

THE ENGINEER'S WHITE HAIR

Not the Result of War Fears, but of Something More Thrilling.

THE SPECTER IN A GETTYSBURG GRAVE

His Horse Snorted with Terror and a White Thing Rose Up a Hair Raising Scene and the Unexpected Sequel.

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A big black cloud that seemed to pull out at the bottom until it was the shape of a balloon spilled its flood upon the west slope of Marshall Pass. The foot rushed down a narrow gulch and tore away about fifty feet of the railroad track. The New England excursion train had to be backed down to Sargents, at the foot of the hill, and held there until the road could be repaired. There was absolutely no amusement for the excursionists save what they could make for themselves, and yet one heard no complaint. Nobody threatened to sue the company or send in a bill for the extra feet of mountain track that they were compelled to take because of the washout. We all knew that we should have no trouble with this party by their account.

"These Yankee tourists," said the old engineer, "have more patience an' less pocket money than any class of people under the sun."

A couple of gentlemen came over to the little roundhouse, walking with their hands behind them, looking at the locomotives that stood steaming in front of the house waiting for orders. Upon the pilot of one of the engines a white-haired man in overclothes sat smoking a pipe. "Good evening," said one of the tourists. "Good evening," responded the engineer.

"I suppose," said the New Englander, putting a clean tan boot upon the nose of the pilot, "that you have been in a close place some time?"

"Well, I can't say that I have," said the

first time in my life my blood ran cold, I sat like one paralyzed in the saddle and saw the white hair rise up. Again I urged my frightened horse but as often as I brought him up to the scratch he whirled, snorted and dashed away down the mountain side. I could not go round and he would not go past the frightful object. In this way we worked forward and back, churning the mud, but getting no nearer home. At last, discouraged and disgusted, I determined to pull down the high fence on my right and pass through the field.

THE HORSE BALKED.

"As I reined my horse toward the fence he refused to go, he took his eyes from the grave. With a wild, unearthly cry, such as I had never heard from a horse, the poor animal sank trembling to the earth. I cut him with my riding whip, brought him to his feet and swung into the saddle again. Looking over the wall I saw this thing come right up out of the grave. There could be no mistake now, for the moon was shining almost full. I saw it put out its hands upon either side as though it were trying to lift itself up. The white arms seemed to beckon to me in the moonlight and then it sank back into the grave again.

"I was never superstitious. I had never seen anything of the kind before, but I would not approach. But this was too much for me. It was not of this earth—it was unearthly, and I was sick at heart. Now I began to wonder how this story would sound when I should go home and tell it. 'I who had faced death upon the battlefield, day and night, for weeks and months, must say that I had seen a ghost in a graveyard. The very thought of it made me angry, and I swore then and there that I would solve this mystery or die.'

"I was at heart a true old-fashioned, sweet song to the people of the south at that time, and that thought, perhaps, helped me to be a little more reckless. Taking firm hold of what was left of my once ample stock of courage, I dismounted and made my horse fast to the high fence. Crossing the road, I looked over the wall, but nothing could be seen.

"I had never been afraid of this man in the flesh, then why should I fear his ghost? I looked over the wall, but nothing could be seen. I was shaking with cold.

"I took a drink. A friend had given me a bottle of brandy, a thing which I had not gotten it until now. Presently I felt warmer and waited for the ghost. I began to hope that the thing had taken away my horse's courage.

"Well, I can't say that I have," said the

GIANT WARS IN FIGURES

Losses Sustained by the Troops of Last Generations and Today.

AWFUL SLAUGHTER IN MODERN BATTLES

The Soldier of Modern Europe Not What He Was in Napoleonic Times, Although He Has Left Record of Great Bravery.

Captain Otto Berndt of the Austro-Hungarian grand general staff has published a large volume on "Warfare in Figures." In it he has reduced to percentages a vast amount of information which long has been the subject of inexact statement or mere guess work. Says the New York Sun: As the percentage losses in wars, in battles, and in sieges, the proportion of losses to the number of batteries in action, and the average losses of armies of different lands fighting under similar circumstances. All these figures concern only the wars of Europe; the great rebellion in this country and the Mexican and the Chinese-Japanese war are left out of consideration.

First Captain Berndt considers the relative periods of war and peace among the nations of Europe. His data goes back to 1800 and cover the years up to last January 1. Turkey has the record of the most warlike nation. She has had thirty-seven years of war and fifty-nine of peace since the beginning of the century. Spain comes next with thirty-one years of war and sixty-five of peace. France comes third with twenty-seven years of war and sixty-nine of peace; Russia, with a record of twenty-four years of war and seventy-two of peace; Italy, with twenty-three years of war and seventy-three of peace; England, with a corresponding record of twenty-one and seventy-two; Austria, with one of seventeen and seventy-nine; Prussia, with one of twelve and eighty-eight; Portugal, with one of twelve and eighty-four; Sweden, with one of ten and eighty-six; and Denmark with one of nine and eighty-seven. The longest peace for European powers in the periods of 1816-18, 1841-47, 1873-81, and 1886 up to the war between Turkey and Greece. Consequently, in the recent years of enormous armaments, Europe has enjoyed the longest tranquil period of the century.

LOSSES IN GREAT BATTLES.

Here are some of Captain Berndt's statements of losses in the great battles of recent times. Koenigsgratz, 229,932 Prussians against 215,134 Austrians and Saxons; Prussian loss, 9,172, or 4.2 per cent; Austrian and Saxon loss, 44,313, or more than 20 per cent. Woerth, 82,000 Germans against 48,500 French; German loss, 10,640, or 13 per cent; French loss, 20,100, or 41.4 per cent. Spicren, 34,700 Germans against 27,000 French; German loss, 5,740, or 14 per cent; French loss, 4,980, or 14.8 per cent. Colmberg-Nouilly, 57,300 Germans against 84,200 French; German loss, 4,910, or 8.2 per cent; French loss, 8,670, or 10.3 per cent. Marengo, 100,000 Germans against 113,500 French; German loss, 15,800, or 23.9 per cent; French loss, 18,700, or 16.5 per cent. Gravelotte-St. Privat, 187,600 Germans against 112,000 French; German loss, 21,130, or 11.3 per cent; French loss, 12,270, or 10.3 per cent. Sedan, 154,000 Germans against 90,000 French; German loss, 8,820, or 5.8 per cent; French loss, 38,000, or 42.2 per cent.

In giving the highest losses suffered by individual bodies of troops in recent battles Captain Berndt states that at the battle of Gravelotte-St. Privat the Fourth Infantry brigade of the guards (Prussian) lost 42 per cent of its fighting force, the sharpshooters' battalion lost 60 per cent, and all of its officers. At Plevna the Vladimir regiment lost fourteen out of its fifteen company commanders, and the One hundred and Seventeenth Infantry was reduced to 51 per cent of its fighting force. The troops of the left wing, under the famous Skobeleff, lost 46 per cent, and individual companies as high as 60 to 75 per cent.

For the purpose of comparison Captain Berndt gives the losses in celebrated battles of the century 1792 to 1850. Only a few of the figures are reproduced. At Kolín, 1757, the Austrians lost 15.2 per cent, or 8,110 in 53,500; the Prussians, 33.6, or 12,900 in 38,000. At Louchon, 1800, the Austrians lost 22 per cent, or 26,820 in 120,000; the Prussians, 4.4, or 6,200 in 143,000. At Marengo Napoleon lost 20 per cent, or 5,600 in 28,500, and the Austrians 33 per cent, or 9,400 in 28,500. At Austerlitz Napoleon lost 10.6 per cent, or 8,800 in 82,000, and the Austrians and Russians, 33 per cent, or 27,200 in 82,500. At Aspern Napoleon lost 49.3 per cent, or 41,380 in 84,000, and the Austrians 31.1 per cent, or 25,600 in 82,000. At Leipzig Napoleon lost 24 per cent, or 60,000 in 250,000, and the allies 17.8 per cent, or 45,800 in 257,000.

SLAUGHTER IN NAPOLEONIC WARS.

Captain Berndt concludes that, with some allowances, the losses of an army are usually proportionate to its bravery and fighting power as shown in the field, and hence, in the armies of recent times are not up to the fighting mark of those that met in the Napoleonic days. The bloodiest battles of modern history, he records, were Leipzig, where the total loss was 113,000, and Aspern, where it was nearly 68,000.

A concluding, uncomplimentary remark with the above in modern warriors is drawn by Captain Berndt from his figures regarding the losses of generals on the battlefield. For instance, the general killed in most of the sides at Kunersdorf numbered seventeen, at Marengo eleven, at Aspern twenty-five, at Wagram thirty-six, at Borodino fifty-three, at Leipzig thirty-eight, at Waterloo thirty-four. On the other hand, but twelve generals were lost at Magenta, nine at Sedan, six at Orléans, five at Koenigsgratz, and ten on the German side at Woerth, Marengo-Tour, Gravelotte and Sedan, taken together.

Captain Berndt next gives a comparison, by wars, of the losses as they were long ago and as they are under modern conditions. The table of total losses is: Seven years' war, 23.5 per cent; Russo-Polish war, 1806-1807, 18.5; Italian war (1848-49), 5.5; Austro-Hungarian war (1848-49), 4.5; Crimean war, 15; war in India (1859-1857), 13.5; Franco-Prussian war of 1869, 12; Franco-Prussian war, 12.5.

The losses in killed and wounded differ considerably from the above total losses. They are tabulated by the author as follows: The following results: Seven years' war, 17; Napoleonic wars, 15; Russo-Polish, 16; Italian of 1848-49, 3; Austro-Hungarian, 1.5; Crimean, 14; Italian of 1859, 8; Danish war of 1864, 6; Austro-Prussian, 8; Franco-Prussian, first period, 9.5; second period, 3. Numerically, the greatest battles of modern times were: Leipzig, with 472,000 men engaged; Koenigsgratz, with 436,000; Wagram, with 310,000; Gravelotte, with 300,000; Borodino, with 259,000; Sedan, with 284,000; Buzenau (1813), with 259,000; Brody (1812), with 251,000; Sedan, with 244,000; Waterloo, with 217,000; Lissa (1870), with 185,000; Marengo-Tour, with 176,000; Aspern, with 155,000.

WEAPONS AND THEIR EFFICIENCY.

In the chapters devoted to the consideration of weapons and their efficiency, Captain Berndt remarks that the number of men killed in battle have differed in the battles of different periods, the number of killed and mortally wounded in battle seems to have remained about the same. The increase in the armament in the invention of firearms the fire of the enemy to battle was not more deadly in the war of 1870-71 than in that of the dawn of the century. The proportion is one man dead to four men hit. The question then is: "How many shots hit?" Up to 1860 the figures showed that one shot out of 140 wounded an enemy. At Gravelotte-St. Privat, however, but one shot out of 400 fired by the Saxon corps struck a Frenchman, and at Marengo it required 452 shots to wound one man. Captain Berndt agrees with other authorities, whom he quotes, that in the next great war not more than one shot in 400 will be effective. He tells many things calculated to surprise a generation which has grown up in the impressions left by the crushing defeat of the central European nations in 1866. In the four centuries since 1495 this warlike weapon of the nations has fought in and out of 273 years, and been at peace but 178. It has waged sixty-three wars against foreign foes, twenty

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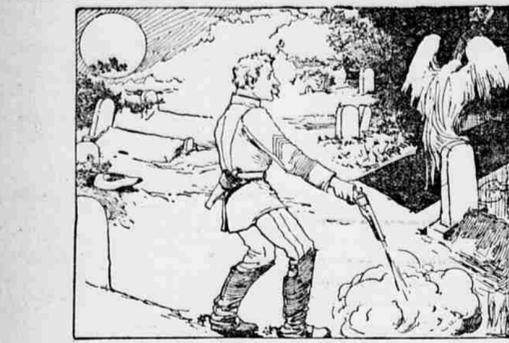
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"I FIRED MY PISTOL TO SHOW THAT I WAS BRAVE."

man in overclothes.

"I see that your hair is white, and yet you are a younger man than I am."

"Oh," said the engineer, a little embarrassed, "I got that in the '60s, long before I commenced railroadin'."

"I see, I see," said the excursionist, showing still greater interest. "At Gettysburg, perhaps?"

"It was going home from Gettysburg," said the engineer driver, glancing at his right hand that had a deep dimple in the thick of the thumb.

"I went home, also, after Gettysburg," said the Yankee, and the two men looked at each other for a moment in silence.

The fireman brought a cushion from the cob, threw it upon the pilot, and the engineer motioned the men to a seat.

GETTYSBURG RECOLLECTIONS.

"Well, that was a good many went home from Gettysburg," said the engineer, with the hard pedal on "home."

The Yankee nodded in silence. Of course each knew by the other's accent that they had fought there face to face and not side by side.

"One of your fellows did me a mean little trick down there," said the excursionist.

"Well, if it comes to a damned Yankee poking his bayonet through my head," said the engineer, for he had to swear when he talked.

"And seeing that you were unarmed, made you a prisoner, when he might have killed you."

"Yes, I had been hit on the head with a spent piece of shell or something heavy enough to knock me out. When I came to and staggered to my feet this Yankee made a run at me at the same time."

"And how did you treat this Yankee who had spared your life?"

"Well, sah, I watched my chance, an' hit him a crack in the forehead with my bladed gun, an' when he started to get up I laid the barrel across his head and left him there, when I might have killed him."

"And here," said the excursionist, removing his traveling bag, "is the scar you gave him."

"A here's the mark of yo' bayonet," said the engineer, wiggling his thumb.

The two men shook hands. The tourist returned to his sleeper, but came back again presently to see that the Yankee had the scar on his forehead.

"Well, sah," said the engineer man, "it's that damn ally that I have nevah told it."

"But you must—you could not refuse an old comrade," said the Yankee, laughing heartily.

"After the scrap," said the Virginian, whose accent mixed now he imagined, "I went home to rest until my hand could heal. Our place was a long way from the railroad, and when I left the train I hired a saddle horse and started out on my plantation. It was a dark, rainy night, the result of the battle of Gettysburg had saddened me, but now the thought of seeing the folk and friends at home again, a pleasure that could not be marred even by the sad news of the death of one of our neighbors."

"RIVALS IN LOVE.

"This man—this dead man—and I had been playmates and fast friends in boyhood days, but as we grew older we fell or rather 'drew' in love with the same girl. I can't say that I blamed him for that—any man with eyes would do it, but when I went away to war and saw him standing by her side upon the station platform it didn't seem quite an even break. He was to stay there and listen to the music of her voice while I heard the roar of the cannon. He would sit by her side in the summer twilight while I slept out in the rain and helped make history and the thought of it put a hardness in my heart that led past the principal burying ground in the neighborhood. Looking over the high stone fence I saw a new made grave and doubted not that it was for my neighbor.