A Soldier's Emotion in Battle.

Our citizen soldiers inexperienced in the battle-field, will find the most terrible moments just before the combat begins. A soldier in his narration of personal adventures in the Mexican war, published in *Howe's Achievements of Americans*, gives some interesting items on this head in his description of the battle of Palo Alto, the opening battle of the war.

When all was ready, both armies stood still for about twenty minutes, each waiting for the other to begin the work of death, and during this time I did not see a single man of the enemy move; they stood like statues.

We remain quiet with, two exceptions. General Taylor, followed by his staff, rode from left to right at a slow pace, with his legs thrown over like a woman, and as he passed each regiment, he spoke words of encouragement. I know not what he said to the others, but when he came up to where we stood, he looked steadily at us, I suppose, to see what effect the novel circumstances in which we were placed had upon us; and as he gazed, he said: "*The bayonet, my hardy cocks! the bayonet is the thing!*"—The other occasion was that of Lieut. Blake, of the engineers, who volunteered to gallop along the enemy's line, in front of both armies, and count their guns; and so close did he go that he might have been shot a hundred times. One of the officers of the enemy, doubtless thinking he had some communication to make, rode out to meet him. Blake, however, paid no attention to him, but rode on, and then returned and reported to Taylor.

Thus stood those two belligerent armies, face to face. What were the feelings of those thousands! How many thoughts and fears were crowded into those few moments! Look at our men! a clammy sweat is settled all over faces slightly pale, not from cowardly fear but frow an awful sense of peril, combired with a determination not to flinch from *duty*. These are the moments in which true soldiers resign themselves to their fate, and console themselves with the reflection that whatever may befall them, they will act with *honor;* these are the moments when the absolute coward suffers more than death—when, if not certain he would be shot in his tracks, he would turn and flee. Fighting is very hard work; the man who has passed thro' a two hours' fight has lived through a great amount of mental and physical labor. At the end of a battle, I always found that I had perspired so profusely as to wet through all my thick woolen clothing, and when I had got cool, I was as sore as if I had been beaten all over with a club. When the battle commences, the feelings undergo a change. Reader, did you ever see your house on fire? If so, it was then you rushed into great danger; it was then you went over places, climed over walls, lifted heavy loads, which you never could have done in your cooler moments; you have then experienced some of the excitement of a soldier in battle. I always knew my danger—that at any moment I was liable to be killed; yet such was my excitement that I never fully realized it. All men are not alike; some are cool; some are perfectly wild or crazy; others are so prostrated with fear that they are completely unnerved—an awful sinking and relaxation of all their energies takes place, awful to behold; they tremble like an aspen, slink into ditches and covert places, cry like children, and are totally insensible to shame—dead to every emotion but the overwhelming fear of instant death. We had a few, and but a few of such in our army.

As the two armies were facing each other, it was remarkable to see the coolness of our men; there they stood, chewing bits of biscuit, and talking about the Mexicans—some wondering if they would fight; others allowing that they would, and like demons, etc. I kept my eyes on the artillery of the enemy, and happened to be looking toward their right wing, when suddenly a white curl of smoke sprang up there from one of their guns, and then I saw the dust fly some distance in front, where the ball struck. Instantly another, and then another rich curl of smoke arose, succeeded by a booming sound, and the shot came crashed toward us. The enemy fired very rapidly, and their balls knocked the dust about us in all directions—some went over our heads, others struck the ground in front and bounded away.

Our batteries now went to work, and poured in upon them a perfect storm of iron; Lieutenant Churchill and his men began with their eighteen pounders, and, when the first was fired, it made such a loud report that our men gave a spontaneous shout, which seemed to inspire us with renewed confidence. I could hear every word the Lieutenant said to his men When the first shot was fired he watched the ball, saying:—"To high, men; try another!"—"two low, men; try again, the third time is the charm!" The third shot was fired, and I saw with my own eyes the dreadful effect of that and the following shots. "That's it, my boys" shouted Churchill, jumping up about two feet; "you have them now! keep at that;" and so they did, and every shot tore complete lanes through the enemy's lines; but they stood it manfully. The full chorus of battle now raged; twenty-three pieces of artillery belched forth their iron hail.

We were ordered to lie down in the grass to avoid the shot; this puzzled the enemy, and they could not bring their guns to bear upon us, making our loss very small. Many were the narrow escapes; one ball came within six inches of my left side. The force of the shot was tremendous; a horse's body was no obstacle at all; a man's leg was a mere pipe-stem. I watched the shot as it struck the roots of the grass, and it was astonishing how the dust flew. In about an hour the grass caught on fire, and the clouds of smoke shut out the opposing armies from view. We had hot as yet lost a man from our regiment. In the obscurity, the enemy changed their lines, and the eighteen-pounders, supported by our regiment, took a new position on a little rise of ground. As we moved on to the spot, a six-pound shot carried away the lower jaw of Captain Page, and then took off a man's head on the right, as clean as with a knife. The blood of poor Page was the first blood I saw; he was knocked down in the grass, and, as he endeavored to raise himself, he presented such a ghastly spectacle, that a sickly, fainting sensation came over me, and the memory of that night I shall carry with me to my dying day. A little later, Major Ringgold was mortally wounded at his battery; I saw him just after it. The shot had torn away a portion of the flesh of his thighs; its force was tremendous, cutting off poth his pistols at the locks, and also the withers of his horse—a spendid steed, which was killed to relieve him of his misery. The enemy tried hard, but without avail, to hit our eighteen pounders. The battle continued until night put an end to the scene. We bivouacked where we were, and laid on our arms; we slept, however, but little, thinking we might be attacked in our sleep.

The enemy had been very severely handled, owing to the superiority of our artillery. The gunners went into it more like butchers than military men; each stripped off his coat, rolled up his sleeves, and tied his suspenders round his waist; they all wore red flannel shirts, and, therefore were in uniform. To see them limbering and unlimbering, firing a few shots, then dashing through the smoke, and then to fire again with lightning-like rapidity, partly hid from view by dense clouds of smoke and dust, with their dark-red shirts and naked arms, yelling at every shot they made, reminded me of a band of demons rather than men.

Cambridge Democrat

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A fresh stock of Ladies' Hoods, just received at J. G. ROBINSON'S

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WM C. HANDY,
WM W. BALLARD, } Proprietors.

Volume 16.

SOUTHERN MARSAILLES.

Ye sons of the South awake to glory,
Hark! hark! what thousands bid you rise!
Your children, wives and grandsires hoary,
Prevent their tears and save their cries!
Shall hateful tyrants, mischief breeding,
With sectional hosts, a ruffian band,
Affright and desolate our land,
While peace and liberty lie bleeding?
To arms! to arms! ye brave
The avenging sword unsheath!
March on, march on! all hearts resolved
On victory or death!

Now, now, the dangerous storm is rolling,
Which treacherous men confederate raise;
The dogs of faction loose are howling—
And lo, our homes would soon invade.
And shall we basely view the ruin,
While lawless force with guilty stride,
Spread desolation far and wide,
With crimes and blood his hands imbruing?
To arms! to arms! ye brave, &c.

Oh, liberty, can man resign thee,
Once having felt thy generous flame?
Can dungeons, bolts and bars confine thee,
Or threats thy noble spirit tame?
Too long the South has borne bewailing,
That falsehood's danger Northerns wield
But freedom is our sword and shield,
And all their arts are unavailing.
To arms! to arms! ye brave, &c.

Outlines of the Speech of the Hon. John C. Breckinridge, Delivered in the Senate, on Tuesday, 16th inst.

The hour having arrived when the resolution endorsing all the acts of the President was to be made the special order, Mr. Breckinridge took the floor and spoke as follows:

Mr. President, if this were but an ordinary occasion, I should content myself with a vote; but I am unwilling to allow this resolution to pass without expressing my opinion and protesting against the acts enumerated in the resolution.

The words admit that the acts were not done by Congress, nor in accordance with the Constitution.

I should like to know, Mr. President, how the Constitution invests Congress with the power as it wishes, of indemnifying the President.

If the President has violated the laws, he has also violated the Constitution, for he is sworn to see that those laws are executed. To declare that Congress, by a joint resolution, can indemnify the President for any action he has taken is to give the President a precedent that he may always follow. I deny that Congress can use the Constitution either as a means of encroachment or of indemnification.

Mr. President, I intend to speak only of those acts of the President enumerated in the resolution, and which I denounce as bold usurpations, and I am sorry to see here, on the floor of the American Senate, Senators who are willing to endorse those acts. I am of the opinion that the President should be rebuked.

By what authority has the President established a blockade of the Southern ports? Will any Senator here tell me? Show me the clause which empowers the President to do so? Will any Senator say that the Constitution does?

The question came up at the last session of Congress, and the late Senator from Illinois, (Mr. Douglas,) advanced an argument that was unanswerable, and stated therein that should the President attempt to do so he would be liable to impeachment. Let any Senator show me the clause, or deduce from any clause where the President is empowered more than any other officer.

During all the past troubles of this country a blockade was not instituted—no, not even during the troubles of South Carolina, in 1832, and I trust the time may yet come when it will not be treason to maintain the Constitution.

Mr. Breckinridge referred at some length to the suspension of the *habeas corpus.* He said, we have been told about State rights and individual rights, some of which were mere shadows; but the writ of *habeas corpus* is the right of citizens everywhere—a real right—the *right* of rights, belonging to the high, the low, the rich and the poor, alike.—Yes, Mr. President, it belongs to those to whom the President chooses to designate as "plain people." It was sought after, fought for, obtained and locked up in our Constitution. It is the chief glory of the British people. I need not say that the Parliament alone can suspend it. We all know that a monarch cannot thus invade this sacred right of the people, yet a trans-Atlantic President does so with impunity.

Such a thing was never before known. Mr. Jefferson at one time thought he would like to suspend the writ, but he asked Congress and it was denied to him, and he did not attempt it. The Constitution does not designate the Executive more than any ot
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