

GOOD SHORT STORIES FOR THE VETERANS.

Misaken Patriotism—The Best Soldiers—The First Shock of Battle—Lost Five Men in Battle and Got a Letter of Sympathy from President Lincoln.

Spain's National Air Service—yet with fervor, Rejoice your many victories; Rejoice your own hands and feet; To hear the battle soon, Devoted to our nation, We'll die for our nation, A kind of warrior's story.

Chorus. Soldiers brave! Our country Calls us to the strife; Our own hands and feet, To conquer—or to die!

The sword let us brandish Before the slaves afflicted, Before the wronged and the tender; They dare not face the brave! In the smoke of battle, Their forces shall be scattered, And our valor will be proved; They'll find a bloody grave, Chorus—Soldiers brave, etc.

The sound of the trumpet Echoes from the borders, From the mountains and the sea; Thrill at the cannon's roar, As the God of battles, Calls on warlike heroes, Our hosts shall be victorious, Both, for evermore.

Misaken Patriotism. A poor widow, who had been an invalid for many years, was entirely dependent upon her only son for support. All the home they had was a plain boarding-house, but she was kind and attentive, and every night he hurried from his work to the little room where she waited for him, and his sure return to his mother's arms brought her the reward of her lonely days.

One evening he came late. The front door opened and shut softly. His step lagged on the stairs. He lingered in the entry. The mother gave one glance at his face as he entered the room, and her own turned white.

"Jack, after what you said this morning, I think you have called!" she said. He made no answer, but covered his face with his hands.

The mother turned and leaned against the wall. She did not cry. She did not say, "Who will take care of me?" Her silence was enough.

"They are not situated as you are, replied the invalid, faintly. "But they will call me a coward," said the boy, passionately.

The same night he was examined and passed by the regimental surgeon. The next day the dependent mother was alone—the great wave of the war excitement had caught her young breadwinner, and made him a recruit.

Whether the decision of this misguided boy placed his freedom beyond recall we do not know, but it is certain that by his act he sacrificed more than he had any right to sacrifice. Under present call he would probably receive more than 5 per cent. of the population of the country for a troop, and of these there are at least four classes available.

The negligible, the terrible, the description of 1863 exemplify the sole dependence of relatives at home. No only son of a dependent mother, the only son of infirm parents, no only brother of orphaned children, and no father of a motherless young family was required to show his patriotism in any other way than by fidelity to his domestic duty.

Posted over the regimental bulletin boards at Camp Townsend, New York, is this notice: "No person should volunteer whose absence from home for two years would bring misery and distress on any one dependent upon him."

And the examining surgeons are expected to question every would-be recruit in regard to this particular. Such consideration may not have the effect of recruiting statistics, but no foolish dread of being called a "coward" would make it necessary for any young man to be so questioned.

It is patriotic to "Strike for your altar, or your fires," but the son, or father, or brother whose duty calls him to stay by them is doing the noblest thing as nobly as one who volunteers for war because "all the other fellows are going."

It is conceivable that the sudden and swift demands of public defense might lead every man for his country's sake to leave his sick and helpless ones, and "let the dead bury the dead," but that time is not yet. Meanwhile let it be the field who stay to help the sick, the secret industries of home, and ply the industries never so necessary as in times of war, are in every sense as truly patriotic as the soldiers in the ranks—Wynne's Companion.

The Best Soldiers—The Best Soldiers—men at war with society, and with whom society is at war—make the best soldiers; but it is an error to accord to the testimony of all the good officers, men of bad character, and men of bad physique, a curse to any army. The best men are really the prime movers of insubordination and mutiny, and, if there is any truth in the saying, they are pretty sure to be at the bottom of it.

Moral courage is an essential in military as in civil life, and it is not an accident that the best soldiers are those who go to battle with a clear conscience, confident in the justice of the cause for which he risks his life, and believing that God is on the side of the only true hero. He is not bloodthirsty, he is not under the domination of a military and brutal instinct, but he is a man of high moral character, calm and collected in emergency, and can bear up cheerfully against reverses which the dependo would "wilt down," or desert.

What but moral courage, born of integrity and a sense of confidence in the cause, sustained the ragged, starved, ill-paid soldiers of a bankrupt republic in their desperate struggle with the well-equipped legions of the enemy, during the darkest hours of the American revolution? The ice-ber-

structed Delaware had not been crossed, the battles of Trenton and Princeton had never been fought and won, the heroes of the Revolution, Valley Forge had never been endured, the insupportable of our national independence had never been attained but for the moral courage and fortitude of good and true men, at peace with God and their own consciences.

Heroes and desperadoes never achieve such exploits, or endure so patiently such hardships, as have made the heroes of '76 immortal in history. It may be set down as an axiom that had men never made good soldiers, there would have been no good soldiers.

The First Shock of Battle. Men even of the strongest nerves and the most unflinching pluck do not feel quite comfortable in the midst of a conflict, unless it is no dishonor to his manhood if the heart of the young soldier beats as if he were in the midst of a fight. The feeling soon wears off.

During the war in the Crimea the men in the allied army were often heard to say, "I don't know what a conflict, upon the probability of obtaining certain articles of clothing, which they stood in need, from the bodies of the Russians they expected to slay. They never seemed to take into consideration their own chances of being knocked over and stripped by the Russians, or the cool and steady manner in which they provided themselves with foot gear is worthy of note.

When a French or English soldier, upon the look of a "commander-in-chief" after a battle, desecrated on the field a corpse of the enemy whose boots seemed likely to suit him, he lay on his back, putting his sole against those of the dead man, ascertained by that mode of measurement whether the articles were large enough to a pair of his own, or a couple of inches smaller.—Ex.

Death Rate in Battle. Of the men whose death rates in the last five of them (of which all reliable statistics are preserved) was about 50 per cent. the average death rate, the British loss at Saratoga, to 47 per cent, the loss of the Swedes at Pultowa. Of other great battles it is difficult to fix the average death rate, though it may be estimated at about 20 per cent. The rates range from 0.9 (the German loss at Sedan in September, 1870) to 59 per cent, the British loss at Bloody Albuera. As a matter of fact, things stand very much as they used to do, save that the slaughter, which has been so frequent since the quick, a great battle in which the quick-drying gun can be brought into action will probably increase the death rate largely, but that remains to be proved. General statistics prove that since the Trojan war, 3,000 years ago, the average number of men killed in a battle has not increased, which some war has not caused the killing of a large number of men; while it is calculated that all the world's war has not caused the death of 14,000,000,000 of human beings.

What Abraham Lincoln Wrote. Executive Mansion, Washington, Nov. 18, 1864. My dear Madam—I have been shown in the file of the war department a statement of the adjutant general of Massachusetts, which has been forwarded to you by your brother, and which has done me a great deal of good. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine that should attempt to relieve you from your grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the fact that the poor soldier died to save the country that you and your father may assume the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of a lost end of a career, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. Yours very sincerely and respectfully, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Not Afraid. Aunt—Do you know any such inexperienced young man can cut off my leg? Nephew—He says he is willing to try.—Harlem Life.

HOME-MADE PHILOSOPHY. That kind of eddy-sash that comes from Washburn, makes ninety-nine fools to one who knows how to do it. People think independently and frankly. Life is like a shadow—just a little dark streak with sunlight along the edges, and it is all that we have, and it is all that we can do with it.

When a maiden lady gets along in life so far that her man's store teeth are all gone, and she is unable to hate the man who never came along to propose marriage.

The man that was coaxed or kroniced by Dr. Yipser's Death-wolpogee, had his right arm cut off by the daily papers by the pick-toots or war ships.

If we know what this somethin' or nothin' means, we have such an inexperienced young man can cut off my leg? Nephew—He says he is willing to try.—Harlem Life.

There was much speculation as to the utility of such a craft as the Vesuvius. Many able men opposed her construction and style of battery, but quite as many took an opposite view, extolling to the utmost the ship, her speed and especially her battery of pneumatic samite guns. Stripped of all exaggeration, the Vesuvius represented a new and formidable element in warfare and one which can no longer be dispensed of by any army.

It is not for a moment thought, even after the splendid recent performance of this boat, that she will create a revolution in naval tactics, as was at first and is now pretended. Her exaggerated offensive capabilities were for a long time ascribed to torpedoes, and very recently to torpedoes, but she is a vessel of a new and different kind, and a new and different kind of tactics, and a new and different kind of tactics, and a new and different kind of tactics.

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Grim Vesuvius, error of Cuba's Coast.

The Little Ship That Amazed the Spaniards by Flinging Earthquakes at the Santiago Hills.

The whirlwind of time brings in its train. Thirty years ago the Vesuvius was strictly consigned to the junk pile by all save a few despairing zealots. Her day was done, her reputation was a thing of shreds and patches.

Today she is giving new cares to modern admiralities; she is the unnumbered, the discredited, factor in nations naval warfare, and her whistling tubes are awakening echoes that circle a started world.

It is not given every nation to produce the mathematically exact remedy for a desperate disease. We did it once, surely, when the Monitor, the cheese box on a raft, defied the trying wedges of the Merrimac. That revolutionized modern warfare and ushered in the clanking age of iron and steel.

Have we done this again in the first successful employment of high explosives aboard? Who may tell but when it comes to heaving earthquakes at an enemy, our noisily deposing volleys, eager and ready for eruption, in his midst we may without undue boasting believe that the material revolution of this war will be in this safe handling of untried forces, and it is American to the core.

The Vesuvius deserves her good look—every once in a while, and when one considers the fight her champions had to make before practical proof established their theories, our regret for their neglect is made more poignant by the moral effect every inventive crank will find from her to adorn their tales of local fame.

We may expect a deluge of dramatic mechanism, a flood of gun-tonic fuses, a torrent of desperate devices which are to try with extinguish fests and obliterate landscapes. The Spanish drugist for is a Spanish barber? Who is to smear the ocean with the boiling belief that the face of nature will be nothing in promise when compared with the threatening shows of highly explosive inventive gentlemen.

Some good, of course, will come out of it, but it may well be to regret that the field has long been exploited, that chemists and engineers have striven for years to attain the perfect com-

plete. The Vesuvius is in every way unique, nothing like her in any respect excepting in any other way. She is long, narrow, and sits low in the water. She has a long, narrow, and sits low in the water. She has a long, narrow, and sits low in the water.

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at this remote distance would require an air pressure of about eight hundred pounds. Attack Attacks. The tremendous efficiency of shells charged with large quantities of high explosives having been thus demonstrated, even the most bitter opponents of the Vesuvius have conceded that wherever one of her shells struck destruction would surely follow. Doubtless many Spanish soldiers within a large radius of where the projectiles struck in the Santiago batteries can attest the value of the dynamite gun as a weapon to oppose the fortifications. Herein lies both her usefulness and usefulness, and her superiority to vessels of the torpedo type.

The Vesuvius was not designed to attack fortifications, yet it would seem as though for such a role she is admirably adapted; better than for the role of ship attack, where the time needed to bring her to bear would be long enough to expose her to a hot rapid fire that would certainly annihilate her. But give her time and a fairly dark night and a Spanish fort for an object, and no shot or other destructive missile thus far known can work such havoc.

Silently can she take her stand, and by means of range finders accurately determine her position; then, without more noise than a big popgun would make, she can send her projectiles gracefully curving through the air into the enemy's camp. In short, the Vesuvius has distinctive power to play in this war we are now waging against Spain. It is purely an offensive part, for she is so pitifully weak defensively, being entirely without any protection, that a well directed rifle bullet could wreck her.

The Vesuvius should never enter a combat unprepared, but always under a command of some large vessel able to draw an enemy's fire and receive the punishment that would be otherwise directed toward her. When thus safeguarded the Vesuvius serves a most valuable purpose, and the work out for her will greatly conduce to shortening the bombardment of the fortifications of Cuba.

The great benefit derived from the slow, steady, gradually increasing pressure of compressed air is that it allows the use of thin gun barrels or tubes and the employment of immense quantities of the highest explosives. There is an absence of all shock and a consequent avoidance of the danger ordinarily connected with the firing of dynamite or gun cotton.

The charge of explosive at first tried in the present case was of eight hundred pounds of gun cotton, the latter being used to handle. The charge is held in the front end of a cylindrical shell seven feet long and not quite fifteen inches in diameter.

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The Vesuvius was not designed to attack fortifications, yet it would seem as though for such a role she is admirably adapted; better than for the role of ship attack, where the time needed to bring her to bear would be long enough to expose her to a hot rapid fire that would certainly annihilate her. But give her time and a fairly dark night and a Spanish fort for an object, and no shot or other destructive missile thus far known can work such havoc.

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THE NEW HONEYMOON.

Best Man Overseas Receiving News—The One Disappointing News—Honey moons charge with the fashion as well as other wedding custom. Once upon a time the turtle doves came on a long trip, visiting cities that they might have never seen, and never hoped to see again, says the New York Commercial Advertiser. For the last five or six years a cruise on a large radius of where the projectiles struck in the Santiago batteries can attest the value of the dynamite gun as a weapon to oppose the fortifications. Herein lies both her usefulness and usefulness, and her superiority to vessels of the torpedo type.

The tremendous efficiency of shells charged with large quantities of high explosives having been thus demonstrated, even the most bitter opponents of the Vesuvius have conceded that wherever one of her shells struck destruction would surely follow. Doubtless many Spanish soldiers within a large radius of where the projectiles struck in the Santiago batteries can attest the value of the dynamite gun as a weapon to oppose the fortifications. Herein lies both her usefulness and usefulness, and her superiority to vessels of the torpedo type.

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Silently can she take her stand, and by means of range finders accurately determine her position; then, without more noise than a big popgun would make, she can send her projectiles gracefully curving through the air into the enemy's camp. In short, the Vesuvius has distinctive power to play in this war we are now waging against Spain. It is purely an offensive part, for she is so pitifully weak defensively, being entirely without any protection, that a well directed rifle bullet could wreck her.

The Vesuvius should never enter a combat unprepared, but always under a command of some large vessel able to draw an enemy's fire and receive the punishment that would be otherwise directed toward her. When thus safeguarded the Vesuvius serves a most valuable purpose, and the work out for her will greatly conduce to shortening the bombardment of the fortifications of Cuba.

The great benefit derived from the slow, steady, gradually increasing pressure of compressed air is that it allows the use of thin gun barrels or tubes and the employment of immense quantities of the highest explosives. There is an absence of all shock and a consequent avoidance of the danger ordinarily connected with the firing of dynamite or gun cotton.

The charge of explosive at first tried in the present case was of eight hundred pounds of gun cotton, the latter being used to handle. The charge is held in the front end of a cylindrical shell seven feet long and not quite fifteen inches in diameter.

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