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THE SONG OF THE EIGHT.

"Oh, the wild charge they made!"
—Tennyson.

By Albert Bigelow Paine.

I
"Stormed at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell,
This is the tale they tell,
"Somebody blundered."
May I not echo, then,
Words for eight gallant men—
Sing their achievement, when
Nobody blundered?

II
As o'er the mountains gray
Crept the first line of day,
When, on the silent bay,
Morning lay dimly,
Fearless they came, the eight
Charging the house of fate—
Frowning most grimly.

III
Stormed at by shell and shot—
Hailing not—heeding not—
Straight to the chosen spot
(All know the story),
Headless of death and din—
Steered they the vessel in—
These are the men who win
Undying glory.

IV
Straight to the spot, and then,
Calmly those eight brave men
(This is what happened when
Nobody blundered)
Wakened the sleeping death,
Hidden from sight beneath—
Watching with bated breath,
Enemies wondered.

V
Out of the crash and roar
Drifted the eight for shore
While down upon them bore
Captors a hundred.
Captors that came too late:
Locked was the house of fate,
Fortresses at the gate
Helplessly thundered.

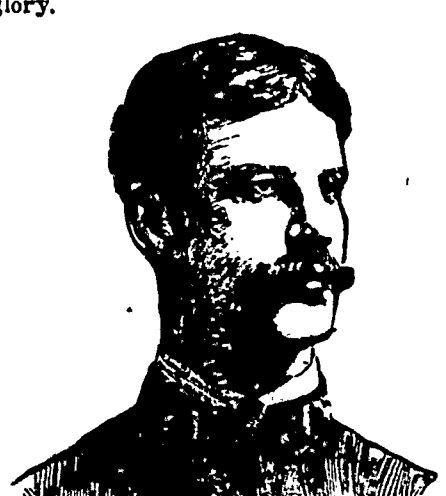
VI
"Stormed at by shot and shell,"
Yet not a hero fell—
Ours not the tale to tell,
"Somebody blundered."
Ours but to echo, then,
Cheers for eight gallant men—
Cheers for achievement when
Nobody blundered!

HERO OF THE MERRIMAC.

His Wonderful Achievement is Just What the People of Alabama Expected of Him.
Alabama does honor to her distinguished son, whose name is woven in the galaxy of heroes. A new battle cry has been coined. "Remember the Maine! Remember Hobson!"

It has not been so many years since a barefooted boy played among the chestnut trees about an old colonial mansion in this quaint village of Greensboro. The same men who today do honor to the name of Richmond Pearson Hobson remember that same barefooted lad, of rugged simplicity and holding as a chief characteristic a wealth of love for his mother.

They knew "Rich" as a youth who was always doing a turn for his seniors, a boy with a splendid mind, with a dogged determination. Now they recognize in Richmond Pearson Hobson the naval hero of the world, the hardy youngster who faced almost certain death for a nation's fame and glory.



LIEUTENANT RICHMOND PEARSON HOBSON.

No dandyism entered into his make-up. He was too busy to be won by the languid smiles of any Southern belle. Yet he was never too busy to be polite and courteous. His mother, whose once jet black hair is tinged with gray, was his sweetest friend.

Men and women tender congratulations, but perhaps the most touching incident was when the old family servant, "Uncle Ben," handed Mrs. Hobson the simple yet sincere congratulatory telegram of President McKinley. A tear crept from among the heavy lashes that shade the beautiful blue eyes which have lost none of their old-time fire, none of their motherly tenderness, by age.

When "Rich" first went away to school he carried a Bible and a prayer book, gifts of his mother. He has them to this day, locked near his heart with a mother's love.

From early boyhood "Rich" Hobson's belief in Providence was strong. His parents share this faith in an all-protecting power which will bring their boy back to their old home. The hero's faith is best illustrated in the opening clause of his will which is now held by his father. "For my near and distant future, I leave myself without anxiety in the hands of Almighty God," it reads.

The young hero's life here in Greensboro, the scene of his early training, has always been sweet to him. Here he comes, when leave of absence allows him, to relate his successes and his troubles. A sturdy man of twenty-eight years now, he still boyishly gets upon his knees and, clasping the motherly hands, he tells of his hopes and aspirations.

The school days of Hobson began with Miss Kate Boardman. His next teacher was Miss Mary Avery. Subsequently he matriculated at the Southern University, where he distinguished himself often in winning declamation prizes and other marks of honor.

To Annapolis, where he went after leaving the sophomore class in the Southern University, "Rich" carried his prayer book and Bible and a mother's "God bless you." In his character was a noticeable religious trait, and at Annapolis he was dubbed "Parson." He continued to read his Bible and repeat a prayer before retiring, notwithstanding the jeers of his mates. An unfortunate accident occurred to Hobson, and, after recovering from what would have killed an ordinary youngster, he was called "Parson Tough."

Soon afterward he was appointed monitor at the academy. It had been the custom not to report classmates for an infringement of the rules. Hobson's stern sense of justice forbade him making any distinction, and he gained the ill will of his classmates. This characteristic of the young hero is illustrated by an incident couched in the language of "Uncle Ben," the family servant.

"Course Marse 'Rich' is a hero," said "Uncle Ben." "Didn't I see dat boy, pestercating wid all sorts of de boys on dat very pon' out dar? He didn't take no foolishness, neither. A boy playin' wid him tried to ruinate one of 'em play ships one day, an' de way Marse 'Rich' thrashed dat boy was a caution. Doan' talk to me 'bout Farragut! Dat boy what I nussed on my knee is de bestes of all! I said he war gwine to do suthin' to git his name high!"

And, delivering himself of this with a very important air, "Uncle Ben" plodded on about the family chores.

The emnity Hobson gained at Annapolis was lived down, and when he graduated he was one of the most popular among the students.

Skill, Not Armor, Decides Battles.

The remarkable shooting of the American gunners at the battle of Manila has opened the eyes of the naval men of Europe. It has convinced the nations that, after all, it is the man behind the gun, and not the thickness of armor or the estimated horse-power of the engines that comprises the chief defense of a ship in a naval fight.

It is no new thing for England to get in a state verging on panic at the condition of her navy. Periodically a furious onslaught is made on the naval experts and Admiralty officials by some Member of Parliament or cranky taxpayer, and the whole country trembles at the idea of its naval strength having been overestimated or wilfully misrepresented.

Just now the scare owes its origin to the remarkable accuracy and deadliness of the American gunners. Britons are comparing the records made at Manila with the scoring during the practice fire of the British crews, and are asking with a good deal of feverish apprehension where their own gunners come in. This has started a mass of correspondence and special articles on the subject of naval gunnery and naval training.

According to our authority, the gunnery practice in Her Majesty's Navy is regarded rather more as a necessary evil than as a duty that, for the good of the service, should be of first-place importance. Here is his calm statement regarding the gunnery practice in the Royal Navy:

"It is a usual thing for the signal to be made, 'Spread for target practice; rejoin by such and such a time,' the consequence being the practice is carried out in a hurried, panicky way, without sufficient supervision or correcting of errors made, in order to 'get it over.' Who has not heard something like the following: 'Why don't you fire that gun?' 'Can't see the target, sir.' 'Never mind that; fire at the splash.' Bang! and away goes pounds and pounds of the unfortunate rate-payer's money into the sea.

"The allowance of ammunition is very small, only eight rounds a quarter being allowed for such guns as a 4.7 or 8 inch quick-firing gun, ten rounds for the lighter quick-firing, and four rounds for the 12-inch wire and upward. The allowance for the heavy quick-firing represents four rounds each for Nos. 1 and 2, or less than a minute's firing once every three months. If, in addition, this allowance is exceeded when prize firing (when the number of rounds fired in the two minutes allowed is unlimited) the amount fired in excess of the allowance; or, suppose a smart 4.7 gun's crew fired sixteen rounds, which they should do in two minutes, they get no more practice for six months, which is, as Euclid would say, absurd.

"In addition to the ammunition proper, however, the Admiralty allow an immense amount of tube cannon ammunition, which is intended for individual instruction of untrained, or partially trained, men, and should be expended as such. It is, however, too frequently fired at the same time as the heavy gun practice takes place, with every available tube going at once, for the same old story, 'to get it done.' The range suitable for heavy gun practice is, of course, quite out of the range for tube cannon, while from the number of guns going at once no man can see what his shots are doing and individual supervision becomes impossible; the result is, a man comes up to his gun, blazes away his ten rounds or so with a fixed sight, which is probably wrong, and departs as wise as he started."

To sum up the matter in the language of the expert referred to, after reviewing the recent great victory at Manila, he says:

"It cannot be denied that the ship that gets in the first hit stands a 50 per cent. better chance of winning the action than when she started; a ship that could make certain of 50 per cent. hits under ordinary conditions of weather at a range of 2,500 yards and inside could cheerfully engage three mobilized vessels with scratch crews."

FROM FARM TO ARMY.

GENERALS WHO WERE FARMERS IN BOYHOOD DAYS.

Both Miles and Shafter—Grant, too, hated the Tanner's Trade and Loved Farming—Other Generals of the Army Who Were City-Born.

Many of America's most famous generals were born and raised on a farm. They started on their career of fame when they quit the country. This probably was because no general can become well-known by staying on a farm. Nelson A. Miles realized this when he left the farm on which he was born, in Westminister, Worcester county, Massachusetts, and went to Boston to clerk in a grocery store, at the age of 16. He saw the war a-coming, and prepared for it by joining the military and reading up on tactics. When the time and opportunity came, he was ready.

Grant, too, was a farmer. He was born at Point Pleasant, Clermont county, Ohio, but while a yearling, his father, who was a tanner, removed to Georgetown. Grant detested tanning but he liked agriculture, and any thing that had to do with horses. He worked on a farm until he was appointed to West Point.

Sherman, on the contrary, though born in the country town of Lancaster, Ohio, was the son of a lawyer. When his father died he was taken into the Ewing family—Thomas Ewing being United States Senator—and prepared for the Military Academy.

Garfield, however, was a farmer's boy of Ohio, and he graduated from the farm to the towpath. When the war came he was in Congress, but unlike a good many political generals he proved equal to the commission he held.

Ormsby Mitchell, the astronomer general, was born on his father's farm in Union County, Kentucky, his father having moved into that state from Virginia.

Sheridan's birthplace is in doubt. Some authorities say that he was born in Albany, and others that he was an Ohioan by birth. Whatever his birthplace, he was appointed to West Point from Ohio, and he made himself what he was.

Custer was born on a farm at New Rumley, Ohio, and did the work of a farmer until he was old enough to go to the military academy.

Schofield's birthplace was Gerry Chautauque County, New York. His father, a pastor, moved in 1843 to Illinois, and there the son worked on a farm until he reached the age for a military education.

Burnside was born in a log cabin at Liberty, Mo., and as a boy was a farmer until he learned the trade of a tailor.

Halleck was born in Waterville, Oneida county, New York; Thomas in Southampton, Va.; Hancock in Montgomery county, Pa.; Butler in Deerfield, N. H.; Rosecrans at Kingston, Ohio; Pope at Kaskaskia, Ill.; Logan in Jackson county, Ill., where his father was a doctor; Crook near Dayton, Ohio; Kilpatrick near Decker town, N. J.; Lew Wallace at Brookville, Ind.; Hooker at Hadley, Mass.; Franklin at York, Pa.; Slocum at Delphi, Onondaga county, N. Y.; the fighting McCooks on an Ohio farm; Stoneman in Chautauque county, N. Y.; and Howard at Leeds, Me.

Of the city born generals, Merritt and Phil Kearney are products of New York city; McClellan was born in Philadelphia, Fremont in Savannah, Ga.; McDowell in Columbus, Ohio; Alfred Pleasanton in Washington; Terry in Hartford, Conn.; while Meade was born in Cadiz, Spain, where his father was a representative of the United States.

Shafter was born on a Michigan farm. Oates, one of the new brigadiers, was born on his father's farm in Bullock county, Ala., and Harrison Gray Otis, of California, another new brigadier, was born on his father's farm near Marietta, Ohio.

Of the new major generals, Copinger and Sewell are the only foreign born, they having come from Ireland. Graham, the senior major general, was born in Washington, and Breckinridge's parents, at the time of his birth, lived in Baltimore.

Turning to the navy, the most conspicuous figure of the day, Acting Rear Admiral Sampson, was born on a farm near Palmyra, N. Y., and worked hard all of his boyhood days. Sigbee was born, too, on a farm in Albany county, this State. Dewey, on the contrary, though born in a small Vermont town, never held the plow, his father being a doctor, and fairly well off.

Pay of Certain Army Officers Increased.
The army regulations have been amended so as to provide that the following named officers, in addition to those whose pay is fixed by law, shall receive pay as mounted officers:

Officers of the staff corps below the rank of major, officers serving with troops organized and equipped, authorized aids duly appointed, officers serving with companies of mounted infantry and officers on duty which, in the opinion of the department commander, requires them to be mounted. Acting judge advocates of military departments, duly detailed, are entitled, while so serving, to the rank, pay and allowances of captains of cavalry. Battalion adjutants are entitled to mounted pay upon the certificate of their regimental commanders that they are on duty which requires them to be mounted.

DIOCESAN NEWS.

What Our Friends in the Surrounding Parishes are Doing.

From Our Special Correspondent.

Corning.

R. L. Gellin and son Leo left during the past week for a two week's visit at Oswego. Miss Lynch of Oswego, is the guest of Miss N. Trol.

Miss Doherty who has been alarmingly ill of brain fever is reported to be improving.

James Gould is home from the summer vacation from Holy Cross College.

Miss Bertha Ryan of West Market street is home from a trip to Detroit.

The funeral of the late Bartholomew Smith was held at St. Mary's church. Requiem high mass was celebrated by Rev. J. M. Bustin and was largely attended. The burial was in St. Mary's cemetery and the pall bearers were John Deneen, James McGill, John Griffin, Chas. McCarty, Dennis Ryan and James Gilmarlin.

The heat of the past few days makes pertinent the question of baths and bathing. It would seem that a floating public bath, of the covered-a variety, situated in the middle of the river at a suitable spot, ought to prove a paying investment for whomsoever undertakes its construction. At present there is no bath for swimming in this locality and no convenient spot on the river where a plunge is possible and the bath rooms of the Y. M. C. A. which may be said to be the only ones that are public in any sense of the word, are, I am told, "hot stuff" but hardly all that could be desired.

The warmth of these summer evenings seems to be breeding a habit among certain young boys presumably Catholics, of using the steps of St. Mary's church as a loitering place before and during the Sunday evening services there. No doubt the fault lies more to carelessness and lack of knowledge than any intentional depravity and a mere indication of the impropriety of the thing will, it is hoped, put a stop to it. It may be permissible to hang around restaurants and saloons but to use the steps of the house of God as a seat and add cigarette smoking room and to discuss matters of such weighty importance as base ball and prize fighting, is to make a nuisance of yourself.

Thomas Doherty was in the city during the past week called here by the illness of his sister Mary.

William Conlon of Buffalo, is in Corning for a brief visit.

The glass-cutting shops of the city have shut down for the summer. Home's for one week, and Hawke's and Egginton's each for two weeks.

To ride on the street cars is delightful on warm evenings and when in addition to enjoying the large breaths of air that lie in open stretches of the country between here and Painted Post, there is also a prospect of heat when you reach the Post, the music of the Alliance band, the conclusion is apt to prove irresistibly attractive as happened on Friday evening last when every one followed the band to the Post leaving the streets of Corning almost deserted and merchants of all kinds standing in their doorways looking hopelessly desolate and lonely.

Corning did not celebrate the Fourth but there was a ball game in the afternoon between this town and Hornell which was full of interest and recalled the days when these two towns were nearest rivals and baseball was a word to conjure with either at Hornellville or Corning. A good sized crowd saw the game and among the players were many old-timers. For the Hornells there was Luby who was batted unmercifully and Vin Daly who got roasted and struck out persistently "just in the same old way." Of course Hornell lost. The Corning score I counted up to 10 and the Hornell score could be enumerated on the fingers of one hand. The Corning team was truly a pan-Corning team. It contained representatives of the Free Academy team, the Spaulding, Georgetown College, Niagara and Holy Cross not to mention the teams that Goodall and Crosey have been in. For the younger element Gorton of the Free Academy also was undoubtedly the bright particular star. He played short stop, and the way in which he took in hot liners, ripping grounders, and ran back and caught to his heart flies that seemed meant for the out-fielder, was a sight beautiful to see. He was ably helped by Jimmie Hance of the Spaulding, who played a neat cool game and hit the ball on the nose with a force that was disastrous to the Hornell's chances of winning. Tim Connell on first stopped some awkward once well and the out-field was beyond criticism. Goodall was hit a little toward the end when the Hornells got a handful of power. The game in the morning at Hornellville was also won by Corning.

Several Corningites went to Elmira on the Fourth and there spent the day.

Joseph Magilton, of this city has finished a rich cut glass door-light for a residence in Wellsville. The door-light which is a new departure in cut glass manufacture, has been an object of admiration to all who have seen it, as it has all the brilliancy of cut glass table ware, on a large scale.

Palmyra.
Misses Nellie Felloni and Mayne Sullivan spent the Fourth at Macedon.

Miss Catherine Moore is spending the week at Ontario.

Saint Ann's parish will have low mass through the hot weather. There will be no Sunday school until the first of September.

Mrs. Curran is on the sick list.
Born to Mr. and Mrs. Corrie McLintyre June 28th, a boy.

Miss Kittie Welch of Rochester is spending a few weeks with her parents.

Miss Cora McGill of Rochester was the guest of Miss Anne Ryan the past week.

The Misses Lizzie and Ella Adams wheeled to Newark Sunday.

The amateur team of Palmyra played at Phelps the Fourth.

Mrs. Deerpent Thursday in Syracuse.
James Adams, Fanny Gorman and Fanny Gorman of Rochester spent Sunday in Corning.
Miss Nora Moore of Rochester is home for the summer.
Master T. J. Sullivan and Edward Welch wheeled to Newark Sunday.
Miss Nellie Adams spent the Fourth at Newark with friends.
Miss Mary Carroll of Rochester spent Sunday in town—the guest of her brother.

[Diocesan News continued on 10th page.]

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