

The Watauga Democrat.

VOL. XXX.

BOONE WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1919.

NO. 13

Personal Reminiscences of the Civil War 1861 to 1865.

[BY L. N. PERKINS.]

The first month or more of prison life at Camp Douglas we were guarded by a regiment of Michigan troops, recruits who had never seen anything of war. They were mostly boys ranging from 18 to 20 years, apparently. They were very exciting, and I thought it quite the thing to do upon any little pretext to abuse a prisoner. They were also, some of them at least, very susceptible to a bribe. For a few dollars in greenbacks they would let a prisoner escape. There were six men in the company to which I belonged who bribed the general and escaped in less than a month's time. They were Kentuckians, and their friends lived inside of Federal territory and they kept some money concealed some way that was not found when they were searched, with which they gained their liberty. Our Michigan guards were bent to the front just in time, we were told, to participate in the battle of the Wilderness, and they were badly cut up and probably learned a few things about Rebels that they did not know. They were replaced by a portion of what was known as the Invincible Corps—men who had seen service and had been wounded or disabled in some way till they were unfit for active service. They were much kinder, and treated the prisoners reasonably well.

During the latter part of the year '63 the weather was favorable, and we did not suffer from cold, as we had plenty of wood and coal, but the first of January, '64, it turned exceedingly cold, the Chicago papers reporting 40 degrees below zero. There was a foot or more of snow on the ground and the wind blowing a gale. The guard walking the beat near the barracks became so benumbed by the cold that he fell to the ground and could not walk. Some of the boys saw him fall and ran out and carried him in the house where he soon revived. The authorities then took all the guards off the beats and stationed one in each barracks with the prisoners and kept up a fire for two or three days and nights. Our supply of wood and coal gave out about this time and it was so cold the draymen could not haul it. The coal and wood was stored in a shed in an enclosure adjoining the prison where the guards had their shacks, so the officers came around and threw the gate open and told the men to go to the shed and help themselves, and try and carry enough to keep from freezing until the weather turned warmer so they could haul. A number of the boys wrapped up with overcoats and mittens and tied handkerchiefs over their ears, ran as fast as they could and brought wood and coal enough to do until the teams could haul. The distance was not over two hundred yards, but several of the boys had their fingers and ears frozen so the skin peeled off.

I was taken sick about the beginning of the cold snap and lay in my bunk for three days near the stove which was kept red hot day and night and did not suffer very much from the cold, and when I recovered sufficiently to sit up, I could not speak in an audible voice for a week or more, the cold having settled on my lungs to that extent. In a few days the weather turned warmer and we did not have such extreme cold any more during the winter.

When Morgan's men were first taken to Camp Douglas there

was only a row or two of barracks next to the lake side, but as the exchange of prisoners was suspended and all prisoners captured were being held, our town began to grow, and by the end of the year '64 we had a regularly laid off city with streets and crossings and the number of our population was about 12,000. There were quite a number of prisoners who had friends and relatives living inside the Federal lines who sent them money and they were enabled to buy books, papers, clothing, etc., which was a great advantage to them. The Chicago news boys peddled papers in our camp every day in the week except Sunday, so we kept well posted on current events. I had no friends to draw on for help living in Federal territory, consequently I had no money to buy anything, but I had some good friends among the prisoners who furnished me books, papers, magazines, etc., and I read much of the time which was a great help in whiling away the hours. Some of the books that I remember to have read, were the Bible, which I read through, The History of the United States, Allison's History of Europe, Life of Bonaparte and his marshals, Life of Washington, and several standard works of fiction, numerous magazines, etc. During the summer of '64 we had an organized Bible class of a dozen or so, which to me was very interesting. We would have a lesson almost every day unless we had other duties to perform. A school teacher by name of Armsted whose home was at Fort Worth, Texas was our teacher, who was a Presbyterian, and there was a young lawyer in the class, also from Texas, by the name of Penn, who was a Baptist, brother to the great Texas evangelist by that name, and the lawyer and teacher would have some spirited tilts over doctrinal questions, good humoredly though, and each had the satisfaction of knowing that neither one convinced the other. Some noted persons visited our camp that summer; among them were Gen. Rosecrans and Hooker, also some distinguished preachers, I did not learn their names visited and preached to us. They were foreigners from their brogue, I took them to be Swedes; they were smart men and good speakers, and I were listened to with interest.

As before noted the enclosure around our pen was low and very easily scaled, and several prisoners escaped, one way and another, but to remedy that the authorities built a new fence about 16 feet high with a parapet on the outside of the fence two feet or more from the top, for the sentries to walk upon so they could see on both sides of the fence which made scaling the fence much more difficult. The barracks were built on the ground and the floors were two feet or more above the ground and the prisoners dug a tunnel which started under the floor and came out on the outside of the fence. They managed to conceal the dirt under the floor and for tool-used paddles made from staves of barrels, the ground being near the lake was easily worked. The distance from barracks to outside of the fence was about 20 or 30 feet. So when the tunnel was ready they started out, and 83, I think it was, got out before the sentry discovered them and he raised an alarm and they were soon recaptured and brought back, most of them that night, a few hid out till next day, so they had all their work for naught. To put a stop to the tunneling business the barracks

were raised four feet off the ground and placed on posts and steps to get up into them.

Various modes of punishment were invented to punish those who disobeyed orders. The one most common was a wooden horse made from a piece of scantling and set up on legs at each end about 16 feet high. The guilty parties were compelled to climb up on that horse and ride astride sometimes for hours at a time. The boys named the horse "Morgan's mule" and it was known all over camp by that name, and there was scarcely an hour in the day that "Morgan's mule" was idle, sometimes there would be a half dozen on him at one time. Another mode was to cut a hole in the head of a sugar barrel and place the barrel on the shoulders with head and face above, and compel the party to walk a beat so many hours each day, and the offense for which he was punished written on the barrel so it could be read by all who saw him. I remember one man walked the beat several days with "Disobeying orders" written on the barrel in large letters and did not know his offense. The discipline in camp was very rigid on account of restlessness among the prisoners. We were compelled to go to bed at dark and lie till day, and if persons were caught talking during the night they were punished for it.

During the summer of '64 our rations were diminished about one half, in retaliation they said for the treatment of their prisoners who were confined at Andersonville, Ga. We were allowed to 12 ounces of beef and 14 ounces bakers bread to the man per day with potatoes or beans enough to make soup twice a week, and that was cooked and issued to us twice a day, and to say we were hungry all the time is putting it mildly.

There was not much sickness in camp except small pox which became an epidemic over the country that year. When a case of small pox developed, the parties were taken to a small pox hospital a mile or two from the city, and not more than half of them returned. Two men of Co. A were stricken; one came back, the other one was buried. I have seen as many as five broken out with the disease in one day taken from the barracks where I stayed. We had compulsory vaccination or I suppose all the prisoners would have taken it. Those on whom the treatment was successful rarely took it and if they did it was in a mild form.

During the latter part of January and early in Feb. '65 there was very cold weather and much suffering among the prisoners was reported. One morning some were found frozen to death and after that we were allowed to have fire during the night and two persons were detailed to keep the fires burning, one till midnight, the other from that time till day. The night that those parties were frozen I suffered much and could barely walk for a week or more from stiffness and pain in my knees, but after we were allowed fire at night I suffered very little.

(to be continued.)

A BILLIOUS ATTACK.

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The Old and the New.

"At the passing of the old year that tyrant which has held out for us both golden and dreadful days there is a touch of retrospection.

"The past year has indeed harassed the soul of the world. It has tried the spirit of America. It has seen thousands of mother hands hang up the service flags of honor and in the course of its crimson days have come the scores of golden stars into the spotless field of white.

"The past year saw the son of the rich standing in the water-soaked trenches; it saw tender hands made rough and seamy in the rigorous labor of the shipyards; it saw the money-mad Americans oversubscribe four gildanti war loans. Mercy was organized as never before during the year that now passes; man has met man upon the common ground of comradeship; a great people have blended all their interests in a great cause of wrath and have won their fight.

"The old year departs. We stand upon the threshold of another span of seasons. The new year will see a giant army of four million men mustered out into the peaceful ways of trade. It will see the gigantic problem of reconstruction started with a ready will. It will see capital and labor standing in closer relationship than ever before as they carry out the intricate problem of making over the world of trade.

"The coming year holds much of promise for all. It bears every potentiality of a new life. We start to live all over again on the hour that ushers in the rule of 1919. Before us in sunshine and hope and a thousand opportunities for service. This is a call for strength and spirit and worthy ambition.

"Let us throw off the burdens of war harried days. Let us put aside pessimism and skepticism—they belong to the reign of the king who passes. Let us welcome the advent of the new king with cheery hearts and ready wills. Let us start with a smile along the way of days that stretches before us. The rule of our new monarch—1919—will be what we make it of happiness or despair. Let us start with a shout of joy."

—The New Year number of The Caduceus.

A Picture.

There came a picture to me tonight. I know not whence it came, but it still abides with me. I see it as I write and feel the power of its presence, and seem to see it in every place where people move.

A perfect female form, plainly but neatly clad, standing with bowed head. Sometimes glancing upward at the moving through then again the head slowly drops and shakes thoughtfully from side to side with sad and anxious pity, though not a word she spoke "Who is this form?" I asked, "and why this sad and anxious attitude?" It was answered from it that this was Modesty deploring some of the ways of the race.

I was not answered further but left to surmise, and meditate on the mission of this wonderful form. I do not yet know why this picture came to my view unless it were that I tell it to you. No, it was not answered me and I may not therefore say what says this messenger would thus designate. Can you answer with some definite ideas that may develop into ideals?

J. M. DOWNUM.

FOLEY'S URINO LAXATIVE
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Civil War Soldiers Numbered 3,375,000

(Charlotte Observer.)

"For the benefit of a number of Confederate scrap books that I know are in the making, will you use the following statistics compiled by A. B. Spain, a Confederate veteran, who served in the Confederate army with the First Tennessee infantry, and who gave the figures to the Tennessee of Nashville, for publication. The figures were given by Mr. Spain at this time, says The Tennessean, for those who are interested in comparing the number engaged in the civil war with those in the present war. The figures are as follows:

"The south furnished 600,000 soldiers for the Confederate armies and 316,000 white soldiers for the federal armies. There were 186,000 negroes in the northern armies, most of them from the south. This made a half million contenters from the southern states to be contended with by the southern armies.

"The north got 176,000 soldiers from Germany, 144,000 from Ireland, 45,000 from England and 53,500 British-Americans, and 74,000 of other nationalities. Thus the foreigners and negroes outnumbered the rebels by 80,000 men.

"The soldiers drawn from the rest of the northern states numbered 1,779,791, so that the total number of federal soldiers was 2,775,000 men or more.

"The number of southern soldiers in northern prisons was 220,000; the number of northern men in the southern prisons was 270,000. The number of southern soldiers to die in northern prisons was 22,570.

"Soldiers engaged in the southern army: Seven Day battle, 50,830; Sharpsburg, 85,295; Fredericksburg, 78,110; Chancellorsville, 57,212; Wilderness, 63,000; Gettysburg, 62,000; Chickamauga, 44,000; Appomattox, 27,195.

"Soldiers engaged in the northern army: Seven Day battle, 50,830; Sharpsburg, 87,164; Fredericksburg, 110,000; Chancellorsville, 131,161; Wilderness, 141,000; Gettysburg, 95,000; Chickamauga, 65,000; Appomattox, 120,000.

"Federals killed and wounded 350,528; Confederates killed and wounded 133,821."



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