AT THE IRON GAME.

ONE FOURTH OF JULY ON THE FIELD OF MARS.

In 1863 It Was Grim and Fatal at Gettysburg, a Breathing Spell at Vicksburg and a Day of Blood at Helena, on the Mississippi Shore.

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THERE is a great difference in the civil war a few notable battles were added to the record of opportunity, as we look down in our mental minds to the month of the "Glorious Fourth," on July 4, 1863. Lee almost dared his foes to attack in front of Meade's lines at the Gettysburg and Vicksburg and Helena fell back to a defensive line at a safe distance. That night the forces began the retreat back to the Potomac. It rained a little at Gettysburg, or we think the boys in blue would have burned some powder either in fire or remark to honor the occasion. As it was the one in gray got off without a parting salute. At Vicksburg, however, on the same day, the older three had, together, there was some characteristic fireworks over the surrender of Pemberton's Confederates, the evacuation of the city and the occupation by Grant's troops. General Pemberton began his negotiations for terms on the 19, but the parley did not terminate until the wee small hours of the 4th, and the evacuation was not over for the surrender hour of 10 a.m. Some and great noise at the event in a very familiar strain in his memoirs.

"During the night," he said, "there had been a good deal of friendly parting between the soldiers of the two armies on picket and where the lines were close together. All Confederates were known as 'secesh,' all Union troops as 'Yanks.' After 'taking' would call, 'Well, Yank, when are you coming into town?' the reply was usually, 'We propose to be there in the Fourth of July there.' Sometimes it would be, 'We always treat our prisoners with kindness and don't want to hear from you.' We are holding prisoners of war while you are fooling yourselves.' The pickets, from the commander down, undoubtedly expected an assault on the Fourth. They knew from the temper of their men it would be successful which made, and that would be a greater humiliation than to surrender. Besides, it would be attended with a severe loss to ours.

"The Vicksburg paper which we received yesterday thought the coming of the Yankees a joke to celebrate the Fourth, in speaking of the 'Yankee' boat, that they would take dinner in Vicksburg that day, that the boys might be cooking rabbit was, 'Four hours yet enough.' The paper at the time, and for some time previously, was printed on the plain sheet with page. The last issue was printed on the Fourth and announced that we had 'escaped the yoke.'

"I have no doubt that Pemberton consented to surrender on the 4th for a certain purpose. First, to avoid an assault, which he knew would be successful and force it in line in front, secondly, to prevent the exultation of the great national holiday—the anniversary of the declaration of American independence. Holding out for better terms, as he did, he achieved his end in the latter instance.

"On the 4th, at the appointed hour, the garrison of Vicksburg marched out of the works and formed in line in front, sixteen and marched back in good order, the whole army witnessed the scene without cheering."

The Confederate general, in his report of the surrender, gave another reason for so doing July 4 (?) "I should be subjected, he wrote, "May the Fourth of July was so hard on the day for surrender, the reverse of a victory. I believed that upon that day I could obtain better terms than I could in the vanity of our so. I knew they would attack with confidence on the anniversary of the Fourth of July and that they would be the great river, and that, to gratify their national vanity they would yield that what could not be extorted from them at any other time."

The day's duress was not closed, however, with the renewal of the Confederate of Gettysburg now with their surrender at Vicksburg. They got the news of the victory but 10 covered seven on the Arkansas position at Helena, Ark., on the Mississippi, between Vicksburg and Memphis. It was galling sight for the northerners all through the months of May and June to witness the unbroken tramp, tramp, tramp of Grant's legions, and yet regard their last great stronghold of the west. To those help into the second year by direct method was due to the question, and the next less thing was to send some of the point and drive over of the longing away all from their land for the longer space to the outcome of the weather. Helena in the control of the Confederate would have been another Vicksburg another obstruction to the free use of the Mississippi.

The Confederate in Arkansas at the early month many here from the rout at Vicksburg, were assembled at Little Rock, 70 miles inland from Helena, and in the closing days of June Gen. Sterling Price

THE MEMORY OVERWHELMED.

Marmaduke, Fagan's Arkansas brigade and Gen. Marmaduke's cavalry, about 8,000 men, marched stealthily toward Helena, intending to give the garrison a Fourth of July surprise party. The city is in the bottoms, on the Arkansas bank of the river. Its water front was guarded by the gunboat Tyler, and on the land side fortifications extended in an unbroken chain from the river's bank above to that below. The western front of the town was about half a mile in length and just outside the fortifications opposite the center there was a heavy earthwork fort, mounting siege guns. About half a mile inland was a semicircular range of hills, on the crests of which lay the outer line of fortifications. This line consisted four redoubts connecting fieldpieces and entrenched by infantry breastworks. The redoubts on the north and northwest were known as Batteries A and B, and were located on Rightist hill. The redoubts on the west was Battery C, on Graveyard hill, and one on the southeast, Battery D, on Hindman hill.

When the Confederate leader, Gen. Holmes, learned what was in the way of his entry to the town, he realized that the surprise was a thing gone, even with his spirit of the day to find his soldiers with Arkansas valor. But he went bravely at the task and laid out a plan that would have delighted beyond measure the prowess of a gladiating class in a military school. He ordered to Marmaduke's 3,000 exactly the capture of the Rightist hill redoubts, to Price's 3,000 the Graveyard hill works and fieldpieces, and to Fagan's 2,000 the attack on Hindman hill. Three sections the troops were to carry with a rush at daylight, turn the captured cannon on the Yankees, Tyler and Curtis, across the town, and then carry that, and all else was at their mercy. And not this. Holmes and his people knew the situation in the enemy's camp for days and knew right about where the prospect before them as they were with their security plan. There were about 4,000 Union soldiers, Kansas and Second Illinois, but long lines were crowded to attack about equally at all points.

Women were six weeks from the levees to the town, and the defenses, being nearest of the particular one or once by which the southern world more to the attack, were found in fresh strong to their aid. For entering these were so trained sentinels to handle the guns in the works, and the duty was in the hands of several men, and one of the Third Missouri infantry. The remaining infantry was divided in five detachments, so that no regiment could be in morning parade, and regiments moved against the battalions and intermediate that for some their guns.

Fagan's Arkansas brigade, dismounted, emptied by the rifle pits and in ambush on Hindman hill, with only their muskets to aid them. Here this a mile back their artillery had been placed in a deserted road, and on both sides of the highway stop rectors made the road across too impossible for cannon. The officers had been dispatched to dismount and have their horses hidden, and the men, with free use of Rock, hearty meals Gray was through the fatigueth in time to meet the approach. Gen. Price had the Kansas on the hill, and as soon as the struggling for could pull itself together, round, round the battle ended. Here a gorge intervened, there a steep hillside forced lines from and the cannon and trenches in front were also with sharpshooting riflemen. One or two, however, the rifle pits and Cassis works were passed to the Arkansans and they were under the guns of Battery Dem Blackman hill. But they were likewise shelled of Battery C on Graveyard hill, and the Missouri forced the guns there ended the line of the charging column prisoners. The Graveyard hill had no pickets. Price was to hindmost in charge, and the plan so masterly in theory was working admirably the wrong way. The Yankees folks could run the hills against one another, too, and Fagan's Confederates on Hindman hill were begging for the guns found on Graveyard hill.

THE REPULSE FROM GRAVEYARD HILL.

Price's defenses was slow in getting to work because it encountered two brigades, whose commands were to be timed to the time. Price's men, found the rails blocked with fallen trees and were obliged to clear their cannon on the march. Their assault was made with grape and shell from Battery C and an hour passed, and the men still on the gun of Battery D on Hindman hill, asked how lines on fagans and Price's failed to come. The explanation, however, made up behind trees and stumps and picked off the Union cannoneers, and when Curtis's the battle line of Price's attack flowed over the river could hit redoubts. A handful of expert gunners, who had been in the front rank of the concerns, were made their redoubts and rushed to the captured cannon to turn them on the works in the rear and upon the town, as had been planned. But the Missouri boys had been there before for them and had plugged the bores with shot and carried away the wheels and pitcher, leaving the pieces worthless to the captors.

Meanwhile Fort Curtis made no effort to save their guns, and shelled the captured hill and redoubt, and the gunboat Tyler did the same. Price ordered skirmishers upon the rear of the Rightist hill battery and upon Fort Curtis, but his troops mistakenly passed them and shelled by the fleet. Fagan took advantage of the turn of affairs on Graveyard hill and put his men to the assault of Battery D. By that time it was nearly the middle of the forenoon and he was passing in the same boat and suffering for lack of water. They made a gallant attempt, but repulsed of them were sick down and the survivors were taken at