

Cleveland's Substitute.

Battle Report to Philadelphia Press, July 23, 1863.
George Brook, a Polish sailor, was the substitute for President Cleveland in the war of the rebellion. He recently wrote a letter to the commander-in-chief of the Des Moines, Iowa, Post, G. A. H., in which he said that Mr. Cleveland had never satisfied his promises in regard to paying him for going to his assistance and had let him live in the various positions.

Brook is now in the Soldiers' Home at Bath, N. Y., where he was seen by the Press correspondents. He is 65 years old, below medium height, has prominent features and blazed eyes. He is manifestly very feeble, has no use of his right wrist and suffers from a hacking cough, accompanied by frequent hemorrhages. His mind seems clear, and he speaks as rapidly as his gurgling breath would permit. In the letter to the Des Moines Post was inserted by him, and added:

"I know how the President treated me. I left to war for him, so he was in no danger of getting killed or hurt, and what can he do for me? He let me go around from one position to another, now here I am all broken down and dying in the hospital and he won't fit a hand to help me, and he President of the United States, I am going to tell what he has done for it. Why, he would never help me to get a pension."

"What assistance did you expect to get from him?"

"Heck's he promised to make me fit, get out of the war alive? I was working on the project when Captain Blamey, heart of Prison Station No. 1, asked me to go as substitute for George Cleveland, who had been drafted, and we went up to Cleveland's office to see about it. Cleveland had only \$100, and I think he believed that if Captain Blamey had told him he would help me more after I got out, I knew that the beauty then was \$100, but I told him that if he would get an office or something for Captain Blamey and help me if I came out alive, I would go for him. This, he agreed to. Cleveland was soon in by Captain Blamey and I went to Fort Dodge to be mustered in. On the way, Mr. Cleveland asked us to have a glass of beer, and when he paid for it he spent his pocketbook and said, 'Here, George, do you see little you have left?' Yes, but I left him home when I went for him."

"Have you ever asked Mr. Cleveland for help?" asked the correspondent.

"Certainly I have, and he never gave it to me. I saw him in Buffalo in 1863, the day that Governor Hayes was elected. I had got my discharge papers and I had been around a few days to get proof that I was the man who went to Cleveland's substitute. There was plenty of them to identify me. Fred Bush, keeper of the posthouses, could do it for me, and there are records to show it. I had a letter for Mr. Cleveland about my case and I went to his office where Mr. Howell is to give it to him. There was a crowd standing around him in the front office. He saw me and recognized me. He stopped up and took me by the hand and said, 'Come, George,' and brought me into the room. Then he said, 'Here, gentlemen, it is the man who fought for me in the war.' Then he made me sit down and the letter was left lying on the table. After a while he came up and put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'Well, George, how are you?' I told him that I was all used up; that my health was all gone, and that I didn't have anything. 'Oh, parday, that isn't so bad.' Then he bent down to me and said, 'It is, George,' and I commenced to cry as I sat in the chair. Then he asked me what he could do for me and I told him that I was poor and had no home, and was not able to work. Then he went into another room, and I did not see any more of him."

"Where had you been living then?"

"At the posthouse. My lungs got so bad that I had to go there, and you can see how they are now. I have hemorrhaged right along." "Have you ever applied to him since?" "Yes, I had two or three letters written for me and never heard anything from him except that I never sent a notice that a letter had been received. I wanted to go to Fort Leavenworth for my health, and he had no money and I had lost all of my citizen clothes. Mr. Cleveland wouldn't help me at all. Then I wrote to see if he would try to get me a pension. I put in my application a year ago, and Major Campbell of Bath is trying to get a pension for me. I think I ought to have that anyway. I wrote to General Black and he sent me a blank of some kind to fill out, and that's the way it stands. My lungs were ruined in the service and I did not see any more of him."

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