itionized the science of war among civilized antions.

In no department was this truer than in the methods for maintaining communication between co operating forces, and the achievements of the military telegraph corps shed a adeless luster on American genus and American manhood. The government for which its members imperiled his, timb and liberty has been strangery tardy in showing some sign of gratitude, but the glory of their patriotic service, without a precedent in the sistory of the world, has received the highest tribute in other lands, for overy great nation with a standing army has organized a telegraph corps based on the experience and the success of the American men-yes, and the American boys-who made the electric spark speak with a thousand voices and fly on the wings of the lightning, swifter than ever sped Mercury with message of the Rods

### Americans Teach the World,

Up to the time of the American war the best means for communication in the army was by mounted horsemen, and the necessities of the service, when many forces were engaged, made an enormous draft on the cavalry for both men and horses. It is true that a military telegraph line was first erected during the Crimean war of 1854-5, but it was used for communication between but it was used for communication between the headquarters of the allied besiegers and not for tactical purposes, playing a very in-significant part in the conduct of the cam-paign. Efforts were made in India, Italy and Algiers, some of them ludicrous and none ex-tensive, to use the telegraph in campaigning. but these were not remarkably successful and may be regarded as rather experimental. The Americans, therefore, had no guide, and they developed the military telegraph as necessity dictated, and their genius wrought to meet emergencies.

#### The Corps Begun Without Design.

When Sumter was fired on and it was apparent that war was inevitable, it became Washington. Simon Cameron, secretary of war, called on Thomas Scott of the Penasylwar, called on Thomas Scott of the remay, vania rallyoad for advice and assistance, and he called in Androw Carnegie, now the millionaire ironmaster of Pittsburg, but then superintendent of the Pittsburg division of the Pennsylvania, to take immediate charge of the military railroads and telegraphs. Robel sympathizers had cut the ires between Baltimore and Washington, and one of the first things Scott did was to send four expert operators from his road. They were David Strouse, D. H. Bates, Samuel M. Brown and Richard O'Brien. They reported at Washington April 27, 1861. Bates, and thus accidentally, as it wore, became the nucleus from which the telegraph corps grew. Carnogie's railroad duties increased so rapidly that Strouse was soon directed to take charge of the telegraphs.

### Unjustly Denied a Military Status.

The north was so thoroughly imbued with the idea that the war was a matter of only a few months' duration that the telegraph corps was formed in a haphazard sort of a For more than six months neither organization nor offi-For it had cial head. There was no law for its existence, and no act was ever passed to give it a legal or a military standing, a fact which should be borne in mind in reviewing the remarkable history of this corps. The members of the signal corps held a military rank, but the telegraphers, though infinitely more serviceable, were treated as civilians

#### Organized on a Civil Footing.

After six months of unorganized action Secretary Cameyon determined to give the telegraph corps form, and he called Anson Stager to Washington to take charge of it. General Stager submitted a plan of organization, which provided that the corps should be under the direction of the secretary of war. It provided that quartermasters and their astants should furnish members of the corps with transportation, subsistence and forage. The plan was approved and Stager appointed general manager, subject only to the secretary of war.

#### Legal Obstacles to Getting Rations.

Stager did not propose a military rank for any member of the corps, and the giving of a commission was not considered until Quar-termaster General Meigs insisted that he could not legally honor Stager's requisitions for money and supplies. The president thereupon appointed Stager assistant general quartermaster with the rank of captain and be was by special order assigned to doty as general manager of the telegraph system.

Quartermasters at distant points began complaining that there was no legal warrant for filling the orders of Stager's civilian superintendents and he surmounted that eloquently by the fact that no member of the corps ever betrayed bis secret. Without Precedent in History

telegraph lines westward from Pittsburg, Pa., over the Fort Wayne & Chicago rail-road to Chicago. Wade saw in young Eckert just the man that he 'needed and The members of this telegraph corps made him superintendent of his lines. Soon after Mr. Wade became identified with the Western Union company and his pioneers in the new art of war, unhonored and unsung, performed marvels without precedent in history, but the world has only lines were absorbed by that system. In this manner Mr. Eckert was brought into the service of the company of which he was the faintest conception of their matchless

ser vice. When Sherman was floundering in the swamps of the Carolinas he was in hourly communication with Grant, 1,500 miles away as the wires ran, and he proudly and truly boasted that the like of this achievement was never known in the ages before the American war.

When McClelland sat down about Alexandria the wire from Washington in-to Delaware was extended to Cape Charles, and a twenty-mile cable across Chesapeake bay brought Forress Monroe into communication with the capital.

When Little Mac moved on to Yorklown the wires went with him and kept him in touch with every department of the army of the republic. They followed him into the forests and the morasses of the Chickahominy, and by night and by day kept him informed of events hundreds of miles away.

#### Fought a Battle by Telegraph.

The field telegraph had its first practical test at Gaines Mills and saved the federal army from utter rout. Jesse Bunnell, in failing back from an advanced post to Gaines Mills, missed his route. He ran across a telegraph line. General Porter was hard pressed, and a line of battle was being formed within a bundred was of the operator. He within a hundred vards of the operator. tapped the wire, sat down in the shade of a tree and began calling McClelland's operator. Fortunately there was a response. The commander was informed of the situation. He ordered Bunnell to hold his place and draw into his service the first orderlies passing that way. Bunnell sat under fire hour after hour, rebotting to McClelland every turn in the battle and receiving orders for the commanders engaged while the bullets whistled through the trees and the blood of killed and wounded orderlies spattered his clothing and stained his dispatches. Little Mac fought the battle by telegraph, and the wire Potomae with the rank of tain. In September he was called to Washington to est

and the brave operator saved the day. The wires followed McDowell to Fred-ericksburg, Banks up the Shenandoah, Fremont into the Alleghanies and Pope from Cedar mountains to Chantilly. In the west they accompanied Foote to

Fort Henry and Grant to Doneison. False telegrams over confederate wires enabled Mitchell to capture veluable trains and menace Corinth and Chattanooga. Halleck's field wires reported every move of the enemy during the advance on Corinth. The teleg-raphers went with Grant into Mississippi, and their lines carried the order to Sherman to leave Memphis and move on to Vicksburg by water.

These are but examples of innumerable another with stories and anecdotes. Thus was fostered an intimacy which doubtless uses in which the telegraph corps rendered invaluable service. It foretold dangers, influenced President Lincoln to appoint Eck hastened supplies, brought up reinforce-ments and kept co-operating forces in conert a me aber of the special commission to treat with the confederates and to meet from stant communication though separated by T. Hunter, the confederate secretary of state, during the latter part of the war, with hundreds or thousands of miles. Ready for Any Desperate Service,

## Given a handful of hardtack, a canteen of

as spies. In this manner, hidden away in longly forests, they secured much important

information about confederate movements. In

every one of the southern states they account

pauled federal raiders and tapped the

enemy's wires, often with valuable results. Operators were frequently kept on duty

many successive days and nights until ex-

hausted, making them an easy prey to southern fevers. More than one of them,

shaking with fever, lay down with his ear to

the instrument and wrote with trembling

hands dispatches whose secret he would

Many a time a boyish operator was left at

his post after the soldiers had retreated, and

sage as "Goodby, the Johnnies are coming,

was followed by a portentous silence.

stump their only office.

trust to no one else.

In 1864 General Eckert was appointed az water, pipe, tobacco and matches, its mem-bers were always ready to go wheristaat secretary of war and served in that canality until August, 1866, when he re-signed to accept the office of general super-intendent of the eastern division of the Western Union, from which he has risen to over ordered and remain on duty eight and day, with the sky for their only reef. mother earth their softest couch and a tree They promptly responded to calls for operators to go into the enemy's lives and tap his wires, and many thus took desperate chances of being captured and hanged or shot his present position.

brigadier general.

in the office.

COLONEL R. C. CLOWRY. Distinguished Service of the Western

Union's General Superintendent. Colonel Robert C. Clowry began his tele

Carolina, and remained until 1861, when he

Shortly after his return Colonel Thomas

A. Scott, then assistant secretary of war, callea him to Washington to take charge of the military telegraph service at McClellan's

GENERAL THOMAS T. ECKERT.

headquarters. In 1832 he accompanied Mc

Clellan to the peninsula as superintendent of the military telegraph department of the

the military telegraph headquarters in the War department building and was promoted to the rank of major. He was subsequently

preveted lieutenant colonel and afterward

His duties brought him into intimate con-tact with President Lincoln and Secretary

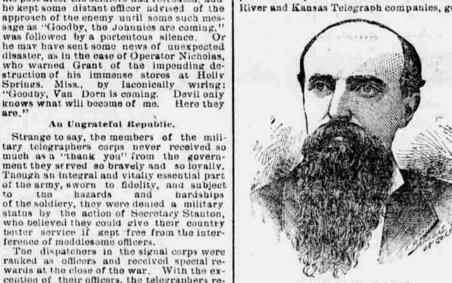
cap-

establish

eturned to Cincinnati.

graph career at Joliet, Ill., under a manager who agreed to teach him the business if he would serve as messenger boy for six months. At the end of that term, in the fall of 1852, he was given the office at Lockport, Ill. Here he perfected themself in the business, and in December, 1853, ne was made manager of the office at Springfield.

Six years later he was promoted to the superintendency of the St. Louis & Missouri River and Kansas Telegraph companies, gen-



dler up to a map the president traced the positions of her several divisions of the opposing armices and expressed the greatest astonishment that the federal commander had not aiready made an attack on his demoralized for. He said it seemed to him that the rebus wern being driven across the river instead of using prevented, and as he walked away he said inder butterly: "They ithe union forcest will be ready to fight a magnificent battle when the enemy are all destined to be the managing head, and he soon became noted for his energy, good judgement and capacity for labor. magnificent battle when the enemy are all over the river and there is nobody to fight." Lee escaped annihilation as Lincoln feared In 1859 he resigned to become superin-indent of a gold mining company in North he would.

At the close of the war Chandler received from his chief, General Eckert, acting for the secretary of War, a silver watch and a letter of warm thanks for his faithful and flicient service. in

#### BROKE INTO THE CORPS.

Busy Career of a Boy Whom Stager Though Too Young for the Service.

William R. Plum, president of the Society of the United States Military Telegraph corps, was born in Massillon, O., in 1845. During the summer school vacation of 1860 he learned to telegraph and shortly thereafter took charge of the railroad and Western Unior, office at Atwater, O., where in six months he became so proficient that he was promoted to the charge of the office at the headquarters of the railroad at Cleveland. He remained there until February, 1862, when he determined to enter the United States military telegraph corps. General (thea Captain) Anson Stager, the

General (the Capitan) Anson Stager, the chief of the corps, happening to be in the city, the boy, knowing of the need of such help, tendered his services, but they were immediately declined on the ground that he was too young and small. Thereupon, and without the englan's knowledge, Plum telegraphed Stagen's existent for the Danart. telegraphed Stager's assistant for the Depart-ment of the Cumberland, Captain Bruen, at Louisville, Ky., offering his services. In the boy left that night.

the boy left that night. Young Plum opened the first office at Columbia, Ky., barely escaping capture en-route by John H. Morgan's guerrilla force, as it was then called. In a few weeks he was given charge of the important repeating effect I abreas for the important repeating office at Lebanon Junction, on the Louisville e Nashville railroad, where all messages to and from the army operating against Cumberland Gap were repeated. General John H. Morgan having captured

Lebanon and other places in the rear of the Gap forces and threatening Frankfort, Plum was ordered thither. Thence he went to the

#### WILLIAM R. PLUM

main office in Nashville, where he remained during its siege and until after the battle of Stone River. Then he took charge of General Gordon Granger's office in the field at Franklin.

Rosecrans' army was about moving when Pium joined his headquarter telegraphers. Volunteer operators being called for to go to he relief of the 'overworked and too few telegraphers about Vicksburg, Plum started, but was temporarily stopped by Stager to fill the place of the Columbus, Ky., orerator,

who was dying of smallpox. In a rew weeks he was relieved and given entire charge of the United States military telegraph lines from Nashville to Paducah via Clarksville, Fort Donaldson, Fort Henry and Smithland, From Paducah the wires connected with Cairo and formed the second route north from Nashville. This route was for the most part a wilderness of woods, and guerrilla bands frequently visited it, captur-ing operators and destroying wires. Three repairers were killed by them After the battle of Chickamauga Plura was ordered to the front at Chattanooga, but was detained there until the army reached the Chattaboochee river, when he joined General George H. Thomas' headquarters office. Ho accompanied the general around and south of Atlants and in the battle of Jonesboro. sportly after the confederate evacuation Atlanta, Plum was made manager of that office, but when Sherman started for the sea he was sent to Nashville with Thomas and was with him in the great battle there Plum continued in charge of Thomas' office in the field and city until the war was over, when he resigned to go to college, hav ing declined an appointment to West Point. Of course in all of these positions Mr. Plum handled the cipher keys in use, and at one time he heid one of only four or five copies, prepared, the War department, Grant's, Sherman's and Thomas' offices havng each a copy. Mr. Plum graduated from the Yale law department in 1867 and has since been a suc-cessful lawyer in Chicago. In 1882 he published his history of the United States military telegraph corps in two large octavi volumes, from which THE BEE has drawn freely for its reminiscences of the corps. From the organization of the Society of the United States Military Telegraph Corps he has been elected its president at every annual reunion.

by mutual consent, confederate and urion headquarters were linked together and both offices worked by union operators. Exchanges were greatly facilitated by this means, but it was a great hardship to both the operators, who had suffered greatly from chronic diarrhie. Indeed Pettit worked most of the time in a bammock. Exposure nere produced a relapse, which, while it nearly destroyed, saved his life. He and Ludwig were to go north with 2,100 other exchanged prisoners on the steamer Sultana. This relapse prevented Petiti going, and General Dana refused leave to Ludwig as he was greatly needed to assist Samuel Cochrane, the elegraph manager of the Vicksburg district, who was slowly dving when he should have gone south to recuper-ate. The Sultana blew up near Memphis took fire. About 1,400 homesick soldlors were theraby killed or drowned. May 9 Pettit and Ludwig were exchanged."

LOUIS H. KORTY.

Superintends the Largest Railroad Telegraph System in the World.

Louis H. Korty superite u d e n t of the Union Pacific railroad's telegraph system, was born in Germany, October 22, 1846. "His family came to this country in 1850, settling in Iowa. He commenced tele-Bia graphing at the age of 14 on the

Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph company's ines at Fort Madison, Ia., using the old astioned paper register-reading by sound being but little practiced in those days and permitted only in a few of the larger offices.

His first salary as operator amounted to the Governor Curtin. Armed only with a pocket instrument, a coil of fine helix wire and a nunlificent sum of \$12 per month. After key to the cipher, he tramped over the threatened district, attached his instrument being employed on the same company's lines successively at Chicago, Minnesota Junction, to the telegraph whenever he had informa-tion to communicate and put his message into cupher at the key, generally dating it Wis., Cedar Falis, Ia., and Rockford, Ili., until 1863, he entered the United States Miliry telegraph corps at Momphis, Tonn., in the woods near serving during the war in the Departments In 1862 Mr. Wilson was made lost car agent of the Pennsylvania railroad, and he of the Cumberland, Tennossee, Mississippi rendered the government valuable service in matters of transportation. One of his duties and the Gulf.

After the close of hostilities he was appointed manager, for the government, of the joint office of the American and Southwestern Telegraph companies, which position he retained until the lines were relinquished by the government and turned back to the companies. He was then transferred to Texas, where he continued in the military telegraph service as cipher clerk until 1867. In the fall of 1868 he came north and ac-

cepted a position with the Western Union company, and for about a year was one of three operators who worked the overland circuit on which Omaha was one of the principal relay points. The operators at Omaha at that time included Messrs. E. Rosewater, E. L. Armstrong and the Drake brothers, Luther and Flemon, with all of whom Mr. Korty exchanged many messages on the single wire which then carried all the te egraphic correspondence between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

In the spring of 1870 ne entered the em-oloy of the Union Pacific, serving as agent and telegraph manager at several stations in Wyoming and Utah. He was transferred to Omaha in October, 1871, as chief operator, appointed assistant superintendent of telegraph in 1881, and on the resignation of Mr. I. J. Dickey as superintendent of the Union Pacific's lines Mr. Korty succeeded him in that position in October 1887. He now enjoys the distinction of having charge of the largest rallway telegraph system in the worid

Mr. Korty, in colunction with Mr Dickey, introduced and developed the tele phone in Nebraska, Wyoming, Utan, Idaho and Montana. He still retains a large interest in the two telephone companies opening that territory, and is secretary and treasurer of the Nebraska Telephone company.

Mr. Korty is too modest to say much about his war experiences, but his comrades testify to his brave and efficient service. William R. Plum relates a characteristic incident, one of Korty's experiences in the work of open-ing communication from the Black river bridge near Vicksburg to Mobile, from which point he had been called for the dangerous graph office is the War department at Wash ngton, was bore at Har-isburg in 1839. His first work in the telegraphic service was as a messenger boy for the Atlantic & Onio Telegraph company, and be was soon pro-

moted to an operator's desk. In 1855 ne entered, upon his long service with the Pennsylvania road by becoming its operator at Harrisburg. In April, 1801, he was sent by Colonel Thomas A. Scott to the office of Governor Curtin to assist in the or-ganization of Pennsylvania troops, and in May he was called to V ashington, where he was made manager of the military telegraph office in the Wardepartment. Here he came into frequent contact with President Lincoln and the secretary of war. Compelled by health to leave the regular

corps, Mr. Wilson, during the raids and alarms on the upper Potomac and in southern Pennsylvania, acted as a telegraph scout under instructions from Colonel Scott and

B. WILSON

was to watch confederate movements in the

ine from Wheeling to Alexandria. Mr.

Wilson's services were warmly commended

by President Lincoln, Governor Curtin and Assistant Adjutant General E. D. Town-

Mr. Wilson has remained with the Penn

sylvania since the war and has been in

has done some journalistic work on the side

and has also been prominent in politics as a

EDWARD ROSEWATER.

A Military Telegrapher-President of the

Old Timers' Association.

Edward Rosewater is a native of Bohemia.

He entered upon his career as a telegrapher

at Cincinnati in 1858. In 1859 he accented a

position on the Southwestern Telegraph

company's line in Tennessee, and in the fall

of that year he was transferred to Steven-son, Ala, then an important railway repeat

ing station. In the spring of 1861 he was as signed to the commercial office at Nashville,

where he remained until that city capit

ulated to the union army under General

Buell. He tendered his services to Thomas

A DE COM

built the E. ROSEWATER, 1862.

A. Scott, then assistant secretary of war.

lines across the Cumberland

who accompanied General Buell, and re

river, which had been destroyed with the

suspension bridge by General Floyd's army. Thirty days later he formally enlisted in the

United States military telegraph corps at Wheeling and accompanied General Fre-

mont through his entire West Virginia cam

paign. In July, 1862, he was ordered to Washington and station-d for four weeks in

the navy yard, then commanded by Commo-dore Dahlgren. When General Pope was as-signed to the command of the Army of Vir-

ginla Rosewater made application at the war office to accompany him in the field. He was

thereupon appointed as one of the staff oper

ators and remained with General Pope throughout the campaign from Warrington

to daty in the War department. In the fail of 1863 he resigned from the military tele-

graph corps and moved to Omnha, where he was for seven years manager of the Pacific Telegraph and Western Union companies.

ver since its organization. While absent in Europe last year the Old Timers' associa-tion, of which hols also a member, elected

TWICE CAPTURED.

One of the First Political Prisoners of the

War.

trusted with many important missions,

lemocrat.

on congressional action of the United States mintary corps, was born in New York city in 1843. He began his telegraph career in 1857 as messenger with the Atlantic & Ohio Telegraph company at Philadelphia. In 1858 he became an operator and served for two years at different points along the line of the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore ratiroad.

In 1861 he had charge of a small office six miles from Baltimore. On April 22 a party of bridge burners captured young Dealy, who had been at his post for fifty-six hours without sleep, took him along under guard until their work of destruction was finished, and on returning to Baltimore made a futile

attempt to get him to join a troop of cavalry being organized for the rebet service. A few months later he entered the United States military telegraph corps, and was one of the first operators made prisoners when Harper's Ferry was surrendered. The tele vraphers mingled with the federal soldiers, who were paroled by regiments, which lucky circumstance left the operators to rejoin the service. In 1853 young Dealy was made a cipher operator and manager at Fortress Monroe, which was one of the most impor-tant stations during the war. At the close of the rabellion he went to

New York, was appointed manager of the Western Union company's cable department, and later on successively manager of the Atlantic & Pacific office, and of the American Union office, and superintendent of the French cable company. In 1881 he went to Europe for the American Cable company, and on his return entered the Western Union service as cable manager, also as manager of the general operating department and of the commercial news department and of the commercial news department. Mr. Dealy is a member of several telegraph fraternal societies, and is always ready and willing to contribute his share of time and labor for their success.

#### VETERAN CIPHERER.

#### One of the Boys Who Has Made His Mark in the World.

J. H. Emerick of New York, general superintendent of the Postal Telegraph Cable company, was born at Fulton, N. Y . November 7, 1843, and received a good education in the Falley seminary at Fulton and at the academy in Pulaski, N. Y. He began his career as a telegrapher in Fulton in 1860 and worked at Oswego and Watertown until December, 1861, when he entered the milliary telegraph service at McDowell's headjuarters, Arlington Heights, Virginia,

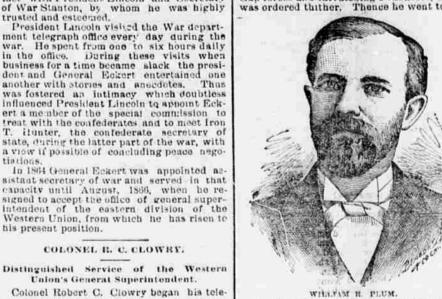
He was in the field at the headquarters of he Army of the Potomae as operator and cipher clerk in every campaign until January, 18%, when he was made chief operator of the Army of the James, and cou-tinued at its headquarters and a Richmond until the telegraph corpst disbanded. Ho then accepted the chief Richmond, Va. This position he held until January, 1867, when he transferred his ser-vices to the War department at Washing ton, where he remained until July of the same year, resigning to enter the cable-room service in New York. He remained there

intil the telegraphers' strike of 1869-70. In January, 1870, Mr. Emerick accepted a position with the New York fire alarm telegraph as operator. Later on he was made thief operator, and afterwards superintendent of the service. In 1878 he en-listed in the service of the Metropol-itan Telephone and Telegraph company. In March, 1879, he was appointed superintend ent of the Mutual Union Telegraph company. which position he held until the consolida tion, when, in August, 1881, he was ap pointed superintendent of the Postal Tele peripherate and a second of the rost of the formation of the second seco him for carrying out his plans, and his long and varied experience has qualified him for successful management. He has all the successful management. He has all the prestige and advantage which excellence of character and known honor and ability can

#### The Jester is with Them.

Just as The Bee was about to go to press this morning a messenger came rushing into the office with a "piece for the paper." Ile said a red-faced man down at the Mercer notel wrote it and wanted it printed in Tur BEE, and here it is: We are glad to see Senator Ives was en

Billy Dealy, the energetic secretary, is vreathed in his usual smiles. Bogardus is at the door waiting for the Old come out



difficulty by securing commissions for his Essistants as follows: Major Thomas T. Eckert, Department of the Potomac; Captain T. B. A. David, Department of West Virginia; Captain Samuel Bruch, Department of Ohio; Captain Randall P. Wade, purchasing agent; Captain Charles H. Bulkley, Department of the Gulf; Captain George H. Smith, Depart ment of Missouri; Captain William G. Ful-ler, Department of Tennessee; Captain John Van Duse; Department of Cumberland; Captain William L. Gross, Department of Ohio; Captain Lemuel F. Sheldon, Department of the South; Captain James R. Gilmore, Department of the South. Stager himself was promoted to a colonelcy and attached as aide-de-camp to the secretary of

"In these arrangements," says William R. Plum, president of the Army Telegraphers society, "the operator who braved nearly all a mere civilian, only a quartermaster's em-ploye, liable to draft, his salary taxed, and he, supremeter salary taxed, and he, surrounded by the paraphernalia of war, to the conduct of which he was so and the conduct rank, name or position, subject to the unkind cuts of the envious, but thoroughly appreciated by the president, his cabinet and the generals."

#### Buil Run Reported by Wire,

The first purely military line connected the navy-yard with the War department in April, 1861. As troops reached Washington their camps were similarly connected with the War department, and when they moved across the Potomac into Dixie the wire followed in their wake. The first important engagement in which it figured was the battle of Bull Run. The telegraph had reached Fairfax Court House, within ten miles of the battlefield, and it was arranged that couriers should leave every fifteen minutes for the office at that point with news of the engagement. W. B. Wilson, who was stationed at the War department office, gives the following graphic description of the news:

"In the tolegraph office at the War depart-ment throughout Sunday, July 21, 1861, were congregated the president, most of his cabinet, General Scott's staff officers, Colonel Thomas A. Scott and other celebrities of the nation with maps of the field before them, watching, as it were, the conflict of arms as it pro-gressed. Hour after hour, as the couriers reported our troops steadily forcing the enemy back, hopes beat high, expectation, satisfaction was discernible on every brow, and the cheers of our patriotic soldiery as they fought bravely on were responded to in the hearts of all present. Suddenly, as the shades of evening were failing on space, a full occurred. Firing could not be heard by the corps of observation. No couriers arrived at Fairfax. What could be the mat-ter! The most plausible reason advanced was that our army, now victorious, resting after the hard fighting of that summer day. Every few minutes Fairfax was signaled but only to receive from the operator the stereotyped reply of 'no news.' An hour was expended when, lize the quick flash of lightning and the stunning crash of thunder, came those chilling words, 'Our army is in full retreat.' The signals now became more frequent, rapid and excited. The retreat soon resolved itself into a perfect rout, and as the telegraph reported to those around it assembled the terrible scenes and beartrending stories of suffering during that heartrending acoustion night all stemed to feel that the hour of the sation's greatest peril had arrived and clung instinctively around the cool, clear-visioned president, loosing to him for succor."

### Wonderful Achievements of the Corps.

The telegraph corps grew with the army, and during the war it had 1,200 operators, and about as many builders and repairers. About one in twelve of these is known to have been killed, wounded or taken prisoner, and as no authentic records were kept it is thought the actual numbers of and building we contain the actual numbers of such victims was nearly twice as great as is known. The corps constructed 15,359 miles telegraph, and sent about 6,500,000 telegrams.

Many of these were very long, and the most important were put into difficult ciphers. The great majority of these operators were boys, ranging from sixteen to twenty-one years of sge. After some contention in the years of age. After some contention in the fore part of the war, they were made the sole sustedians of the cipher keys, a confidence which was decied even staff officers, and the one loyaity of these brave boys is attested most sens.

are.' An Ungrateful Republic.

Strange to say, the members of the military telegraphers corps never received so much as a "thank you" from the govern-ment they served so bravely and so loyally. Though an integral and vitally essential part of the army, sworn to fidelity, and subject the hazards and hardships of the soldiery, they were denied a military status by the action of Secretary Stanton, who believed they could give their country better service if sept free from the inter-ference of medalesome officers.

The dispatchers in the signal corps were ranked as officers and received special re-wards at the close of the war. With the exception of their officers, the telegraphers re-tired from the service without rank, reward or recognition. They were simply told to quit and go, and their names were taken off the payroll. They had not so much as a discharge paper to hand down to their children as an evidence of the honorable part they pore. Many of them were drawn from the ranks of the soldiers, some of them against their will, and experts at that early stage

#### elegraphy were so scarce that the secretory of war issued a special order exempting operators from conscription.

### Organized for Justice.

Sixteen years after the war closed the survivors of this remarkable corps organized the Society of the United States Military Telegraph corps for the avowed purpo 5 of securing from the nation a recognition of their military service, some tangible evidence of their share in America's glory. At first a bill was introduced in congress giving the telegraphers military rank assimiidentified with commercial telegraphy sinc lated to that of army officers, drawing like pay and permitting them pension and home-stead privileges. Since 1886 they have not asked for pension or bounty. They demand simply an act declaring that they were an integral part of the army and grant-

the army and grant-honorable discharge, ing them an honorable discharge, thus giving to the world tangible evidence of their patriotism. The Grand Army of the Republic and many of the famous generals of the war have declared that the telegraph corps was essentially a part of the army, and the action asked of congress would be merely a recognition of a fact that actually existed. Six times have congressional committees made favorable reports on approved measures, but in each case some obstacle has pre-

vented the desired legislation. The most expert members of the corps were stationed in t e War department. They were not only required to be first-class senders and reliable receivers, but also excellent penmen, because the dispatches re-ceived were all written in ink and copied in letter presses. The War department office handled all messages of President Lincoln, Secretary Stanton, the secretary of the navy ciphers, and was one of the three experts and all members of the cabinet, and also all messages directed to the command r-in-chief of the army when stationed at Washington. These dispatches were delivered by cavalry orderlies, who were subject to call night and day. Among the memoers of the corps sta-tioned at the War department office and now in Omana are: J. H. Bunneil, J. H. Nicholls, George W. Nail, E. Rosewater, H. H. Mat-lock and J. H. Emerick.

### THOMAS T. ECKERT.

An Early Telegrapher Who Became Assistaut Secretary of War.

The name of Thomas Thompson Eckert, the present vice president and general manager of the Western Union Telegraph company, has been prominently associated with the history of telegraphy for the past forty years. Mr. Eckert is one of those men who, having begun as a common operator, have oushed their way to high and responsible positions in the tolegraph service.

He was born at St. Clairsville, O., in 1825. His first experience in telegraphy was in 1849, whan he was appointed postmaster at Wooster, O. Having learned telegraphy during the previous year, he opened the first postal telegraph service by receiving a Wade wire it his office. He had not remained in this position long

before his activity and enterprise attracted the attention of J. H. Wade, afterward one of Cleveland's wealthiest citiwealthiest citiwho was then

COLONEL R. C. CLOWRY. erally known as the Stebbins lines. In April

1869, he was chosen superintendent and sec-retary of the Missouri & Western Telegraph company, first with headquarters at St. Louis and then at Omaha. He remained in Louis and then at Omata. He remained in this city until appointed, in October, 1863, assistant superintendent of military tele-graphs for the Department of Arkansas with the rank of captain and assistant quartermaster.

On the retirement of Major George H. Smith in September, 1864, Mr. Clowry was made the manager of the telegraph corps for Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas. He had 1,700 miles of telegraph to watch and keep in repair, and during six months about 250,000 mossages were sent over his system. He rendered the union distinguished service and was called a "model officer." He was bre-vetted a lieutenant colonel May 13, 1896, and mustered out of the service. Colonel Clowry has become prominently

# the war, filling various responsible positions, and is now vice president and general super-intendent for the Western Union with headquarters in Chicago. He married an Omaha lady, owns property in this city and has a lively interest in its people and its material prosperity.

### INVENTOR OF CIPHERS. Service at the War Department Telegraph

Office in Washington. A. B. Chandler, president of the Postal Telegraph company, was a cipher operator at the War department in Washington during most of the war and at its close was also aisbursing clerk. He randered distinguished service, and enjoyed the fullest confidence of the president and other important government and military officers, being employed on the most secret and difficult work in translating and "putting up" cipher dispatches of the greatest importance. He assisted materially in the invention of new



A. D. CHANDLER who, after four hours of study, made out a daugerous cipher of the enemy written in a mixture of musical, Greek, Indian, Roman,

mixture of musical, Greek. Indian, Roman, telegraphic and phonetic characters. A single incident will illustrate the confi-dential relations of the operators and the president. After the battle of Gottysburg Lincoln wanted General Meade to follow up his advantage by another attack on the rebol army before it had time to cross the Polomac or recover from its defeat. He was exceed-ingly fearful lest the eventy should escaps without further punishment, and spent anxious nours in the War department fele-graph office awaiting news. Calling Changraph office awaiting news. Calling Chan-

# HOSTILE CAMPS CONNECTED.

And Both Offices Worked by Union Telegraph Operators.

James E. Pettit of Chicago, secretary of the Society of Military Telegraphers and manager of the Postal company's office in that city, collisted in the war as a soldier and as such took part in the battle of Falling

### JAMPS'E. PETTIT. Waters, Va. He was also a participant in

the siege of Vicksburg as a quartermaster's clerk, but operators, were in great demand, and he was transferred to the telegraphic

soldiers. Much to their chagrin, the fort was surrendered, and they became prisoners. They were taken to the robel pen at Cababa, Ala, where both were sick of fever, Pettit for two months. The unfortunate federais, like those in other southern prisons, lived lives of horrible torture. There were twelve men in Pettit's ward, and eleven of theu died, he being the sole survivor.

After six months of this terrible experi-ence Petiti and Ladwig were sent to the parole camp near Vicusburg to be ex-changed, and William R. Plum, in relatchanged, and William R. From, in relat-ing their subsequent experience, records the following remarkable dircum-stance: "Instead of their being released the wire was repaired from Vicksburg to the bridge [over the Big From vicesoury to the aridge lover the big Biars river at the confederate camp) and Pett't stationed at the robel beadquarters of exchange and Ludwig in the federal camp. Into was March 21, 1862, and while the war was in foil olast. It is an interesting and doubtless isolated fact that thus, "Korty left the [Biack] river in company with Captain Turner of a New York regi York regi

ment. Before starting they had discussed the propriety of only two persons traveling by night over a country infested by guerrilias and other bad characters who had left their commands with their arms without waiting to be paroled. Many of their homes were in the Transmississippi department, and there E. Kirby Smith commanded and was deter mined to fight to the last extremity. Thither also others, moved by the same unconquer-able will, tended, and hence it was a dangerous ride that Korty and Turner proposed, but they mounted their horses and were lost in the darkuess of that slient night to brood in the darkness of that shent hight to brood over imaginary evils as they slowly picked their way. Turner had fought over this ground and was wounded at the battle of Champion Hills, which locality, about midnight as the moon escaped the clouds, they reached safely. Turner's adventures here-abouts, which he related enroute, the approto Cuipepper and the Rapidan, and back again across the Rappahannock. During the three days' engagement at Bull Run he transmitted all of General Pope's dispatches from the battle field. On September 1, 1862, he was recalled to Washington and assigned hensions of evil, the wrecks of calssons, pieces of shells, the hour, the loneliness, the ilence, but above all the whitened bones of slam animals, the rude burial boards an-nouncing the names of the fallen and other avidences of mortal conflict upon which the moon's pale light gave a sepulchral hue,-these things, at a time when graveyards rawn, strung the nerves of the riders to the highest tension.

"After contemplating the scene a little In 1571 he severed his connection from the telegraph service and entered upon his they pressed on through the thick woods and on emerging were suddenly completely surtelegraph service and entered upon his career as editor and publisher of THE BEE, of which he was the founder and is now the chief proprietor. Mr. Rosewator has also taken an active interest in everything per-taining to the profession of his boyhood and worked the profession of his boyhood and rounded by eight or ten men coming out of a thicket with drawn revolvers calling out: 'Get down, you Yankes ------One caught Korty's bridle and another leaped for Turner's but the latter early manhood. He was vice president of the Society of the Military Telegraph Corps during one term and has been a member of the congressional committee of that society opened on his assailant and others with his revolver. Thus began the second battle of Champion Hills with greater odds against the mionists than Grant had against Pemberton. Before Korty could draw his weapon his horse, a spirited, unmanagable animal, reared up, and, dashing headlong, proke from him as its president. the bushmen, and was out of range with its rider. But Turner was fighting alone. However, he was fighting gallantiy, empty ing two revolvers and shooting at least tw empty of the assailants, and then leaving unbarried amid a shower of bullets. Korty, in the meantime, had checked his horse, and was returning to Turner's aid when the latter

rode up. "Their first idea was to press on to Clin ton, but then they heard the neighing of a horse, and, concluding that the men were mounted (perhaps familiar with the country and would pursue, they determined to take an elevated position among the hills, where tying their norses, they threw up a barri cade, confidently expecting to be besieged If so, they determined to rebaptize the his It so, they determined to rebaptize the his toric ground. But the guerrillas, discover-ing the preparations, or for some other rea-son, let them alone. Waiting, watching, listening until subrise, made a long night of it; but, at last, daylight came, and the two entered Clinton in safety. At breakfast a professor, who before the war conducted a stances of his finding the bodies of two men who had been murdered two nights before near where Korty and Turner were attucked.

#### WITH THE PRESIDENT.

One of the Managers of the War Department Office.

WILLIAM J. DEALS. William B. Wilson of Philadelphia, who association, and secretary of the committee for a time had charge of the military tele-



Serie cale

give bim.

He

Why is Bogardus looking for Arnetti Bee is on his last quarter. Why is the Old Timer strong! Because he Armstrong. Why 10 the telegraphers look so prosper-

ous! Because they live on ticks. What are the boys drinking! Rosewater.

Notice to Old Time Telegraphers. The Postal Telegraph company cordially extends to the Old Time Telegraphers and Military Telegraph Corps while at Omaha and Denver free use of its lines for all social messages. Office, 1220 Douglas street. Ap ply to W. S. DIMMOCK, Manager. An ply to



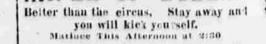
Mr. John Hungerford Proprietor of the fine livery stable at the West End hotel, Elmira, N. Y., says Hood's Sarsaparilla goes way ahead of anything he ever took for troubles with the

Liver and Kidneys with which he sufferred for a long time, until ho look Hood's Sarsaparilla and was completely cured. Other members of his family also take

Hood's Sarsaparilla William J. Dealy of New York, secretary and treasurer of the Old Time Tolegraphers and are highly gratified with the benefit from it.

POOD'S PILLS are a mild, rentle, painless, Always reliable. 200

AMUSEMENTS BOYD'S Theater LAST DAY THIS (WEDNESDAY) SEPT. 14. Last Two Performances of John T. Kelly. in the new Camedy MCFEE OF DUBLIN



Prices-First floor, 50 and 55c; Balcony. 53c. EVENING PERFORMANCE AT 8. Prices-25c, 50c, 75c, and \$1.00.



WONDERLAND---BIJOU THEATRE. 15th and Capitol Avonue. Week of September 12th. DRAMA FOGGS FEBRY 2:00 p. m.; 8:15 p. m. Specialty 1:15, 4:21, 7:15 p. m. CONTINCOUS SHOWS, Prices 15c, 20c, 30c. CURIO HALL FREE.



