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Mary O'Connor, the Volunteer's Wife.

BY MARY DENISON.

An' shure I was tould to come here to your honor,

To see if you'd write a few words to me at it.

The baby, your honor, is better as yet.

An' what'll you tell him I thought to be say

She nair had up her blue eyes to his face,

And whin I'd be cryin', he'd look the wider,

And say would I wish for the country's disgrace?

For whin he went off, it's so sick was the childer,

She nair had up her blue eyes to his face,

And whin I'd be cryin', he'd look the wider,

And say would I wish for the country's disgrace?

And he left her in danger, and me sorely greetin',

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THE CHRONICLE.

NEW LONDON.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1861

An Important Lesson of the School at Bull Run.

One of the weakest points of the federal army is the want of preparation and training to meet the rebel cavalry which was in repeated instances developed in that most useful Army Normal School, the fight at Bull Run.

The enemy's mounted force in that engagement was numbered by thousands, and it proved a very important arm of service to them and a source of great annoyance to our side. It was not so much because of our own deficiency of cavalry that this was the case, as for the reason that our troops were without experience in meeting charges of horse, and had been, apparently, entirely without training in that most important particular. Infantry, if it is properly formed in squares, and the men are steady, can stand repeated cavalry charges—as the English troops did at Waterloo, for hours—with far less loss or danger than would result from the onset of an equal force of infantry. But if the square is once broken the cavalry have very greatly the advantage, and the unequal contest must, under ordinary circumstances, always result in the rout of a discredited infantry force.

At the Bull Run battle we got no accounts to show that in any single instance a body of our troops was thrown into square to receive a cavalry charge. The rebel horse were met by our men apparently in the same formation in which infantry charges were met, and in but one instance does it appear that the result failed to turn out, as it naturally would, to the enemy's advantage. The famous Black Horse regiment—the flower of the cavalry of Virginia, and the pride of the southern army—undertook to "rub out" the Ellsworth Zouave regiment, and unexpectedly charged it upon the flank. The rebel troopers were not even complimented by the attempt to form a square to receive their charge, but were faced by the red-legged dare-devils in triple lines—the front rank kneeling, the second half kneeling, and the rear standing—and met at short pistol shot with three murderous volleys of Minnie balls which swept them down by whole squadrons. Out of that dandy horse scarcely enough of the Black Horse escaped to fill the ranks of a single company, and the scanty remnant of the ill-starred corps sought safety in inglorious flight, followed by the repeated cheers and "gahs" of the jubilant Zouaves. The history of modern warfare furnishes but few instances to parallel this brilliant achievement of the dashing New York firemen, in not merely maintaining their ground formed in line only, against the charge of an efficient cavalry force, but routing and actually annihilating their assailants.

But, aside from this magnificent exceptional case, the need of better preparation to resist the abundant and effective cavalry force of the rebels was so clearly shown at Bull Run that it is not surprising that the immediate efforts of the federal military authorities were given to that end. We think less, however, of the wisdom of its prompt measures to create a powerful opposing cavalry force than of those movements which look to the better preparation of our infantry to face the rebel remnant. And in that view the projected organization in New York of a German regiment of *seymen* is to be noted. In the Hungarian and Polish wars it is said that the efficiency of such organizations has been fully proved, and their terrible weapons have been the especial dread of hostile cavalry. Neither horses nor riders incline unnecessarily to face them. If a regiment armed with such formidable instruments as scythes with long pole handles would be found especially efficient in making the starch out of the southern cavalry, its immediate formation and introduction into service is to be encouraged. But it is of the first importance that the federal infantry shall be trained in the approved methods of making good its own defence against charges of horse. No matter how strong our cavalry force may be, or how well scythemen may be able to take care of themselves—there will occur plenty of instances where sudden charges of horse must be met by our men with their bayonets, and they ought to be prepared to sustain themselves, as they certainly can if properly trained.

Loss of the First Connecticut Regiment.

The First regiment Connecticut Volunteers lost seventeen men in wounded and missing at the battle of Sunday; none killed. The following is the Adjutant's official report.

Wounded—Sergeant Frank Carter, West Meriden; Corporal C. B. Bages, New Britain; J. W. Burgess, Hartford; Charles Morley, Windsor Locks; Leonard Lyon, New Haven; George Thompson, Stafford; John P. King, Frederick King, (Cornet) Hartford.

Missing—Lieut. Charles Walter, Corporal James Harbut, Henry Judson, John McCarty, Woodbury; Sawyer, Bridgeport; Frederick Holmes, Woodbury; A. H. Haddiworth, Danbury; J. H. Reynolds, Kensington; Henry Meyers, Hartford.

Killed Wounded and Missing of the Connecticut Third.

The Chaplain of the Third Regiment, C. V., Rev. J. M. Willey, sends the Now Haven Journal the following list:

Killed—David C. Chase, of Norwich Co., shot by cannon ball, died in about half an hour; Jeremiah Leroy, Hartford Co.; Lt. Sergt. John R. Morse, Danbury Co.; John Sellock, Bridgeport Co.

Wounded—Ezra S. Bue, Hartford Co.; G. McCorney, James F. Lewis, Milo J. Goodrich, Joseph Danton, Meriden Co.; John Breed, Albert Hesse, Norwich Co.; Benjamin Childer, Hartford Co.; John Francher, Stamford Co.; Charles Hill, Norwalk Co.; Jacob Schneider, Groton, Henry Gjommon, New Haven Co.; Lt. Lieut., L. G. Bailey, Alfred L. Benedict, Danbury Co.; Theodore T. Winton, Bridgeport Co.

Missing—Ezra S. Blue, Hartford; Thomas H. Thurkell, Charles B. Martin, A. P. Rice, Norwich; Mark Kilbridge, and two others; George Wood, Joseph Haight, E. D. Arnold, J. J. Gilmore, Stamford; David O'Connor, Newbury; Wignat Schlein, New Haven; A. E. Drumson, Danbury; Chas. E. Galpin, Jas. Kennedy, Geo. O'Brien, Bridgeport.

Letter from Washington—The Great Battle near Manassas.

CAMP POWELL, (2d Reg't N. Y. S. M.) Washington, July 29, 1861.

Friend Irish:—

You have probably heard or read so many statements in regard to the great battle at Bull (or Bloody) Run, that perhaps it is rather late for me to give my version of it, but as every one who participated has an experience to relate, I will give you mine, and as our regiment was in the same division and near the Connecticut boys throughout the eventful day, it may be of some interest.

Our march from our old encampment at Ball's Cross Road to Vienna, and from thence to Fairfax and Centerville is what every correspondent has pictured. It was a very slow movement, owing to the many obstructions on the road. We came upon half made forts and entrenchments, abandoned camps with the food still cooking, and camp utensils lying about in confusion, and we fattened ourselves that the enemy were onwards and would not show fight. The sequel proved they were too sharp for us, and this apparent hasty retreat was only a bait to draw us still further into the trap.

We came before Centerville on Thursday, and with twenty thousand more Union troops rested on a hill-side all day, while less than three thousand men of Col. Richardson's brigade were getting badly cut up by the rebels at Bull's Run, on the southern road. Just before sundown we were ordered up the hill and started at double quick, all "spolling for a fight" and eager to avenge the slaughter of our brave friends of the N. York 12th Reg't with whom we were neighbors for a long time in camp, but when we arrived in the town we found we were to take position on the northern road leading to Manassas, by the way of Gainesville, and about a mile from the battle field of that day. We bivouacked in a large field of oats, without any tents or protection from sun or rain, and worse than this, with half rations, (only one meal a day) until Sunday morning. The country seemed to have been cleared of everything eatable or drinkable, except a little stream near us called Rocky Run, and with hard bread (or iron crackers as the boys call them) and water, we were compelled to content ourselves. Hunger will make men desperate, and notwithstanding the strict orders of Gen. McDowell, sundry cattle, sheep, chickens, pigs, &c., did disappear from the neighboring farms, and no one could account for them. We were ordered when starting, each man to take only his musket, canteen, one blanket and three days' cooked rations. In this country, marching under a burning sun, no man can carry food enough for three days in addition to tuskets, blanket and a quart canteen full of water, consequently much was thrown aside, and four and a half days' in all—did we see anything more furnished by our venerated Uncle Samuel. Saturday noon we were informed by our brigade Quartermaster that we would be immediately served with rations for three days, which we must cook and pack to be ready for a march forward (and a probable fight) at 6 o'clock that evening. The order was afterward countermanded, because we did not receive provisions until 8 o'clock, and then we had no utensils to cook with. But the junk beef, bacon, &c., was cut up and packed, and coffee was made in our drinking cups, and agreeably with new orders we marched silently out into the road at about 2 1/2 o'clock A. M. It was a bright moonlight night, and as we filed up the hill we could look back for a couple of miles and see the thousand bayonets of our division, which were the advance of the army. About two miles from our starting point we were deployed into the woods on our left, in line of battle, and advanced in this way, preceded by skirmishers for about two miles, occasionally getting a sight of the rebel picket running from us. In our rear were the 69th N. York, the 1st, 2d and 3d Conn., while the 2d Wisconsin was thrown into the woods on the right of the road. We were on what is called the Warrenton turnpike, a northern road to Manassas, and about two miles north of the battle ground of Thursday, but on the same creek or run. Col. Hunter's division, consisting of the N. Y. 71st regiment, and two Rhode Island regiments, and others, took a side road, taking them still farther north so as to come round and attack the enemy on the flank, for we had ascertained that they were entrenched on the opposite side of the creek. The battle raged on for some time, and our long Parrott gun which throws 32 lb balls and shells. We were ordered to lie in the woods out of range of fire, and to be ready for a charge. About 10 o'clock we were ordered to advance into a pine grove; but on getting into it by a nice little road evidently cut for us (as we afterward ascertained) we were met by a tremendous discharge from a four gun masked battery, which we could feel but not see. It was barely two hundred yards from us, and we could distinctly hear their officers giving orders and cursing the damned Yankees! The fire was terrible, and we lost eight or ten men killed and as many wounded within fifteen

minutes. This was all borne by our 2d N. Y. regiment (the Ohio boys having gone forward to try and take the battery) and the General seeing that by remaining we must be cut to pieces, ordered us to retire. The sensation of lying flat on the ground to avoid a shower of shot, shell and canister cutting through the trees about breast high, is anything but pleasant, although very exciting. The third shot killed one of our lieutenants and a poor little drummer boy, whose scream of agony as the shell tore him in pieces still rings in my ears. The men were firm and did not flinch, and I think exhibited other qualities surpassing courage; that of endurance, for they lay down expecting a death shot every instant, and remained there until ordered to retire. The wounds our men received in the woods at this time were of a very severe kind, caused mostly by shell and grape shot. I had a very narrow escape while sitting in a group of four; one of them received a grape shot through the shoulder and breast, and another, one through the leg and ankle, the third had his hat cut into fragments, while your humble servant was untouched, save by the branches and splinters of a little tree which stood beside us. While we were out of the fight I crossed the road and witnessed the operations of the big gun, noting the effects of the shot upon the enemy's entrenchments. From the top of a high hill I could see the whole battle field at a glance. The valley was full of our men, all pushing forward attacking batteries on the opposite bank of the river, and Hunter's division, on the extreme north, were doing some tall firing, though a full view of their operations was obstructed by the woods. Long clouds of dust are seen to arise from the roads leading from Manassas, as well as from Winchester, and with a good glass it could be seen that a steady stream of reinforcements was pouring in to the aid of the enemy. The battle was now hotly contested and for about two hours the volleys of musketry were incessant—one long roll of firing broke in upon us by the thundering notes of the heavy cannon. Just then we were ordered into the woods to support a portion of Sherman's battery, which endeavored to silence the saucy little masked battery just opposite. After a brisk firing of fifteen minutes our battery was forced to retire, having lost half of its men and horses. The General who ordered us in to the wood to support the battery, forgot to order us out, after the battery was withdrawn, and for our commander taking the responsibility, ten minutes longer would have finished our regiment. As we came up into the road again we met the three Connecticut regiments going down into the fight. They were full of pluck and anxious for a chance at the enemy.

At 3 o'clock we were ordered to take a new position down the road in full view of all the enemy's batteries, ostensibly to support a battery of our own's, but in reality to draw the fire from our own's battery and so our attacking parties could have a better chance of success. The two Ohio regiments were somewhat sheltered by a cleft in the road, but ours was terribly exposed. Grape shot, shell, round shot and canister were rained upon us without mercy. Great gaps appeared in our ranks caused by these missiles; four of our men were torn to pieces and as many wounded along the road as a single day's fighting. Grape and round shot struck all around in front and behind us; in fact we seemed to be a target for two batteries, and how any of us came out alive from such an infernal cross-fire no man can tell. But flesh and blood could not stand it and we were ordered out of fire again. Up to this time we had not an opportunity to fire a single musket. We now began to see stragglers coming up the hill from the battle, and by half past four the remains of the different regiments commenced filing past us in a regular order. We saw the 69th with the brave Col. Corcoran at the head looking sad enough. He said he thought 500 of his boys were missing. Our regiment with the three Connecticut regiments were posted along the road covering the retreat, when suddenly above us a terrible panic was created by a charge of cavalry which had outflanked our lines, and came along the road as a single file, and firing every body. We tried to rally, and did give them a good many shots, but were obliged to retire into the woods followed by the troopers. Here legs did their duty, and a good pair saved one life as I can testify. Picking up a loaded rifle laid beside a dead secessionist, your friend took careful aim at the waist belt of one of the troopers and pulled trigger, and it is a matter of firm belief with the undersigned that the said trooper ever will make another charge. The woods were covered with secession blood when I took it. Every man who was wounded or killed will send it to you as a souvenir. I took it from a dead Georgian. His revolver I have also, which I retain for future operations. After our run from the cavalry we cleared a high fence and came upon an open field. We saw the Zouaves running a mile ahead of us, pursued in some cases by the horsemen. I first saw Col. Terry with the Connecticut, second emerging from the woods, and joined him we were ordered to follow. We were ordered to follow the road to Centerville, and joined him we were ordered to follow. We were ordered to follow the road to Centerville, and joined him we were ordered to follow.

within two miles of us. I see Capt. Chapman daily, and he is well and his company also. We find in footing up our losses (2nd reg't) that we have 23 killed, 26 wounded and 17 prisoners, and about 100 missing—among the killed are our Surgeon and 2 first lieutenants, our two assistant Surgeons are prisoners. The soldiers bestow great blame on General Tyler, who may be brave but certainly lacks judgment and places little value on the lives of his command. A captain of the 2nd informs me his sword—knocked off as fast as his horse could carry him. Certain it is, (for so I myself) the cavalry and artillery of the regular U. S. army was the first and foremost to retreat. Gen. Miles commanding the reserve at Centerville is said to have been *basely* drunk all day. He is under arrest. This battle has learned us all a lesson—that we should not go into a battle without the precautions for a safe retreat. If repulsed, which is quite as likely to be necessary as preparations for advancing; also the bad policy of sending half starved and exhausted soldiers into a battle under leaders in whom they have no confidence. I deeply regret that the most unpopular general officer in this locality is from Connecticut, and bitter threats are made against him for the failure of the battle on the 21st.

But I see I have spun this out to an unendurable length and it will tire you to read it. The story could be condensed a few words.

"We were cut, and we were badly beaten."

PROVERB.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, July 31, SENATE.

Bill in relation to superintendence of the Navy Yard, permitting the President to appoint superintendents from the ranks commensurate with the rank of the officers, and to be as captains. It was discussed and laid aside.

On motion of Mr. Lane, of Ind., the President is requested to inform the Senate whether Hon. J. H. Lane, of Kansas, had been appointed a brigadier general and if he has accepted.

Mr. Powell introduced a bill to repeal all the bounties allowed fishing vessels.

Bill in relation to superintendents of the Navy Yard was taken up and passed.

Bill to increase consular representatives of the United States during the rebellion.

The report of the committee of Conference on the bill to provide iron clad steamers was rejected, when on motion of Mr. Hale the Senate agreed to include the amendments except one including vessels not completed. A committee was appointed on that amendment.

On motion of Mr. Hale the bill to suppress insurance was postponed till to-morrow.

Executive session.

Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, August 1, HOUSE.

The Senate bill appropriating ten millions for the purchase and manufacture of arms, ordnance and accoutrements was passed.

Mr. Elliot of the House committee on commerce has reported a bill to suspend in part operations of the act of March 1845, relating to revenue cutters and steamers, so as to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to apply so much of the appropriations for collection of the revenue, to the charter or purchase of vessels for revenue service.

The Senate bill authorizing the appointment of six side camps, in addition now allowed by law, by the President on recommendation of Lieut. Generals or Maj. Generals.

Passed.

A bill was passed appropriating \$300,000 for the purchase of ordnance for the use of the Army; \$12,000 for the completion of the Charleston, Mass. barracks; \$50,000 for the purchase of rights on the Oustain's night signals.

WASHINGTON, August 2, SENATE.

Mr. Trumbull, from Committee on Judiciary reported back the bill relative to appeal of certain land claims in California. Laid over.

Mr. Wilson moved to take up the resolution approving the acts of the President.

Mr. Trumbull hoped they would finish the bill that was up yesterday.

Mr. Morrill did not think the passage of the resolutions specially necessary. He believed every act of the President legal, valid, and constitutional, and needed no such justification.

Mr. Doolittle moved to refer the resolution to the Judiciary Committee.

Lost, July 17, 1863.

Mr. Howe spoke warmly in approval of the acts of the President. If he had done the acts under the Constitution and by law, it would have been well, but if he had stepped clear outside of them and did brave battle for the Constitution, and thus saved all in the Constitution, that was the act of a hero.

Mr. Thompson approved all acts but the one of authorizing generals to suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

Mr. Simmons, by consent, made a report from the Committee on Conference on the tariff bill. The bill reported is essentially the House bill.

The 10 per cent. additional is stricken out. Duty is raised on spirituous liquors and silks. Income tax is placed at 3 per cent, on over \$200. The duty on sugar is 2 cents, coffee 30 per cent, 15 cents, \$20,000,000 direct tax.

Report of Committee of Conference on the tariff resumed.

Mr. Powell said he should vote against it.

Mr. Wilkinson said he did not see how a direct tax could be collected in Minnesota, as there is no money there.

Report agreed to—yeas 34 nays 8.

Mr. Estlin said he would have voted for the bill if necessary to pass it, but, as his vote was not needed, he voted as he has done, a proof of some of its provisions.

Joint resolution of sympathy for bereaved families and friends of soldiers that have fallen in defence of the Republic was passed.

Mr. Fessenden reported a bill making additional appropriations.

Mr. Wilson's amendment appropriating \$20,000,000 for organization of volunteers, provided for in a bill to increase the army agreed to.

The appropriation for naval night signals reduced to \$20,000.

The bill then passed.

Mr. Fessenden moved to reconsider the vote on the bill to prevent fraud on post officers by contracts.

Considerable discussion by Messrs. McDougal, Trumbull and others.

Mr. Powell objected to the reconsideration.

Mr. D. counsel suggested the Senate would not take counsel of a Senator whose right here was questioned.

Mr. Powell—Who questions my right?

Mr. McDougal—I question it!

Mr. Powell—You question it? What right have you to question it?

Mr. Douglass—I will state—

Mr. Sherman called it both to order.

The President said such discussion was out of order and must cease.

Motion to reconsider agreed to and the bill was tabled.

Bill providing for the payment of expenses of investigating committees passed.

HOUSE.

Mr. Stevens from committee of conference

made a report on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on the tariff and direct tax bills. He explained that the committee took up the House revenue bill as the foundation of the conference. They have reduced the duty on coffee from 5 to 4 cents, cocoa from 5 to 3, sugar from 2 1/2 to 2, chicory to 2, ground chicory from 1 to 2.

They added so much of the tariff bill of the Senate as referred to liquor, 25 cents, making on brandy \$1.25, and added on other liquors and wines 10 cents ad valorem.

In answer to a question Mr. Stevens said 10 per cent. had been added on silk goods.

Mr. Wickliffe wanted the consideration of the report postponed till to-morrow, that they might be printed so that members could examine it.

Mr. Stevens could not agree to that, as a quorum might not be present to-morrow.

Mr. Wickliffe—Why