

A ROMANCE OF THE WAR.

A Soldier Believed to be Dead Turns up at the Pension Office.

HUGH THOMPSON'S MEMORY.

His Recollections Impaired for Years—The Result of a Wound—Discovered in Kansas and His Faculties Restored.

Washington correspondence of the Globe-Democrat, March 2: This morning I sit down to tell the readers of one of the strange romances of the war, culminated this very week.

On Friday I stepped into the great pension bureau, and as soon as the commissioner, General John C. Black, had shaken himself loose from a score of visitors I asked him if there was anything new.

"There is always something new here," he said. "The granting of a pension is not only news, but most important news to somebody, and the recipient often expresses himself in terms of pathetic gratitude which indicate that it is almost a new birth to him."

"Let me see," he added after a minute, touching an electric key upon a table that I suppose tingled an inaudible bell in some remote portion of the main north-eastern room. "Yesterday there developed a narrative that seem to cover one of the hitherto secret tragedies of the rebellion. It is a story worth telling."

"Captain," he resumed, when a tall chief of division, in a blue and less sleeve, "please tell this gentleman about Hugh Thompson."

I followed the tall man into the tremendous court of the building, around the long corridors, to a dark room, and there he produced a pile of documents which I studied with great interest during the next two hours.

Indeed, it was one of the unwritten romances of the war, a romance overlaid with a tragedy, as General Black had intimated.

Let me see if I can tell the story as it came to me:

Before the war there lived in the rural town of Van Wert, Van Wert county, Ohio, a young man, whose name was Hugh Thompson. He was as bright as the average boy, a smart worker, and popular with all the girls of his neighborhood.

In the spring of 1861, when the echoes of Edmund Ruffin's gun fired on Sumter were rolling angrily down the Maumee valley, Hugh at nineteen years of age, was swept into the tide and borne off to the war for the Union. Fortune cast him into Company H, 15th Ohio Volunteers.

Hugh rather liked soldiering. The excitement exhilarated him. He showed considerable dexterity in the manual of arms—considerable ability in the drill. At the end of three months he re-enlisted for three years, and started on that crusade which involved the serious battles in Kentucky and Tennessee over the border into the Gulf states.

He wrote home to his mother and told her he was well and not afraid, and he would come home "in a little while." He even wrote to a pretty little cousin and told her the harmless gossip of the regiment.

Then came the tough battle of Chattanooga on September 19, in which the Fifteenth Ohio lost almost a hundred men. Early in the day Hugh was hit by a bullet in the head, which made him spin around as if he was dizzy, but he refused to go to the rear, and when the order came to charge the enemy's works he seized his musket and fell in with the rest. The regiment was met with hot fire, and Hugh was shot in the arm and leg. He was dropped from the rolls as dead. At home his family mourned for this martyr, and the village parson preached a sermon with "a moral" to it, the moral of patriotic fidelity and the father lamented him aloud and cried: "Hugh was my boy, and he was shot at the battle of Chattanooga!"

In Whitelaw Reid's "Ohio in the War," Volume II, I find this story: "Hugh Thompson, a soldier in the Fifteenth Ohio, was killed at the battle of Chattanooga. No further record found."

A commonplace story, you will say, and this seems to be the end of Hugh Thompson.

For years followed year in the old home in the Maumee valley, and Hugh became a shadowy memory. His mother grew old and died. His favorite sister died. His brothers died. At their graves the old man, who had wept and sobbed wept and said: "Hugh was my boy, and he was shot at the battle of Chattanooga."

A whole generation passed away and another generation came. Van Wert grew to be a city, and Hugh Thompson to be an old man and waited for the reaper.

Then a curious thing happened. In the fall of 1887 a half-witted fellow attracted the attention of a post of the Grand Army of the Republic in Leavenworth, Kan. He was in middle life, and said he was a soldier, and although he couldn't exactly remember, he thought he was enlisted in some Ohio regiment. The company he belonged to was engaged in all these important facts he had forgotten. But he remembered the manual of arms, and evidently knew the drill of a soldier's duty. His name was Henry Thompson.

The veterans listened to him. The first he remembered of himself, he declared, was in the fall of 1872, and when consciousness suddenly came to him he was walking along a country road in Illinois with a grip sack in his hand. "It seemed as if I had just waked up," he says. "For I could not remember anything that ever happened to me since that time." He was hungry and went into a house to get something to eat. He probably acted queerly, for the folks thought him crazy and hurried him along.

In suite of his lapse of memory and his mental aberration he managed to get a living, for he was industrious and willing and he had no expensive habits, and people hired him to do small jobs requiring little skill or training. For years he worked around by the day. In 1875 he married a young woman in a corresponding position in life, but in five months she died.

He resumed his wanderings from place to place, and in Iowa, about 1878, he married a second time—a woman with perhaps more sense than he had retained, for, after a few months' experience of wedded bliss, she resolved to better her forlorn condition if she could. In the terse and epigrammatic language of her husband, "she called me a darned old fool and lit out." He waited a few years for her to come back and then got a divorce.

Hearing the call of the unknown

prairies he drifted to Kansas, and there dived from woodpile to woodpile, from plowtail to plowtail, up and down the state. Finally he found another living woman who was willing to marry him, and he entered a quiet section of the land, off to the prairie, a shomer and a lame horse on credit, and established connubial felicity in the wagon among the gopher hills. While sleeping in the wagon one night a terrible thunder-storm came up—the worst he had ever known, and balls of lightning rolled in his eyes, and his head ached so that he thought "it would split open." It almost paralyzed him; but next day, when he ventured to crawl out he found, to his surprise, that his head had closed up a little, and now he remembered for a first time that he had been a soldier in some Ohio regiment.

He did not yet recall most of the circumstances of his life, mentioned above, but he was followed by the subsequent investigation of his friends. For it is a well known fact that a man may marry repeatedly without being entirely possessed of his faculties, or indeed having any sense at all. It was just so with Hugh Thompson. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and he had together scraps of his recollections and published them in an article in an obscure country newspaper under the head:

"Then another strange thing happened. A Van Wert man sat down by the window one morning while his wife fussed around to fix some pork and potatoes for his breakfast. He was sitting there waiting for that important event he had picked up a fragment of a newspaper on the floor—the bit remaining after he had killed the fire with the principal bolt. After he had finished reading the fragment, he concluded that it must have come in around a pair of cobbled shoes.

In that fragment he read: "Lost—Henry Thompson, and how he dreamed he had been a member of some Ohio regiment. After breakfast he drove over to Thompson's."

"Say, Mr. Thompson, what became of your boy Hugh?" "Your boy Hugh?" said the old man, "your boy Hugh was shot at Chattanooga."

"They compared notes. The old man's hope was laid in the boy's grave, but it feebly came to life. He admitted a correspondence was opened with the Grand Army of the Republic in Kansas, which resulted in the lost soldier being sent on to Van Wert, O.

In vain. He did not know the town. He did not remember ever having seen it before. He did not recognize his surviving comrades of Company H, nor did he know for a quarter of a century had passed. His father had gone blind.

But there were two or three important clues. He had kept a tattered testament and did not know how he came by it. It contained an extra leaf, bearing some patriotic doggerel in a faded manuscript. There was no name and nobody remembered it.

But the orderly sergeant of his company was still living, and he said: "I was with Hugh Thompson when he was struck in the head with a bullet in the left shoulder and a bullet in the right arm. I examined the wound and that one he afterward got from a bayonet in the jaw and a shell wound in the hip before he was left on the field." Wounds were found to correspond.

"And," said another soldier citizen, "if this is Hugh he has a scar on the right ankle, made by the accidental clip of a broadsword when we were building a barn."

He was summoned, and declared that it was the same as nearly as he could judge. The sergeant took him in a buggy and carried him about the vicinity, and the first thing he recalled was a log cabin which he used to visit when he was a boy. He also described the interior of the family barn before seeing it, and picked out some relatives by the photographs which he had seen in a log cabin which he used to visit when he was a boy.

An investigation was started to trace him back through his wanderings, if possible, and to complete the identification. "What I had acquainted myself with the wonderful story I returned to General Black and asked him what next."

"Next," he said, "the papers will be sent to the adjutant general of the United States, and he will issue orders upon the propriety of mustering Hugh Thompson out of the army. His father long ago applied for a pension on account of Hugh's being killed in the service; now the young man has returned, and he has applied for a pension to Hugh's name and asserting, or his friends for him, Hugh's identity. He cannot have a pension till he is mustered out. Then we will see."

What Constitutes a Family Medicine? A preparation which is adapted to the relief and cure of ailments to which members of a household are most subject, and which is not only alleged to do this, but has long and uniformly proved its ability to do it, assuredly deserves the title of a reliable Family Medicine. Among time-honored preparations, which experience and the sanction of the medical profession indicate as being of popular regard and confidence, is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, a medicine adapted to the eradication of dyspepsia, constipation and biliousness, the three most frequently occurring ailments that vex mankind. Derived from notable parentage, it is efficient as well as pure and wholesome. It relieves nervous disquietude and inactivity of the kidneys, and counteracts a tendency to rheumatism. For renewing flagging strength and invigorating appetite, it can be implicitly relied upon. Fever and ague, rheumatism and debility are remedied by it.

A MODERN JACK SHEPARD. It is a Strong Prison, indeed, That Can Hold John Sansome. San Francisco Alta: Chief of Police Crowley yesterday received a telegram from Auburn, Placer county, informing him that John Sansome, the noted stage robber, burglar and safe cracker, convicted in Auburn of a stage robbery, had been sentenced for life to state prison.

By the incarceration of Sansome the criminal community loses a shining light, and a genius who has achieved a reputation throughout the state for reckless daring and audacity in making his escape from almost every prison in the country. Indeed, he rivaled repeatedly the daring deeds of Jack Shepard, and the state prison at San Quentin apparently has no chains strong enough to hold him, whenever he took it into his head to leave that institution.

Sansome's criminal career commenced over twenty-five years ago, at least it was then that his first convictions were recorded on the calendars. In 1863 Sansome was convicted of grand larceny and sentenced to serve one year in San Quentin. He completed his term, and committed a burglary, and inside of three months after his release was arrested for cracking a safe, convicted and sent back to San Quentin for three years. He made his escape in January, 1866. After a brief period of liberty he was recaptured and returned to prison. He completed his term, was discharged in 1868. Sansome was arrested several times during the next three years for burglary and other offenses, but managed each time to escape conviction. However, in 1871, the law got a granite lock on him and three years in San Quentin again, this time to serve out eighteen years on a conviction of burglary. Sansome enjoyed the prison comforts for a year, and then tiring of the prison diet, again escaped. He enjoyed the sweet life of a free man until in 1874 he was recaptured. By the aid of some clever attorneys he was brought up before the supreme court on a writ of habeas corpus and discharged. He stayed out of trouble just about eight months. In 1875 he was arrested again for burglary, convicted and sent to his favorite quarters, San Quentin, for fifteen years. He was apparently contented with his surroundings, for he made no attempt to escape until 1880, when he was transported from San Quentin to Folsom. One year of Folsom was enough for him, for in 1881 he made his escape again and wandered through Tuolumne, Placer and El Dorado counties, robbing stores, farms and left. He was again recaptured in 1882, served four years more and in 1886 was pardoned and discharged. Since then he has kept his hand in at stage robbing, burglary and any other little thing that turned up. A few months ago he tackled the Forest City stage, and because the driver would not stop Sansome fired into the stage, wounding two of the passengers. A few days later he stopped another party, and this time the treasure-box of several hundred dollars. A general hunt was made for him and he was caught on the train between this city and Sacramento. His life sentence was for his last exploit. If Sansome is successful in the future, as he has been in the past in leaving prison whenever he feels so inclined, it probably will not be long before he is again making it lively for Wells, Fargo & Co. stage drivers.

This modern Jack Shepard is a native of Missouri, about 50 years of age. His photograph, taken last year at Sacramento, shows him to be a most determined looking man, dark complexioned and apparently of above average height. The most noticeable feature about the man is the expression of his eyes, which have a most savage, determined look. They would be noticed and singled out from among thousands as those of a reckless criminal. Sansome weighs about 150 pounds, and is a mass of muscle. He is remarkably powerful, as quick as a cat and game to the backbone. Though utterly uneducated, he is conversant to a degree and sharp as a needle.

Sansome had no particular method of escaping—any way to get out was good enough for him. When he escaped from Folsom he tunneled through solid rock of masonry and ran his tunnel over 200 feet with only the poorest apologetic tools to work with.

The Correct Time. There very few men who do not pride themselves on always having the correct time; and wonderful and delicate mechanisms are devised to measure time with accuracy. But the more delicate a chronometer is made, the more subject it becomes to derangement, and unless it be kept always perfectly clean, it soon loses its accuracy. We have, therefore, then, that the human machine—so much more delicate and intricate than any work of man—should require to be kept thoroughly cleansed. The liver is the main-spring of this complex structure, and on the impurities left in the blood by a disordered liver, depend most of the diseases of man. Even consumption (which is lung-scrofula), is traceable to the imperfect action of this organ. Kidney diseases, skin diseases, sick headache, heart disease, dropsy, and a long catalogue of grave maladies have their origin in a torpid, or sluggish liver. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, restores a healthy, normal action of the liver, acts as a cure and preventive of these diseases.

Catarrhal Dangers.

To be freed from the dangers of catarrh, which is a disease of the throat, nose, and lungs, and which is often accompanied by a general debility, it is necessary to use a medicine which will not only cure the local disease, but also restore the general health. The best medicine for this purpose is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. This medicine is made of pure vegetable and mineral ingredients, and it is perfectly safe and reliable. It will cure all cases of catarrh, whether the disease is in the throat, nose, or lungs, and it will also restore the general health, and give the patient a new lease of life. It is sold everywhere at \$1.00 a bottle.

HOW MY SIDE ACHES! Aching Sides and Back, Pain in the Neck, Stiffness of the Joints, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Sharp and Shooting Pains, Headache, Migraine, Dizziness, Indigestion, and all the ailments which result from a disordered liver. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People will cure all these ailments, and restore the patient to perfect health. It is sold everywhere at \$1.00 a bottle.

THE BEST AND PUREST REMEDY FOR ALL THE DISEASES CAUSED BY ANY DERANGEMENT OF THE LIVER, KIDNEYS, STOMACH AND BOWELS. DYSPEPSIA, SICK HEADACHE, CONSTIPATION, BILIOUS COMPLAINTS AND MALARIA OF ALL KINDS. Will readily to the beneficial influence of

PRICKLY ASH BITTERS. It is pleasant to the taste, tones up the system, restores and preserves health. It is purely Vegetable, and cannot fail to prove beneficial, both to old and young. As a Blood Purifier it is superior to all others. Sold everywhere at \$1.00 a bottle.

WILBUR'S COCA-COETHA. The best and purest remedy for all the diseases caused by any derangement of the liver, kidneys, stomach and bowels. It is purely vegetable, and cannot fail to prove beneficial, both to old and young. As a blood purifier it is superior to all others. Sold everywhere at \$1.00 a bottle.

CAPITAL PRIZE, \$150,000. UNPREJUDICED ATTRACTION. OVER HALF A MILLION DISTRIBUTED.

Louisiana State Lottery Company. Incorporated in 1883 for 25 years, by the Legislature for educational and charitable purposes. Capital of \$1,000,000, with a reserve fund of over \$500,000. The only lottery ever voted on and endorsed by the people of any state. Draws every three months. Capital Prize, \$150,000. Tickets at 25 cents.

AS STEVE DORSEY SEES IT. He Thinks Gresham Would be Strong in the East. Chicago Herald: Ex-Senator Stephen W. Dorsey, of Arkansas, now living in New York, stood in the lobby of the Grand Pacific Hotel yesterday afternoon talking to Sam B. Raymond and Colonel Clark E. Carr, when a reporter asked his opinion of the relative strength of the republican candidates.

REMEMBER. That the presence of Gen. Sherman in the field, and the fact that he is in charge of the army, is a guarantee of success. The chances are all in his favor, and that no one can possibly defeat him. Remember that the payment of all prizes is guaranteed by the Louisiana State Lottery Company. Tickets at 25 cents.

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EXHAUSTED VITALITY. THE SCIENCE OF LIFE. The only medicine for the aged, the young, and the middle-aged men. It will cure all cases of debility, nervousness, and all the ailments which result from a disordered liver. It is sold everywhere at \$1.00 a bottle.

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NEBRASKA NATIONAL BANK. U. S. DEPOSITARY, OMAHA, NEB. Paid Up Capital, \$250,000. Surplus, \$50,000. H. W. YATES, President. L. W. HARRIS, Cashier. W. H. MOORE, Director. H. W. YATES, A. E. TOULZEL.

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