

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY.

An Interesting Story as Told by One Who Served Through The Civil War.

Recently I had a talk with a hard-headed old Yankee soldier who spent four years gunning for Johnnie Reb, during which his flesh was torn by three of Johnny's bullets. In time we drifted to war-time music, talked about the popular songs born of the big family row, "Rally Round the Flag," "Marching Through Georgia," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"—by all odds the grandest one in the lot—"The Battle Cry of Freedom" etc.; and then of "The Star-Spangled Banner," "America," and "Yankee Doodle."

My Yankee friend waxed enthusiastic as we recalled and hummed the old favorites, declared that they had a large part in bringing success to the Union cause, and remembered occasions when it was patriotic music alone that keyed him up to go into a fight with Johnny—the old man chose to call the Confederates "Johnny."

Suddenly he stopped talking and dropped his face into his big, brown hands, where it remained so long that I said: "It's all right, Tom. Thoughts of the old songs as we used to sing them when boys on the march and in camp are a bit too much for me, too, at times, and a few unbidden tears have helped to clear the atmosphere. Go on and have a good cry."

"Get out! That is not what made a baby of me. I was thinking of the old Johnnies and their war songs."

"Anything tearful about such thoughts, Tom?"

"Probably not for flint-hearted old bowlders like you, but it was too much for me at this time."

Tom lost a brother in battle. For twenty years after the war he was very bitter against the South and its army. Now hear him.

"Yes, I was bitter. It was natural. Billy was my twin brother. It tore me to pieces to see him killed. We were young, mere boys. But things have changed. Billie died for the best of causes. I revere Billy's memory and rejoice that he was willing to die for the flag and the Union."

"Do you mind what a good time we had a short time ago talking about our songs of war times? Well, now, did you ever stop to reflect that Johnny and the rest of his tribe in gray had the same love for their war songs, for 'Dixie,' 'Maryland, My Maryland,' and the 'Bonnie Blue Flag'?"

Then the old fellow's face again sought his hands. I said: "Old Softy, what is the matter? What are you working up to?"

"Johnny, like us, is an old man. His soldiership was as heroic as was that of our fellows. He looks back to those brave old days very much as the boys in blue do, with the exception that at the end of the four years of hard campaigning he had to go home under the cloud of defeat and often to a home of abject want. We missed these. We came home as victors, in the main to homes of plenty, with the doors of opportunity swung wide open to us. They, in the main, had to make opportunity under great difficulty. All these years most of them have had a constant fight on hand to keep the wolf from the door, and it has been an honest, manly,

High Cost of Living is Not a Mere Myth.

The most marked upward trend of the cost of living is disclosed in the Federal bureau of labor's report of an investigation of prices for the past ten years conducted in the important industrial centers of 32 States. Fifteen most important articles of food, as well as coal, comprising two-thirds of a workingman's needs were investigated. In many cities the investigators gathered statements of merchants on the cost of living and specimens of these are published in the report.

On June 15, 1912, the report shows, 14 of the 15 articles of food were higher than a year before, and 10 had advanced in the past 10 years more than 50 per cent over the average retail price for the 10 year period, 1890-1899.

During the last decade prices of potatoes changed most and sugar the least. Their advances were 111.9 and 8.5 per cent, respectively. During the last year, bacon, which decreased just one-tenth of one per cent, was the only one of the 15 principal articles of food that showed a decline in price, while nine of the 15 advanced more than 10 per cent, varying from 2.4 per cent for milk, to 18.6 per cent for round steak. Of the 15, only eggs, butter, milk, and sugar were lower, but the price of three of these four is normally lower during summers than during winters.

brave fight. They haven't had the help of such pensions as our boys have had. Their States have given them, or some of them, a small pension in case of loss of limb or health. Old chum those old boys in gray have made a heroic fight ever since 1865."

"But, Tom, what made you shed those tears?"

"Keep still, you stone image. Did you ever have something get into your throat when you heard the school children sing 'The Star-Spangled Banner' or 'America' and saw Old Glory waving from the flagpole? I've cried more than once at such a demonstration just before memorial day, and so have you. I have the same choking sensation nearly every time a band or an orchestra plays Johnny's favorites. Why? Because I know how well Johnny and his comrades enjoy them, and because they are as good Americans as we are."

"I have a lot of sympathy for the old Confederates. I admire them for their soldiership and for their courageous battles ever since the war. I want them to have all the comfort, pleasure, and happiness possible during their remaining years. I am touched to the heart whenever I think of their life struggles, their days of want, their good citizenship, their worth as men. I like the South and her people."

The chief object I have in quoting Tom's talk is to say that I believe he has spoken about the veterans of the Southern army very much as most of the survivors of the Northern army feel. Next year for four days, on the Gettysburg field, thousands of men of both old armies will meet in the most memorable soldier reunion ever held. You will not watch in vain there for an abundant show of the kindly feeling Comrade Tom gave expression to. It will be a meeting of brothers tried as by fire. —J. A. Watrous, Lieutenant Colonel U. S. A. (Retired),

WHAT A BOY CAN DO.

How Ernest Starnes Won First Prize in Producing Most Corn to the Acre.

(Hickory Times-Mercury.)

Few boys know what they can do if they will try. The country boys have the finest opportunity to make, not only a reputation, but money, ever known in this country.

Thursday evening we went out to Mr. J. W. Starnes' farm which is located about one mile Northwest from the Hickory depot. His son, Ernest, won the prize for producing the most corn to the acre. That was two or three years ago.

He was a little too old to enter the boys corn club contest this year. But he has the will to do something. His object was to see if he could not make enough on one acre to pay his way 9 months at Rutherford College.

So he measured off an acre in branch land. He sowed it to hay crop. He cut and got from it \$40 worth of hay. He then planted it to corn, the Hasting Prolific. There are 34 rows in the acre. The rows will average 600 ears, and small, for they have been coated. Counting 125 ears to the bushel, the acre will produce about or nearly 115 bushels, any how from 95 to 100 bushels. The fodder will bring \$20. So you see the boy won't miss it far getting a year at college now. His father will gather his crop for him. He is 28 years old.

We went through the corn. The stalks will average over two fair ears. The suckers even have corn on them. We counted the corn from one gram and there were 30 inches of corn. There are only a few blasted stalks in the acre. Now that corn shows for itself. Any body can go and see for himself. It will pay any one to visit it.

We then went into his father's field. He has a kind of corn that he has developed. The suckers on it have corn on from 4 to 8 inches long. On one stalk and its suckers, we counted 8 ears, the aggregate length being 44 inches, nearly 11 1/2 inch ears. That is a fine sample of corn, cannot be beaten.

Besides corn, Mr. Starnes has some fine peas and Soy beans. The Soy beans have from 300 to 500 pods to the stalk.

Discourage Marriage of the Unfit

(Writer M. Hays in Woman's World for September.)

Legislation looking toward the prevention of marriage and childbearing by feeble minded persons has already been attempted in a few States; but public opinion upon this most vital question has been very hard to arouse from its indifference.

But science will yet bring home to the consciences of our open-minded people the importance of revising existing laws so as to restrict the multiplication of these weakest and most vicious elements of society; and the church must soon recognize the divine fact that there is nothing holy about joining in wedlock those who have hereditary taints in their blood.

Some men's only idea in having a pull is to apply it to other fellow's legs.

A Gushing young girl told the editor that the world was full of poetry to which he replied that so was his wastebasket.

Would a Mother Ever Give Her Own Children Away to Help a Friend?

A few months ago the Woman's Home Companion published a short story in which a woman gave up her baby to a friend of hers who had been injured in a wreck and rendered incapable of ever having children of her own. The sacrifice was made voluntarily and without the recipient of the baby ever finding out who gave it to her.

A married woman now writes to the June Woman's Home Companion the following letter about this story.

"The idea of a woman giving her own newly born child to another woman as a consolation prize, with the consent of the child's father, both parents understood to be people of good principles and good feelings, is, in my opinion, tomfool nonsense."

"I have been married over eighteen years, and have seven children, the youngest of whom is now three years old. I had at the time of my marriage several very dear girl friends. One of these girls, whom I have known since I was three years old, has never married. Now, do you think that, in the event of her meeting with such an accident as the lame lady in the story, I would offer to give her one of my children? Not much! There have been times when some of the children have been particularly exasperating, when I have said and thought, 'Mercy, if I could only have a little peace!' but as for deliberately giving one of them away only over my dead body will anyone ever get one of mine? And even if by any miracle I were willing to do such a thing, I'd like to see you get their father's consent to any such proposition. Every last one of them he regards as the apple of his eye, and did from the day they were born."

"A new-born baby in its innocent helplessness seems to me the most appealing thing on earth, or at least my own always did. Now, what same mother who has suffered to the utmost in bringing her child into the world safely, is going to turn it over to a lame, half blind, invalid old man to bring it up? Don't talk to me. I know better."

"No, I will nurse my friends in sickness if I can pray for them, give them whatever I can if they need it, but don't ask me for any of my children to help them bear an affliction, not even the laziest and worst little rogue in the bunch, for you'll not get it!"

First Baby of the Co. Sent.

(Avery Vim.)

The first baby born at the new county seat of Avery county, Newland, came to Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Campbell last Sunday morning. It was a fine boy weighing 9 1/2 pounds. Mr. Campbell is the contractor erecting the Courthouse and jail and a jolly good fellow to boot. We know that our entire county will feel proud of this its first native born citizen and although this was not in the specifications entered into with the County Commissioners we wish to extend to Mr. and Mrs. Campbell our congratulations for the honor they have thus conferred upon us. We would also suggest that this "first citizen" be named Avery Newland Campbell.

The difference between being sick and being an invalid is that the invalid is one that makes those around him sick.

Challenge to Craig Made by Meares.

Iredell Meares has made a challenge to Locke Craig for a joint campaign of the state in the campaign for the governorship in view of the refusal of Mr. Craig to accept a challenge made by Thomas Settle. In a letter bearing date of September 24 Mr. Meares writes at length setting forth reasons why he and Mr. Craig should take their fight before the people together, and pointing out issues which he proposes to use in the state in showing that the record of the Democratic party has been at fault. Mr. Meares calls for an "old fashioned, time honored, Zeb Vance and Thomas Settle political knock down and drag out." He stated his willingness for Candidate Tom Settle to come in also and make it a three cornered fight.

The challenge, which fills eight typewritten pages, is written in both a serious and humorous vein, and has added to it a postscript reading, "this confidential between you," me Settle and the public."

"Rope" Horseshoes

The manufacture of "rope" horseshoes in Germany is now a flourishing business and all who have used the new invention are highly pleased with it. The shoe is described as light and comfortable for the horse, that they prevent horses from slipping, and that they break the concussion and deaden the sound of the hoof. In addition to the plain tarred rope horseshoes there are shoes in which rope interwoven with wire, wood, rubber, copper, wirework and rush is used. These are heavier and somewhat more expensive and less practical than the plain rope shoes, and, therefore, have not become so well established.

"A man's life is embedded in the community. He must breathe the community's air, drink the community's water, eat the community's food, avail himself of the community's sewer, expose himself to the community's contagious diseases. On the sanitary conditions of that community must, therefore, largely depend the health of the individual."

Series of Meetings

A series of meetings began last Sunday in the new Baptist church, in which the pastor Rev. J. O. Fulbright is being assisted by Rev. Fred N. Day of Winston-Salem. Mr. Day came in Sunday afternoon and preached to a full house Sunday night. He is a man of commanding presence and is a forceful and energetic speaker, delivering his message with great earnestness. The meeting will continue for some time with two services daily at 9:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. and every body is cordially invited to attend and take part.

Watauga County Fair

The first Watauga County Fair held last week was a big success, exceeding the expectations of all its promoters. The people turned out in large numbers and the exhibits were fine. The display of Cattle, Sheep, Horses and other live stock was especially good, while the Apple exhibit was especially fine. The people of our sister county are thoroughly enthused with the success of their Fair and are determined to make it bigger and better as the years go by.

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Interesting Reading Matter of Local and National Affairs in Condensed Form.

Locomotives recently completed for a railroad in Virginia are claimed to be the world's most powerful as they weigh 752,000 pounds and can pull 155 loaded 50-ton cars at a speed of ten miles an hour.

Fred H. Fowler, a young meat dealer in Concord, committed suicide last Friday by shooting himself with a 38-caliber revolver. It is supposed an unrequited love affair was the cause of his rash deed.

The three-year-old child of Mr. A. M. Harris, living near Wake Forest, was drowned Friday by falling in a watering trough. The child was playing in the back yard and it is not known how it came to fall in the trough.

Two more lives were sacrificed at the United States Army aviation fields, located at College Park, Md., Saturday when an army aeroplane fell 35 feet to the ground instantly killing F. S. Scott and so seriously injuring Lewis C. Roskwell that he died in a few hours. This makes a total of six who have lost their lives through accidents to aeroplanes of the United States Army.

Furman Bagwell was acquitted at Anderson, S. C., of the killing of Milton Taylor. While Bagwell was being initiated into the order of the Woodmen of the World Taylor and other members fired blank cartridges as a part of the proceedings. Excited, Bagwell grasped his trusty gun and did some real shooting, killing Taylor. Before he died Taylor asked that Anderson be not prosecuted.

Two students were recently sent home from Davidson College for hazing and the best part of it is that the hazers were expelled by the students without the faculty taking any part whatever. Formerly there was much hazing at Davidson but in recent years efforts have been made to eliminate it. The Davidson students have the honor system in hazing as in other matters and violation means expulsion by the student body. Statesville Dandmark.

Athens, Ga., Sept. 27. J. L. Lipsey, of Norcross, Ga., tonight asked the aid of the police in locating his brother, who, he charges stole his wife and three children, sold his crop and household furniture and ran away with the complete family outfit. Lipsey told the police he discovered that his brother was married to his wife here last night by the pastor of the Christian church, to whom he gave fictitious name for the bride. It is claimed the fleeing pair bought tickets here today for Greenville, S. C.

In the parade of school children at the Wilkes county fair at Wilkesboro last Thursday, the children carried banners showing the different phases of the educational work in the county. These banners showed that there were 153 original and 101 supplemental libraries, or a library for every school both white and colored in the county, and also 189 members of the Teachers Reading Circle. There were 134 graduates in the county commencements this year. This parade was one of the features of the fair, and showed educational uplift that the people of the county should be proud of.