Williams, as prejudice against color.

Stories for Children

Original manuscript

Vol. 6, No. 30.
William was prejudiced against color.

During the winter of 1862 & 3. I commanded the 1st Division 2nd Corps. We were encamped near Malvern, almost a mile north of the Rappahannock. It was after General McClellan had been relieved from the command of the army and when the prejudice against the black man was high. A young man who came out as an officer in a Maine regiment, made great ado about the President freeing the slaves and declared that he would never serve in an abolition army. He was brought before a court martial for using disloyal language and some other like offense and dismissed the service. In another regiment, where all but one or two officers were German, a young American was long and persevering in his denunciation of the President. The general commanding the
The army was not turning as fast as the preservation of the Union needed. I was called for settling the claims of liberty. This young man was also put under charge, brought before a court martial and dismissed from the service.

After these eminent cases, I heard very little in the prison of the army which could be seized upon for the sake of discipline. But there was a widespread feeling of discontent, a sense

The first Minnesota regiment of volunteers was stationed a little to the northwest of the city on the outskirts of the grounds. The field officers of the regiment had some good horses. They made good use of them for going back and forth to the city. Generally a handsome mule was made one of them.

He was a youth of some 18 years of fine figure, pleasant face and manner. Don't say
The lad was somewhat raw & a little pompous at times. Certainly he appeared very proud when he was mounted on his good horse. Later, when he had only a saddle blanket under him.

One day as he rode past some Irish soldiers I heard one of them exclaim, "Ma'am, "The scalping of a black maam shall never ride with us!"

"An' good stuff in his rifle!"

I thought it was only talk and only laughed at the man's expression.

But very soon after this as William was riding past at the foot of the steep, south of my tent, moving along at a slow trot, sitting with good grace and displaying the grace of his horsemanship, a shot was fired from amidst a group of men. William was hit on the shoulder. I would have fallen had I not been caught by some one near me. I ran out to see what had happened. She had been taken from his horse & I was being carried gently toward the Minnesota hospital. He broke up cheerfully in my face.
I spoke to him, and that he was badly wounded but he hoped he would get over it. I do not remember his words, but I remember his bright, cheerful face and how brave and hopeful he was.

He was taken to the hospital and put in with the sick men of the 1st Minnesota. He was always treated kindly there. The surgeon took the utmost pains to save him, but in spite of no avail, he lingered a few days and then died. No tear was shed from his lips. He spoke kindly of the enemies of this race. He lived a good Christian life and died with the indescribable joy in his heart.

We searched long for the murderer but he was covered by his regiment and could not be found. So God knows that he is a wicked murderer.

The death of this youth whose offense was the color of his skin, made a strong impression in our camp. We knew that his time was not far off when
Having wounds go to this world - bed we said. How can our fellow use such instruments as these, whom
then murderers, his companions and abolition so markedly typified? This incident
showed us how poorly united we were
willing to move the real cause of our
sorrows - our nation's curse, human bondage.
But how hopeless to Stephen must
have appeared the cause of his master
from any human standpoint when
Samuel took the clothing of his murderers,
while they were stoning him to death!
Is not it a picture? And they stoned Stephen,
calling upon his name, saying, Lord Jesus,
deceive my sins!
And he knelt down and cried with a loud
voice, "Lord, stay not this sin to their
charge." And when He had said this he
fell asleep.
The same observing friends, carried poor
Patience William into the company of
the angels when his color is as offensive.