AFTER THE BATTLE.

[illegible]

AB BECAME A HERO.

[illegible] Ab Higgins was in a [illegible] home. A sleepy world had not [illegible] to the cultivated town, and so he set [illegible] to the little path to drop his [illegible] into the story and interest [illegible] in the world in general.

[illegible] Ab Higgins was a good [illegible] young lad whose sole ambition [illegible] Mother Ashleigh was the peripatetic [illegible] lectured upon a text, originally [illegible] of twenty sermons by a mother [illegible] religious, and was taken [illegible] from the good book, yet like [illegible] the same for the Higgins progeny, [illegible] Mother Ashleigh's mother always [illegible] by her full name. Dorcas, [illegible] only one who did. Everybody [illegible] like Ab.

"Higgins, yer a dum fool for stay[illegible] the youth to himself as she [illegible] very viciously into the soft [illegible] "Yer kin get yerself an' yer [illegible] out of this mighty easy. Yer ain't [illegible] yer sensible bizzy [illegible] to yer old, an never a Yankee [illegible] If yer get outen kivar yer [illegible] Fisher, an' there's somthin yer [illegible] yer kin bring [illegible] for dinner o' this evenin [illegible] yer pate a little whisky. Higgins, [illegible] why don't yer start outen?"

[illegible] Ab was quite capable, he [illegible] a similar position and thinking [illegible] the thoughts from the disrupted attempt [illegible] and wind was at a wold.

"Fetch Molly, ain't somin," said [illegible] after looking at the weary [illegible] "an I reckon I'll go home an tell [illegible] how I'm going to market Leary for [illegible] a fortin."

[illegible] and began walking [illegible] path. He had taken scarcely [illegible] steps, when a soft voice [illegible] from the bushes and hailed him: "Ab, Ab, what a silly thing yer allfired [illegible]"

[illegible] and a broad smile spread [illegible] lovely face as he turned and [illegible] a gap into the little path.

"Yes sum hidin in thos bushes for a [illegible] Ab," said the girl, "an I heard yer and about goin fer Pinkerton's [illegible] yer fortune. An yer [illegible] Leary for Molly. Ain't [illegible] Ab?"

"Wha yer mean, leave a fellur [illegible] and Ab in a depressing tone [illegible] the girl and down in the shade [illegible] hugely.

Sister Rankin was pretty, despite [illegible] squinting bonnet that surrounded [illegible] and homespun dress that [illegible] her form. Her father was "the [illegible] Jefferson City for the crime of [illegible] caught in the act of filing Jubilee [illegible] and silver and mutilated coin. [illegible] was perched upon the [illegible] of the rushing mountain brook [illegible] the honest the person for the role [illegible] the was the pride of Hackett's Gulch.

[illegible] Melissa had been "sparkin" [illegible] for years, and it was evident to the [illegible] that there would be a [illegible] to come. Ab was old enough [illegible] the county sort and blushingly [illegible] he was treating.

The leaves of the scrub oaks were fast [illegible] brown in the autumn winds and [illegible] hung bare and dishevelled [illegible] trees. Kelton had noticed a change [illegible] Ab of late. Not that he appeared [illegible] unfavorable than of all, but that he [illegible] preoccupied and disconcerted [illegible] his conversations. The chasm had [illegible] after Mr. Dom had left Brown's [illegible]. Gone was a young lad [illegible] from St. Louis, and in spot the [illegible] at the clearing fishing and [illegible] Molly was Ab was his [illegible] companion. As the two kilted [illegible] a summer afternoon to the [illegible] in the mountain side they passed [illegible] the site of the Bitterly Anthracite [illegible] Kelton and Ab stopped [illegible] brought tearing that had heretofore [illegible] to Ashley to be the stamp [illegible] in the world.

"Goes to St. Louis, Ab, and I'll make [illegible] fine of you," were Dom's parting words as he left the clearing to return [illegible] home in the city.

The words had been spoken in jest, [illegible] Ab's mind they had left the [illegible] and he had not attempt to [illegible] the great opportunity.

"Big night, eyer, Ab," said Melissa. "Yer aren't yer so excited like yer yap [illegible] do eyer kin right eyer at home [illegible] Brown's Chorus in [illegible] Yer won't be bother'n yer pap, air yer?"

"Wha's there eyer for a man to do, [illegible] Lenny Leary I'll never [illegible] to Ashley eyer if I go out an see the world maybe I kin get rich. Maybe I [illegible] go fer to what Mr. Dom said were [illegible] a chance fellur like Ab Higgins [illegible] the river bank to fling himself on [illegible] Melissa's side. He quickly [illegible] back out of it by saying, "Ab, I don't [illegible] a bear I'd never be worth [illegible]."

"Yer wud be mayor of yer, Ab, if [illegible] yer bigger." asked Melissa in a tearful [illegible]

"Wha I'd be be one o' those rich [illegible] I'd come back arter yer, Melissa," said Ab, as he continued his chop about [illegible] and finished her chop.

"Yer'll forget me when yer get outen [illegible] Ab," and the girl's sobs shook her [illegible] form.

"I won't neither," said Ab stubbornly.

"Yes, yer will, Ab. I know yer [illegible] Mr. Dom Fisher went to Saint Louey [illegible] Brown's [illegible] yer [illegible] yer [illegible] yer