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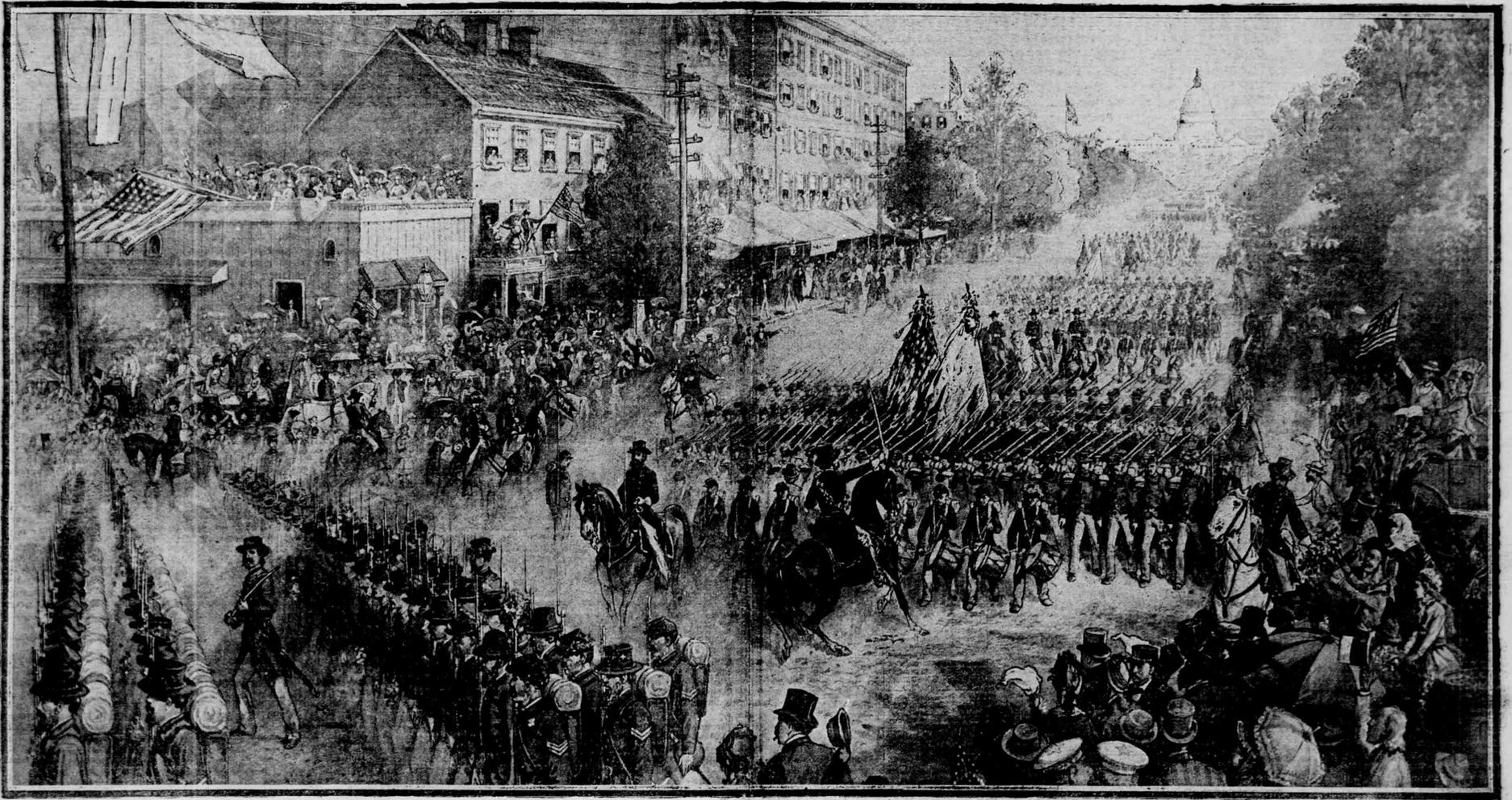
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ESTABLISHED 1877—NEW SERIES.

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GRAND REVIEW OF THE UNION ARMIES, WASHINGTON, MAY, 1865.



The Leading Column of Sherman's Troops Wheeling at the Corner of 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Andersonville:

A Story of Rebel Military Prisons.

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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

The wonderful country about Cumberland Gap, and the strategic importance of that place. The great need of food and forage for the garrison needs a battalion of cavalry up Powell's Valley to clear it out and secure its supplies. A rebel command starts down the valley to drive the Union troopers out. The two forces meet on top of a hill, and a prompt charge gives the day to the Union men and scatters the rebels in headlong rout.

The cavalry battalion occupies the country gained, and protects the forage trains sent out to gather up the supplies and haul them in. This duty lasts until the morning of Jan. 3, 1864. The battalion is attacked by Jones's Brigade of rebels, and after a stubborn, desperate fight is compelled to surrender. The prisoners are taken by rail through a picturesque part of Virginia to Richmond, searched at Libby, and sent to different prisons. First week of prison life. Interior and exterior scenes in Richmond. Stoppage of exchange.

The first squad of prisoners leave Richmond for Andersonville. Scenes along the route. Arrival at the famous prison-pen.

Something as to southern Georgia. A sterile land. Ingenious construction of shelters against the weather. Gen. Winder and Capt. Wirtz take charge of the Prison.

The month of March is passed in the pen, with little shelter from the snow, rain, and wind. The prison fills up with additional squads, including the deserters from Castle Lightning in Richmond, with whom the other prisoners have much trouble. Mortality rapidly increases.

Crowd inside the stockade constantly increases. Arrival of prisoners and guns from Columbus. Killing of "Poli Parrot." Prisoners plagued by vermin. Trading with guards. The prisoners' minds are bent on exchange or escape. Much time devoted to transcribing. Traitors are summarily punished.

The rainy month of June.—The crowd inside the prison rapidly increases, the rations grow worse, and the misery intensifies. Terrible ravages of diseases of the digestive organs. Appalling increase in the mortality. Some instances of deaths of the writer's comrades.

Leaders grow unbearable. They attempt the murder of Leroy L. Key, who forms a band of regulators.

The latter defeat the leaders in a terrible battle. The leader leaders are arrested, and at a court-martial of the prisoners six are sentenced to death. The remainder Wirtz insists shall be released from the small stockade. The prisoners become infuriated at this, and as the leaders are let into the big stockade man them severely. A scaffold is built and the leaders hanged amid intense excitement.

The executions are followed by organization of a strong police force among the prisoners, and discipline becomes good.

A young Ohio soldier, captured at Atlanta, tells the prisoners the story of the battle. He tells graphically of the way in which the brave McPherson was killed, and how his death affected the troops that loved him well. He describes how Gen. Logan took command of the Army of the Tennessee and led the men into the fight. The young soldier ends his narrative with his own capture at the close of the battle.

The author interpolates in his narrative a transcript of the evidence at the Wirtz trial of Prof. Joseph Jones, a Surgeon of high rank in

the rebel army, who visited Andersonville to make a scientific study of the conditions of disease there. The horrors of August. Something about rebel music.

CHAPTER L.

FOOD—ITS MEAGERNESS, INFERIOR QUALITY, AND TERRIBLE SAMENESS—REBEL TESTIMONY ON THE SUBJECT—FUTILITY OF SUCCESSFUL EXPLANATION.

I HAVE IN OTHER PLACES dwelt upon the insufficiency and the nauseousness of the food. No words that I can use, no insistence upon this theme, can give the reader any idea of its mortal importance to us.

Let the reader consider for a moment the quantity, quality, and variety of food that he now holds to be necessary for the maintenance of life and health. I trust that every one who peruses this book—that every one in fact over whom the Stars and Stripes wave—has his cup of coffee, his biscuits, and his breakfast for breakfast—a substantial dinner of roast or boiled—and a lighter, but still sufficient meal in the evening. In all, certainly not less than 50 different articles are set before him during the day, for his choice as elements of nourishment.

Let him scan this extended bill-of-fare, which long custom has made so commonplace as to be uninteresting—perhaps even wearisome to think about—and see what he could omit from it, if necessity compelled him. After a reluctant farewell to fish, butter, eggs, milk, sugar, green and preserved fruits, etc., he thinks that perhaps under extraordinary circumstances he might be able to merely sustain life for a limited period on a diet of bread and meat three times a day, washed down with creamless, unsweetened coffee, and varied occasionally with additions of potatoes, onions, beans, etc.

It would astonish the innocent to have one of our veterans inform him that this was not even the first stage of destitution; that a soldier who had this was expected to be on the summit level of contentment. Any of the boys who followed Grant to Appomattox Court House, Sherman to the Sea, or "Pap" Thomas till his glorious career culminated with the annihilation of Hood, will tell him of many weeks when a slice of fat pork on a piece of "hardtack" had to do duty for the breakfast of beefsteak and biscuits; when another slice of fat pork and another cracker served for the dinner of roast beef and vegetables, and a third cracker and slice of pork was a substitute for the supper of toast and chops.

I say to these veterans in turn that they did not arrive at the first stages of destitution compared with the depths to which we were dragged. The restriction for a few weeks to a diet of crackers and fat pork was certainly a hardship, but the crackers alone, chemists tell us, contain all the elements necessary to

support life, and in our army they were always well made and very palatable. I believe I risk nothing in saying that one of the ordinary square crackers of our Commissary Department contained much more real nutriment than the whole of our average ration.

I have before compared the size, shape and appearance of the daily half-ration of cornbread issued to us to a half-brick, and I do not yet know of a more fitting comparison. At first we got a small piece of rusty bacon along with this; but the size of this diminished steadily until at last it faded away entirely, and during the last six months of our imprisonment I do not believe that we received rations of meat above a half-dozen times.

To this smallness was added ineffable badness. The meal was ground very coarsely, by dull, weakly-propelled stones, that imperfectly crushed the grains, and left the tough, hard coating of the kernels in large, sharp, mica-like scales, which cut and inflamed the stomach and intestines, like handfuls of pounded glass. The alimentary canals of all compelled to eat it were kept in a continual state of irritation that usually terminated in incurable dysentery.

That I have not overstated this evil can be seen by reference to the testimony of so competent a scientific observer as Prof. Jones, and I add to that unimpeachable testimony the following extract from the statement made in an attempted defense of Andersonville by Dr. R. Randolph Stevenson, who styles himself "formerly Surgeon in the Army of the Confederate States of America, Chief Surgeon of the Confederate States Military Prison Hospitals, Andersonville, Ga.":

"V. From the sameness of the food, and from the action of the poisonous gases in the densely crowded and filthy Stockade and Hospital, the blood was altered in its constitution, even before the manifestation of actual disease.

"In both the well and sick, the red corpuscles were diminished; and in all diseases uncomplicated with inflammation, the fibrinous element was deficient. In cases of ulceration of the mucous membrane of the intestinal canal, the fibrinous element of the blood appeared to be increased; while in simple diarrhea, and dependent upon the character of the food and the existence of scurvy, it was either diminished or remained stationary.

"Heart-clots were very common, if not universally present, in the cases of ulceration of the intestinal mucous membrane; while in the uncomplicated cases of diarrhea and scurvy, the blood was fluid and did not coagulate readily, and the heart-clots and fibrinous concretions were almost universally absent. From the watery condition of the blood there resulted various serious effusions into the pericardium, into the ventricles of the brain, and into the abdominal cavity.

"The presence of the clots in the cases of hospital gangrene, whilst they were absent in the cases in which there were no inflammatory symptoms, appears to sustain the conclusion that hospital gangrene is a species of inflammation (imperfect and irregular though it may be in its progress), in which the fibrinous element and coagulability of the blood are increased, even in those who are suffering from such a condition of the blood and from such diseases as are naturally accompanied with a decrease in the fibrinous constituent.

"VI. The impoverished condition of the blood, which led to serious effusions within the ventricles of the brain, and around the brain and spinal cord, and into the pericardial and abdominal cavities, was gradually induced by the action of several causes, but chiefly by the character of the food.

"The Federal prisoners, as a general rule, had been reared upon wheat bread and Irish potatoes; and the Indian corn so extensively used at the South was almost unknown to them as an article of diet previous to their capture. Owing to the impossibility of obtaining the necessary sieves in the Confederacy for the separation of the husk from the corn-meal, the rations of the Confederate soldiers, as well as of the Federal prisoners, consisted of unbolted corn-flour and meal and grit; this circumstance rendered the cornbread still more disagreeable and distasteful to the Federal prisoners.

"While Indian meal, even when prepared with the husk, is one of the most wholesome and nutritious forms of food, as has been already shown by the health and rapid increase of the Southern population, and especially of the negroes, previous to the present war, and by the strength, endurance and activity of the Confederate soldiers, who were throughout the war confined to a great extent to unbolted cornmeal; it is nevertheless true that those who have not been reared upon cornmeal, or who have not accustomed themselves to its use gradually, become excessively tired of this kind of diet when suddenly confined to it without a due proportion of wheat bread.

"Large numbers of the Federal prisoners appeared to be utterly disgusted with Indian corn, and immense piles of cornbread could be seen in the Stockade and Hospital inclosures. Those who were so disgusted with this form of food that they had no appetite to partake of it, except in quantities insufficient to supply the waste of the tissues, were, of course, in the condition of men slowly starving, notwithstanding that the only farinaceous form of food which the Confederate States produced in sufficient abundance for the maintenance of armies was not withheld from them.

"In such cases, an urgent feeling of hunger was not a prominent symptom, and even when it existed at first, it soon disappeared, and was succeeded by an

actual loathing for food. In this state the muscular strength was rapidly diminished, the tissues wasted and the thin, skeleton-like forms moved about with the appearance of utter exhaustion and dejection. The mental condition connected with long confinement, with the most miserable surroundings, and with no hope for the future, also depressed all the nervous and vital actions, and was especially active in destroying the appetite.

"The effects of mental depression, and of defective nutrition, were manifested not only in the slow, feeble motions of the wasted, skeleton-like forms, but also in such lethargy, listlessness and torpor of the mental faculties as rendered these unfortunate men oblivious and indifferent to their afflicted condition. In many cases, even of the greatest apparent suffering and distress, instead of showing any anxiety to communicate the causes of their distress, or to relate their privations and their longings for their homes and their friends and relatives, they lay in a listless, lethargic, uncomplaining state, taking no notice either of their own distressed condition or of the gigantic mass of human misery by which they were surrounded.

"Nothing appalled and depressed me so much as this silent, uncomplaining misery. It is a fact of great interest that, notwithstanding this defective nutrition in men subjected to crowding and filth, contagious fevers were rare, and typhus fever, which is supposed to be generated in just such a state of things as existed at Andersonville, was unknown.

"These facts, established by my investigations, stand in striking contrast with such a statement as the following by a recent English writer:

"A deficiency of food; especially of the nitrogenous part, quickly leads to the breaking up of the animal frame. Plague, pestilence and famine are associated with each other in the public mind, and the records of every country show how closely they are related. The medical history of Ireland is remarkable for the illustrations of how much mischief may be occasioned by a general deficiency of food. Always the habitat of fever, it every now and then becomes the very hot-bed of its propagation and development. Let there be but a small failure in the usual imperfect supply of food, and the lurking seeds of pestilence are ready to burst into frightful activity.

"The famine of the present century is but too forcible and illustrative of this. It fostered epidemics which have not been witnessed in this generation, and gave rise to scenes of devastation and misery which are not surpassed by the most appalling epidemics of the Middle Ages. The principal form of the scourge was known as the contagious famine fever (typhus), and it spread, not merely from end to end of the country in which it had originated, but, breaking through

all boundaries, it crossed the broad ocean, and made itself painfully manifest in localities where it was previously unknown. Thousands fell under the virulence of its action, for wherever it came it struck down a seventh of the people, and of those whom it attacked one out of nine perished. Even those who escaped the fatal influence of it were left the miserable victims of scurvy and low fever.

"While we readily admit that famine induces that state of the system which is the most susceptible to the action of fever poisons, and thus induces the state of the entire population which is most favorable for the rapid and destructive spread of all contagious fevers, at the same time we are forced by the facts established by the present war, as well as by a host of others, both old and new, to admit that we are still ignorant of the causes necessary for the origin of typhus fever.

"Added to the imperfect nature of the rations issued to the Federal prisoners, the difficulties of their situation were at times greatly increased by the sudden and desolating Federal raids in Virginia, Georgia, and other States, which necessitated the sudden transportation from Richmond and other points threatened of large bodies of prisoners, without the possibility of much previous preparation; and not only did these men suffer in transition upon the dilapidated and overburdened line of railroad communication, but after arriving at Andersonville the rations were frequently insufficient to supply the sudden addition of several thousand men.

"And as the Confederacy became more and more pressed, and when powerful hostile armies were plunging through her bosom, the Federal prisoners of Andersonville suffered incredibly during the hasty removal to Millen, Savannah, Charleston, and other points, supposed at the time to be secure from the enemy. Each one of these causes must be weighed when an attempt is made to estimate the unusual mortality among these prisoners of war.

"VII. Scurvy, arising from sameness of food and imperfect nutrition, caused, either directly or indirectly, nine-tenths of the deaths among the Federal prisoners at Andersonville.

"Not only were the deaths referred to unknown causes, to apoplexy, to anasarca, and to debility traceable to scurvy and its effects; and not only was the mortality in small-pox, pneumonia, and typhoid fever, and in all acute diseases, more than doubled by the scorbatic taint, but even those all but universal and deadly bowel affections arose from the same causes, and derived their fatal character from the same conditions which produced the scurvy.

"In truth, these men at Andersonville were in the condition of a crew at

(Continued on third page.)

MEMOIRS OF GEN.

WM. T. SHERMAN.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

A MILITARY SPECTACLE

Final Assembly of the Nation's Saviors at Washington.

THE GREAT WESTERN ARMY

In Review Sherman's Veterans Win Many Honors.

LESSONS OF THE REBELLION

Sherman Takes Leave of the Armies of the Tennessee and Georgia.

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CHAPTER XXIV—(continued).

ON THE 19TH I RECEIVED

A copy of War Department Special Order No. 239, Adjutant-General's Office, of May 18th, ordering a grand review by the President and Cabinet, of all the armies then near Washington; Gen. Meade's to occur on Tuesday, May 23d, mine on Wednesday, the 24th; and on the 20th I made the necessary orders for my part. Meantime I had also arranged (with Gen. Grant's approval) to remove, after the review, my armies from the south side of the Potomac to the north; both for convenience and because our men had found that the grounds assigned them had been used so long for camps that they were foul and unfit.

By invitation I was on the reviewing-stand, and witnessed the review of the Army of the Potomac (on the 23d), commanded by Gen. Meade in person. The day was beautiful, and the pageant was superb. Washington was full of strangers, who filled the streets in holiday dress, and every house was decorated with flags. The army marched by divisions in close column around the Capitol, down Pennsylvania avenue, past the President and Cabinet, who occupied a large stand, prepared for the occasion, directly in front of the White House. I had telegraphed to Lancaster for Mrs. Sherman, who arrived that day, accompanied by her father, the Hon. Thomas Ewing, and my son Tom, then eight years old.

During the afternoon and night of the 23d the Fifteenth, Seventeenth and

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