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Civil War Resources

Title: Horatio Collins King's Civil War Journal

Date: October 31, 1864 - November 15, 1865

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1864

Monday. Oct. 31.

Left Washington in company with my Clerk Geo. W. Dwenjer of Brooklyn. N.Y. and reached Martinsburg at 1 P.M. Mike Shea came up with horses &c.- Remained at R.R. Hotel overnight. M. is in a terrible condition - devastated by war. It is now the base of supplies for Sheridan's Army.-

Tuesday. Nov. 1st.

Left M. in company with a train of 600 wagons & an escort of 2400 men. Mosely was three miles in advance but did not attack. Reached Winchester at 4 1/2 P.M.

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Stayed with Capt. L. G. McElisy, A.Q.M. formerly a Clerk in Col. Greene's office at W.-

Called on my old friends Mrs. and Josephine Carson, both intense rebels, but recd me most cordially. Mr. C. & John are in civil office in Richmond.-

Met Lt. Col. G. [one word illegible] Anden, 10th N.Y. Art. formerly in the Defences of Washington & had a good time.

Winchester is in a much better state of presentation than M. but has suffered greatly from the war.

Va. must begin to realize that rebellion don't pay.

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Wednesday. Nov. 2d

Learned that Genl Sheridan was in town: so I reported and joined him an staff in their ride to this point. Gen. S. is a slim man, about 5 ft 6 or 7, piercing eye and every inch a soldier.- Passed through Middletown & Newtown and reached Hd Qrs. (M. Hite's house) two miles from Cedar Creek about 1. Desolation marks everything. I begin to realize for the first time the fearful horrors of war

Our Hd Qrs. are on an elevated position & are arranged thus.-

[page break]

[Map of headquarters]

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I am not yet acquainted with all the Staff which is large.- My assignment is not yet made, but I am expected to relieve Capt. Hosmer, A.Q.M. Hd Qr. Q. M. Capt. H. is an intimate friend of Russell's, & knew Emma well when she was a schoolgirl. Major Kipp is a New Yorker and well acquainted at 15 East 26th St. Capt. Holman is an old friend who assisted me once in establishing tickets on the London & Hampshire R.R. from Vienna to Arlington Mills. Capt. Forsyth is a former Washington acquaintance. Sister Anne was bridesmaid to his wife, Janice Janvier.

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Thursday. Nov. 3. 1864.

Met Brt. Maj. Gen. W. Merritt, Comd'g 1st Div. Cavalry, formerly a Captain on Gen. Heintzelman's Staff. He is a brave & gallant officer.-

Capt. Gillespie, C. S. who came up with me has been with me in my tent awaiting an escort to the Linay Valley - Gen. Powell.-

I had to leave Geo. Dwenjer in Winchester with chills.-

Saturday. Nov. 5th

Past three days have been rainy & disagreeable. This A.M. had a slight snow and cleared off with high wind.- Am still unassigned. Nothing of interest has transpired.-

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Sunday. Nov. 6th

A charming day. The monotony is varied by the arrival of the wagon train. Lt. Col. Page Q. M. came up.- Bvt Major General Wesley Merritt, Comd'g 1st Div. Cav. applied for me. Col. Page wanted me to remain at Hd Qrs. but I preferred this position with Gen. M. whom I formerly knew as Capt. A. [*one word illegible*] on Heintzelman's Staff.- The order was issued at once, and I started about 3 P.M. for Gen. M's Hd Qrs. a mile or so distant.- Found the Staff delightful.

Geo. is with me.-

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Monday. Nov. 7th

Attended with Genl M. a Review of the 19th Corps. Genl Emory. It made a splendid appearance. Genl Sheridan, Wright, Torbert & others were on the ground.- A slight rain marred the scene.

Our Hd Qrs. are at a large, unfinished brick (Mr. Cooley's) about a mile from the North fork of the Shenandoah.- Manassas Gap is in sight. The Staff are very sociable and my position is in every way more delightful than it was or promised to be on Sheridan's Staff.-

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The howl that went up shook the roof. I acknowledged the yell and stood for drinks all around.-

Spent the evening socially with Capt. Crawford, our C. S., Lt. Owen & Baker in whist & eucr.

Tuesday Nov. 8

Election day. The Soldiers vote 10 to 1 for Lincoln. This is as it should be.

We expected an attack and the Army was in line of battle at 2 A.M. all quiet.- 2 P.M.. Have just recd orders to be ready to move at a moment's notice.-

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We live thus.-

[Map of headquarters]

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I was the victim of a most amusing yell last evening. Lt. ~~Baker~~ Owen came into the room where all the staff were and in apparent great pain asked to have a splinter drawn from his hand. I examined it & found a large splinter under the skin & the blood trickling down.- I worked away rigorously with tweezers for about three minutes - he feigning the greatest agony - until my labors were rewarded by drawing a splinter from under his sleeve- about a foot long.-

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Wednesday. Nov. 16.

A week ago today the infantry all fell back to Kernstown & vicinity. Next day the Cavalry brought up the rear & we made our Hd Qrs. at a deserted brick. house (Mr. Russell's) on the Front Royal road three miles from Winchester.

Friday I accompanied Lt. Ballard. A. A. Q. M. 1st. Brig. with the train to Martinsb'g. Loaded next day, had a bad diarrhea and returned to Winchester on Sunday. Had a cold and disagreeable ride. Stopped at Mrs. Carson's from Sunday P.M. to this A.M.- got well and

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had a delightful time. The rest & refreshment was desirable & much to my advantage.- Genl M. & A. [one word illegible] Myers & Baker have left on ten days "leave." Gen. Dunn commands the Div.

It is dull here and I shall probably make my Hd Qrs. in W. as soon as winter qrs. are announced.

Mosely is troublesome, & an order is out summarily dismissing all officers captured by him after this date. This places us between two fires and is, in my opinion, exceedingly unjust.-

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Nov. 21. Monday. 1864

The division, Genl Dunn (2d Brig) in Genl Merritt's absence on leave, being in command, started on a reconnaissance.- The 2d & 3d divisions under Powell & Custer & all under Torbert, co-operating.- We went to Front Royal in a beastly rain, crossed both forks & the Shenandoah and made Hd Qrs. in Mrs. Richardson's dining room about 3/4 of a mile this side of the town.- From there the advance guard went as far as Milford & found Lomax' (rebel) div. of Cavalry & returned.-

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Tuesday Nov. 22d

Sent a brigade to Milford to find out the strength of the enemy and skirmished with them all day, finding them too strong to be attacked in their position. Nobody hurt & returned.

In the mean time, the weather cleared off. Terribly cold, causing so much suffering to man and beast. We staff had a nice time in Mrs. R's parlor, singing with piano accompaniment & instrumental music. The most popular songs were the Southern Wagon (to the tune of "wait for the Wagon",

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& "Md my Md" - both rebel - & both sung with much éclat.- The piano proved a great adjunct to our happiness.-

Wednesday Nov. 23.

Started back under orders from Genl Sheridan.-

Recrossed the rivers in the bitter cold, the water forming ice breast-high on the horses.- We lost about 50 horses.- Arrived at Hd Qrs. without incident.

The other divisions found the rebel infantry at New Market, skirmished, lost several killed & 30 wounded & returned to camp.-

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Monday. Nov. 28. 1864.

Under orders from Genl Sheridan, started from Hd Qrs. at 7, to clean out London Co. of guerillas, if possible, of all cattle &c. & forage. Passed through White Post - so called because of a large white post in the centre of the village said to have been planted by Lord Fairfax many years ago.- This & all other villages & towns passed through presented the same ruined & desolate appearance. War has operated fearfully agst the people of this section particularly.-

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Crossed the Shenandoah at Berry's Ford & entered London Co: thus Ashby's Gap at the other end of which was Paris. & is. Here occurred the first incident worth mention. Two rebel officers & their ladies were riding together. Our advance came on them & the fog being thick, blazed away at the party which took to its heels. The officers escaped. The ladies horses took flight and ran off. One was stopped at the South end of the village & dismounted unhurt. The other, for aught we

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know, may be running still.- Moral. Gallant rebs musn't make pleasure excursions so near the Union Army.-

Halting for lunch at Paris, we moved on to Upperville, burning all barns containing forage, all forage & capturing all cattle, horses, mules & sheep, and gobbling all fowl that came in the way of the main column & the flankers. At Upperville established Hd Qrs. at Mrs. Geo. Brown's. I took a party for forage and made the acquaintance of a Mrs. Delany, who occupies a handsome

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house a mile from & opposite Mrs. B's. She was a very lady-like, handsome young woman, and pleased me much.

At Mrs. B's, we enjoyed a fine piano, and all sang with the spirit, Bean, Rogers, Bachus & myself taking the principal parts. Mrs. B - though much annoyed by our presence - condescended to compliment our musical performances.-

I passed a good night on the floor in Mrs. B's spare bed-room - Bean &c. occupying the bed.

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their devotion to the Union and bore the sacrifice of their cattle &c with a patriotic heroism I never before witnessed. I was tempted to spare everything, but could not disobey orders.- The Govt should compensate them for their losses.-

We reached Snickersville at 5, & made Hd Qrs. at Mrs. Dr. Lacey's - Occupied a tent with Genl Merritt by invitation, and being considerably fatigued, passed a most agreeable night in refreshing sleep.-

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Wednesday. Nov. 20.

Remained at Snickersville all day & night, sending out two brigades to retraverse the country already passed over and also to go as far as Berlin on the Potomac. Took a foraging expedition & got an abundance of hay, corn &c. The cattle stampeded last night, but only a few succeeded in getting beyond the lines.-

Thursday. Dec. 1st.

Expeditions sent to Paris, Middleburg & Millville.- Main column left S. at 11. the Reserved Brigade, which gained

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us at this point, driving the cattle. Passed thru Snicker's Gap, crossed the Shenandoah and made Hd Qrs. at Mr. Shepherd's a mile from the river. Miss S. is a very sensible rebel - aged about 30.- Two misses McCormick (daughters of Frank) came over for protection & spent the night. The elder was verging on the old maid & more sensible than her school-girl sister who laughed incessantly at her own insipidities & rolled her big eyes like a dying heifer.-

Enough of them.-

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Friday. Dec. 2d

Left camp at 9 & rode to the river to witness the crossing of the rest of the cattle. The large cattle came over readily & each man brought a sheep over on his horse. The hogs of which 900 (collected at Millville by the rebel Govt) were captured, gave very much trouble. Many gave out on the road and were killed, many were drowned, and about 30 were shot because they wouldn't cross.- The scenes were ludicrous in the extreme and worthy the pencil of an artist.

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We passed through Berryville - a noted secesh hole, and went into camp at a Dr. Randolph's about three miles this side & near Stone Chapel.

Saturday. Dec. 3d

Left camp at 8 and reached Hd Qrs. at 11 -

We had daily skirmishes with Mosely all the week, but without serious annoyance. Near Berryville, it was reported that Mosely had attacked our rear guard. Genl M. sent me back with the 5th Cav. to clean him out. Before we reached the rear, he had vanished.

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The men had the greatest profusion of mutton & hog & poultry.- Our captives sum up items -

Prisoners of war - 15
Civil prisoners - 5
Large cattle - 2075
Sheep - 1081
Hogs - 259
Horses - (branded) 290

& some not yet reported.- We burnt over 300 square miles of territory - and the amount destroyed may be estimated at millions.- The autographs of the officers (Genl & Staff) in charge of the expedition are annexed.-

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[This page contains the autographs of the officers and staff of the expedition]

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Dec. 6. 1864. Tuesday.

Went to Harpers Ferry to draw stores & also to Martinsburg. Nothing of marked interest having occurred during the trip.

Returned Sunday, Dec. 11th after dinner.

Wednesday. Dec. 14 '64

Went to Harpers Ferry to get material to tan 1800 hides found in a rebel tannery in Winchester. The enlisted men do the tanning. I have also a saw mill in operation getting out boards for winter Quarters.-

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Returned to Hd Qrs.- Dec. 16. about noon.-

Dec. 17th - Saturday.

Made application to the Sec'y of War for promotion to a "Major & Chf. Qm. Divn" under Act of Congress. Genl Merritt endorsed it highly, concluding as follows "He is permanently in charge of the department in this division - is eminently fitted for the position and well worthy of promotion."

Dec. 18. Sunday.

Division ordered to move tomorrow. Recd written orders from Genl Torbert (Comd'g Corps) and verbal from Gen. Merritt to remain with my train.-

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I am tired of the position of non-combatant and would like to exchange into the fighting dept.

1865

January 5th 1865

After a pleasant sojourn at Mrs. Carson's, Capt. Crawford, C. S. also there with me, I returned to Hd Qrs. today.

The Division after a terrible raid of ten days returned to camp having failed to accomplish its object - the taking of Gordonsville.- It whipped Lomax' Cav.- however & brought in two pieces of Artillery

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complete.- It burnt one of my wagons in order to have a team to haul off one of the guns. The weather was terrible & men & horses suffered severely.-

January 6. 1865

Capt. Thos. Bean, Prov. Marshal, & myself were initiated into the three degrees of Masonry at Hiram Lodge in Winchester.- Crawford & Coombs (Maj. Tallman's Clerk) introduced us and became our sponsors. It is not often that the three degrees are given in one night.

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[The following is written in someone else's handwriting:]

Hd Qrs. 1s Cav Div Army of the Shenandoah In the Field

February 17 1865

Major,

I have the honor to report that in compliance with orders I yesterday took charge of 50 Wagons and an escort of 200 men & proceeded to Gimes Farm about six miles beyond Berryville, for the purpose of securing rails to make a railing around the Winchester Cemetery.

The column marched in good order without incident until we found old Gimes who by ancient tradition is supposed to be dead. I have taken great pain

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to inform Mrs. G. that tradition, as usual, is at fault, and that the elder G. is anxious to fold her to his withered bosom.

While on G's farm a shot was fired at the party from a neighboring barn. The barn-fort was charged and the prisoner captured. A drum head Court Martial was immediately ordered and the prisoner put on trial for his life. During the trail (which was sure to convict the bushmaker) the President of the Court, a man of weight fell through the head of the drum & the proceedings were then declared null & void it being impossible to hold a drum head Court Martial when the head of the drum was gone

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At this moment a Sergeant reported the enemy 200 strong in line of battle, with drawn Sabres ready to charge. My first impulse - as I rather prefer the credit system, was to inform them to charge & be d__d; but on 2d thought rode boldly to the summit of a chill and made a napoleonic telescopic reconnaissance of the enemy through a hole in the crown of my hat.- The sergeant having reported artillery, I devoted my chief energies to that. The telescope developed numerous blue coats and several wagons.

I returned to Gimes's field and placed the teams in line of battle, the right

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resting on Mrs Gimes dairy & the left on an outhouse in the rear.- A necessary conformation of the ground.

The enemy proved to be the 3d Division & did not attack. My instructions to the teamsters mules & other employees to charge for the nearest pike in case of an attack were not carried out.-

The expedition returned in Safety to the Winchester Cemetery, where it was received by a deputation of defunct Winchesterian skeletons, who rattled out their thanks & complained of being very dry. This last complaint

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is respectfully referred to the Military Authorities.-

List of Casualties

Six Officers badly bored

250 Men exceedingly hungry

10 Mules badly demoralized

The movement being strictly of-fence ive, its success is worthy of the highest commendation. The Quartermaster in charge agrees to receive his laurels in the shape of a Brig Genl. Commission.

Rec.

Capt Q. M. in Charge.

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From Feb. 21. 1865 to Mch. 21 '65

Recd Leave of Absence and started for home. On the 23d took Annie the baby & Maggie to Phila & went then to N.Y. stopping at 126 9th Sat'y morning recd a telegram to return at once to the front. Visited Greenwood with Father Stebbins & took the earliest train for Harpers Ferry. Reached Winchester with Genl Torbert & others ten hours after the Command had started & was much disgusted thereat.-

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Genl Torbert relieved Maj. Johnson, Q. M. in charge of corps train, and directed me to take it to Pleasant Valley Md. Moved March 2d and camped that night at Charleston, having no special incident save the break-down & abandonment of one wagon between Smithfield & Bunker Hill.- Next day reached Harpers Ferry & thence on to Pleasant Valley, Md. near Sandy Hook. Here I spent a week disgorging the train

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(496 wagons & ambulances) of superfluous stores & baggage.-

Having completed this, on the 8th Genl Torbert gave me permission to finish my leave. Spent two most happy weeks in Washington & N.Y. principally in the latter. The most notable event was the forming the acquaintance of Jack Howard's family. All are in every respect lovely and won my heart completely.- An event took place on Thursday, the 16th,

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having an important bearing on my life which this memorandum will serve to keep in perpetual remembrance.

Sunday the 19. I attended service & Sunday school with Essie H.- What Magie is there in words. "Hope" - still thrills in my ears and enables me to resist many temptations and nerves me to a thousand good works that else would have been yielded to and never accomplished.

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Left N.Y. the evening of the 20 19th and remained in Washington until the morn'g of the 2st. Reached Pleasant Valley, Md. at 3 P.M. Recd orders from Genl Torbert to take charge of the train and subsequently from Genl Sheridan to join the command at the White House on the Parunkey.- I am greatly rejoiced there-at and shall start tomorrow - the 22^d - for that place, to seek glory & pleasure in a new field.

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New York. Sept. 1. 1865

It seems rather late to continue this narrative but no time was afforded for this in the active campaign which culminated in the surrender of Lee and the Collapse of the rebellion.-

After a tedious trip from Baltimore on the Transport "Fannie" I reached City Point on the Sunday after the 22d of March and the same day joined the commd at Deep Bottom and went into camp with them at Hancock Station remaining a day.

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Here the 2^d Div. (under Genl Crook) joined us, and all under Sheridan moved rapidly to Dinwiddie C. H. - Gen. Merritt being in command of the 1st & 3^d Div. as a corps, Genl Devin commanded our Div.- The first night we camped on Crump's place a mile this side of the C. H. A severe rain came on. The train failed to come up and that night & several nights after we slept without any shelter and lived on hard tack & coffee borrowed from the men.-

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In the battle of Five Forks I had a warm time & a narrow escape. - Several were killed & wounded near me and Capt. Bean's horse - which stood so close to me as to press my leg against his saddle - was shot in the shoulder.

After the battle Gen_l Sheridan ordered me, being the ranking Q. M., to take charge of the train. My duties became most onerous & I made every endeavor to be relieved from the irksome duty, but without success.-

Immediately after the battle at Sailors Creek* I

*ahl. 6'65 [added in pencil]

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took a portion of my train to the field for wounded. The sight was terrible beyond description. I never saw dead men so thick before. One corpse attracted especial attention. It was that of a rebel. He sat in an upright position, his back supported by the body of a fallen comrade. His musket lay across his lap & his knapsack was still slung.- His face was raised toward heaven and the open eyes & sweet expression of countenance

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together with the hands uplifted as in prayer gave me the impression that he still lived.- A nearer approach assured me that he had gone to his maker there to settle for his deeds & misdeeds.

All along the route from Five Forks the roads were strewn with abandoned wagons, muskets, caissons and artillery.- Near Fannville (a large and pleasant town thro' which we passed) several hundred wagons had been parked or burned.-

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At last Lee's demoralized Army was brought to bay and surrendered at Appomattox C. H.- Unfortunately I was ten miles off when the surrender took place.- Just two hours behind time.

The return to Petersburg was one continued jollification. Each night Gen_l & staff had social gatherings and celebrated the surrender in songs and commissary whiskey. Gen_l Fitzhugh & Gibbs came over often, and we had an unceasing festive & royal time.

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After remaining at Petersburg a few days & refitting a little, the command pushed southward after Johnston who still held out agst Sherman. At the Mehenin we built two bridges and at the Stanton river a novel bridge of ferry scows placing them end to end thus.

[Drawing of the bridge, with ferry scows placed end to end]

Over this the entire army passed with but a single accident which caused the loss of one wagon.- The boats were fastened together by 5th chains,

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& steadied by guy ropes running to the shore. It was about 250 ft long.

We had Hd Qrs. one night at Williamson's near Dinwiddie C. H. on the Boydton Plk. Road. W. represented himself to be a Union Man, set out large quantities of apple jack and got royally drunk in honor of our coming. His happiest remark was - "I am not drunk with liquor, but intoxicated with joy because the old flag is triumphant." Williamson's & Wiggins jig to my fiddling was rich

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in the extreme.- When about 20 miles from Danville Genl Wright telegraphed Johnston's surrender. So we turned about and striking the South side R.R. at White's & Black's returned to Petersburg & went into camp between the Appomattox River & the R.R. to Richmond.- Our first Hd Qrs. were at Mrs. Knight's on the same side of the river as P.- formerly the Hd Qrs. of the rebel general A. P. Hill.

After ten days rest we marched through Richmond to Washington,

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Genl Crook in command. Sheridan having gone by water.- The march was miserably conducted and very tedious.- A subordinate officer moving a column so badly would have been court-martialed.- We came via Manchester where I saw the Schwarzmans & Richmond where I met the Randolph's, Hopes Tavern, the North Anna River, Kelley's Ford, Na Trevillian Station, Mine Run, Manassas, Cub Run &c. and made Hd Qrs. at Swan's, about half way between Washn & Alexa. A week after

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we moved to Bladensburg where we remained a couple of weeks. While there I was promoted to Corps Hd Qrs. with Genl H. G. Davies in command.

It would be impossible to describe the fun we had all through the arduous campaign and especially in camp. The names of Wiggins, Owen, Gibbs, Fitzhugh, Halberstadt and a host of other good fellows will always remind me of happy associations.- may they live long & prosper.

My resignation, which I put in at Petersburg

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about the 10th of May was accepted the last of the month at which date we moved to Clouds Mills about 6 miles from Alexa.

The division was gradually breaking up. The first brigade under Bvt. Brig. Gen. P. Stagg had gone west. Other regiments were soon to follow and I was glad not to be in at the death. Dana had already resigned and gone. The other Staff were soon to follow.- Sheridan & Merritt had gone to Texas. Things were getting bluer every day, so on May 31, I turned over

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my property to Capt. J. B. Wheeler, Q. M. of 2d Brig. and got ready to leave.

Genl Gibb's complimented me with a farewell reunion. Devin, Fitzhugh, Crawford, Kinnie, and all on Staff were present. Both Genl G. & D. made most flattering speeches & expressed their regret at my departure.- Good fellowship prevailed, and we joined for the last time in those jovial songs with wh. those whose names who follow here & many others were want to enliven the monotony of camp life.-

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[Page of autographs those previously mentioned]

Thos. C. Devin
Brig. Gen. Comg.
1st Div. Sheridans Cav.

[name illegible]
Sury in [*one word illegible*]
1st Cav. Div.

A M Halberstadt
Capt & A. A. L. Genl
1st Cavalry Division
Porrsville

A. J. Hill
Capt. & [*one word illegible*]
1st Cavalry Division

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The occasion was one never to be forgotten and one of which I felt justly proud. Sadness would come over me when the thought recurred that no more would we gather around the camp fires, or, as often, in some country farm house where an out of tune piano furnished an inducement to make the evenings joyous with song & joke.- And here I should mention that I tuned a number of pianos with a hammer made by my blacksmith in order

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to make them endurable while I played.- My musical ability made me always an acceptable companion at a jamboree.-

On the night of June 1st Genl Devin called all the Staff into his tent and having made a few complimentary remarks read the most flattering order relieving me from duty. I have preserved that as worthy to be retained. The occasion was a sad one, but we soon drove dull care away and made my last night a glorious one.-

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The morning of June 2d I took my farewell of the Division and became once more a plain civilian.-

The disbandment of the Division continued. Genls Gibbs & Fitzhugh, Capt. Halberstadt & Wiggins were ordered to Texas, a number of Regiments were mustered out and at the present writing the Div. is entirely disbanded, and Genl Devin is in N.Y. awaiting orders.- In all just ability he will be mustered out.-

On the 2d before leaving

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for N.Y. Father gave me a handsome letter accompanied by a 2.30 Bond for \$500 - as a token of his appreciation of the performance of my duty.- It was of all things the most gratifying.-

It is a proud satisfaction that I served my country in every emergency with honesty and energy - so as to gain the commendation of all the Genl Officers with whom I served, the respect & love of my comrades & friends, and the approval of my father.

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On the 3d of June I was in N.Y. and called at once on Essie Howard in Brooklyn. The interest I had excited in her in due time increased to earnest love. On the 12th the family went to Oak Grove Cottages (kept by one King) at Buttermilk Falls - and there on the 13th of June Essie accepted the ring and we were formally betrothed. This new happiness made my happiness complete.- We remained at B.F. a week and had a memorably happy time.-

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Soon after I returned to Washington and put in my final returns.

The diarrhea which began in May began to weaken me.- I went North and spent a week or ten days with Essie at Johnstown where E. was visiting Libbie McMartin.-

Returning to N.Y. and expecting to commence business my weakness subjected me to a sun stroke and the Dr. ordered me to the mountains.- So I accompanied Mr. & Mrs. H. & Essie to the mountain House at Catskill.

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where we spent a most delightful & profitable week. I returned to B. to see Annie off and the rest came to West Point. On Friday Aug. 19 Annie & baby sailed in the LaFayette for Paris, to be absent two years. Mr. Law his having been ordered on a 2 1/2 yrs cruise on the "Hartford" - in East Indies.

The same day I went to West Point & remained several days at Rose's, where all hands had the diarrhea. We were glad to get away from there and our old

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place at King's, where I passed a most happy week.-

Aug. 30. 1865.

Returned this day to N.Y. and commenced business at my office. 16 Wall St. Room 12. Jos. C. Jackson of Newark & Frederic Adams of Orange N.J. are in same office. Each one goes on his own hook, but render mutual assistance. It may end in a partnership, provided it is found to be advantageous to all parties.-

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Sept. 21. 1865.

Yesterday Essie reached her 20th year. She recd as presents from her mother a handsome morocco velvet lined jewelry box, a picture from Joe Schubert's Symphony (duet) from Jack, and a pearl necklace & cross from me. Accompanying this last was a brief illustrated sketch of our courtship & engagement from our 1st meeting in March to the present time. A number of relatives came in in the evening. Essie was radiant with happiness & all went merry as a marriage bell.-

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Annie has arrived safely in Paris and found delightful quarters at no 4 Rue Bassin, a short distance from the Arch of Triumph & Champs Elyseés.- She was not sea sick an hour and all are still very well. Orlando met her in Paris, thus retiring her from the unpleasant feeling of being a stranger in a strange land.-

Mr. Howard being away, at Essie's desire I remained in the house as protector.- I hope the day is not far distant when I shall have the lawful right to protect her in my own house..-

[page break]

Business opens favorably. My first cash fee was recd from Mrs. Jane Stebbins (\$20) for drawing wills of herself & Jennie. They sailed for Rome via Havre in the "Europe" on the 15th.

Other business has been received and I am encouraged to believe what I scarcely expected, that I shall be able to pay expenses my first year.

There is a satisfaction in doing business independently which makes all labor a delightful pastime.- One is sure to appreciate fully his own successes.-

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[A business card is inserted here. It reads:

Office of Horatio C. King,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
No. 16 Wall Street,
Room 12.]

Thursday. Oct. 6. '65

Attended with Essie the wedding of Tillie Marvin.

[An excerpt from the newspaper is inserted here. It reads:

TAYLOR-MARVIN.- At Christ's Church, Brooklyn, on Thursday, Oct. 5, by Rev. Dr. Canfield, GEORGE CARRINGTON TAYLOR and MATILDA HOWARD, daughter of Charles H. Marvin, Esq., all of Brooklyn.]

The attendants were Fanny Raymond & Frank Taylor & Mary Taylor & Dr. Geo. Marvin.- The bride was dressed in the usual bridal paraphenalia - white moire antique - "illusion" veil & orange blossoms:- the bridesmaids in pink silks. The reception from 1 to 3 at their house, 8 Schermerhorn St.

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was splendid. The display of flowers was superb & the repast unexceptionable.- My health is so much better. I performed the gymnastic feat of throwing myself outside of some stewed & scalloped oysters, ice-cream, et cetera. Essie was brilliant in blue silk (from Paris direct) trimmed with velvet & point lace. She looked "stunnin'" and never appeared more lovely or to greater advantage. The bride looked well, but the bride that is to be looked weller.- Tillie & Carrie left for Albany on the night boat.

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At night Hattie & Eliza Stowe & Jack & Essie & myself heard "Jove" at the Academy. Had a most delightful time. The cast included Mme. Bosisio (Jove), Adelaide Phillips ([one word illegible]), Antonucci ([Burlo?]) Bellini ([Aubaces?]), Mazzoleni (Glancio.)-

Last Thursday night we had Faust with Louise Kellogg as Margherita & Mlle. Ficher & Gebele & Signors Irfre, Bellini, Antonucci & Muller in the other parts.-

The Opera has been whistled to death. I enjoyed its resurrection only tolerably.

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Sunday. Oct. 8. 1865.

Essie accompanied me to Greenwood this afternoon and placed a small bunch of flowers on Emma's grave. The widow Mrs. Howard has planted roses & other flowers around both graves. This testimonial was unexpected and gave me much satisfaction.

We visited the graves also of Essie's relatives. It is a singular coincidence that in that vast city of the dead her loved ones should be laid not fifty feet from my own.-

Essie's appreciation of my love for Emma's memory makes me love her more & more.-

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Monday. Oct. 9. 1865.

A family party. Mr. & Mrs. Howard & her sister, Mrs. Bliss, Eliza & Hattie Stowe-visitors at Mr. H's, Susie Howard, Jack, George Marvin Essie & myself went to "Winter Garden" to see "Our American Cousin - this being Essie's 2- appearance in a theatre and her first comedy. she enjoyed it exceedingly.- J. S. Clarke, Mrs. H. A. Peny, Andrews & Peters took the principal characters. Clarke is very natural, very fresh and irresistibly funny, but I like him better in other characters.-

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[An excerpt from a newspaper is inserted here. It reads:

SCHIEFFELIN.-On Saturday, Oct 14, HENRY H. SCHIEFFELIN, in the 83d year of his age.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 13 East 20th-st., on Tuesday, 17th inst., at 10 A. M. without further invitation.]

Oct. 17. 1865.

Attended funeral of the above. Mr. S. has been very ill for several months with [one word illegible] and has at last gone to his long home. He was a good man & kind. I have spent

many happy hours in his house with my own Emma, and the associations everything in his parlors revived made me very sad.-

His remains were taken to Greenwood.

I wonder if he will see Emma when his spirit reaches heaven.-

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[Newspaper excerpt inserted here reads:

Horatio King Horatio C. King

Horatio C. King,

Late Major and Chief Quartermaster First Cavalry Division,

COUNSELLOR AT LAW,

No. 16 Wall street, New York, Room 12

Transacts business in the State and Federal Courts, and with all the Executive Departments at Washington. Attends to procuring Pensions, Bounty and Arrears, Officer's Pay; to the settlement of Claims for Quartermaster and Commissary Stores; to the adjustment of Officers' Accounts and Claims for Hours lost in service; and generally to all business with any of the Executive Departments.

Hon. HORATIO KING

Ex-Postmaster-General,

CORRESPONDING ATTORNEY, WASHINGTON, D.C.]

[Newspaper excerpt inserted here reads:

Mr. Horatio C. King, late Major and Chief Quartermaster of the First Cavalry Division, has returned to the profession of law, and established himself in New York at No. 16 Wall street. In addition to his regular legal practice, he will give attention to procuring Pensions, Bounty and Arrears, Officers' Pay, &c. Major King was for a long time stationed at Washington and is thoroughly acquainted with the routine of business at the Departments there. He also has the advantage of the long experience of his father, the Hon. HORATIO KING, who is associated with him in business. Moreover Major KING bears a very high reputation in the service, and officers will trust him with their accounts with the assurance that they will be promptly and honorably adjusted.]

The preceding are from the "Army & Navy Journal" of Oct. 14, edited by my old friend & fellow Staff Officer on Casey's Staff in '62 - W. C. Church - formerly Capt. C. F.-

His notice is clever, well-expressed & very satisfactory.-

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I should have mentioned that a few days since Essie arranged some small flowers which she plucked from the graves of Emma & Mabel in a small papiér maché Album, and gave all to me. This sweet and unexpected testimonial was as lovely as it was most pleasing to me.- Essie's warm hearted, generous nature & her young, earnest and undivided love make me completely happy.- She is destined to be more lovely as a matured woman & wife - if such a thing is possible.-

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October 18. 1865

Attended last night with Essie a small party at Joe's. Notwithstanding a severe headache, I had a very pleasant time. Essie appeared excellently well in a black silk set off with steel trimming. To me she seemed the most interesting & pretty girl in the room; for although some would think Alice Barber more brilliant yet her face does not exhibit that warmth of heart & depth of intellect that Essie's has, nor has she the same refinement and grace in every motion.-

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Oct. 19. 1865. Wednesday.

Met Essie at Philharmonic Rehearsal yesterday afternoon and had a very pleasant time. Susie Howard & Hattie Raymond (engaged to Harlan Lloyd, an ex-Major & Lawyer) and Will Church were also of the party.- Had an agreeable dinner with them and the usual happy evening.

Oct. 20. 1865.

Attended the opera with Essie who was filled with happiness and never looked more lovely. "Martha" was well rendered by Kellogg, Philips, Antonucci, Irfre & Muller. the tenor sang well,

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but as usual wore lilac tights, had thin legs, was pigeon toed, and made an ass of himself in the love scenes.- Much to our disappointment the last act was shamefully mutilated, the grand chorus of the last Rose of Summer being entirely ignored, and indeed all that part wherein Lionel's reason's restored.-

Instead some tune entirely foreign to the opera was introduced, and received in silence. The audience evidently were annoyed at being treated so cavalierly.-

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Had a very pleasant call of an hour from Genl Heintzelman, who is now Comd'g his Regt. at Harts Island Genl Devin has also called several times and this recognition of me by my old commanders is very flattering & pleasant.

October 21st-1865

By invitation I dined at Essie's with Fannie & Hattie & Joe Raymond, Miss Mary Hatch, Will Church, Jack, Joe, Mrs. Bliss and the family.- Had the usual lively time. Joe being there and after dinner spent a rare good evening reminding me of a similar one some

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months ago.- Prof. Robert Raymond and family came in and the "din commences", Prof. R. Singing "Kathleen [Marourneen?]". I following with "Watkins Evening Party." Ross sang two very pretty songs & I put in a little more fun in the shape of "Lavigous Ball." Then all three aided by Jack sang "Come where my loves lies dreaming" "Natalie" and other glees.- Camie and Lillie, who returned earl yesterday from their wedding tour came in and were warmly received. Then came the "handrin's round" after which Prof. Robert gave

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us his inimitable version of "Giles Scroggins" convulsing all with laughter and making my scalp ache fearfully. The grouping on the floor & chairs in the front parlor was quite picturesque and interesting. Essie was unusually happy and of course seemed the loveliest of them all.

An amusing talk concerning former comrades completed a most happy and memorable evening.- We hope to have many more such in the approaching long winter evenings.-

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Wednesday Oct. 25. '65

Attended this afternoon the Philharmonic Rehearsal & at night accompanied Essie to a lecture by Anna Dickinson, an intelligent female of 30 or thereabouts who repeated the thrice-hundredth told tale of woman's wrongs, her superior position & what not. She presented no new ideas an d treated the subject of matrimony in a way neither womanly nor delicate. She'll feel differently when she's married: & unless he makes better efforts than the present one she renders herself liable to an indictment as a common scold.-

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Friday. Oct. 27. 1865.

Accompanied Essie to hear the Opera of "Norma", in which mad. Zucci & Bosisio & Mm. [one word illegible] & Antonucci took the leading parts.- Zucci did splendidly, the rest mediocre: but I must confess the arias have become as hackneyed, the representations did not give me the pleasure I anticipated. One of Norma's children, with a white dress painfully short in front, on two occasions created much amusement by leaving the ~~mamma~~ stage and deserting her mamma in the most pathetic part of the performance.-

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Monday Oct. 30. 1865.-

Attended Saturday night with Essie a Philharmonic Concert. The finest in my experience. The annexed by Joe Howard gives a good idea of the affair -

[Newspaper excerpt inserted here reads:]

BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC.-The first concert of the current season of the Brooklyn Philharmonic Society was given on Saturday night at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, with the following programmes: Sinfonia No. 4 in B flat major, Op. 60, BEETHOVEN: 1-Adagio, Allegro vivace; 2-Adagio; 3-Minuetto, Alegro vivace; 4-Finale, Allegro, ma non troppo; Gavatino, "Betly," "In questo Semplice," DONIZETTI, Miss CLARA LOUISE KELLOGG. Solo, pianoforte, concerto in C major, MOZART, (with orchestral accompaniment) : 1-Allegro moderate; 2-Andante; rondo finale, Mr. S. B. MILLS, Overture, "Prometheus," (first time in America,) (BARGIEL); Romanza, "Don Sebastian," - "O Lisbona," -(DONIZETTI), Signor FERDINANDO BELLINI. Solo-Pianoforte-A. 2d Tarentelle, (MILLS); b. Rapsodie Hongroise, No. 18 (LISZT), Mr. S. B. MILLS. Duette, "Don Pasquale," - "Pronta io son," (DONIZETTI), Miss KELLOGG and Signor BELLINI. Grand Polonaise from "Struensee," (MEYERBEER.)

It is hardly necessary to state that a brilliant audience attended, all the respectable old gentlemen of the city, with their wives and daughters, being present, thereby insuring the attendance of the lavender-kidded, white cravated, swallow-tail-coated youths of the town. A glance at the programme will reveal the absolute bounty of the feast spread by the conductor, CARL BERGMAN, who, for the first time, appeared as the legitimate successor of the less liberal THEODORE EISFELD. The symphony, which is one of the least enjoyable of the great master's compositions, was given with careful attention and rare apprehension, but failed to make any signal impression upon the audience. It has never proven popular in the strict sense of that term, and we doubt if any]

There was a brilliant attendance and the music most heartily enjoyed but by none more so than by Essie & myself. She was, as usual, most lovely.-

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[Newspaper excerpt continues the article from the previous page. It reads:

promiscuous gathering would care to hear it a second time. The beautiful transitions in the second and third movements were most delicately and finely made, the interpretation of the whole being meritorious to the last degree, and due as much to the interest felt by the orchestra as to the unusually excellent conduct of Mr. BERGMAN. Bargiel's "Prometheus" is more brassy than beautiful, more "drummy" than desirable. The younger portion of the audience rather liked it, as they do all loud music, because their whispering was less noticeable, the elders found its principal merit in the frequent recurrence of an old and long-forgotten strain, familiarly known in their childish days as "Pompey Duck-legs," of Mother Goose renown. On the whole, "Prometheus" was not a success. MEYERBEER'S "Grand Polonaise," an exquisite combination of charming phrases, was well played and heartily enjoyed.

Miss KELLOGG and Signor BELLINI, neither in the best of health or voice, were vocalists of the occasion, and we are pleased to say they were both present. Miss KELLOGG sang "In questo Semplice," securing the customary *encore*, which she granted in "Il Baccio." BELLINI sang the magnificent "O Lisbona" romanza, from "Don Sebastian," his superb voice, somewhat marred by a cold, rolling forth the rotund sentence with grand effect-he was rapturously applauded, and courteously responded. In the second part Miss KELLOGG and Signor BELLINI sang a duet from "Don Pasquale," "Pronta io son," in which they fairly electrified the house, and received on its repetition a perfect outburst of applause.

The sensation and feature of the evening was the concerto in C major, played by Mr. S. B. MILLS, with orchestral accompaniment. This Concerto, written by MOZART, had, until its revision some ten years since by CARL BRENNER, all the infelicities which were inseparable from the wretchedly constructed [ave-octaved?] pianos of the time, all of which cramped and confined the tone and temper of the composer. It stands now, however, as it did when MILLS played it in grand convention some six years since in Germany, an occasion memorable in the fatherland and most creditable to our best pianist. On Saturday night Mr. MILLS tested himself, his audience and his piano. In excellent mood he touched delicately the introductory meanderings of the eccentric score, and worked into the gorgeous combinations with vigor until culminating in the magnificent intricacies of the unaccompanied portion he aroused the enthusiasm of the house, and secured a tumultuous recognition of his skill and apprehension-the orchestra yielded its comforting and complimentary praise, congratulating en masse the]performer, who, fortunate in head and heart and hand, could apprehend the meaning, share the feeling and manipulate with wonderful accuracy and precision the very text and texture of the composition. In the second part, Mr. MILLS played his second Tarantelle and Lizst's Rapsodie Hongroise. These are familiar to the public. Suffice it to say, they were played in MILLS' most superb style, the grand Steinway ringing clear as a bell to the very amphitheatre, and responding with rarest tone to the slightest suggestion of the facile finger.]

To add to my pleasure on Sat'y-father voluntarily advanced me \$50 being \$150 in all which he has loaned me since I commenced business in September.-

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October 31. 1865.

It is just a year ago today that I made the first entry in this diary, and the year has been one of unusual incident & change. The severe campaigns, the rare enjoyment and the excitement of Army life are merely glanced at in these pages; but the here recorded will serve to call up a thousand recollection which will serve for many a fireside chat when I perhaps may be gray & venerable.-

The greatest & happiest incident of all is my engagement with Essie. Like all similar affairs

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ours does not differ from them in the invariable respect of occasional roughness of comment. We have our ups & downs, our sunshine and shade, but it needs this shade to make us more careful of words and deeds, and if we had no clouds, we wouldn't half realize how very pleasant sunshine is.- But we for the most part sail happily along, never wearying of each others love - always forbearing and forgiving and as happy as the highest clams at the highest kind of tide.

Among the delightful acquaintances formed through

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her is the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher - a man of marvelous strength & power and yet of singular simplicity and beauty of character. He is a constant visitor of the family and I am charmed with him & his society.- His political course is marked by true Christian benevolence & charity and his influence for good is being felt all over the land.

The family are members of long standing in his church and I am also a regular attendant although not yet formally incorporated with his flock.-

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Thursday. Nov. 2d '65

Yesterday at 2 Mr. Howard sailed on the "Scotia" for England. Jack & I accompanying him to the ship. May his voyage be prosperous and happy and his return safe and speedy.

Essie & I at night made a call on the bride - Tillie - after which we passed an hour or so at the Academy of Music at the Promenade Concert of the 23d Militia. The Room was handsomely decorated and the girls as usual all smiles & waterfalls. We did not dance, but returned home at an early hour.-

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This Thursday night Jack & his Mother, Ess & I went to the new Opera - Crispus é Comare - the best of which is in the pocket of this diary. The house was jammed to overflowing, brilliant in the extreme & enthusiastic. The Opera is chuck full of fun & lively pleasant music like the Barber of Seville & thoroughly enjoyable. Essie was particularly delighted and quite compensated for her absence from the party given this same evening by Miss Mary Taylor in honor of the bride, Tillie, - to which Jack & I hastened after the opera.

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Susie was there and we did our best to make up for not having come earlier. But the Taylors were mad because we hadn't given up the Opera entirely and hadn't the faculty to conceal it. However, this didn't bother us, but merely caused us to philosophize over the difficulty of pleasing both ourselves & them & the propriety of doing just as we please in future.

Friday Nov. 3. 1865

Jack & his mother have gone to Springfield today to spend a week, and to meet the boys. Essie & Susie remain to take charge of the house.-

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November 15. 1865

This A.M. Essie, Susie & myself went to Fowler & Wells for a phrenological examination. Mr. Wells conducted the examination.- concerning Essie his statements corresponded almost exactly with her character &c. as we perceive it. He dwelt particularly upon her strong emotional disposition, her demonstrativeness & her craving for love and sympathy. She will almost worship her children should she have any. She is extremely sensitive & impulsive and can be easily led but not driven. Her husband

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must not attempt to control her by authority but by love. Simply tell her what is right, and she will always do it. Altho' at first she may rebel & seem obstinate.- He gave her a deservedly exalted character for truth & conscientiousness and said she would be a loving loyal wife.- Her intellectual qualities are high but the social predominates and she has the power to attract in an unusual degree & to make all around her love her, combativeness large.

Of Susie the main points

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of difference were that the intellectual predominates over the social, or physical. That she would not be easily won but would love devotedly her husband and children: but keep the last under strict control.

Jack here came in & took a few notes concerning his estimate of my character. Has his father's willfulness, almost obstinacy. Will tease the ladies. Leading traits are love of liberty, tenacity of purpose, will be his own master. Very curious & wants to travel. Not so thoughtful but very observant. more practical than philosophical.

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Fond of order. Impetuous. Does always shut the door quietly but slams it. Knocks over chairs &c. Prompt, not patient. Quick to resist & defend. Needs cautiousness. Must live temperately - that is his safety. Never indolent or lazy. Will make money but needs a motive to save it. Liberal & generous. Should settle down & join the Church, take a wife & be quiet.- Would make a good engineer, pioneer, R.R. man &c. or Wholesale merchant. Would succeed in law or medicine. hardly in ministry - is not meek enough. If he takes a profession, law is the one.

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[Photograph inserted here, with a handwritten caption by King]

Gen. Wesley Merritt

Col. 5th U.S. Cavalry

1881