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THE ARMY OF THE SOUTH-WEST, AND THE FIRST CAMPAIGN IN ARKANSAS.

BY SAM'L PRENTIS CURTIS,
BREVET CAPTAIN AND AID-DE-CAMP TO MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS.

(Continued from page 160.)

CHAPTER TWELFTH.

CAMPS STEVENS AND CROSS TIMBERS—EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS
—THE WOUNDED—"CONTRABANDS"—CONGRATULATORY OR-
DERS—REVIEW OF THE SITUATION.

On the 12th of March, to avoid the stench from the battle-
field, the camp of the army was moved from Pea Ridge to
the vicinity of Bentonville, in the valley of Sugar Creek, and
called Camp Stevens.

Here the army was reinforced by the arrival of the 13th
Illinois Infantry. The regiment had marched direct from
Rolla, Wyman having turned over the command of that Post
to Colonel Boyd, with a few companies of the 24th Missouri
Infantry, as a garrison.

The army remained at this camp one week. Nothing of
especial interest occurred save the discovery of the arms of a
regiment concealed in a cave. They were supposed to be the
arms of Rector's Arkansas regiment of rebels, which had been
disbanded after the battle.

Forage became so scarce that it was necessary to remove to
a position where more could be obtained. Halleck directed
that the army should not advance farther into the enemy's
country. It needed rest and an opportunity to recover its
efficiency after its long march and the recent battle. Fresh

supplies were to be obtained, the wounded needed attention, and the army required refitting for the field. Under these circumstances, and not from any apprehended danger or compulsion from the enemy, as Van Dorn's report intimated, it was determined to fall back to "Cross Timber Hollows." An expedition consisting of all the available cavalry of the army, and the mountain howitzers of Bowen, with three days' rations, and under command of Jeff C. Davis, was thrown out south of Bentonville and Fayetteville, to feel the enemy who had remained inactive since the battle. The expedition discovered nothing of importance and returned to camp. Under cover of this movement the army marched to Cross Timber Hollows.

Cross Timber Hollows is a long, deep ravine, extending from near Keetsville, Missouri, some six or seven miles, and across the State line into Arkansas, terminating at Pea Ridge. It received its name of "Cross Timber" from the fact that in the fall of 1861, Ben McCulloch, fearing the approach of Fremont, had felled the heavy timber for a great distance in the ravine, and completely obstructed the road to protect his position at Cross Hollows. The place was called "McCulloch's Blockade." But Fremont did not advance, and the rebels were compelled to remove their own obstructions to convey supplies to Price. Affording a strong natural position, difficult of approach from the southern front, being nearer to the sources of supply, and in a neighborhood abounding in forage, and affording as much protection to Missouri, as the more advanced ground a few miles distant at Pea Ridge, Bentonville or Cross Hollows, while at the same time it was within easy striking distance of the enemy in Arkansas, it was selected and occupied by the army on both sides of the State line, under the name of "Camp at Cross Timbers."

While here encamped, Colonel Clay Taylor, of the rebel army, arrived with Lieut. Colonels Herron and Chandler of the national army, captured during the recent battle and sent to be exchanged for Colonel Hebert and Major Tunnard, of the 3d rebel Louisiana regiment. This exchange was effect-

ed, and the rebel officers were courteously received by the commanding General previous to their return. Wine was produced and the rebels drank to a speedy return of peace. On their return they were accompanied by Lieut. McKenny, who arranged with the rebel commander the following cartel for the exchange of prisoners. Lists of all prisoners were furnished in accordance with the terms of the cartel, and an immediate exchange was effected.

“VAN BUREN, ARKANSAS, March 26th, 1862.

“EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

“It is agreed between Capt. T. I. McKenny, Acting Assist. Adj. General of the Army of the South-West, on the part of Major-General Curtis commanding the same, and Colonel Thomas L. Sneed, Act'g Asst. Adj't Gen'l of the 1st Division of the Army of the West, on the part of Major-General Price commanding the same, that the prisoners held by them respectively, and whose names appear on the annexed list, shall be and they are hereby mutually exchanged.

“The prisoners held by Major-General Price will be immediately escorted beyond the lines of this army, and provided with rations sufficient to subsist them to Fayetteville, Arkansas.

“It is expressly stipulated that these prisoners, thus released by General Price, shall be considered and kept as paroled prisoners until Major-General Curtis shall have sent the prisoners held by him, and exchanged for them, beyond his lines, and until they shall have had a reasonable time to report themselves at some military post of the Confederate States.

“The prisoners held by Major-General Curtis shall be immediately sent under a suitable escort beyond his lines, and supplied with sufficient rations to support them on the march to this or some other military post of the Confederate States, or within the lines of this army.

“If any of the prisoners held by Major-General Curtis, and named in the annexed list, cannot for any cause be delivered as agreed, others, actually in the military service of the Confederate States, shall be sent in their stead, without unnecessary delay.

“By order of Brigadier-General

S. R. CURTIS,

“Commanding Army of the South-West.

“T. I. MCKENNY, Act'g Ass't Adj't Gen'l.

“STERLING PRICE.

“Major-General P. A. C. S. Com'g 1st Division.

“By THOS. L. SNEED, Act'g Ass't Adj't Gen'l.”

The union wounded had been brought from the vicinity of the battlefield to Keetsville and Cassville, and the rebel wounded were removed to hospitals at Fayetteville and Pineville. The peculiarly hard situation of our wounded had at once attracted the attention of the Sanitary Commission, and strong

efforts for their relief were immediately made. Much suffering had ensued before relief could be obtained, but the following extracts from the report of the commission, published at St. Louis, in 1864, will show how much good was still accomplished through the efforts of this noble association:

“ On the 7th and 8th of March, 1862, another great battle was fought at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in which our forces, under Major-General S. R. Curtis, were victorious over a force of the enemy, three times our number, commanded by Generals Van Dorn, Price, McCulloch and McIntosh. Our killed and wounded numbered one thousand; the loss of the enemy was still greater. The great distance of this battlefield from St. Louis, being two hundred and fifty miles beyond Rolla, the terminus of the South-west branch of the Pacific railroad, and the roads being of the very worst description, through a country only half civilized, mountainous, without bridges, and without hotel accommodations, stripped by the passage of armies of forage for teams and of food for men, subject to raids and murders by guerrilla bands, it was utterly impossible to bring the wounded of Gen. Curtis' army to the hospitals of St. Louis. And what was still worse, the march through the south-west had been undertaken in the winter, over bad roads, with deficient transportation, and the medical department was most miserably provided with the means of taking care of so many wounded. The surgeons were without hospital clothing, without stimulants, so necessary in surgical operations, without bedding for the wounded, and their supply of medicines was exceedingly limited.

“ The desperate character of the battle had suddenly thrown upon their hands nearly a thousand badly wounded men, in a country thinly settled by a people living mostly in log houses, and having few of the necessaries of life. The court house at Cassville, and all the principal dwellings—there was not a church in the place—were filled, and many wounded were also housed in the same way at Keetsville, so that on approaching these villages every other dwelling seemed to be a hospital, having a red flag floating over it.

“ In a few instances, wounded officers were conveyed in ambulances all the way to Rolla, and taken home to their friends; and those of our brave troops who were less severely wounded were transported to Springfield, Mo., where the churches and public buildings were converted into hospitals for their use. Passing onward from Rolla, to the Army of the South West soon after the battle, with the Lyon regiment, to reinforce Gen. Curtis, it was a painful scene to witness wounded men lying in the bottom of open wagons on beds of straw, jolted over the rough ground, on their way to friends living along the route; for among the regiments that fought most bravely and suffered most severely, was Phelps' Missouri six months volunteers, composed of the sons of loyal families, who had lived and suffered in south-west Missouri, from the persecutions of the rebels, many of them having been driven to Rolla, as a place of refuge, and enlisted there, and such of them as now were wounded, were being conveyed to their own homes, or to Springfield, where better hospital accommodations existed. In this city, as we marched through, we found the hospital buildings filled with the wounded from Pea Ridge; and at Cassville, when we reached there, it was

a touching sight to behold, as we did, in one room, a row of young men, in the freshness of youth, lying on beds, each having lost a leg, while in other buildings were those who had received all manner of hurts, wounds from pieces of shells, bullet wounds, arms torn and afterwards amputated, and legs taken off, and all bound up, awaiting the dreadful issue of life or death.

“But it was with peculiar satisfaction we found that the stores of the Western Sanitary Commission had been received there some days before our arrival, and that the wounded men were lying in clean beds, and clothed with shirts and drawers, instead of the blood stained garments in which they came from the battle-field. The large supplies, forwarded by the commission, had reached the medical director, Dr. Otterson, and had been put to immediate use; his supply of stimulents had been largely increased, and his sick and wounded were in a comfortable condition.

“On the news of this battle reaching St. Louis, the members of the Sanitary Commission worked day and night, packing up sanitary stores, and sent forward Mr. A. W. Plattenburg in charge of hospital supplies, on the 11th of March, who was followed immediately after by another supply of as many more. In this undertaking, Maj. Gen. Halleck, furnished every facility in his power, giving to Mr. Plattenburg an order, over his own signature, addressed ‘to all quartermasters and other officers between St. Louis and Sugar Creek, Ark.,’ directing them ‘to furnish every reasonable facility in their power, to forward, *with all possible dispatch*, consistent with safety, the bearer, Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, and the hospital stores under his care, destined for the wounded in the late battle at Sugar Springs’—afterwards named Pea Ridge.

“In his report of his journey and arrival at Cassville with his stores, Mr. Plattenburg says :

“I arrived at Rolla, Mo., at four o’clock, P. M., of the same day, and was furnished with a horse and transportation for sanitary stores. The first day we proceeded fifteen miles over a road that was as bad as it could be. The day following, I rode forty miles, and stopped at night with a union man, who had been robbed of almost everything movable. He had two sons in Phelps’ Missouri regiment, one of whom had just died in the Springfield hospital. On Sunday morning I reached Springfield, at 10 A. M. The quartermaster was ordered to furnish transportation by the first train. The wounded from the recent battle were coming in, as well as some rebel prisoners. I visited the post hospital, accompanied by Dr. Ebert. There were one hundred sick and wounded, mostly from Pea Ridge. I examined the hospital very carefully, found a part of the men on the floor, destitute of all comforts. They had neither bed sacks, blankets nor sheets, not even tin cups or a teapot. They were, however, very cheerful. Dr. Ebert, a very kind and attentive surgeon, requested me to procure a wardmaster and matron. I made a requisition upon your Commission for them, as also for a large number of supplies for the hospital, enough to make all the patients as comfortable as possible.

“The train with your stores reached Springfield on Wednesday following, and on Friday were sent forward. Transportation was so insufficient, that this delay was unavoidable. The next day, 25th, I arrived at Cassville. Here I found two large tents, six buildings, (among them the court house,) and the tav-

ern, used as hospitals. The patients were lying on the floors, with a little straw under them, and with knapsacks or blankets under their heads for pillows. They had no comforts of any kind, no change of clothes, but were lying in the clothes they fought in, stiff and dirty with blood and soil. There were four hundred Federal wounded here. There was a great deficiency of nurses, detailed men not answering the purpose well. Their sheets had been torn up for bandages, and until Dr. Otterson reached there with his supplies they were poorly furnished with medicines. Stimulants were very much needed to sustain the sinking men, but none were to be had. There were no brooms to sweep with and no mops to wash the rooms. Your stores were here turned over to the brigade surgeon, who opened and distributed them to the different hospitals. Never was a provision train more joyously greeted by starving men than was this ample supply of hospital stores by these sick and suffering soldiers.

“On the next day I went forward to the army, reporting myself to Gen. Curtis, introduced by your letters. I found him in an ordinary tent, without furniture, except a stool and a small cross-legged pine table. The floor was covered with straw, and a roll of blankets constituted his bedding. Being invited, I dined with him upon plain army fare. I then proceeded to Gen. Davis' position, within one and a half miles of Elk Horn Tavern, where the heaviest fighting was done. I visited the battle-ground, and was filled with astonishment when I saw the strength of the positions out of which our gallant little army had driven the great force opposed to it. Meeting two rebel surgeons, one of them said: 'We are Texans; our army has treated us shamefully; they stampeded, and left us here with our sick and wounded men, and I will tell you, sir, that for two days we had nothing to give our poor fellows but parched corn and water. Every Federal officer and man has treated us like gentlemen, and Gen. Curtis told me that so long as he had a loaf of bread, we should have half of it.'

“This was the field where McCulloch and McIntosh were killed while endeavoring to flank the Peoria Battery.

“I visited with these surgeons the hospitals at Pineville. No provision whatever had been made by Price, and our scanty supplies had been shared with them. For twenty-five miles around every house was a rebel hospital. We also had three Federal hospitals at Pineville, but not to exceed forty patients. At this point there was a total absence of stimulants, and men were dying for want of them. In one place are forty graves of the Iowa Third Cavalry. All the dead of both armies were buried.

“On my return I called on Gen. Curtis at Keetsville, and promised to urge forward the remaining supplies, which would be sufficient to meet all immediate wants. They were duly forwarded, and reached the command in good time. At Cassville, I found that Dr. McGugin, of Iowa, who had been working very faithfully among our suffering men, was completely exhausted. At Springfield, I found additional supplies, which had been forwarded by your Commission. I was assured that they would go forward on the following morning, and they were rolled out to be loaded up before I left. I am fully convinced that no army was (so far as provisions for the wounded was concerned,) ever sent into the field in such destitute condition as ours, *except the one that it fought and conquered.* Our

preparations were wholly inadequate ; the enemy had, apparently, made none at all.

“The labors of your Commission are most highly appreciated by both officers and men. But for the promptness with which your supplies were sent forward for which you are greatly indebted to the Commanding General, great suffering must have unavoidably occurred. Could the kind and sympathizing men and women of our loyal States, who placed these abundant contributions at your command, but see and realize the thrill of joy with which they were received by the suffering ones, who have so bravely and gladly shed their blood to restore to us a united nation, and to vindicate the majesty of our trampled laws, they would rejoice that they had made the slight sacrifice required to achieve so great a good, and seek, I am sure, to enable you to anticipate rather than to supply, such wants in the future.

“Many of these poor sufferers have left distant homes and loving friends ; have been accustomed to receive the tenderest cares and the most watchful sympathy during the slightest indisposition. Now they meet death and greivous wounds, and wasting sickness, in a remote, semi-hostile and thinly settled country, surrounded generally by comparative strangers. And this great sacrifice is most cheerfully made. No word of repining or regret did I hear, but everywhere our gallant men were sustained by an abiding faith that they had suffered and would die, if need be, in a most just and righteous cause.’

“Mr. Plattenburg’s efficiency and usefulness were so satisfactory to the Commission, that he was employed from that time as an agent to continue with the Army of the South-West, which he did till the spring of 1863, accompanying it through all its toilsome march from Cassville to Forsythe, returning to St. Louis for sanitary stores, going back to it again overland and arriving with it at Helena, on the following July.

* * * * *

“In December, 1862, the surgeons of the Army of the South-West, united in a testimonial in which they say : ‘The agent of the Commission, Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, has always cheerfully furnished for the use of the sick and the wounded, every thing in his possession. Joining this Army just after the battle of Pea Ridge, he came with his abundant stores most providentially, and through all dangers, trials and vicissitudes he has remained constantly with us, and ever faithful to his mission.’

“In a letter of Maj. Gen. Curtis, dated March, 1st, 1863, he says : ‘Among the pleasant and grateful recollections of the campaign of the South-West, was the arrival of Mr. A. W. Plattenburg, the agent of this noble Commission, just after the battle of Pea Ridge, (where the wounded were so unprovided for), with his abundant sanitary stores and supplies of stimulants. In the destitute condition of our hospitals, it seemed like a providential interposition in our behalf.’

“Among the incidents at the battle of Pea Ridge, worthy of mention in this connection, were the labors of Mrs. Phelps, who had accompanied her husband, Col. John S. Phelps, with his regiment to the battle-field. While the battle was yet raging, this heroic woman assisted in the care of the wounded ; tore up her own garments for bandages, dressed their wounds, cooked food and made soup and broth for them to eat with her own hands, remaining with them

as long as there was anything she could do, and giving not only words but deeds of substantial kindness and sympathy. And wherever the cause of our national union and its perils shall hereafter be known, 'this that this women hath done shall be remembered as a memorial of her.'"

At Cross Timbers occurred the first application in the Army of the South-West, of Butler's doctrine of contraband property to the slaves of rebels. The rebels treated their slaves simply as property, and all personal rights were ignored. This had always been the favorite doctrine of the South. Their definition of the status of the slave was accepted by the national military power. But by the laws of war, all property employed by an enemy to aid him in carrying on war, when captured by his opponent, is held to be contraband and liable to confiscation. It is also a well established principle that the Federal government can hold no property in man. Under such circumstances, the rights of the proprietor being forfeited, and the Federal government not being able to succeed to the lost rights of the owner, the slave became free. Having ceased to be property, he became simply a person, with such personal rights as the constitution gave him, and as were enjoyed by other persons under common law. Slaves came to Curtis who had been employed, against their will, as teamsters and servants in the rebel army. The absence of will or intent to aid the enemy relieved them from the charge of rebellion. In each case a special order was issued setting forth the facts and the legal deductions arising therefrom, declaring the slave to be contraband of war, and therefore confiscated. An official copy was in every instance furnished the liberated slave. If there was occasion for his services, he was retained with the army and paid for his labor, if not he was permitted to pass to the rear and seek safety and employment elsewhere. The policy thus pursued by Curtis, long before the issuance of the emancipation proclamation, led to the liberation of many slaves. "Contrabands" were continually coming within our lines, and upon reasonable evidence they were invariably liberated. At Polk Bayou, near Batesville, an entire plantation force, deserted by a fugitive master, had been found assisting in the manufacture of cartridges. As

the army advanced south, the rebel barricades in the roads were made by the unwilling hands of slaves, who thus unwittingly received the most substantial blessing that men can enjoy from their country, in return for having labored for its overthrow. When the army arrived at Helena, it was accompanied by several thousand contraband negroes.

It was at this time that General Sigel bade farwell to the Army of the South-West. Paymasters arrived and paid the troops, and the commanding General reviewed the entire army. The following order congratulating the troops on their recent victory, and bidding them prepare for new struggles, was read to the entire command :

“ HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH-WEST, }
CROSS TIMBERS, March 31st, 1862. }

GENERAL ORDERS No. 7.

The following order of Maj. General Halleck, Commanding the Department, having just been received, is published that the officers and soldiers of this command may know that during their long winter marches, they have neither been forgotten, nor their merits unappreciated at home :

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MO., }
ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 5th, 1862. }

GENERAL ORDERS No. 56.

Soldiers of the Army of the South-West : You have nobly performed the duty assigned you. You have made a long and fatiguing march in mid-winter, over almost impassable roads, through snow, deep mud and swollen streams. You have driven the enemy from Missouri, into the barren mountains of Arkansas. It was not your fault that he did not stay to give you battle. Fighting, however, is but a small part of a soldiers duty. It is discipline, endurance, activity, obedience to orders, as much as steadiness and courage on the battle-field that distinguishes the veteran from the recruit.

Let not the honors you have won in this campaign be tarnished by any excesses or improprieties. All officers must maintain order and enforce discipline in their commands. You have an active foe before you. Be vigilant, and ready to take advantage of the first opportunity to fight him.

By command of Major-General Halleck.

(Signed)

N. H. McLEAN.

Assis't Adj't-General.

These high compliments are fairly earned. You were foremost in the great interior movements south. You have driven the enemy, under your fire and at the points of your bayonets, from Missouri; restored the flag of the Union to Arkansas; routed the foe from all his strongholds; and, since the foregoing order of General Halleck, in a three days' hard-fought battle, against three times your own number, have achieved a signal and most decisive victory, scattering, demoralizing, and almost destroying the combined forces of the enemy.

You have shown to the General commanding the department, to your friends at home, and to the people of the United States, that your activity and endurance, in mid-winter, are only equaled by your prompt bravery and invincible determination in battle. Your praises are in every mouth throughout the loyal States; you have carved out a history, and the name of the "Army of the South-West" will live, the result of your diligence and valor.

The following congratulation, written since the news of the battle reached General Halleck, was received a few days ago:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, }
St. LOUIS, MISSOURI, March 10th, 1862. }

MAJOR-GENERAL CURTIS, Commanding Army of the South-West:

I congratulate you and your command on the glorious victory just gained. You have proved yourselves as brave in battle as enduring of fatigue and hardship. A grateful country will honor you for both.

(Signed)

H. W. HALLECK, Major-General.

This victory, so decisive and thus commended, by no means ensures your repose. You must expect to bear further trials of your endurance and valor. The general will confide in you as in veterans, and will rely upon your discipline, devotion, and well-tryed bravery, to give tone and effect to our further movements, supported as we shall be by gallant forces now joining our standard.

While we rejoice, we should not forget to contribute kindness to our wounded comrades, and a tear to the memory of those who lie buried on the field, and reverently to ascribe thanks to the God of battles who giveth us the victory.

A grateful people will provide for and comfort the bereaved; and the rocky cliffs of the Ozark Mountains will remain monuments to the memory of those who fought and fell for their country at the Battle of Pea Ridge.

By command of Major-General Curtis.

H. Z. CURTIS, Ass't Adj't Gen'l.

Here terminated the first grand move made by the Army of the South-West; and at this point it is proper to review the campaign, and ascertain what had been gained thus far to the cause of the Union.

On the 5th of March, the day before the battle, the *Missouri Republican*, the leading conservative journal of the West, had contained a review of the operations of the Army, of which extracts are here given:

"Amid the dazzling events on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, and the exciting news along the Mississippi from Cairo to Randolph, the toilsome march of General Curtis' army from Rolla, Missouri, to Fayetteville, Arkansas, and its many brilliant dashes against the foe, attract less attention than their military success deserves. If military operations are to be judged by the magnitude of dangers and difficulties overcome, and beneficial results achieved, then the Army of the South-West has thus far covered itself with imperishable glory.

"From the commencement of hostilities in Missouri, General Price had succeeded in diverting from contemplated movements down the Mississippi a large

portion of the Federal Army of the West. The grand line of operations from the Atlantic to the Indian Territories was completely flanked, and the key to Western Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, to the important Indian Territories of the South-west, and to the great routes by Fort Smith through New Mexico and Arizona to the Pacific, were in the enemy's possession, so long as Gen. Price had command of south-west Missouri. With active sympathizers in all parts of this State, he had contrived to keep occupied Federal forces numbering from 30,000 to 50,000. Hence it was a necessary preliminary to the grand movements down the Mississippi Valley towards the Gulf, that Price should be driven back, and, if possible, captured or his army dispersed. His army was formidable, not so much for its efficiency in battle as for the facilities it possessed for rapid marches, through a complete knowledge of the country where it was operating, and its modes of drawing supplies of men and subsistence from surrounding counties. So long as its communications with Arkansas were kept open, and it could rely upon the active sympathy of its rebel friends throughout the State, the task before the Federal Generals here was of great proportions, covering practically the whole State of Missouri, together with the line of rebel connections from Columbus and Memphis, by way of the Arkansas, White, Black and Current rivers, and protected from direct operations via Cairo by nearly impassable swamps. The relative positions of the Federal and rebel forces, on the east and west of the Mississippi, were exactly reversed. On the east the Federal armies could ascend the Cumberland and Tennessee, and penetrate the enemy's lines by rapid movements of steamers and gunboats. The surprising results of such rapid concentration of forces have electrified the country, culminating in the victories of Forts Henry and Donelson, and the occupation of Clarksville and Nashville along the one river, and the mastery of all places on the other as far as Florence in northern Alabama. On the west side of the Mississippi, the enemy could use in a corresponding manner the Arkansas, White, Black, St. Francis and Current rivers, for pushing his forces and supplies into the State, and co-operating with General Price. The theater of operations, therefore, west of the Mississippi, was larger and more difficult. The Federal armies were compelled to provide for the peace of the whole State; whilst their columns, pushing towards Price's main forces in the southwest, were to make an unparalleled march in mid-winter, during constantly changing weather and over swelling streams, without the aid of steamers or railroads. To an unmilitary eye, the task seems one of immense labor and embarrassment. To the skilled general, the necessities of ample preparation must have been even more embarrassing; for each mile advanced increased the distance between the moving army and its sources of supply. The distance from Rolla, the terminus of railroad communication, to Fayetteville, Arkansas, is about 230 miles, and the distance from Sedalia is about the same. The roads are very bad in the most favorable seasons; but in winter are almost impassable for large trains. The country a portion of the way is very broken, and the roads passing through a mountainous region, where those familiar with the by-paths could constantly annoy an advancing army, and make frequent as well as desperate resistance in the gorges or passes, without much risk to themselves. The description of forces under Price was exactly adapted to such kinds of warfare. His men being mounted, could not be overtaken when they chose

to retreat; and they could scatter over the surrounding country as they moved, gathering forage and subsistence, and then concentrating or skirmishing at will. As they advanced they were approaching their reinforcements; whilst the Federal army was departing further from its base, with a necessity of maintaining an ever-lengthening line of communication with Rolla and Sedalia.

"A moment's reflection will convince every reader that the South-West campaign has been one of the most difficult during the war. Still that army, composed mainly of soldiers making their first campaign, has pushed boldly and perseveringly forward, regardless of privations and hardships, without the desired excitements of a stand-up fight with the opposing foe, constantly pursuing an ever-retreating army, but compelled to be constantly on the alert against surprises, bushwhacking, and sudden skirmishes. Surely no expedition has performed severer labor, undergone greater hardships, or exhibited better skill in its inception and conduct. The officers and men are entitled to national gratitude and their full share of glory. It is not the triumph won on the battle field alone that indicates the hero or the accomplished soldier. General Curtis and his small army are performing a most important and necessary part in the grand military combinations by which the rebellion is to be crushed. They are *reversing* the order of operations. Instead of being flanked by General Price in Missouri, with a large Federal army held in this State to guard against his movements, Price is forced back into Arkansas, and the rebel lines are turned in that direction, calling for General McCulloch and Major-General Van Dorn to hasten to his rescue. Thus the onward movements looking to the possession of Memphis, are most gallantly seconded by the Army of the South-West. That army, even if it can not succeed in provoking a general battle, will still accomplish most triumphantly its part of the great work."

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The correspondent of the same paper, writing from Cross Hollows, February 22d, says :

"We have had a long and toilsome march; sometimes in the mud shoe-top deep, at other times on the ground rough and frozen as hard as stone itself; some days so warm and pleasant that overcoats were an incumbrance, and a dress coat was uncomfortable; other days found our beards and moustaches ornamented with icicles. This army was concentrated at Lebanon, and from thence it was marched via Marshfield, Springfield, Wilson's Creek battleground, Cassville, Keetsville or Washburn's Prairie, and the vicinity of Bentonville, to this point, seventeen miles from Fayetteville. The greater part of the army marched from Rolla, about 210 miles distant from this point. From the camp of the night before our arrival at Marshfield, the army has bivouacked every night until last night, though we had our tents with us. All the toils and hardships of the campaign have been endured by the officers and men without a murmur. That portion of the army with which I have been thrown has manifested an ardent desire to meet General Price and his forces, and not merely drive him from the State, but by a battle to place it out of his power to do further injury to the people of Missouri, who have already suffered much from the acts of wanton destruction of property done by those under his command."

These words were penned before the battle of Pea Ridge, or as it was termed by the rebels Elkhorn. That brilliant victory had demonstrated the valor and endurance of the army in battle. Well might the Commanding General confide in his soldiers as in veterans. The arm of national power had been extended from Rolla, to the foot of the Boston Mountains. The effort which cost Lyon's life, and in which Fremont had not succeeded, had at last been accomplished. The enemy was defeated, and national authority was re-established in south-west Missouri. It has ever since maintained its position. Nearly cotemporaneous with the successes at Forts Henry and Donelson, Columbus and Island Ten, the rebel line of occupation throughout the entire West, had been driven out of the border States, back on the soil of the so styled Confederacy. This was Halleck's great plan carried into effect, and it demonstrates his executive abilities, and his sound judgment in the selection of his Generals. To his Generals commanding the armies of the Ohio, the Tennessee, the Mississippi, and the South-West, is due the praise of having conducted the campaign to the success which had thus far been obtained. In Missouri a line of operations supported by garrison posts, commencing with Rolla the base, Waynesville, Lebanon, Marshfield, Springfield, Cassville and Keetsville, extended a distance of two hundred and twenty five miles through a hostile region, over a mountainous barren and thinly inhabited country, supporting the Army of the South-West, recently victorious at Pea Ridge, holding south western Missouri, facing Arkansas, and threatening Little Rock with capture.

The broken and disorganized forces of Van Dorn and Price, after the battle, no longer able to hold position in Arkansas, by means of the Arkansas and White rivers, and the railroads, were fleeing, as it was afterwards ascertained, across the Mississippi, to become absorbed in the vast rebel army then holding Corinth, and to aid Beauregard and Albert Sidney Johnson, in the attempt to defeat our forces on the Tennessee. Arkansas lay helpless at the foot of national power. No large rebel force was at the time in the State.

But in front lay a mountainous hostile country, extremely difficult to penetrate. The line of operations was already so long that to attempt to extend it across the Boston Mountains would have been to hazard the safety of the army. Nothing would have been gained by advancing to Fort Smith, even had it then been possible. The glory of that achievement was reserved for Blunt, and Herron, and the brave Army of the Frontier. Halleck, the commander of the Department, expressed the opinion that Little Rock, could not be captured by an overland campaign from Missouri. Arkansas, no longer able to resist the authority of the Constitution, found safety from federal invasion in the vast extent of her thinly populated territory, and in her barren and almost impassable mountains. White River, sweeping to the east through the southern counties of Missouri, constituted a defensive ditch, behind which the rebels might rest in security. To have rendered it passable and securely to have retained the passage would have taken too much of the effective force of the army. It was next to an impossibility to advance on Little Rock in a direct line from Cross Timbers, and the continuation of the then line of operations would have presented an unnecessarily large angle, requiring many garrison posts, and weakening the force of the army. Halleck opposed a further advance and directed that for the time, the army should remain quiet, promising that Hunter would soon advance on our right with 5,000 Kansas troops. But Hunter did not come and the Army of the South-West, suddenly found itself in a wilderness, remote from the actual seat of war, a useless concentration of power where there was no enemy with which to contend. Forage was again becoming very scarce, and foraging parties were compelled to go a great distance and encounter many dangers from guerrillas, to obtain the necessary supplies for the animals of the army. A few small garrisons at important towns, were enough to hold the country. The original object of the campaign had been accomplished. The rebellion had been crushed in south-western Missouri, and Price had been driven from the State.

Forts Henry and Donelson had fallen before the national arms. Nashville was ours and our armies had concentrated at Pittsburgh Landing, threatening the rear of Memphis. But New Madrid and Island Ten, besieged by Pope, were still in rebel possession. Fort Pillow in their rear still protected Memphis, and the Mississippi, below Columbus, was still closed to commerce.

To render the Army of the South-West of any avail in further suppressing the rebellion, it was necessary to advance to the east of White River, to straighten the line of operations and possibly to change the base from Rolla to Pilot Knob, and be ready either to co-operate in the attempt to open the Mississippi, or to attain a position that would more easily command Little Rock and the settled portions of Arkansas, from the navigable waters of White River. This movement would coincide with the movements of the army of Van Dorn and Price, who were moving eastward, taking advantage of navigable rivers and railroads to travel with much greater rapidity than could be obtained by the Army of the South-West, moving over bad roads, encumbered with heavy supply trains, and crossing numerous streams and high mountains.

Cross Timber Hollows is in the south-western part of Barry County, Missouri, the next county, save one, to the western border of the State, and on the Arkansas line nearly two hundred and fifty miles due west of the Mississippi. It was thus (not considering New Mexico) the extreme right of the grand national line of operations, extending from the ocean to the western border. To pursue the advantage gained at Pea Ridge, and advance east and south, it was necessary to cross the wild broken region of the Ozark Mountains. The army would also be compelled to make an apparent retrograde movement to avoid the northern bend of White River. It was hoped that by advancing as far north as Galena, in Stone County, and moving thence east of south-east, a practicable crossing of White River might be obtained at Forsyth, Taney County, and the line of operations extended into Arkansas, via Yell-

ville. With this object in view, orders were issued April 4th, 1862, for the Army to strike tents at Cross Timbers on the morrow and move as far north as Cassville, and thence easterly towards Yellville.

By the same order a new subdivision of the Army of the South-West, was created called "Wyman's Brigade." Colonel John B. Wyman, of the 13th Illinois Infantry Volunteers, had long been post commandant at Rolla. His regiment arrived at Camp Stevens, Arkansas, after the battle, and he was now assigned the command of an independent brigade, consisting of the 3d Iowa Cavalry Volunteers, 6th Missouri Cavalry Volunteers, 24th Missouri Infantry Volunteers (six companies) and 13th Illinois Infantry Volunteers. But this organization was of brief existence. The 24th Missouri was soon detached as a guard for its commanding officer, Major Eli W. Weston, the Provost Marshal General of the Army, and the 6th Missouri Cavalry was left on duty at Forsyth. The remaining troops were subsequently absorbed in the reorganization of the Army at Batesville, and Colonel Wyman was placed in command of a Brigade in the new 2d Division under Carr.

CHAPTER THIRTEENTH.

MARCH OF THE ARMY FROM CROSS TIMBERS TO BATESVILLE, ARKANSAS—ARRIVAL OF STEEL'S COMMAND—DEPARTURE OF TROOPS UNDER ASBOTH AND DAVIS—REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY.

The military telegraph line had been completed, following in the footsteps of the Army from Rolla to Cassville. Curtis had determined to move eastward, following the movements of Price and Van Dorn, whose forces were moving in that direction. Six regiments of rebel cavalry were reported to have made their appearance opposite Forsyth, on April 3d, and there were other indications of a probable attack on Springfield, or advance by the rebels into Missouri.

On April 5th, the Army struck tents at Cross Timbers and commenced the march eastward through Keetsville and Cassville. Curtis delayed at Cassville, while his troops were in

motion, to have a telegraphic conversation with Halleck before the army had left the telegraph line. From Cassville to Forsyth, was a distance of sixty five miles. The movements of the enemy and the proposed counter movements of our troops were stated. Halleck sanctioned the movement eastward. He was about to take the field in Tennessee. It was afterwards ascertained that the troops of Price and Van Dorn were marched through Arkansas, rapidly eastward, to Jacksonport and Des Arc, on White River, where they were embarked for Memphis, and reinforced the army of Beauregard at Corinth. The 37th Ills. Infantry, one battalion of the 1st Mo. Cavalry, and a section of artillery were detached from the 3d Division, and left as a garrison at Cassville.

The route traveled was the road crossing Flat Creek, through Galena, county seat of Stone County, crossing respectively, the streams of James Fork, Bear Creek, Swan Creek and terminating at Forsyth, where the army arrived on the 11th of April.

The march from Cassville to Forsyth was over a portion of the Ozark Mountains. It was extremely difficult and laborious. The first verdure of Spring was just beginning to appear. Thousands of violets and other wild flowers were everywhere conspicuous, but the weather was still chilly and inclement. The streams were swollen from recent rains, and the roads were often rough and almost impassable. For miles the line of march was along the narrow and tortuous ridges and over the summits of the high mountains. On either side the eye could look down through forests of sombre evergreen or stunted oak into valleys far below. Then descending to the valleys the path wound among primitive "backwoods" farms, over muddy roads and across pure mountain streams. All the streams on the line of march were very much alike. They were generally pure, swift, deep and narrow, passing over rocky or gravelly beds, in brawling cascades, or murmuring ripples, often offering serious obstructions to the progress of the army, and causing numerous "upsets" and other delays to the wagon trains.

The country was very thinly settled by a wild semi-civilized race of backwoodsmen. Houses and farms were of the most primitive character. Very few men could be found on the line of march. The war had claimed them. Many had fallen, many were still in the ranks of both armies.

The crossing of Flat Creek was extremely difficult and the whole army was delayed. A short distance below the miserable collection of old tenements called Galena, a bridge of wagons was constructed over James Fork, enabling the infantry to cross dryshod. The wagon train and artillery were however delayed. The commanding General camped a few miles beyond the crossing. Just as the tents were pitched he received a dispatch from Halleck, announcing the surrender of Island Ten and a victory, after the most terrible battle ever fought on the continent, by Grant, at Pittsburg Landing. The news was published to the troops and the camp was named, "Camp Good News," in honor of these events. It was at this time that Halleck left St. Louis for the front, at Pittsburg Landing.

Ascending from the valley of James Fork, the road traversed a very high and difficult ridge, and descended into the winding valley of Bear Creek. Down this valley it passed for many miles, and again crossing a mountainous ridge, descending into another valley, and crossing Swan Creek it terminated at Forsyth, the county seat of Taney County.

Forsyth was a small unimportant town, almost deserted of inhabitants. A square two-story brick court house in the centre of the public square was the principal edifice. Its walls were perforated by cannon shot. General Sweeney in command of home guards had bombarded it the year before. Forsyth is distant from Springfield about forty miles. It is said that a small steamboat once ascended the White River to this point, and terribly astonished the natives by the powers of its whistle, so much so that a number of them standing on a projecting log, were so startled as to be incontinently precipitated into the river.

At Forsyth, the thanks of the War Department for the re-

cent great victories in the Department of the Missouri, were published to the troops in the following General Order:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE SOUTH-WEST, }
CAMP AT FORSYTH,, April 13th, 1862. }

GENERAL ORDERS. No. 11.

The following order from the War Department having been just received, is published, and the first paragraph will be carried out throughout this command as ordered.

By command of Major-General Curtis.

H. Z. CURTIS,
Ass't Adj't Gen'l.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April 9th, 1862.

ORDERED :

First, That at meridian of the Sunday next after the receipt of this order, at the head of every regiment in the armies of the United States, there shall be offered by its Chaplain a prayer, giving thanks to the Lord of Hosts for the recent manifestation of His power in the overthrow of rebels and traitors, and invoking the continuance of His aid in delivering this nation by the arms of patriot soldiers, from the horrors of treason, rebellion, and civil war.

Second: That the thanks and congratulations of the War Department are rendered to Major-General Halleck for the signal ability and success that have distinguished all the military operations of his department; and for the spirit of courage manifested by the army under his command, under every hardship and against every odds, in attacking, pursuing and destroying the enemy wherever he could be found.

Third: That the thanks of the Department are also given to Generals Curtis and Sigel, and the officers and soldiers of their commands, for their matchless gallantry at the bloody battle of Pea Ridge; and to Major-Generals Grant and Buell, and their forces, for the glorious repulse at Pittsburg, in Tennessee; and to Major-General Pope and his officers and soldiers, for the bravery and skill manifested in their operations against the rebels and traitors entrenched at Island No 10, on the Mississippi River. The daring, courage, diligent prosecution, persistent valor, and military results of their achievements are unsurpassed.

Fourth: That there shall this day be fired a salute of one hundred guns from the United States arsenal at Washington in honor of these great victories.

(Signed)

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

Upon reaching Forsyth, a ferry was constructed over White River, and on the 16th, a cavalry expedition, under Col. McCrillis, of the 3d Illinois Cavalry, consisting of two battalions Third Illinois Cavalry, three detachments of fifty-five, forty-five and fifty men, each from the 4th Iowa Cavalry, and a portion of Bowen's Battalion, with one mountain howitzer, was sent south-ward to take possession of certain mills and ferries. The command moved over the Little North Fork of

White River to Bratton's store, directly east of Forsyth. During the first day's march not a house was seen for thirty-five miles. The ridges were followed as much as possible to avoid the muddy valleys, and the command encamped the first night near the house of a Mr. Fisher, killed a few months before by Bray's desperadoes. The second night's encampment was between Spring Creek and the Little North Fork. Here information was received of extensive rebel saltpeter works in a cave eight miles below the Little North Fork, south side of White River. Capt. Drummond, of the 4th Iowa Cavalry, was sent to reconnoitre and destroy the works. He started at 3 P. M., the distance to the cave being eighteen miles. During his march, over a very rough country, a tremendous rain storm, with thunder and lightning, prevailed. Several rebels with their horses and arms were captured, while others escaped. The vicinity of the cave was reached soon after daybreak, and Sergeant Smith, with four men, was sent three miles above to obtain canoes and men to row them across the river to the cave. The canoes were rowed down opposite the cave by their sulky owners, and preparations were made to cross. The entrance to the cave was seen half way up the sides of a steep bluff on the opposite bank. The buildings for making saltpeter were erected below on the bank, next the river, and "shutes" extended from them to the cave for sliding down the earth. An island lay in the river between Capt. Drummond and the works, but voices could be distinctly heard from the opposite side. Eight men, with Mr. Doyle, the guide, were rowed across the river above the island, while the remainder covered their movements. Both parties on either side of the river marched down simultaneously.

The rebels making their appearance on top of the bluff, were fired upon and thrown into great commotion. Our men reached the buildings and commenced to destroy them. The sheds, vats, &c., were set on fire, the steam engine was broken up and tossed into the river, and about ten thousand pounds of saltpeter were destroyed. The men, protected by rifles from the opposite bank, quickly finished the work of des-

truction, and safely recrossed the stream. Corporal Mason of the 4th Iowa, was severely wounded by the accidental discharge of a revolver. From the efforts made by the rebels to enter the cave, it was supposed that they had arms concealed therein. One shipment of saltpeter had already been made. The works happened at the time to be poorly guarded, the rebel Coleman being twelve miles distant, at Yellville, with three hundred men, and having a company on the march for the protection of the saltpeter. Capt. Drummond then returned to Col. McCrillis' camp at "Talbot's Barrens."

On the day Capt. Drummond returned (19th) Lieut. Wm. M. Heacock, of Co. "F" 4th Iowa Cavalry, with forty men, was sent to occupy Talbot's Ferry, an important crossing, distant nine miles, on the Jacksonport and Yellville road. When near the ferry, Heacock concealed his men and went alone to the river bank to parley with the rebels on the opposite shore. He hailed the men, who were bringing down the oars, to cross over with the boat. Their answer was "Go to hell!" A number of armed rebels now appeared among the scattered houses on the hill. Heacock brought his men forward in three platoons, and ordered them to fire. The rebels returned the fire from the loop-holes of a house. A ball struck Lieut. Heacock in the centre of his forehead, entering the skull. He was removed to a house in the rear and survived but a few hours. Sergeant Chaney assumed command, and the firing was continued until our ammunition was exhausted. Three rebels were seen to fall and a great commotion prevailed among them. A messenger was sent to Col. McCrillis for reinforcements, when Capts. Drummond and McFall, 4th Iowa, with sixty men, and Lieut. Crabtree, of Bowen's Battalion, with one mountain howitzer, were sent to the ferry. Sergeant Chaney fell back to "Mooney's" three miles from the ferry, and when reinforced, returned next morning to the ferry. Capt. McFall moved up the river to deceive the enemy, while Capt. Drummond's force and the howitzer were placed in a concealed position. Scouts were then sent forward to draw the rebels from their hiding place in one of the houses. This

effort failing, Lieut. Crabtree fired a shell into the house which caused a considerable number of rebels to evacuate the premises. The remaining houses were shelled and the enemy fled in all directions. An insolent crowd was observed below on a point of rocks, sheltered by a clump of trees. These would shout "Come over, you Black Republicans, if you dare!" Our men replied "Bring your boat across and we'll go over!" Lieut. Crabtree sent a shell into the midst of this group, doing great damage. Men were seen without heads and arms, groans were heard, and the voice of one in great distress, crying "O Boys!" One fellow several times left his shelter behind a tree, and endeavored to obtain his horse, tied near the river. The whizzing of bullets would soon send him back to his shelter, and finally a shell caused him to disappear altogether. He was the last rebel visible. The river being too much swollen to cross, the party returned to the common road. Col. McCrillis then struck across the country to the vicinity of Rockbridge, having been gone on the expedition seven or eight days. The remains of Lieut. Heacock were immersed in charcoal and conveyed to Vera Cruz, Mo., where they were buried on a high ridge, the grave being marked.

The crossing of White River by the army at Forsyth was found to be impracticable, and a movement still further to the east was determined. A detachment of the 6th Mo. Cavalry, under Col. Clark Wright, was left as a garrison and for scouting purposes at Forsyth.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF IOWA.

BY CHARLES NEGUS.

(Continued from page 179.)

THE HALF-BREED LANDS.

After the United States acquired the Louisiana purchase from France, and the former government had taken possession of the country, several persons who went into the Indian country as traders, or in some other way connected with the Indian agencies, took to themselves squaws for wives, and had children which were generally designated by the name of "half-breeds."

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