

commission July 16, 1865, and returned to the duties and practices of civil life, closing a military career of remarkable activity and full of heroic incident, developing a character of great force, a decision prompt, a military skill that found no equal among the veteran rebel leaders pitted against him, and an energy and determined will that never surrendered to obstacles, however formidable, in the path of his military enterprises.

The General is now a resident of New Orleans. While fighting Confederate armies, he seems to have become enamored of the soft breezes and sunny skies of Confederate latitudes, and soon after the establishment of peace within their borders, took up his abode among his former enemies.

Bountifully may he be prospered. If his successes in civil life are proportioned to the merits of his military career, they will be productive of no stinted measure of rewards. Grateful may his country ever remain for his vigorous help in the days of its tribulations, and proud will the State that sent him to the field be in having furnished to the cause of the Union so efficient and distinguished a champion.

IOWA AND THE REBELLION.

A HISTORY OF THE TROOPS FURNISHED BY THE STATE OF IOWA TO THE VOLUNTEER ARMIES OF THE UNION, WHICH CONQUERED THE GREAT SOUTHERN REBELLION OF 1861-5. BY LURTON DUNHAM INGERSOLL. PHILADELPHIA: J. B. LIPPENCOTT & Co. DUBUQUE: B. M. HARGER. 1866.

In a previous number we made brief mention of the appearance of this book—then known to but a few—now a household favorite in many homes of every county in the State. The author, though a civilian, writes with all the ardor of a soldier, and describes battles, marches and sieges with the accuracy of an actual participant. Indeed, Mr. Ingersoll, though prevented by physical infirmity from devoting himself, during the war, to military employments, was a frequent visitor to the camps of the troops whose deeds of dar-

ing have become yet more grand by being strewn with the eloquence of his mighty pen—as the brilliance of a gem on the breast of beauty is enhanced by the charms which surround it. If there were nothing else to commend in this work than its wonderful method, or rather, if we may use the term in this connection, its *discipline*, which puts every regiment in line, every company, battalion and squad in its place, and every officer and man at his post, and makes each organization stand out, as if on dress parade, and report its own operations, this alone would challenge our highest admiration; but when we consider that part of the history of one regiment was often part of the history of many other regiments, and that tiresome repetition is avoided, while awarding to each its full share in the narrative, we are struck with the wonderful ability of this author for enforcing order where one would look only for confusion; and when we look a step further, and see that he has even found time and place to give, in many instances, the minutest details occurring at a soldiers' mess, and lively sketches of personal character, we must ascribe to Mr. Ingersoll the highest powers of detail and combination, and are ready to ask what he might not have accomplished in the field had he controlled the movements of these masses of men, which he aligns, marches, counter-marches, and makes such happy dispositions of in the letter press of this fascinating book.

However, a specimen or two from the work itself, will convey a better idea to the reader of its style and spirit than any description of ours. The following brilliant paragraph describes the commencement of the battle of Arkansas Post, and will awaken in many a gallant one recollections of the dull slumber in the swamp, the morning's sun upon our glistening arms, the long delay for orders to attack, the roaring cannon, the silent, hurried march to join in the attack, the confusion and noise of battle, the gratulations of victory and the horrors of wholesale death:

“The troops passed a cold night in swampy bivouac, without fires, but on the morning of the 11th the sun came up grandly in a cloudless sky. About ten

o'clock both corps were in position and ready to commence the attack, but it was not commenced until three hours later. Then the gun-boats opened fire, which was immediately followed by the fire of artillery from Sherman's corps on the right, with which the artillery of the Thirteenth corps soon joined, the whole making a sublime cannonade, under cover of which the infantry moved against the enemy. Within thirty minutes after the cannonading began, the brigades of Hovey, Thayer, Giles A. Smith, and T. K. Smith, on the right, had crossed in double-quick time a narrow space of clear ground, in their front, and gained position in a belt of woods which extended quite to the enemy's rifle-pits. But meeting with a terrible fire of musketry and artillery, these brave troops were checked for a time. Presently, they boldly resumed the advance, and passing under a severe fire, approached, supported by Blair's brigade, within short musket range of the rebel works, and found shelter from the enemy's missiles in some ravines lined by underbrush and fallen timber."

But it is not alone with Iowa troops that this history deals. Troops from other States are often incidentally mentioned, and the actions of the various commanders, from Grant down to Halleck, are freely commended or criticised, as they seem to deserve in the estimation of the author. Should one read nothing concerning the rebellion than this work, he could not fail to have a full comprehension of the great civil war, for there was scarcely a battle in it not participated in by Iowa soldiers.

We must content ourselves with one other extract describing a cavalry battle on an open prairie :

"The battle that followed was one of the most remarkable of the war.— Drawn up on an open prairie, each army could see the whole force and all dispositions of the other, and the troops engaged were on both sides exclusively cavalry. There could be no 'drawn' work there. One side must be defeated, routed. Price had his whole command drawn up here, Marmaduke's division on the right, Fagan's in the centre, and Sheby's on the left. The militia, as usual, succeeded in allowing Benteen's brigade to pass, and it came up first. It was ordered to charge at once in columns of regiments. This placed the Tenth Missouri in front, the Fourth Iowa next, and the Third Iowa, third. The rebel artillery was very active upon our approach, but its fire was generally too high, though the cross fire of one battery struck Philip's brigade, which was moving up in our rear, and killed and wounded many men. Our column moved on at a rushing gallop against the enemy's right wing, but it did not break, as many seemed to have expected, from the moral effect of the charge, and when within very short range—scarcely two hundred yards—our advance regiment halted and wavered. Its officers made desperate efforts to urge their men forward, but failed, and for a moment the contending forces stood, fairly glaring at each other. The enemy, seeing the advantage offered, raised a shout and began to move for-

ward. It seemed like our ruin. If he should charge and get the prestige of attack, our destruction seemed inevitable. It was an awful moment, but proved to be the glory of the Fourth Iowa. Major Pierce, knowing how critical was the condition, determined at once upon a movement of his own, and taking the responsibility on himself, dashed to the left of the regiment and ordered it forward at a charge, in columns of four. Galloping through the wavering line of the regiment in front, our column rushed with wild cheers, against the rebel right. This novel movement gave us the victory. The enemy, surprised, gave way where he was struck, our whole force joined in the charge, and his whole line was broken away like a row of falling bricks."

The text is frequently illustrated with drawings of battles, the casualties of each regiment are given in foot notes at the bottoms of the pages, and a roster of the officers is set forth with each organization. As to binding and printing the work is unexcelled. Take it all in all, it is a remarkable production, exhibiting on the part of its author, great ability, industry and rapidity of composition. That it has been favorably received is shown by its having already reached its third edition, though it is less than a year since it made its first appearance. Of all the works in relation to the rebellion which *have* been printed, this is decidedly the most readable and accurate, and contains information which can be found no where else. He must be a bold man who will undertake to write a book to supplant it.

STATE HISTORY.

Much as has been done by the State Historical Society toward collecting and preserving that which affords knowledge of the past, and current history of the State, much is still left unacquired pertaining to matters of the first importance. The accumulations on the shelves of its Library and Cabinet Rooms, are becoming quite large, and yet points of special interest in our early State history, the facts of which should be gathered, remain untouched.

The pioneers who enacted the history of those early days and whose memories are clear upon the topics of these scenes and transactions of their young manhood, are one by one passing away, and soon the sources of authentic information concerning much which is of importance to the future, will be dried forever. That which should have been historical fact fades into uncertain tradition, or is altogether lost.

One or two men in each county who would give the labor of collecting and writing these fading facts would do a service to the public as lasting as the history of the State.

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