

Incident.

No.35, Volume 9.

Subject:

General Gorman,-- Diplomacy.

General Gorman:----- An incident of diplomacy.

General Gorman came to the front in 1861 as a Colonel of the 1st Minnesota regiment. After a few battles he was promoted to the rank of a Brigadier General and commanded a brigade on the Virginia Peninsula and at Antietam. When we were besieging Yorktown, Gorman was under General E. V. Sumner ^{his} ~~the~~ division commander.

Early one morning Gorman's Brigade and mine located about a mile in rear of Baldy Smith's division, heard continuous firing sounding like hail falling on the roof of a house. It would burst into a rattling ^{sound} growing louder and louder and then suddenly ceasing. ~~ceasing~~ *cease*.

In alarm General Sumner and his staff and General Howard and his staff, mounted their horses and set out for the front to see what was the matter and to be prepared for action if needed. When about half-way we saw Colonel Owen who commanded the 69 Pen^a *sylvana* *(Irish regiment)* ~~insula~~ and General Gorman riding together, and coming towards us. As they approached, Gorman rode out, saluted General Sumner and said: "General, there is no battle going on, sir. I have been up to the ~~front~~ ^{front and the} and discovered that firing is due to the Old Guard shooting off their guns after their tour of service. Now General Gorman had only been a little ~~farther~~ ^{farther} than ourselves, but had met Colonel Owen and had obtained the information from him.

Owen was astounded at the bold announcement of Gorman so that as soon as he could do so without observation he took Gorman aside and said to him: "

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Early one morning Gorman's Brigade and mine located about a mile in rear of Baldy Smith's division, heavy continuous firing sounding like hail falling on the roof of a house. It would burst into a rattling growing louder and louder and then suddenly ceasing.

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"General, How could you possibly say such a thing to General Sumner, you know that you did not go any ^{where} ~~way~~ near the front lines and you received your information from me ." Why, said General Gorman, who was a lawyer as well as a general, don't you understand the first principal of law which is. (Facit per alium facit per se ; (What one does by another he does by himself) Well Gorman you are the strangest man I ever saw.

That was characteristic of Gorman's diplomacy in everything he touched.

300 words

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800 words