water in that there 'er well yonder!" "Yes, but how you goin' to get it?" For the little meadow which intervened was now suffering a terrible onslaught of shells. Its green and beautiful calm had vanished utterly. Brown earth was being flung in monstrous handfuls. And there was a massacre of the young blades of grass. They were being torn, burned, obliterated.

Some curious fortune of the battle had made this gentle little meadow the object of the red hate of the shells and each one as it exploded seemed like an impregnation in the face of a maiden. The wounded officer who was riding across this expanse said to himself: "Why, they couldn't shoot any harder if the whole army was massed here!" A shell struck the gray ruins of the house and as, after the roar, the shattered wall fell in fragments, there was a noise which resembled the flapping of shutters during a wild gale of winter. Indeed, the infantry paused in the shelter of the bank, appeared as men standing upon a shore contemplating a mad-dance of the sea. The angel of the calamity had under its glance the battery upon the hill. Fewer white-legged men labored about the guns. A shell had smitten one of the pieces and after that there was no more clear shooting. The shell was gone, it was possible to see white legs stretched horizontally upon the ground. And at that interval to the rear, where it is the business of battery horses to stand with their noses to the light awaiting the command to "drag their guns out of the destruction or into it or wherever ever these incomprehensible humans demanded with whip and spur--in this line of passive and dumb spectators, whose fluttering hearts yet would not let them forget the iron laws of man's control of them--in this rank of brutes--riders there had been relentless and hideous carnage. From the rack of bleeding and prostrate horses, the men of the infantry could see one animal raising its stricken body with its forelegs and turning its nose with mystic and profound eloquence toward the sky.

Some comrades joked Collins about his threat. "Well, if yeh want a drink so bad, why don't yeh go get it?" "Well, I will in a minnet if yeh don't shut up!"

A lieutenant of artillery floundered his horse straight down the hill with as great concern as if it were level ground. As he galloped past the colonel of the infantry, he threw up his hand in swift salute. "We've got to get out of that," he roared angrily. He was a black-bearded officer, and his eyes, which resembled beads, sparkled like those of an insane man. His jumping horse sped along the column of infantry.

The fat major standing carelessly with his sword held horizontally behind him and with his legs far apart, looked after the receding horseman and laughed. "He wants to get back with orders pretty quick or there'll be no battery left," he observed.

The wise young captain of the second company hazarded to the lieutenant colonel that the enemy's infantry would probably soon attack the hill, and the lieutenant colonel snubbed him. "A private in one of the rear companies looked over the meadow and then turned to a companion and said: 'Look there, Jim.' It was the wounded officer from the battery, who some time before had started to ride across the meadow, supporting his right arm carefully with his left hand. This man had encountered a shell apparently at a time when no one perceived him and he could now be seen lying face downward with a straggled foot stretched across the body of his dead horse. A leg of the charger extended slantingly upward precisely as stiff as a stake. Around this motionless pair the shells still howled.

There was a quarrel in A Company. Collins was shaking his fist in the faces of some laughing comrades. "Dern yeh! I ain't afraid 't go. If yeh say much, I will go!" "Of course, yeh will! You'll run through that madder, won't yeh?" Collins said, in a terrible voice: "You see, now?" At this ominous threat his comrades broke into renewed jeers.

Collins gave them a dark scowl and went to find his captain. The latter was conversing with the colonel of the regiment. "Captain," said Collins, saluting and standing at attention. In those days all troopers bagged at the knees. "Captain, I want 't get permission to go get some water from that there well yonder!" "The colonel and the captain swung about simultaneously and stared across the meadow. The captain laughed. "You must be pretty thirsty, Collins?" "Yes, sir, I am."

"Well--ah," said the captain. After a moment, he asked: "Can't you wait?" "No, sir."

boys' canteens with you an' hurry back now." "Yes, sir, I will." The colonel and the captain looked at each other then, for it had suddenly occurred that they could not for the life of them tell whether Collins wanted to go or whether he did not. They turned to regard Collins and as they perceived him surrounded by gasping comrades the colonel said: "Well, by thunder! I guess he's goin'." (To Be Continued.)

NEWS OF OUR INDUSTRIES

happenings of interest to the Trade and Particularly to the Trade in Iron, Steel and Anthracite Coal.

T. W. Boone, superintendent of the live stock department of the Lehigh Valley Coal company, has tendered his resignation to take effect Aug. 1. On Monday the Lehigh Valley, Reading and Pennsylvania will make an official reduction in the freight rate on coal from the mines to Buffalo from \$2 to \$1.75.

Daniel C. Richards, who has been first boss and assistant foreman at the Hillman vein colliery, Wilkes-Barre, for twelve years, has been appointed foreman of that colliery.

The Mabel Fairbank order for the live stock department of the Lehigh Valley Coal company, has tendered his resignation to take effect Aug. 1. On Monday the Lehigh Valley, Reading and Pennsylvania will make an official reduction in the freight rate on coal from the mines to Buffalo from \$2 to \$1.75.

The Pennsylvania Railroad company has just placed an additional order for 8,000 tons of steel rail at \$24 a ton, which makes a total of 56,000 tons recently ordered. The order was divided as follows: Pennsylvania Steel company, 2,000 tons; Scranton, 2,000 tons; Cambria Iron company, 3,000 tons, and the Edgar Thomson company, 2,000 tons. The order will build about eighty miles of track.

Commencing with Aug. 1 the miners and laborers employed by the Lehigh Valley company at Jeannette will be subjected to a new rule. Each man upon entering upon his duties in the morning will be provided with a check number, which will have to be returned to the boss or some other person assigned to that duty as they leave the mines. The object is to ascertain exactly how many hours are worked daily by each man.

The Studebaker Wagon company, of South Bend, Ind., say with reference to the rumor that they were contemplating making bicycles at one-third their present cost: "The rumor is premature. We have been making some investigations and have several improvements whereby the bicycle can be produced in expense and at the same time retain its high efficiency and durability, but we have not come to any conclusion as to building them. We have a shotgun loaded with saddle-bags, and we would like to use it on the man who started the rumor that we are building bicycles, as we are receiving hundreds of letters of inquiry daily."

A recent report made by United States Consul Anthony Howells, located at Cardiff, furnishes some interesting information concerning the operations of the sliding wage scale of the South Wales collieries. This report says that wages are regulated by a sliding scale based upon the average net selling price of coal, as ascertained and certified by two auditors or accountants, one of whom is chosen by the operators and the other by the operatives. The wages are advanced or reduced at the end of each period of two months by additions or reductions of 1 1/2 per cent. upon the mean monetary results found by the auditors as between the old scale, dated June, 1882, and the one dated January, 1880, there being neither maximum nor minimum. The accountants give a vote and the average selling price for each period of two months, and such price for the two months ending the last day of February is made to govern wages from April 1 to the last day of May, and so on for every successive two months. The agreement continues in force for two months, and thereafter till either party gives six months' notice of termination, such notice to be given July 1 or on the first day of any succeeding January or July." Mr. Howells says the miners have tried to secure three amendments which they consider vital, viz.: The increase of percentage, the establishment of an umpire and a minimum wage rate.

Philadelphia Tallow Market. Philadelphia, July 31.--Tallow--dull and unchanged. We quote: City, prime, in hds, 4c; country, prime, in bbls, 3 1/2c; dark, in bbls, 3 1/2c; cakes, 4c; grease, 3 1/2c.

THE WORLD OF BUSINESS

STOCKS AND BONDS.

New York, July 31.--The early trading at the Stock Exchange was quiet and the course of prices very irregular. The favorite concerns of the Grangers and a few other prominent issues were inclined to weakness, but Tennessee Coal, Missouri Pacific and Lead were firm. In the Grangers considerable Burlington and Quincy was sold for the account of one of the newly-formed pool styling their trust and there were also some liquidating sales in Sugar, attributed to the Wormers. The latter rumor received but little credence in usually well-informed circles. The attempt to dislodge long stock proved futile, however, and in the last hour there was a complete change of front. The price of stocks was almost to a man arrayed themselves on the bull side. As a result business was more active than at any other time of the day, and prices bounded up rapidly. The stocks most prominent in the late rise were Missouri Pacific, the Grangers, Sugar, Chicago Gas, Tennessee Coal and Lead, Missouri Pacific rose 2 1/2 to 3 1/2; St. Paul, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2; Rock Island, 2 to 2 1/2; Burlington and Quincy, 1 1/2 to 2; Northwest, 1/2 to 1; Chicago Gas, 1/2 to 1; Sugar, 1 1/2 to 1 1/2; Tobacco, 1 1/2 to 1 1/2; and the remainder of the list 1/2 to 3/4 per cent. Also under advancing stocks, broke to 3 1/2 to 3 3/4 on the denial by President Thompson that the company intended to pay a dividend on the common stock on Oct. 1. At the close the market was strong to buoyant. Net changes show gains of 1/2 to 3/4 per cent. on the day. Missouri leading. Lead lost 1/4 per cent. Total shares were 142,512 shares.

The range of today's prices for the active stocks of the New York stock market are given below. The quotations are furnished by The Tribune by G. du B. Dimick, manager for Wm. Lindley & Co., stock brokers, 412 Spruce street, Scranton.

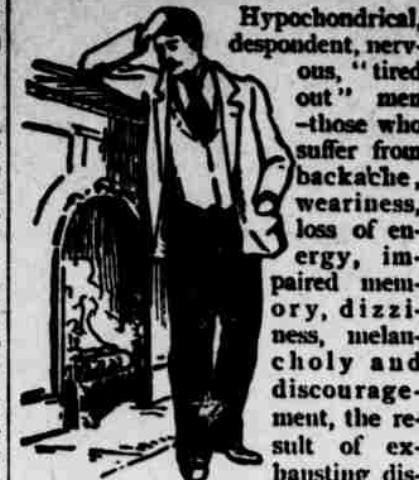
Table with columns: Op'n, High, Low, Close. Lists various stocks like Am. Tobacco, C. & O., etc.

Table with columns: WHEAT, CORN, OATS, etc. Lists prices for various grains.

Table with columns: STOCKS, BOND, etc. Lists prices for various securities.

Table with columns: New York Produce Market, etc. Lists prices for various commodities.

Table with columns: Chicago Live Stock, etc. Lists prices for various livestock.



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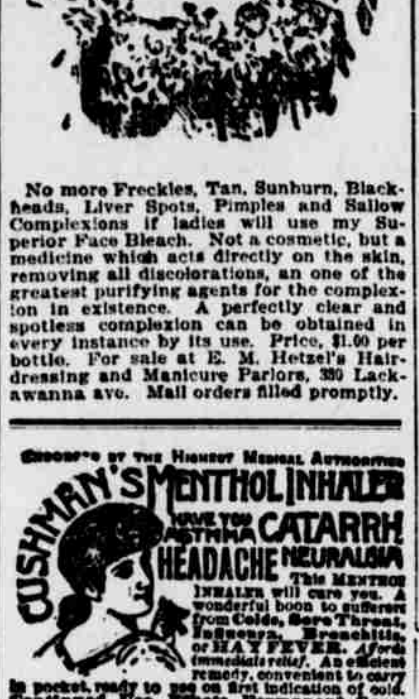
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