

FRESH WAR STORIES.

Marauding Private Rebuked for Poor Marksmanship.

The Hobby Horse, Walking Barrels and Other Modes of Army Punishment in Vogue During the Civil War.

[Special Columbus (O.) Letter.]

"JUST before the fall of Vicksburg," remarked Capt. R. in a reminiscent mood, as he lay back in his easy cushioned chair and thoughtfully puffed at his fragrant Havana, "Osterhouse's corps, to which I was attached, having driven the enemy's force across the Atchaphalaya river, crossed over below Grand Gulf, to go around Vicksburg. The troops had two days' rations, and after those gave out the boys had nothing to eat except what they could get off the country along the line of march. The blue coats were good foragers, however, and confiscated, to meet the demands of empty haversacks and emptier stomachs, flour, ham, shoulders, chickens, live stock, etc. The 'rebs' had hidden everything at the approach of the 'Yanks,' and the way we got the provender was to subsidize the negroes by promises of army privileges and protection. The darkies had helped to hide the coveted articles and they would lead the Yanks to an unsuspecting brush pile in the middle of a field, and, after removing the brush, they would dig down until they struck all sorts of eatables.

"Just before the battle of Raymond Gen. Osterhouse had taken possession of a country log house, and was resting himself on the porch, when a private on a foraging expedition scared up one of those queer southern specimens of the porcine species, a razor-back hog. In his haste to secure the prize, without looking



THE HOBBY HORSE.

where he was shooting, he threw his musket to his shoulder and 'let drive' at the gaunt porky specter. The bullet flew wide of its mark and buried itself in a rafter directly over Osterhouse's head.

"Gen. Osterhouse, who was very Dutch, sprang to his feet and shouted to some other men near at hand:

"Mans, go und git dot soldier vot shot at der hog, and bring 'im before your sheneral!"

"Five or six men rushed after the guilty soldier, arrested him, and marched him before the commander.

"'Vos dot you vat shot?' he demanded of the culprit.

"'It was, general,' admitted the private.

"'Vot at did you shoot?"

"'I shot at a hog.'

"'Vy you not hit 'im?' thundered Osterhouse. 'I say to you now: You go und make von more shot at der hog. If you miss 'im, I haf you bucked and gagged. I don't care von tam vot you take in ze way of provisions, shust so you ton't take any pabies' shoes und stockings!'

"The soldier saluted and went out to try another shot. Before he could do so, however, Mike Thomas, a little Dutchman in company A, Sixteenth O. V. L., had caught the hog in a fence corner, and the lusty squeals of the frightened 'razor-back' could be heard for a mile. Mike had no knife with which to dispatch his prize, and he jerked a splinter off the fence-rail, jabbed it in the poor brute's throat, and killed it.

"The fellow who had come so near hitting Gen. Osterhouse came up about this time, and asked Mike to let him shoot the dead hog, in order to keep from being bucked and gagged. Mike agreed to this, and the soldier, resting his musket on the fence, fired a leaden plug into the carcass. Then he marched confidently back to where Gen. Osterhouse was still sit-

In a Hurry.

"So you asked old Crusty for his daughter, eh? How did you come out?"

"Through the window!"—Chicago American.

The Limit.

Browninsky—That fellow Blank is rather dense, isn't he?

Smithovich—Well, I guess yes. The only time he ever gets next is in a barber shop.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

ting on the porch, and told him he had shot the hog.

"'Pully poy!' exclaimed Gen. Osterhouse; 'now you shust go und bring me two nice juicy shteaks from der ham, and I vill excuse you.'

"'Can't do it, general,' sorrowfully replied the soldier, who found himself in a worse pickle than before.

"Osterhouse was a jolly old soul, however, and after listening in a highly amused way to the fellow's stammering explanation, mitigated his punishment to shooting all afternoon at a target.

"The buck and gag was a mode of punishment used both in the infantry and cavalry. A mode peculiar to the cavalry was the 'hobby-horse.' Men who violated the discipline by leaving camp without permission, stealing hogs or chickens, or similar offenses, were punished in this way. A pole



BUCKED AND GAGGED.

would be placed between two forked sticks at one end and in the crotch of a tree at the other, about ten feet from the ground, and the culprits would then be made to climb up and straddle the pole. The elevated and constrained position soon became very uncomfortable, but a guard promeneading up and down saw to it that the offenders remained on the 'hobby' until their term of sentence had expired.

"A mode of punishment peculiar to the infantry was the 'walking barrels.' A string of offenders would be placed inside barrels, from which the two ends had been removed, and their arms would be poked through two holes near the top. A file of offenders thus caparisoned marching along with solemn tread was a very comical sight, and was always hugely enjoyed by the other fellows.

"One day in 1863, just after a lively skirmish with the enemy, in which he was put to rout, a body of cavalry drove some infantry out of a cabin and took possession. The two bodies of men had previously had a tilt or two, and not the best of feeling prevailed between them. The cavalry belonged to a New York regiment, and they caught an infantry sergeant in the cabin boiling a nice, fat chicken. The sergeant was tart in his replies to questions, and the colonel of the New York cavalry ordered his men to punish him by hanging him up by the thumbs.

"The infantry quickly got an inkling of what was in the wind, and rushing to arms speedily drew up in line. The infantry colonel then marched up to the cavalry colonel.

"'Cut that man down!' he demand-



THE WALKING BARRELS.

ed, 'or I'll do it myself,' at the same time suiting the action to the word.

"'He was insolent to a superior officer, and he shall be punished,' retorted the cavalryman, hotly. 'The first man that attempts to cut him down shall take the consequences.' He, too, whipped out his sword and his men rushed around him with drawn sabers. The infantry advanced with bayonets lowered, and for a moment the situation was a most thrilling one. The soldiers' blood was up on both sides, neither colonel would yield an inch, and bloodshed seemed inevitable.

"Just in the nick of time, however, Gen. H— galloped up and hostilities 'petered out' as quickly as they had arisen.

"'I was that sergeant,' laconically concluded Capt. R—. 'Have another Havana.' A. C. CARSON.

Nothing Lost.

Freddie—You said you'd bring me some candy if I'd be good.

Uncle—I'm sorry, Freddie, but I forgot all about it.

Freddie—Well, I'm glad I forgot to be good.—N. Y. Journal.

He Was Satisfied.

"Life," said the parson, "is made up of trials."

"Yes, and I'm glad of it," replied the lawyer.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Lesson in American History in Puzzle



COLLECTING THE WOUNDED AFTER THE SECOND BULL RUN. Find Gen. Kearney.

In an article in the Century in 1886 Warren Lee Goss says of the night following the first day's fighting at the second battle of Bull Run: "So soon as the battle ceased many sought without orders to rescue comrades lying wounded between the opposing lines. There seemed to be an understanding between the men of both armies that such parties were not to be disturbed in their mission of mercy. The removal went on during the night, and tired soldiers were roused from their slumbers by the plaintive cries of comrades passing in the comfortless vehicles." This was on the night of August 29, 1862, the second battle of Bull Run occurring on that and the following day. The federal loss was about 12,600; the confederate between 8,000 and 9,000 in the two days' fighting.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

An inkeeper of Wilhelmberg, who turns the scale at 502 pounds, is the heaviest man in Germany.

At the next general election in Australia 970,000 men and 858,000 women will be entitled to vote.

The railway bridge which connects Venice with the mainland is 12,050 feet long and has 222 arches.

Mining enterprises and limited companies are now taxed two per cent. of their net profits in Bolivia.

Boma, in the Congo Free State, has a road nearly 150 miles long, which is practicable for automobiles.

Since the recent great horse flesh dinner in Berlin the business of the horse butchers has quadrupled.

Striking resemblance has been pointed out between the remarkable ancient ruins at Zimbabwe, in Rhodesia, and antiquities in Cornwall.

A comprehensive return of the financial workings of the "public utilities" undertakings in British towns and cities has just been given to the public through a government board. It covers the four years ended March, 1903. The principal undertakings carried on by 299 corporations were: Markets, 228; water works, 193; cemeteries, 143; baths, 138; electricities, 102; gas works, 97; tramways, 45; harbors, 43. The aggregate net profits were \$23,417,522.

By his method of feeding through the stems instead of the roots S. A. Mokrzecki, the Russian entomologist, believes that trees and plants can be cured of disease and greatly stimulated in growth. His special apparatus is intended to introduce salt of iron—either solid or in solution—into apple and pear trees, and he has used it for applying chemical treatment to 800 fruit trees on the southern shore of Crimea. The weak and diseased condition of the trees was remedied, while an unusual development followed.

REGARDED AS DETRIMENT.

Sixty Years Ago Seamstresses Were Opposed to the Use of the Sewing Machine.

"It has not been 60 years since the sewing machine made its appearance in Washington," said an old timer to a Star reporter, "and there are quite a number of not very old people who remember the occasion. During the great mechanics' fair, which was held in 1846, opening May 21, of that year, in a specially constructed frame building in Judiciary square, it was one of the star exhibits. It was said at the time that one of the main objects of the fair was to influence legislation in congress on the tariff to show what the American workingman could do, and how little we were dependent on other countries for the necessities of life.

"I remember that the sewing machine was the greatest attraction of the fair and interested the crowds about it, and there was difficulty experienced in getting near it. As may be supposed, the machine at that period had not been brought to the perfection it reached by subsequent improvement, but it did its work to the amazement of the thousands of visitors, and as a labor saving machine,

together with McCormick's reaper, then first exhibited here, caused much discussion. Among the seamstresses the sewing machine was looked upon as the instrument which would deprive them of a living, and it was predicted that its adoption would drive hundreds to poverty. At that time the price was high, and many hoped that so much would be asked for it as to prevent its general use.

"The effect of its introduction was to some extent discussed in the papers of the day, and I believe in some of the manufacturing cities the working people were much excited over the revolution its adoption was expected to bring. I read an abstract of an address by a pastor in one such city, in which he said to the factory people and seamstresses that they had nothing to fear from its introduction. He said notwithstanding so much more sewing could be done by machine the tastes of women were such that should the cost of making a dress or other garment be cheapened more elaborate garments would become the style and there would follow such a demand that instead of taking work from the sewers there would be more. In other words, while the cost of making a plain dress would be lessened, the additional trimming, extra plaits, seams, etc., would make up for any loss.

"There was no fear that the labor saving mower and reaper would have such an effect upon the masses," continued the narrator, "for all recognized that should it be effective the cost of daily bread would be lowered. I should mention that the revolving pistol, patented by Col. Samuel Colt, some ten years before, was an object of much interest, especially to military men, and the fact that it was then on trial in warfare—the Texan rangers of Capt. Samuel H. Walker, engaged in the Mexican war, being armed with the pistols—imparted an additional interest to the subject.

"There were many other exhibits at the fair mentioned, and the display was a revelation to the masses, a great educational object lesson, and probably the most important exhibits were those named. I should not, however, omit to notice another. As is customary, admission tickets were issued to all exhibitors, and hundreds of our younger people were benefited thereby, these being mostly girls, who had specimens of sewing, embroidery, etc. There was a boy living in the old Second ward, who got up an elaborate aggregation of cogwheels, levers, shafts, etc., so intricate in looks as to bewilder any but the initiated, whose sole object was to obtain an admission ticket. This he entered, but not for a prize, and called it a 'wing wang.' By winding up the motive power, a clock spring, it went into operation with such a clatter as to drown the noise of some of the larger machines. Curiosity led to many inquiries as to its use, but the only reply obtained was that it will grind smoke, when forced in the hopper, and cool the air with its revolving flippers. Useless though the machine was at the time it drew the attention of an influential gentleman to the boy, who made him his protegee, and the results of the boy's ingenuity were subsequently seen by an improvement in draw bridges and in the matter of lanterns for light houses.

FISH FAR FROM HOME.

Wanderers Sometimes Found in Odd Places Half Way Round the Earth.

"One need not resort to tricks in order to obtain wonders in ichthyology," said an officer of the fish commission, in discussing hoaxes on scientists, recently referred to in the Washington Post. "We are constantly picking stragglers along the Atlantic, fish belonging in tropical and arctic waters that have wandered out of their course. More have been taken at Woods Holl, Mass., than at any other point on our coast, for the reason that the configuration of Woods Holl and the neighboring coasts is of a characteristic so peculiar that the island forms a sort of natural fish trap.

"It was here some years ago that the most remarkable event in the history of ichthyology occurred, when one of the fishermen caught a file fish (*Alutera monoceros*), indigenous to the East Indies and unknown in the waters of the western hemisphere. The next year another was taken at the same place. How did this strange Asiatic fish, common enough on the Philippine coasts, reach America? That is one of the puzzles which science has yet to solve. The only way we can account for it is by supposing that possibly the same fish may inhabit some restricted area in the West Indian waters, where it has not thus far been discovered.

"Nor do we need to leave home in search of ichthyological wonders. The Potomac will, and has already, afforded some remarkable cases. Some years ago the fish commission distributed spawn of the Lake Superior pike, the Warmouth bass, and the Mississippi channel catfish in the Potomac.

"They have thriven and multiplied and every now and then some Potomac fishermen comes in with a strange fish, confident he has caught a rarity. In every case it turns out that he has taken some one or other of the varieties which we placed in the Potomac in 1889. In this way we are able to tell whether or not the fish we plant in a stream are thriving. The channel catfish we planted in 1889 and heard no more of them until one day in January, 1902, when 100 of them were caught in a net at Georgetown.

"Several years after the war we had a very dry summer. The Potomac fell below low-water mark and the sea water encroached further up stream than had ever been known. With the salt water came a lot of sea fish, and for the first time in the history of this section fishermen at Fort Washington caught specimens of the red-mouthed grunt, spot, whiting, spadefish and one specimen each of the very curious toadfish and sea robin.

"But the most remarkable event that ever took place in the Potomac was in the summer of 1880, when a porpoise came up stream to a point just beyond the Aqueduct bridge. There he remained, playing and sporting about for three days, his gambols witnessed by thousands of people. He seemed to be afraid of the shadow cast upon the water by the bridge, and, though apparently anxious to return to sea, he would venture down until within a few feet of the shadow and then scurry back, keeping this up for hours at a time, to the amusement of the onlookers. Finally he screwed up courage and made a wild dash under the bridge, and when last seen was going down river at a pace that would have put the master of an Atlantic liner to shame."

WORKED IN ODD MOMENTS.

How a Famous Frenchman Utilized Time That Might Have Been Wasted.

Mme. De Genlis, in a work on "Time," tells us that the famous Chancellor d'Aguesseau, observing that his wife always delayed 10 or 12 minutes before she came down to dinner, and reluctant to lose so much time daily, began the composition of a work which he prosecuted only while thus kept waiting. At the end of 15 years a book in three quarto volumes was completed, which ran through three editions and was held in high repute, says Success. Mme. De Genlis profited by this example. Having to wait at the dinner hour in the Palais Royal for Mme. De Chartres, who was always 15 or 20 minutes late, she utilized the time by copying a selection of poems from eminent authors.

It is told of a German critic that he could repeat the entire "Iliad" of Homer with scarcely an error. How many years, think you, did he spend in depositing the immortal epic in his brain? Years he had not to spare or months or weeks or even entire days, for he was a physician in the full tide of practice, but he contrived to store in his memory the 24 books of the old bard of "Scio's rocky isle" in the brief, disconnected snatches of time from hurrying from one patient to another. Dr. Mason Good, a celebrated English physician, performed a similar feat, having contrived to translate the whole of Lucretius during his long walks in London to visit his patients.

Can Overdo It.

You can overdo an apology.—Atchison Globe.