



Paddy O'Rafter.

BY SAMUEL LOVE.

Paddy, in want of a dinner one day,
Credit all gone, and no money to pay,
Stole from the priest, a fat pullet they say,
And went to confession just after:
"Your rivrine," says Paddy, "I stole this fat hen,"
"What, what!" says the priest, "at your owld thricks
again?"
Faith you'd rather be stalin' than saying amen,
Paddy O'Rafter."

"Shure, you wouldn't be angry," says Pat, "if you
knew,
That the best of intentions I had in my view,
For I stole it to make it a present to you,
And you can absolve me after."
"Do you think," says the priest, "I'd partake of your
theft?"
Of your seven senses you must be bereft—
You're the biggest blackguard that I know, right or
left,
Paddy O'Rafter."

"Then what shall I do with the pullet," says Pat.
"If your rivrine won't take it, by this and by that
I don't know no more than a pig or a cat
What your rivrine would have me be after."
"Why then," says his rivrine, "you sin-blinded owl,
Give back to the man that you stole from his fowl,
For if you do not, 'twill be worse for your soul,
Paddy O'Rafter."

Says Paddy, "I ask'd him to take it—'tis thrue
As this minnit I'm talkin', your rivrine to you;
But he wouldn't resolve it—so what can I do?"
Says Paddy, nigh chokin' with laughter,
"By my throth," says the priest, "but the case is ab-
struse;
If he won't take his hen the man is a goose—
'Tis not the first time my advice was no use,
Paddy O'Rafter."

"But for sake of your soul, I would strongly advise
To some one in want you would give your supplies,
Some widow or orphan, with tears in their eyes:
And then, you may come to me, after."
So Paddy went off to the brisk widow Hoy,
And the pullet, between them was eaten with joy,
And, says she "pon my word you're the cleverest boy,
Paddy O'Rafter."

Then Paddy went back to the priest next day,
And told him the fowl he had given away
To a poor lonely widow, in want and dismay,
The loss of her spouse weeping after.
"Well now," says the priest, "I'll absolve you, my lad,
For repentantly making the best of the bad,
In feeding the hungry and cheering the sad,
Paddy O'Rafter."

The Navy's Roll of Honor—Award of Medals, Etc.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 10, 1863.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 17.—The following named officers and others have been recommended to the Department agreeably to the requirements of General Order No. 10, of April 3, 1863, in such terms as, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Navy, to entitle them to the "Medal of Honor" authorized by an act of Congress, approved December 21, 1861, to be bestowed upon "such petty officers, seamen, and marines as shall most distinguish themselves by gallantry in action and other seamanlike qualities during the war."

George Bell, Captain of the After Guard, United States frigate Santee, was pilot of the boat engaged in cutting out the rebel armed schooner Royal Yacht from Galveston Bay, November 7, 1861, and evinced more coolness in passing the four forts and the rebel steamer General Rusk than was ever before witnessed by his commanding officer. Although severely wounded in the encounter, he displayed extraordinary courage under the most painful and trying circumstances.

William Thompson, Signal Quartermaster, U. S. steamer Mohican, in the action at Hilton Head, November 7, 1861, steered the ship with a steady hand and a bold heart under the batteries; was wounded by a piece of shell, but remained at his station until he fell from loss of blood. Leg since amputated.

John Williams, Boatswain's Mate, U. S. steamer Mohican, in the action at Hilton Head, November 7, 1861. Captain of 11-inch gun; was conspicuous for his cool courage and pleasant, cheerful way of fighting, losing few shots and inspiring his gun's crew with his manner.

Matthew Arthur, Signal Quartermaster, U. S. steamer Carondelet, at the reduction of Forts Henry and Donelson, February 6 and 14, 1862, and other actions, most faithfully, effectively, and valiantly performed all the duties of a signal quartermaster and captain of rifled bow gun, and conspicuous for valor and devotion.

John Mackie, Corporal of Marines, U. S. steamer Galena, in the attack on Fort Darling, at Drury's Bluff, James river, May 15, 1862, particularly mentioned for his gallant conduct and services and signal acts of devotion to duty.

Matthew McClelland, first class fireman, Joseph E. Vantine, first class fireman, John Rush, first class fireman, and John Hickman, second class fireman, U. S. steamer Richmond, in the attack on the Port Hudson batteries, March 14, 1863, when the fire-room and other parts of the ship were filled with hot steam from injury to the boiler by a shot, these men, from the first moment of the casualty, stood firmly at their posts, and were conspicuous in their exertions to remedy the evil by hauling the fires from the injured boilers—the heat being so great from the combined effects of fire and steam that they were compelled, from mere exhaustion, to relieve each other every few minutes until the work was accomplished.

Robert Anderson, Quartermaster in the U. S. steamer Crusader and Keokuk, exhibited in the former vessel, on all occasions, in various skirmishes and fights, the greatest intrepidity and devotion. In the latter vessel, during the attack on Charleston, was stationed at the wheel, and when the shot penetrated, scattering the iron, desired to cover his commanding officer with his person.

Peter Howard, Boatswain's Mate, Andrew Brian, seaman, P. R. Vaughn, sergeant of marines, U. S. steamer Mississippi, in the attack on the Port Hudson batteries, night of March 14, 1863. Commended for zeal and courage displayed in the performance of unusual and trying service while the vessel was aground and exposed to a heavy fire.

Samuel Woods, seaman, U. S. steamer Minnesota, but temporarily on board the U. S. S. Mt. Washington, Nansemond river, April 14, 1863, fought his gun with the most determined courage; plunged into the stream and endeavored to save a shipmate who had been knocked overboard by a shell, and was conspicuous for his tender care of the wounded.

Henry Thielberg, seaman, U. S. steamer Minnesota, but temporarily on board the U. S. steamer Mt. Washington, Nansemond river, April 14, 1863, conducted himself with the highest coolness and courage, and volunteered to go upon the pilot-house to watch the movements of the enemy, which position he did not leave until ordered down, although the balls flew thick around him, and three struck within a few inches of his head.

Robert B. Wood, coxswain, United States steamer Minnesota, but temporarily on board the U. S. steamer Mt. Washington, Nansemond river, April 14, 1863, behaved with a courage and coolness that could not be surpassed; did not leave his post although he had received a severe contusion on the head from a partially spent ball, and ventured in an open boat to carry a hawser under a heavy fire.

Robert Jourdan, coxswain, U. S. steamer Minnesota, but temporarily on board the U. S. steamer Mt. Washington, Nansemond river, April 14, 1863. Performed every duty with the utmost coolness and courage, and showed an unsurpassed devotion to the service.

Thomas W. Hamilton, Quartermaster, U. S. steamer Cincinnati, in an attack on the Vicksburg batteries May 27, 1863, was severely wounded while at the wheel, but afterward returned "to lend a hand," and had to be sent below.

Frank Bois, Quartermaster, U. S. S. Cincinnati, in an attack on the Vicksburg batteries May 27, 1863. Coolness in making signals, and in nailing the flag to the stump of the forestaff under a heavy fire.

Thomas Jenkins, seaman, Martin M. Hugh, seaman, Thos. E. Corcoran, landsman, Henry Dow, Boatswain's mate, U. S. steamer Cincinnati, in an attack on the Vicksburg batteries, May 27, 1863. All conspicuous for coolness and bravery under a severely accurate fire. "These were no ordinary cases of performance of duty."

John Woon, Boatswain's mate, U. S. steamer Pittsburg, in an engagement with the batteries at Grand Gulf, April 29, 1863, had been confined to his hammock several days from sickness, yet insisted and took command of the gun of which he was captain, fought it for over two hours, and only left it when no longer

able to stand. Conduct uniformly good.

Christopher Brennen, seaman, U. S. steamer Mississippi, (but belonged to the Colorado), in the capture of Forts St. Philip, and Jackson and New Orleans, April 24 and 25, 1862, by his courageous example to those around him, attracted the particular attention of his commanding officers; was the life and soul of the gun's crew.

Edward Ringold, coxswain, U. S. steamer Wabash, in the engagements at Pocatigo, October, 22, 1862, solicited permission to accompany the howitzer corps, and performed his duty with such gallantry and presence of mind as to attract the attention of all around him. Knowing there was a scarcity of ammunition, he came up through the whole line of fire with his "shirt slung over his shoulders and filled with fixed ammunition, which he had brought two miles from the rear."

A "Medal of Honor" is accordingly awarded to each of the persons above named, which will be transmitted upon application being made through their commanding officers respectively.

GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy.

REBEL TAXATION.—The new rebel tax bill imposed an assessment of eight per cent, on all naval stores, salt, wines and spirituous liquors, tobacco, cotton, wool, flour, sugar, molasses, syrup, and other agricultural products not necessary for family consumption; one per cent, on all money and credits not employed in business; on bankers, \$500; tradesmen and dealers, \$50, with two and one half per cent, on sales made; wholesale dealers in liquors, \$200 and five per cent on sales; retail liquor dealers, \$200 and ten per cent on sales; grocers, \$200 and two and a half per cent on sales; pawnbrokers and money and exchange brokers, \$200; distillers, \$200 and twenty per cent on sales; brewers, \$100 and two and a half per cent on sales; hotel-keepers, according to classification, from \$30 to \$500; commission merchants, \$200 and two and a half per cent, on sales; theatres, \$500 and five per cent, on receipts; each circus, \$100, and \$10 for each exhibition; shows and exhibitions, \$50 each; bowling alleys and billiard rooms, \$40 for each alley and table; livery stable keepers, lawyers, physicians, surgeons and dentists, \$50 each; butchers and bakers, \$50 and one per cent on receipts; salaries under \$1500 one per cent, and above that sum two per cent; incomes according to amount, from five to twelve and a half per cent; joint stock companies, one-tenth of the dividend and reserved fund annually; farmers, one-tenth of their produce, deducting so much as will support their families, besides one per cent on all cattle and produce.

From Gen. Grant's Army.

The report of the operations of the Army of Tennessee, from the day that Maj.-Gen. Grant assumed immediate command of the expedition against Vicksburg to the surrender of that place, is published in the official gazette. He says that it is a striking feature, so far as his observation goes, of the present Volunteer army of the United States, that there is nothing which men are called upon to do, mechanical or professional, that accomplished adepts cannot be found for the duty required in almost every regiment. He cannot close his report without an expression of thankfulness for his good fortune in being placed in co-operation with an officer of the Navy who accorded to every move that seemed for the interest and success of our arms his hearty and energetic support. Admiral Porter, he adds, and the very efficient officers under him, have ever shown the greatest readiness in their co-operation—no matter what was to be done or what risk to be taken, either by their men or their vessels. Without this prompt and cordial support his movements would have been very much embarrassed, if not wholly defeated.

A girl who succeeds in winning the true love of a true man, makes a lucky hit, and is herself a lucky miss.

Rights of Free Negroes Under the Homestead Law.

An interesting case, involving the question as to the right of a free negro to hold land under the provisions of the Homestead Law, passed May 20, 1862, has arisen in California, and besides furnishing the newspapers of that region with a fresh topic for discussion, has led to a considerable amount of official correspondence. As the case is likely to have an enduring memory in our political history as that which immortalized Dred Scott, it may be well briefly to narrate the facts. A slave named Benjamin Berry, born in Kentucky, and now sixty-seven years of age was brought to California about the year 1850, by a Missouri master, to whom he had been sold. Having purchased his freedom by years of toil, he settled on a quarter section of unoccupied public land, long prior to the survey. A short time since certain parties, presuming on his supposed incapacity to acquire a title to the land, have endeavored to oust him, under a State grant, and threaten him with an action of ejectment in the California courts. The Register of the United States Land Office, Marysville, California, on being made aware of these facts, referred the case, with a request for the protection of Berry, to the Land Commissioner having jurisdiction in the matter. The acting Commissioner replied that the Attorney General of the United States had declared freemen of color, if born in the United States, citizens of the United States, and proceeded to say: "The administration of the business of this Department will conform to the above opinion, and you will, therefore, have no difficulty in disposing of the case in hand. The man Berry, upon making proper proof of his being a free man, and born in the United States, will be entitled to the benefit of the pre-emption laws, as also of the homestead law." This would seem to dispose of the question, so far as the rights of Berry are concerned. But it should be borne in mind that the Dred Scott decision has never been reversed; and if the case should happen to be brought up before the Supreme Court of the United States, Chief Justice Taney, in accordance with his preconceived notions of the fitness of things, would most probably reiterate the dogma that "the negro has no rights that the white man is bound to respect," and accordingly refuse to affirm the decision, or rather opinion, of Attorney General Bates. But it is unlikely that the present case will be pushed thus far. In future the subject must lead to much difficulty and contention; but there can be very little doubt that the cause of right and justice will finally prevail.

When the Galena lay in the James river, her captain, Rogers, one day sent a party on shore to reconnoitre. To protect them he swung his ship broadside to the shore and manned his guns. He had occasion to go ashore on the opposite side, meantime, and was called back by a sudden attack, by a rebel artillery and infantry force firing from the bluffs upon his ship. He pulled back as quickly as possible. The Galena lay with her starboard side to the enemy; and, according to naval etiquette, this side, which was receiving the fire of the rebels, at close range, is that upon which officers usually go on board. Captain Rogers coming from the other side, steered his gig around the stern of the Galena, pulled up calmly to the starboard-gangway, under a pelting rifle and artillery fire, and stepped on board as coolly as though the enemy had been practising blank cartridge. The reporters never happened upon this incident; but to us it seems of more value than a battle won—for the man who did that put a spirit into his crew, and established a tradition in the service, which will win us a dozen battles in time.

Quilph—Boston Post—says the difference between having a tooth properly drawn by a professional surgeon, and having it knocked out miscellaneously by a fall upon the pavement, is only a slight verbal distinction, after all—one is dental and the other accidental.