

detailed for duty every alternate day.

My captain did not apparently feel satisfied with the results of our late tilt however, and was visually uncomfortable in my company. As a result I was on the 1st of October detailed to the provo guard at Brigade headquarters. I remon-remonstrated valliantly but it was no good, I had to go. Thus we lay inactive until the 20th when we where marched to the depot and went via rail to Chattanooga.

Arriving late in the night we monopolized the depot for quarters, and while sleeping there my knapsack was stolen. I did not regret the loss of my old companion as much as I did the many little trinkets it contained which I prized very highly.

On the 21st we were marched to our new camp and paid off.

On the 22nd we received about one hundred recruits for our regiment and were marched out to the Lee and Gordan mill on the, Chickamauga battle-field some fifteen miles distant.

On the 23rd we crossed the Chickamauga river and traveled about seventeen miles, passing through Lafayette, which the enemy had occupied but one week before .

On the 24th we marched fourteen miles, It was very warm during the day, but the nights were cool and the roads in fine condition,

On the 25th after marching six miles we reached Alpinez where the remainder of our division was stationed and remained there until the 28th, when we received orders to retrace our steps. I had been quite ill of rheumatism and rheumatic fever since the 23rd and was now unable to walk. I was therefore placed in the ambulance train and taken to Lafayette, some twenty-two miles distant, and from thence to Lee and Gordons mill, arriving at Chattanooga on the 30th. Here I was finally placed in hospital No. 2. On the 31st we were mustered for two months pay, and were afterwards transferred to section 3 of ward 3.

On the 1st of November I was much better, but as I was still afflicted with rheumatism the doctor would not consent to sending me to my command; more than that he claimed that he was in need of more assistance, and wanted me especially as an interpreter. There were many German boys in the hospital and he found it necessary to have some one with him who could speak with them. He also suggested that I be appointed as one of the ward masters, to which I did not at this time particularly object. During my stay here I had become acquainted with a number of wounded rebbles, among them H. M. Meadors, to whom I had become greatly attached and after it was understood that I was to stay for a while I asked the Surgeon in charge to have him removed to my ward. He objected to this unless I would agree to take a tent full of them. This I readily consented to, and soon had the matter consumated, the following boys in Gray being thus assigned:

H. M. Meadars. Co. A, 34th Ala.

-- Stiberfield, Co. D, 29th Miss.

G. F. Bradford, Co. I, 10th Tex.

R. T. Hallaway, Co. A, 1st Ark.

M. T. Fulgham, Co. D, 24th Miss.

Cleophas Cousson, Co. D, 20th La.

A J. Crosby, Co.I, 50th Ga.

W. D. D. Pool, -- -- 5th S. C.

and others but most of these soon recovered and on the 28th left for Nashville as prisoners of war. Mr. Meadors and Mr. John Childers, from Hickman, Fulton Co., Ky., remained with me however, both being seriously wounded. And we had a most pleasant time together notwithstanding their misfortune. They taught me a number of rebel songs, some of which I never shall forget, although it cost me almost my entire private salary to keep them in tobacco.

My readers will surely pardon me here if I diverge for a little while to refer personally to my fond attachment and personal acquaintance with Mr. Meadors. Mr. Meadors had lost a leg before Atlanta. and like many other brave soldier boys, both blue and gray, had suffered sorely for want of attention during this exciting days of the Atlanta campaign, commencing some three months before this time. When we were thus thrown together both being about the same age, mere boys a very strong friendship sprang up between us each aimed to make it as pleasant for the other as it was in our power to do, and it was not to be wondered at if when I had secured permission to attend personally to a "tent full" of Johnnies that I should first select Comrade Meadors. But the end finally came when he too must be removed to the military prison. At our parting we exchanged addresses and agreed to write to each other after the "cruel war was over." As I am on this subject I feel justified in skipping a space of twenty-two years the purpose of referring to our reunion. It did not occur until two years ago although Mr. Meadors wrote me two or three letters on returning to his Southern home in 1865, according to his promise. But as will be seen from my reminiscences I had not yet, at that time, reached home, but was still serving with my company in Texas and for that reason his letters did not reach me. Receiving no answer he came to the conclusion that I must have fallen in the strife or had taken up my abode elsewhere. Upon return home from the Army in 1866 I too wrote him according to promise but alas instead of the expected response, I received my letter back from the dead letter office whither it had been sent. I most certainly had no suspicions as to the fidelity of my young confederate friend, but like him, reluctantly, came to the conclusion that he had never lived to see his old home again, and although I often had occasion to think of and refer to him, I never had the slightest hopes of ever seeing or hearing from him again in life. But how little do we know of what providence may bring about in this world. A thunderbolt from a clear sky could not have overtaken me with more astonishment than did the letter I at last, after twenty-two years, received from him. He had written to the postmaster at Highland in hopes of finding some of my relatives to whom he could write for tidings of his old friend "Dutchey" and to whom he could write his gratitude for what he thought I had done for him so many years ago. I immediately answered him and a number of letters followed in quick succession, and in less than two months after receipt of his first letter, he left his southern home in midwinter and journeyed over six hundred miles to greet me. I will not attempt to describe our meeting after so many years of doubts and fears, further than to say that it was similar to two real brothers. My friends had been in-

formed of his expected visit, and a host of them, mostly veterans and members of the G. A. R. were at the depot with me at Highland to meet him, and all were equally zealous in their efforts to make his stay a pleasant one. Ovations and receptions followed in quick succession by friends at Highland, Edwardsville, Collinsville, Grantfork and Pocahontas, and our reunion proved a genuine pleasure to us both while Highland Post. G. A. R., of which I have had the honor to be commander, cemented the reunion, as it were by electing my confederate friend an honorary member thereof. It was a distinction alike appreciated and prized by us both and will ever be cherished as a sacred bond of friendship. In October 1887, the following year, I had the pleasure of visiting him in his southern home, and it was a most hospitable reception and entertainment that awaited me there, both at his hands and those of his friends. It was during this trip that I first decided to collect my data together for my reminiscences as I had an opportunity to revisit many of our old battle fields, thus vividly refreshing my recollections of those terrible days. Last June Mr. Meadors again visited me. He was a delegate at large from Alabama to the St. Louis convention, and made this county his home during his stay, and was the recipient of many kindnesses from old as well as new friends here.

The reason my first letter, in 1866 did not reach him was because he was off attending school and his old county had been "reconstructed" or subdivided so that my address was faulty. He is now serving his second term as Circuit Clerk of Chambers County, Alabama and is a most popular officer. His limb had been amputated so close to the thigh joint that he has never been able to successfully use an artificial limb, and from my own knowledge I know him to still suffer acutely from the wounded member while his recovery in the first instance, after the long delays and neglects he was compelled to endure after the battle of Atlanta, has ever been a mystery to me.

On the first day of December two more confederates were assigned to my tent, on the third three, and on the 4th I received one poor fellow named Combs, who had been shot by the guards at the military prison in town. He had been shot through the thigh and his leg was amputated that evening. He died the next day after suffering much pain.

It had been real cold for several days, but it now turned warmer and commenced to rain.

On the 6th I received another Johnnie in my ward. He was a bright young fellow only 18 years of age-and belonged to the 1st S. C. He had deserted his company at Charleston and had taken the oath, but on the 7th he died. At this time we experienced a tremendous wind storm, and our tents were swept away, but as luck would have it, it was not cold.

On the 8th our convalescents were examined and those who were able for service were sent to the front. I was however, still detained by the doctor who Insisted on my aid. .

On the 9th it rained, sleet followed with cold weather but on the 10th it moderated again.