

CHICKAMAUGA

A SOLDIER'S LOVE STORY.

An Intensely Interesting Story
Full of Thrilling Adventures
And Dramatic Situations.

TOLD WITH CONSUMATE SKILL BY

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Chattanooga and Other War Stories

CHAPTER I.

OPENING OF A CAMPAIGN.

The Army of the Cumberland is awakening. For months its 80 miles of torpid length have been marked by clusters of white tents like the rings of a gigantic anaconda. But now there is an arousing from its long period of lethargy. The tents are being struck, the men are stuffing knapsacks, rolling blankets or yawning from tin cups a last draft of invigorating coffee. Wagons are being loaded with all kinds of camp equipment—tents, camp cots, cooking utensils, the pine tables and army desks of the staff departments. Here orderlies are holding horses, waiting their riders, and there men are strapping blankets or ponchos behind saddles or crumpling bacon and "hard tack" into haversacks, while strikers empty the contents of the demijohn into canteens. Each regiment as soon as formed moves out into the road, the whole taking up the line of march by brigades and divisions.

It is the right of head of the monster that awakens first. The main body of this wing moves diagonally toward the front and left, while cavalry pushes directly south to conceal the movement and produce a false impression on the enemy. All day the infantry and artillery work their way over dirt roads, the men marching at will, smoking, chatting, laughing, the Irish regiments cracking jokes, the Germans singing, all with that esprit which pervades an army just starting after a long period of idleness on a new campaign. A lashing of artillery horses, a cursing of mules, words of command, bugle calls, picket firing, the occasional boom of a gun, mingle confusedly and in a country used only to the peaceful loving of cattle or to the song of birds. Throughout its whole length the Army of the Cumberland is in motion, advancing on that campaign which is to maneuver the Confederates out of Tennessee and lead up to the battle of Chickamauga.

On a road running parallel with the Cumberland mountains, which flank the Union army on its left, a strange looking vehicle is going at a breakneck pace toward the south. The horse is a rawboned animal with long legs and neck, while the vehicle—a buggy—is so battered with mud that what paint remains on it is invisible. The bottom is partly gone; the dashboard would let through a cannon ball without being injured; the springs are badly bent; the top, which is let down—there are no props to hold it up—is shivered and torn, its tatters flying behind in the wind. A woman in a striped calico dress, a sunbonnet of the same material, a pair of colored spectacles on her nose, holds the reins and urges forward the horse. Yet strange looking as is the conveyance and its occupant, for that time and region there is nothing unusual in the appearance of either. The country people inhabiting that portion of Tennessee are not cultured, and uncleanliness is rather the rule than the exception.

Coming to a place where she can get a full view for some distance ahead, the woman glances over the intervening space between her and the next rise in the undulating ground. Seeing nothing to deter, she drives her horse on as rapidly as she can force him to go. Her buggy careens till it is in danger of going over; she is bounced from her seat with a prospect of being sent over the dashboard; the mud flies, the horse whizzes, the buggy groans, but there is no slackening of pace.

"Go on, Bobby, go on!"

Turning a curve in the road partly hidden by trees, she sees a cavalry camp ahead. In the road an officer stands talking to a man in a farm wagon, beside whom, on a board seat, its two ends resting on the wagon's sides, sits a boy of 14, while on a back seat, evidently borrowed from a more pretentious vehicle, is a young girl, perhaps three or four years the boy's senior.

The woman of the striped dress drove up to the group, and drawing rein listened to what they were saying.

"Cap," said the farmer—all officers in the Union army were called by the people of the country either cap or general or mister—"cap, I want ter go through the lines powerful bad."

"Well, Oim thinkin, me good man," replied the officer, with the brogue of an Irishman, "that's exactly what old Ross wants to do unless he prefers to get behind 'em and bag 'em from the rear."

"Oh, I don't mean fightin! I wants ter go hum peaceful."

"You uns hain't got no business fer ter come down hyar now. You're a mis'able set o' black abolitioners. I'm a gal 'bout nothin ter fight with, and you uns—"

"I don't keer," replied the woman. "You uns hain't got no business fer ter come down hyar now. You're a mis'able set o' black abolitioners. I'm a gal 'bout nothin ter fight with, and you uns—"

"Beauty and the beast," interrupted the officer, bowing.

"Now, see hyar, Mr. Yank, I got ter go hum. Pop he's away, and mother she's sick in bed."

The officer scratched his head and thought.

"Well, me friends," he said presently. "Oim thinkin Oim refer the case of all of yez to brigade headquarters. Would ye mind sittin where ye are till I got an answer?"

"Reckon not," from the farmer.

"Hurry up," said the woman in the buggy. "Mother's waitin' fer me."

The officer stepped into his tent near by and came out with a pencil and the back of an old letter. With these he proceeded to take down the information required. Approaching the buggy, he said:

"Will ye please favor me with your patronymic?"—he passed while he looked to see if she was young or old—"miss?"

"My what?"

"Your patronymic."

"Oh, talk Tennessee!"

"Well, then, your cognomen."

"See hyar, Mr. Officer, ef you want ter git anything outen me, you want to talk squar."

"Please tell me your name."

"Betsy Baggs, and yours?"

"Major Burke, at your service. Are ye Union or—"

"Rebel!"

"Where do ye want to go?"

"Hum."

"And that is at?"

"Dunlap."

"Why are ye here?"

"I been ter MacIntoshville ter see mother's old doctor."

"There's a shorter road from MacIntoshville than this. Why didn't ye take it?"

The girl showed a slight confusion.

"Oh, I got a friend at Franklin college. She uns and I uns allus be powerful thick."

After getting the data as to all the party the major called a mounted man and directed him to take it to headquarters and ask for instructions.

"How do?" she said, with something that was intended for a bow. "Ye a party like lookin feller of you air playin Yank. You'd better 'a' said in Oireland than come down hyar ter make war on women."

"And have OI overpainted the beautiful tint of his hair?" asked the major, laughing. "It'd make good winter hair; needn't hev no fire in the house."

Horses' hoofs were heard down the road, and in a few minutes the messenger who had been sent to headquarters rode up.

"Where's the answer?" asked the major.

"Devil an answer did OI get, major," said the man, answering awkwardly.

"And what d'ye mean by that?"

"Well, OI kem up to headquarters, and the general was gettin off of his horse to go in his tent. Have ye anythin for me, me man?"

"A worrind, general," OI answered, salutin respectful. "What's the paper ye have in your belt?"

"Well, give it to me," OI said a bit, general; it's not for the likes of me to be givin yez a paper. Oim instructed to give it to the chafe of staff."

"Give me the paper, ye cussed Oirishman," he said, "or OI'll send ye to the guard tent."

"Niver will OI be guilty of breakin the regulations or the articles of war, general." "Corporal of the guard!" yelled the general.

"The corporal kem and saluted the general, him red as Corporal Ratigan's head. Take that paper from that man!" he roared. Well, being surrounded by the guard who were at the corporal's call, OI surrendered.

"And thin?" gasped the major, glaring at the stupid messenger.

"And thin the general said, 'Go to yer camp and tell Major Burke to put ye in the guard tent for 24 hours. And when he sends another order to me not to send a recruit, or OI'll put him in arrest.'"

"By the howly—! Ye infernal, raw—! Did ye get no answer?"

"OI'll send an answer by a soldier who has been properly retained," said the general. Didn't ye tell me right, major?"

"Corporal of the guard!" cried the major by way of reply.

"Take that man," he said when the corporal came, "to the guard tent."

As the messenger was marched away, protesting against the injustice of his treatment for obeying orders, a staff officer rode up. Taking the major apart, he instructed him to let the applicant on oath not to give any information concerning the Union troops to the enemy.

With the passes he brought a suggestion from the general to send some person with one or the other of the two parties under pretense of an escort, but finally with a view to discovering the proximity

of blue arbs, ye'll get through all right, and if ye're tempted to look aside just fix 'em on his head, and ye'll be blind."

The corporal went for his horse, buckled on his revolver, and coming back started out to play diplomat—in other words, to acquire knowledge by strategy.

CHAPTER II.

A WAR OF WITS.

Corporal Ratigan rode gallantly beside Miss Baggs, the two keeping up a constant picket firing, which occasionally warned to the dignity of a skirmish. Miss Baggs was in an excellent humor and the corporal quite delighted at the role he was playing. He pretended to watch her carefully whenever anything belonging to the army was passed on the road, while he was secretly forming his plans for getting far enough on the way to determine the proximity of the enemy. He felt no suspicion as to Miss Baggs carrying information. Being on the flank of the army, she would not be likely to have much information to carry. The country people were constantly passing between the lines, and considering their harrowing excuses no one except with a heart of stone could well prevent them.

"What's in the box ye have with ye?" asked Ratigan, looking at a square little box on the seat beside her. It had been covered with a shawl, which had fallen from over it, exposing it to view.

"That's a philosophy machine. You see, my friend, Sal Glassick, she knows a heap o' things. She's tryin ter beat some on 'em inter my pore noodle. Reckon she won't hev no easy time."

"What branch does she teach ye with that?"

"Waal, you see, mother, she's sufferin with palsy, and this hyar box is a—waa, Sal, she calls it a gal—gal!"

"Galvanic battery?"

"That's it. You hit it right thar. A galvanic battery. We uns 'er goin ter try t' on mother. Lord a-massy, what's the use?"

She directed his attention from the box to a cloud of smoke hanging over the gaps in the hills far to the west. They were crossing a mountain spur and could see it quite plainly.

"There's fightin goin on there," remarked the corporal.

"And you uns air gittin licked," observed the rebellious Miss Baggs.

"How d'ye know that?" asked Ratigan, surprised that she should know anything about it.

"Oh, I reckon!"

"It's a queer thing—the reckonin of gurrels."

"Waal, you see, women hain't got the big heads men hev. They can't reason things out. They hev ter jump at 'em mebbe, like ants. Ants is powerful small, but they're most times right."



"SEE HYAR, MR. OFFICER."

of the enemy. Now that the main army was moving, it might be well to discover if the cavalry on its flank had fallen back. The ground was unfavorable for a reconnaissance; hence the suggestion to get information by stratagem.

The major hunted the camp for a Bible on which to administer the oath and called on Corporal Ratigan to help him. He explained the general's request and told Ratigan that he wanted him to go with Miss Baggs. Having given the corporal a full understanding of what was required of him, he went back to the party with a Bible, followed by Ratigan.

The farmer and his family were first sworn, and then the major offered to swear Miss Baggs.

"I hain't goin ter do no swearin," she said defiantly.

"Oim glad to hear that," remarked Corporal Ratigan.

"What fo, fir first?" she asked, surprised.

"OI'd be breakin me heart at partin with ye."

"You hain't got no heart now, or you wouldn't be in the Yankee army."

"Don't ye believe it," exclaimed the major; "his heart's as warm as the color of his hair. Come, young leddy, take the oath. OI'd be sorry to be partin ye from yer mother and she sufferin."

"I won't."

"Won't ye take it for moi sake?" queried Ratigan, with a mock appeal.

"You'll hev ter git some un uglier'n you uns ter move me. I hanker after ugly men, but you uns ain't quite ugly enough fo me."

when they reckon."

Ratigan made no reply. He was thinking that Miss Baggs did not appear to be so plain a personage as he at first thought her. He looked at her hands, incased in coarse gloves, and noticed that they were small for "poor white trash."

Her attire was very cheap, and her cowhide shoes did not betoken refinement, but somehow he began to gather a notion that Miss Baggs was not so dreadfully common as she appeared.

The corporal came of an excellent family in his native land, and under ordinary circumstances could detect refinement. He looked for Miss Baggs to use some expression beyond the ken of a "poor white" girl, but she did not. So he dismissed the matter from his mind and began to wonder what excuse he could make to go on with her under flag of truce when she should pass the Union pickets.

"We uns air goin slow enough ter worrit a snail," remarked Miss Baggs.

"Oh! That's United States. Don't ye see the 'U. S.' branded on him?"

"Can he trot?"

"He can beat anything in the brigade."

"D'you think he can trot with this hyar critter o' mine?"

Ratigan looked at her rawboned brute and burst into a laugh.

"Waal, now, you needn't take on so. Reckon I'd give you a brush of you uns was mindin."

"All right, me dear. Here's a straight bit of road."

"Who holds the stakes?" asked the corporal gleefully.

"You uns."

"Divil a bit. The lady shall hold 'em."

She took the bill he handed her and gave the lines a jerk with a "Git along thar! Remember, it's a trottin race."

Ratigan was at a disadvantage from the first. He did not dare to use his spurs lest his horse should break from a trot. Miss Baggs' animal began to reach his flank legs out, triangulating in a lumbering fashion that put him over the ground at no inconsiderable speed. The corporal did his best and kept pace pretty well.

"Reckon my Bob Lee kin knock the stuffin outen your critter, Mr. Sojer. Git up, Bob."

With that Bob increased the length of his triangulations, increasing their frequency at the same time. The result was that he carried the old buggy with Betsy Baggs in it right away from the corporal. Indeed Ratigan fell behind steadily. If he should break from a trot, he would lose Miss Baggs.

Suddenly an officer appeared on the road, and regarding him sternly ordered him to halt.

"Oim followin the young lady, sir. Oim on official business for the general, commandin the—th cavalry brigade."

"Well, my man, you're a well disciplined orderly. You keep the regulation 40 paces to the rear. Give your horse the spur and catch up."

Ratigan, who could not well explain to an officer that he was running a race, and fearing to lose his charge, gave his horse the spur and dashed after her at a gallop. He reached her in a "blown" condition.

"O've lost," he cried out of breath. "Reckon you have," was Miss Baggs' sole reply.

"The money's yours."

"Reckon it ain't," repeated Miss Baggs. "Ye always reckonin. Mebbe ye reckoned about the end of the race like the ant ye were talkin about."

At that moment they spied the outpost ahead.

"Waal, hyar we air," said Miss Baggs. "Don't want ter part from you uns, Mr. Sojer. I'm powerful bad struck hyar." And she put her hand on her heart.

"Like enough OI can find some reason to go with ye a bit. Oim all broken up myself, sure enough."

"I hopes you kin."

"Lieutenant," said the corporal, saluting an officer who came out from the picket post. "Major Burke ordered me to see this young lady out of the lines. She has a pass to Dunlap."

The lieutenant read the pass and told Miss Baggs she might go through.

Ratigan was racking his brains to know what to do. He had been instructed to go through with Miss Baggs under some pretense, but his ingenuity when put to the test failed him. Miss Baggs came to his relief.

"Mr. Corporal," she said, "I don't hanker ter part 'ith the bloomin head o' ha'r o' yours. Would you mind seein a pore lone woman ter the Confederates lines?"

The corporal whispered a few words to the lieutenant's ear. The result was that in five minutes four cavalry privates were placed under the corporal's orders, who held in his hand a pole out from a tree at the side of the road, to which he had attached a white cotton handkerchief.

Then the old buggy, which rattled at every turn of the wheel and threatened to collapse at every mudhole, proceeded down the road. Corporal Ratigan cantered alongside, while the four privates followed directly in rear.

But a few miles had been traversed when a horseman—he proved to be the enemy's vedette—was seen standing in the road ahead. As the party approached they saw a dozen more advancing to his support. But the Confederates evidently saw the white flag, for no other demonstration was made than the riding forward of an officer with half a dozen men to meet those who were advancing.

"What do you want?" asked the officer gruffly.

"Flag to see the lady to your lines."

"Under a commissioned officer?"

"Only myself, a corporal," said Ratigan.

"Well, you can turn about pretty quick and get back to where you came from. The next such flag sent out will be taken in and won't get out again."

"Captain, don't you know me?" said Miss Baggs, smiling at the officer.

"Well, upon my word. You don't mean?"

Miss Baggs put her finger on her lip. "These men came at my request," she continued, "so I hope you will not find any fault."

The officer raised his hat, but said nothing.

"Good morning, corporal," she said. "I'm most obliged for your trouble."

"You're quite welcome, miss."

Both parties moved slowly away simultaneously. They had scarcely started before the corporal heard his name spoken in a woman's voice, but one with which he was not familiar.

on the cheek. Her superb head was set on her neck as if it had been placed there by an artist. The face was lighted by a smile of triumph—a smile so bewitching that it haunted the corporal to his dying day.

Ratigan had not recovered from his surprise before she spoke to him in a rich, contralto voice, as little like that he had heard from her as a life is like the mellow tones of an organ.

"Corporal, please present my compliments to Major Burke and thank him for me for his kindness, and tell him that when he sends another woman through the lines under pretense of keeping her eyes shut, when he has an especial purpose of his own in view, not to send an 'Oirishman' for an escort."

The smile on her lips broadened and showed a set of white teeth. "The 'Oirish' race as diplomats are not usually successful. As a result, corporal."

There was a grin on the faces of the Confederate lookers on and astonishment on the honest countenance of Corporal Ratigan.

"And Rats," she continued, evidently enjoying bringing out the word with her rich voice, as one loves to roll old wine on the tongue, "when a woman desires to race, it is not always for the money up." She tossed the bill she had won toward him.

"And Rats, don't race again with any one with a rawboned animal with long legs. Bobby Lee is from the blue grass regions of Kentucky. There's something wrong about his breathing apparatus, but even with that disadvantage he can trot a mile over a good road in 2:30."

Had Miss Baggs appeared less bewitching as she stood there under the protection of half a dozen Confederate troopers, Ratigan would have turned away impatiently. As it was, she seemed to hold him by a spell.

"One thing more, my bonny cardinal flower. Tell the major that I like 'the young man from County Cavan' he has recommended to me very much." Her eyes fairly danced. "When the war is over, I hope you will look me up. Inquire for Betsy Baggs at the St. Cloud hotel, Nashville."

With this she threw him a kiss from the tips of her fingers, which, now that her glove was removed, he noticed were white and round. There was really something sympathetic in the last glance she gave him. In it was a regret that it had been necessary for her to deceive so honest and manly a fellow. It was the final dart that pierced the Irishman's heart and completed his inthrallment.

Leaving the corporal and his men gaping in the road, the party moved away. The last thing Ratigan heard was a hoarse laugh from one of the Confederates, which was rebuked by Miss Baggs and remonstrated by the officer.

The corporal led his party northward in no good humor. At the picket post he left the men he had taken with him and rode on alone meditatively. In passing a part of the road where there was no one to hear he retired in his horse and exclaimed aloud:

"D—n it! I believe the witch is carrying important information."

The thought filled him with horror. Who was she? What was she? What was the box she called a galvanic battery? For more than an hour he had attended a rude country girl, who, when under the protection of Confederate officers, bloomed into a handsome woman. He was as much chagrined at his own stupidity as he was bewildered by the cunning of Miss Baggs.

Entering the camp, he slunk away to his tent and did not report the outcome of his mission to Major Burke till just before "taps." Then he only said, "Their pickets are three miles down the road beyond ours."

"Are ye shure?"

"Oim. OI left the young lady 'em mean the country gurrel—among 'em. And the vixen blew me a kiss at partin."

"Ah, Rats, ye're a sly dog. Oim shure ye did your work well."

"Major," replied the corporal, "don't ye believe it. All the divils in hell if they be men are no match for a woman."

"And if they be women, Rats?"

"Then God save 'em both."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Have you Renewed your Subscription for 1894?

A Des Moines woman who has been troubled with frequent colds, concluded to try an old-remedy in a new way, and accordingly took a tablespoonful (four times the usual dose) of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy just before going to bed. The next morning she found that her cold had almost entirely disappeared. During the day she took a few doses of the remedy (one teaspoonful at a time) and at night again took a tablespoonful before going to bed, and on the following morning awoke free from all symptoms of the cold. Since then she has, on several occasions, used this remedy in like manner, with the same good results, and is much elated over her discovery of so quick a way of curing a cold. For sale by A. R. Fisher, Cloverport, Ky., Kincheloe & Board, Hardinsburg, Ky.

Garrett.

S. Frymire, of Ekron, was here one day this week.

Mr. James Osborne Sr., of Guston, was here last Sunday.

Uncle John Taell, of Ekron, is visiting in this neighborhood this week.

Several from here attended the sale at Hill Grove and report good sales.

Mr. J. W. Thell and wife spent Thursday night with Dr. Miles and wife.

Josh Montgomery has returned home after several days visit with friends here.

Mr. Bob Buckler has returned to Marion county after a few weeks visit here.

Mr. Pree Richardson and wife spent last Sunday with Mr. Wm. Hill and family.

D. W. Burch and Josh Montgomery went to Brandenburg Saturday on business.

Mrs. J. G. Shacklett, of Hill Grove was here one day this week the guest of her son, Rod.

Mr. John Funk visited his sister, Mrs. John Bunker, who is still very poorly, last Sunday.