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A BOLD STROKE FAILS.

THE CONFEDERATE BLUNDER AT SPRING HILL, TENN., IN 1864.

What General Hood Tried to Do and Almost Accomplished While Sherman Marched Away to the Sea—Schofield's Union Army Saved by a Mistake.

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FRIDO HILL

doesn't figure in the list of decisive actions of the civil war, but it would if results were taken into account in place of despite the fighting and heavy losses.

There are not many thoughtful people in the Confederate states in the autumn of 1864 who did not believe their "pig was up" when Atlanta succumbed, following Vicksburg and Chattanooga in the west, and Grant pounded the numerous army of Gettysburg on the south of James river and sold them with Hancock all back to his group. Yet there were some bold spirits who held that the gut of battle might yet be in that the weaker side should have one more chance, with fair play and no favor, and one of these was Gen. J. B. Hood, that dashing, daring Texan, who mostly made from Atlanta the message at Sherman after the latter had buried his out of Atlanta by giving him the toe of the boot, as it were.

Hood candidly admitted to himself and his superiors that he couldn't cope with Sherman in open battle, but he hoped by skillful maneuvers to draw him away from his long line of communication between Atlanta and Nashville and every him into an abandonment of all that the Union army had gained south of Tennessee river. With this project in view he turned and doubled on the track northward again toward Chattanooga. At various points he threatened or attacked Sherman's line of communication, notably at Allatoona pass where brave Corse "held the fort," and he soon had the satisfaction of finding Sherman's army stretched up in the haste to cover the vital points in its rear, only one corps remaining in Atlanta.

After two weeks of a game of "tag and grass" Hood found himself in the presence of a large body of Sherman's troops in the mountains of northwestern Georgia and determined to offer battle, but when he canvassed his own soldiers he found that the spirit of fighting had vanished. Repeated disaster and retreat had filled the hearts of his battle scarred veterans with the prevailing hopelessness. In this crisis nothing would fit so well as the motto, "Be bold, be bold, and everywhere be bold!" and of bulldog Hood had an apparently inexhaustible supply. He resolved to give Sherman one slip once more and march rapidly to Nashville, Louisville and Cincinnati, strike terror to the north, win the smiles of France, who only waited a good excuse for aiding the Confederacy, and bring up at last on Grant's rear in northern Virginia, after crossing Ohio and the Blue Ridge. Was ever the dream of a daring military adventurer wilder than that? But what was to hinder? Sherman, distance and the scattered Union troops to be met with on the way? As for the last two obstacles Hood's soldiers were equal to the march, and equal also he believed to any impressed from that would be called up to impede him in all the west. Sherman, himself, he believed, would turn to and go back south, and that is just what he did do.

Grant and Sherman had discussed a plan after Atlanta fell for drawing Hood away from his rich base of supplies in Alabama by sending a Union army through Georgia to the gulf or to the sea. Both agreed then that it only even Hood would certainly follow. He was in front of Sherman as the time for maneuvering was reached. But when he abandoned his camps, stripped for the race, about the middle of October, and struck out westward, leaving Sherman in northern Georgia, he was to all intents and purposes loose in Tennessee, for Sherman had nothing to the field to prevent the Confederates crossing from Alabama anywhere they chose. Nevertheless Sherman clung to the theory that if he allowed the south portion of his army to the sea Hood would follow, and though Grant at the last moment advised him to risk Hood before starting off at a tangent, and Lincoln was "anxious, if not fearful," he began the seaward and picturesque march.

Hood marched westward across Alabama into Tennessee, reinforcing and equipping his army en route for their wonderful venture into hostile territory. By the middle of November he was crossing the Tennessee at Florence, Ala. His numbers, including the cavalry that would join him, were about 40,000. Another theory Sherman held about this remarkable campaign was that he hoped, and, Gen. Thomas, with a corps of about 25,000 men under Gen. D. S. Stanley, and an indefinite force of mounted and dismounted cavalry, would hold the line of the Tennessee river and keep Hood

WHERE HOOD HAD SCHOFIELD.

south of it. He afterward added the Twenty-third corps, under Gen. J. M. Schofield, 20,000 strong, which he detached from his main army before starting for the sea.

In point of fact, Hood went around the Union army, supposed to be guarding the southern border of Tennessee, and came across the river south for Columbia, on Duck river, the direct route to Nashville. The river was Forrest's proudest line and was on the point of setting the crossings of the river when the advance of the Union army under Schofield, falling back to Hood position upon Nashville, came up to dispute the way. Schofield had left Pulaski, Gen. J. H. Wilson, a cavalry-man under Sheridan in Virginia, but reached Tennessee to lead Thomas' cavalry. When he reached the front along Duck river he found his troopers engaging with Forrest, who was bent on crossing above Columbia, and, to make room and bring up Spring Hill, he fell back to Rutherford's ford, so as not also off from Nashville. Wilson warned Schofield to abandon Columbia, and strongly enough drew back his own lines up to a point farther east, between Hurt's Corners and Mount Carmel, leaving the road open to Forrest to dash on to Spring Hill.

But Schofield, for all, had the trains crossed to the key point, and acting on Wilson's warning had sent two divisions with all speed back from Columbia toward Spring Hill. It was the 29th of November, the day of all others in 1864 when, if hard fighting of all in our, the Confederates had a last chance. At noon that day Stanley's men double quicked into Spring Hill and soon began to hear with Forrest's troopers for the mastery. Forrest was beaten and thrown back the road open.

Yet Forrest was not Hood's best card in this game. At the head of a strong division, a crack body of man under the intrepid Gen. Cleburne, he had crossed Duck river at Hoop's, and at noon of the day was marching briskly northward to the pike between Columbia and Spring Hill, and between Stanley's isolated division and Schofield's main force at Columbia. Moreover, he had left on the cross of Gen. S. D. Lee north of Duck river and in front of Columbia to attack Schofield and push him along the pike into the trap prepared for him at Spring Hill. At that moment there was nothing to stay the march of Hood's 40,000 Confederates on Nashville, Louisville and the north except Stanley's band of 4,000 men at Spring Hill and a mob of unorganized recruits and supernumerates at Nashville with Thomas.

The hope of the west lay with Schofield, and he was virtually surrounded and cut off at Columbia. Hood, opposite Schofield, issued of the south—by a plunging a mass of bayonets across the pike and sinking Schofield's at Spring Hill, when the Union army in the rear would be at his mercy. This was unexpected good fortune for Hood and second only to Sherman's abandonment of the march. And Sherman's desertion of Hood would follow him to the sea, or that Thomas would hold him south of the Tennessee? How it is hate in these days to think that it was a bulwark. It was only the turn of a hand that Lincoln's fears and Grant's final doubts would be justified and Spring Hill come to count for more in history than Gettysburg or Vicksburg. Calling Gens. Cleburne and Cheatham to his side, Hood directed their eyes upon the pike where Schofield's wagons and their infantry guards were moving from Columbia back to Spring Hill. Said he to Cheatham, "General, do you see the enemy there, and nothing capable to escape us? Go with your corps, take possession of that pike as our Spring Hill. * * * Do this at once."

His subordinates moved away to obey this command and himself to order up another corps, and this accomplished, Schofield's army would be lost. Forrest would try hold all of the crossroads from the pike north of Spring Hill, in a line east and south, to Duck river, leaving Jewell Wilson's men off to the northeast out of reach. From 3 o'clock until dark there was one

"THE ROAD THERE, REPEATEDLY."

steady alternating and some heavy fighting near Spring Hill between Stanley's men and those of Cheatham and Forrest, but Hood recovered the open at dark and found that Cleburne had not put his line across the pike. Cleburne's division that had been ordered on for that feat had strayed in the first attempt and then turned to a dead standstill. Hood brought with him the leading division of Stewart's corps, and morning of Cleburne's failure ordered that body of troops to form on Cleburne's line so as to carry it across the pike. But by this time Stanley had given the Confederates a taste of genuine fighting that stirred up their mettle.

Their assaults on the pike at Spring Hill had been mechanical repulses, and Stewart's men alone did work on the slow and sure plan of reconnoitering. In the end his troops went into bivouac along the pike and met success.

As the evening rolled on Schofield's wagons and men hurrying away from Columbia marched along the pike under the eyes of the pickets of Cheatham and Stewart and were fired upon, but they seemingly went their way. Hood at length called upon Forrest to do the work he had failed in, but when the rebel cavalry trooper got his men in line they had no ammunition and would not advance.

A band of about 2,000 under General Jackson galloped on northward and attempted to cut the pike beyond Spring Hill, but were repulsed, and from midnight to daylight of the 30th Schofield's men retreated, virtually unopposed in the presence of superior numbers of their foes marching silly within earshot of their march. For Gen. Sherman to have counted in advance upon such inexplicable conduct on the part of Cleburne, Cheatham and Forrest, with Hood among them, and at their head, would have been madness's folly. But that and that alone saved Tennessee and the north and checked Hood's daring adventure.

The next day, at Franklin, on the Harpeth, where Schofield brought them to bay in the bend of the river, Hood's men, metamorphosed in a night, pinked in the hence to retrieve their lost fortunes. Cleburne and four other generals of Cheatham's corps were killed there in assaulting Schofield's works, and three of Stewart's generals fell also. But it was too late. Schofield had got on the inside, and every step that he accomplished backward added to his strength and lessened that of Hood. From Franklin he retired to Nashville, and Hood's best game was up. At Nashville, one week later, Thomas with Schofield, Wilson and a newly arrived army from Missouri, destroyed Hood completely, and Sherman's theory, that Thomas could defend the west, was justified. But it was a curious escape.

The most reasonable explanation of Hood's conduct on the night of Nov. 29 is that he tired himself out, physically driving the remnants and the total high courage would end with his waning energy.

So night's sleep, or its equivalent, lost a great battle for Napoleon. Why may it not be that the Confederacy's most worthy hero of Hood's—the man who alone could have prevented a reverse of Confederate fortunes in the west, and warded off a grave Union disaster?

GEORGE L. KNAPP.

A Likely Diagnosis.

Doctor—I believe you have some sort of poison in your system.

Patient—Doctor, you're wonderful. What was that last stuff you gave me?—New York Weekly.

A European Area.

A metropolis of childhood is among much conversation in a European city. It is a large, roomy building, divided into several apartments, in one of which portraits of each woman subscriber are exhibited, with full descriptions of her age, talents, fortune, color of hair, eyes, etc., size of hands and feet, and measurements of the bust and general contour. There is also a brief account of her life, whether widow or spinster, and if her particular predilect in alliance with bachelor or widower, merchant, lawyer or priest, etc., all made into a book and set forth. In another room are the portraits of men candidates for matrimonial bliss, but the descriptions are less elaborate, and a close observer is an representation of the social status of the candidate and his financial condition.

A general meeting room provides a medium for mutual meeting, and is provided every by an orchestra dance who kick unmentionable stockings. There are also private rooms for more confidential intercourse. One of the curious rules of the place is that only ladies may enter the room where the men's portraits are, and men only are admitted to the women's room where the men's are. The establishment is conducted on moral principles, and the number of marriages on its books approximates 1,000.—New York Sun.

A Collection of Crowns.

A whole collection of crowns is kept at the royal palace (the Kremlin) at Moscow, Russia. These relics of departed greatness—they nearly all come from countries which have been extinguished by the Russians—are kept in what is known as the "Throne Room" of the Kremlin. Here are shown the crowns of Poland, Kazan, Georgia, Astrakhan and Persia, besides the thrones and other royal insignia too numerous to mention. Besides the crowns of conquered nations, there is almost all the jewels may be seen in that vast treasure-house.

The most curious one of the lot is the double crown made for Peter the Great and his half witted brother, the most costly that of the Empress Catherine, which contains 2,536 diamonds of the first water.—St. Louis Republic.

Told the Truth.

Young Lady—I paid you a high price for those kid gloves, and a friend of mine, who is an expert, says they are not kid at all. He says they are made of catskin.

Dealer—Sent vul I said, mine fear young lady. I tole you my wife kid gloves.—Detroit News.

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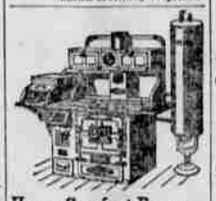

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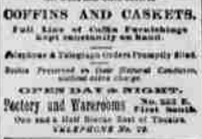

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