

THE FATHER OF THE GUARD.

This country lost a patriotic citizen and the State of New York a member of its military organization whose position was unique when General Frederick Phisterer died. He was a mere boy when he came to this country from his native Germany, and, like so many of his countrymen, his speech never lost its foreign accent; but as a soldier in the regular army, which he entered at nineteen and where he advanced from the ranks to a captaincy, as well as in the national guard, where he occupied a position of high trust, he was the embodiment of that good American citizenship to which foreign birth and a strange tongue are no bar.

General Phisterer's record in the regular army was honorable, distinguished by valor and bravery, which received deserved recognition at the hands of the government; but his more eminent services were performed as an officer of the state soldiery, which owes its present efficiency largely to his instrumentality. For twenty-nine years he was the master mind of the adjutant general's department, where his good judgment, tact and knowledge of men often did much to bridge over unpleasant situations and to restore harmony where but for his counsel the opposite might have supervened. He was a diligent student and contributed valuable material to the military literature of his day. His work was his pride, and in its execution he probably came into personal contact and won the friendship of more members of the guard than any other man in the state. Like all men who labor in a similar field of activity, he had opponents; but the most outspoken of these never ascribed to any action on the part of General Phisterer

ignoble or unpatriotic motives, and if among them there might have been a real enemy even he would not have hesitated to indorse the tribute of Governor Hughes which named him as the "Father of the National Guard of the State."
