

THE ULSTER REGIMENT IN THE "GREAT REBELLION."

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PREFACE.

The stirring events of the present year are all fit subjects for history. It will be the duty of this Society, which has undertaken the care of the annals of Ulster County, to gather up the materials, as the fragments fall from the incidents of war and political disintegration, so that none shall be lost.

This is excuse enough for putting into a tangible shape the reminiscences of the late campaign of the Ulster County regiment of Militia, called into the service of the General Government for the defence of the Capital, and the suppression of the Southern rebellion.

Recollections are soon lost; and with armies of half a million in the field upon each side, there is danger that the patriotic efforts of the beginning may be crowded out of mind by the more momentous achievements which are actively in progress. It is only a proper fidelity to Ulster County fame, to put these early transactions of the war into a reliable shape.

KINGSTON, October 16, 1861.

CHAPTER I.

The Government of United States of America, though established upon the heel of a brilliant and successful revolution, was formed peculiarly for peace. It was the creature of a war involving great personal sacrifices, yet its framers made the new Constitution only with an eye to growth and prosperous peace, without a single prophetic vision into the turmoils to rend the fair work of their hands into fragments. Scarcely a single person looked beyond the partisan bickerings of the day. Adverse interests were

known to exist—the antagonisms of sections were heard, loud and threatening, in Congress and on the stump, preceding the stated National elections, but nothing was prophesied—at least nothing was believed to exist of sufficient force to offset the glorious achievements, the National pride, and the rapid and healthy growth and progress of the country.

The standing army of the General Government from motives of economy has always been an insignificant force; and from the great extent of the National domain it became scattered and disorganized. In lieu thereof reliance was placed upon the militia of the different States, which had become organized into a system of military defence, more or less mature. New York encouraged such organizations by devoting a trifling tax to the support of the service, and furnishing arms to those who enrolled and uniformed themselves according to law; and in this way had enrolled several corps of Infantry and Artillery, that could appear with credit by the side of veteran battalions of European armies. The New England States had also militia organizations on a similar plan. In the South, too, on a more private basis, several corps existed, with equipments and arms of the best pattern, purchased by individual contributions. One corps of Zuaves, organized in the West, on a similar plan, had even outstripped in drill and efficiency the European standard of this arm of service, so widely famed in the late war in Italy.

It will be seen that the efficiency of these militia organizations, from the pacific nature of our laws, depended mainly upon the military spirit and enterprise of individuals; for the same reason that had prevented the General Government from supporting an expensive military establishment, had operated against large appropriations in that direction by the States.

Military organizations thus created had been content with mutual acts of friendship, and rivalry—visiting and entertaining, and emulating each other in drill and appearance, little apprehending the approach of a great war.

The Regiment of Ulster County militia was the growth of the same spirit, and in 1857 perfected a new organization, and assumed the name of the "Ulster Guard." It adopted an uniform dress similar to the Regular Army, received arms from the State, adopted the Light Infantry drill, and by dint of untiring energy under the command of Col. Geo. W. Pratt, soon became one of the best organized

and efficient regiments of the State. It was attached to the Eighth Brigade, commanded by Gen. H. A. Samson, and was much aided by his energy and military spirit in acquiring its rank in the State service.

In 1858, Gen. Samson's Brigade went into camp for instruction at Kingston. The two village corporations of Kingston and Rondout, appreciating the effort to make the Ulster Guard efficient and to show a fit tribute to the officers and men, procured a stand of colors, and took this occasion to present them in behalf of the villages. The presentation drew a very large concourse of citizens, and took place at the Camp Ground, between the two villages, on the 31st of August, 1858. The presentation address was made by the Hon. Wm. S. Kenyon. It is of interest here, as throwing light upon the motives of those who then patronized the militia.

He said :

"Colonel and Officers and Soldiers of the Ulster Guard : The vast importance to a free and independent people of a duly organized and efficient citizen soldiery, both in a civil and political aspect, requires at our hands no proclamation.

The Constitution of this great State—the text book of our chartered civil and political rights—proclaims it by a recognized equality between the civil and military branches of the Government. So close a relationship is established by Constitutional parentage between those branches, that the Governor, the great civil head, is declared to be the Commander in Chief of the military and naval forces of the State. An union so complete, an intimacy so vital to each, must of necessity prompt a sense of mutual dependency, and incite to an open expression of regard. Eminently meet and natural is it that the civil and municipal authorities everywhere should proffer the right hand of fellowship to the military, and testify before the world to a recognition of a common origin, and one and the same destiny.

The corporations of Kingston and Rondout here convened, by their representatives, recognizing you as an honorable and distinguished member of that noble body of organized citizens, of which the Empire State has reason ever to be proud, seize this opportunity to tender you a testimonial of their high appreciation of your merits as soldiers, and through me to express an abiding sense of your worth as citizens and as men. The flag of his country, emblazoned all over with an ever increasing galaxy of stars, symbolical of a prosperous union of free and independent

States, which, God grant, may never be dissolved, must to the heart of every American soldier prove a cherished *souvenir*.

Receive these colors at our hands. Preserve them in remembrance of an occasion so pregnant with interest, and of a scene in which you act so conspicuous a part. A thousand holy recollections will forever cluster around them. The very Heavens that are now smiling down upon you, these old hills that lie crouching all about you with expansive ear, listening to catch the every accent of this scene; the very ground on which you stand, enriched by patriotic blood, and teeming with savory memories of revolutionary times, will at sight of them again and again start out before your mind's eye with all the vividness of the present.

Accept them as they are. Would that it were possible with a graphic touch to represent upon them your future glories. When Æneas received from his goddess mother the shield which Vulcan had wrought out, he beheld with loving eyes all over it a prophetic history of the future achievements and glory of his race. A wise Providence has denied to us the power of tearing aside the veil which hangs between you and the fulfillment of your hopes. You will read up this simple gift—no prophetic revelation; but you will not fail to discover on every fold some divine memento, traced there by the tender hand of memory.

Accept them and guard them with a valiant heart, and may they, like that stand of heavenly colors flung out by Israel's God, a pillow of cloud by day and a pillow of fire by night, introduce you to a full and free fruition of your dearest hopes."

Col. Pratt replied as follows:

"Mr. President and Gentlemen: In behalf of the Ulster Guard I thank you for this beautiful gift, and the kind expressions of appreciation with which it is accompanied. The soldiers constituting my command, cherish the homes and firesides of their country, and it needs no incentive to earn a pledge of their protection; but it is a proud pleasure to them, that the municipal authorities of the two largest villages of Ulster, have taken this occasion to express their regard.

We appreciate the honor you have thus done us, and we promise that if this land is ever involved in war, that these colors shall wave with credit and glory, wherever danger is thickest, and the fight is warmest.

Gentlemen, we thank you, and as you have alluded to our revolutionary sires, we trust the Ulster Guard will never be found unworthy of the noble inheritance of honor and virtue they have left us."

In 1860, the Regiment again encamped at Athens for instruction. It numbered in rank and file nearly 400, and was considered a full regiment; and at the review of the Governor and Staff, it was complimented as one of the best Regiments in the State. That this compliment was sincere subsequent events proved.

It is not a part of this record to trace the causes of the war. It is sufficient that the events of the winter of 1860 and 1861 presaged a collision of the sections. The life of the newly elected President was threatened on his route to Washington, and he was scarcely permitted to be inaugurated without witnessing the clash of arms. The siege and surrender of Fort Sumter, which shortly followed, stirred in a moment the elements of war, and a call for seventy-five thousand troops to be furnished by the loyal States, thirty thousand of which were apportioned to New York, was at once issued by the President. The Militia Regiments of this State, fit to take the field, were ordered in response to this call to march at once to Washington to protect the Capital. Of the Regiments thus ordered, seven were from New York city and Brooklyn; one from Albany and one from Ulster County—the Ulster Guard. Excepting the Albany Regiment, equipped under the immediate eye of the State authorities, Ulster County furnished the only other one, out of New-York city and Brooklyn, fit to take the field in the pressing emergency. History must ever note this fact in praise of the sturdy patriotism of Ulster County men.

CHAPTER II.

The din of preparation to meet the crisis awoke to the most stirring effort the patriotism of the State. The Legislature, in session at Albany, appropriated half a million of dollars to put the militia in possession of war equipments, and three millions more to arm an additional volunteer force. An Union Defence Committee was appointed in New York city, and furnished with nearly five millions of dol-

lars, a large portion contributed by patriotic individuals, to send forward troops. The citizens of Ulster, with perhaps less tumult, rallied, worthy of their old Revolutionary fame, to the work. An immense impromptu mass meeting was held in the Court House, and amid the ringing of Church bells, the firing of cannon, and the general suspension of business pursuits, the citizens pledged their efforts to the preservation of the Government. At a meeting of the officers of the Ulster Guard, their services were tendered to the Governor, and propositions to recruit and equip the Regiment to a war footing, were at once put into motion. The amount of money needed for this work was large; but all working together with spirit and enthusiasm, developed rapidly the "sinews of war."

The banks, with a true patriotic spirit, came up to their duty in the crisis, and issued promptly to Col. Pratt the following letter:

KINGSTON, N. Y., 20th April, 1861.

COL. GEORGE W. PRATT:

Dear Sir—At a meeting of Officers of the Banks in this town, held this day, on the representation that the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars is needed to prepare your Regiment for the field, it was unanimously

Resolved, That the Banks here represented, viz: Ulster County Bank, Kingston Bank, Bank of Rondout, and State of New York Bank, will each honor the Drafts of the Paymaster of the 20th Regiment for the sum of Two Thousand Dollars.

Yours, &c.,

A. BRUYN HASBROUCK, Chairman.

H. H. REYNOLDS, Secretary.

The banks of Saugerties also contributed \$2,000. Funds to feed the troops were rapidly gathered by subscription. Recruits from the different towns, aroused by the fervid appeals of prominent citizens, poured rapidly into Kingston and enrolled themselves under the Command of Colonel Pratt. In a week the Regiment numbered eight hundred men, mostly uniformed and equipped, and had received orders from the Governor to report to President Lincoln at Washington.

Who will say that this was not an act of heroism, worthy our revolutionary history? The men thus formed into military ranks, were under orders for a march of three hundred miles. Blood had already been shed along the route. Communication with Washington had been cut off, and it was even conjectured that the Capital had been taken possession of by the rebel invaders. The men who thus volunteered were obliged to leave their business and families, with sacrifices and under circumstances in many cases very unpleasant and distressing.

Sunday, the 29th of April, was the day on which the Regiment took its departure. The line of march from the Regimental Armory at Kingston, was formed at 6 o'clock, A. M. Even at that early hour, the streets were filled by an immense crowd, depressed by the gloomy sentiments of so uncertain a separation from friends, husbands, sons and lovers; yet enlivened by the spirit of patriotism and devotion to duty. The Regimental Colors, consecrated to the defence of Ulster County soil, were about to be borne off to a distant encounter—to mingle in the doubtful issue of a fratricidal contest. It was a scene that might well produce contending emotions, and will long be remembered by those whose feelings were involved in the thick network of sentiments that touched to tears so large a multitude.

The Ulster County Bible Society took occasion to convene the Regiment, before its departure, at the Academy Green, to present to each soldier a copy of the Testament, and to commend its divine truth, as an ever present monitor in the hazards of the soldier's life. The presentation address was delivered by the Rev. Joseph A. Collier, of the Second Reformed Dutch Church of Kingston, and its pleading devotion to Bible truth, as it seemed to shine from his fervid language and expressive countenance, brought many an unwilling tear, and left many an ineffacable touch of conviction. The pastors of all the churches of Kingston were also present and participated in the exercises, and united their prayers for the welfare of the country, and the soldiers about to embark in its service. The patriotic devotion of Ulster County was also represented, and was expressed in an eloquent and fervid speech by Hon. A. Bruyn Hasbrouck. He impressed in glowing language upon her soldiers the fearful ordeal of the Nation, and the course of conduct imposed upon them by the early history of the County.

The members of the Regiment, with these solemn impressions, and with uplifted hands, swore the Constitutional oath, and took their line of march to Rondout and thence on board Major Cornell's steamer, the "Manhattan," and a barge. They were still accompanied by the crowd, who delayed their farewell until the transport passed out of the creek.

Bidding good-bye, the dense throng filled the house-tops, crowded the wharf and vessels at the dock, and every available space, whilst cheer after cheer and that trembling enthusiasm of the multitude, filled the air, until Ulster County

settled out of sight of her devoted soldiers, and they found themselves alone with the more serious impressions of their errand and its duties.

CHAPTER III.

In our day, events are communicated by telegraph, and a crisis matures more rapidly than in former times. The whole country was aroused at the same instant. The first news of the rebellion, like an electric shock, thrilled in a moment the entire body of the people. They all realized the existence of a war, and armed for the event. But all did not at once realize its magnitude. This subject became the theme of discussion, and occupied the mind of the masses, as well as those in authority. None at once measured the full dimensions of the disaster, though the people and those out of office were most impressed, and whilst they magnified their estimate by their fears, came nearest the correct measurement. Our State authorities were ill prepared for the emergency, and were soon overrun by the preparations to meet it; and thus they over-estimated what they did, and underrated what they ought to do.

Upon the arrival of the Regiment in New York city, it was quartered in the Armories, just vacated by City Regiments already sent forward, and fed as well as it was possible by contractors, whose preparations were yet on a scale of economy and had not acquired the proportions necessary for the demand upon them.

One Regiment of New York troops had, by this time, reached Washington, and the State breathed easier. "The Country is safe," used to be the old watchword of careless philosophers, and "Washington is safe" at once became a smart aphorism for newspaper writers and such sages as are made over every morning by the latest dispatches.

The Governor of New York and his military staff were also fashioned much in their opinions of the crisis by their morning paper, which had thus become an excellent sedative for the impulsive energy into which they were first inspired by the startling events with which the war opened. They, too, were thus persuaded that the country was safe, and that the danger really was that New York had sent forward too many troops.

For nearly one week this delusion seized the people, and the Ulster Guard were the guests of the resting State authorities in the city, waiting an exchange of arms, and a few equipments that could have been delivered in one hour with orders to march. Instead of these, Colonel Pratt was regaled with paragraphs in the papers, showing a discussion in the Councils of the Governor, as to whether the Regiment should not be sent home, and the work and devotion embarked in it, dissolved back into the distant towns of Ulster. An order to that effect came on the Sunday after the arrival of the Regiment, and the Ulster County Soldiers, who had left home with gloomy feelings, with much more gloomy feelings were preparing to return. They began to accept the idea, that Ulster, calm, Dutch, sober Ulster, had for once been too fast.

But while the order relieving him was drying in the hands of Col. Pratt, the telegraph was awakening new alarms in the State authorities. The loyal men of the city had begun, too, to discredit the cry "Washington is safe." The magnitude of the crisis was developing on the electric currents, and the Ulster County men, admired by all for their hardy appearance, their quiet, yet patriotic manners, and their true notions of the soldier's calling, became quickly the praised of the newspapers, the reliance of the Union Defence Committee, and the toast of the city. There was a new crisis, and a new order to march, and a new demonstration of a New-York multitude to see the Ulster Guard march out of the Park Barracks on Tuesday morning, May 7th, 1861, for the defence of Washington. The strength of the Regiment, by the morning report of that day, was 815, consisting of—

Field Officers—Col. GEORGE W. PRATT, Lt. Col. Hiram Schoonmaker, Major Theodore B. Gates.

Commissioned Staff—Jacob B. Hardenbergh, Adjutant; John S. Griffiths, Quarter-Master; Peter T. Overbush, Paymaster; William Lounsbury, Commissary; Major A. Crispell, Captain Leonard Ingersoll and Lieutenant R. Loughran, Surgeons; Daniel T. Van Buren, Captain of Engineers; William Darrach, Chaplain.

Non-Commissioned Staff—P. Freeman Hasbrouck, Sergeant Major; Charles Schryver, Quarter-Master's Sergeant; Henry Mick, Sergeant Standard Bearer; Augustus Geoller, Drum Major; A. Webster Shaffer, Sergeant of Sappers; Engineer Corps, 9 men.

Lines—Company A, 78 men; J. B. Webster, Captain; A. G. Barker, 1st Lieutenant; James Stevens, 2d Lieutenant.

Company B, 113 men; George H. Sharp, Captain; Jacob Sharp, 1st Lieutenant; Cornelius I. Houghtaling, 2d Lieutenant.

Company C, 81 men; J. Rudolph Tappen, Captain; W. A. Van Rensselaer, 1st Lieutenant; Peter S. Voorhees, 2d Lieutenant.

Company D, 74 men; Davis Winnie, Captain; John Hussey, 1st Lieutenant; John M. Schoonmaker, Jr., 2d Lieutenant.

Company E, 98 men; William Lent, Captain; Jacob A. Blackman, 1st Lieutenant; Nicholas Sahn, 2d Lieutenant.

Company F, 68 men; Patrick J. Flynn, Captain; Edward O'Reilly, 1st Lieutenant; John Murray, 2d Lieutenant.

Company G, 80 men; James T. Hendricks, Captain; James D. Balen, 1st Lieutenant; S. W. Miller, 2d Lieutenant.

Company H, 87 men; John Derrenbacher, Captain; Jarvis McEntee, 1st Lieutenant; Lawrence Stoker, 2d Lieutenant.

Company K, 109 men; Wade H. Steenbergh, Captain; Geo. Wheeler, 1st Lieutenant; Cornelius C. Bush, 2d Lieutenant; Ambrose N. Baldwin, Jr. 2d Lieutenant.

CHAPTER IV.

A brief sketch of the campaign up to this time is here necessary. Massachusetts prepared in February and March for an approaching war, and when the proclamation was issued to the Northern States by telegraph, Gov. Andrews answered by telegraph inquiring where his quota should be sent, and at the same time he ordered forward the Sixth and Eighth Regiments of Militia of that State, then in camp at Boston. The Sixth had reached Baltimore on the 19th of April, and in passing through that city, was assaulted by a mob, and several killed or wounded. This act was followed by the destruction of the railroad and telegraph lines through Baltimore, connecting with Washington, on both the Harrisburgh and Havre-de-Grace routes. Under these circumstances, the Eighth of Massachusetts and the Seventh of New-York, with Brig-Gen. Butler in command, were compelled to take the route *via* Perryville and Annapolis. They landed at Annapolis before the rebel forces of Maryland could combine in strength, and thus secured possession of the Annapolis branch railroad connecting with the Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad at Annapolis Junction.

The Twentieth from Ulster County followed by this route, and landed at Annapolis May 8th, just after daylight. Gen. Butler was in command of the Department of Annapolis, and assigned to the Ulster Guard the duty of holding this route to Washington, with Head-Quarters at the Junction.

That Maryland was not a loyal State had been tested by the conduct of Baltimoreans on the 19th of April; and an at-

tempt to stab one of the Regiment in the darkness during the first night of the Twentieth on their soil, gave a clue to their mode of meeting their assailants. The Annapolis railroad passes through a sparsely populated district for twenty miles to the Junction. Along much of the route the first forests are still standing. For the purpose of protecting this road, a portion of the companies were divided into pickets of from 10 to 60, and stationed at such convenient distances, that a night patrol would pass the whole road, thus connecting Annapolis and the Junction by a chain of pickets. That this duty was gloomy and unpleasant and attended with danger, is clear. That the inhabitants at best were of a very sensitive loyalty, had already been learned by the Regiment in whose steps they followed, and that the duty imposed was delicate and important was equally clear.

The Head-Quarters at the Junction occupied a camping ground slightly sloping towards the railroad station, and skirted on the east by a wood, affording a pleasant shade during the heat, but no protection from attack. The level nature of the country, in fact, furnished not the slightest natural defence. The first attention, therefore, of Col. Pratt was directed to breaking up the military organizations of the neighborhood, known to be hostile. Repositories of arms were ransacked, and suspected individuals apprehended or watched. The principal danger was from a cavalry raid that might have swept suddenly from the direction of the Rebel Head-Quarters on the Potomac. Against this the Colonel was specially warned, and by surrounding the camp with a chain of pickets, he soon made a surprise difficult. The next duty—and a delicate one—was to encourage the Union and loyal sentiment by overcoming the natural hostility of the inhabitants to northern troops, who appeared to them in the light of invaders. The quality of his troops rendered this easier. Prejudices against some of the acts of preceding Regiments, were soon overcome by a uniform respect for the rights and feelings of the residents. Their property—even their slaves—they soon found more secure than under the usual remedies of their State laws. The Railroad Company, which at first crippled their own road to prevent the passage of troops, soon favored the troops, who protected their property. Before two months the members of the Ulster Guard were as much respected on the strange soil of Maryland, as they were in their own neighborhoods of their native County. An election called

to fill the seats in the special session of Congress, in the District occupied by the troops from Ulster, resulted almost unanimously for the Union candidates, and this without interference or the least appearance of control on the part of the troops. Organized efforts to attack and surprise the Camp were from time to time discovered and broken up before they ripened. One project of the kind, undertaken upon a very dark night, was foiled by the vigilance of one of the outside sentinels, and the alarm being given, the movement dispersed through the darkness, leaving only tracks and the noise of retreat as evidence of its force. An actual engagement did not take place; for it was not provoked by neglecting vigilance. No individual case of violence occurred; for the conduct of the men caused respect instead of broils. It was a conquest more glorious than an abject subjugation, that, when it was understood towards the close of June to be the intention of Gen. Banks to order the Regiment to Baltimore, the inhabitants petitioned the Commandant of the Department to continue the Twentieth in the occupation of the position they then held.

On the 28th of May, whilst the Twentieth was at the Junction, Lieut. Col. Hiram Schoonmaker submitted his resignation to the officers of the Regiment. It was known to be caused by reasons not attributable to a dislike of his associates or the service, and produced a deep regret, which had expression at a meeting at which the fact was first learned by the officers. An election to fill the vacancy was held, and Major Theodore B. Gates, entitled by rank to the succession, was cheerfully elected to the position. The choice was proved to have been a wise one. Jacob B. Hardenbergh, who had held the post of Adjutant since the organization of the Regiment, was chosen Major, and though at first inclined to refuse the additional responsibility of that place, his eminent fitness made his fellow officers insist upon his acceptance. Maurice W. McEntee was appointed from Co. II in place of Mr. Hardenbergh, promoted.

CHAPTER V.

The Regiment in Camp at Athens, in 1860, as has been said, was commended at its inspection by the Officers of the State for its discipline and proficiency in drill and battalion

movements. Recruiting it up to a war standard, introduced, of course, a very large number of undisciplined soldiers. Some whole companies were fresh from ordinary business, and had never had the first lesson in the school of the soldier. In the hurry of forwarding troops the Regiment marched without an opportunity to practice in batallion. No chance for exercise was offered in New York city, and during the early part of its stay on the Annapolis road, the Regiment was scattered, and only a portion of the companies appeared in line. But drill in squads and companies was quickly acquired by the presence and example of the original members of the Regiment. When the companies, therefore, gradually gathered at Head-Quarters as they were relieved from picket duty on account of the growing loyalty along the road, they rapidly acquired, by drill, great steadiness in executing the most difficult of the movements of the batallion, and soon became one of the best appearing Regiments in the field. The exposure of picket service had worn out most of the clothing taken with the Regiment, and the regular army uniform furnished instead was fresh and gave a general appearance much above others which were passing on the way to the Camps about Washington. This created a feeling among the soldiers of the Twentieth that they ought to be relieved and sent forward where it was thought active work would soon commence. Two months had made the Camp at the Junction monotonous. The service had grown lighter, because the Camp was less menaced by attack, and soldiers always grow uneasy when their service is relieved of danger and the excitement of the war hazards.

An order at last arrived for the Regiment to be in readiness to march, and all prepared with alacrity, thinking Washington the destination; but it afterwards appeared by an order from Genl. Banks, received by Col. Pratt, June 26th, that the Twentieth was one of the Regiments assigned to the protection of the Union Cause in the city of Baltimore.

The order was not satisfactory to the Regiment generally, though the fitness of Col. Pratt and his command for the service assigned, shows the wisdom of the Commanding General. He was, no doubt, influenced in the solution by what he had already witnessed of the Ulster County troops, in the performance of the duties already discharged, and which were similar to those which would be required in their new position.

Baltimore has a peculiarly unfortunate history connected

with the war. Its commercial interests were with the South, tending to Virginia and along the Southern coast, and impelled the business men of the city to sympathize with the action and welfare of the seceded States. On the other hand, its beautiful dwellings, parks, and the monuments and other public ornaments, so much the pride of Baltimoreans, were within easy range of the guns of Fort McHenry, already turned city-ward by the riot of the 19th of April, and the large number loyal from such motives augmented the influence of the true Union men.

An animosity grew between these two parties to a much more bitter hostility than partisan feeling alone would cause; for the dread of approaching collision with arms made all suspicious and anxious. Baltimore was in fact a slumbering volcano, and the discovery of arms in large quantities secreted and under control of the municipal officers and the police, known to lean strongly in their sympathies towards the rebels, impelled Gen. Banks to occupy the city with a sufficient force and protect the Union Cause by Martial Law.

It was with this view that the Twentieth was moved from the Junction, and together with six other Regiments encamped adjacent to the city. The Ulster Guard pitched its tents at Patterson Park at the eastern terminus of Baltimore street, the principal one for business in the city, whilst the Thirteenth from Brooklyn occupied the other extremity of the same street, a distance of about five miles from each other. Three Regiments of Pennsylvania militia, one of Maryland volunteers, and a battery of light artillery from Boston, were also encamped on the city outskirts, whilst a battalion of Massachusetts militia and two Companies of regulars were stationed at the Fort.

Such was the condition of the occupation on Monday morning, July 1st, when the Twentieth was ordered to occupy the principal Police Station and the Custom House, posts distant about one mile from each other, and in the heart of the city. For this purpose the Regiment was divided nearly equal, and the right wing under Lieut.-Col. Gates, located at the Police Station, and the left wing and Head-Quarters at the Custom House, supported by a detachment of the Boston battery with two of their pieces unlimbered on the sidewalk near the principal entrance.

Two important plans of the rebels were thus frustrated. The old police claimed still the right to hold their places, and draw their pay, and were organizing to take possession

of the Police Head-Quarters and turn out the new force just established by the Provost Marshal. In the Custom House was deposited the Government revenue of the Port, and a large sum to be used by the depot officers of the Army. The rebel officials had already shown great quickness in discovering and ransacking the Government treasures, and active combinations were in progress to give the rebellion a new vigor by its breaking out in force in so excellent a field as among a crowded population like Baltimore. A whole regiment had been organized and equipped for the Rebel Army from the young men of the city, and it would have given an immense impetus to this work, if rebellion could have laid its hand upon the Government treasures, and the heavy founding machinery with which Baltimore is so well supplied.

It became Col. Pratt's work at once to operate with the new police in ferreting out and breaking up these combinations. In three days it had been so effectually accomplished, that the 4th of July dawned upon Baltimore as loyal a city as any of the Union. The cannon of the Fort and of the adjacent Camps welcomed the sun with an old-fashioned salute; the National Colors hung out in most extravagant generosity; the Union men with bright smiles again greeted each other with heartfelt thanks, that Baltimore was fairly free from the heel of rebel despotism; and finally, though the streets had the quiet of a camp, it was a pleasant thought for all the loyal people that their Old Government was still recognized.

CHAPTER VI.

In two weeks the city of Baltimore had wonderfully improved in loyalty. Even corner gatherings no longer used insulting language to the Federal troops, and to every appearance the rebel combinations had been broken up. The Twentieth was relieved, and returned to the tents and shade of its encampment. Patterson Park is beautifully located on high ground overlooking the whole city, the harbor and the mouth of the Patapsco beyond the Fort, and down the bay into the Chesapeake. To the north and east the immense Patterson estate, upon which was reared the famous Betsy Patterson, the discarded wife of the Bonaparte Prince, gives a pleasant outline and a picturesque landscape. The

spot bears interesting reminiscences of the war of 1812, still preserving the line of intrenchments and the magazine used at that time to protect the city from the British invaders under Genl. Ross. The old Park is thickly shaded and sodded, and afforded a delightful lounge in the afternoon heat of a southern July. The soldiers here read and discussed the newspaper plans and prophesies of the advance of the main body of the Federal army towards Manassas, and divided in opinion as to whether glory there or the present delight of shade and rest were to be preferred. The news of the actual advance came, and very many longed to be of the number, and judged the management bad that condemned so many strong arms to inactive ease.

On Sunday, July 21st, during a severe rain and pitchy darkness, at 1 o'clock at night, the Camp was aroused by an order to be in readiness for an immediate march. The tidings of the disastrous defeat of the Federal forces, had reached the Department Head-Quarters, and it was the intention of Genl. Banks to evacuate Baltimore and join the army at Washington with his whole force, to protect the Capital, which was again in imminent danger. This intention was subsequently changed, as later tidings assured him that the Rebel Commanding General had not been able to profit by his victory.

The Muster Rolls of the Twentieth dated from April 23, ending a three month's service on the 23d of July. It was intended to discharge the Regiment at that time; but the late disaster confused the whole Federal plan;—called Genl. Banks to the Command of the Army of the Shenandoah, and whilst it made Washington insecure, gave a new impetus to rebellion at Baltimore. It was not deemed safe to decrease the force at that city. On the other hand, three Regiments were ordered from Fortress Monroe, to increase the force. The Twentieth was obliged, therefore, to wait its turn to be relieved. This delay was thought by some to be a hardship. The picture of family and home was vividly painted upon the anticipations of many of the soldiers. The 23d of July had come to be viewed in the light of an appointed pleasure, not easily put aside. But the predominant feeling of patriotism controlled the mass, and kept down any formidable exhibition of discontent. Revolts from the cause described occurred in several Regiments about Baltimore, and the failure of Genl. Patterson to play his part in the advance on Manassas was charged to the same cause, and greatly disgraced a portion of the army;

It is pride Ulster County people may well feel in their soldiers that they did not incur a similar disgrace.

With patriotic devotion to duty not weakened when they had obeyed its letter, they persevered in obeying its spirit also, and abided in full efficiency the convenience of the Government to relieve them from the service.

It was made a part of the closing services of the Twentieth to complete the work of securing Baltimore from the influence of the men who had been implicated in the discovered rebel combinations. For that purpose, a detachment consisting of Companies A, G and R, started on Monday, July 29th, on board the steamer *Joseph Whitney*, in charge of the arrested police commissioners and other prisoners, to lodge them in Fort Lafayette, in New-York harbor. This duty was satisfactorily accomplished.

The remainder of the Regiment was relieved at Baltimore on the 31st of July, and on the morning of August 1st arrived in New York city, and being joined by the three Companies which had arrived the previous day, embarked on board the *Manhattan* on her regular up trip, and the Ulster County troops were that evening mustered out and honorably discharged from their term of service. The Ulster Guard thus marching among the first in response to the call of the President, was the last but one in the homeward line.

It is not lessening the glory of the Regiments whose services in the war were involved in the memorable and bloody battle of the 21st of July, in front of Washington, to claim as much for the Ulster County troops. They performed and performed well the services the Government assigned to them. That their ranks were not serried in actual encounter, was of the accidents which might have put them in the front of the thickest part of the battle.

It is, however, a part of the praise due the management of the Ulster County troops, that but three deaths occurred during their service. Of these, one was an accidental shot, and the other two from disease. That fatal casualties were so much fewer than the most sanguine could have predicted, must be attributed to the vigilant police, the prudence and sobriety of the officers and men.

CHAPTER VII.

The achievements of Ulster County in the war have not been left to the soldiers alone. The devotion of the volun-

teer has at all times been cheerfully acknowledged and appreciated by the people at home. Every effort that could be made to furnish the troops with comfortable equipments was put forth before they started—under difficulties, to be sure, which were caused by the hurry of their departure; but they were followed to the war by a constant solicitude, and their wants sought out and supplied.

The Regiment was under special obligations to Mr. Henry H. Reynolds, who took much time from his official duties to seek out ways in which he could add comforts to the Ulster County troops. His visits to the Camps of the Regiment were followed by contributions of shoes, and underclothing, and those innumerable articles that his keen charity discovered as proper comforts to relieve the hardships of the Soldier's life. The ready ingenuity and industry of the Ulster County women were guided much by his advice in the memorable services that were rendered by them at home, as they were mindful of their soldiers abroad. The Camp at the Junction was named Camp Reynolds, in acknowledgment of such acts of judicious and thoughtful benevolence. This much was done at the time to reward a zeal for the cause as far as possible removed from any selfish or sordid motives.

It may be mentioned here—for it is due to the truth of history—that the women everywhere have been the brightest examples of patriotism. Their smiles attended the troops all along their route to the war. Their confidence and courage have cheered the cause in its most desponding moments. In Baltimore, where the ladies have activity, spirit, intelligence and heroism, they even outstripped the Union men in exhibitions of loyalty. The beautiful National Colors, which the Regiment brought home as one of its trophies, is the gift of the industry and devoted patriotism of the Baltimore ladies, who took this means of acknowledging the services of the Ulster County troops in preserving their city faithful to the Constitution and the Laws of the Country.

It is pleasant, amid the disastrous consequences of war, to recur to such acts. We learn that there are bright spots even amid devastation and blood. They revive the ever dear memories of our first revolutionary times. They prove that acts of heroism have not perished from the earth.

If this war accomplishes nothing more of advantage to the race, it has raised our opinion of our own times by bringing out acts of individual sacrifice and daring that do

credit to the virtue and patriotism of the Fathers of the Republic. May be our trials are meant to purify our love of liberty, and will make our free institutions to be prized, and the Union more prosperous and united.

