

Letter from the Rangers.

Special Correspondence of the Telegram.

FAIRFIELD, (near War Trace) Tenn.,)
March 3, 1863.)

Editor Telegram:--Military matters are so complicated along the Mississippi these days, that we know not when or how our mails can reach you. But a private opportunity is now presented, and I will improve it. We know not that our letters all reach Texas, but still we endeavor, time after time, to communicate with our friends. Occasionally, I meet a "Telegraph," and there learn that my hurriedly written letters do sometimes appear; but doubtless quite a number have been lost, either by the mail or carelessness of individuals. This, to some extent breaks the connection of events in our regiment. But what I omit I trust others more competent will supply.

We are now at our old duty, picketing on the right wing. When the regiment struck tent near Berlin and marched here via Shelbyville, we had a most disagreeable trip. It rained in torrents day by day; the constant exposure, the swollen streams and the muddy roads, when leaving the pikes, all combined to render the march one of very great fatigue and discomfort. Indeed, during the month of February, we have had sunshine but five days; the windows of Heaven seemed to have been opened afresh, and the weather yet is not settled. March is generally considered here the most uncertain month of the winter; but I trust we have seen the worst, and we shall hope

for the best in these coming days.

Yet, notwithstanding our numerous vicissitudes and the various labors to which our regiment has been subjected, yet there is better health than for months past. We have at present no serious cases of sickness with us. Our wounded, so far as we are apprised, are all doing well. Our regiment still shows, at the first of this present month, an aggregate of six hundred and twenty-nine. Although quite a number are on detailed service, yet we can send out a respectable force for duty.

We are temporarily in this position, being 3 miles from War Trace (on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad), we draw our commissaries from that depot. But this region is about exhausted, and soon we must change our locality. We now obtain our forage on disputed territory, and every day risk our train. Both ourselves and the Yankees now look to that uncertain range for such supplies. Any day may bring on a serious collision. But being so well posted in these matters, we do not fear a hostile meeting, if it be necessary. Our camp is now in the vicinity of Beach Grove, which is on the pike leading from Tullahoma to Murfreesboro'. We are now some twenty mile from the latter place. This makes our position here emphatically in "the front." Our brigade now pickets from Middleton to Woodbury. But Gen. Wharton will in a few days command a division. This will give him Wheeler's old brigade,

in addition to his own, which is already too large for convenience. This change will relieve Jno. H. Morgan, who now pickets on our extreme right, and Wharton's line will then extend some twenty-five miles from Chapell Hill to Woodbury. Gen. Morgan will then doubtless again pay his respects in person to the abolitionists, who are wielding an iron rule over Kentucky.

Jno. A. Wharton has discharged so efficiently and satisfactorily his duties as Brigadier, that doubtless a short time will find him a real Major General. This will be a compliment richly earned by a brave soldier, a successful officer and a worthy Texian. The Rangers are gratified to see those who have so often and so gallantly led them elevated to positions of honor and influence and usefulness in our army. Col. Thos. Harrison has commanded a portion of our brigade ever since the battle of Murfreesboro'. This is a position in which he can gain fresh laurels, and by his skill, dauntless bravery and success, he, too, will prove himself worthy of the brilliant honors which are being conferred upon Texians.

The continued absence of Lieut. Col. S. C. Farrill, who has been home on sick furlough, devolves still the command of the Rangers on Capt. Gustave Cook, who is now by seniority Major of the Regiment. To those who know his sterling qualities as a man, his success in professional life, his genial nature and the energy of his character, it is useless for me to add a word more in reference to his adaptation for such a respons-

ible and honorable position. With such a disposition of our officers, should the impending conflict soon come up on us, we do not fear the result. Here, as elsewhere, in military circles there seems at present a perfect calm. This indeed may be but prophetic of the coming storm which is gathering along our eastern seaboard, upon the Rappahannock, on the banks of the Mississippi, and upon the bloody ground of Tennessee. The proud foe seems marshalling his mighty hosts from every quarter and concentrating them at different points in order that he may hurl his legions upon us, and at one blow strike down the rebellion which has now assumed such gigantic proportions. It is expected that we will meet him at Tullahoma. Should such be the case, it will doubtless be the decisive battle for Middle Tennessee. However, should the enemy change his tactics and come with a heavy force up the Tennessee river in his transports, that may cause "a change of our base" in order to avoid being flanked. As things now stand, such a movement is not improbable on the part of the enemy. However much our army may deprecate such a necessity. Yet, should he land a heavy force at Florence, Ala., then it would be necessary for us to fall back to Bridgeport, or perhaps across the Tennessee river. Such a step will be most unfortunate for our people and the army. It will prevent the citizens from planting any crop this spring either for their own support or for our aid next summer and winter. I learn that the enemy will not allow the farmers in Middle

Tennessee to make a crop at all this spring. He is pressing all the available stock for army purposes and, by official order, destroying the implements of husbandry.--This will leave our people in a sad condition. But we must yield to circumstances. There is a providence in all these things. We may yet be required to learn useful lessons of dependence on Him, and our ability to sustain ourselves by his blessing upon our efforts in every department of trade and agriculture. Ere long you may expect some important movement here. General Van Dorn was at Columbia last week with nine thousand cavalry, which he brought from Mississippi. By Thursday his force was over Elk river, and it was supposed he would make an attack upon Franklin, Tenn. I was there when his troops were crossing, and found Whitfield's (Texas) Brigade with him. Van Dorn will doubtless act as Lieut. General of Cavalry.--This is a position for which he is admirably adapted, and will make this arm of the service most efficient in thwarting the plans, and cutting on the supplies and destroying the trains of the enemy. With our heavy cavalry force in this department, much injury should be inflicted upon the enemy. Especially in the event of a general battle, it may be the means of defeating the army of the invader. At any rate we cannot be idle, "the powers that be" will not allow us to remain thus. Gen. Sharpton has now a new company, formed for special service and of picked men. It is made up from the different commands under him, and numbers about fifty men.

Of these twelve are Rangers and ten are from the 11th Texas.

Lieut. M. L. Gordon, Co. A is Captain.

Sam S. Ashe, Co. B, 1st Lieut.

Sam Maverick, Co. G, 2nd Lieut.

T. D. Sanders, Co. F, Orderly Sergeant.

It is called the "Wharton Scouts," and is composed of choice material and they will have the opportunity of doing hazardous service. We are here cut off from regular mails and hence know not how the great Northwest is progressing in her reported revolution. Still we are hoping for something tangible and effective to result from the movement. The opinion among our people seems gaining ground that there is something on foot there, although we cannot exactly get at the reality of the affair. I learn from a gentleman just from Richmond that there the opinion seems current, that we will receive them into the Confederacy and thus end the war. Doubtless afterwards there will be terms arranged satisfactory to both parties. This may not suit the feelings and views of the people, but suppose our statesmen will in wisdom judge aright. Some of them, judging from recent debates in Congress would be disappointed, however, if the war should end before all the preachers and editors are brought into the army. The opinion is often expressed and almost unanimously concurred in, that the Southern Confederacy should form no permanent alliance with any free States. It would doubtless be a source of continued agitation, and

eventually will bring on a disruption in the future. The West has been our most determined foes in this struggle, her soldiers are the men whom we find skilled in arms and splendid fighters. Their hosts have swarmed upon us like the locusts of Egypt and demanded our heart's blood, and surely now they cannot love us with so great a passion as willingly from principle to adopt our Constitution and make an alliance with what they call, "the sons of all villainies"--slavery. We should well consider before we press the viper to our young nation's breast that will ere long be warmed into fresh life, and again infuse into her heart the poison of death. It is to be feared that our great anxiety to "end the war" will overbalance our better judgment and lead our rulers into error. We need now great patience, much wisdom, prudence and statesmanship. We need brains for diplomacy at this critical juncture.

Tidings come to us now and then from Texas which brings joy to our hearts. We hail with gratitude and thanksgiving the brilliant achievements of our brothers upon the seaboard. Our heretofore insolent foe has been taught a most useful lesson; he has been humbled and defeated where he least expected it. May the victories so gloriously won inspire our people to still nobler deeds of heroism, and so guard your shores that no more "the old flag" desecrated shall wave upon our soil.

But the boys are so busily engaged before the tent in discussing how they shall go home, and are indulging in such glowing anticipations about the sweethearts whom they expect

to take back with them--how happy they will be when the war is over, that I am really bewildered by the pleasing thoughts which crowd upon my mind, and therefore must close. Not, however, without expressing the desire and uttering the prayer that their fondest and most cherished hopes shall all soon be realized. Gallant soldiers! they have cheerfully suffered privation, nobly fought our foe, and bravely won a name and fame, and they deserve all the blessings of peace. R. F. B.

March 4th, 1863

We have just heard officially that Gen. Van Dorn has captured Franklin, Tennessee, with three thousand prisoners, a number of wagons, arms, &c. The successful work was accomplished on the first. His loss was very small. This daring raid into the enemy's lines will stir them up to greater vigilance, but our cavalry is continually floating around upon his wings, and he may expect frequent visits. On the same morning, a portion of our brigade under Col. Malone, who was on picket at Bradyville, was attacked by a heavy force of the enemy. After holding them in check for several hours, during which time our cavalry met their sally charge with clubbed guns, and in a hand to hand encounter killed a number of them; a heavy body of cavalry coming to the rescue, we were compelled to yield the position. Our loss was small. Considering our troops were deficient in six-shooters, the affair was most

creditable for the Tennesseans.

On the same day, I regret to say that two of the Rangers were captured whilst on forage duty. Although several miles within our lines, yet on account of the advance and advantage, they were surprised. They were on detached service--as are all the others, in Capt. Gordon's Scout Company. They were R. T. Hill, Co. D, and M. H. Sanders, Co. F. They were carried to Murfreesboro', and doubtless ere this, have taken a trip North to visit others of our comrades who are confined in abolition Bastiles. This has been a regular raw, chilly, disagreeable March day. The available force of the regiment is on picket duty in the front. In the morning, K. K. Rec-
tor, Co. L, and S. G. Jackson, Co. I, will start for Texas. They were wounded at Murfreesboro, and are consequently dis-
charged. May a kind Providence preserve them safely through
the dangers of the journey, and restore them to their homes,
and for long years to crown them with prosperity and happiness,
as a reward for their gallant conduct.

R. F. B.

THE TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, March 30, 1863

LETTER FROM THE RANGERS.

Ranger's Camp, Fairfield, Tenn.,)
 March 7, 1863. }

E. H. Cushing, Esq.--My dear sir: Once again yours of February 2d is received. With it I am indebted to your kindness, in sending per Lt. Col S. C. Ferrill (handed me by Capt. Littlefield) twenty one hundred and forty dollars, for the benefit of the Rangers. You add, "This money is raised in different parts of the State, and sent to you for forwarding," &c.

In behalf of the Rangers I acknowledge, with gratitude to our Heavenly Father who has so richly blessed our State, this free will offering, which so spontaneously comes from the friends who first bid us go forth in this struggle, and who have never forgotten us in all the sufferings and perils of this campaign. Well do the gallant Rangers remember the day when, in obedience to their country's call, the doors of these once happy homes opened, and amid many tears and farewells, they pushed out upon this sea of strife, followed by a father's benediction, a mother's prayers, a wife's affection and a sister's love. After these many months of separation and anxiety, it is cheering, time after time, to receive these expressions of their continued confidence in us, and their love for us. May Heaven in return, richly reward in basket and store, in happiness and

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peace, our absent friends and benefactors.

Believe me yours,

R. F. Bunting,

Chaplain Terry's Texas Rangers.

THE TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, April 22, 1863.

Rangers Camp, Fairfield, Tenn.,

March 12th, 1863

Editor Telegraph--Permit me, through your paper, to acknowledge, per Lt. Col. C. S. Ferrill, from Mrs. Celeste R Gossler, three hundred and eighty four dollars and fifty cents, which was realized at two concerts and tableaux, given by the young ladies of Rutgersville Female College, for the "Terry Rangers." Thus not only are the fathers and mothers at home contributing towards the comfort of our gallant soldiers in the field, but the fair young daughters of our State are interested in this blessed and patriotic work, whilst engaged in the quiet pursuit of study, which will fit them for usefulness in society and the church, and make them ornaments and blessings to their country. We appreciate this gift from the young ladies of the Rutgersville Female College, and whilst it was a pleasure to them in giving the entertainment by which they realized it, and a gratification to their audience, it is a pleasure to receive such token of interest in our cause and their esteem for the Rangers. Mrs. Gossler will please present to the young ladies our thanks for their substantial friendship, with the assurance that I will personally direct its expenditure upon the suffering and needy soldiers. With respect, yours,
B. F. BUNTING
Chaplain Terry's Texas Regiment

THE TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, April 22, 1863.

LETTER FROM R. F. BUNTING.

Rangers' Camp, Fairfield, Tenn., Mar. 12.

Messrs. Editors: The last advices declared all quiet along the front. Indeed, it could well be otherwise. It seems the days of Noah have returned to us again. Not so much the "marrying and giving in marriage," as the continually pouring down of rain upon the earth. It does one's heart good to see the bright sun these days. During February we but seldom looked upon his smiling, warming face, and then only at brief periods. This month so far has been no better. All things considered, it makes a winter campaign no trifle in the grand "Army of Tennessee." Such a state of things compels both parties to remain quiet only when necessity requires a movement upon disputed territory for forage. This sometimes brings a collision of arms, when a few accidents occur. Perhaps some brave cavalier is dismounted or captured for his temerity. Our brigade has for some time been engaged in the monotonous work of picketing. Occasionally, however, they are waked from their dreams of security by the sound of artillery which foretells the approach of the enemy upon some of the pikes. The dirt roads are now next to impassable, and hence the necessity to follow these main arteries which course through noble old Tennessee. Gen. John A. Wharton is now acting as Major General, and pickets from Chappel Hill to Woodbury, some 25 miles, with his cavalry. This brings the entire front under his control. He yesterday started out upon a tour of investigation along his

lines. Always vigilant and prompt in an emergency, he is winning golden honors for both himself and command. Promotion to full Major Generalship does not seem very far before him. He is one of the few men who can be both a politician and a soldier. I am informed that his Brigade now stands higher at Head Quarters than any in this Department. The week's fight before Murfreesboro certainly was worthy of all commendation.-- This morning, early, our regiment was ordered off towards and beyond Shelbyville. The exact nature of the duty before them has not transpired. It may be to picket some important road along on the left wing, or perhaps to join in some expedition. They had only been in camp three days--a portion being on duty each day, and were not in condition for such a trip. But it is our luck. Wherever there is work to be done, there the Rangers are sent. Considering the exposure of late there is but little sickness of a serious nature. A good many are necessarily complaining, but a few days relief from duty will remedy the indisposition, and I hope a kind Providence will smile upon us during the spring as in months gone by. We have had but one death from disease since last July, and that was private S. W. Callorn, Co. F; who took pneumonia and terminating in typhoid fever, he sank under it. Should we still escape one month more the disagreeable weather will be over. There has been such a lull in war matters since the Murfreesboro fight that we are expecting active times very soon. Indeed a heavy battle may not be far off from us here. It is said that Rosecrans has

been strongly re-inforced, and it is doubtless true, so that we will have a larger force to meet than before. I know of no body of troops from anywhere having come to our relief, although our army is constantly filling up from the conscripts and return of absent soldiers. But when the hour of trial comes our Generals will doubtless be found ready to meet the invading foe.

We hear sad and painful tales from our friends within his lines. Everything is paralyzed, robbery, plunder and destruction seem the watch-word. For five miles around Kurfreesboro the fencing is totally destroyed. The provision of all kinds is seized, and the people are compelled to submit to the humiliation of drawing rations for their support. Then there seems no hope for the future whilst he occupies our territory, for the farmers are prohibited from planting any kind of grain; while implements of husbandry are all taken and destroyed, by military order. The stock is all pressed for the use of the army. They say the sheep shall all be killed and this will diminish the supply of clothing; and no crop being in the ground for the support of the old, the women and children, this will compel the male population who are absent in the Southern army, to return home and provide for their wants. Thus it has come to be a warfare upon the women and children, and the helpless. All alike are called upon to suffer, rich and poor, friend and foe. What all the region thus occupied by the enemy must do next year for supplies is a problem that time must solve. If it is our policy still to fall back, and ever to yield our territory acre by acre and mile by mile, when are we to stop? How are our people to be sustained?

It does seem that the time has come for a change in our programme. We should begin now with the opening spring to cease the defensive and vigorously act upon the aggressive. FORWARD! should now be the watchword for our army.

I have spoken above of our acknowledged enemy, who is arrayed against us, he comes to fight us, he declares his intention to subjugate us, to destroy us. We know his position, where to find him, how to meet him. But this is not the only enemy we have to meet, would to God it was so, but the people of these Confederate States have an enemy at home, among our own people, in our homes, and in the places of business that is more dangerous to our liberties, more threatening of our ruin. It pains us to feel that it is so. We would not expect it of our countrymen. But reports come to us from returned soldiers, officers and citizens of the fearful depreciation of our money--that it is at a greater depreciation in Texas than any other State, that provision is now at such prices that it is beyond the reach of thousands. (This is in a measure remedied in San Antonio by your home aid or supply societies.) The wail of wife and children crying for bread comes up to our ears. It is not because there is none in the land, for no State in the Confederacy is now better supplied, but it is owing to the fact that speculators and extortioners have gathered up all the supply and having it in their power, it is put to these ruinous prices for their private gain. The abolition army comes with its counterfeit money, and this is paid to our people for their property, and thus they are robbed. The speculator depreci-

ates our currency at home, and it will not reach the necessaries of life, and the families of the soldier are starving; at other times private property is seized and appropriated without any pay, whilst the speculator and extortioner place out of reach those things necessary for the sustenance of life, and thus tantalizing the sufferer, he brings misery upon his victims, and they too, the bone and flesh of the absent soldier. The one is an avowed foe the other a professed friend, but which is the greatest enemy to our prosperity, our happiness, our independence?

Doubtless this class of men all have their excuses--they have been very liberal, they have made great sacrifices, they cannot afford further charity, &c. But has it not generally paid a good return? Is it not generally a good speculation? What is all their money gifts in comparison with the wear and tear of soul and body, with the exposure to and suffering from disease, with blood and life which the soldier freely endures and cheerfully gives for the cause? And because he is thousands of miles away and his family are thus destitute, must they cry for bread and suffer for clothing necessary to hide their nakedness? At present prices can they be supported? We hear too many tales of wrong, oppression and extortion to remain in silence, and not lift a warning voice. The day will come when these brave men who are now absent and fighting for their country will return. Their hearts are now often agonized in view of these things, and think ye not, that they will have a day of reckoning with those who have caused all this misery, anguish and suffering! Oh!

there is a fearful day of settlement in the future. Men may hoard up their silver and gold, they may keep back from the hungry, bread and meat, because they cannot pay this currency. They may box up all the supplies of food and then by advancing the price to unreasonable figures depreciate Confederate money, which the soldier receives for his pay, but "be sure" the day comes, "when his sins will find him out."

Barger's Camp, 6 miles from Shelbyville, }
 March 18th, 1863. }

Our command is now on this pike leading from Shelbyville to Triana. All the available part of our regiment is on picket duty in the front. Yesterday Capt. G. W. Littlefield was

is very warm and pleasant. It is reported that the enemy has fallen back on the pikes on our front. It may be to flank us in some other position, or it may be caused by Confederate movements in Kentucky. If coming at all, a few days will doubtless develop his plans. We expect stirring times here very soon.

Capt. Ford and W. H. Bigelow arrived safely a few days ago. The letters from our friends were all received, and gave us great pleasure in their perusal. Yours, R. F. B.

SAN ANTONIO HERALD, April 23, 1863.

Letter from Rangers

Camp of Texas Rangers, Fairfield,
Tenn. March 12th, 1863.

Editor Telegraph:--We still have quiet along the front of this army. Occasionally a forage train has a skirmish or the enemy makes a raid upon some picket stand, but with little result. The Rangers have been in camp for three days shoeing horses and recruiting, but were off again early this morning for some point beyond Shelbyville. We have had for weeks intensely disagreeable weather. The exposure is having its effect upon the troops. They are wet day after day and then sleeping on the ground in wet blankets, but with all their exposure they stand it remarkably well. We have a good many cases of indisposition, but nothing very serious. God has wonderfully preserved us during this winter. His loving kindness has been very great towards us. I regret to record the death by disease, the first one for many months, of private S. W. Scaliorn, Co. G. He was first attacked by pneumonia, then typhoid fever, which terminated his life. He was a quiet, worthy and faithful man, and an excellent soldier. His company sustains a great loss in his death. We are glad again to welcome back Lt. Col. S. C. Ferril, who has been absent on sick furlough. He was unfortunate whilst nearing Huntsville, Texas, in having his shoulder dislocated by the stage turning over. His arm is still disabled, but he is much

improved in health and will soon be able to take command of the Regiment. He was always a popular and successful Captain, and bringing the same ability as a commander into his present position, he will make a splendid field officer. Capt. G. W. Littlefield has also arrived safely. Although whole in limbs, yet his heart became strangely affected whilst absent, and he was captured by one of the fair daughters of Texas. We wish him all happiness in his new relation, and that after this dark war cloud has passed over, he may again return to receive the blessing and the love of his accomplished bride.

Albert Stoneham, Co. A, who was severely shot through the body at Murfreesboro, has returned safely, and although yet unfit for duty is improving. Thus one by one they wander through the lines. He is indebted to a Yankee hospital steward for his escape from a trip North.

In haste, yours,

R. F. B.

THE TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, April 24, 1863.

RANGER'S CAMP,

Six miles from Shelbyville,

March 13, 1863.

Our duty brings us now on the pike leading from Shelbyville to Irwine. Our regiment is now on picket duty in the advance. The enemy's pickets are some distance below us. Yesterday the most of the brigade moved up to Unionville which is 12 miles from Shelbyville. Capt. Littlefield was out with a scout yesterday, and had a little skirmish with the pickets of the enemy. It is rumored by citizens, and appearances seem to confirm the report, that he is falling back from his advance position. It may be for a flank movement upon us in some other direction or it may be caused by Confederate movements in Kentucky, of which we have rumors. Something seems going on in that direction; but we are doubtless on the eve of great events in this section. For one week now we have had clear beautiful and balmy weather. Spring seems at last to have come upon us in all her glory. The roads are improving, and we may look for an early advance of the enemy. We have heard good news from Port Hudson. Gen. Van Dorn was closely hemmed by the enemy in his late scout, but after inflicting very severe punishment upon them, he escaped safely. Their presses however, report his capture, and their army believe it. But the capture was the

very reverse. Our army is confident, and but awaits his
approach. You need have no fears for us. Yours, R. F. B.
THE TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, APRIL 22, 1863.

Letter from the Rangers.

RANGERS' WAGON CAMP,)
SIX MILES FROM SHELBYVILLE, TENN.,)
March 23d, 1863.)

Editor Telegraph:--Whilist now and then the tramp of war echoes in the far distance from the Valley of the Mississippi, the drums and trappings of an advance on either side are yet unheard in Middle Tennessee. But the raw winds of March are humming, the saturated earth yields itself to the warm spring sun; and as sure as the galls of the equinox, so sure the storm of battle approaches. It may overtake us on this soil, or the theatre of action may be changed to some other locality. Our brigade is busy along the front both picketing and scouting. Almost daily some of the regiments come upon the abolitionists, and drive them back upon their reserves. We cannot ascertain their movements certainly. For days it has been rumored that they are evacuating Murfreesboro'. It comes through different channels. The abolition soldiers say they are going to Bowling Green. But the last rumor, and one, too, which is very reasonable, and is in keeping with the cunning and skill of Rosecranz, seems important, viz: that he is now embarking his troops at Nashville upon transports. The object is doubtless to go down the Cumberland, up the Tennessee to Savannah, thence

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to Huntsville. Should this be his programme, it will throw his army in our rear and cause a movement on our part. Gen. Johnston may deem it politic to then make an advance upon Nashville, and forward into Kentucky, or he may fall back to Bridgeport. It is very evident that Rosecranz wishes and intends to avoid our fortifications at Tullahoma. They are formidable, and he is not intending to risk his reputation and the ruin of his army by an attack upon them.

We have had delightful spring weather for 12 days past, and we expected him to advance. But, such is not the case, and mystery seems to envelope his movements. A short time will doubtless develop his wily plans.

It is currently rumored and believed that Gen. Bragg has gone to some other department, and Gen. Joseph E. Johnston now personally commands the Army of Tennessee. Last week he arrived at Tullahoma, accompanied by his Staff. He also brought along horses and baggage. This change will add greatly to the efficiency of this army.

Last week we were all surprised and rejoiced to see the familiar face of Eugene Griffin, Co. H, in camp again. He was captured at Triune, 23rd December, whilst skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry. Being surrounded, escape was impossible. They treated him that night with kindness, and the next day carried him to the penitentiary at Nashville. He states that up to Wednesday night the confusion among the abolitionists were very great, and everything indicated that

the army was defeated. Wednesday night Gen. Paine's corps from Gallatin--some 15,000 in all--commenced passing through to reinforce Rosecranz, and continued until Friday morning. Then confidence seemed restored among the troops. Whilst the news was favorable for us, the citizens were greatly encouraged, but when the tide turned against us, they were correspondingly depressed. On Saturday morning the papers reported that we were falling back, and on Sunday it was confirmed, which brought great joy to the Yankees. Rosecranz telegraphed as his reason for not entering into Murfreesboro' on Saturday, that we had the the small pox there, and he did not wish to bring his men in contact with it.

Indeed, so seriously was this matter represented, that he contemplated passing around the place entirely. The true reason was Confederate bayonets bristled before it, and his army was so badly whipped that he had not the power to take the place even with his reinforcements. The prisoners were all brought in during the last of the week and detained until Monday, when they were started for Bowling Green on the cars.-- There were eleven hundred--about nine hundred sick and wounded remaining--although they claimed four thousand in all who were able to travel. He first met the captured Rangers at the City Hotel in Bowling Green. The boys then were all well, and sixteen in number, viz: Co. B, W. R. Hendricks, Dr. D. Harris, Ire Stewart, Wm. Ward still missing, and unless wounded and at

Murfreesboro is doubtless killed; Co. C, W. M. Slaughter, F. G. Kennedy; Co. D., Jno. W. Hill, B. B. Shipp, P. J. Watkins; Co. E, W. B. F. Byrd, D. J. Hall; Co. F, Jesse A. Holman; Co. G, Robert Burns, Co. H, Eugene Griffin; Co. K.S.M. Dennis, G. F. Matthews, S. Epperson. They were detained forty-eight hours at Bowling Green and were put to unloading the boats which were to carry them away. During this time they received but one ration. Fortunately, however, the boats were loaded with crackers, and they managed, not only to supply their wants, but laid in a supply for the trip. In Nashville they would have starved if the patriotic people had not supplied their wants secretly. Here, too, the noble, devoted women furnished all with comfortable clothing. All things being ready, they embarked on two boats, one towing a little barge, and steamed down Barren River. Landing only at Evansville one night, six days brought them to Cairo. Here they remained two days. Col. Hawkins, of Kentucky, made them a speech and gave them the opportunity of taking "the oath." The majority treated his proposal with contempt, but 200, of the 1100, accepted the proffered boon and were released. They were made up from all the regiments and of all nations. I regret to say that several were from the 11th Texas. Here they changed one boat and proceeded down towards Columbus, under the pretence of going to Vicksburg. But they tacked about and returned to Cairo and on to St. Louis. Here they remained two

days, and the Arkansas Post Prisoners (3200) came up. Tom Mitchell's company, from Fort Bend county, was among them and were all well. Here old friends and brothers met unexpectedly. They reported only one hundred men killed and wounded at Arkansas Post. From St. Louis they proceeded to Alton, Ill. Twenty four days were consumed on the trip, being kept on the deck all the time, without fire by day or night, in the bitter cold month of January. They suffered intensely. Their treatment cannot be described--the object seemed to be to kill as many as possible. Great many were sick--twelve dying, nine being drowned and twenty escaping. The Rangers suffered a good deal but lost none. At St. Louis the demonstrations of sympathy were very strong. Along the Missouri side of the river they could often see handkerchiefs waving, but along Green River all seemed Union. Being now transferred to the cars they set out for Chicago. All along the route the people seemed to delight in furiously condemning the Southern Confederacy and cursing Jeff. Davis.

They were closely crowded in box cars. Nothing of interest transpired until reaching Springfield, Ill. Whilst the cars were stopping Ira Stewart, of company B, escaped through a small window, and when starting Griffin followed, and reaching the platform he got off safely. Whilst they were effacing their escape the boys were all standing up and coughing, thus drowning the noise. They were all then doing well and arrived

at Chicago the next day. The "Times" said they were stout, hearty and intellectual gentlemen--supposed the soum had taken the oath--and were worthy of a better cause. They went into the barracks cheering lustily for Jeff. Davis. In the same paper Col Hawkins referred to the two escaping near Springfield, and requesting all good and loyal citizens to aid in arresting them. Once free they passed over into Indiana under the character of Missouri refugees seeking homes for their families. Travelling through the snow on foot for some seven or eight days, part of the time laying out in the snow at night, they found a friend who assisted them. At his house they were both sick for near three weeks, and attended by a rabid abolition doctor, who daily claimed that the slaves would be cheaply freed at the cost of the blood of every man, woman and child in the whole Confederacy. He at length suspected them and endeavored to effect their arrest, but "changing their base," they eluded him for days. Whilst detained in this region Griffin attended several lodgers of the K. G. C.'s, where he passed for a "worthy brother," who was lecturing the order and feeling the sentiment of the Northwest on a re-union with the South, leaving New England "out in the cold." The first lodge addressed donated \$33 to aid him in his work. The money was appropriated in clothing Stewart and himself, and paying traveling expenses.

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Receiving from a friend the signs and pass-words, without taking the oath, he did not consider that he was violating his honor by giving the object of the order. So far as he could discover it the following points were prominent:

- 1st. To resist the draft;
- 2d, To allow no emancipated negroes to be brought into the State;
- 3d, Not to take up arms against the South under any circumstances, unless under compulsion;
- 4th, To give aid to needy brothers, and to aid and protect from the authorities all those who should escape from the army. The organization forms a very respectable minority. Its objects being known to the government of the United States, efforts have been made to suppress the organization--He found the sentiment that the South and Northwest must be united very decided, and they prefer it by compromise. The people have no desire for the company of the Eastern States. Occasionally he would find an unconditional Southern Rights man. Being able to travel, they took the cars on the Illinois Central railroad at Vandall, and separated at Sandoval. Stewart went to Cairo, hoping to reach an uncle who resided in the Federal lines. We have heard nothing further from him. Griffin travelled via Mitchell to New Albany and Louisville. He put up at the Planters' Hotel, but his money being all gone he was not the most comfortable, lest they should request his bill. Remaining there six days he met a friend who supplied his wants. During this time the celebrated State

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Convention met at Frankfort, which caused so much hope throughout the South. The object was to nominate candidates for State offices. During its sitting Gen. Gilbert, commanding eastern district of Kentucky, brought up a regiment of soldiers and surrounding the Senate chamber with presented bayonets, he had the names of the delegates taken down as they were called out by counties. Only forty were represented, from the fact that many counties could not get transportation on the railroads. Then taking the stand he made a speech in which he said that such a meeting was entirely unnecessary, for none would be permitted to run for an office in Kentucky unless he could give satisfactory evidence of his loyalty to the United States Government, nor hold office if elected.

He also adds that the Legislature of the different States have not elected delegates to a Convention, but have simply asked Congress to call a Convention which shall be represented by all the States North and South, for the purpose of securing an armistice or a compromise. Thus bursts that great convention bubble which caused so much stir in the South. After getting a fresh supply of money, he paid his respects to General Boyle and requested a pass for Bowling Green. After many questions about his loyalty, all of which being satisfactorily answered, he now hailing from Indiana, saying "if not loyal, he would not have been fighting for the Government," (although no question was asked about which Government it was) he received a pass for Jno P. Isbell.

Next morning taking the cars, he was en route for Dixie, finding, as usual, soldiers all along the railroad, and stockades at every bridge; but before reaching Bowling Green, he made it convenient to be left at a water and wood depot. Once more afoot, he struck out for Glasgow. Being recognized in that neighborhood, the Federals were after him again, and he found it necessary to lay in the woods eleven days, it raining all the time. Some of Morgan's men, who had been discharged, were in the same condition, and he had company. After they had given up the hunt, he started by night on the nearest route to our lines and crossing the Cumberland at Saline, he was soon among friends. For the first time he breathed freely. After an absence of near three months, he safely rejoined his command. His experience forms a private and interesting episode in the history of this most singular war. A man of less tact and shrewdness than Eugene Griffin, would scarcely have achieved such a deliverance from captivity. Once more with us, he is anxious to mount his war steed and pass his respects to his hated captors.

Capt. Gordon, with the "Wharton Scouts," and a detachment from company B. under the direction of a guide, returned today from a most daring and successful scout near Murfreesboro'. Reaching a thick cedar brake early in the evening, they remained till after dark; then, under cover of night, they passed over the ground occupied by the left wing of our army on Wednesday's

see his native country, yet we can hope that he is at rest. This thought can, to some extent, soothe and comfort the fond hearts which stern and bitter grief shall sadly rend because of this desolation in the family circle. But, alas! multitudes are feeling now the same crushing sorrow. Costly, indeed, is the price of the liberty we so earnestly seek, purchased as it is by the blood of our noble young men!

A dirge for them; the doubly dead,
In that they died so young.

R. F. B.

THE TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, April 29, 1863.