

# THE EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, December 22, 1870.

## THE SERGEANT OF THE FIFTIETH

Out of blackened clouds of power  
Gazed the moon upon the sight,  
Where had rolled the battle's thunder,  
Ere the coming of the night;  
An old sergeant of the Fiftieth  
To his General made report;  
"Present fear and I am wounded;  
Praised be God, we hold the fort!"

Weak and trembling were his accents,  
For his blood was almost spent,  
But the General asked him, gruffly,  
"What this foolish trifling meant;  
Where his company was quartered,  
Tearing to his comrades' aid;  
He made answer, "Pardon, General;  
Shot and shell have left no more."

"These the railtrails have spared us,  
Five poor wounded, these alone;  
Sharp and fierce the shock of battle,  
But the enemy are gone!"  
"Then return to your battalion,  
Comrade brave," the General said;  
"Pardon, General; here you see them,  
On the crimson sod are laid."

All the rest. The General murmured,  
Gnawing at his mustache gray,  
"Sorely my poor boys are beaten,  
Cursed be their task to-day!  
Still we took those murderous cannon,  
To your regiments repair."  
With low voice replied the sergeant,  
"Pardon, General; they are here."

## HOW THE GERMANS DEFEATED A FRENCH STRATAGEM.

A small squad of Uhlans had defeated one day in the beginning of October, a gang of France-Tireurs, capturing their ammunition, near the village of Dariez, in France. After they had driven the free-booters into the mountains they took their quarters in a large inn. They were lodged in a large hall up stairs, and the landlady was very officious in giving them good accommodations. This extreme friendliness aroused the suspicions of the Lieutenant, and, tasting the wine, he believed that he discovered that it was drugged. So he warned his men not to drink it, and, putting out the lights, he ordered his men to sleep.

Now he crept out of the house and concealed himself at a place where he could watch the door. Presently, as he had suspected, he saw the landlady steal forth in the direction of the France-Tireurs. Returning as silently to the house as he had left, he called out his men, who sallied forth without arousing the household. In one of the halls was placed all the captured ammunition connected with a train of powder leading out. After they had done this the troopers lay in wait, and before long saw the France-Tireurs approaching the house, led by the treacherous host. One by one they entered, their unsheathed knives gleaming through the night. At last they were all inside. A few moments after a terrible explosion occurred, and the building was only a heap of ruins, burying the host and France-Tireurs, so that no one man escaped.

## A BOLD ROBBERY IN MISSOURI.

The St. Joseph (Missouri) Herald, gives this account:  
John Kelly, clerk at the Farmer's Hotel, usually sleeps on a lounge in the front office. About three o'clock Tuesday morning three men entered by the back door (a fourth standing by the front door), while Kelly was asleep, threw an overcoat or coverlet over his head, and two of the scoundrels held him while the third cut his pantaloons pocket and took out twenty dollars. As soon as the robbers found that they had got all of the man's money, two of them decamped, leaving the third to get away as best he could. This seemed to be the most precious villain of the three, for during the scuffle he held a cocked revolver to Kelly's head, which pained him so that he pushed it aside while endeavoring to draw his own pistol from a hip-pocket in his pantaloons. Just as Kelly was about to draw his pistol the robber discharged his weapon and fled towards the back door, Kelly rising and firing at him two shots, one of which passed through the glass of a window not far from the back door. The other shot was directed toward the door, but no trace of the lodgment of the bullet could be found, and it is thought possible for it to have hit the retreating robber. The shot fired by the thief took through Kelly's vest and shirt, scorching both, badly grazing the skin of his left breast, and embedding itself in the mattress, from whence it was shaken out on removing the bedding. This was a narrow escape.

Kelly (who is a cripple, and has little or no use of his lower limbs, but is yet very strong of body and arms), made a hard struggle to free himself, and the one robber soon found that he had more than his match. As he retreated the clerk saw that he wore a blue overcoat which is the only semblance of identity retained of either of the thieves.

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