

THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.

EXTRACTS FROM GENERAL GRANT'S ACCOUNT OF THE FAMOUS SIEGE.

Beginning of the Siege—Explosion of Mines Before the City—General Pemberton's Scheme to Escape.

The following extracts are taken from General Grant's account of the siege of Vicksburg, published in the Century. Describing the beginning of the siege the general writes:

"We had no siege guns except six thirty-two pounders, and there were none at the West to draw from. Admiral Porter, however, supplied us with a battery of navy guns of large caliber, and with these, and the field artillery used in the campaign, the siege began. The first thing to do was to get the artillery in batteries where they would occupy commanding positions; then, to establish the camps, under cover from the fire of the enemy, but as near up as possible; and then to construct rifle pits and covered ways, to connect the entire command by the shortest route. The enemy did not harass us much while we were constructing our batteries. Probably their artillery ammunition was short, and their infantry was kept down by our sharpshooters, who were always on the alert and ready to fire at a head whenever it showed itself above the rebel works.

"In no place were our lines more than six hundred yards from the enemy. It was necessary, therefore, to cover our men by something more than the ordinary parapet. To give additional protection, sand-bags, bullet-proof, were placed along the tops of the parapets, far enough apart to make loopholes for musketry. On top of these, logs were put. By these means the men were enabled to walk about erect when off duty, without fear of annoyance from sharpshooters. The enemy used in their defence explosive musket-balls, thinking, no doubt, that, bursting over our men in the trenches, they would do some execution. I do not remember a single case where a man was injured by a piece of one of these shells. When they were hit, and the ball exploded, the wound was terrible. In these cases a solid ball would have hit as well. Their use is barbarous, because they produce increased suffering without any corresponding advantage to those using them.

"The enemy could not resort to our method to protect their men, because we had an inexhaustible supply of ammunition to draw upon, and used it freely. Splinters from the timber would have made havoc among the men behind.

"There were no mortars with the besiegers, except those that the navy had in front of the city; but wooden ones were made by taking logs of the toughest wood that could be found, boring them out for six or twelve pound shells, and binding them with strong iron bands. These answered as coehorns, and shells were successfully thrown from them into the trenches of the enemy.

"The labor of building the batteries and of intrenching was largely done by the pioneers, assisted by negroes who came within our lines and who were paid for their work; but details from the line had often to be made. The work was pushed forward as rapidly as possible, and when an advanced position was secured and covered from the fire of the enemy, the batteries were advanced. By the 30th of June there were two hundred and twenty guns in position, mostly light field-pieces, beside a battery of heavy guns belonging to, and manned and commanded by, the navy. We were now as strong for defense against the garrison of Vicksburg as they were against us; but I knew that Johnson was in our rear, and was receiving constant reinforcements from the East. He had at this time a larger force than I had had at any time prior to the battle of Champion Hill.

Writing about the explosion of mines before the beleaguered city, General Grant says:

"From the 23d of May the work of fortifying, and pushing forward our position nearer to the enemy, had been steadily progressing. At the point on the Jackson road in front of Ransom's brigade a sap was run up to the enemy's parapet, and by the 25th of June we had it undermined and the mine charged. The enemy had countermined, but did not succeed in reaching our mine. At this particular point the hill on which stood the rebel work rises abruptly. Our sap ran close up to the outside of the enemy's parapet. In fact this parapet was also our protection. The soldiers of the two sides occasionally conversed pleasantly across this barrier; sometimes they would exchange the hard bread of the Confederates, and at other times they threw over hand-grenades, the rebels throwing them first, and our men often catching them in their hands and returning them.

"Our mine had been started some distance back down the hill; consequently, when it had extended as far as the parapet, it was many feet below it. This caused the failure of the enemy in his search to find and destroy it. On the 25th of June, at 3 o'clock, all being ready, the mine was exploded. A heavy artillery fire all along the line had been ordered to open with the explosion. The effect was to blow the top of the hill off and make a crater where it stood. The breach was not sufficient to enable us to pass a column of attack through. In fact, the enemy, having failed to reach our mine, had thrown up a line farther back, where most of the men guarding that point were placed. There were a few men, however, left at the advance line, and others were working in the counter-mine, which was still being pushed to find ours. All that were there were thrown into the air, some of them coming down on our side, still alive. I remember one colored man, who, having been under ground at work when the explosion took place, was thrown to our side. He was not much hurt, but terribly frightened. Some one asked him how high he had gone up. "Dun no, massa, but 'ink 'bout 'ree mile," was his reply. General Logan commanded at this point, and took this colored man to his quarters, where he did service to the end of the siege.

"As soon as the explosion took place the crater was seized by two regiments of our troops who were near by, under cover, where they had been placed for the express purpose. The enemy made a desperate effort to expel them, but

failed, and soon retired behind his new line. From here, however, they threw hand-grenades, which did some execution. The compliment was returned by our men, but not with so much effect. The enemy could lay their grenades on the parapet, which alone divided the contestants, and roll them down upon us; while from our side they had to be thrown over the parapet, which was at considerable elevation. During the night we made efforts to secure our position in the crater against the missiles of the enemy, so as to run trenches along the outer base of their parapet, right and left; but the enemy continued throwing their grenades, and brought boxes of field ammunition (shells), the fuses of which they would light with port-fires, and throw them by hand into our ranks. We found it impossible to continue this work. Another mine was consequently started, which was exploded on the 1st of July, destroying an entire redan, killing and wounding a considerable number of its occupants, and leaving an immense chasm where it stood. No attempt to charge was made this time, the experience of the 25th admonishing us. Our loss in the first affair was about thirty killed and wounded. The enemy must have lost more in the two explosions than we did in the first. We lost none in the second."

Referring to General Pemberton's scheme to escape from Vicksburg, Grant writes:

"About this time an intercepted dispatch from Johnston to Pemberton informed me that Johnston intended to make a determined attack upon us, in order to relieve the garrison of Vicksburg. I knew the garrison would make no formidable effort to relieve itself. The picket lines were so close to each other—where there was space enough—that the lines to picket pickets—that the men could converse. On the 21st of June I was informed, through this means, that Pemberton was preparing to escape by crossing to the Louisiana side under cover of night; that he had employed workmen in making boats for that purpose; that the men had been canvassed to ascertain if they would make an assault on the 'Yankees' to cut their way out; that they had refused, and had almost mutinied because their commander would not surrender and relieve their sufferings, and had only been pacified by the assurance that boats enough would be finished in a week to carry them all over. The rebel pickets also said that houses in the city had been pulled down to get material to build these boats with. Afterward this story was verified. On entering the city we found a large number of very rudely constructed boats.

"All necessary steps were at once taken to render such an attempt abortive. Our pickets were doubled; Admiral Porter was informed, so that the river might be more closely watched; material was collected on the west bank of the river with which to light it up if the attempt was made; and batteries were established along the levee crossing the peninsula on the Louisiana side. Had the attempt been made, the garrison of Vicksburg would have been drowned, or made prisoners on the Louisiana side. General Richard Taylor was expected on the west bank to cooperate in this movement, I believe; but he did not come, nor could he have done so with a force sufficient to be of service."

Cupping and Leeching.

"I commenced the practice of cupping and leeching for the cure of many of the ills that man is heir to some sixty years ago," said Mrs. Harriet O'Connor, an octogenarian who resides, still hale and hearty, on Fifth street, below South. "When I started practicing in this city there were about three hundred persons engaged in the business, and many a struggling artist earned his first dollar in painting the fancy signs which adorned the window sills or hung projecting from the front of the office of the leecher. The practice has declined within the past few years, and at present there are but twelve persons in the whole city following the profession for a livelihood.

The leeches used now are brought from Sweden and Norway, although those found in the pine districts of New Jersey are much more preferable. Foreign leeches will take from three to five times their weight in blood, six being generally applied for every fluid ounce of blood to be drawn. When leeches are scarce they are utilized several times before being thrown away, and to compel them to disgorge, salt is thrown upon them or they are squeezed with the fingers, great care being taken not to crush them. They are imported into this country by a firm whose office is in Maiden Lane, New York, who collect orders from its customers, and make but one general importation, receiving fully 2,000,000 leeches per year. The average price is about \$8 per thousand, and the cost price and freight are about \$2. The profit is simply enormous. The leeches are packed in moss and shipped in air-tight wooden buckets, and must be kept in a cool, dark place. Attempts have been made to breed the foreign leech, but with no success. Barbers some thirty years ago were not considered proficient in their trade if not possessed of a knowledge of cupping, leeching and bleeding.—Philadelphia Record.

The Dude of the Congo.

A lion skin, a real lion skin, is spread out, a fat crimson bolster is in place of a chair of state, and a circle of respectful principals are seated around. While you are seated expectant of his appearance, the dude is touching himself up before a score of looking-glasses hanging around the walls of his house, straightening a hair here, giving another dab of ochre on his cheeks or forehead, a streak of yellow under an eye, a line of white under the other, the ridge of his nose colored still darker with powdered charcoal, a loving tap on his chin, a smooth of a crease in his red blanket, and lo! the African dude stands before you.—Henry M. Stanley.

One of the Mysteries.

How strange it seems that when a man goes fishing the trout that gets away from him was fully this long.

While the one he brings home is never longer than this—Canyon City Mercury.

DUELING AMONG STUDENTS.

YOUTHFUL COMBATANTS AT GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

Description of a Duel—Fighting in which No Lives are Lost, but Ugly Gashes Given.

An American student at Göttingen, Germany, writes the following account of a recent student duel:

"A fight was just about to begin. The combatants, surrounded by seconds, umpires and friends, had already taken their places on the floor. Their breasts and thighs were protected by thick pads, on which the black blood of former encounters had gathered for years past. The veins of the neck were guarded by winding around it a heavy scarf. Iron goggles, with plate-glass windows, concealed the eyes, and the arms were also covered with wadding. The swords were long and narrow, without points. One of the pair of warriors, a member of the blue-cap corps, was a pale, slender, good-looking youth. He never spoke a word or took his eyes off his adversary. The latter, one of the red-caps, was a big, burly fellow, whom the pads seemed to greatly oppress. Perhaps he was frightened; I don't blame him.

"The surgeon stepped back, looking like a butcher, in his long white apron, spotted with blood. There had been another duel before we came. The time-keeper took his place at a little table. The seconds jumped into position, each at the left side of his man, after polite bows to each other in true German fashion. The fifty or sixty corps students who were sitting at little tables around the room eating breakfast and drinking rose to see the fight. All was solemnity, and the silence was only broken by some dignified fellow's calling to an acquaintance clear across the floor and drinking his health, at the same time bowing profoundly and lifting his cap. There were a few sharp words of command repeated by one second after the other, something like 'Make ready! Go!' and in an instant all one could see was the flashing of swords and the flying of sparks, and all one could hear was the regular 'whack, whack,' of the blows. There seemed to be only one kind of stroke, and each met the other half-way. 'Halt!' cries the fat fellow, and the seconds run up to see where he is cut; but it was a false alarm. They rub him a little and let him sweat a moment, then at again. Dodging with the head or moving the feet or body is not allowed, the left arm must be kept behind the back. 'Whack! whack! whack!' as before, but also a clear swish! and the next moment the blood is running from a clean, perpendicular gash in the big fellow's left cheek.

"About this time I wondered how the hotel woman could stand it, for she had been carrying meat and drink from table to table all the time. I also had occasion to see a man who had for two seasons been punished behind the bat on the Princeton base ball nine, and who had risked his life in one or two Thanksgiving day football games, walk with uncertain step to the window for a breath of fresh air. It isn't pleasant to see a man's cheek laid open deliberately. The next round proved even more disastrous for the plump red-cap, for he received an ugly gash above the eye, which will go with him as long as the eye itself. Next time his chin suffered, and then his nose. He was out of breath and looked miserable. I went to the window and looked at the clear blue sky and the golden fields, and wondered why human society must so torture itself with useless and cruel conventionalities. But the fascination of the raining blows called me back to the next round. A hum of interest ran along the gallery front when the cool little fellow was seen to get by far the heaviest blow of the fight across his brow, which was soon covered with blood.

"They took off the goggles and the blood ran into his eyes. Then they mopped it up and he was ready again, and in the next round gave his opponent another gash on the left temple. It seemed to me about time to call a halt for good, and presently they did. Under the rules a fight lasts fifteen minutes of actual fencing, pauses not counted. With pauses reckoned in, this must have lasted about forty minutes. The gladiators carried their bloody heads into another room to receive the doctor's attention, and preparations began for another duel. I asked a student if either of our bloody friends had fought before, and he said laconically: "The little fellow has fought nine times this term."

Cannibalism Among Rats.

Mr. W. Matthew Williams believes that rats are, upon occasion, voracious cannibals, devouring one another by wholesale and without mercy. Being troubled beyond endurance by these pests, and getting no relief from dogs, ferrets, and cats, and fearing poison, he tried the effects of stuffing the holes with broken glass. "This was successful and some curious results accompanied the clearance. At first, there were streaks of blood on the kitchen-floor in considerable quantity, and distributed over it. These appeared on several mornings. At about the same time, and subsequently, much scampering and screaming was heard beneath. This was followed by a rapid reduction of the number of the enemy. My theory," says Mr. Williams, "is, that when any one rat was wounded by the glass, the scent of blood excited the voracity of the others, and a cannibal struggle occurred; that this continued till extirpation followed—the more fighting, the more bloodshed and the more cannibalism." Mr. F. H. Halfpenny partly confirms this view in "Science Gossip," where he says that the black rat is still to be met with at most of the London docks; that the Norway or sewer rat not only kills its victim, but devours it. He describes skins of freshly killed black rats turned inside out, and found in various drawers, boxes, etc., and states that this treatment of their victim is usual with rats. As an experiment, Mr. Halfpenny gave the carcass of a white rat to one of the black and white variety. It was eaten, only a few bones of the head remaining attached to the everted skin.—Popular Science Monthly.

Taking morphine leaves, in a short time, the head bare. Many persons are nearly bald from this cause. Morphine also loosens the teeth, so that it is as good for the dentists as for the capillary artists.

International Exhibition.

Under the patronage of Queen Victoria and the presidency of the Prince of Wales a prospectus has been issued for a world's fair at Liverpool, to be opened in May, 1886, and to continue during the summer and autumn months. The exhibition is intended to illustrate the history and development of traveling by land, sea and air. There will also be shown, as allied to this subject, exhibits representative of the manufacture and commerce of the world, which owe so much to the achievements of modern science in creating and perfecting the means and methods of movement from place to place. Thus the project will include a collection of models of vessels, ancient and modern, illustrations of the modes and material of their construction, their engineering and other appliances, boats of every description, docks, harbors, lighthouses, life saving apparatus and all other matters connected with traveling by water.

In the department of land traveling there will be exhibited chariots, coaches and carriages of all countries and all times; the history of steam as a motive power will be fully illustrated, and there will be shown models, examples and technical appliances, English and foreign, for the conveyance of travelers and goods.

In the commercial and manufacturing sections will be exhibited specimens of processes and products illustrating the growth and development of representative industries.

The site chosen, adjoining Waverley Park, thirty-five acres in extent, has been lent by the corporation of Liverpool. It is conveniently situated for affording ready means of access to visitors by rail, and possesses special facilities for the delivery of materials and exhibits. Here a building will be at once erected of a substantial character.

David Radcliffe, mayor of Liverpool, is chairman of the executive council, which council is aided by various committees formed in Liverpool and other cities and towns in the United Kingdom and abroad, consisting of gentlemen possessed of special knowledge of the various subjects comprised within the scope of the exhibition.

As if by magic ones pains vanish if he be a sufferer from rheumatism or neuralgia and applies St. Jacobs Oil, the pain-banisher.

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Our Progress.

As stages are quickly abandoned with the completion of railroads, so the huge, drastic, cathartic pills, composed of crude and bulky medicines, are quickly abandoned with the introduction of Dr. Pierce's "Pleasant Purgative Pellets," which are sugar-coated, and little larger than mustard seeds, but composed of highly concentrated vegetable extracts. By druggists.

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