

(Previous Page) practicable to sketch many places that must certainly have gone unpictured had one been forced to rely upon unaided eyesight.

"This view of Fort Johnson and its surroundings is not only interesting but picturesque, and since it is known that the rebels rely almost entirely for the defense of Charleston upon sand-works of this kind, these views assume an interest that they have been hitherto devoid of."

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

WE devote two pages this week to an illustration of the Army of the Potomac, from a sketch by our special artist, Mr. A. R. Waud. On pages 616 and 617 we give

THE EXECUTION OF DESERTERS.

Mr. Waud writes: "The crime of desertion has been one of the greatest drawbacks to our army. If the men who have deserted their flag had but been present on more than one occasion defeat would have been victory, and victory the destruction of the enemy. It may be therefore fairly asserted that desertion is the greatest crime of the soldier, and no punishment too severe for the offense. But the dislike to kill in cold blood—a Northern characteristic—the undue exercise of executive clemency, and in fact the very magnitude and vast spread of the offense, has prevented the proper punishment being applied. That is past; now the very necessity of saving life will cause the severest penalties to be rigorously exacted. The picture represents the men who were sentenced to death in the Fifth Corps for desertion at the moment of their execution. Some of these had enlisted, pocketed the bounty, and deserted again and again. The sentence of death being so seldom enforced they considered it a safe game. They all suffered terribly mentally, and as they marched to their own funeral they staggered with mortal agony like a drunken man. Through the corps, ranged in hushed masses on the hill-side, the procession moved to a funeral march, the culprits walking each behind his own coffin. On reaching the grave they were, as usual, seated on their coffins; the priests made short prayers; their eyes were bandaged; and with a precision worthy of praise for its humanity, the orders were given and the volley fired which launched them into eternity. They died instantly, although one sat up nearly a minute after the firing; and there is no doubt that their death has had a very salutary influence on discipline."

WIND MUSIC AND THE CHILD.

A TUNE that keeps no earthly time or measure,

Rising and falling at the wind's wild pleasure;

Now quick in haste, now slow in languid leisure,

But always very musically sweet,

And always sad. No little childish feet

To its soft cadence dance along the street;

that. The rebels were driven well down the hill, our artillery got into position and raked them fearfully, and for a mile or two it was a perfect rout.

"The rebels cut across into the Middlebury Road, which, through Duffie's misfortune that morning, was free. Reinforcements coming up enabled them to get into order again, and hold us for a while. Once again there was fierce fighting, and again they had to fall back, though this time in a little better order. Still each attack shook them more and more. At last they began retreating rapidly, leaving us a gun.

"After two days' fighting, all in our favor, they were forced to make a stand at Upperville, in order to secure their line of retreat through Ashby's Gap. All along the stone-walls by the road-side they dismounted sharpshooters, and wherever they deployed they protected themselves by similar breast-works. Kilpatrick took the same precaution on the road, and it saved him from some trouble. His column, charging past the sharpshooters, caught such a heavy fire that it had to fall back, and Stuart's men charged in their turn. Then our carbineers let them have it with terrible effect, weeding out their squadrons effectually. Over the stone-walls and through the inclosures our men went at them, sometimes throwing down the fences, at others going over them. The fighting was something like Brandy Station, though we had more decidedly the advantage. The rebels lost very severely. They never succeeded in fairly meeting a charge. From hill to hill they went, leaving another piece in our hands, and at last were driven pell-mell into the Gap. It was not until they reached the other side, and were covered by their infantry and artillery, that they were able to make a stand.

"Kilpatrick's brigade had the work that day all to itself, and they did it so thoroughly that we in the reserve had nothing to do but to follow up. The next morning Pleasanton, having found out all he wanted to know, and done what he wanted, gave orders to fall back to our position, covering the march of the army.

"Our brigade now took the rear of the column; the First Pennsylvania and First New Jersey, with some of the Third Pennsylvania, being deployed as skirmishers. As soon as the rebels discovered that we were actually retiring they came swarming out of the Gap. They had received such a lesson, however, that it was not until after we had passed through Upperville that they attempted to close. Here they cause out suddenly, wheeling from behind a hill, and charged. It was a very distinguished failure. They rode in toward our skirmishers, as if fully determined to break through; but Lucas opened such a scathing fire upon them that they reeled back in dismay.

"Among our skirmishers that day Private Vandegrift, of Company D, particularly distinguished himself. All our men were cool and steady, keeping their positions steady, and with marked

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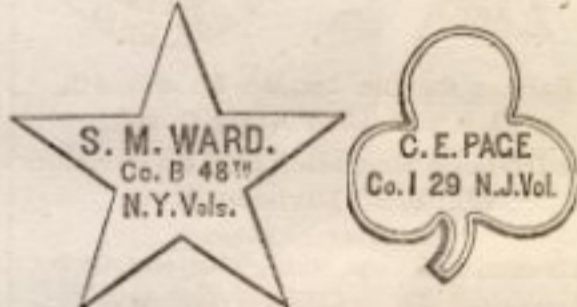
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