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Colonel of the Fourth

-# A Story of the Late War.45-By BERNARD BIGSBY,

Author of "Loyal at Last," "My Lady Fantastic," &c.

CHAPTER XIV.

The Stone river is a sluggish stream, bordered by cedar-brakes, which flows with muddy waters through a swampy country four miles from Murfreesboro. On the 30th of December its placid banks are bristling with the armed men of two great forces—on its left, Rosecrans with fifty thousand warriors; on its right, between it and the city, Bragg with as many more

Rosecrans has said: "I will mass my strength on the left, and crush the enemy's right."

Bragg has re-echoed the words: 'I will strike them on the right with my

The dawn of the list was wrapped in a dense fog: and Bragg, eager to secure the advantage of striking first, dashed furiously on the Federal right, of which two divisions fell back, losing their guns and leaving many prisoners be-hind. But Sheridan's brave fellows stand like a rock beaten by the waves: and by this tremendous effort Rosecrans is enabled to form his line afresh, on which, from the cedar-brakes they had won, the Confederates hurl themselves with gallant recklessness. Four times they charge: four times they are repulsed when the cry is, "Brecken-ridge comes with seven thousand men," and twice again they rush to the at-tack, but Northern firmness stands the shock of Southern dash, and before they can again re-form, night in pity

draws a mantle o'er the scene.
On New Year's day both armies rested

On the 2d, Bragg made some demonstrations to find out what Buell meant do, and why he had not, as he so fully expected, sounded a retreat. He soon learned to his cost. The Northern General had made his position a citadel, from which he could rally and strike at any point, or break the fury of

On this in vain the gallant Confederates advanced, only to fall back with broken ranks discomfited.

But now the men of Texas came with a rage that nothing seems to stay. In vain the shower of grape pours on that unilinehing host. See Colonel Robin-son, with the colors in his hands, dash through the abattis and spring upon the embankment, calling on his men to follow! Even his enemies can scarce forbear to cheer the daring feat, or sigh when they see the gallant figure thrown tifeless down. And now the muskets of



COL. ROBINSON, WITH COLORS IN HIS HAND, CALLING ON HIS MESS TO POLICY.

the Fighting Fourth crash their leaden hail upon his men, burning to avenge his death; and, bleeding and torn, they fall back fighting to the very last,

Down pours the rain on the terrific carnage and the shattered Southern hosts fall back on Murfreesboro.

And where is Frank Besant all this while? Fighting at the head of his company during the heat of the fray you may be sure, but now sadly bend-ing his steps to a clump of trees, under which a group of officers is gathered round a central prostrate figure, over which Doctor Saunders is stooping, while the rest anxiously await his do-

"Not necessarily mortal," he says at last, with a sigh of relief. The wounded man is borne tenderly

to the field-hospital.

"Who is it? Who is it?" ask several, as the mournful cortege passes them. "Colonel Fulton of the Fourth-shot

through the lungs," is the sad answer.

But Frank and his comrades have another duty before them ere they can lay their weary benes to rest on that eventful night.

"Boys," the Major had cried, "there lies the body of Colonel Robinson. Shall it be said we left that gallant fellow's liar may corpse upon the field without a soldier's purpose. funeral, or sign to mark the spot he

"No, no," came from a score of

throats. So they dug a grave and laid the hero in it—a touching incident, though his only requiem was a salute fired by the hands of his enemies. At the head of the grave they placed a rough board, with rudely-painted characters, which read:

COLONEL ROBINSON, WHO FELL AT THE DATELS OF

STONE RIVER,
GLORIOUSLY LEADING THE
BECORD PELAS RECHERN.
HE WAS DURIED BY
UNION SOLDIERS,
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS BURGERS. Rude as the tablet was, simple as the neatly-rounded grave looked by the lantern light, Frank thought that many a grand mausoleum would bear but poor comparison beside that humble tribute to a brave man's memory, even though the first blasts of winter would destroy

That night they slept upon the battle-Now It

Aighest of all in Leavening Power .- U. S. Gov't Report, Aug. 17, 1889.



Absolutely pure

Charlie Fulton's absence from his post had not caused consternation among his comrades and intense distress to his

father. None, however, but Major Hopkins and Frank Resant had attributed suspicious motives to his disappearance, and you may be assured that they kept their own counsel, jealous of their comrade's honor and mindful of their Colonel, whose heart they knew ould be broken if his boy fell into disgrace, so it was generally accepted that he had eidden further than was prudent and had fallen into the tolls of the enemy. But the Major and Frank had drawn the worst conclusions, especially when the latter learned from the pickets the direction the absentce had taken when he started on the journey from which he had never returned. Besant hoped against hope, but Hopkins vowed that he had sold himself body and soul

"He always had preposterous ideas of Southern chiralry," the Major said, "and it only wanted the witchery of this woman to tip the scale of his unbalanced mind and land him headlong in rain," a supposition the younger man had not the courage to controvert.

for a pretty face, and had gone over to

It can readily be imagined, then, how his heart beat with renewed hope when on the afternoon of the 8d, while a fearful storm was raging, which will never be forgotten by these who shivered 'neath its blasts, an old colored man erept into camp, auxiously in-quiring for him. He hore a letter written on a crampled leaf of paper and inclosed in an empty rifle cartridge-shell, which the wary messenger had carried in his mouth for security's sake and which he gravely assured Frank he would have swallowed if he had been

caught by the enemy. Hastily unfolding it, Besant read the

"FRIEND FRANK! I have been for some "Firming Flarke: I have been for some weeks a prisoner. This morning they moved me from Murfreesbore to a mili four miles down the river from your camp. We are only under a gaurd of eight men and a sergeant, besides some invalids, who won't count in a scrimmage. You and a dozen boys of the Fourth might readily effect a resone if you think me worth the risk. Brags has given or dera for a retreat at daybreak, so if you don't burry it will be all up with your unfortunate friend.

Changus Fulron."

Rewarding the faithful negro beyond his wildest expectations, Frank hurrled to the Major with his glad tidings, but to his surprise his senior evinced no especial signs of gratification.

"You are a little too sanguine, Frank, my boy," he said, gravely, "but though

we are relieved of the pain of believing the young man is voluntarily absent from our ranks, the onus yet remains on him to prove how innocently he fell into captivity. You see, now the Colonel is wounded, the command of the regis ment devolves on me for the time being, and, considering the responsibilities of my position, I do not for the life of me see how, if you brought him back, knowing what I do know, I have any other alternative than to place him under arrest and court-martial him." "Oh, sir, surely you would not pro-

ceed to such extreme measures!" 'I am afraid I should, Frank, and, if I did, it would go far to kill his poor father, who now lies in a very critical condition. I guess we had better let might not think him worth the rescue. this young fellow paddle his own cance for a time—a dose of Libby prison will go a long way to ameliorate his high-flown sentiments on Southern chivalry."

"That is not spoken like Major Hopkins." "Nor is it spoken by Major Hopkins, but by the acting-Colonel of a regiment, whose fair fame shall never be stained while I command. If my own dead

son were here alive to-day, and he had done what Charles Fulton has, I would order him under arrest without an instant's hesitation." Frank was awed to silence by the

Major's earnestness.
"You see, Hesant," the older man continued, "I am in possession of facts

concerning which you know nothing."

A spark of intelligence flashed in

Frank's brain. "And your informant, sir, was James Lawson?" he asked eagerly.

" If so, what then?" "Only, sir, that you are condemning a man of honor on the word of as base a scoundrel as ever lied to forward his miserable ends," was the hot reply.

"That may be, but even an inveterate liar may speak the truth, if it suits his "Granted, Major; but are you quite sure that the truth did suit his purpose

in this instance?"

For reply the Major took from his pocket-book a torn piece of paper, on which was some writing in penell, and handed it to his subordinate, with the "I am committing no breach of confi-

dence in showing you this. Do you recognize the hand that penned this treacherous scrawl?" Frank read the lines eagerly; they contained a brief but succinct descrip

tion of Buell's position at Nashville, were addressed to Miss Lascelles, and were signed, "your devoted friend, Frank's eyes blazed with triumph.

"Do I recognize the hand-writing, Major?" he cried excitedly. "Indeed, I do! I see James Lawson's ear-marks on every up-stroke and down-stroke of this villainous composition. Why, the pittful rascal has not even taken the

trouble to disguise the characters."
"You are sure of this?"
"Well you shall index for commalf.

sir," Frank declared, taking a letter from his pocket which contained an inclosure. "Here is a note Lawson wrote to a lady friend of mine at Meltonburg, containing such a libelous account of my conduct that in sheer disgust she sent it to me, as ahe says, to put me on my guard against the felw's vindictiveness.

It was a study to watch the Major's face as he compared the two does-

Turning to an orderly he said, sternly: "Go to company F and tell the offi-cer on duty to send Private Lawson under guard to me at once."

In a few minutes, during which both

officers maintained a moody silence, the messenger returned. "Private Lawson, sir," he said, saluting, "is reported missing. He was fired on this morning by the sentry as he was seen making for the enemy's lines, but

caped unhurt."

The cloud of doubt cleared from the Major's brow as he clasped Frank's hand, and said heartily: "May be I was wrong in judging Fulton, and he will perhaps be able to clear himself of any charge more serious than a breach of discipline. Any how, Frank, you shall fetch the lad back and give him a chance of explenation. Take as many men of your own company as you like teers, mind—and manage the affair just how you please. It could not be in bet-ter hands,"

So, in accordance with this liberal order, a dozen men, heavily armed, with Besaut at their head, stole out of camp that night under shadow of the cedar-brakes that lined the river.

To return to the object of all this solicitude, Charlie Fulton's condition after the battle of Murfreesboro was a stro contrast to the gentle treatment he had

received during his confinement at the recruiting station, and he was now be ginning to learn that the lot of a pris-oner of war was not a very enviable one. Torn from his associates, who, being gentlemen, had accorded him many little kindnesses, he found himself in the hands of a rough soldiery, who seemed to take delight in covering with indignities their luckless prisoner. One snatched the cap from his head with the brutal declaration that it was too good to cover a Yank's brainless scalp; another requisitioned his boots and gave him in return a pair of soleless shoes a tramp would scorn to wear; a third appropriated his watch; and a fourth took a fancy to a ring he wore. Thus despolled he was hustled into the loft of an unoccupied mill, where he was cheerfully told to make himself at home till morning, when he would be taken "in

the ruck of captured Yanks to the pen."
But sharp as the eyes of his captors were they were not sufficiently on the alert to prevent a stolen interview with the old colored man they had deputed to carry him a few moldy rolls and a cup of villainous coffee they called his dinner.

How anxiously the slow hours rolled along. Would midnight never come? Perhaps the ancient darky had fooled him, or failed in his attempt to reach the Union lines; or, worst thought of all, was the probability that his folly had been discovered and his comrades

Below the men who had purloined a for his capture. This with the \$ small keg of whisky were getting quar-relsome over their cups. Now was the time to strike; if only Frank and his gallant boys would come; but, though he pressed his ear against a crack in the wooden wall and listened with breathless anxiety, there was no sound without save the moan of the wind and the flerce pattering of the sleety rain.

But what is that? The hoarse challenge of the sentry, followed by a groan—and all is still again. The revelers below had never even heard the sound, for their oaths and shouts were louder than ever. Then the crash of wood, and stamping and scuffling, and again the painful silence. He rushed to the door and bent upon it with his naked hand, fearful that after all they might not find him-

"Frank!"

The lock fell shattered by a blow, the door swung open, and with hysteric



joy Fulton clasped the hand of his de-

"Quick, my boy," Besant cried. "One fellow got away and will give the alarm. It will be all we can do to get back to camp with whole skins to-night."

re not a bit too soon, for as

they reached the opposite bank of the river they heard the clatter of galloping horses on the Murfreesboro road.

"Are any of our fellows injured?"
Charlie asked, anxiously.
"Not a scratch. We just bowled them over like nine-pins," was the gay reply.

It was not till they had reached a place of safety and the sound of their pursuers had died away in the distance that Besant remembered the unpleasant task which lay before him of telling Charlie of his father's sad misfortune,

The young man's eyes filled with tears as he heard the melancholy de-

"Poor old dad," he mouned. "Wounded so bad as that, and I not near to com fort him. Ah! what will mother say, I wonder, when she hears that I was away from him in his hour of need? Away! my God! and on such an er-

"Which she never need know-and if she did, the knowledge of your safe return would condone the fault of your going, Charlie: for women do not look at some things in the same light that

'As you do, for instance?"

"Yes, Charlie, as I do," Frank de-clared, firmly. "I am not going to add to your troubles by preaching you a sermon; but if I have any claim on your regard, I would implore you to make a confident of Major Hopkins, who knows more of your doings than you have any idea of, and who is still willing to be your friend,"

You speak with an assumption of guilt on my part, which in another man I would not permit one instant."

'No, not guilt, Charlie; only intense

ly reckless folly," Besant declared.
"And I am to make this paragon of a
Major my father-confessor? Well, per-haps I will see him to-morrow and have
a talk with him."

"You will see him to-night; for you will have to report to him. He is in command now, you know." "In command? Since when?"

'Since your father fell in action."

"Ah, yes; of course." For a time they walked on in silence; but as they reached the Major's tent, Fulton asked: "Does my father know why I left the camp that night?"
"No. The secret is only shared be-

tween the Major and myself-unless you count Jim Lawson as one of us; but he is beyond the power of revela-

"As how?"

"Deserted to the enemy."
"The secondrel!" Then, after a pause: "Gh, Frank; I do believe you are the best-hearted fellow that ever drew the breath of life."

"And the Major?" "Yes, yes; if it will set your honest soul at rest, I will make a clean broast of all my sins to him this very night."

And with that pleasing assurance the young men parted.

Next day, as the doctors declared that there was no hopes of Colonel Fulton ever being able to assume the command of a marching regiment, even if he es-caped with his life, Hopkins was installed as Colonel, to the satisfaction of every man in the ranks; for they had long learned to love the quiet, gentlemanly man, who never flinched from danger and had such a keen sense of

And who is going to be Major? was the question at the bivouse. "Till bet even on Besant against the teld," cried Jack Gregory.

But there were no takers. [TO BE CONTINUED.]

REWARD FOR MARSH. The Mayor of Philadelphia Issues a Proc lamation Offering \$5,000.

PHILADELPHIA, June 6 .- There is little change in the situation with respect to the Treasury scandal. Mayor Stuart approved the action of councils in refer ence to the reward for Marsh's arrest and issued a proclamation offering \$5,000 offered by Bondsman Wanamaker, makes the total \$6,000. In the meantime Marsh

seems to have made good his escape. Gossip as to Bardsley's disposition of the State's money is still rife. It is one of the interesting points yet unsettled, and the belief is forming that not one cent of it found its way in the Keystone

From the county prison comes the in formation that ex-Treasurer Bardsley is improving in health, though considera-bly worried. As to Marsh, the govern-ment officials said this afternoon they were not making an effort to find him. They contend that their work ended when he was first arrested, and that now it is the duty of his bondamen to find him

HIS TERRIBLE STRUGGLE.

Lawyer Bartine's Physicians Resort to Mercury to Counteract Hydrophobia, Assent Park, June 6.-Lawyer Bar tine, who was bitten by a cat, is still alive. His physicians, as a last resort, injected blearbonate of mercury in order to counteract the effects of hydrophobia. to counteract the effects of hydrophobia. His pulse at the last report made was 125.

Mr. Bartine cautioned his daughters to keep away from his bedside, as he feared he would do them harm. During the day he attempted to leap from a window, but was overpowered by his guard. He piteously begged to be allowed to kill himself.

MISS SMITH A BRIDE.

The Victim of Harry French's Tongue Weds Agent Merrill. Bosros, June 6 .- Helen F. Smith, the

young lady whom Harry French declared to be his wife, and who went away to to be his wife, and who went away to Europe to get clear of him, was married at 2 p. m. to J. N. Mercill, the London agent of her father's plane company, who came back with Miss Smith on her return from Europe with the intention of thrashing Mr. French for his scandalous accusations against Helen and Mor-The wedding was private. It had been

the wedding was private. It and desir kept very quiet and was a modest affair, only a few intimate friends being pres-ent. For a time, at least, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill will live abroad, and the date of their permanent home-coming is not an-nounced.

If you want to find out what virtues man does not possess, go on a four weeks c mpaign out trip with him.

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Webuy lamp-chimneys by the dozen; they go on snapping and popping and flying in pieces; and we go on buying the very same chimneys year after year.

Our dealer is willing to sell us a chimney a week for every lamp we burn-a hundred or more a year-and we plow for him, pay him for goading us.

Macbeth's "pearl top" and "pearl glass" do not break from heat; they are made of

tough glass.
As likely as not our dealer would rather his chimneys would break; "it's good for the business," says he. He buys the brittlest ones he can get.

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