

and coolly turn them aside by thinking "oh, I will only have the more to tell when I get home". We have a feast on flour pudding (which our cook can serve in excellent style) and this contributes to the satisfactory calming of my thoughts. Company inspection today at 12:00, but you may know that the severe cold facilitated a speedy consummation of that duty.

The next day was somewhat warmer and I had to go on Camp Guard, which was the first time I served on Camp Guard since the Battle of Stone's River.

Thur. April 2nd. This was as cold, windy and disagreeable a day as I ever saw in the month of April. I was rather unwell with a cold, and my mouth was so sore that I could scarcely eat anything at all except something that was cool and very soft, and as there was nothing of that description in the Army rations that were drawing at this time, I had to live entirely upon such eatables as I could procure from the sutlers, principally condensed milk and butter crackers.

Fri. April 3rd through Friday April 10th. No drill today, and it has been very irregular for several days. The 3rd Brigade has gone out on a scout, and we have to do their picketing and it takes nearly half our men to fill each daily detail.

The weather continues to be very fine now for several days in succession, and had it not been for the continual details that were constantly being made on us for duty of various kinds, we would have passed the time very pleasantly. As it was scarcely a day passed without almost every man being detailed either to go on picket or to do some kind of duty about the Camp. A man that was able for duty all the time had to go on picket at least every third day and on the other days he would have some other duty to perform besides the regular one of drilling, which was again revived about this time and enforced upon us with a promptness and strictness which proved that we would smoke now. Col. Beatty (as used to be) had returned from a short leave of absence about the time we moved into this encampment, having been promoted to Brig. General, and he now seemed determined to give our little Brigade a character for efficiency in drill. The Third Brigade returned from its scout on the 7th and this rendered the picket details in our Regiment a little lighter.

Sat.- Sun. April 11th and 12th. Weather still fine and has been with but little interruption for some time. We were ordered this morning to get ready for inspection tomorrow and as the severity of the inspectors had increased somewhat of late, there was a general washing of clothing and cleaning of guns today, each one determining to be out in his best colors, and on the next day we were inspected by the Colonel and, of course, the most of us received some words of praise

as he examined our guns and accouterments one by one and said we were all right.

Monday April 13th through Tuesday April 14th. Weather nice and warm. "Get ready for inspection tomorrow". The receipt of this order caused some little grumbling among those who never want to do anything that required a little labor, and also among those who could not see the necessity of such incessant parades and inspections. But the next day was too rainy for inspection and it was therefore dispensed with.

Wed. April 15th. Drizzly, damp and disagreeable day. Weather to inclement for drill. A general investigation of the cases of some of the boys who were absent at last payday by a board appointed for that purpose. Paymasters had become much stricter than they were about Corinth in the Spring of 1862, for when I came up with the Regiment at that place I had not drawn pay on the two last payments to the Regiment on account of absence at the time of payment, and as I happened to arrive before the Paymaster had left the Brigade, I received my pay. Now, the thing was quite changed, and if a man happened to be absent on payday on the day of the muster in reference to which the payment was made he could not then draw any money till a general investigation of his case held and an order was issued from Division Headquarters ordering the Paymaster to pay him.

Thur. April 16th. We were aroused from our slumbers at 1:00 this morning and ordered to "have three days' rations in our haversacks and be ready to move at a moment's warning". This order surprised and troubled us very much, for we had almost come to the conclusion that we were going to be allowed to remain quietly in our Camp for a considerable time to come, but notwithstanding our sleepiness and unwillingness, we had to go.

About 3:00 a.m. we marched out on the Lebanon Pike to the encampment that we left on 19th of March. Arrived there about daylight and found to some extent an alarm existing; at any rate the troops stationed there were standing in line of battle, and had erected barricades of the rails of all the fences in the vicinity.

About noon we were told to put up our tents, which we did, and remained there the rest of the day. The tents were of that peculiar cut known as Dobia Tent, of which we had drawn a supply a few days previous and this was the first opportunity we had of using them. The boys made a great deal of sport when they came to erect these diminutive domiciles, and many were the names they received by our prolific speakers.

Fri. April 17th. The clouds have again cleared away and the general warmth of the sun seems to say that at last we will

have an earnest setting-in of warm weather. The trees are all passing from the dead wintry appearance to a beautiful living green, and the sweet fragrance of the fresh opening buds is wafted on ever gentle breeze that disturbs the stillness of the air about the summit of the little grassy hill on which we are encamped. The birds are singing sweetly on every bough, apparently with an energetic determination to cause wicked man to learn a lesson by their uninterrupted happiness. Oh, how I would delight in a ramble through the forest today that I might once more alone look upon a page of the great book of nature and enjoy it's beauties and the good lessons it always teaches; but it no doubt would awaken fresh thoughts of home and the pleasures of former days, and cause my mind to revert with painful emotions to times when I rejoice in the greatness and glory of my Country without ever once thinking that it would be called upon to free itself from the coils of one of the most sanguinary Civil Wars of modern times.

Sat. April 18th. Weather clear and bright. Rations growing scarce. Nothing of interest today to change the general monotony of Camp scenes and incidents, except a few pugilistic contests among some of the members of the other regiments, which was brought about by a too excessive indulgence in the "water of fire". Two of the 79th Ind. proved beyond a doubt that it will be perfectly impossible for a human being of ordinary physical powers to break either of their skulls by hitting them with stones, and I think it will be a needless precaution for them to attempt to shelter their heads in times of battle.

This evening our wagons came out to us bringing rations which were beginning to be needed. Their arrival established the fact in our minds that we would remain here for several days, but just as the _____ began to issue the rations to us, we were surprised by hearing the Brigade bugler sound the assembly. Immediately the rations were thrown back into their wagons and we were ordered to "fall in" and marched back to our Camp at Murfreesboro that night - arrived at 9:00 and upon the whole I felt much benefited by the trip.

Sun. April 19th. Cloudy and warm. We are allowed to take a good rest today, and nothing is required of us except to furnish a small Camp Guard, which we managed to fill up with men who did not go out with us on our last trip.

Mon. April 20th. Some rain today. Not required to drill any as we are expecting to receive another two months' pay this evening. A newcomer made his appearance in our Regiment this evening, and the rumor immediately flew around among the troops that he was to be our Adjutant. This caused much dissatisfaction in the Regiment, for the boys did not know

where the "fellow" had come from, or what his record was, and in fact could not for some time learn his name.

It is hard on the deserving men of our Regiment to bring men from other Regiments, or from other states and promote them to the best offices in our Regiment, but I hope we will not suffer by the act. And notwithstanding the unfairness of such conduct, we are fortunate in having a Colonel from another state (Col. Cram, as a citizen of Jeffersonville, Indiana) who I think will make our Regiment create for itself a character for discipline and efficiency in all duties that is and has heretofore been unknown to us.

Tues. April 21st. Cloudy with some rain. Furnished a heavy detail for picket. Received two months' pay this evening from Maj. Osborne, which settles our account with the government up to February 28, 1964.

Wed. April 22nd through Wed. April 29th. It was about this time that Capt. Bailey (who was wounded in the Battle of Stone's River) came up with the Regiment and found a Major's commission awaiting him. Maj. Grider, who came up a long while since, had been promoted to Lieut. Colonial and the "newcomer" was sure enough promoted to adjutant, but I failed to make a memoranda of these events and therefore cannot be positive as to the precise time of their occurrence.

The new Adjutant, as I have before stated, was promoted against the almost unanimous wishes of the Regiment, but by his good conduct and gentlemanly bearing toward everyone who came in contact with them, he soon succeeded in winning the affections of almost every member of the Regiment as an officer, a gentleman, and a brave and patriotic soldier.

About this time the heavy system of drills was again introduced and continued almost without interruption through the whole of the time we remained here. First came the Company drill which lasted from 8:30 to 10:30 in the forenoon superintended by the Colonel. In the afternoon the non-commissioned officers' drill lasted from 1:00 to 2:00 under the command of Maj. C. D. Bailey, and next came Battalion drill from 2:30 to 4:30. Thus was our time kept filled out with the drills and other little duties.

Company cooks were appointed and thus we were rid of that occupation of cooking our own meals, and got to rest much more in consequence of it. We drew rations every five days by throwing the "draw days" so far apart we were saved much trouble on that score.

But the one item of picket and camp guard details bore heavily on us during the whole of our stay here and there was never much less than one-third of our whole strength on duty. Really the camp of our whole Army seemed to be turned into a

camp of instruction, and every requirement of the Army Regulations seemed to be made of us with a force that admitted of no denial. Bugles (for the first time) were issued to the Colonel by our careful and intelligent Quartermaster and soon we were greeted almost every hour in the day by the sounding of the various calls, and which at the beginning on account of the inexperience of the Buglers, was the cause of much merriment among the troops, but which soon proved to the satisfaction of everyone to be a source of great convenience to both officers and men.

Our Quartermaster, Frank White (who was also an Ohioan and formerly a member of the 59th) was a perfect gentleman in every sense of the word, and the most efficient officer that ever filled that position in our Regiment, and we had had about five or six officiating in the same office previous to his promotion (January 1863).

About this time I was detailed by Capt. Clarke to act as First Sergt. on account of the non-exchange of our orderly who was captured at Stone's River, and that will account for my not going on picket any more for a considerable time.

On Tuesday, April 28th, we had to turn over our Sibly tents and erect our Dobia tents instead. This was the source of much dissatisfaction among all the soldiers, for we thought the "tiny" thing would be entirely insufficient to protect us from the inclemency of the weather. But the interesting and beautiful appearance they presented, and the radical change that was effected in the form of our Camp, and a few days "making out" with them caused a decided revolution in the feelings of all in regard to the health, convenience and comfort of the Dobia Tent. They were of a size that would not admit of more than three persons sleeping comfortably in them, and thereby we were freed from the crowded air peculiar to the larger tent with its twenty occupants.

By raising our beds two feet from the ground, which the slope of the Sibly would not admit, we were freed from the unhealthy dampness of the earth, and which is greater under blankets continually spread on the ground. They were cleaner because those that were disposed to keep themselves clean from the dirt and crawling filth were not compelled to wallow with those who only paid such attention to personal cleanliness as they were compelled to by the strictness of military rules.

Thur. April 30 through Sunday May 3rd. Our Regiment was mustered for pay and inspected today by Capt. L. Harling, who acted as mustering officer. The next few days were bright and pleasant and everything rolled quietly and smoothly on, and it really seemed that if there could be any enjoyment in a soldier's life we were blessed with that privilege.

Our communications with home were uninterrupted, and we would now have time to pen lengthy and satisfactory letters to relatives and friends. We had very few opportunities to procure any good reading matter, and were therefore compelled to adopt a series of amusements to help kill the intervening time between the discharge of our various duties.

The weather was now getting so very warm that we could not indulge in any violent physical exercise, and really we got enough of that at drilling. We therefore had hardly a resource left but to indulge in games of marbles, or the more dangerous ones of cards, and to last dangerous and demoralizing game many of our boys became addicted no doubt to their subsequent sorrow. For the mere game soon loses much of its attractions and to supply this deficiency, the card player is almost certain to take up to gambling. At any rate, this was almost invariably the case with the card players of our Regiment and many a green one soon was stripped of every cent of his hard earned money, and then laughed at and derided by his more fortunate friends.

During the first few days of the month of April this vice was carried on to an excess in our Company that almost beggars description. Players seemed to have forgotten everything else but to be endeavoring to discovering some new trick by which they might strip their comrades of their greenbacks, and the games of "Seven Up", "Honest John" "Euchre" and "Polka" could all be frequently seen running in the shade of our tree at the same time, and a crowd was sure to be gathered around to witness the sums of money being lost and won by the hundred.

This vice of gambling was a source of great annoyance to the better disposed of our Regiment, for at the time heretofore mentioned, they became so bold as to come to the tents and carry on their demoralizing practices there, and I have frequently seen the dice being rolled down on the chuckabuck board right in the Company streets; but after a time this boldness was interfered with by military orders and the gambling operations were in the main removed from about the camps.

Mon.- Tues. May 4th and 5th. A little rain today. According to an order from the Brigade Headquarters we commenced ditching about our tents and cutting trenches through the whole and breadth of our regimental camp, and on the next day two trenches parallel to each other and about ten feet apart were cut through the whole length of the Camp of the Brigade between the two rows of tents occupied by the line and field officers. The dirt excavated to form the ditches was strewn on the space between them, thereby affording a dry and firm road in all kinds of weather.

A ditch was cut through the entire length of the Camp of the Brigade in front also, and there with the numerous cross ditches running among the tents kept the Camp at all times completely drained of water. More stringent measures were now taken in regard to the sanitary condition of the Camp, and at the fatigue call each morning everyone was compelled, under a heavy penalty, to turn out and assist in sweeping off the accumulated filth of the Company street, and once in each week the whole space inside the guard line was thoroughly policed (Army phrase for sweeping or cleaning a camp). Pork barrels was placed about the cooking places of each company to receive the scraps from the kitchen and when it was filled, it would be hauled away by a wagon detailed for the purpose.

Wed. May 6th through Sunday May 10th. A slow rain fell all through the day and the air is so cool as to render the absence of fire tolerably disagreeable. A heavy detail was made this day and sent to the wood with wagons to procure cedar trees to be set up about our camps; and the next day we commenced this operation.

Rows of cedar trees were set all along in front of each row of tents, and around the officers' tents and a solid row of heavy topped ones was set along each side of the Brigade walk before referred to, throughout its entire length, thus affording a pleasant place for walks, and for the exciting amusement of footraces.

Our Dobia tents were so arranged that each company had a row of tents on each side of its street facing to the center, and a deep ditch was cut just under the front of each row of tents and the side next to the street gradually sloped and all the dirt thrown to the center, and thus were our streets kept all the time in a comfortable condition.

I think that when all the arrangements were perfected our Brigade had one of the finest camps in the Army, at least it was the most tastefully arranged, neatest and most comfortable I ever saw. But it required several days of hard labor to complete it, and I think we did not drill any from about the 1st to the 10th of this month.

Mon. - Tues May 11th and 12th. Weather fine and warm. Still working away at our camps and have not ceased for several days, except on yesterday when we suspended operations for the purpose of Regimental Inspection.

Our camps are assuming a degree of comfort and beauty that I don't think I ever before saw, and the officers seemed determined that we shall leave nothing undone.

Wed. May 13th through Tues. May 19th. Weather cloudy and rainy in the evening. Were taken out and carried through the

pretty but laborious operation of Brigade drill today under personal command of Gen. Beatty, who now seems determined that the Brigade shall make itself as perfect as it has made its camp.

On the next day we were again carried out to Brigade drill and were well paid for the wearisome performance by the grand sight of three Brigades and two other Battalions all drilling on the same field, and all of which could be seen at one time from an elevated position on one side of the farm.

Wed. - Fri. May 20th, 21st and 22nd. Have had fine weather, good health and duty of drill for several days. Capt. Clark of our Company sent up his resignation today on account of disability. His eye was rapidly failing him, and he was blind in one eye before he entered the service.

Sat. May 23rd. Capt. Clark's resignation returned yesterday approved and he will start home the day after tomorrow, consequently all hands are this evening engaged in writing letters and packing up little presents which the Captain promises to take home with him. This evening a petition from one Company was sent to the Colonel requesting the promotion of Lieut. Johnson to Captain, of Lieut. Hestand to First Lieutenant and of myself to Second Lieutenant. The petition was returned without any comment.

Sun. - Mon. May 24th and 25th. Regimental inspection today at 4:00 p.m. After inspection, Companies B and H were formed in the streets of Company B where in front of the Companies I presented a beautiful watch on behalf of the Companies, to Montruville Waddell, who was formerly a member of our Company; afterwards a member of Company H and was now Hospital Steward of the Regiment. He responded to the presentation of the gift and the few accompanying remarks in an able and eloquent speech, pledging himself to the exertion of every fervor he could command to add to the comfort and health of the Regiment, etc.

On the next morning, in behalf of Company B, I presented Capt. Clarke with a large Navy pistol just as he was about to leave for home, but this was done without any parade and consequently no speech.

Tues. May 26th through Thursday May 28th. Weather clear and warm. Received news that Vicksburg had been captured by Maj. Gen. Grant and that with it there had been surrounded several thousands prisoners and many pieces of heavy artillery.

The Regiment marched out and gave three cheers for the good news, as did many others in the vicinity, but almost everyone said the news was "too good to be true". The next day and the next news came that Vicksburg was not captured but that Grant had fought several bloody battles in advancing upon the

place, in all of which the Rebels were defeated with great loss, and that he had succeeded in completely surrounding the city and reducing it to a state of siege. This much was satisfactory and confirmed by the few succeeding day's dispatches as beyond all doubt.

Fri. May 29th. Went to the woods today and procured several wagon loads of the branches of green trees, together with forks and poles suitable to our purpose and with them we erected comfortable shades over the whole of our Company streets which serves very much to increase the comfort and health of our Camp. The cedar bushes really were more ornamental than useful, for it was impossible to cut ones of sufficient size to create the solid and uninterrupted shades that the present arrangement afforded.

Sat. May 30th through Tues. June 2nd. Considerable rain last night and enough today to completely saturate the ground, which was very welcome as the ground was getting very dry and dusty. Rumor through the Camp that a Rebel reinforcement has been sent off in the direction of Vicksburg from the Army in our front and that causes us to expect that we may shortly have to move.

Lieut. B. M. Johnson sent up his resignation this evening, and as it will in all probability be accepted, we then will be left with but one commissioned officer in our Company, and, of course, another promotion will be made.

Wed. June 3rd. Last night we were visited by a very heavy thunderstorm. A tree was torn in pieces near our Camp and two of our Company who were at their posts as Camp Guard received such severe shocks as to be for a time perfectly insensible, but were finally revived by the falling rain, and in the midst of the shower came staggering into the Company streets perfectly proving by their mental and physical maneuvers that they were not yet completely recovered from the effects of the shock by a deal, but they have since gotten all right and are making sport today over the adventures of last night.

An order was received this evening for us to be ready to march tomorrow morning with three days' rations in our haversacks and four in our knapsacks.

The news from Mississippi during the last few days corrects the false impression we were laboring under - that Gen. Grant's Army had invested the city of Vicksburg, but according to the dispatches received today, our Army is rapidly nearing Vicksburg and will either completely surround it or annihilate the Rebel army in a few days. We place much importance by the capture of that city, and think that when that is effected the "backbone of the Confederacy will be surely broken."

Thur. June 4th. Weather windy. Lieut. Johnson set out for home today, his resignation having been returned approved on yesterday. Considerable cannonading this evening in the directions of Lavergne and Franklin, and the general impression among the men is that in a few days we may have to try our skill in handling muskets and pointing them at Rebels.

Fri. - Sat. June 5th and 6th. The whole Army (except our Division) is reported to be under marching orders and a portion of it is said to be marching out on the roads leading southward this morning, but it seems that no one has gone over to satisfy himself as to the correctness of this operation. Only one General is to remain at this post with a Division of troops (3 Brigades), and that duty is said to have been conferred on General Van Cleve and our Division, but as our Brigade is commanded by a General, he will have to go on the campaign and Mrs. Rumor says that he intends to get our Brigade attached to another Division so he can remain in command of us.

This caused much dissatisfaction among the boys and many indecorous remarks were made on the subject, proving that some men are always ready to raise themselves to a high pitch of excitement on the mere strength of rumor, that they may have some excuse for giving vent to their feelings of dislike against some commissioned officer, or against the whole set, for some imaginary injustice received by their orders.

I was very much dissatisfied with the arrangement - if such arrangement did exist - but I always think it best to not act on the strength of a Camp rumor, but wait for some confirmation. It would certainly have been unjust to have detached our Brigade from a Division to whose honor we had greatly contributed, and that in a time when we supposed the Division was going to be favored though I don't think such thing was ever contemplated by any of our Generals.

Sun. June 7th. Rain this evening. Gen. Van Cleve says our Brigade shall not be transferred - regimental inspection at 2:00 p.m.

The 17th Ky. Vols came up from Nashville today and was attached to our Brigade. As it is a large and fine Regiment, our Brigade will now have a more respectable appearance; for we had only three very small regiments. The 17th also brings a fighting reserve that causes us to at once decide it worthy to become a member of the 1st Brigade.

Mon. June 8th through Sun. June 14th. Continue to drill very regularly and our Regiment is rapidly acquiring the proficiency and efficiency so necessary to a fine Regiment, and is becoming so expert in all the exercises that it is actually becoming a pleasure to partake in the exercises, and

I think we are now second to but one Regiment in our Division in the point of prompt and regular executions of commands while on Battalion Drill. Generals Crittenden and Wood passed this evening while our Regiment was on Battalion Drill and paid us the compliment of falling on the ground and attentively watching us during the rest of the exercises.

On the next day I received a commission as 2nd Leut. vice Leut. Hestand promoted to 1st Leut. same date, and by occurrence of another incident that morning the Sergt. Maj. as he handed me my commission, ordered me to take charge of the Company.

The next few days were spent as all days are in Camp, with nothing of interest to break the dull routine of ordinary Camp duties. The weather was becoming almost offensively warm and we did but little besides the duties that came as regular as the days, but to be continually attempting to devise some plan to protect us from the almost intolerable hot weather; also something to keep our minds employed and relieve the continual anxiety we were under to hear something from Vicksburg.

About the 13th or 14th I was so badly poisoned by the ordinary poison oak vine that I was for several days utterly unfit for duty, and suffered much during the time.

Mon. June 15th through Saturday June 20th. Weather growing to be almost intolerably warm but my poison is getting a little better. Ough! If we should be ordered to march now, I hardly think I could come it. "Vicksburg is yet Vicksburg" is now the frequent salutation of officers and soldiers, and is becoming almost like an old song, and we are anxiously hoping that something decisive will occur in that quarter soon. A member of Co. A of our Regiment was some time since sentenced by a General Court Martial to be "shot to death" for the crime of desertion and tomorrow is appointed for his execution. A petition was sent to Gen. Rosecrans from our Regiment today signed by nearly all the officers asking for the reprieve of the prisoner, but the petition was not granted, and this evening we are ordered to prepare for the execution tomorrow, and our Regiment is required to furnish one man to form one of the twelve who will shoot the prisoner. The Company commanders were collected at the Colonel's tent about 8:00 p.m. Nine blank tickets were put into the hat and one marked one and then each one drew out a ticket. Capt. Leggitt of Co. A. got the marked one and consequently had to furnish the man who was to do the shooting.

The next day which afforded me the opportunity of witnessing one of the most solemn scenes known to mortals was the hottest one that had yet occurred in the season.

Early in the day our Division was marched out to a large field and placed in the form of a hollow square with one of the lines of the square left vacant. Hundreds of spectators were on the ground to witness the execution, and but for the nature of the scenes that were about to take place, I could have relished much better the imposing appearance of the Brigades as they respectively moved on _____ into their respective positions. After waiting a considerable time, the ambulance supposed to be conveying the prisoner hove in sight, accompanied by the Provost Guard, but judge of our surprise when as they approached nearer we saw the prisoner, entirely unsupported, walking with a firm and steady step between two of the guards, and seemingly entirely unaffected by thought of the trying ordeal through which he must directly pass, and the bare thought of which had already made me almost sick. Oh, awful thought - to see a man who was so soon to pass the broad gulf that separates Time from Eternity, and who will soon enter the dread uncertainties of the awful Hereafter, and there to live by the past and not the future and yet he appears so little concerned. Before leaving Headquarters and when the officer of the guard proposed to place him in an ambulance, he remarks "no, I think a walk will make me feel better."

The guard entered the square and commenced to make the circuit of the whole _____ inner columns. The prisoner closely attended by guards and supported by Lieut. Pipkin (Co. A) and Chaplain Smith (?) proceeded immediately by his coffin, and accompanied by the solemn tones of the band playing the "dead march" (?) and with his head slightly bowed but with a firm step, followed around the whole square without the least faltering in his step. I took one glance at him and turned heartsick from the scene, anxiously contemplating the awful scene that must follow, and which I would be almost compelled to witness.

The circuit completed and the prisoner placed about the center of the open side of the square, a short prayer was next uttered by the Chaplain and thus the prisoner was secured to his coffin in a sitting position and the twelve were marched up a short distance in front of him and brought to a front.

I involuntarily turned my eyes away from the scene and waited several seconds, which seemed like hours, of the most tormenting suspense when the almost death-like silence was broken by one of the poorest and most irregular volleys I ever heard, and a glance toward the prisoner told me that he was no more. All stood a moment as if in breathless suspense and then a long breath apparently from each one broke the spell of suspense and immediately we were deployed and formed into columns of Companies and marched in this order over by the spot where the victim lay and then filed off toward the Camp. A great many executions of this kind occurred during

our stay at Murfreesboro and the good effect it had upon its deserting portions of our Army was conclusive evidence that we would not have had to report so many "absent without leave" for the last several months if this experiment had been tried at least a year sooner. And fewer examples would have had the desired effect at the first organization of our Army by far than were now required. For the last fifteen months men had deserted and returned almost without impunity and till Gen. Rosecrans came into command of the Army the punishment hardly ever so severe that anyone would not have undergone it voluntarily to have obtained thereby a short furlough to go home. The punishment was most commonly a simple "stoppage of pay" for the length of time the prisoner was absent, and who would not give \$13.00 per month for a few months to be allowed to go home after a protracted absence from friends.

The next few days were passed over without any incident of interest, but we were kept very closely at the regular duties, and there served to fill our time in the most pleasant portions of the days, for the weather had now become so warm that no attempt at drilling was made during several hours in the hotter time of the day.

Some of the boys becoming musical, a violin was purchased by the combined contributions of our Company and this afforded much sport after night would set in and the air become cool enough to admit of the pleasing but laborious exercise of dancing. We were frequently visited by a vocal band from another Regiment (the 79th Ind. Inftry, I think) and the combined musical favors of the two Regiments, seconded by the "almost superhuman" exertion of the dancers, afforded us much pastime during the weary and lonesome evenings.

Sunday, June 21st. On the evening of the 21st, I went to a prayer meeting which was conducted in a beautiful arbor that had been erected by the members of the 19th Ohio near their Camp. I was seriously impressed with the religions solemnity that seemed to cloister every item of the proceedings of the meeting, and I resolved that I would attend these meetings regularly during our stay here if they should be kept up. Capt. Miller (Co. G) was present and addressed a short discourse to the meeting, and seemed to take a great welfare in its prosperity, and the good effect it might possibly have upon the morals of the members of the Brigade.

Mon. June 22nd. I was detailed to go on picket, and it was the first time since the putting forth of the leaves that I had been outside the precincts of our Brigade Camp. Therefore, I was almost surprised and very much pleased to find that my post was in a delightful shady grove, the ground being covered with a beautiful and fresh grass that had been preserved from pasturage by the nearness of the picket line and the rigidity of the orders of the picket officers.

I cannot tell how much I enjoyed the absence of the bustle, confusion, continued noises, dust, impure air, sounding bugles, rolling drums, occasional quarrels, and continuous independent fights of the Camp. I could now enjoy the pure air, cool shades, and the pretty chatter of the numberless birds with a pleasure I never realized to such an extent before. My duties were of a nature that kept me from being responsible for the conduct of any man except myself, and therefore I enjoyed the pleasures of my position very much. But I can never come to the contemplation of any pleasure without the thought of better days rolling before my mind and causing a pang of sorrow to pervade my heart.

I cannot avoid reverting to the once prosperous, glorious and happy condition of my Country, and to the days when a man could and did by his own conduct entail happiness or misery upon himself.

Tues. June 23rd. Weather tolerably cool. Returned from picket early in the day - indicative of a general move by the Army - preparations going on in every quarter which furnish unmistakable evidence that ere long we will have to leave our beautiful Camp, and once more undertake the toilsome march and probably the dangerous battlefield.

Wed. June 24th through Sat. June 27th. A light rain falling during the greater portion of the day. The whole Army, except our Division, moved from their camps today taking various routes leading off to the south. The 20th Corps marched on the Shelbyville Road; the 14th A.C. on the Manchester Road, and our Corps. moved out on the Liberty Pike.

As before remarked, our Division did not move out with the main Army, but about noon, amidst a steady rain, we had to strike tents and move over to a position near the railroad bridge over Stone River and encamped.

It was on the drill ground of a Brigade that had moved out that morning, and was very much torn up by the frequent passing that had been made over it during the day, thus it seemed the mud and rain were using their combined efforts to render us as disagreeable as possible; but we cheered each other with the hope that we would get to remain here during the summer, though I cannot say that hope ever assumed a very large sphere in my bit of aspirations. Yet, we could not imagine why we left here if it were not to guard the post, for all the Army, so far as we could ascertain, had gone out this morning and we know that the defenses, stores and bridge of this point - are so important that they would not be left entirely unguarded. But we went to sleep that night without ascertaining what was to be our fate.

The rain continued to fall in torrents the next day and the mud about the camps became almost impassable from its great depth, and its being on every spot of ground about the Camp. The next day (26th) the rain fell in more moderate quantities, and we thought we could safely indulge in a hope that it would cease entirely by tomorrow, but we heard no news from nor no cannons at the front, and were compelled to retire to our bunks equally as wise in regard to the general proceedings of the outer world as we were in arising that morning.

On the 27th we received orders to be ready to move at a moment's warning, which completely dispelled the vain hope that many of us had indulged in that we would remain here as post guards. But notwithstanding all these troubles, the rain continued to fall in heavy showers through the most of this day, and we retired to our bunks on this night under the firm convictions that, rain or shine, we would have to move tomorrow.

Sun. June 28th. Some rain in the forenoon of the day. In the afternoon our Brigade and a portion of the second Brigade set out on the march along the Manchester Pike, as escort to a heavy ammunition train which it was said we were to carry to Dept. Headquarters. After a weary and toilsome march of ten miles we arrived at _____ Creek about midnight, being almost completely _____ by the heavy pulling we had been compelled to make through the mud.

Mon. June 29th. Started early this morning but the wagons very slow and added to the already many disadvantages for speedy marching, a heavy rain set in early in the afternoon, which at once rendered the roads nearly impassable for the continually passing wagons soon cut the road into numberless gullies and holes.

A great many wagons broke down and with their loads were, of course, lost for there was no remedy. In many instances the teams failed to draw their wagons across difficult places without the process of "double teaming" and this, of course, greatly retarded our advances.

We only gained eight miles in the whole days and at night the train was parked in two different places, some miles apart. Our Regiment was camped about 3 or 4 miles beyond Beech Grove.

Nothing could hardly exceed the disagreeableness of this day's work. We had been compelled to wade mudholes and _____ at wagon wheels till we were so nearly exhausted that I for one could scarcely hold out till we arrived at Camp, and then when we did we were so completely bedaubed with mud and sand that sleep was almost out of the question. But we were finally halted on a pleasant hillside which offered too

good an opportunity for rest to be left, and we remained here all night.

Tues. June 30th. The rain had ceased falling this morning but the roads were in a sad plight indeed, and under any other circumstances than the present I think we would have found it impassable. The troops composing the escort were by far the muddiest and most (discomfited) fellows I ever beheld; this with the dampness of the night rendered a refreshing sleep an impossibility, and consequently we rose from our blankets this morning feeling very sensibly the effects of yesterday's march.

Some time in the forenoon, we set out again but with a continual whooping and hollering and tugging at wagon wheels we were only able to advance 4-1/2 miles in the whole day, i.e., our regiment only advanced that far for the 17th Ky. which was in advance arrived near Manchester that night. As to the remainder of the command, they did not catch up with us in the whole day, but encamped some miles back to the rear. The train was parked in - upon order - or on every favorable spot of ground for some miles along the road.

Wed. July 1st. Weather clear and very warm, but the roads were still very much in need of repair, especially for our business. Our Regiment arrived in Manchester today and encamped in a beautiful grove near town in the yard of a gentleman whose name I have now forgotten.

We can get but little news from the front, which is now at least twelve miles ahead of us, only that the Rebels are evacuating all their important posts with such little resistance that it has been the origin of a rumor among the boys that Bragg with the greater portions of his Army has gone to Virginia to occupy Richmond while Lee with his "invincible" pulls on and crushes "old fighting Joe Hooker" and the gallant Army under his command. All now agree that the Rebels will fall back without any further resistance to the other side of the Tennessee River. Cos. A and B go on picket tonight and after much stumbling through bushes and crossing hollows, finally got a good position, and for the first time since leaving Murfreesboro, a comfortable place for rest.

Thurs. - Fri. July 2nd and 3rd. We returned from picket early this morning, being relieved by a detail from the several companies of the Regiment. Co. A caught four straggling Rebels this morning and one of our vedettes shot at a squad of three. The woods are reported full of them trying to get to their home in this state and Kentucky without getting into our lines. Think we have reason to be very much cheered by the flattering success our Army has met with since leaving Murfreesboro, and the Army of the Potomac could now give old Lee a similar chase. Jeff Davis might

begin to think seriously about using some of his stolen pieces of gold to close the eyes of his Confederacy. Oh, that the Great Ruler could in His wisdom say that this war should immediately end as it inevitably must, and save the shedding of rivers of blood that I believe are yet destined to flow!

On the next day we remained in Camp striving to render ourselves as comfortable as possible on a hot, sultry day. We were very anxious about the movements of the various armies, but as we could get no news on account of the irregularity of the mails, we could come to no definite conclusion as to the general condition and position of our own Army.

Sat. July 4th through Tuesday, July 7th. Weather clear but very hot and sultry. A national salute was fired at the usual time of the day by a battery in town, but no other demonstration by the few troops left at this place. Receive _____ (mail ?) after dark tonight, but no newspapers and consequently still remain uninformed as to the true condition of affairs. The next day we heard reports that Gen. Hallack had been succeeded as Commander-in-Chief by Gen. McClellan and that Gen. Hooker had been superseded by Gen. Meade in command of the Army of the Potomac. This was the cause of some rejoicing among us, for we knew that with a change of commanders there would be at least an attempt to do something, whether it succeeded or not, and we could only hope for it's success.

On the 6th I, with several others, went to the woods in search of huckleberries. We had a most agreeable and pleasant ramble of some miles through this country of heavy undergrowth of bushes and briars, and procured a bountiful supply of berries of different kinds. I got separated from the rest of the party and we only protracted our walk by a few miles in whooping and hollowing and using other means to ascertain each other's whereabouts, but finally we all came together at an old mill, and without any injury in either life or limb we returned to Camp.

Wed. July 8th. Good news today from every quarter. Vicksburg was surrendered with it's whole garrison to Gen. Grant on the 4th _____. Gen. Meade is manfully closing in with old Lee and is reported to have captured a great many prisoners. The Rebel generals, A. P. Hill and Longstreet are reported the former killed and the latter wounded. "Hurrah for the Potomac Army" is on every tongue this morning, and if these reports only be true we may hopefully listen for something decisive from that quarter soon.

Thur. July 9th. Set out for McMinnville today, where the other half of our Division has gone under Gen. Van Cleve. We

are very much pleased with the idea of a move for the country about Manchester is so effectually stripped of everything fresh in the line of eatables that it is simply an impossibility to procure forage, even to the amount of a mess of potatoes. And as McMinnville lies rather out of the general site of operations we calculate that when we get there we will find plenty in the country, to mix with and make our Army rations go better; and also as it seems to be rather out of the general line of march, we hope that we will get to remain there a considerable time. We camped that night nine miles from Manchester.

Fri. July 10th through Sun. July 12th. We went to McMinnville, distance 14 miles -arrived in sight of town and on the banks of the stream _____ that place (known, I believe, as Caney Fork), and which stream we were submitted to the necessity of wading. As it was tolerably broad, and as the bottom was covered with sharp, flinty stones, this mode of ferrage was at once very disagreeable and painful, for we were ordered to take off our shoes.

There very much pleased with the country through which we passed today, as it promises great recompense to foragers, and as some citizens informed us that the people are largely secesh we will not be very scrupulous about taking what we actually need, but I heartily condemn anything that pertains to the destruction of private property, let it belong to whom it may.

We remained in camp the next day (11th) but the weather was so disagreeably warm and sultry that we did scarcely anything towards cleaning up or otherwise working at our Camp so as to make it comfortable.

Sun. July 12th through Tues. July 26th. I went on picket today, and was well repaid for the duties it calls forth by the regular feast I had on potatoes and buttermilk; and in the coming on a portion of a "shoat" that attempted to carry away one of the boy's haversacks and who paid for his temerity with his life.

Genls. Rosecrans and Crittenden, with their respective staffs, came out to "our town" on the 13th and spent a short time in looking about.

During the next few days nothing of interest occurred in our Camp, for as the orders on picket lines were very severe, and as there was not any _____ ground within them, we could not find food for the productions of interesting incidents. We broke up our Camp and moved over to the Northeast side of town on the 15th and again settled down, and then went to work at straightening out our Camp in real earnest; and in a few days were again very comfortably situated, and ordered to commence drilling.

On the 18th, I went out 7 miles on the Chattanooga Road on a foraging expedition in charge of the train escort, and after filling wagons with corn, sacks with potatoes, pockets with peaches and apples, and hands with chickens, and getting considerably alarmed at the rumored proximity of a squadron of Rebel cavalry, we returned to Camp.

About the 21st, we began to hear stirring news from the North, and almost fabulous stories in regard to the great freebooter, John Morgan, Brig. Gen. C.S.A., who was reported to fairly turning over the states of Indiana and Ohio, and who was being hotly pursued by Genls. Judah, Hobson and Shackelford.

When we first heard that this daring and powerful robber had crossed the Ohio, we fairly chuckled, for we were confident that he would never get his neck out of the halter into which he had so recklessly thrust it; but when we began to hear of the repeated masterly runs and inevitable depredations of the great robber-chief who it seems could never be caught or headed, we began to fear that he would make a masterly raid through "the States" and finally escape to Virginia.

On the 23rd, the Paymaster (Maj. Osborne) arrived in our Camp and we immediately began making out a new set of payrolls, in order to be ready to receive our "share" of the ever-acceptable "greenbacks", and on the next day the 19th Ohio received pay, and on the next day the 79th Ind. and still on the next day (Sunday) we received our installment.

Mon. - Tues. July 27th and 28th. Warm weather, and a dry day, and plenty of money, and consequently plenty of potatoes. Received a dispatch this evening stating that "Old Morgan" and his whole force is finally captured. This news was particularly gratifying to the members of our regiment for he was the particular horse stealer, and alarmer of helpless women and children in our particular country.

Wed. July 29th through Mon. Aug. 3rd. Weather cool and pleasant. I am on picket today and have again had a good feast on the various delicacies of the season.

Soon after our change of camps, Gen. Van Cleve had issued a circular regulating the price of the various articles of trade that were being daily exchanged for or sold by the citizens and soldiers, and regulating the manner in which their dealings should be carried on. This proved to be a wise thought of the General, for previous to this many of the citizens had demanded and received enormous prices for their various articles of sale; and in other instances some of the soldiers had forcibly, or by other means, defrauded citizens to some extent, and in a most shameful manner.

Citizens were now not allowed to cross the picket line till 9:00 and then only were they allowed to come to the picket reserve, and there they were compelled to do all the trading that they did with our troops. The picket officers were furnished "price lists" and it was their duty to personally superintend the dealings of the various parties and to see that everything was conducted fairly and squarely according to orders. These prudent regulations caused many of the citizens to bring in various articles which were very acceptable to the troops, and for which the soldiers were always eager to exchange either greenbacks, or their rations of sugar and coffee. The articles generally brought in by the citizens were potatoes, beans, peas, milk, butter and eggs, fruits of almost every kind, cooked meats of every description, fowls, fish and really anything that a fruitful country could be expected to produce.

Taking everything into consideration, I think that we fared better in every respect and enjoyed ourselves better during our stay at McMinnville than at any other time or place while in the service. The citizens (if many of them were Rebels) were by far the most courteous and differential as a whole that we ever found; but we ascertained that a large portion of the population were Unionists and that they had suffered many prosecutions on account of their patriotic devotion to the "Old Flag". Our duties were for a time very light, consisting principally in going on picket and occasionally drilling. But the picket officers soon became so lenient in their requirements that it almost became a real pleasure to go on picket.

The small number of troops stationed there and the great distance by which the different Brigades were separated prevented the air from being filled with those nauseous vapors that are inevitable to a large Army.

The water was excellent, and the stream before-mentioned afforded good opportunities for healthy bathing. But we were almost totally deprived of the luxury of reading newspapers, for while we were in Murfreesboro, Gen Rosecrans issued an order prohibiting news dealers selling western papers for more than five cents per copy, and the prices of eastern papers were regulated accordingly. This order was a considerable "dig" into the profits of those concerned, and the consequence was as before-stated.

The weather, after the first few days, was generally very cool and pleasant for the season, and we had but little rain.

Tues. Aug. 4th through Fri. Aug. 7th. The weather was now growing warm very fast. In the afternoon our Brigade received an order to be ready to march on a scouting expedition, and set out at 5:00 p.m. We took the road leading to Sparta, and traveled about 15 miles, halting near

midnight at Rock Island, the point where the Sparta Road crosses the Caney Fork River.

I afterwards learned that the design of the expedition was to march to this point and capture the Rebel force by surprise that were stationed here to guard the ford, and then to move on the town of Sparta, which was at this time occupied by some Rebel cavalry. But as our advance guard was not able to take the Rebels by a complete surprise, and only effected the capture of a part of them, it was considered useless to go any further and therefore the expedition was abandoned, and on the next evening amid a shower of rain, and being very sore and much wearied, we arrived in Camp with the happy consolation that we had our trouble for our pains.

Sat. Aug. 8th through Sunday Aug. 16th. Our Regiment, the 21st Ky. Infantry, and the 44th Ind. Infantry were moved across the river near the railroad bridge and organized into a pioneer Brigade, and placed under the command of Col. Price of the 21st Ky. We did not much like the idea of changing our pleasant camp for a new one where we would be compelled to undergo the necessity of again devoting a week's work to digging and shading, and when we came to learn that we had been moved across there for the purpose of erecting fortifications, our dissatisfaction rose as fast and extensive as the Confederate troops fell about the first day of April 1865. And the intensity of this dissatisfaction was not in the least decreased by the almost intolerably hot weather which was now pouring it to us with all the force of an almost boiling sun.

On the 10th, we worked hard all day at our Camps and got things as nearly completed as possible, ditching and shading, etc. for we were informed that we would have to commence work on the morrow, and sure enough we did, by breaking ground just in front of the bridge. From the general direction of the stakes that were set up as marks by the engineer, we concluded that there was at least a month's digging in store for us, and I tell you I dreaded it. But, if there had been no such organization as Granger's Reserve Corps we could have comforted ourselves with the thought that we would get to remain and occupy our works when they should have been completed and the last of the Division gone on the great Southern Campaign.

We remained here and dug hard till the 15th with constant rumors of a forward movement, and numerous curses and imprecations among the boys at the thought of being compelled to work so heavily in this intolerably hot weather with the daily prospect of leaving for some other point.

But notwithstanding the general displeasure, we had some real pastime and among other incidents of no interest was the settling of a dispute between our Regiment and the 21st Ky.

as to which Regiment could show itself to the best advantage. I need not say that the palm (if there was any) was awarded to the "Old 9th" and justly too, though I don't recollect that any of the members of the "Twenty-Onesters" conceded the point.

Late in the evening of the 15th, we received the order to "be ready to march tomorrow morning at 6:00". The news was received by many of the boys with violent volleys of curses and imprecations, and whole vocabularies of impolite epithets, which exceeding hurtful missiles were hurled at the innocent Reserve Corps with all the vindictive energy that could be expected of disappointed and overworked humanity; but notwithstanding this gallant and able defense, the fate of the poor fellows were sealed - the firmness or absence of the originator of the order would not relax in the least and we were left to no other alternative but to go or stay, and accordingly got ready.

We bade adieu to McMinnville with it's many pleasing attractions the 16th (Sunday) and started out on the Pikeville Road with 10 days' rations in our Company wagons, which by the way were very much loaded for we were reduced to the competency of one wagon for two companies. We marched to the foot of Cumberland Mountain (distance 5 miles), having waded Caney Fork in the meantime and encamped. A pleasant shower of rain fell during the evening which rendered the air very cool and refreshing.

Mon. Aug. 17th. Weather warm and clear in the forenoon. I was detailed early in the morning to take charge of a squad detailed from our Regiment, and to assist Lieut. Stubbs (since Captain) of the 79th Ind. in directing the operations of a detail made from the whole Brigade for the purpose of getting the ammunition train up the mountain, the ascent of which we began to climb almost as soon as we started to march. After much hollowing and whipping, and much heavy and laborious pushing, and sometimes pulling, frequently a rope would be attached to the tongue of the wagon and passed forward between the mules when about twenty men would get hold of it and take it over difficult places. We finally (about 12:00) reached the summit of the mountain, which was about two miles from our previous night's encampment. The ammunition train then passed on while we remained near the summit of the mountain waiting for the rest of the wagons and the troops to come up. Then the third Brigade soon came up and passed on, but our Brigade did not get all their wagons up till near night, and then we moved out about two miles and encamped. The third Brigade had gone about five miles further on.

TUES. AUG. 18th. Weather tolerably cool and pleasant. Marched 13 miles today, and as the roads were very good, we got along with our wagons tolerably well, and found water to

be tolerably plentiful, which rather surprised us as we had some very rough experience on this same ridge but much farther South (Aug. 1862). Tonight, as on the other occasion of our crossing this mountain, we had a very exciting alarm which originated from a cow that was browsing about among the tents, knocking down a stack of guns. As on the former occasion, the whole Regiment was aroused, and kept for some minutes in anxious suspense in consequence of no one knowing what was the cause of the alarm, but finally without anyone scarcely knowing the true cause we all lay down again to sleep. All hands decided that Cumberland Mountain was certainly attended by some evil spirit, or had some other reason for being very prolific of exciting alarms.

Wed. - Thurs. August 19th and 20th. Weather very warm. We marched early and soon went down the mountain into the beautiful and productive Sequatchie Valley, beyond which and not more than five miles away Waldryn's (Walden's) Ridge could be seen rising in all it's rough beauty, forming an agreeable background to the broad fields and narrow strip of wood that interspersed each other over the valley.

Weary, footsore and dusty, we arrived at Pikeville late in the afternoon, and were encamped in a beautiful grove of trees just above town, and which was surrounded by numerous fields of corn which was now in that state so favorable to the soldiers' facilities for cooking and eating - roasting ears; and soon every man's kettle was filled with the tender, nourishing ears of corn, and all in good spirits over the prospect of a good supper.

Pikeville was neither large nor populous, nor thriving, nor beautiful; and judging from all appearances, it undoubtedly got its growth soon after its first settlement. Though as an excuse for this, it may be truthfully said that it has no advantages by which it can acquire the above-named attractions. The valley in which it is situated, though very productive, is very narrow and stretches out several miles both above and below the town, thus almost entirely cutting off communication with the outer world.

I can say nothing for or against the inhabitants of the town and surrounding country, for during our stay we had very little intercourse with the citizens, and that principally with the rough inhabitants of the mountains, who were generally a pretty good representation of the first settlers of our country. One of them came in one day bringing some fresh venison for sale. Some of the boys asked him where he killed it at, upon which he remarked "over at the back of Uncle Ike's field".

Fri. Aug. 21st through Sat. Aug. 23rd. The weather was now rather cool and consequently very pleasant. A train started back to McMinnville for supplies today. The 4th Michigan

Cavalry had a skirmish with the Rebels last night some distance up the valley.

Mon. Aug. 24th. Weather again very warm. Our Regiment started back to McMinnville today to escort a supply train. Marched to the summit of the mountain and some distance farther on where we halted at a small stream, and I found myself more completely exhausted from excessive heat than ever before, but here the whole Regiment was mounted into the wagons and from this we traveled very easily and made our day's journey about twenty miles.

Tues. Aug 25th. Rainy last night and a very hard shower this morning. Marched early and about the middle of the afternoon we met the train that had left Pikeville on the 21st returning with a very slender escort. The four left companies of our Regiment were detached to return with this train which was under the command of Maj. Clarke of the 8th Ky. Infantry. We got our train up the mountain that night, and camped not far beyond where the road reaches the top, and spent a very disagreeable night on account of not bringing our "doggeries" (tents) with us, for the rain fell through the greater portion of the night, but under every consideration we were very much pleased that we did not have to go all the way to McMinnville.

Wed. - Thurs. Aug. 26th and 27th. Weather very cool and tonight the air is disagreeably so. Marched back on the Pikeville Road today to within three miles of the brow of the mountain and went into Camp. Our detachment encamped in an orchard, the trees of which were loaded with choice fruit, and, of course, we spent a very agreeable evening, but our appetite for fruit had been considerably through the day. The boys who could not content themselves by plodding along the road with the wagons had branched off into the few farms that were scattered along the road, and they returned almost invariably loaded with the most delicious and elegant peaches I ever ate.

I had to go on picket tonight, but did not suffer any inconveniences therefrom except being compelled to sleep by myself and with no bed or covering except the cold ground, the friendly branches of a majestic oak and a gum blanket.

Fri. - Sat. Aug. 28th and 29th. Col. Cram returned from home where he had been on "leave of absence". The right wing of our Regiment returned today. Receive the cheering news that lines of our main Army are now established on the Tennessee River. About 8:00 p.m. an old cow that was poking about in the Camp of the 17th Ky. became frightened at something, and blinded by a fire that was burning near, she dashed off - ran over and knocked down a whole row of "dog tents" in some of which the owners were lying gently asleep. This incident brought an immense volley of loud whoops and huzzas from the

witnesses, which was immediately taken by those in the neighborhood, and yell upon yell, louder and louder, soon commingled into one prolonged yell the awful tornado swept down upon our devoted Regiment striking us with such force that it called forth a succession of loud yells from almost everyone. I had just retired to rest, but when I heard the awful rushing, as if of a mighty wind, I sprang from my bunk and rushed forth into the open air, and throwing my head slightly backward, and standing at my full height, and assuming as nearly a "show action" attitude as possible, I opened my head and manufactured a few first-rate young-lion- roars as quickly as possible and then quietly returned within my tent. The storm passed throughout our Brigade and by Gen. Beatty's headquarters producing everywhere the same startling effect as in our Regiment.

After it had in a manner ceased and the boys were talking over the results, they were as suddenly astounded by hearing the assembly sounded from the bugles at Brigade Headquarters, and quickly repeated by the Regimental buglers. Everyone knew that this was the signal for our punishment. Some of the boys came in and waked me, and you may judge of my surprise when I learned that the boys had been exercising their lungs a little too freely and now were in immediate danger of being punished for it. But there was no help for it and the whole Brigade was compelled to stand in line two hours (some of the boys said) as a recompense for the terrible damage we had sustained in the recent tornado, though they did not all put it up so well and some grumbled severely.

Sun. - Mon. Aug. 30th and 31st. Weather clear and warm. I was detailed to go out today with a guard to a forage train. Went about five miles down the river and simply loaded our wagons with corn and returned to Camp without anything interesting occurring to pay my trip except that I stopped in at a house while the wagons were being loaded and had the (to me) almost inexpressible pleasure of hearing a beautiful young lady play (on her piano) and sing "The Star Spangled Banner", etc.

On Monday we had rumors all day that we were on the eve of making another general move, but our anxieties were not relieved till a very late hour in the evening when we received orders to be ready to march at 6:00 in the morning. I supposed we would march in the direction of Knoxville and earnestly hoped so, for I believed that the main Army under Rosecrans would soon attempt to cross the Tennessee River and therefore if we joined him I thought we would stand a very good chance to get into hot places, and I tell you, Stone's River had effected a complete cure of any proposition that I might have had in that direction. However, we packed our trunks and knapsacks, separated those articles that we would carry with us from those we intended to leave with the wagons

and made other preparations necessary to a long march.

Tues. Sept. 1st through Thursday, Sept. 3rd. Weather tolerably warm and roads very dry and dusty, and marching consequently very disagreeable. Marched 14 miles down the valley without yet being satisfied as to whether we would march on throughout the entire length of the valley or turn across Waldrun's (Walden's) Ridge in the direction of Knoxville.

The next day we marched 18 miles, passing through a little hamlet termed Dunlap, six miles from our previous night's bivouac. Several men gave out from excessive fatigue and heat and were placed in ambulances.

On the 3rd, we marched to Jasper, distance of 14 miles. Here we suddenly found ourselves within the lines of the main Army, and Gen. Crittenden's headquarters were at this place. We also found ourselves in a portion of country that we had occupied before (Aug. 1862) and had since evacuated it for the purpose of following Bragg into Kentucky. Passed the very house where I saw the first example of house-pillaging by a part of a thievish set of scoundrels who joined the Army to obtain the privilege and opportunity of robbing negro kitchens and ladies wardrobes.

We found also that we had arrived just in time to partake of a great movement of some kind that was being made by the Union Army. The 14th and 20th Army Corps were reported to have already crossed the river and disappeared in the mountains beyond and gone "no man knew whither".

Fri. Sept. 4th. This is the twenty-first anniversary of my birthday, but I am so hurried by orders to march and marched so far that I have hardly had time to think about it; though it always is food for much and very serious reflection, and will generally lead into reflections of such a nature that it causes the thinker to form many resolutions which, if kept, will generally tend to make them better, nicer, and more useful persons.

We were aroused early and ordered to prepare to move, and by the time the sun was peeping over the spurs of the Ridge, we were marching in the direction of the Tennessee River at Shell Mound. Arrived at that place, or rather at the bank of the river opposite that place about 10:00 and by noon nearly the whole of our Division had been crossed over in flatboats. This was rather a slow mode of crossing compared with the facilities offered by a pontoon bridge, but it was conducted in a very safe manner, and I did not hear of a single accident occurring in the whole Division while crossing. After we had gotten across, we were moved up into the mouth of a valley and encamped not very far from the celebrated Nick Jack Cave. I paid a visit to the cave in the evening

and found some points of admiration in the grand opening at its mouth -the extensive saltpetre works that had been erected by the agents of the Confederate government and in the numerous little skills of every - almost every description that could be gathered about the works. I went in a little beyond the reach of daylight, but as my curiosity had not been careful enough to cause me to provide myself with the materials for a torch ere I left the Camp, I did not venture farther, for I did not choose to extend my explorations in this subterranean passage without having the partial advantage of the use of my optical organs.

There were scores of torches in the hands of soldiers going and returning, but by their light I could distinguish nothing beyond my position except the carriers, yet I did not choose to explore further without the torch in my own hand.

Sat. Sept. 5th. At 5:00 p.m. we were blowed together again, and marched about ten miles that night in the direction of Chattanooga over an undesirably rough road, and encamped just beyond the well known Whiteside Bridge. We now begin naturally to come to the conclusion that the present operations were being directed against Chattanooga, the place that I had long considered as almost impregnable, and as I had not yet began to calculate on the great flanking fervors of Gen. Rosecrams, I could think of no way for us to obtain possession of this general stronghold of the Confederate Armies but by a direct assault.

"But where is the rest of your army?" was a question very frequently asked by almost everyone and it, of course, unanimously remained unanswered. We had no definite news from the 14th and 20th Corps for several days, and had not seen either of the other Divisions of our Corps though we felt tolerably certain that they were in our advance.

Retired to rest that night, conscious that we were within a day's march of Chattanooga, but not dreaming of the many barriers that could be thrown in the way of our progress.

Sun. Sept. 6th through Tues. Sept. 8th. Marched about three miles and encamped on the Trenton Road in Georgia. The weather was now becoming very dry and the roads were so dusty that it rendered marching very difficult.

On the next day we remained in Camp, could occasionally hear a cannon away up the valley which indicated beyond a doubt that somebody had found somebody and that somebody was trying to pick a fight with somebody.

In the afternoon our Company elected two Sergeants, and the elections were approved by the Colonel. The men elected were Corporal J. W. Hinson and Corporal J. M. Holland. Passed the

time as merrily as soldiers usually do when they are expecting a battle soon.

On the 8th we advanced about three miles and encamped on a steep hillside in plain view of the famous Lookout Mountain, but were too far up the valley to obtain a view of the point, and were utterly unconscious that we were so near Chattanooga, and as much so of its topographical position. Then to sleep that night in blissful ignorance of the whereabouts of the other Corps, and of the operations of the Confederate Army.

Wed. Sept. 9th. Our Brigade was aroused and started on the march early this morning, it was said with orders to "clear Lookout Mountain of Rebels". After marching and counter-marching in the valley through fields of corn and high weeds, we finally (near sunrise) struck the right road near the foot of the mountains and commenced the toilsome ascent. The mountain was not very high, and we ascended at a kind of low gap, but there were no level spots along the side of the mountain, popularly known as benches, to interrupt the one long steep ascent that continued from the very foot of the mountain to the summit, and consequently the ascent was very fatiguing and we were in constant expectation of being fired upon by the imaginary enemy on the summit.

Not a single vehicle of any description accompanied us, and in fact such thing would have been impossible. We finally, much to our surprise, reached the summit of the mountain about two hours after sunrise without meeting any obstacle in the shape of an armed foe, and were halted and allowed to rest awhile. A detachment from the Signal Corps had accompanied us and they soon had their glasses poised and flag waving, endeavoring to attract the attention of the occupants of a signal station near the site of our previous night's encampment, but I think they finally did not succeed on account of the air being filled with dust that was raised by long trains of wagons and lines of troops that we could now see going down the valley in the direction of the Point Lookout.

About 10:00 a.m. we started in the same direction on the ridge of the mountain, and were near sixteen miles from the Lookout House. We suffered much from the great heat, and scarcity of the water, which was also of a very inferior article, and tasted strongly of coppers.

Weary, hot and thirsty, we arrived at Lookout House late in the afternoon, and as we were marched down in front of the principal dwelling and so near the edge of the awful precipice that abruptly breaks off from the level of the top of the mountain, I cast my eyes in an easterly direction and, oh, ye admirers of the beautiful scenes of nature! A sight here met my astonished gaze that for extent of territory,

variegated beauty, and diversity of scenery, far exceeded anything it had ever been my fortune to witness. Almost beneath my feet a high ridge ran through the valley almost parallel with the one on which I stood, but the height of which was so scarcely perceivable from my elevated position that simply resembled a forest level in common with the surrounding fields.

Some miles beyond this long, evenly-carved Mission Ridge rose in gentle hills above all the surroundings and seemed to form the first line of the beautiful background that rose ridge behind ridge, higher and higher for many miles till the beautiful train was gradually hid from view by the lovely azure that seemed with a spirit of jealousy to interface to curtail the extent of my vision, as if it were hiding something beyond too sacred for morality to behold.

I turned my eyes toward the mouth of the valley and saw the placid, and now beautiful Tennessee River winding in gentle curves among fields and forests, and finally losing itself from my view behind the swell of the mountain.

My eyes then went back up the stream and soon fell upon what! Do my senses deceive me? Is the jewel for which we have so long and arduously toiled to be so easily won when we had expected that the greater part of the price was yet unpaid? Is our Army to be allowed to march in and quietly take possession of what has been considered the main joint in the backbone of the Confederacy? No, my eyes did not deceive me for away up the river, so far off that the largest houses looked scarcely larger than a "dog tent", and which all almost hidden from view by the intervening trees, so much so that it hardly had the resemblance of a town, I saw Chattanooga. But was much disappointed in its general appearance. I had expected to see numerous lofty spires; steam puffing from a hundred engines; columns moving about the scanty rifle pits; huge redoubts seeming by their very weight to defy all assault; Rebel banners floating from every tree; but of all these I saw nothing. But one or two spires were visible; scarcely enough smoke was ascending from the city to justify the belief that it was inhabited; no heavy columns of Rebels and scarcely a living being was visible about the city.

A few lines of rifle pits seeming to be mere marks could be seen above the city. But why could we see no Rebels? Borrowing a glass from a comrade for a few moments, I looked over to the right of the city and saw a cavalry force marching under the stars and stripes and dressed in blue. This explained all without the need of the further evidence I obtained on casting my eyes down almost under my feet and there seeing our Corps coming around the point of the mounting and marching off in the direction of Rossville.

The joyful reverie into which this beautiful scene and the good news was fast hurrying me was suddenly interrupted by hearing the cries of female who appeared to be much excited. I turned my head and saw a woman, moderately young, of ordinary beauty, possessing a considerable degree of intelligence and some education, probably never celebrated for possessing an excessive amount of modesty, finely formed, unmarried (for she spoke of a sweetheart), and altogether neither attracting nor repulsive in person or manners.

She had become greatly outraged, it seemed, in consequence of our presence on the mountain, and the Rebels' non-presence in Chattanooga, and she was holding forth in violent strains of _____ to a crowd of "eager listeners" who had gathered around the doorstep, and who were seemingly much edified by her discourse as the loud peals of laughter in which they frequently responded to some ridiculously unreasonable or funny remark of the fair orator. She discussed the merits of the respective armies, told us that her sweetheart was an officer in Bragg's Army, and had promised to pay her a visit in three weeks "and he will come". (I was forcibly struck with the force of this remark when it occurred to my memory within 12 days from this time) She gave it a strong emphasis and gestured in a manner that was almost bewitching to behold. It was truly interesting to witness the amazement and diversion of our boys as they would happen to be passing and catch sight and sound of this principal supporter of the rebellion.

Some of them would pass and with astonishment listen a few moments and then with an indescribable (but which I think will bear the definition of suppressed contempt) G___d Damn would turn away, wondering if Barnum wouldn't give a handsome _____ for such a prodigy. Others would attempt to reply to some of her sarcastic expressions, but they were all taken aback by the rapidity volubility with which her tongue kept up a continual chatter, and which did not give an opportunity for the wittiest of our boys to slip in a word edgewise.

She raved and clapped her hands and stamped her pretty feet (oh, if I was a shoemaker)! and performed other wonderful feats with such energy and in such rapid succession that she about worked herself into such a pitch of excitement that I feared for her life, but she soon began to perspire freely and her excitement began to give way to great exhaustion and she was compelled to sit down upon the floor, but she still continued our "services" but we were prevented from hearing (or seeing) the catastrophic end to this wonderful living drama by the bugles sounding "attention".

We started down the mountain some minutes before sunset and marched to Rossville that night, over one of the dustiest roads it has ever been my fortune to travel, and arrived in Camp about 9:00 almost suffocated with dust, and almost worn

out by our day's march, which could not have been much less than thirty miles, and ascended a mountain and traveled near 16 miles with almost no water.

We had expected when we discovered that the Rebels had gone that the campaign would cease for awhile and that we would again get a few days of rest, but every movement this evening seemed to indicate that active operations would continue.

Why were we not marched to Chattanooga instead of Rossville? And why are we ordered to retain our extra ammunition and to procure more rations when we have two days' supply on hand? And more than all, where are the 14th and 20th Corps?

Thur. Sept. 10th. Received letters from home stating that my father is at the point of death and all hopes of recovery given up. It is useless for me to attempt to describe my feelings at this news; but after a first pang of sorrow it seemed that my heart suddenly became dulled against it and all the other tormenting anxieties that I had suffered in the last few days, and for several days following this a kind of feeling of disregard for any misfortune that might come upon me.

I was so near a hypochondriac state of mind that I rather welcomed than dreaded the evident prospects of a battle, and so much had my mind sunk under the mental suffering of the last few days that I fancied I rather preferred than wished to avoid death; but these foolish fancies were destined to be vanished at an early day, and sad experience was soon to cause me to gladly avail myself of the friendly shelter of a tree or log to avoid the whizzing bullets and murmuring shells as they went crashing by.

Our Corps moved out early this morning in the direction of Ringgold, Ga., and traveled about five miles and then formed into line of battle and encamped. The Division in advance of us were keeping up a sharp skirmish with the enemy when we went into Camp, and the advance guard, composed of about 60 men of the 3rd Ky. Infantry, had been captured near the present skirmish line. A sharp picket firing was kept up during the most of the night and many of our soldiers were wounded.

We retired to rest that night, still in ignorance, but very anxious about the whereabouts of Thomas and McCook.

Fri. Sept. 11th. March early on the Ringgold Road and almost simultaneously with the command forward the skirmishing is resumed and was kept up with slight interruptions till we reached Ringgold, and here the enemy attempted to make a stand, and our artillery was ordered to go forward and throw a few shells into the enemy's line. That soon caused them to again start off down the railroad toward Dalton. At this

place we were joined by Col. Wilder's Brigade of Mounted Infantry, and they drove the enemy on in advance some 5 or 6 miles, but could not hurry them fast enough to prevent them setting fire to every trestle work and bridge along the railroad, and as the continued dry weather had rendered all woodwork very combustible, it was useless to attempt to extinguish the fires.

Wilder lost two men killed, and captured two dead and two wounded Rebels.

We encamped about two miles beyond town near the railroad in a pleasant grove of trees and feast like kings through the night on Georgia pork and mutton, seasoned with U. S. salt and "washed down" with U. S. coffee.

By this time I actually began to feel very uneasy that our Corps should be away out here in the vicinity of the whole Rebel army and much scattered out to watch different points, and the other Corps gone to _____ Rosecrans knows where. I wisely concluded that our general knew his business and strove to not suffer it to puzzle my brains any further.

Sat. Sept. 12th. March back through Ringgold early this morning and take the road leading to Lee and Gordon's Mills, at which place we arrived about 3:00 in the afternoon, and that the first Division of our Corps had gone there on the morning of the previous day and had a severe skirmish with the enemy who happened to be at that place. We cross the stream (Chickamauga River) just below the mill, then moved up a few yards and encamped, and there many of us accepted the tempting opportunity to take a bath in the mill pond.

Sun. Sept. 13th. Our Brigade was sent out this morning to feel the enemy to ascertain, if possible, his strength. We had scarcely cleared the picket line ere the skirmishing began with considerable warmth on both sides, but the Rebels fell back slowly for about one mile, and then opened a battery upon our skirmish line. Capt. Drewry (Chief of artillery of our Division) immediately ran one of his batteries from the road onto an adjacent cornfield, and by a careful movement, and sheltered by the tall green corn, he got a commanding position over the enemy and the first shots started them off in a considerable hurry. But while riding around seeking a good position for his guns, Capt. Drewry was severely wounded by a Rebel sharpshooter and was borne off, we thought in a dying condition.

We then followed them about two miles further, skirmishing all the time, when we again were ordered to halt by receiving the fire of the enemy's artillery. They were behind a skirt of woods that was so filled with underbrush that our artillery men could not get sight of them though I think the two batteries were not more than three hundred yards apart.

The Rebels worked their cannons with great fury for a few moments, and fatally wounded two men of the 19th Ohio, which Regiment was lying near our battery. Our artilleryists soon got range of the enemy's guns and then they put it to them in such style that they soon ceased to annoy us. We then returned to Camp, but were compelled to march in line of battle and keep skirmishers deployed in our rear, for the Rebels followed us at a respectable distance till we regained our lines. Lieut. Clark of the 79th Ind. was wounded by a Rebel sharpshooter. There were no casualties in our Regiment.

We had been out to foil the enemy, and the unanimous decision of the boys, when we returned to Camp was "that they didn't feel very good".

Mon. Sept. 14th. Our Corps was marched across the country in the direction of Chattanooga valley. Stopped on the road about noon and remained till near dark, then went into the edge of the valley about six miles from Lee and Gordon's mills and encamped.

This movement puzzled us all very much, and served to increase our perplexity as to the whereabouts of Genl's. Thomas and McCook. In fact, affairs began to be a gloomy aspect, which the joy at the recent capture of Chattanooga could not entirely dispel.

Rations were for some unaccountable reason growing very scarce, and we were reduced to the necessity of substituting (in the meat line) almost entirely upon Georgia pork and that principally without salt; but we were yet receiving tolerable liberal quantities of "hard tack" and sugar and coffee, and when a soldier has plenty of these he hardly ever grumbles, especially if he is on a march.

It had now been weeks since a drop of rain had fallen and therefore the roads were becoming intolerably disagreeable and the dusty sand that would accumulate on our bodies in one day's travel, greatly interfered with our rest at night. I was sent on picket that night, and had to establish the line myself, and that in one of roughest roughs imaginable, that can be composed of steep rocky hillsides and an almost impossible underbrush assisted by the darkness of a very dark night.

Mon. - Thurs. 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th. Marched back in the direction from which we came on the previous day about four miles, and encamped near the celebrated Crawfish Springs.

After we had stacked arms, and before we received the command to "break ranks", Colonel Cram pointed to a drove of hogs that were grunting and munching but a short distance from us, and which were very numerous, and large and fat, and remarked

"I have bought all the hogs in this country, boys, but if you are mean enough to take them from me, I can't help it. Break ranks". The boys were not so dull of perception that they could not at once see that this was a hint for them to make some provisions for their empty haversacks and hungry stomachs; consequently, the last command of the Colonel was the signal for a general charge upon the unlucky representatives of the swinish population of Georgia, and they made it with a yell that would have been worthy of a much more difficult and dangerous undertaking, but which resulted in the speedy killing and dressing of a sufficient quantity of meat to feed the Regiment bountifully for some days. Some of the boys found a sufficiency of salt in a neighboring barn. Our Camp here was in a pleasant situation and the water was of the first quality, as everyone knows who has ever drank of the clear and cooling water of Crawfish Springs.

We remained at this place the next day, and finally began to hear some correct rumors as to the whereabouts of the other two Corps, but the news did not serve to satisfy us any when we were informed that Thomas was twenty, and McCook at least forty miles away, for we believe, from the actions of the enemy, that they were reinforcing heavily, and had hardly the confidence in our little Corps that it could withstand an attack from the whole Rebel army. Gen. Rosecrans came to the Springs and put up his headquarters on this evening, and this event raised our spirits to some extent.

On the 17th the air became much cooler, but still we had no rain. There was a little skirmishing in the evening on our front, but nothing of unusual interest occurred, and we remained in our Camp throughout the day.

Fri. Sept. 18th. There was much skirmishing along our whole front on this day, and occasionally some cannonading. A shell from a Rebel cannon passed through Col. Barnes' (Col. 8th Ky., now comdg. 3rd Brig. of our Divison) _____ early in the evening. This incident caused me to give way in a degree to the impression that our commander didn't know exactly what they were at, or where the Rebels were at.

About noon our Division was moved to the left, and thrown into position near to and facing the river just below the mill. Sharp skirmishing throughout the evening in our immediate front, and a heavy cannonading away to the left.

Late in the afternoon ambulances walled with wounded began to come from that direction, and we learned that Col. Minty's Cavalry Brigade had had a severe battle with the enemy, and that they were finally hard pushed and nearly surrounded by Infantry and after being sadly cut to pieces, were compelled to retire.

About sunset the forces who had defeated Minty made a keen attack upon the left of our Division, but as they found our boys wide awake and laying on their arms, they quickly gave back, but not until they had received two or three terrible volleys from the 44th Ind. and the 59th Ohio. Our Brigade was moved in double quick toward the scene as soon as the firing began, but ere we could reach the spot, the firing had ceased.

The direction of the line was somewhat changed and we were ordered to stack arms, and "every man to lay near his own gun". The left of our Regiment rested upon the road. The night was exceedingly cool and from the fact that I and my bedfellow had left our woolen blankets with the wagons, we slept but little, and even if we could have been comfortably warm, refreshing sleep would have been almost an impossibility, for troops were passing the road and going on to the left by thousands at intervals through the night, and the immense clouds of dust that were raised by their wary dragging feet rendered breathing exceedingly disagreeable, and sometimes almost painful.

These troops were a part of the lost Corps and we were now revived by the thought that our Corps would not have to contend single handed against the whole Rebel army.

The extensive preparations that were being made through the night - the occasionally dull rattling of a _____ battery - the almost incessant tramping of galloping horses - the watchfulness that seemed to be kept up by various commanders - the passing troops, and in fact, every indication was that we would have a severe fight on the next day. And the occasional crash of an enemy picket sentinel's musket told too plainly to admit of any doubt that the Rebel army was confronting every portion of our line and was undoubtedly strong enough to ably contest the issues of tomorrow with us.

But the night passed off quietly without a single alarm occurring to interrupt the slumbers of those that could sleep.

Sat. Sept. 19th. This day is famous in American history as the first one of the most unequal struggle that the gallant and (hitherto considered) almost invincible Army of the Cumberland was ever called upon to make. This was the day on which many a brave patriot and Rebel drenched the soil in their blood without any definite result except to warm the ardor of their friends and cause them to rush pell mell into the awful scenes of the succeeding day.

The sun rose clear and beautiful, and shed his cheering warmth over our dusty soldiers, and quickly driving away the chilly vapors of the preceding night, only to replace them with his more uncomfortable heat.

The unusual stillness of the morning was first broken into by a furious cannonading commencing on the left of our Corps, about 7:00 a.m. It was not kept up a great while and we were informed that the enemy had charged upon our troops but had "met with a most magnificent repulse". As the heavy booming of the artillery died away, we could hear a deep and heavy rolling of a continual discharge of artillery away to the right, but could not conjecture what it meant, and began to feel very apprehensive that the enemy were attempting to turn our right and enter the Chattanooga valley.

This soon in a measure died away and then for a time all was comparatively quiet, but it was only that lull in the storm from which it breaks forth with renewed vigor and overwhelms everything in its onward and resistless course.

Though we could not for a considerable time hear more than an occasional boom of cannon, yet all seemed forcibly impressed with the conviction that we would have some awful work to do ere nightfall. The soldiers sat pensively in their places clutching their deadly rifles, and casting apprehensive glances on every orderly that rode past, as if they thought he was bringing an order for our advance.

They listened with eager interest at each discharge of a gun as if they expected it to be followed by a volley and with our own countenances they would turn to each other and talk concerning the probable strength of the enemy and the result of the battle.

About 10:00 the Rebels again charged upon our Army away to the right and were again repulsed, and then so far as we could hear, everything again assumed a comparative quietness, though the fierceness of the skirmishing was increasing with a rapidity that evidently proved that the crisis must soon come.

Oh, how can I portray the anguish of mind the soldier suffers while he is waiting in great expectation of a battle! What were my feelings as I lay there on that gloomy morning and calculated the chances that I felt I would certainly have of being a bloody and mangled corpse before night? How my heart was rung with conflicting emotions as I looked around upon my beloved comrades, and wondered which of them would ere night have received the fatal messenger and be called abruptly from us to realize the awfulness of Eternity!

If I should live, how many of my comrades had spent their last happy hour on the earth, and with whom I had spent my last agreeable moment? I endured such heart-rending thoughts as these till I actually prayed for the battle to begin, for then one has no time for meditation, and when it is over his agonizing apprehensions are to some extent converted into less painful but stern realities.

But these meditations were again broken into about noon by the enemy making another grand and heavy charge on our left. The heavy boom was soon almost lost in the incessant and increasing volume of musketry, which was now getting louder and louder as additional troops came into the contest, and the volleys were soon lost in one continual roar, proving to our anxious minds that the fight had now begun in earnest; that the opponents had now so far committed themselves to the struggle that neither could withdraw without acknowledging a defeat, and therefore the reason for knowing that the battle had really begun.

All ears were now listening with intense eagerness to see if they could distinguish by the sound whether either party was gaining ground, and all eyes were bent in that direction to detect any stragglers that might happen to be leaving the scene.

Presently a staff officer dashes up to Gen. Van Cleve's headquarters and there _____ of his staff to Gen. Beatty's headquarters. The bugle sounds attention. The boys straighten themselves for they had sprung to their guns upon the commencement of the fight. Our Division was going at "double quick" "left in front" away down the road toward the conflict. Nearer and nearer we approach the awful conflict which seems to be going on without any relaxation or gain on either side. Directly we found ourselves a few hundred yards in rear of our line. Here we pass Gen. Crittenden and staff who were greatly halted in the road, as if awaiting the issue, but now our road took a turn, and soon brought us upon the scene just on the left of our engaging line; as the Regiments were moving "left in front" they had nothing to do as they cleared the other line but just to front and "pitch in" to shooting.

We were almost completely exhausted by the long run we had been compelled to make (nearly two miles) and at a short distance our troops looked very similarly to "grey backs". Our Brigade fronted, regiment at a time those that fronted first, commencing a musketry fight with the enemy till our Regiment (which had been on the extreme right) came into line, and then the whole Brigade made a general charge, driving the enemy back for several hundred yards and capturing a battery of four guns in the meantime.

We then halted and commenced a general musketry upon a new line of Rebels that made their appearance in our front, as if to shelter their firing comrades. We fired at them a considerable time when they disappeared from view, and for a moment there was a suspension of the firing in our Brigade.

We almost began to come to the conclusion that we would not be molested farther during the evening, and if such should be the case we considered ourselves lucky though we had lost

several wounded in the Regiment, but we had not rested many minutes till we saw, away through an opening in the woods, heavy columns of Rebels going to the right. Where are they going? Is our right properly protected? Those movements foretell that the storm will soon be on us again in all its fury. The gallant Capt. Stephens with his battery comes right up to our line and asks what he must do. No general but Col. Cram points to the heavy columns moving away to the right and advises the Captain to give them some of his "most suitable pills".

He immediately wheels and has his battery unlimbered to the front, one force almost in the midst of my Company and opens a furious cannonading upon the enemy, throwing grape and cannister among them at a fearful rate.

This seems to awake a Rebel battery which was in our front and much closer than was comfortable, and the answering showers of grape and cannister whizzed with hurting sounds over and through our ranks, and occasionally doing execution. Presently the Rebel infantry fell with resistless force upon our right, but our boys met them with a determined resolution well worthy of a better arrangement of troops, but the enemy's line is advancing almost at right angles with our right, and consequently they are subjected to a heavy front and flank fire.

With intense eagerness, we watch this unequal contest (for the woods ever so open that we could see to a considerable distance) but soon our line begins to waver, and then to fall back in great disorder, upon which the Rebels set up a deafening yell and bound forward in the pursuit like so many grayhounds when they first catch sight of the wearied line. Eagerly do we cast our eyes back on the supporting line relying upon us now to save the day to our arms, but oh! the supporting line has disappeared; it has been deployed on the right and left of the Brigade and consequently there now was no supporting line, and the Rebels, unchecked, came down upon the right of our Regiment with the fury of a tornado, and we were immediately subjected to a most murderous raking fire. Capt. Stephens stood gallantly to his guns and poured the deadly missiles upon the enemy with terrible effect.

At this critical moment, one of our batteries, away in the rear of course, commenced throwing shells into our Regiment and Captain Stephen's battery with commendable accuracy and terrible effect. One of the shells bursted in the midst of Companies G and K and severely stunned Lieut. Rodes and several men. Never have I seen our Regiment or any other act with such extraordinary coolness at any other time as ours did this evening.

The clear, calm and steady voice with which Col. Cram uttered his commands seemed to reassure everyone, and although the

enemy were now almost upon us, and had us partially surrounded and our boys were being killed and wounded by the score, yet they plied their muskets with a resolution that seemed to say "we will stand till ordered to retreat or die in the attempt". Every since we commenced fighting early in the forenoon, various commands had been given (as much as practicable) by the bugle, and the promptness and precision with which they were obeyed seemed to create a kind of mutual confidence among the members of the Regiment.

But the right of our Regiment soon found it too hard pressed to stand any longer, and really it would have been evident to a casual observer some minutes previous to this time that we must either soon fall back, surrender, or be completely cut to pieces, yet Capt. Stephens never attempted to limber his guns till our Regiment began to fall back, and just then a shell from one of our batteries (before referred to) bursted in the midst of his horses and killed and wounded several, and so completely frightened the rest that it was impossible to bring off but two of the guns; for simultaneously with the first wavering on the right of the Regiment, Col. Cram gave the order to retreat and away we went in great disorder for near one-fourth of a mile, when a partial rally of our Regiment and some others is effected.

As the Rebels had stopped shooting for a moment, no doubt to re-form their lines, we got a sort of a line rallied. Just then Corporal Clarke of my Company asked me to come to him, upon which he pointed through an opening in the timber, and not more than three hundred yards off, I espied the Rebel line advancing and their flag was distinctly visible. Clark said "do you see that G__d d____nd yaller rag? Oh, how I would love to shoot it's bearer". I was almost amused at the fellow's earnestness, and disgust upon seeing this traitor's emblem, but we had no time for meditation, for just then this line opened a terrible volley upon us again, which was too much for our thin and straggling line to withstand, and after giving them an answering volley, we again broke, if possible, in greater disorder than before.

Adjutant Shepperd wounded. The Rebels followed in close order, but we soon passed through several batteries that were parked along a low ridge in an open field and which gave the enemy a momentary check till fresh troops began to arrive from the right, and we were soon freed from further work during the evening, and well was it for us, for we were so badly cut to pieces and scattered that I don't think one-half of the Brigade was present when we halted some distance in the rear and bivouacked for the night. It was truly discouraging to witness the condition of our Division as we were compelled to fall back that evening, and I at one time almost came to the conclusion that the whole Army was retreating.

But on dark many stragglers who had been lost in the retreat came in, and we found that our Regiment had suffered comparatively small loss, wither in killed or wounded. We had lost one killed from our Company and had been compelled to leave him on the battlefield, and as we supposed the ground to be now in possession of the enemy, we had to suffer, the painful uncertainties of his receiving even a decent soldier's burial.

But the battle raged, if possible, more fiercely than ever after we fell back, and after dark we, from our Camps, beheld one of the most magnificent scenes that is ever witnessed in any battle, to-wit: A heavy musketry and artillery contest just a few hundred yards to the front and slightly on the left of our position.

In the contemplation of the awful grandeur of the scene, I for a moment forgot the imminent danger of the actions, and that incidents were occurring every moment that would send sorrow to many a peaceful and happy fireside; that these thousands that were now seemingly getting up a scene for fancy's eye, were momentarily experiencing sufferings of every grade from the slightest pain to the awful fang of death every time a fresh volley served to increase the redness of the broad red glare that seemed to hover over the heads of the contending lines. It carried death faster and thicker among the suffering troops, but at length the sound of battle died away and with the advantages of the struggle on our side.

Notwithstanding the fact that our Division had been roughly handled during the evening, and that we had been compelled to retreat in a very disorderly manner, and had suffered very heavily in killed and wounded, yet we were satisfied with the news that we got from the rest of the Army. It seemed that on almost every other part of the field our troops had come off victorious, and every passerby had a long story to tell about the great doings of his Regiment or Brigade. All were flushed with what seemed to be a victory, or at what they were sure was only the beginning of a victory for tomorrow.

But the emphasis of one fact was the source of much earnest conversation, and of many doubtful surmises among the boys, and that was a general belief among all parties that Bragg's Army had been largely reinforced by troops from Virginia, and that belief had received confirmations this evening.

A forest of Rebels charged upon Davis' Division (?) of the 14th A.C. They came on with a grand rush and panther-like yells which seemed to the Regular Brigade to greatly exceed a similar movement by any portion of Bragg's former army both in irresistible force and human-frightening ferocity from the fact that the terror of their yells was "Eastern troops" "Bull Run", etc. These cries (or something else) so

frightened the Regular Brigade that they broke and fled in confusion, leaving their battery in full trim and ready for operations, minus not a single horse.

Next in rear of this Brigade lay a volunteer Brigade, the front line being composed of the 9th Ohio and 2nd Min. Vols.

As soon as the demoralized regulars had cleared this line to the rear, it rose with a "damn your Eastern troops" and made such a terrible counter-charge upon the enemy that he was soon discomfited and driven from the field.

I retired to rest late at night on a steep hillside, with no bedding but two gum blankets, and a fence rail on the lower side of me to prevent me from rolling down the hill in my sleepy hours. My bed-fellow of the preceding night (1st Sergt. William B. Roddy) had been severely wounded and carried to the rear during the fight, and I now had to fill his place with another member of the Company who had also lost a companion wounded in the same fight. But a soldier is rarely known to entertain gloomy thought just after a battle, no matter what may have been it's results, consequently I enjoyed a fine night's rest, and had pleasant dreams of terrible hand-to-hand struggles in which our banner was always covered with the laurels of victory and the enemy completely exterminated.

Oh, how uncertain is life! On that night thousands sought the welcome arms of Morphus, and enjoyed the soothing refreshment of a good night's rest as if unconscious of the many chances there were for a battle on the next day - full of hope, and without those torturing presentments that frequently visit the poor soldier on the eve of battle many a gallant heart best uninterrupted by through that long night while the body was calmly reposing from the labors of the previous day, and which was on the next day to receive the fatal messenger, that was either to bring death or severe suffering to it's unfortunate possessor.

Calmly did many a mind wander away to distant homes and firesides - to the anxieties of fond parents; to well-wishing brothers and sisters; to beloved wives and little ones; or to some gentle maiden whose last word was love and hope, and a promise to not forget. Calmly did they mentally speculate upon the prospects of their living through the service and relating to these dear ones the many dangers and hair-breadth escapes they had undergone. But at midnight all was comparatively quiet, and the picket firing was probably more scattering and infrequent than on the night previous.

Sun. Sept. 20th. There was a heavy frost on the ground this morning, and the air was very cool, but the rising and unclouded sun soon dispersed the cool vapors, and we were greeted with the prospect of another warm day.

Early after sunrise, our Division was marched back into a hollow and received three days' rations of meat and hard tack. Wagons were here collected thickly in all parts of the valley, and we saw one almost complete regiment of Rebels (17th Tenn.) who had been captured on the previous evening; besides these, we saw several other squads of prisoners.

For a time after sunrise everything was unusually quiet and at one time I began to think that some change had been made in the Rebels' programme, or that they had probably concluded to decline a battle. The skirmishing would sometimes break out afresh and for a time seem to indicate that something was going to be done, but then all would die away again.

Sometimes a battery would peal forth in thundering tones for one or two successive rounds, without apparently having any more effect than to disturb the general stillness of the scene.

Soon our Division was moved forward to the crest of the ridge, and the different regiments formed in "column of Divisions" that they might easily be deployed into line of battle. This position gave us a view over an extensive field and we could see our troops moving to and fro in every direction, as if making preparations for some great undertaking.

About this time the skirmishing began to increase in severity, and the frequent volleys told that the combatants were becoming warmed up to their work.

From the position that had been assigned to our Division, we all naturally came to the conclusion that our duty was to act as a reserve force to our Corps, and we knew that the expected battle would have to assume a desperate character if we were called into the struggle, therefore, we had a two-fold reason for desiring that we would be so lucky as to not have to participate in the engagement of the day.

It was a sad scene to look upon our Division, so greatly decimated that Brigades were scarcely larger than full Regiments, the men stiff, sore and battleworn from the almost super-human exertions of yesterday, and yet conscious from the increasing severity of the skirmishing and an occasional heavy volley away to the right or left that we would have to again come in for our share of the terrible work.

Suddenly the skirmishing became unusually severe in our immediate front and extending away to the left, and everyone seemed to at once conclude that an attack was being made by one of the opposing armies. The bugles sounded "attention", and we were moved a few yards toward the front. Staff officers were now flying in all directions, as if carrying the last order for making dispositions for the final

struggle. Batteries of artillery were parked along the ridge in our rear, and the cannoniers were standing at their pieces, anxiously looking to the valley below where the battle was soon to rage in all its fury, and attentively listening for a command to commence firing upon some point.

Presently the battle opened away to the left, and soon afterwards we could hear that the work was going on away to the right; it seemed that the fight was raging at two or three different points along the line, but as yet not very near to our position.

Our Division was moved down nearer to the front line. About 11:00 a.m. the enemy made a furious attack upon the left of our Corps, and soon the sound of musketry and artillery assumed an extent of volume and fearfulness of rapidity that is rarely exceeded; louder and more frequent grew the volleys till they were lost in one continual roar, proving to us that a desperate effort was being made and oh, how anxiously did we await the issue.

It soon became evident that our troops were hard pressed, for they seemed to be falling back. A Division was called up from the line just in our front and went away to the left, and again for a moment it seemed that our boys were likely to hold their ground, but soon we discovered this to be a mistake; we cast our eyes in that direction and could see thousands of stragglers in a confused and helpless mass pouring to the rear through a skirt of timber, and emerging into the open fields in a state of hopeless confusion.

At this critical period of affairs, with our right and center greatly weakened to reinforce the left, and the left already hopelessly broken, our Division was ordered to the left; changes of directions were immediately effected and we had just received the order to "double quick", but just as this order rang along the line, a new event occurred that caused it to be immediately, and before we could commence to carry it into execution, countermanded.

A heavy attack was made on our immediate front, and extending away to the right. Our Division again changed directions, but by the time this movement was effected, the deadly grape and cannister were flying so thick through our ranks that we were ordered to lie down and await the result of the contest that might be made by the slim line now in our front.

On the enemy came with a valor that was worthy of men fighting for any cause, and with a force that was only to be checked by unexcelled valor and countless numbers.

We knew that bravery and patriotism were in our front, but alas! it had but few representatives. Our thin lines were swept down before the mighty storm of grape and cannister,