

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS AT CAMP MORTON.

I. A REPLY TO "COLD CHEER AT CAMP MORTON."

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
INDIANAPOLIS, June 13, 1891.

WE, the undersigned committee, appointed by a resolution passed by the Department Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, at its last session at Indianapolis, April 10, 1891, to investigate the statements contained in an article entitled "Cold Cheer at Camp Morton," written by John A. Wyeth, and printed in the April number of THE CENTURY MAGAZINE, have examined the evidence contained in a reply to said article, written by W. R. Holloway, entitled "Treatment of Prisoners at Camp Morton." Most of the witnesses quoted by Mr. Holloway are personally known to us, and the remainder are men of high character, who enjoy the confidence of the communities in which they reside. We therefore indorse and approve the article written by W. R. Holloway, entitled "Treatment of Prisoners at Camp Morton."

JAMES R. CARNAHAN,
JOHN COBURN,

CHARLES L. HOLSTEIN,
M. D. MANSON,
E. H. WILLIAMS.

LEW. WALLACE,
JAMES L. MITCHELL,

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
OFFICE OF DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, INDIANAPOLIS, June 10, 1891.

THE committee appointed by order of the Twelfth Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana, Grand Army of the Republic, to investigate the charges made against the official management at Camp Morton in the treatment of prisoners of war confined therein during the years 1862 to 1865 carefully examined, in my presence, the paper prepared by Col. W. R. Holloway in relation thereto, and verified all documents and data referred to in said paper, and found them to be correct.

I. N. WALKER, *Department Commander.*



THE April CENTURY contained an article entitled "Cold Cheer at Camp Morton," written by John A. Wyeth, which charged that the rebel prisoners confined in Camp Morton, at Indianapolis, during the war were starved and subjected to other inhuman treatment or neglect. It has long been a matter of pride to the people of Indiana that they gave freely of their time and goods to relieve the distresses of the half-clad and half-famished prisoners who were sent to Indianapolis for safe keeping during the Rebellion. They have asked no thanks for their humanitarian efforts, but they have the right, I think, to claim exemption from such acts of ingratitude as take a publicly defamatory form.

Mr. Wyeth's paper begins with a misstatement, viz., that the writer had been guarded after capture by a company under the command of his cousin Thomas W. Smith, of Jacksonville, Illinois (an officer who by the way had resigned sixteen months before that time), and ends with the libelous assertion that the 1763 deaths which occurred in Camp Morton were due largely to starvation and other inhuman treatment. If we may accept a statement made by an uncle of Mr. Wyeth, and now preserved in the files of the War Department, Wyeth, when confined in Camp Morton, was "not quite eighteen years old" and "rather delicate naturally." Young Wyeth had three aunts residing

at Jacksonville, Illinois, one of whom visited him at Camp Morton. Wyeth's uncle, Captain J. M. Allen, Provost Marshal of the Fifth District of Illinois, requested the Commissary-General of Prisoners that the boy "be removed to his care, or to the prison at Rock Island, which was near his home." But he adds: "If he cannot be removed as I suggest, I would be glad to have him kept and not exchanged. The dangers of the field service are much more than those of the camp." If prisoners were being starved, frozen, or cruelly maltreated at Camp Morton, it is not likely that this last request would have been made, particularly as young Wyeth would have disclosed such treatment to his aunt.

Young Wyeth seemed to forget that he was a prisoner of war, and was apparently much surprised to find that Camp Morton was not a hotel upholstered in modern style. With his long catalogue of inconveniences—floorless barracks, hard beds, lack of complete bathing appliances with hot and cold water attachments—I have nothing to do. These are the implied incidents of war, whether in the field or in the prison, and are not feared by those who think they are fighting for a principle, and should be kept in view in reading Mr. Wyeth's article. But against his charges of starvation and cruelty I set an explicit denial.

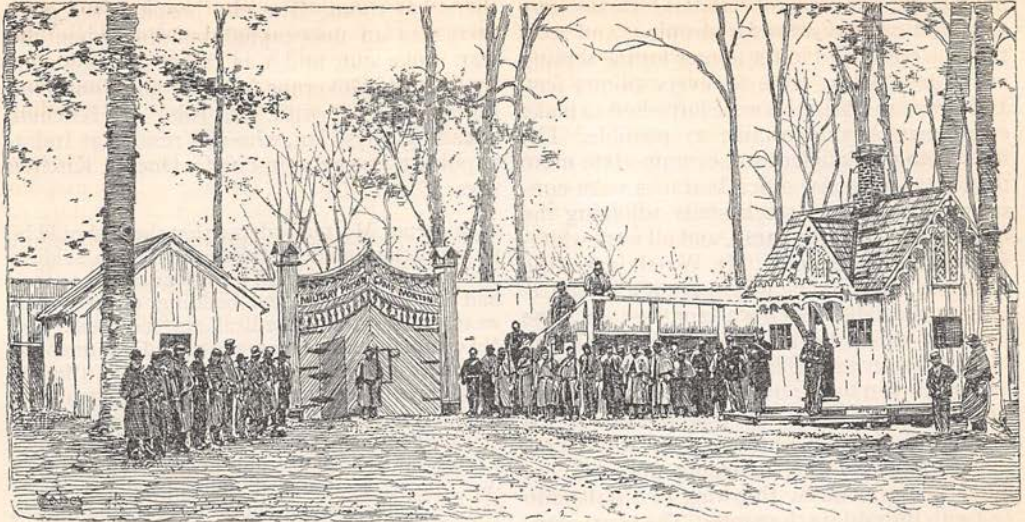
Mr. Wyeth's statements are purely *ex parte*, and abound in general assertions which are fortified neither by names nor dates. He has a case to plead. "The Southern side of prison

life has not yet been written. The reputation of the South has suffered, not only because the terrible trials of Northern prisoners in the Southern prisons have been so fully exploited, but because the truth of the Confederate prisons has not yet been given to the world." At last he consents to tell his "tale of woe," evidently thinking that he has only to speak to convince. If it were true, as he charges, that rebel prisoners confined in Camp Morton were deliberately starved to death, or otherwise inhumanly treated, the facts could not have been secreted during a quarter of a century; like the horrors of Andersonville, they would have obtained scandalous notoriety at the beginning. During the year 1862 the prison was a State institution, and was under the supervision of Governor Morton, its immediate superintendents being Colonel Richard Owen and Colonel D. G. Rose. I need not vindicate the reputation of the war governor of Indiana—a man who has been sanctified in memory as "the soldiers' friend." His nature was brave and generous, and his heart was as tender as that of a woman. The Union soldier was his peculiar care whether in the field, in the barracks, or in the hospital; and his solicitude extended to his captured foes as well, as many letters written to him by grateful ex-prisoners attested. Colonel Owen, who was a brother of the late Robert Dale Owen, the distinguished philanthropist, was the first commander of the camp, and was uniformly beloved by the Confederates under his charge. On June 10, 1862, his regiment was ordered to the front, and he was succeeded by Colonel D. G. Rose, who discharged his responsible duties with entire satisfaction. In August, 1862, a general exchange was effected, and soon after the camp was closed as a prison. In the following year it was reopened under the auspices of the general Government, but in the interim it was occupied by our troops as a barracks. The first commander of the prison in 1863 was Captain D. W. Hamilton, of the 7th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, a well-known resident of Indianapolis. He served until November, 1863, when he was relieved at his own request and to the regret of many of the prisoners, by whom he was well liked. His successor was General A. A. Stevens, of the 5th Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps. General Stevens was a man of high character and a brave soldier. As lieutenant-colonel of the 3d Michigan he was in all of the battles of the Potomac in 1861-2, was severely wounded, and was promoted for bravery to the colonelcy of the 21st Michigan Volunteers, when he was transferred to the Army of the Ohio. He was wounded at Perryville and at Murfreesboro, and was afterwards assigned to the Veteran Reserve Corps. The comman-

ders of the military district for Indiana were General H. B. Carrington, General O. B. Willcox, and General A. P. Hovey. The five gentlemen just named are still living, and will speak through me in the succeeding pages.

As private secretary of Governor Morton until June, 1864, and residing in Indianapolis during the war, it was a part of my duty to visit all of the camps and to learn something of their management. I talked with the prisoners in Camp Morton almost daily, visited their barracks, and ate of their food. I saw the bread baked in the bakery. Save the new arrivals at Camp Morton, most of whom were ill and ragged, the prisoners were in good health and comfortably clothed. If they were hungry, cold, or maltreated, they made no complaint to me, nor to any one of whom I ever heard. Any prison-house, no matter how well conditioned, will become irksome to those confined in it, although be it said the prisoners at Camp Morton were made as comfortable as circumstances would permit. They fared as well as the Union soldiers who guarded them, if not better, and surely this is all that could have been expected. Homesickness, as superinducing other ailments, and lack of occupation were leading causes of mortality in Northern prisons. Whenever opportunity offered work was given to the prisoners. They assisted in building the new barracks and hospitals, and in digging a ditch to prevent themselves from escaping—a labor which Mr. Wyeth seemed to regard in the light of a hardship. But as a rule the prisoners were indisposed to labor. In many cases they refused even to nurse their own sick, for which they were disciplined by being compelled to take wheel-barrow and assist in the sanitation of the camp.

The most efficient causes of death in Camp Morton were the insufficient food and the exposure from which the rebel soldiers had suffered *before they arrived at the prison*. Mr. Wyeth says he slept on the ground during his first night in the camp, that he was seized with a chill which resulted in pneumonia, and that he was sent to the hospital on the following day. Just why Mr. Wyeth was not assigned to quarters upon his arrival is not clear. With the incoming of himself and his associates, there were only 1819 prisoners in camp, although there were accommodations for 3945, and General Stevens says that he does not remember that prisoners were ever compelled to remain without shelter or cover over night, faring much better in this respect than soldiers in the field. But, accepting Mr. Wyeth's story as true, the statement of his illness should be read in connection with the fact that when he was captured, ten days or two weeks before,



THE GATE, CAMP MORTON, FROM A WAR-TIME PHOTOGRAPH.

his wardrobe was "slim and ragged"; and that rather than sleep in a stable he asked his captors to permit him to sleep in the open air even "without blankets." He says, also, that while confined in the State penitentiary at Nashville, Tenn., he was placed in a "narrow stone cell, which was damp and chilly, and being without blankets, bed, or heat was uncomfortable enough." In other words, he came to Camp Morton with the seeds of disease in him. No physician of Mr. Wyeth's acquaintance will say that pneumonia is likely to come on immediately after one night's exposure. What was true of Mr. Wyeth was true of hundreds of other prisoners. Of those who came from Fort Henry and Fort Donelson five hundred were immediately put into the hands of the surgeons, and the sick-list for some time increased rapidly. Says the report of the Adjutant-General of the State of Indiana :

Ample hospital arrangements were made. Everything that kindness or humanity could suggest was done to alleviate the distressed condition of the prisoners. The citizens of Indianapolis, as well as of Terre Haute and Lafayette, responded to the calls of the authorities, and did all that was possible to be done in furnishing suitable nourishment, delicacies, and attention. Many estimable ladies and gentlemen volunteered their services as nurses and attendants, and prominent members of the medical profession were particularly kind and attentive. Buildings were rented outside the camp and converted into infirmaries, with every convenience and comfort required by the sick. Despite all these efforts, the mortality was frightful during the first month or two. . . .

The prisoners themselves, very generally, were profuse in commendations of their treatment, and when the time came for their exchange, many of them preferred to take the oath of allegiance, remaining North, than to be sent back to fight

against the government that had manifested such kindness and magnanimity towards them.

A report from the War Department shows that 2684 prisoners of war were released upon taking the oath of allegiance at Camp Morton, and that of this number 620 enlisted in the United States service.

CAMP MORTON.

CAMP MORTON was a splendid grove adjoining the city of Indianapolis on the north, containing thirty-five acres, instead of twenty as stated by Mr. Wyeth. It was fitted up for the Indiana State Fair in 1860, but was used for that purpose during only one week of that year. It was occupied by the Union troops from the breaking out of the war until the 16th of February, 1862, when General Halleck, commanding the Department of the West, telegraphed to Governor Morton, asking how many prisoners he could provide for. The answer was 3000. The only place in the State well suited for the accommodation of the captives was this camp. It was located on high ground with good drainage and a light and porous soil. There was an abundance of pure water, supplied by a rapidly running stream which flowed through the camp and by a number of good wells. The camp was excellently shaded with walnut, maple, elm, and oak trees of the original forest, and it had formerly been a favorite locality for Methodist camp-meetings. There were a number of good and commodious buildings on the ground which had been erected for the exhibition of machinery, farm and garden products, and such articles as are usually under shelter at agricultural fairs. Captain James A. Ekin, U. S. Quartermaster, converted the existing buildings, which were

80x30 feet, into pleasant quarters. Bunks were arranged on the sides for sleeping, and long tables were placed in the center for the serving of rations. Stoves were set every twenty feet, and straw and blankets were furnished to make every man as comfortable as possible. The halls being insufficient to accommodate more than 2000 persons, other barracks were constructed out of the stock stalls adjoining the northern fence of the camp, and all were white-washed inside and out. Mr. Wyeth leaves the reader to infer that he was quartered in one of these stock stalls. Such was not the case. The barracks which he describes were the halls; but, in any event, be it said that the stalls had been occupied by our own troops and were considered comfortable. They were re-modeled for the prisoners so as to give six apartments for sleeping and one for eating purposes, the latter being made by throwing two stalls into one with the table in the center. The usual garrison equipage and cooking utensils, with regulation rations, and plenty of dry fuel—precisely identical with what was issued to our own troops—were furnished and were so disposed as to be convenient for messing. The barracks were closed at the sides with planks and the cracks were covered with strips. If any of the strips fell off or were pulled off by prisoners to make ladders by which to escape, no complaint was made to the authorities, and there was no reason why the prisoners should not have nailed others on. There were plenty of nails, tools, and materials at headquarters, and a number of prisoners were frequently employed in assisting to build and repair barracks, being paid for the same by the Government. In spite of inconsiderate or wilful mischief done by the prisoners there never was a time when the buildings occupied by them were not equal to any occupied by our troops who were guarding prisoners or who were quartered in the various camps near by.

HOSPITALS.

MR. WYETH spent several months in the hospitals in Camp Morton, and bears witness to the conscientious attention and kindly treatment accorded himself and comrades by the physicians and hospital authorities; but he says that "up to the fall of 1864 the facilities for treating the sick were wholly inadequate, and many deaths were doubtless due to the failure to provide the necessary quarters." He was taken with a chill during the morning after his arrival, and was admitted to the hospital at 2 o'clock p. m. He surely had no just cause for complaint. No deaths from disease are reported to have occurred in the barracks. He does not mention the city hospital, where the worst cases were sent from Camp Morton, when

there was room. The city hospital [see page 762] was an unoccupied building when the war broke out, and was taken possession of by order of Governor Morton, and continued during the war with Dr. John M. Kitchen, a leading physician, who still resides at Indianapolis, as surgeon-in-chief. Doctor Kitchen says:

Governor Morton ordered that there should be no distinction made between the Union soldiers and prisoners of war. All were treated alike; they had the same beds and bedding, clean underwear, nursing, and medical aid, food, etc., etc. No complaint was ever made of bad treatment of prisoners in the city hospital so far as I know, and I have letters from ex-prisoners, written since the war, expressing their gratitude for kindness and attention shown them while under my care. I removed the guard from the hospital, and only two prisoners embraced the opportunity to escape. The wooden addition to the building was built for the purpose of accommodating the prisoners. I also remember that when the prisoners were exchanged, their condition was better than that of the men who had guarded them.

The hospitals within the inclosure at Camp Morton were in charge of Dr. P. H. Jameson and Dr. Funkhouser (the latter is dead), from the time they opened until 1864. Colonel Charles J. Kipp, who now resides at 534 Broad Street, Newark, N. J., took charge of the hospitals inside of the camp January, 1864, and remained until June, 1865. He says:

During 1864 new hospitals were built after my own plans, with room for five hundred patients. The hospitals were furnished in the same style as the hospitals for our own men, and were provided with everything necessary for the proper care of the sick. The diet was the same as that given in the military hospital to our own men, and delicacies were given to all whose condition required them. The patients were under the care of skilful physicians, and were nursed by men selected from among their comrades by reason of their aptitude for their work. All army surgeons who visited us pronounced the hospital a model one.

General Stevens says:

I gave the hospitals my personal attention, and they were run on the best possible plan, and had the reputation of being the cleanest in the country outside of Washington.

Mr. Wyeth acknowledges that the hospitals were humanely and skilfully conducted, and inasmuch as the hospitals and barracks were under one management, it is inconsistent to impugn the policy governing the one and not that governing the other. It is absurd to suppose that the authorities made the prisoners alternately ill and well, and that any inconveniences which the prisoners may have suf-

ferred could have been otherwise than merely incidental and accidental in a well-intentioned management.

Mr. John A. Reaume, a well-known resident of Indianapolis, who was hospital steward at the city hospital, says :

In our hospital, so far as I ever knew or heard, the prisoners were delighted with their treatment. I often meet some of their number, especially in Kentucky, and they never fail to refer with gratitude to their treatment at our hospital.

COLD WEATHER.

MR. WYETH complains that he and his associates had no straw, and yet the official records at Washington show that during the months of February, March, October, November, and December, 1863, and January and February, 1864, 78,792 pounds of straw were issued to the prisoners at Camp Morton, and that the total amount issued during the winter months to the prisoners confined there was 234,272 pounds.

He says further : "The only attempt at heating this open shed [barracks No. 4] was by four stoves placed at equal distances along the passage-way, and that up to Christmas, 1864, I had not felt the heat of a stove." The building being eighty feet long, and the stoves being but twenty feet apart, it follows that the farthest a man could get from a stove was ten feet ! Dr. P. H. Jameson, Surgeon-in-chief of Camp Morton, and still one of the most prominent physicians of Indianapolis, says :

I remember those stoves. They were of the regulation camp kind, large cast-iron box affairs taking in a four-foot stick of wood. There was a plentiful supply of wood in camp all the time. Prior to January 1, 1864, I went through those barracks often and had no difficulty in getting as close to the stoves as I wanted to, sometimes closer. When Wyeth came into camp he had the pneumonia as had hundreds of his comrades, and the seemingly high death-rate at that time was owing to that fact, as the high death-rate at Denver, Colorado, is owing to the fact that persons go there with the seeds of the disease in their systems so far developed as to render cure impossible.

Mr. Wyeth says : "A number were frozen to death, and many more perished from diseases brought on by exposure added to their condition of emaciation for lack of food. I counted eighteen dead bodies carried into the dead-house one morning after an intensely cold night."

In this statement he evidently refers to what is remembered in Indianapolis as "the cold New Year's day," viz., January 1, 1864. From

the "Indianapolis Journal" of January 5, 1864, I take the following :

The morning of New Year's day presented us with the coldest weather ever known here. On Thursday, December 31, at one o'clock P. M., the thermometer was 40 degrees above zero, at which time it began going down rapidly until it reached zero before eleven o'clock and 20 degrees below before daylight on New Year's morning. The most moderate temperature on New Year's day was 12 degrees below zero, and it did not rise above zero until Saturday afternoon, thus being more than 36 hours below zero.

The "Indianapolis Journal" of January 2, 1864, stated :

There was a rumor that several of the union soldiers belonging to the veteran reserve corps, who were guarding the prisoners at Camp Morton, were frozen to death on the night previous. Governor O. P. Morton requested General H. B. Carrington, United States Army, then on special duty in this State, to visit all of the camps and hospitals in and around the city, to inspect and report as to their condition and the amount of suffering that had resulted from the intensely cold weather. The following is an extract from his report :

"Troops on duty, the Invalid corps, Colonel Stevens. No deaths or serious injury from the extreme cold. All reports to that effect are without foundation. The guard is relieved hourly, and as much oftener as the soldier advises the corporal by call that he suffers in the least. Hot coffee is served to the men when relieved, and pains are taken to prevent suffering and needless exposure. . . .

"Among the prisoners there is less sickness than usual. I visited nearly every barracks and the hospitals. The men were cheerful and thankful; in fifty letters sent out nearly every one spoke kindly of their treatment. One prisoner said to me, 'It would be extravagant to ask for anything else.' Seven hundred extra blankets and many shoes had been issued. They lacked for nothing indispensable to their personal health and comfort."

The "Indianapolis Journal" of January 4, 1864, says :

We are pleased to state that the item in Saturday's journal relating to soldiers freezing to death at Camp Morton is incorrect. Although the late cold snap has been very severe on the guards on duty there, and quite a number have had their ears, noses, and feet nipped by the icy winds of the past few days, no fatality has resulted therefrom.

There was issued to prisoners at Camp Morton during January, 1864, 600 cords of wood, and in February of the same year 560 cords. There was issued in all 11,641 cords.

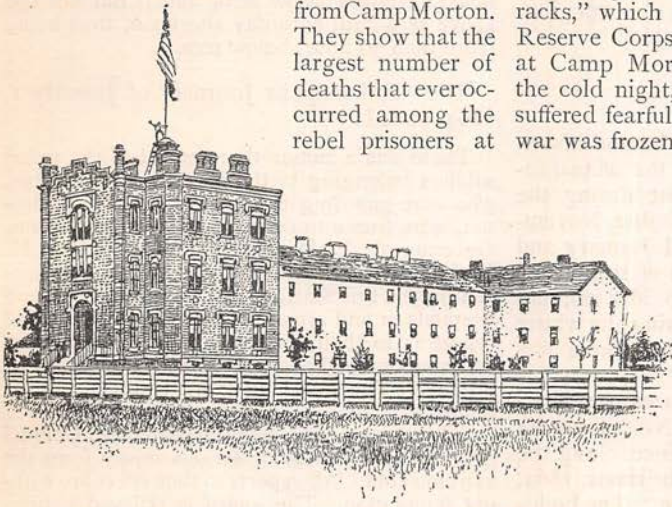
Mr. Wyeth was afflicted with double vision when he "counted eighteen dead bodies car-

ried into the dead-house." The coldest weather during his imprisonment was in the months of January and February, 1864. A letter from the War Department says that "during the months of December, 1863, and January and February, 1864, the records show that the mortality among the prisoners on no one day was greater than nine deaths. No one died from freezing." This statement corresponds with the books of the undertakers who buried the dead from Camp Morton. They show that the largest number of deaths that ever occurred among the rebel prisoners at

Mr. Elijah Hedges, a reputable citizen of Indianapolis, who resides at 305 East New York street, and now the oldest undertaker in the city, was an employee of the firm who buried those who died at Camp Morton. He says "there never were eighteen dead bodies in what was called the dead-house at one time."

Dr. J. W. Hervey, one of the oldest and most respectable physicians in Indianapolis, was surgeon-in-charge of "Burnside Barracks," which were occupied by the Veteran Reserve Corps, the principal guards on duty at Camp Morton. He says: "I remember the cold night, January 1, 1864. Our guards suffered fearfully, but no soldier or prisoner of war was frozen to death."

A. E. Winship, of the 60th Massachusetts Volunteers, now the editor of the "Boston Traveler," says: "There used to be some tall swearing by the sentries on those nights, as in their loneliness they braved the weather, while the prisoners were comfortably freezing to death, shut in by the high fence, amply protected by the barracks, with four stoves, and under three blankets."



OLD CITY HOSPITAL, INDIANAPOLIS. FROM A WAR-TIME PHOTOGRAPH.

Camp Morton in one day was nine, on the 25th day of January, 1864.

General A. A. Stevens says :

I remember the cold January very well, and worried a great deal about the men. Without authority I made a requisition on the Quartermaster for several hundred blankets. I was liable to be hauled over the coals for doing it, but something had to be done. Indianapolis never had such weather before nor since, and we were not prepared for it. I was so worried about the condition of the prisoners that I could not sleep and almost froze myself. They suffered no more than the rest of us after the new order for blankets was given out.

THE RATION.

MR. WYETH says that at no period during his imprisonment was the ration issued sufficient to satisfy hunger, and that he knew from personal observation that many of his comrades died from starvation. He does not give the name of a single person who died from starvation nor offer a particle of testimony to substantiate his remarkable statement. During the first half of his imprisonment the prisoners received the full army ration. But this being in excess of the needs of inactive men, it was slightly reduced June 1, 1864. The two rations are herewith subjoined, and each reader may de-

REGULAR RATION.

Hard Bread	14 oz., or
Soft Bread	18 oz., or
Corn Meal	18 oz.
Beef	14 oz., or
Bacon or Pork	10 oz.
Beans or Peas	6 qts. for each 100 men.
Hominy or Rice	8 lbs. " " " "
Sugar	14 " " " "
Rio Coffee, ground	5 " " " "
Tea	18 oz. " " " "
Soap	4 lbs. " " " "
Candles—adamantine	5 " " " "
Candles—tallow	6 " " " "
Salt	2 qts. " " " "
Molasses	1 " " " "
Vinegar	3 " " " "
Potatoes	30 lbs. " " " "

REDUCED RATION.

Hard Bread	14 oz., or
Soft Bread	16 oz., or
Corn Meal	16 oz.
Beef	14 oz., or
Bacon or Pork	10 oz.
Beans or Peas	12½ lbs. for each 100 men.
Hominy or Rice	8 " " " "
} only issued to sick or wounded.	
Soap	4 lbs. for each 100 men.
Salt	3¾ " " " "
Vinegar	3 qts. " " " "
Potatoes	15 lbs. " " " "

termine for himself whether men who should receive the reduced ration would starve or suffer from hunger.

A letter from the War Department says:

The difference between the ration as above established and the ration allowed by law to soldiers of the United States army constituted the "savings" which formed the "prison fund." With this fund was purchased such articles not provided by the regulations as were necessary for the health and proper condition of the prisoners, as well as table furniture, cooking utensils, articles for policing, straw, the means of improving or enlarging the barracks, hospital, etc.

That the Government did not intend to stint the prisoners is shown by the fact that the difference in the cost of the two rations was credited to the "prison fund," and that a ration about equal to the full army ration was given to such prisoners as were employed upon the public works, and by regulation No. 3: "If the ration of soap, salt, or vinegar is found to be insufficient, it will be increased in such proportion as may be deemed proper by the commanding officer of the post, not to exceed in quantity the ration allowed soldiers of the United States Army."

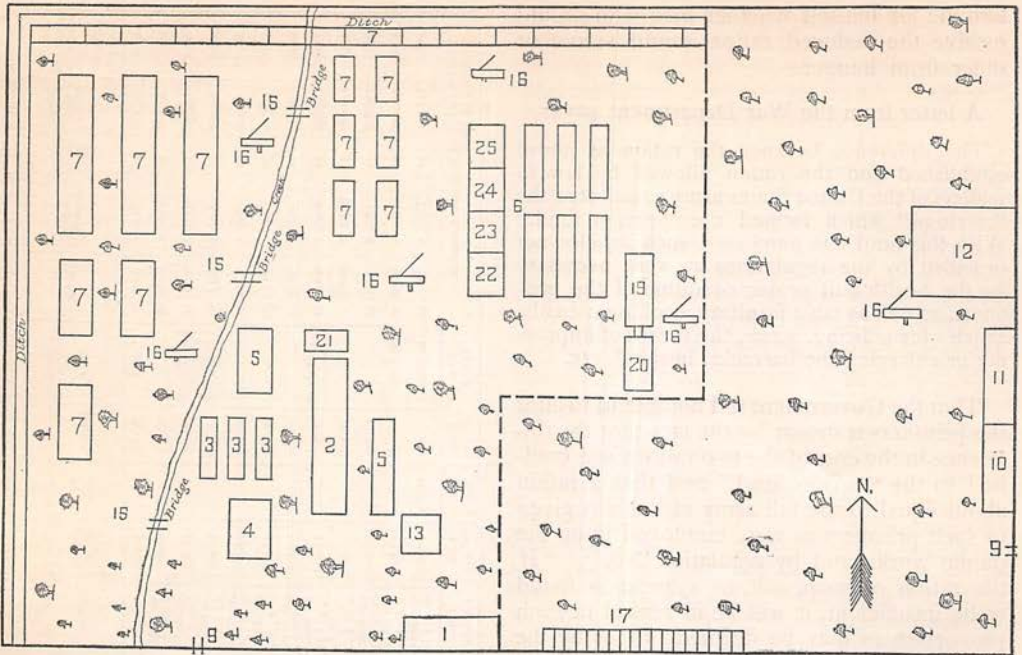
Tables prepared by Wm. H. Hart, Third Auditor of the Treasury, at Washington, D. C., in whose office the accounts of commissaries of subsistence are filed and settled, show that the whole number of rations issued to prisoners of war at Camp Morton from February 22, 1862, to July 31, 1865, was 2,626,684. I herewith append, as a sample exhibit, a statement for the year 1864, which shows in detail the kind and quantity of rations issued.

Mr. Wyeth states in a note that "it would be interesting to discover how many times the contract to feed the prisoners at Camp Morton was sublet. I have no doubt the Government intended to issue to each prisoner the regulation prison ration above given as official, but I know it never was received. I believe (in fact I heard while there) that it dwindled away under the contract system."

It is, perhaps, just as well that Mr. Wyeth did not make this charge more definite. It is no credit to his ability to judge what was done in Camp Morton, or to his subsequent information about army matters, to assert, or not to know that the Government did not let contracts to feed its soldiers or the prisoners of war. The Commissary of Subsistence for this department was required to advertise every sixty days for bids for such articles as he desired, and to let all contracts to the lowest responsible bidder. These goods were to be received and delivered at such times and places and in such quantities as the Commissary should direct. Every article

ABSTRACT OF SUBSISTENCE STORES ISSUED TO REBEL PRISONERS AT CAMP MORTON, DURING THE YEAR 1864, BY CAPT. L. L. MOORE AND CAPT. NAT. SHURTLEFF, A. C. S.

Daily average during each month.	Total No. of prisoners.	Number of days.	Com. mencing.	Ending.	RATIONS OF													REMARKS.								
					Pork.	Bacon.	Soft Beef.	Peach Beef.	Flour.	Hard Bread.	Corn Meal.	Beans.	Pot. toes.	Rice.	Hom. try.	Coffee, Roasted.	Tea.		Sugar.	Vin. diet. equiv. three times.	Corn Meal.	Salt.	Pepper, Black.	Miscellaneous.		
2918	90,463	31	Jan. 1	Jan. 31	248	35,066	.....	51,096	88,180	56,332	.....	7,897	5,438	2926	875	4137	566	13,569	904	1131	3619	3392	256	226	226
2661	80,108	28	Feb. 1	Feb. 28	.....	28,971	.....	51,880	{ 20 Bbls. & 86 Lbs.	35,836	.....	12,021	13,110	524	2497	4973	488	12,016	801	1001	3204	3004	200	201	201
2552	79,256	31	Mar. 1	Mar. 31	.....	30,839	.....	47,805	{ 46 Bbls. & 83 Lbs.	14,439	.....	11,884	23,758	4970	3252	5840	116	12,109	792	990	3160	2971	178	108	108
2232	67,561	30	Apr. 1	Apr. 30	.....	21,991	.....	42,427	{ 20 Bbls. & 138 Lbs.	.....	.....	10,134	20,268	4058	2698	5405	.....	10,134	675	844	2702	2534	169	108	108
2520	79,528	31	May 1	May 31	.....	32,299	.....	24,369	{ 41 Bbls. & 46 Lbs.	6,439	.....	3,097	23,858	2077	2083	5037	79	11,134	795	662	3181	2763	199	198	198
3201	96,046	30	June 1	June 30	.....	29,609	.....	42,580	{ 41 Bbls. & 3 Lbs.	13,551	.....	3,996	14,407	2665	2661	584	.....	1,635	720	97	3842	3602	.....	29	29
4465	128,435	31	July 1	July 31	.....	29,609	.....	66,516	{ 40 Bbls. & 3 Lbs.	.....	.....	6,108	.....	3572	3570	.....	.....	1036	.....	5525	5160	.....	.....	.....	.....
4432	127,392	31	Aug. 1	Aug. 31	.....	102,918	.....	92,090	{ 2 Bbls. & 102 Lbs.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5466	5182	.....	.....	.....
4336	120,686	30	Sept. 1	Sept. 30	.....	124,105	.....	97,276	{ 62 Bbls. & 26 Lbs.	7,312	.....	5,439	.....	3962	3444	.....	.....	.....	1030	.....	5466	5182	.....	.....	.....
4363	125,666	31	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	.....	120,944	.....	100,944	{ 48 Bbls. & 79 Lbs.	11,192	.....	8,776	.....	3484	3485	.....	.....	.....	1019	.....	5436	5906	.....	.....	.....
4368	125,666	30	Nov. 1	Nov. 30	.....	123,853	.....	111,221	{ 57 Bbls. & 67 Lbs.	15,317	.....	8,324	.....	1047	4208	.....	.....	.....	983	.....	5242	4915	.....	.....	.....
4315	123,275	31	Dec. 1	Dec. 31	.....	130,927	.....	114,473	{ 50 Bbls. & 15 Lbs.	14,998	.....	8,627	.....	.....	5181	.....	.....	.....	1003	.....	5351	5017	.....	.....	.....
Total Number of Rations, 1,299,872.					Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Quantity in Bulk,					13,027	250,799	11,473	822,447	1,146,540	188,433	50,216	91,817	100,649	34,025	38,901	26,476	60,597	10,738	4725	151,996	18,547	972



PLAN OF CAMP MORTON. (COMPILED FROM SKETCHES BY SEVERAL PERSONS WHO WERE ON DUTY IN THE CAMP WHILE THE PRISONERS WERE THERE. THE GROUND IS STILL INCLOSED AND USED AS STATE FAIR GROUNDS.)

1. Headquarters. 2. Old Hospital building. 3. Hospital tents. 4. Sutler's store. 5. Hospital buildings—built in 1863. 6. New Hospitals—built in 1864. 7. Barracks. 8. Hospitals. 9. Gates. 10. Quartermaster's office. 11. Commissary of Subsistence. 12. Bakery. 13. Base-ball grounds. 14. Creek—"The Potomac." 15. Bridges. 16. Pumps. 17. Sheds for officers' horses. 18. Ditch. 19. Dining-room. 20. Kitchen. 21. Dining-room. 22. Consulting room. 23. Reception room. 24. Engineer's office. 25. Prescription and supply room. Guard line.

contracted for was to be the best in the market, and all goods received were to be carefully inspected, and if found to be below the standard were to be rejected. Were these requirements obeyed? Let us see. The rations for Camp Morton were issued by Captain Thomas Foster, now of Greenbrier, Tennessee, and Captain Joseph P. Pope, the present Quartermaster-General for the State of Indiana, and a resident of Indianapolis. These officers issued supplies direct to Assistant-Commissaries John J. Palmer, 60th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, now a resident of Chicago; W. C. Lupton, 54th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, long since dead; Captain L. L. Moore, now connected with the Quartermaster's Department, U. S. A., and Captain N. Schurtleff, of Peoria, Illinois. The rations were issued by these officers direct to the heads of the various divisions—who were prisoners—upon the order of the commander of the camp, who compared each requisition with the morning reports, to ascertain the number of prisoners present at roll-call. The following is an extract from a card published by Captain Foster in the "Nashville (Tennessee) Banner," April 8, 1891:

I was, during the most of the war, commissary-in-chief of the military district of Indiana and Michigan, and was stationed entirely at Indianapolis, where I had United States commissary warehouses, from which, on regular requisitions,

I issued the usual army rations of provisions to both the National troops and the Confederate prisoners. They fared exactly alike. The rations to each were the same in quality and quantity. There were no differences made between the prisoners and National troops in the field; the Camp Morton prisoners had even better fare, for instead of hardtack, a well-equipped bakery on the spot furnished them soft and fresh baker's bread daily, my commissary depot supplying a prime article of flour for the consumption of the bakery. The best bacon and fresh beef were issued to the prisoners, and coffee, sugar, beans, hominy, and rice. . . . Neither the troops nor the prisoners could consume the liberal rations furnished by the Government, and both made large savings, and the United States Commissary of Prisoners, in his frequent periodical rounds, was not slow to demand of me promptly in cash the value of the prisoners' savings, which he expended in getting them tobacco and various other comforts not in the line of regular rations. It is within my knowledge that the winter quarters and bedding were about as good as were enjoyed by the National troops in the camp who guarded them, and who really suffered hardships from the winter severities when mounted as sentinels on the high platform near the top of the fence of the corral. . . . Governor Morton was not the man to tolerate any but the most humane treatment of prisoners under his care and watchful eye, as were those of Camp Morton. . . . It is true the prisoners' camp was not a paradise—it was not a parlor, nor were feather-beds issued to them by the Quartermaster's Department, but they were made comforta-

ble, had plenty to eat, pure water to drink and for washing, and were urged to keep themselves in good health by athletic sports and ball-playing, which I have seen them engaged in and apparently much enjoying. Some of the prisoners thought trustworthy and honorable were allowed to go out on parole [returning at night] and to engage in pursuits by which they earned a little money to send to their families. I employed one or two clerks of this kind myself.

Captain Joseph P. Pope succeeded Captain Thomas Foster as Commissary of the Department of Indiana during the summer of 1864. Captain Pope says:

My purchases were made through public advertising every sixty days. The supplies bought were not surpassed in quality anywhere. The issues of flour reached one hundred barrels per day, which was made up in one-pound loaves of soft bread, unsurpassed in quality by any private family or public bakery. Samples of the baking were sent to my office daily. The bakery was within the inclosure where the prisoners were confined, and was under charge of State authorities, and to General Stone, who was directly in charge, there was paid by me from \$6000 to \$8000 every month for and on account of the "savings" on flour alone. This money was expended for supplies not furnished by the Government, and these supplies thus purchased were issued to the rebel prisoners as well as to the Union forces, including the guards. The rebel prisoners received better supplies than our own soldiers, owing to the fact that almost daily their "friends" were bearers of large hampers of provisions, etc., not embraced in our purchases or furnished by the Government, and these baskets of supplies were delivered to them. The only complaints ever reaching my ears came from our own soldiers in not receiving "outside supplies" in comparison.

Full rations were issued daily. The best quality of fresh beef was issued every other day, and it is a well-known fact that the "poor, emaciated" rebel prisoners left Camp Morton fat and in good condition. I was in this camp many times, and can testify to what I saw; there was no complaint of want of food; there were immense sugar caldrons into which the best quality of fresh beef by quarters was cut up and placed, making soup by the one thousand gallons. Potatoes by the carload were purchased and issued.

It is a significant fact that every officer connected with the subsistence department at Camp Morton during the war was then and still is a poor man, and no one has ever dared to impugn the integrity of any of their number.

General Stevens says:

I went to Camp Morton November 1, 1863, took command immediately, and remained there until the end of the war. The food was good and there was plenty of it. It is true the prisoners were not given ice-cream and pie, but they had bread, pork or bacon, fresh beef, beans or peas,

hominny, potatoes, besides vinegar, salt, and soap. We never heard any complaints of lack of food. There were no cases of starvation. The rations were served regularly, and every prisoner received his share. Wyeth tells of a man who used to eat out of the swill-barrel. There was such a case, but the man was a low-lived sort of a fellow, and the other prisoners when they found it out ducked him in the barrel. There was one instance of rat-eating, and I also heard of the men eating a dog-stew, but these cases were similar to that of swill-eating. We had thousands of prisoners, and among them were many of the dirtiest and lowest specimens of humanity possible to imagine.

Dr. Charles J. Kipp says:

I know that the refuse material of the swill-barrels of the hospital was often carried away by the prisoners. I reported this fact to the officers, and was assured by them that the men who did this had either sold their rations or lost them through gambling.

General A. P. Hovey, the present Governor of Indiana, was in command of this district from August 25, 1864. He says:

My headquarters were at Indianapolis, and Camp Morton, containing from 3500 to 4500 rebel prisoners, was under my command during all of that period. I visited and inspected the camp once or twice a week during the time of my command. The food of the prisoners was ample, and I never heard any complaint of the scarcity of provisions, or that the prisoners suffered from hunger. They fared better than our soldiers in the field, and many luxuries were sent them from their friends.

General H. B. Carrington, United States Army, a part of whose duty was to inspect and report on the condition of the camps and hospitals at Indianapolis, says:

There never was any restriction upon the prisoners receiving favors from friends nor upon correspondence except what was necessary to prevent plots to escape. There never was a time when a reasonable complaint as to rations or treatment was rudely or wrongfully disregarded. There never was a time when the rations were insufficient or unwholesome. The bread was of the best. No prisoner was either starved or frozen to death. On one occasion I made a visit to every barracks, and half a day was spent in inquiry as to their condition and wants; not a single complaint was made, except a suggestion, which was acted upon. . . . The complaint most common outside was that the prisoners were permitted too many favors from friends.

William J. Robie, a well-known and prominent citizen of Richmond, Ind., was a member of the 60th Massachusetts Volunteers, and a guard at Camp Morton. He says:

I talked freely with the prisoners, and never heard them complain that they did not receive the full ration ordered by the War Department.

. . . No one suffered from hunger or starved while I was there. I often saw men go about with three or four loaves of bread under their arms, offering to exchange them for tobacco. Hungry men would not trade off their rations in such manner. The story of Mr. Wyeth is absurd and untrue, as every one connected with Camp Morton during that period knows.

Captain Jordan M. Cross, ex-City Attorney of Minneapolis, Minn., and now a resident of that place, was an officer of the 5th Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps, on duty at Camp Morton. He says :

The general appearance of the prisoners was that of men well fed, so much so that visitors and our own men often compared their condition to the well-known starved condition of our prisoners in the South. No prisoner at Camp Morton ever died from starvation. I often inquired of prisoners if their rations were good, wholesome, and sufficient. They never complained except at rare instances that they would like some delicacies, or possibly a greater change of diet.

Elijah Hedges says :

I was in Camp Morton almost every day during the time it was occupied as a prison. I talked with the prisoners a great deal, and I never heard one complain of not having sufficient to eat. Before the coffee ration was cut off by what was known as the retaliatory order, prisoners frequently offered to sell both myself and the driver of the dead-wagon whole buckets full of good coffee that they had saved from their rations, then worth from \$3 to \$4, for fifty cents. I remember how dejected, emaciated, and forlorn the prisoners looked when they arrived, and how fat and saucy they became long before they were taken away to be exchanged.

Captain James H. Rice, of the 5th Veteran Reserve Corps, now a retired officer of the army and a resident of Hartford, Connecticut, says :

No prisoners at Camp Morton between October, 1863, and May, 1865, died of starvation or were frozen to death. It is true that some of the prisoners traded their rations for tobacco and then gambled, using the tobacco as money; and to such an extent was this done that it became necessary to issue rations to those men, and then to see that they not only received but ate them under the supervision of the guards. There was a surplus of bread and no occasion for prisoners to be hungry, except from their own carelessness.

Mr. Wyeth omits all mention of the bakery in the prison. In September, 1862, Governor Morton ordered General A. Stone, Commissary-General of Indiana, to take charge of the bakery at Camp Morton that had been erected by the State some time before for the purpose of furnishing bread to the prisoners, guards, and troops in and about this city. It had been pre-

viously managed by a board of officers with indifferent success. Flour was furnished on requisition by the Commissary of Subsistence to prisoners, guards, and other troops at this point, as shown by the morning reports. The soldiers and prisoners being unable to prepare their own bread, the State issued to them one pound of bread instead of flour. A given number of pounds of flour will furnish an equal amount of bread and leave a surplus of say 33½ per cent. of flour on hand. This surplus the Commissary of Subsistence purchased of the State at a price fixed by the flour contract then existing between the Commissary and the party furnishing it. The capacity of the bakery when General Stone took charge of it, in 1862, was between six and seven thousand loaves daily, but it soon was increased to eleven or twelve thousand loaves per day. The bread ration was much better, was subject to less waste, and in every respect was much more acceptable to the soldiers and prisoners than the flour ration. The money value of each loaf was six cents, and no man or officer who knew anything about Camp Morton can ever be made to believe there ever was any real scarcity of bread or food in that camp.

Charlton Eden, for thirty years a prominent builder in Indianapolis, says :

I had the contract for building most of the barracks and hospitals in Camp Morton, during the time the prisoners were there. I had formerly resided at Paris, Kentucky, and soon became acquainted with several prisoners whose homes were at or near Paris, including the sons of William Mitchell, Daniel Hilder, and William and Younger Churshire. . . . William Mitchell wrote me to supply such of the Kentucky boys as he named with whatever they might desire and draw on him for the amount. I furnished them a number of high top-boots that cost sixteen dollars a pair, soft hats, and excellent suits of clothes for which Mr. Mitchell honored my draft. The prisoners knew I was authorized to furnish them anything they needed, but not one of their number ever asked for anything to eat.

During the 1865 session of the Indiana Legislature, rumors reached Governor Morton that certain sympathizers with the South who were members of that body were circulating reports that the prisoners at Camp Morton were being badly treated, only half fed and clothed, and the sick were not properly cared for. Governor Morton, on the 14th of February, sent a communication to the Senate and House of Representatives, calling the attention of the members to said reports. He asked them not to appoint a committee of investigation, but to go in a body to Camp Morton and make a personal examination. The invitation was accepted, and the next morning at nine o'clock

every member of the House and Senate who was in the city visited Camp Morton, and remained there until 12 o'clock M. R. M. Lockhart, for several years President of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture, and now a resident of Waterloo, Indiana, and a member of the Legislature, speaking of that visit, says :

After our arrival inside the camp permission was given and the members were urged to visit every part of the grounds and talk to the prisoners without restriction. We visited the hospitals, sleeping quarters for the prisoners, and investigated the arrangements for furnishing provisions as well as the quality of food provided. Three hours were spent by us in camp, and at the conclusion of our visit not a single member had a word of censure for the management, or manner in which they found Camp Morton. The prisoners did not complain of their treatment, or of the want of food. From that date until the close of the session in March, we heard nothing more of bad treatment of the prisoners in Camp Morton.

Captain D. W. Hamilton says :

While I was in command of the camp, in addition to the regular rations, vegetables were often purchased from the prison fund, something our own soldiers did not get except when they purchased it with their own money. I permitted a gardener to drive into camp each day with vegetables, which the prisoners either purchased or exchanged their surplus rations for. A number of the prisoners had money in my hands sent by their friends, which I allowed them to draw at the rate of \$2.00 per week, with which sum they used to make such purchases as they desired.

Mr. Wyeth says: "During the first four or five months of our life in Camp Morton, prisoners who could obtain money from friends outside were allowed to purchase certain articles from the prison sutler. . . . We never ceased to regret the order which closed this source of supplies."

The records of the War Department show that the order closing the sutler's store in Camp Morton was issued December 1, 1863; but they also show that it was reopened March 3, 1864.

CLOTHING.

CLOTHING was issued to prisoners of war immediately upon the opening of the camp, as shown by the following extract from the report of the Adjutant-General of the State of Indiana:

When the fact was brought to the knowledge of Governor Morton that about 300 of the Fort Donelson captives were deficient in clothing, he telegraphed the Secretary of War for orders to have their wants supplied by the United States Quartermaster at Indianapolis, and the order was promptly given. After that, whenever a prisoner needed clothes, shoes, or whatever else was es-

sential for his health or comfort, the Government supplied it.

Under the twelfth paragraph of the rules governing the prison we read :

The commanding officer will cause requisition to be made by his quartermaster for such clothing as may be absolutely necessary for the prisoners, which requisition will be approved by him after a careful inquiry as to the necessity and submitted for the approval of the Commissary-General of Prisoners.

In reply to a letter addressed to J. N. Patterson, the Second Auditor of the Treasury, at Washington, D. C., for a detailed statement of the amount of clothing, number of blankets, shoes, etc., issued by the Quartermaster's Department to prisoners of war at Camp Morton, I am informed that "all returns for clothing, etc., covering the period of the late war have been disposed of as waste paper, under a provision of a recent Act of Congress"; hence I am unable to show what was issued. There is abundant evidence, however, that large quantities were given to prisoners. I find from an examination of the reports of the Quartermaster-General, for the years 1862-63-64-65, that there was disbursed by that department "on account of transportation and supply of prisoners" the sum of \$786,893.96. What portion of that sum was expended for clothing I am unable to determine. Captain D. W. Hamilton says: "Just before I was relieved a large number of blankets was issued to the prisoners. These I personally handed to those who needed them. A number had blankets and comforts of their own."

Mr. Wyeth says: "We had no way of letting those ready and willing to send us food know of our wants. Every line written was scanned by the Camp Post-office Department, and a letter containing any suggestion of the lack of food, or maltreatment was destroyed." The eighth rule of the order for the control of prisoners read as follows:

All articles contributed by friends for the prisoners, in whatever shape they come, if proper to be received, will be carefully distributed as the donors may request, such articles as are intended for the sick passing through the hands of the surgeon, who will be responsible for their proper use. Contributions must be received by an officer, who will be held responsible that they are delivered to the persons for whom they are intended.

Mr. John H. Orr, who was the agent for the Adams Express Company during the war, which company did the largest business between this city and the South, says:

I remember that there was scarcely a day that we did not have boxes and packages for prisoners at Camp Morton; they were delivered at the camp,

and I do not remember of ever having received a complaint that they were not received by the persons to whom they were addressed.

CRUELTY.

A NUMBER of charges of extreme cruelty and murder are made against the guards and non-commissioned officers. Mr. Wyeth reports that in January, 1864, in an attempt to escape two men were killed, one wounded, and four captured. As the official record shows but one prisoner was killed in January, 1864, this statement is incorrect. He also says the four men captured were tied up, their backs to a tree, the rope lashed to their wrists, and arms at full length above their heads, all through the remainder of the night. "I saw them taken down the next morning in a most pitiable condition of exhaustion," etc.

Mr. William J. Robie, one of the men who guarded the four prisoners, says :

They were not tied with their hands above their heads, but simply with their arms behind the tree. My orders were to make them "mark time" until further orders. I was on guard from the time of their capture each alternate two hours until they were relieved in the morning. We did not compel them to mark time steadily, gave them frequent rests, and plenty of water to drink. They did not seem especially tired when released, but did seem to feel that they had gotten off very easily. There had been a large number of tunnels started, and several completed. The officers were determined to put a stop to it, and when these prisoners were released the officer in charge told them that they must quit tunneling or the next one would be caved in on them. I remember the break that occurred when some fifty prisoners escaped. It was about 6 P. M., and I was in the guard-house near by. When the rush was made the guard fired one shot and called for help. The prisoners went over the fence like cats, and started down the bank for the woods. I was out all night hunting them. We did not use bloodhounds. Thirty-five men were reported captured and returned that night and the day following. There were only one or two prisoners wounded, as the guards could not fire either way without the danger of hitting our own men. The first one up the ladder was wounded in the knee by a bayonet, and another was knocked off by a blow. Not one of those captured was punished. I never heard of such a thing as a prisoner being shot for coming too near the dead-line. Some of the men were very vicious and were in the habit of throwing stones, bottles filled with water, or anything else they could get hold of, at the guards after night, and it is not improbable that some stray shots went flying around when they should not have done so.

General Stevens says :

There was no disposition on the part of the officers to misuse the prisoners. What they did

was in the way of discipline, that had to be enforced as it was everywhere in the army. If any of the prisoners suffered, it was either their own fault or the fault of their fellow-prisoners. It can be easily imagined that all did not belong to the best society. Some of them were as tough and depraved characters as I ever saw. The officers as a rule were sent to Johnson's Island, an officers' prison ; that left us a bad lot.

Dr. J. W. Hervey, Surgeon-in-charge of the Veteran Reserve Corps, says :

Some of the prisoners were very insulting to the officers and men over them. They would pelt the guards with stones and broken bottles after night, several being severely injured. The only prisoners that were ever shot were those who attempted to escape and who did not stop when they were commanded to halt.

Captain James H. Rice, 5th Regiment, Reserve Corps, says :

I was officer of the day every sixth day and a part of the time every fourth day, and the statement that two prisoners were "deliberately murdered" and another "brutally murdered" bears evidence of its untruthfulness on its face. I know of no case where prisoners were killed except in attempting to escape. I had charge of five hundred prisoners taken to Aikens' Landing near Richmond, Virginia, in February, 1865, for exchange. There were no half-starved prisoners in the lot. I delivered them in good condition, and with the exception of about thirty sick whom I took with me at their special request, all were ready for field duty, and I have no doubt were sent to their regiments at once. I met men who had been in Camp Morton as prisoners, at Lexington, Kentucky, in 1866-67 ; the manner of their treatment was discussed, and it was admitted that they had no just cause for complaint.

Captain James Todhunter, Assistant-Quartermaster, now a resident of Indianola, Iowa, was present at Aikens' Landing, Va., when these Camp Morton prisoners were exchanged, and says :

The rebel prisoners were in good condition as to clothing and health, but of all the distressed, filthy, ragged, poor, starved-looking men I ever saw, were the Union prisoners received in exchange. Many of them had neither hat, cap, shoes, nor socks, and a number had their feet tied up with rags and were unable to walk and had to be assisted.

In a letter written to General Winder by Colonel Robert Ould, Confederate commissioner for exchange of prisoners, March 17, 1863, the latter says :

The arrangements I had made for exchanging prisoners work largely in our favor. We get rid of a lot of miserable wretches and receive some of the best material I ever saw.

Colonel John H. Gardner, who now resides at 1624 Wilmington street, Philadelphia, an officer of the Veteran Reserve Corps, who was on duty at "Camp Burnside," adjoining Camp Morton on the south, says :

I had charge of 500 prisoners from Camp Morton, who were exchanged at Fort Delaware, Delaware Bay. They were the most debauched and demoralized set of men I ever saw; they had reduced themselves almost to the level of brutes, they were inveterate gamblers, and when they had nothing else they would gamble their rations away.

General Carrington says :

There may have been individual guards who were rude, but it was rare. The officers could scarcely ever visit the prisoners' quarters without rude reception by some, who in their security as prisoners indulged in irritating words at least. Against such temptations to be stern in reply, rigid orders were enforced never to answer back and never to use force except when violence was threatened. There never was a substantial departure from this rule worthy of notice. The police and guard reports were made daily and regularly, and reported fully upon the entire condition of men and quarters.

Mr. Wyeth relates an instance of how "five prisoners who were accompanying a garbage wagon to a creek outside of the camp by a preconcerted signal seized two guards, disarmed them, and escaped. At another time one of the detail broke away and was killed. On another occasion two prisoners who did not attempt to escape were mortally wounded by a ball, the assassin doing his work so well that the bullet went through both bodies." Wyeth says: "One of the wounded men in dying declared that they had made no effort to escape, and that he and his comrade had been deliberately murdered."

Now for the facts. The following order will show the course required to be pursued in all cases where prisoners were shot :

Office of Commissary-General of Prisoners, Washington, D. C., March 17, 1864. Colonel A. A. Stevens, Commanding Camp Morton, Indianapolis, Indiana. Colonel: By direction of the Secretary of War you will hereafter, when a prisoner of war is shot by a sentinel for violating the regulations of the post, immediately order a board of officers to investigate all of the circumstances of the case to show that the act was justifiable, a full report of which will be forwarded to this office with your remarks. It is necessary that both the guard and prisoners should be fully informed of the regulations or order by which they are to be governed, and when a sentinel finds it necessary to fire upon a prisoner he must be able to show that he was governed strictly by the orders he received, and that the prisoner, or pris-

oners, willfully disregarded his cautions or orders. Rigid discipline must be preserved among the prisoners, but great care must be observed that no wanton excesses or cruelties are permitted under the plea of enforcing orders. Should a prisoner be wounded by a sentinel he will be immediately taken to the hospital, where he must have proper attention from the surgeon-in-charge. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, William Hoffman, Colonel 3d Infantry, Commissary-General of Prisoners.

The shooting referred to above occurred April 16, 1864. The prisoners were James Beattie, Company B, 4th Florida, and Michael Healy, Company B, 30th Mississippi. Beattie was instantly killed, and Healy lingered until the next day, when he died. Mr. William H. H. McCurdy, a reputable and well-known resident of this city, was clerk of the district court-martial that tried the prisoner. He says :

Several prisoners guarded by two members of the Veteran Reserve Corps, one of whom was William H. Allen, were sent out with a garbage wagon. Allen was a young and excitable man who had seen but little service. He was walking behind a detail of prisoners, who were required to march in the rear of the wagon. The prisoners stepped out of the road to the left and moved quickly up to the side of the vehicle. The guard ordered them to fall back to their places, and at the same time brought his musket to a "charge bayonets," cocking it with his thumb as he brought it down. He claimed that in the excitement of the moment his thumb slipped off the hammer and the piece was discharged. The two prisoners were in line with the track of the bullet, which went through both with the result noted above. The guard was arrested and tried for murder. The record was forwarded to the War Department, where the matter was investigated by the judge advocate, who decided that the evidence "did not sustain the allegation; that the homicides occurred at the hands of the accused, but that he shot the men while they were deliberately disobeying an order to halt, after he had commanded them to do so; and that a standing order had been given to fire on all prisoners who did not halt when commanded to do so."

The records of Camp Morton show that only seven prisoners of war were killed by sentinels between October, 1863 and September, 1865: Goacin Arcemant, January 16, 1864; James Barnhart, February 11, 1864; James Beattie and Michael Healy, April 16-17, 1864; Henry Jones and R. F. Phillips, September 27, 1864; George T. Douglas, about October 1, 1864. They also show that in each instance the soldiers who did the shooting were ordered before the board of officers, who investigated the facts and circumstances that made it necessary for the sentinels to resort to such means.

Mr. Wyeth says: "I saw one Baker (every

person in Camp Morton, up to the time of this cruel man's death, will recall his name) shoot a prisoner for leaving the ranks after roll-call was ended, but before 'break ranks' was commanded, to warm himself by a fire a few feet distant."

General Stevens, in referring to this man, says :

I recollect Baker, who was a corporal, but I never heard of his shooting a man. I should have heard of it had it occurred, so I am not inclined to believe that he did. Baker had a pretty severe time with some of the prisoners. There were isolated cases of what might be looked upon as cruelty, but I don't see how they could have happened, as Mr. Wyeth claims, without an investigation.

A letter from the War Department says :

Corporal Augustus Baker, of Company G, 5th Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps, who formerly served in Company A, 2d Indiana Cavalry, and as corporal of Company G, 5th Regiment, Reserve Corps, was on duty at Camp Morton during the period that his regiment was stationed at that camp. There is no record that he was tried for any offense, that he shot, or that he was accused of shooting, or of cruel treatment to, prisoners of war during his term of-service.

Mr. Wyeth says: "Two men, for an infringement, were compelled to 'mark time' for more than one hour in the snow. One man's feet were frost-bitten; he lost both feet from gangrene, and died from the effects of this inhuman punishment while *en route* for exchange in February, 1865, and was buried just west of Cumberland, Md."

As no name is given, the statement cannot be verified, but the official report of the surgeon-in-charge of that particular exchange, while it mentions the deaths and names of nine persons who died *en route*, viz: six from chronic diarrhea, two from pneumonia, and one from dropsy, makes no mention of a prisoner dying from gangrene, nor is there any record of a death near Cumberland, Md.

General O. B. Willcox, U. S. A., now Governor of the Soldiers' Home, at Washington, D. C., writes :

I have read the Wyeth article in THE CENTURY. I am sure no such state of things existed at Camp Morton while I was in command of the district which included Indianapolis though not the prisoners' camp. This period was a part of the summer and autumn of 1863 during the Morgan raid.

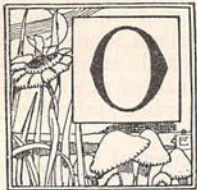
There were a number of "trusties" in the camp who were permitted to visit the city, and even attend the theater, in company with non-commissioned officers. Persons who were known to be loyal, or who presented letters from persons personally known to the officer in charge of the camp, were permitted to visit the same at will. Newsboys visited the camp regularly with the leading daily papers, and many of them did a good business in purchasing the rings made of cannel-coal, and breast-pins made of bone, as well as small and curious articles carved out of wood by the prisoners, which they sold outside of camp, as relics. The prisoners played baseball, and had good dramatic and glee clubs, and gave entertainments in the dining-room of the largest hospital. Amusements of all kinds were encouraged by the officers, and everything possible was done to make the prisoners contented.

Mr. Wyeth seems to have been particularly unfortunate in his army career, having been twice captured and compelled to spend most of the term of his enlistment in prison. This half-frozen, half-starved, emaciated youth, whose mother and sisters were unable to recognize him upon his return to Georgia, after his exchange, was able to reënter the Confederate army within a month, and has lived to attempt a vicarious vindication of the horrors of Andersonville and other Southern prison-pens.

I regret that the space at my disposal will not permit the use of extracts from letters written by the Hon. A. J. Warner, the well-known member of Congress from the Marietta, Ohio, district; Colonel A. D. Streight; Hon. S. A. Craig, an ex-member of Congress from the Brookville, Penn., district; Judge L. W. Collins, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Minnesota; General Allan Rutherford, ex-Third Auditor of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.; Dr. G. C. Smythe, ex-President of the Indiana State Medical Society, Greencastle, Ind.; Captain J. B. Harris, Secretary of the Terre Haute Gas Works, Terre Haute, Ind.; Colonel E. J. Robinson, of Bedford, Ind., and Geo. Wagner, of Philadelphia, both of whom served as adjutants at Camp Morton; Captain E. P. Thompson, postmaster of Indianapolis; J. B. McCurdy, of Oskaloosa, Iowa; J. Gilford, of Minneapolis; Captain Robert Sears, of Indianapolis; Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Fredrick, Omaha, Neb.; Captain W. E. O'Haver, Lafayette, Ind., and Captain H. C. Markham, Mount Ayre, Iowa.

W. R. Holloway.

II. REJOINDER BY DR. WYETH.



Of all the United States soldiers held in prison by the Confederacy there died 153 for each 1000. Of all Confederate soldiers held in prison at Camp Morton 146 of each 1000 died — only a difference of 7 in each 1000. These are not my figures, or Southern figures, but are taken from the war records of the United States Government. Those who deny the truthfulness of my article on Camp Morton hope to weaken the force of these statistics by asserting that the Confederate soldiers, when brought to prison, were in such wretched physical condition that with “homesickness as superinducing other ailments and lack of occupation” they sickened and died!¹ And yet these men came direct from the battle-field to prison. Broken down, forsooth, the men who went with Pickett at Gettysburg or swept Rosecrans’s gallant veterans from the field of Chickamauga!

Even the apologist of Camp Morton corroborates much of my narrative, and where he fails my comrades, as it will be seen, make the proof of its truthfulness positive and complete. These survivors, scattered over a vast territory without the possibility of collusion, give the one experience of hunger, cruelty, and suffering for lack of clothing and proper protection from the rigors of the Northern winter. That the prisoners ate refuse matter from the hospital swill-tubs is acknowledged, for Dr. Kipp, the surgeon-in-charge,—a man whom every prisoner respects for his humane conduct,—is quoted as follows:

I know that the refuse material of the swill-barrels of the hospital was often carried away by the prisoners. I reported this fact to the officers, and was assured by them that the men who did this had either sold their rations or lost them through gambling.

General Stevens, commander of the prison, knew of “such a case” and “one instance of rat-eating,” and he “also heard of the men eating a dog-stew.” Can any one believe that men with a full prison ration would feed on decomposing slops and devour rats and dogs? The commander further shows how little he knew of the welfare of his prisoners when he

says: “I recollect Baker, who was a corporal, but I never heard of his shooting a man. I should have heard of it had it occurred!” On the other hand, I myself saw the pistol fire and the man fall, and I have the testimony of more than a dozen men who also saw this monster do this crime, and yet it was concealed. I have the proof that he shot a second prisoner after this; yet the commanding officer never heard of either case. What more proof is needed to show that we were hedged in from all hope of relief? Nothing is known of the poor fellow who was murdered in the tunnel. How easy to conceal cruelties and minor indignities inflicted on helpless prisoners when greater crimes were so successfully covered up. The statement that we had the privilege of communicating with our friends concerning affairs of the prison is untrue. My uncle, an officer in the Union Army, was not permitted to see me. He so informed me after the war. The aunt allowed to visit me in the hospital where I was ill was only permitted to converse with me in the immediate presence of an officer who could hear every word she said. Every line written was scanned, and of course, if it told of our sufferings, destroyed. I did not see a newspaper during the fifteen months of my imprisonment, and yet we are told that “newsboys sold papers in the camp every day.” Fitting absurdity to declare that the prisoners “fared as well if not better than the Union soldiers who guarded them.”

Equally absurd is the description of the barracks, which are called “good and commodious buildings” and “comfortable quarters.” Here is the report of the United States surgeon who inspected these “commodious quarters.” It is official, and can be found in the medical volume (part iii.) of the “Medical and Surgical History of the Rebellion,” issued from the Surgeon-General’s Office, U. S. A. They are described in July, 1864, as “nine dilapidated barracks.” “There were also two hundred and ten condemned tents in use. Nevertheless the quarters were much crowded, there being only sixty to eighty cubic feet per man in the barracks. This crowded condition continued until September, 1864,” etc.

Great stress is laid upon the prison ration. If the “regular ration,” or even the “reduced ration,” printed in the foregoing article had been daily given to each prisoner, no word of complaint would have been heard. With that quantity of food we could have withstood

¹ At Andersonville, Georgia, 333 Union prisoners, and at Elmira, New York, 245 Confederates out of every 1000 perished (War Department records).

cold and cruelty. With that ration the death-rate would have been materially lowered. *The Government issued it; the prisoners never got it. Where did it go?*

The "Buffalo Courier" of April 6, 1891, commenting editorially on my article, says among other things:

Painful as it is to admit, the presumption is in favor of the truth of his narrative. The ration for which the Government contracted and paid was sufficient and all that military prisoners had a reasonable right to expect, but, as Dr. Wyeth asserts for Camp Morton and Mr. Carpenter for Johnson's Island, the prisoners did not get it. And there never was a class of men who could be robbed with more impunity. Enemies in a strange land, their protests were easily suppressed. If any one inclines to disbelieve that men could be starved for profit under the United States Government, here is a bit of evidence. A gentleman now a resident of Buffalo was in the summer of 1863 one of 8000 Union soldiers in parole camp at Alexandria, Virginia, almost under the shadow of the Capitol. They had been prisoners, and released but not exchanged, and were awaiting exchange before being returned to their regiments. Here were Union men in Union hands; yet for two months they were nearly starved. They addressed petition after petition to the War Department, but got no redress. They became riotous and were suppressed by an armed guard.

And here is a bit of evidence from Indianapolis:

During the early winter of 1864, the grocery firm of P. M. Gapen & Co. of this city [Indianapolis], of which I was the senior member, purchased, through parties now deceased, twenty bags of coffee at twenty-one cents, twenty barrels of sugar, ten barrels of rice, and not less than forty boxes of candles at correspondingly low figures. Later, larger quantities were offered my firm at similar reductions from current wholesale prices. I then inquired where those goods came from, and was informed that they came from, or were supplies for, the prisoners at Camp Morton, and declined further offerings.

P. M. GAPEN.

In the limited space accorded me I will give a part of the corroborative testimony received from fellow-prisoners. The Hon. S. Pasco, U. S. Senator from Florida, says:

. . . I was sent to Camp Morton in May, 1864. I was first in the prison hospital and afterwards in Barracks No. 4, where I spent the winter. This building was little more than a shed. . . . Some of the incidents of cruel and inhuman conduct which you mention occurred before my residence there, but were among the current traditions of the camp. I often heard of them from those who were in the prison; others of later date came under my personal observation. I was a prisoner in all seventeen months, and no clothing was ever issued to me. Scanty food, harsh

and brutal treatment, and insufficient shelter during the winter months were doubtless the cause directly or remotely of the large percentage of deaths which occurred during the ten months of my confinement in the camp. Your article is truthful, wholly free from exaggeration, and moderate in tone. As you have been attacked I feel bound to say this in the interest of truth. But I would gladly have remained silent, and wish I could wholly forget the misery and suffering and inhumanity which I saw and a part of which I experienced at the hands of the prison authorities.

Hon. C. B. Kilgore, Member of Congress from Texas, says:

I was a prisoner of war at Camp Morton for a few weeks in the winter of 1863-64. You have drawn a very moderate picture of the horrors of that horrible pen. I was in prison fourteen months in all, part of the time at Camp Morton, Camp Chase, and Fort Delaware.

Controversies which tend to engender bad feeling are much to be deplored, but exact justice should be done to both sides. Every ugly phase of the Southern prisons has been frequently made public. They were bad enough in all conscience, and neither side can scarcely justify the treatment given to prisoners of war.

Statement of Dr. W. P. Parr, Acting Assistant Surgeon, United States Army:

Your picture of the suffering of the prisoners falls short of the horrid reality. My blood gets hot, even at this remote day, when I recall the scenes of cruelty and cowardly brutality.

I was assigned to duty at Camp Morton February 12, 1864, and served till March, 1865, when I resigned. The prison barracks were boarded with planks nailed on upright, and these having shrunk left cracks through which the wind, rain, and snow blew in upon the men with freezing effects, as they had nothing to cover with but thin army blankets, with the hardboards beneath them. I asked those in authority to have the cracks closed by strips and plenty of clean straw put into the bunks, which would have made the men comparatively comfortable, but the reply was, "Damn them, let them freeze." And they did freeze; how many I do not now remember, but I do know that a great many of the frozen dead bodies were carried from their bunks to the dead-house, while many others died soon after they were brought into the hospital.

I felt then, as I do now, that it was a lasting shame upon our country that human beings, prisoners of war, should be thus forced to occupy a position where they must freeze to death, while ample means to prevent it were close at hand. When clothing was sent to the prisoners it was the practice to mutilate the coat by cutting off the skirt at the waist, allowing the owner to have the upper part. Boxes of provisions sent by friends to the hungry, half-naked prisoners were often not delivered.

One cold morning as I entered the camp I saw a lieutenant who had tied a prisoner by the thumbs

with a cord and suspended him by the cord being attached to a spike driven into a tree just high enough for the tips of his toes to touch the slanting roots of the tree. The poor fellow hung there till the pain caused him to swoon, when his whole weight broke the cord and he fell to the frozen ground in an insensible condition. This brave officer was preparing to hang him up again when I remonstrated with him so earnestly that he desisted. I was sent for to attend one of the men who was shot by the single guard. Talking with the poor fellow, his dying declaration was that they had committed no offense whatever. I believe he told the truth. It was a cold-blooded murder, so revolting and atrocious that the soldiers about camp would have lynched the miscreant if he had not been placed beyond their reach. This occurred just outside the camp as the prisoners were on their way to Fall Creek near by to load wagons with gravel. On one occasion the prisoners had completed a tunnel. One of their number turned informer, and a guard was secretly placed at the opening outside. As the first man put his head above ground the guard blew his brains out, instead of capturing and returning him to prison as a brave, humane soldier would have done.

To speak of the minor cruelties, such as "bucking and gagging," "marking time," carrying heavy pieces of wood till the men were ready to fall from fatigue, would fill a good-sized volume. I remember the shooting into the barracks at night and the wounding of prisoners as stated by you in *THE CENTURY*.

It was my privilege to help those under my care by lending them small sums of money to obtain articles for which they were in great need. In all this amounted to a considerable sum, and I never lost one dollar of the money thus loaned. I mention this fact to demonstrate the high sense of honor that characterized these men, surrounded by all the adverse circumstances and demoralizing influences calculated to tempt them to acts of dishonor.

Mr. C. S. S. Baron, of Portland, Indiana, lately of the Baron Manufacturing Company of Bellaire, Ohio, "for whom the works were named,"¹ appointed in 1877, by Governor T. L. Young of Ohio, colonel of the 2d Infantry, Ohio National Guard,² preludes his statement with this remark:

Like my honored old commander General James Longstreet, I have been a warm Republican ever since the war, believing that the reconstruction of the States and Government would be best accomplished by the party which had fought the war to a successful issue.

Continuing, he says:

I read your article in *THE CENTURY* to my wife, and it so closely resembled what I have been telling her for years that she declared you and I must

have been messmates. Arrived at Camp Morton late in autumn of 1863; when we filed in the cries of "Fresh fish!" came from a thousand throats all over the prison grounds as there came a mighty rush of prisoners around us. I took a look at this crowd and my heart began to sink. Although at the beginning of winter, very few had sufficient clothing, many had no coats, the pantaloons of many were greatly dilapidated, and with many the shoes were worn to such an extent that the feet were not protected. I know our army had hard times, but in the worst regiment I had ever seen in the Confederacy I had never seen such squalor as this. Before being distributed to the barracks we were searched, and about \$120 in United States currency was taken from me and my comrade. I succeeded in concealing \$24 in the waistband of my pantaloons. In our bunk we found a thin coating of straw, and as we were at that time pretty well clothed and each had a good blanket, we did not suffer for a while. There were two stoves for burning wood in our shed, and one of these was not far from our bunk, so considering all we did not start out badly. For a while the issue of flour, beef or bacon, with occasionally potatoes, while not a full army ration, seemed to be sufficient for our wants, considering that we had no work to do and took but little exercise. The tyranny of one Baker was at all times manifest. He would compel us to stand in line at roll-call in the coldest weather, not only until every prisoner was accounted for, but until he could go to headquarters and make out his report and return. One bitter cold morning in the winter of 1863-64, while we were nearly freezing in ranks waiting for Baker's return, one of the prisoners very poorly clad and shod slipped out of the ranks to warm by a fire in the yard near by. Baker, coming down from headquarters, keeping the barracks between him and the prisoners, came upon the poor wretch as he was crouching over the fire, drew his revolver, and with "Here, d— you, what are you doing out of line?" shot him. The poor fellow rolled over, and as he was carried off I am not sure what became of him. I see it stated that clean, fresh straw was issued with great frequency, which before God and man I pronounce untrue. Early in 1864 the falling-off in rations became very perceptible. About this time my money gave out. My friend B— grew peevish and irritable, and driven by hunger would sometimes eat the piece of bread I had saved for my supper.

During the period when the men were being vaccinated I saw a big brutal sergeant knock a prisoner down, place his knee on the man's chest, and present his revolver at him, because he protested against being vaccinated.

In 1864, one very cold night a prisoner of our barracks, who was in ill health, went to the stove to warm. He was discovered by the guard, who came up to him saying, "I'll warm you," and with this expression shot him. The poor fellow rolled off the box he was sitting upon. I do not think he even groaned.

One of the most brutal deeds I ever witnessed was that of Lieutenant or Adjutant D—. There was a small issue of condemned clothing,

1 "History of Belmont and Jefferson Counties."

2 Report of the Adjutant-General of Ohio, 1878.

a few light blouses, pantaloons, and shirts. Drawn up in line were from 75 to 100 men almost naked, one a boy of about 17 years, thin and delicate. Some wretch informed the adjutant that this boy had a jacket hid away in his bunk. The officer, a large man, jerked the boy out of line and threw him sprawling on the frozen ground. Terrified and hurt, the boy could only give stammering and incoherent answers to the officer's questioning, who unmercifully kicked and stamped him so that he was unable to walk to his quarters.

I think the two men you mention as being fatally shot through from behind were the two from my mess who met with that fate. They were detailed one morning for work outside the prison. They were brought in about noon and taken I think to a hospital tent, where some hours later they died. Knowing they were mortally wounded, they said that one of the guards made a threat to kill a rebel because a relative of his had been killed at the front by the rebels. Becoming alarmed, they complained to the sergeant that they were afraid that this man would do them harm, who however assured them there was no danger. The guard, awaiting his opportunity, got them in line and fired a ball through both.

As to eating rats, your statement can be sworn to by any survivor of that horrible pen. Every rat that was caught in Camp Morton was killed, cooked, and eaten by the prisoners. Was the dog your mess ate the adjutant's dog for which a number of men were tied up by the thumbs? This was December 27, 1864. On this day my father, looking out of headquarters, saw those men tied up by the thumbs to trees in the yard, just standing on the tips of their toes, and in great agony. Their shifting about, their groans, and their livid faces shocked him horribly. He had just arrived with a special pardon and order of release for me, signed by the immortal Lincoln at the intercession of Secretary Stanton, my father's schoolmate at Steubenville, Ohio. That is how I remember the date so well. My father lived then in Bellaire, Ohio. He was very poor, and could send me but little money. In September, 1864, I wrote him that my clothes, shoes, and hat were about gone. My mother sent me a coat, pantaloons, two shirts, two pairs socks, a pair of shoes, and a hat. They allowed me to have one shirt, the pantaloons, one pair of socks, and the shoes. The hat, coat, and other pair of socks I never got. When I entered Camp Morton I weighed 180 pounds. On the night of my arrival home I weighed 123 pounds. I had no disease; it was starvation pure and simple. For years past my weight has been over 200 pounds. The infernal mania for shooting into the barracks at night I could not understand. In closing let me say that if the good people of this country could have been convinced of the truth of one half of the tyranny, starvation, cruelty, and murder going on inside that fence, they would in their righteous wrath have leveled the whole thing to the ground, and probably would have visited lynch law upon those who were concerned in this great wrong.

Statement of Dr. J. L. Rainey, a practising physician of Cottage Grove, Henry County, Tennessee :

The attempt to refute your narrative, "Cold Cheer at Camp Morton," will be utterly futile. There are yet living hundreds of men who know that your statement falls short in details of many cruelties inflicted upon prisoners there by soldiers and officers, and many privations which were maliciously inflicted. As an individual I had little cause to complain (as I was made a dispensing clerk in the hospital), but I am bound in honor to say that no man can prove that there is a shadow of falsehood in your statement.

I well remember the man who, for attempting to escape, was tied up to a tree by a cord around each thumb, standing on tip-toe. The surgeon¹ came in next morning and ordered him cut down. The man could not move his arms after he was cut down, until he was rubbed and stimulated. I was in the presence of the two men who were shot from behind and mortally wounded with the single ball, and heard the statement made by one of them that they were murdered. George Douglass, of Columbia, Tennessee, member of my company, who was nearly blind, was taken out on detail and shot. The guard said he tried to escape. He was so nearly blind that he could not have gotten home without aid had he been set at liberty. I examined the body at the dead-house. He was shot in the back, and it was murder.

The man shot in No. 7 for making a light to give a sick comrade some medicine had his arm amputated at the shoulder, and died. I was in the room when the operation was done.

The dire extremity to which some were reduced caused them to steal and to resort to the slop-barrels. I saw a poor, ragged, and emaciated prisoner ravenously devouring pieces of meat out of the slops, so rotten that it was thick with maggots. The eating of rats and dogs was well known.

I am not willing that it should be thought that all were like Baker, who to my knowledge did many more cruel things than you mention. Dr. Charles J. Kipp on taking charge made many valuable improvements in the care of the sick. I shall ever respect him as a kind, able, and honorable physician. Drs. Todd, Parr, Dow, Bingham, and Lindsey I remember with gratitude. Lieutenant Haynes, a one-armed officer, would not tolerate cruelties when he was on duty. I was released October 25, 1864, by order of President Lincoln, at the request of Andrew Johnson, then Military Governor of Tennessee.

Statement of Dr. W. E. Shelton, a practising physician of Austin, Texas :

I was confined at Camp Morton about June 1, 1863. In July or August I was assigned to duty as physician to the sick in quarters. My duties consisted in going through the barracks, prescribing for those not sick enough for the hospital, and sending the seriously ill to the wards. The sick were well treated. The treatment of prisoners in a great many instances was brutal and inhuman.

¹ Dr. W. P. Parr. See Dr. Parr's statement.

During one very cold spell several prisoners froze to death, and many others died from the effects of cold. I have read "Cold Cheer at Camp Morton," and am prepared to swear that it is true.

The Rev. W. S. Wightman, pastor of the Southern Methodist Church, Bennettsville, S. C., writes:

I read with feelings of peculiar interest your most graphic description of the indignities, sufferings, and deaths that make up the history of that dreadful camp. I was taken to Camp Morton in July, 1864, and left there for exchange March, 1865. How I managed to stand the starvation and cold of that awful prison is something wonderful to me. My emaciation when I reached home was so great that my family scarcely recognized me. I can substantiate what you say in your article — the harsh treatment, the brutality, the horrible meanness. I suffered the pangs of hunger protracted through weeks and months, and of cold in those dreadful sheds for lack of bedding and clothes. I am witness to the fact that many a poor fellow perished from cold and starvation.

The Rev. W. H. Groves, a Presbyterian minister at Lynnville, Tennessee, who was in Camp Morton in 1864 and '65, says:

Dr. Wyeth graphically and truthfully describes Camp Morton. Every paragraph has the impress of truth; and will bear the scrutiny of the searcher of hearts. Think of men emaciated and exhausted by hunger, many of them with no clothing but the thin suits in which they were captured, standing that bitter winter cold — the long hours from dark till daylight, with only a single blanket, upon a bed of planks in an open cattle-shed. To strike a match to look at a sick or dying comrade was to be shot by the guards. Our rations were so meager that men became walking skeletons. No bone was too filthy or swill-tub too nauseating for a prisoner to devour. The eating of rats was common. I knew one of our men who was hung up by the thumbs for eating a dog. Some of the officials were very cruel, Baker in particular. God removed him, and we trust that he is in heaven. My feet were so badly frozen that I suffered intensely and could not wear my shoes for over a year. Our food was excellent in quality, at least the bread. We only got a small loaf a day. The meat was given in small quantity. We got about one third enough to eat. The mortality in consequence of short rations was very great. *Two of my mess of five died.* Dr. Wyeth has written no fancy sketch. It is what every living Confederate who was in Camp Morton the last year of the war will corroborate and which God will witness as true.

W. V. Futrell, orange-grower at Ozona, Florida, writes:

I can indorse all you say in regard to prison life at Camp Morton. Was there about twenty-three months, and suffered from hunger constantly. I was witness to the murder of one prisoner and the wounding of another by Baker. I saw dog-meat served at fifteen cents' worth of tobacco per pound. Many were frozen to death for want of proper clothing and cover. *My partner froze at my side one night, and I did not know he was dead until next morning.* The eating of rats and of scraps from the swill-tub at the hospital was of common occurrence. I have peeled potatoes for the hospital cook just to get the peelings to eat. I harbor no feeling of malice to any one, yet the officers and guards at Camp Morton were very cruel and allowed prisoners to starve.

The Rev. Samuel Tucker, preacher in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Arkansas, says:

Was confined in Camp Morton from March, 1863, to February, 1865. I can fully corroborate your statements concerning the treatment of prisoners. There were fifty-one men in the squad I arrived with, and thirty-two of these perished there. I have seen the prisoners struggling with each other to devour the dirty matter thrown out of the hospital kitchen. Rats were eaten, and I have seen dog-meat peddled out by the prisoners. The murdering of prisoners, clubbing, tying them up by the thumbs was known to all there. I could put the entire piece of meat given me for a day's allowance in my mouth at one time.

The vast bulk of testimony, which fully sustains the charges of criminal neglect on the part of those whose duty it was to treat prisoners of war humanely, I cannot publish here for lack of space. The statements of Messrs. B. P. Putnam, Tullahoma, Tennessee; B. F. Erwin and T. W. Cowan, Gadsden, Alabama; S. H. Russell, Huntsville, Alabama; J. T. George, Clerk of the Court of Graves County, Kentucky; James A. Thomas, Nashville, Tennessee; John F. Champenois, ex-Mayor and County Commissioner, Shubuta, Mississippi; N. M. Smith, Caswell, Mississippi; R. M. Guinn, Alvarado, Texas; I. C. Bartlett, Louisville, Kentucky; J. N. Ainsworth, Smith County, Mississippi; A. W. Baxter, Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tennessee; G. T. Willis, Greenville, South Carolina; S. W. Jacoway, South Pittsburg, Tennessee; J. A. Guy, Childersburg, Alabama; W. H. Carter, White County, Tennessee, and T. E. Spotswood, Fairfield, Alabama, are, among others, important and interesting, and with much other valuable material will be reserved by me for future publication.

John A. Wyeth.

