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FREE THOROUGHFARE.

In hollow trees
Live white ants, chipmunks, bats and bees.
If I were a chipmunk, bat or tree,
I'd pack my snows (sic) down nicely too!

Under the ground
Ants and beetles and snakes are found;
And look! the snake with a beetle's skin
Needs a cellar to hide him in!

By the brook's brink
Behold! as the leaves, moistened, sink,
Closed in a dimpled shell of ice
A lover's hot vow the place for me!

High o'er the rocks,
Lest of his watch some thrifty the fox
Yet I more fear than the worst wind in.
I'd have a sentrynut sleep as kid

Of nuts and beak,
Teeth and tail, it were hard to speak!
Keep sweetest I might, minion
When Dan is winter and comes so dim.

Whomever one meets
Has noted his chamber so pared to suit the
Yet of all there who out-door, you see,
Had warmest the secret of lack and sap.
—Dora R. Goodale in Harper's Young People.

BRAVE SIXTY-NINTH.

THE CRACK IRISH REGIMENT OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES.

It Stands Number One on the Roll of Honor Among New York Troops—Desperate Deeds at Malvern Hill, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg.

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ALL the volunteer regiments of the civil war which were distinguished in the fighting remain as "crack" organizations. Some maintained their barrack reputation long after relinquishing the fight, the cruel conflict most have ended long before it did. Sheer lack of enemies to overcome would have spoiled the reputation of those doughty old veterans who were expected to bear a way through living bullets weeks straight from the Potomac and the Big Sandy to the Gulf. But it is the fortune of war that all cannot be great. To the majority the bubble reputation breaks and is gone before eagle hands can toss it in the air to be seen of all men. Those who built great hopes on the Sixty-ninth New York volunteers, however, never had cause to regret their estimation.

The Sixty-ninth volunteers sprang from that old Sixty-ninth militia, which fell into disgrace for refusing to parade at the Prince of Wales' reception in 1860. Irish to the backbone in their hatred of England, but not less so in their love for their adopted country, when Lincoln called for militia troops in April, 1861, they asked to be purged of contempt for insubordination in order that they might march to the defense of Washington. On April 28 the charges against their colonel, Michael Corcoran, were dismissed, and three days later the regiment with overflowing ranks started for the capital. The order for transportation called for 1,000 men, but over 1,000 were borne on the rails, and the Gopher they made marching dawn Broadway was unique even for those days. The city was carried away with excitement, and their file of march was almost carpeted with bouquets flung at them from windows, balconies, pavements and even housetops. The column was headed by a banner drawn by four horses, bearing the motto, "Sixty-ninth! Remember Fontenoy."

Soon after the regiment reached Virginia it was joined by a company of boy Zouaves, known as the "Meagher Guards," and led by the famous Irish patriot, Thomas Francis Meagher. The Sixty-ninth made a spirited charge at Bull Run—the men temporarily stripping off their knapsacks in order to have free swing, and carse out with the colonel captured, the lieutenant colonel killed, and a loss altogether of 127. The killed outright were 39, the second highest in the battle. Capt. Meagher led the regiment home, and was the hero of the hour. His Zouave company, in bright red uniform, had been conspicuous at Bull Run, and one of his men, John D. Keefe, had brought off the green flag after the first bearer had been shot down. Keefe was himself wounded while defending the banner. After his musket had been torn from his hands he shot down two assailants with a revolver and made another one prisoner.

After Bull Run the floodgates of eulogy and adulation were again opened, and the new Sixty-ninth, formed from a nucleus of the militia regiment, took the field heavily engaged with a reputation that only the fiercest heat of battle could bring to a proper temper. It was the current notion that that three commands had done the execution at Bull Run—the Black Horse cavalry and the Louisiana Tigers on the southern side and the Irish Sixty-ninth on the northern. Meagher became colonel of the regiment, and in accepting its services for three years the war department suggested the formation of a brigade composed entirely of Irishmen. The idea spread like wildfire, recruiting began in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and the west, and in a few weeks the Sixty-ninth volunteers had grown to the full strength of a brigade, and the regiment fought under Blenerhassett in the Williamsburg and Peninsula campaigns. In the dark and fatal March of 1862, the Sixty-ninth numbered 36, with only 10 wounded. In the whole course, and in the Bull Run battle, the casualties reached 1,117, of which 474 were killed and wounded. The total deaths on the field were 201. The regiment carried 1,107 men on the rolls. The percentage of 1 dead was a little over 17, the highest among all the New York regiments and 10 in from the top in all the Union army. A few more such and Kingsford could will have paid us to keep the war a going. Her old inventory for would soon have been "Westinger the Great" out of home's way, dead in wearing it over their graves.
—Boston L. Globe.

BY SHOT DOWN TWO ASSAILANTS.

here, the young, mounted down Broadway under a spot new banner of green, bearing Erin's well known symbols—the harp, the shamrock and the shamrock.

The regiment of numberless battalions of Irish heroes, the new regiment was destined not only to lead that fighting race in the contest for glory upon American battlefields, but to stand number one among 500 regiments each sent by the Empire State where the roll of honor should be made up from the actual morale of the killed in battle. Meaghan today that a fact place would be reserved for the Sixty-ninth with the challenging battle cry, "Remember Fontenoy!"

The Sixty-ninth was soon followed by the Sixty-third and the Sixty-eighth New York, the three constituting the Irish brigade with Meagher as brigadier general. After a fine drilling under Sumner, northern heads and Irish shoulders came by a dead hour at Malvern Hill on the Peninsula, July 1, 1862. The brigade was in Richardson's division of Sumner's second corps. On Malvern Heights Meagher was sent in as support to Butterfield's division of the Fifth corps, which was getting the worst of it in a fight with some of Lee's crack brigades under Gens. Armistead, Garnett and Wright.

The Sixty-ninth led the column and reached the Ninth Massachusetts volunteers, that had been cut to pieces and was passing, a sickening procession of its dead and mangled to the rear. The Irishmen took their stand readily and fired with such rapidity that their rear became overheated and their soon had to retire. The Sixty-eighth repeated the maneuver and the Sixty-ninth again moved to the front and was at last relieved for want of ammunition. Then color bearer had fallen, and 37 men killed outright, 136 wounded and 29 missing—152 in all—was the price exacted for rallying around the standard on Malvern Heights in one brief twilight hour.

The regiment had done other work on the Peninsula and at the close of the campaign in August numbered 300 rank and file. It went to the field of Antietam with a fighting strength of 312. Still in Richardson's division it was in the reserve line until the battle waned warm, and then led the brigade in the attack on the famous Sunken Road, near Dunker church. Meagher was at the head of the Sixty-ninth with its commander, Lieut. Col. James Kelly. The men advanced heavily under a sharp artillery fire to a road overlooking the Sunken Road, and at that point the formation of the ground brought the Confederate line, supporting the Irish brigade alone on the hill. It couldn't advance with one flank exposed. It wouldn't retreat so it planted its line with a dogged air and began to fight. The Sunken Road and a sloping hillside beyond it were alive with Confederates, who found targets to their liking in the stubborn Irishmen perched on the back of the adjacent hill without a square inch of shelter. The color bearer of the Sixty-ninth advanced several paces and waved the green flag defiantly at the enemy, an act which drew a fire that completely riddled the banner. One after another the men who held the staff were shot, until eight were down. Capt. James Mellon then seized the flag and as he raised it the staff was cut in two by a ball.

The contest was so desperate that neither Irish nor American given quarter, but the gallant fellows held on, using the weapons of the dead, of whom there were plenty, until relieved by a fresh brigade, and they only fell back to mother earth the banner regiment of the brigade and of the state of New York scored a record of 21 killed and 128 wounded. That seems 149 victims among 307 combatants, and every veteran knows how deadly the fire must be where the proportion of killed to the wounded is greater than one to two. Among the officers the mortality was even higher. Five were killed and four wounded.

THE DEATH OF THE COLONEL WAS FOUND ON THE FIELD.

col. Cut Kelley was hit twice. Twice the Sixty-ninth didn't win the battle of Antietam; but suppose it had reached before the hitting hall and carried back the brigade line with it and with that the supporting divisions! What then? Possibly the immediate consequence would never have been issued. Such incidents may decide great battles and turn the scale of war.

Just three months after Antietam the Irish brigade was again called into the breach to try where others had failed. A new leader had come to the division—Hancock the Superb—as successor to Richardson, who fell at Antietam.

In front of Marye's Height, on the morning of Dec. 13, 1862, the command formed in line to support the battalions of Gen. French in assaulting the stone wall. Shortly before the battle the old green flags of the Irish regiments had been sent home and replaced with new colors presented by citizens in New York. The ranks were so thin that Gen. Meagher decided not to risk the new banners in the Fredericksburg fight, and when the men paraded on the field along the river bank formed for the charge he rode up to the Sixty-ninth, which was in front as usual, and taking a bunch of green from a too hedge close at hand placed it in his hat with a signal to the men to do the same. In short order the hedge was stripped and every man had a waving tuft of green for the battle plume. The general spoke a few words to the Sixty-ninth and then rode beside the colonel, Robert Nugent, leading it by column to the point of assault.

Shot and shell sweep the ground; a deep mill race and two fences obstructed the march, and the Sixty-ninth was charged to fall under the wall to allow the rear line to close up. At the base of the hill the brigade formed in two columns, the Sixty-ninth in front, on the right. Forward the doomed ranks marched against the deadly stone wall, over the dead and wounded of French's shattered brigades, up to the third fence, which had not yet been passed by any few to time. Halting there, the men knelt or lay down and fired at the enemy above. A supporting brigade soon reached the spot, and then the survivors of French's battalions rallied and the Irishmen yet unhurt arose and joined the charging ranks. The last fence was passed, and a handful reached the stone wall in the nearest the works, the rest falling left broke. The Sixty-ninth was literally wiped out. Above 40 men who had been in sight when line were all that remained for duty. The roll call that morning showed 18 officers and 225 men present, and the casualties were 16 officers and 225 men killed and wounded. The mortality in the ranks was again enormous, the dead numbering 89 against 10 wounded. The bearer of the United States colors was found on the field with the flag wrapped around his chest, his arms pulled across it, and a bullet hole through the flag and through his heart as well. Among the wounded officers were Col. Nugent and Capt. Mellon, both twice taken out and succeeded them in command.

For some reason the Irish brigade was not allowed to march to the rear, and after Fredericksburg the Sixty-ninth was consolidated into two companies. At Gettysburg it responded to Hancock's call and charged across the Wheat Field, losing 14 killed and wounded and returning only 40 engaged. After Gettysburg the survivors reinforced, the brigade was kept up and the regiment fought under Hancock in the Wilderness and Petersburg. In its last hard fight, March 31, 1865, it lost 6 killed and 36 wounded. In the whole course, and in the Bull Run battle, the casualties reached 1,117, of which 474 were killed and wounded. The total deaths on the field were 201. The regiment carried 1,107 men on the rolls. The percentage of 1 dead was a little over 17, the highest among all the New York regiments and 10 in from the top in all the Union army. A few more such and Kingsford could will have paid us to keep the war a going. Her old inventory for would soon have been "Westinger the Great" out of home's way, dead in wearing it over their graves.
—Boston L. Globe.

AN ENGINEER'S JOKE.

He Proved Very Convincingly That He Could Stop His Train Quickly.

Mr. Smith tells of an instance illustrating the peculiar methods of Mexican administration of justice in connection with railways.

A friend of mine was on trial for his life on a charge of manslaughter down near Quintero. He had been running a passenger train and had had the misfortune to kill a man walking on the track. He had been in jail for several months and finally Minister Osborne, who was then in Mexico, succeeded in having his case called for trial. Now, the Mexicans never listen to expert testimony. They might hear you and me in our own defense, but unless we could corroborate testimony by some tangible support like physical substantiation, we would cut but a poor figure. In the case I refer to the authorities insisted upon having the engineer reproduce precisely the condition of affairs which led to the accident.

Accordingly the railroad company had to fig up a train of cars, precisely like that in which the accident occurred. It had to be loaded with just as many people as the original train had on board. It had to have the same engine and be taken to the precise spot where the accident occurred. A dummy figure was prepared to stand in the exact spot where the man was killed. Then the jury were to get on the train and the "administrador de justicia" was to take a seat in the cab and observe the efforts of the engineer to stop it in time.

Now, the engineer who was demonstrating the problem was a friend of the man on trial. He intended to show the "administrador" something he had never before seen. The idea was to take the train over the same track. They went up the road about five miles and then switched to come back for the object lesson. The dummy was set up on the track. The "administrador" took his place in the cab, leaning more than half his body out to better observe the figure, for he was to give the signal when to stop.

The engineer let her set with a grin. He was not supposed to travel more than thirty miles an hour, but when the "administrador" waved his hand to check her—"man on the track"—he was going fifty. The free man pulled the whistle, the engineer sprang to his reverse lever and his sanibox and gave her all the air there was in the pump. In less than a second the "administrador de justicia" was out of the cab window into the ditch with a broken ankle, the jury in the first passenger car was piled into a promiscuous mass, the buffer couplers were smashed, the stove was upset, and yet the momentum was so great that the engine struck the straw man and knocked it twenty feet in the air.

The result of that object lesson was that the "administrador" lay in bed for six weeks, the engineer was acquitted and the jury petitioned the legislature of Chiapas for a change in the laws.—Chicago Herald.

The Tomb of Confucius.

One of the most interesting parts of China is the city of Chu-fu-hsien, in the province of Shantung, the birthplace of Confucius, the founder of Confucianism.

In love and veneration by his followers the tomb of Confucius is hardly second to that of Mohammed at Mecca.

It is kept in excellent preservation, disciples being annually placed in charge of it, who regard and keep this trust imposed upon them with a strictness and conscientiousness probably unknown in any other portion of the world.

It is the desire of all thorough Confucianists to have their ashes laid near this sacred spot, and almost daily one or more followers are brought to this already overcrowded cemetery to have their last wish gratified.—Sec. Boston Globe.

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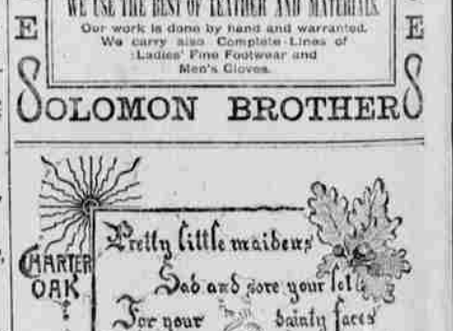

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