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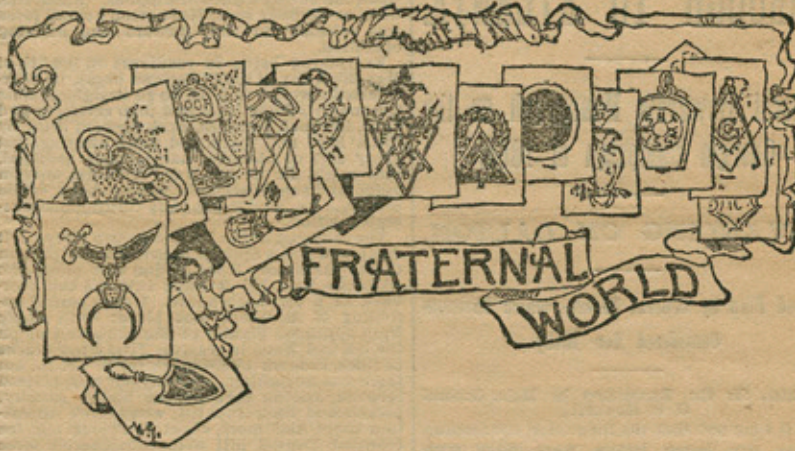
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*Letter  
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June 15, 1897*

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[The EXAMINER places this great department at the disposal of every legitimate fraternal association, large or small, whose mission it is to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, protect the widow and educate the orphan. All such, by whatever title named, or creed practiced, are alike and equally welcome. The rule of the great orders, prohibiting the discussion of religious, political or sectarian matters, is the rule of this department.

Avoid exaggerations and fulsome compliments—discuss measures, not men. Send facts, items of progress, reunions, visitations. Put initials representing titles after names; thus, J. L. Meredith, F. G. M.

To insure admission, matter must be in hand by Friday at noon. Send all communications for "The Fraternal World" Department to the editor, Wm. H. BARNES, Room 31, St. Ann's Building, corner Powell and Eddy streets, San Francisco, where members of any order are cordially invited to call.

#### Fraternal Reunions.

In 1865 it was our privilege to be one of the representatives to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows, when at the close of the war for the first time in five years all of the jurisdictions were present. The scene that ensued as the roll was called and the long non-represented jurisdictions of the South found present, beggars all description. It was something to be felt and remembered, but never to be faithfully or even intelligently described.

To some extent, therefore, we can appreciate the emotions which swayed the representatives present at Saratoga Springs, New York, last month, when the two grand armies of Good Templars of England and America, whom for eleven years have been divided, came together on the common platform of universal brotherhood, buried all sectional differences, and pledged themselves henceforth, in harmony and union, to carry the banner forward to victory.

Past Supreme Templar Matins of England, a powerful and able champion and leader of the foreign hosts, made a telling and noble speech, and his support for re-election of Supreme Templar John B. Finch was a graceful and fraternal proceeding.

Those who have for years been the leaders of both armies spoke words of eloquence and counsel. It was no wonder as they clasped the hands that spontaneously the audience sang grand old Doxology—"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow," and that their hearts warmed with them as they separated and departed to their homes in the various quarters of the inhabitable globe.

It is well, occasionally, in these times of monopolies, schisms, ologies, creeds, sects, antagonisms and strivings for place, profit and power, to have these grand fraternal reunions and harmonies, where politics and creeds, party and sect, caste and position, and all the dissensions and petty discords of life can be for a while forgotten and ignored, and men meet for good, and good only, to benefit mankind, to elevate humanity, to make the world better and its people happier.

We rejoice at the grand results of the Saratoga meeting. Its influence for good will permeate to the farthest corners of the earth.

#### Rebekah Convention.

The Daughters of Rebekah in several jurisdictions, notably in Indiana last month, have been holding annual meetings, similar to the sessions of grand lodges, at which representatives are present from the various subordinate matters pertaining to the welfare of the order discussed, and plans made for the future. Beside this, the workers of a jurisdiction are brought together, and it is always an occasion of interest and enjoyment.

That these gatherings are indorsed by those eminent in the order, evidenced by the fact that the grand officers of the order commend them, and Grand Sire White was welcomed and responded at the convention held by the sisters in Indianapolis.

There is probably no city in the national jurisdiction that exceeds San Francisco in the interest taken in the Rebekah lodges, and throughout California there are many excellent lodges and noted workers. We believe it would be of value and interest to the sisters of the order to hold an annual convention similar to those held in other States, and see no reason why it cannot easily be done.

Let the city lodges issue a circular to their sisters proposing the question, and requesting answers upon the subject, and an almost unanimous favorable reply will be received, and within a few months a convention can be held.

There are any number of ladies fully qualified to hold every office and conduct the business ably and successfully; and while, by courtesy, gentlemen may be admitted as visitors, and by invitation speak, yet they should not be eligible as representatives, officers or committees. Let it be actually a Rebekah convention.

#### Official Table of Pending Assessments.

ORDER,	No. of assessment.	When delinquent by members.
Am. Legion of Honor,	108	July 3
A. O. U. W.	13-14	June 28
L. O. B. B.	3	July 7
Knights of Honor	206-207	June 30
K. & L. of Honor (A.)	200	July 1
K. & L. of Honor (B.)	121-122-123	July 1
Order Chosen Friends,	112	July 15
Royal Arcanum	95	July 1
U. F. of Honor	111-112-113	July 1
U. O. of Pacific	5-6	June 30
W. G. F. Association	5	June 30

#### Masonic.

"Wipe out the last dollar of the debt on the Masonic Temple," seemed to be the text of all the proceedings in and around that substantial structure on June 7th in New York city.

Masons of high and low degree mixed promiscuously on the stairs and thronged the corridors, and even a stranger might have noticed that the fraternal greetings were warm almost to fever heat.

The cause of this jubilation among the eight hundred and odd craftsmen who had assembled to attend the one hundred and sixth session of the Grand Lodge of Free Masons of the State was the fact that the payment of the enormous debt of \$485,000, which had up to so recent a period burdened the fraternity, was a certainty, more than half the debt being already discharged. This also was the cause of the storm of applause which greeted Grand Master Frank R. Lawrence as he entered the Grand Lodge room, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, to open the annual session of the Grand Lodge.

#### AWESOME CEREMONIES.

The procession of Grand Master Lawrence and his associate officers to the Grand East was one of continued ovation. The dignitaries looked very imposing in their rich insignia of purple and gold, many of the jewels being studded with precious stones. Following the Grand Master came the following:

Deputy Grand Master John W. Vrooman, Senior Grand Warden James Ten Eyck, Junior Grand Warden John Hodge, Grand Secretary Edward M. L. Elders, Grand Treasurer John Boyd, Grand Chaplains the Rev. Robert Collyer, Charles W. Camp and John G. Webster; Grand Standard-Bearer John A. Davis, Grand Sword-Bearer Edward Dodd, Grand Stewards Horace L. Green, Levi Samuel, Henry J. Smith and Edward B. Harper, and Past Grand Masters Joseph D. Evans, John L. Lewis Isaac Phillips, Judge James Gibson, J. Edward Simmons, President Board of Education; Gen. Chas. Roome, President Consolidated Gas Company; Clinton F. Plagge, Edward L. Judson, James W. Husted, Floyd Clarkson, John J. Gorman, Thomas Patterson, Benjamin Flagler, William A. Brodie, Jesse B. Anthony and Joseph J. Couch, Deputy Naval Officer; William Sharer of the Sub-Treasury, and Adolphus Andreas.

After due proclamation by Grand Marshal Connor that the Grand Lodge was opened in due ample form and ready to proceed with its business, the Grand Master stepped forward and, amid great applause, read what was conceded on all hands to be the

that the warrant of Prudence Lodge was suspended and charges were preferred against eight persons, seven of whom were expelled from the fraternity.

In the remaining case, upon the recommendation of the commissioners, the charges were permitted to be withdrawn, for the reason that the accused was at the point of death, and considerations of humanity forbade the continuance of the prosecution. Incidentally the investigation of these matters, discoveries were made which justified the preferring of charges against the Master of the lodge and against his predecessor in office, and after due trial before the same commissioners, both were expelled from the fraternity.

Charges have been preferred against the lodge itself and will in due time be tried.

#### THE DEBT NEARLY LIFTED.

In regard to the debt the Grand Master said: The total amount of the contributions which have been received from all sources to be applied to the payment of the debt, to and including the 31st day of May, 1887, is the great sum of \$227,362.40, and this total will doubtless be increased by the time of the meeting of the Grand Lodge.

As the result to this time of the efforts in this direction, I have now the inexpressible gratification of exhibiting to your view, and of presenting to the trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum fund, in your presence, their first mortgage bonds, paid from the moneys which have been received by me, and duly canceled, to the amount of \$202,500. Many of these bonds, especially those donated by lodges, are accompanied by one or more coupons, or interest warrants, past due or now current; and every bond, without exception, bears all future coupons intact. When it is understood that these future coupons alone, from the payment of which we are now forever absolved, amount to considerably more than \$50,000, it must be universally acknowledged that even should this work proceed no further it has not been destitute of good results.

When Grand Master Lawrence handed the canceled bonds, which were made up into a package about twenty inches square, to Floyd Clarkson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hall and Asylum Fund, thunders of applause literally shook the building.

The Grand Master closed his address after stating that the debt, which was nearly \$500,000 a year ago, is now less than \$190,000.

The Masonic fraternity in New York State are moving to erect an asylum for the widows and orphans of deceased brothers. Herkimer county offers land worth \$25,000 as a site. Monroe county Masons offer grounds costing \$20,000 and \$20,000 in gold for the location of the asylum in Rochester. Large individual subscriptions are promised. There are 80,000 Masons in the State, whose efforts will speedily cause the proposed asylum to take substantial form.

From a careful estimate made from reports to the different Masonic bodies, the following figures have been obtained, which will be of interest to members of the order and others: In Germany there are 342 lodges, Switzerland has 33, Hungary 44, Roumania 11, Servia 1, England and Wales 1,187, Scotland 334, Ireland 299, Gibraltar 5, Malta 4, Holland and Luxembourg 46, Belgium 15, Denmark 7, Sweden and Norway 18, France 289, Spain about 300, Portugal 22, Italy 100, Greece 11, Turkey 16, Egypt 25, Algeria 11, Tunis 2, Morocco 2, the west coast of Africa 11, Indian Islands 25, the Cape 61, Arabia (Aden) 1, India 118, Indian Islands 16, China 13, Japan 5, Australia 229, Australian Islands, 41, New Zealand 4, United States 9824, Canada 535, Cuba 30, Hayti 32, West Indian Islands 65, Mexico 13, Brazil 256, other South American States 179, making a total of 14,625. The number of members is estimated at about 5,000,000, which makes an average of about 842 members to a lodge. The number of lodges and members has largely increased in the last six years, and the next report will show a great increase throughout the world.

Bernard de Tremelay Commandery, No. 49, K. T., was instituted with imposing ceremony last week at Masonic Hall. A banquet was first held at the Mercantile Club, about forty gentlemen being present. The grand officers of the councils of the five city commanderies and the members of the new commandery and grand officers composed the party.

After the banquet an adjournment was taken to the hall, and the election of officers for the ensuing year was held. Deputy Grand Commander John R. Parson performed the ceremony of institution. The commandery has worked under dispensation since March last. The charter was granted last May. The regular meeting will be held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Right Eminent Past Grand Commander John A. Sloan and Grand Recorder W. H. Mayo both took part in the ceremonies. The new commandery has a list of twenty-one members. The following-named gentlemen were elected to take the place of the temporary officials: R. D. Hunter, E. C.; B. F. Nelson, G.; Jay L. Torrey, C. G.; S. C. Bunn, T.; W. H. Farrell, R.; F. W. Guerin, S. W.; V. O. Sanders, J. W.; Benjamin Lynds, S. E.; William McCully, S. E.; F. W. Brockman, W.; N. M. Given, C. G.; James F. Ewing, P. G.; William H. Jordan, S. G.; Charles Christenson, T. G.

It is natural that the Prince of Wales, as a Norfolk landed proprietor, should take a deep interest in whatever is likely to promote the welfare of the county in which he regularly spends a considerable portion of the year. It is not surprising, therefore, that, in spite of the pressing demands upon his time, his Royal Highness should have acceded to the request to lay the foundation-stone of the Great Yarmouth Hospital with full Masonic ceremonial, or that on the occasion of his visit to Yarmouth on Wednesday to fulfill his promise, the reception accorded to him, both by the inhabitants generally and by the Masons of Norfolk particularly, should have been characterized by unwonted enthusiasm. The brethren met in their full regalia, and to the number of about 300, in the Town Hall, where Provincial Grand Lodge of Norfolk was held under the Presidency of R. W. Bro. Lord Suffield, P. G. M., among the more distinguished visitors present being Bros. Lord Henniker, P. G. M. of Suffolk; Lord Charles Beresford, M. P., Past J. G. W. of England, and Admiral Sir H. Keppel, G. C. B., who were in attendance on the Prince. Thence they proceeded to the site of the new building, and when all were assembled there, and his Royal Highness had received and acknowledged an address from the Town Council, the ceremony of laying the stone was carried out in accordance with the ancient rites of the craft, and the proceedings terminated. We must congratulate our Norfolk brethren on their good fortune. The installation of Lord Suffield as their Provincial Grand Master was among the earliest public Masonic acts done by the Prince of Wales after his installation as M. W. G. M., while as recently as the early spring of last year Prince Albert Victor of Wales was passed to the degree of F. C. in the Lodge of Friendship, No. 100, Great Yarmouth. Of these and the other marks of favor they have received from time to time from the M. W. Grand Master, they must be very proud, and we have no doubt the Masons of other provinces, while not grudging Norfolk its good fortune, would very much like to be in its shoes on these auspicious occasions.

We are sorry to have to report a serious difference between the members of Hiram Lodge, Connecticut, and the Grand Lodge of that State. Hiram Lodge is the oldest on the roll, but, unfortunately, has had its charter withdrawn by the Grand Lodge, and its members are suspended for insubordination. For the senior lodge to disobey the authorities is a very sad offense indeed, and though we are assured that the feeling in No. 1 "is as strong as ever, and there is no disposition to concede anything to the demands of the Grand Lodge," we trust during the period allowed the members for reflection that wise councils will prevail, and that before the warrant is finally revoked, they will again fall into line, acknowledge their wrong and obtain forgiveness from their brethren. On April 28th a meeting of the lodge was held, when it was expected that resolutions were to be submitted indicative not only of protests from the members but expressive of defiance. Happily these were not proposed. The members, it is said, in the event of their expulsion or separation from the Grand Lodge, would not look upon themselves as connected with a clandestine lodge, but would simply regard themselves as "non-affiliated Masons." Well, if this would be any consolation to them, we cannot say it would be so to us; for to belong to a so-called Masonic organization—which would be scouted by all regular Masons in Connecticut, by every other Grand Lodge in the United States and by all regular foreign Grand Lodges—could not satisfy us under any other circumstances. We are much mistaken in our estimate of the natural and Masonic feelings of a majority of the members of the Hiram Lodge, if in a little while they do not rebel against their mistaken leaders in the rebellion, and petition as individuals to be reinstated, even if the chief members continue recalcitrant. A lodge, which has existed since the year 1750, cannot afford to become careless of its character at the present time, for to continue disobedient will mean the forfeiture of its ancient position on the roll. For the sake of the eventual past we still hope that the members generally will soon see the error of their ways. At all events, a sufficient number will doubtless remain steadfast to the Grand Lodge to secure the perpetuity of their warrant.

We were not a little surprised the other day to read in the *Architect*, under the attractive heading of "Bygones," an article on the noted "Locke MS.," in which the writer evidently accepts that apocryphal document as genuine and authentic. We are gravely told that notwithstanding "the statute passed in 1425 enacted that it shall be felony to plot confederacies amongst Masons, and such as shall assemble upon such confederacies shall suffer imprisonment and make fine and ransom at the King's will. Yet some three or four years afterward King Henry became a Mason." (1) We are further told that "it is supposed to have been written in the time of Henry VI, and by the King's own hand." Brethren who desire light on the subject should consult the latest examination of the MS., which will be found in Brother Gould's history, chapter xi. That well-known author proves conclusively, as indeed some had done previously, that the document cannot be traced before 1753, in which year it was printed in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, the small pamphlet of 1748, published at Frankfurt, having so far escaped detection. The objections to the genuineness of the "Leland-Locke MS.," founded on external evidence, are numerous and weighty. Halliwell declares that "the orthography is most grotesque and too gross even to have been perused either by Henry the Sixth or Leland, or both combined," and he hesitates not to describe it as "a clumsy attempt at deception." The wonder is that so singular a composition should have been so generally accepted by our Masonic historians of the last century, though we are bound to confess the wonder diminishes as we find that even now there are some who eling tenaciously to the document. Brother Gould has arrived at the conclusion that the catechism was written and drawn up at some period subsequent to the publication of Dr. Anderson's Constitutions of



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# THROUGH TO ATLANTA.

## General Howard's Monograph on the Georgia Campaign of 1864.

### ADVANCING ON DALTON.

#### A Good Plan by General Thomas which Sherman Considered Too Risky.

[Written for the EXAMINER by Major-General O. O. Howard.]

If it were not that the little ones, concerning whom our home letters were filled with thoughts and messages, have grown up around us into manhood and womanhood, we comrades of campaign and battle could hardly realize that it is twenty-three years ago this spring that General Grant from Washington undertook "the initiative in the spring campaign" when he hoped to be able "to work all parts of the army together."

But I am settled in a conviction of the truth when I catch up an old letter of mine dated "Cleveland, East Tennessee, May 1, 1864," with printed caption, "Headquarters Fourth Army Corps, Department of the Cumberland." That letter begins: "It is almost the anniversary of the battle of Chancellorsville and of the birth of our little boy (born May 3, 1864.)" This child was then but one year old; now he is in the full vigor of manhood, strong and hearty, 24 and married. Thus, comrades, we open our eyes to behold another generation close behind us and fast taking our places in active busy life, but, thank God, not in a bloody spring campaign of a hundred battles like that of twenty-three years ago. How heartily Grant's lieutenant, the impulsive, the indefatigable, the sanguine, the prophetic Sherman, responded to the call of his able chief. He declared that his (Grant's) letters (which contained the plan of campaign) afforded him (Sherman) "infinite satisfaction;" that this working together, this verging to a common center, appeared to him (Sherman) to be for the first time "enlightened war." "Like yourself," he says to Grant, "you take the biggest load, and from me you shall have thorough and hearty co-operation."

When Sherman wrote this he was already in Nashville organizing the three armies, the Tennessee, the Cumberland and the Ohio, and was introducing a systematic plan for supplies which rigidly adhered to did lay the proper foundations for a campaign which was destined not to end till the enemy's force had been crushed, his resources hopelessly crippled, his means of transportation fatally interrupted and all communication between his remaining fragments in the extreme East and the far West absolutely cut off. Grant counted upon Sherman's experience and ability, his quickness and his prompt co-operation, and he did not in the least mistake his man.

#### SHERMAN'S ARMY COMMANDERS.

Of the respective commanders of the armies which were to operate in advance of Chattanooga, namely, the Cumberland, the Tennessee and the Ohio, General Sherman was also fortunate in his lieutenants. He writes: "In Generals Thomas, McPherson and Schofield, I had three generals of education and experience, admirably qualified for the work before us. Each has made a history of his own, and I need not here dwell on their respective merits as men, or as commanders of armies, except that each possessed special qualities of mind and of character which fitted him in the highest degree for the work then in contemplation."

Certain subordinate changes affected me personally. The 5th of April, 1864, I went from my camp in Lookout valley to Chattanooga and visited General Thomas. He explained that the order was already prepared for consolidating the Eleventh and Twelfth corps into one body (a new Twentieth corps), of which General Hooker was to have command. General Slocum was to be sent to Vicksburg, Miss., to control operations in that quarter, and I was to go to the Fourth Army Corps, ostensibly to enable General Gordon Granger to take advantage of a leave of absence. The formal instructions themselves, replete with exciting changes and sudden partings, reached my camp that evening. I had commanded the Eleventh Army Corps but a year and four days, yet that period included three important campaigns and four battles. One division had been sent to South Carolina, so that the Eleventh now had but two divisions and was comparatively small. I was to gain under these new orders a fine corps, 20,000 strong, composed mainly of Western men. It had three divisions. Two commanders, Generals Stanley and T. J. Wood, were of large experience.

A little later General John Newton, who will be recalled for his work at Gettysburg and in other engagements in the East and in the West, an officer well known to every soldier, came to me at Cleveland, East Tennessee, and was assigned to the remaining division, which General Wagner had been temporarily commanding at Loudon. The corps was much scattered, as I found, on my arrival at headquarters in Loudon, the 10th of April. The First Division (Stanley's) General Thomas had kept on outpost duty along his front, east of Chattanooga; two brigades at Blue Springs and one at Otawah, while the Third Division (Wood's) had remained, after the fall Knoxville campaign, in the Department of the Ohio, near to Knoxville, and the Second, as I have intimated, was at Loudon, not far from the mouth of the Little Tennessee, having been held there to keep up communications between the two departments of Thomas and of Schofield. It was here at Loudon, the previous autumn, that Colonel Boughton of the 143d New York Regiment, had found the numerous Confederate wagons, partially destroyed, with which, during a single night, he bridged the deep ford of the river, more than a thousand feet across. After the briefest visit to Loudon and assumption of command, I speedily moved the headquarters of the corps to Cleveland, fifty miles below.

#### CONCENTRATION OF THE FOURTH CORPS.

My first duty, immediately undertaken, was to concentrate the corps in that vicinity, inspect the different brigades and ascertain their needs as to transportation, clothing and other supplies. Part of the command had been all winter marching and camping, skirmishing and fighting over the country of east Tennessee, so that the regiments coming from that quarter were short of everything essential to the field, and their animals were thin and weak.

We must here remember, to the credit of General Sherman, who, with extraordinary promptness, increased the railway transportation from Nashville to our army, that supplies were soon forthcoming; and, to the credit of the officers, subordinate commanders, quartermasters and commissaries, that the 3d of May, when orders arrived for the first movement, the entire corps had sufficient transportation, clothing, rations, and ammunition to enable it to effect with safety and order a long flank march, in the immediate presence of the enemy, to Catoosa Springs.

This 3d of May, coming down from Knoxville to complete the grand army, General Schofield, with his head of column, had already arrived at Cleveland. With us the preceding month had been a very busy one. For both officers and men the discouragements of the past seemed already over. Now, new life was infused in the whole body. Something was doing. Large forces were rapidly coming together, and it was evident to every soldier that something important was to be undertaken. On Sundays the churches were filled with soldiers. Christian men, members of the Christian Commission, had been permitted to visit our camps and were still with us. Among them was D. L. Moody, a noble soul, now so well known to the country for sympathy with and friendship for men. His words of hope and encouragement then spoken to the multitudes of soldiers will never be forgotten. I wrote from East Tennessee a few words, which serve as reminders: "I have a very, very pleasant place for headquarters just in the outskirts of Cleveland." The house belonged to the company which owned the copper-mill. "We are drawing near another trial of arms, perhaps more terrific than ever. But, on the eve of an active campaign and battles I am not in any degree depressed. \* \* \* When it can be done, there is a quiet happiness in being able to say, think, and feel, 'Not what I will, but what Thou wilt.' \* \* \* We are hoping that this campaign will end the war, and I am more sanguine in that belief or hope than ever before. God grant that no more disasters befall us."

#### THE CAMPAIGN OPENS.

With our left well covered by McCook's cavalry, our Fourth Corps, emerging from Cleveland, commenced to move in two columns, the left one passing through Red Clay and the other farther west by Salem Church.

The morning of the 4th of May found us, as I have before said, at Catoosa Springs. These springs were on the left of General Thomas' army, whose whole front was towards Tunnel hill. Tunnel hill was, between the armies, the dividing range. It was the outpost of Confederate Johnston's army, which looked towards Chattanooga. The bulk of his force was at Dalton, covered by artificial works northward and eastward, and by the mountain range of Rocky Face Ridge towards the west. The famous defile through this abrupt mountain was called Buzzard's Roost Gap. From Rocky Face Ridge to Tunnel hill, which is a parallel range of hills, the Chattanooga railway crosses a narrow valley, passes beneath the hill by a tunnel and on toward Chattanooga.

The Confederate official returns for April 30, 1864, give Johnston's total force 52,992, and when Polk's corps had joined a little later at Resaca his total was 72,235. General Sherman, in his memoirs, aggregates the Army of the Cumberland 60,773, the Army of the Tennessee 24,465, the Army of the Ohio 13,559, making a grand total of 98,797 officers and men, with 254 cannon. As Johnston's artillerymen were about the same in number as Sherman's, probably Johnston's artillery numbered not less than Sherman's.

The Army of the Cumberland was delayed in the vicinity of Catoosa Springs till the 7th of May, to enable McPherson, with the Army of the Tennessee, to get around from Alabama into a position in Sugar valley to the south of us and to bring down Schofield to the east of us, near to Red Clay, that is, to Johnston's direct northern front. It will be seen that the Chattanooga (Western and Atlantic) Railroad, which passes through the Tunnel hill, Buzzard's Roost and thence on to Dalton, where it meets another branch coming from the north through Red Clay, constituted our line of supply and communication.

#### GENERAL THOMAS'S PLAN.

General Thomas had early advised Sherman that McPherson and Schofield should make demonstrations directly against the position at Dalton, while he himself, with the Army of the Cumberland, should pass through Snake Creek Gap and fall upon Johnston's communications. General Thomas felt confident, if his plan was adopted, that a speedy and decisive victory would result. I believe he, as events proved, was quite right, but Sherman then thought that the risk to his own communications was too great to admit of his throwing his main body so quickly upon the enemy's rear, and feared to attempt this by a detour of upwards of twenty miles.

Later in the campaign Sherman's practical judgment induced him to risk even more than

that contemplated when he sent whole armies upon the enemy's lines of supplies. But at this time, as we have seen, McPherson's small force was selected for that forward and flanking operation.

Everything being in readiness on the 7th of May the Army of the Cumberland began its characteristic work; that is, to go straight against the enemy's front lines and then skirmish and fight, intrench batteries, work forward little by little, here and there, and bang away against every sort of obstacle, natural and artificial, that might lie in the way. This was done in order to keep Sherman's enemy busy while Schofield or McPherson was turning that enemy's position.

The morning of the 7th the Fourth Corps left camp at Catoosa Springs to perform its part in these operations. It led off due east along the Alabama road till it came into the neighborhood of a Mr. Lee's house. Here a partial unfolding of its troops took place; quite a long front appeared, Stanley on the right, Newton on the left and Wood in reserve. First a few cracks of rifles, then an exciting skirmish set in, but there was no halting. Steadily our men pressed forward, driving back first the hostile cavalry, pickets and other lines till, awakening opposition more and more, about 9 o'clock our foe crowned Tunnel hill with considerable force and fired briskly upon our advance.

The same angry reception was given to the Fourteenth Corps, coming up simultaneously beyond our right. With a little observation it was discovered that the Confederate artillery had only cavalry supports, so that when an order to charge ran along the lines our troops promptly sprang forward and carried the "crowned" hill.

#### ROCKY FACE RIDGE.

From Tunnel hill we had Rocky Face in plain view. It was a continuous, craggy ridge at least 500 feet high, very narrow on top, but having in places spur-like abutments jutting out to the east and west. On the crest, for the most part, it was so narrow that six men could not march abreast. The western front presented in places a perpendicular face, almost as abrupt as the Palisades of the Hudson; while, favorable to Johnston's ascent and descent, the eastern steeps were more gradual. Through Buzzard's Roost were both a railway and a wagon road, also a small stream of water. This the Confederates had so dammed up as to present a formidable obstacle. They had also arranged their batteries and their infantry intrenchments as to completely sweep every hollow and pathway in that defile. General Thomas, however, pushed forward his troops with steadiness and vigor—the Fourteenth Corps in the center and the Fourth and Twentieth on the right and left—while McPherson was steadily winding his way through Snake Creek gap towards Resaca and Schofield constantly pressing his heavy skirmish lines from Red Clay to unvell from that northern side the Dalton intrenchments.

A couple of miles away to the right, southward, on the 9th of May, the Twentieth Corps, under Hooker, had hard fighting indeed.

He afterwards wrote: "The rebel line was carried and held for a few minutes, but finding themselves exposed to a raking, plunging fire from a new position, they were compelled to fall back."

Fifty men were killed and a large number wounded. My personal friend, Lieutenant Colonel Melvain, Sixty-fourth Ohio, was here killed. Every regimental commander in this hard struggle was wounded. The Fourteenth Corps, also under General Palmer, nearer to us, had its own brisk work. Morgan's brigade, especially, was put into line and hotly engaged. From his command, the Sixty-sixth Illinois Regiment kept working forward by the side of the dangerous gap, drawing fire and driving in the enemy's outer lines. It is said that the soldiers finally obtained shelter, without being able to get farther forward, within speaking distance of their foe.

One enterprising corporal, it is reported, made a bargain with some Confederates who were throwing down heavy bowlders from above, that if they would refrain from their bothersome work he would read them the President's famous amnesty proclamation. He did so, and comparative quiet was kept during the strange entertainment.

Now, to go back a little in our narrative, on the 8th of May, General Newton with my Second Division managed some two miles north of the gap to push a small force up the slope, and then, taking the defenders by a rush, drove them along until he had succeeded in capturing the Confederates at least one-third of the ridge. He there established a signal station. He next tried, but in vain, to capture a Confederate signal party, which he deemed too actively talking by the use of their flags. Stanley and Wood, on Newton's right, stretched out their own lines to some extent, and gave Newton all the support they could locate in that difficult ground. During the night his men dragged up the steeps two pieces of artillery, and by their help gained another hundred yards of the hotly disputed crest.

#### RECONNOITERING BUZZARD'S ROOST.

On the 9th of May, another experiment was tried. Under instructions, I sent Stanley's Division for a reconnaissance into that horrid gap of Buzzard's Roost until it had drawn from the enemy a strong artillery fire, which redoubled the echo and roarings of the valleys and caused to be opened the well-known incessant rattle of long lines of musketry. It was while making preparations for this fearful reconnaissance that a group of officers were standing around me, among them General Stanley and Colonel (then Captain) J. C. Kniffin, of his staff. The enemy's riflemen were, we thought, beyond range; but one of them noticing our party, fired into the group. His eccentric bullet made two or three holes through the back of my coat, but without wounding me, and then passed through Captain Kniffin's hat, and finally struck a tree close at hand. Be sure that the group of observers speedily changed their position.

McPherson's operations near Resaca were not so successful as General Sherman had hoped. Though there were but two Confederate brigades at that town, the nature of the ground was for McPherson unpropitious in the extreme. The abrupt ravines, the tangled and thick woods, and the complete artificial works, recently renewed, which covered the approaches to Resaca, made McPherson cautious and caused him to follow the letter rather than the spirit of his instructions; so that, after an unsuccessful effort to strike the railroad, Johnston's main artery, he fell back to a defensive line near the mouth of the gap, and there thoroughly intrenched his front. Speaking of this Sherman says: "Such an opportunity does not occur twice in a single life." Still, he (McPherson) was perfectly justified by his orders, and he fell back and assumed an unassailable defensive position in Sugar Valley, on the Resaca side of Snake Creek Gap.

Just as soon as Sherman had received this news he altered his plan and sent his main army, except Sherman's cavalry division and my corps, the Fourth, by the same route. Stoneman with his force had just arrived from Kentucky. With this comparatively small force I kept up on the old ground a lively aggressive work during Thomas and Schofield's southward march with perhaps even more persistency than ever before; yet, probably the withdrawal of Schofield from Red Clay by General Sherman, and the replacement of his skirmishers by cavalry, together with the report that McPherson was so near to his communications, made the always cautious Confederate General suspicious that something in the enemy's camp, that is, in my part of it, was going wrong for him. Therefore, on the 12th, he pushed out northward toward Stoneman and made a strong reconnaissance, which, like a handsome parade, I beheld at a distance, and which, in the ravines and thickets and uncertain light, was magnified to large proportions in the lively vision of the soldiers beholding.

#### THE WARY CONFEDERATE CHIEFTAIN.

At first some of our Generals feared that Johnston, letting his communications go, would attempt a battle so as to crush the Fourth Corps alone. But soon the tide turned, and the tentative force retired within the Confederate intrenchments. Under the cover of the night ensuing Joe Johnston, as he did many times thereafter, made one of his handsome retreats. No man could make retreats from the front of an active, watchful enemy with better success than he.

At daylight of the 13th I pressed my moving forces after the foe, the cavalry and the Fourth Corps, as boldly as possible, but was delayed all day by the enemy's rear-guard; the roughness of the country affording that guard successive shelters. It took time to dislodge the fearless hinderers, yet I did finally before dark of the same night succeed in forming substantial junction with General Sherman, who was at that time near McPherson on the ground west of Resaca. Meanwhile Johnston, with his main body, was preparing by his peculiar asperities the approaches to that town, getting ready for the next day's battle.

To show the costliness of such operations, in my corps alone there were already in the little combats about three hundred killed and wounded.

Our march all the day had been rapid and full of excitements. Our minds had been bent upon the situation, watching against any sudden change, sending scouts to the right and left, getting reports from the cavalry in front, or beating up the woods and thickets that might conceal an ambuscade. At first after our arrival at evening came the arrangement reports and orders for the next day. Then followed the welcome dinner that our enterprising mess-purveyor and skillful cook had promptly prepared.

Here around the mess-chest, for a table, my staff officers sat with me and spent a pleasant hour chatting and leisurely eating the meal and discussing the events of the day and the hopes of the morrow. There was cheerfulness there; yes, and even afterward it existed as we wrote messages to the far-distant loved ones. But withal there was deep solemnity in our hearts, for we knew that the next dawn would usher in another dreadful battle, and that few mess-tables, there at the front, would have the same number of plates and the same number of friends at the next dinner. We looked into each other's faces, and secretly wondered who would be taken and who would be left.

O. O. HOWARD,  
Major-General U. S. Army.