

Mr President & Cadets - The following reminiscences
~~or recollections~~ are the ones you were invited
 to listen too at the Camp Fire given by the G. L. of
 the First B. Co last Dec. As my experience in
 public reading ~~or speaking~~ is rather limited
 I did not on that occasion pitch my voice
 to the right key to be heard in the back
 part of the Hall. where you were given
 seats, as several of your ^{members} name since
 told me, and asked me to repeat it
 some time — my appearance here
 this evening is in answer to those requests
 and the story.

1

About two weeks ago a com-
 mittee from the Young People's
 Association called upon me with a
 request, that I should furnish
 something for their Big Sister
 Lumber and about the
 same time I was made
 the victim of a compulsory
 detail — to produce about the
 same thing for another
 Camp fire, and one ^{to} which
 I made all protests in vain,
 and as your Com would
 listen to my excuses with
 about the same result I
 finally thought that my recd
 -lectures of that celebrated
 Battle of July 21st 1861 known as
 Bull Run might be of ~~some~~
 interest to some of you. I have put

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to go through some of the incidents
~~of that day~~ hoping that
 you will excuse what may
 seem as egotism as I am
 going to give what passed
 before my own eyes, ~~+~~ in
 which I was a participant

The manner & way of
 leaving Washington where our
 Regiment had been in camp for
 twelve days - and the incidents
 of the march, on that famous "On
 to Richmond Picnic", I will not
 take your time to relate, but
 will commence on Saturday
 night, July 20th - The 27th U.S. & vols
 of which my company was a
 part had been in camp about
 2 miles east of Centerville, for
 a day & one night, resting
 from our hurried march
 from Washington, having left that

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City Tuesday even previous
 About 10 P.M. I was
 called to the Col^o Hdqrs & there
 met the Commandants of
 the several companies - We
 were informed by the Col
 that we were to break camp
 at 2 o'clock the next morning
 & that we each must see
 that our commands were
 in line promptly & that if
 we were short of ammunition
 (40 Rounds per man) we had best
 look to it at once, that there
 might be no delay the next
 morning -

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We stayed there had a short
 time & all left to get ready
 - A part of my Co was on picket,
 one drunk, was Officer of the Guard
 and I had to attend to all the
 business myself - going to Camp
 2 miles I found, (as usual at that
 time of the unpleasantness) the boys
 had not been sparing of their Cartridges
 & needed considerable to make
 out the necessary work for men -
 and on getting out to the Picket line
 found the same thing there, but
 finally got things pretty well fixed
 up, and looking at the time found
 it to be nearly midnight. I mention
 these little details to show how
 nicely, I, was fixed for a long
 march, and fight on the next
 hot July day - Well two o'clock
 came, and with it our Bugles -
 who lost no time, or wind, in
 making a noise, that should be heard
 by all in Camp - About 2 1/2
 the men were in line, and off
 we started, and marched about
 a mile, when we were halted for
 a long time, why, I never knew

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and there until after daylight, it was
 made a short distance there back
 & repeat, again, & again - After a
 long series of these we left the
 trunkline & entered a road through
 the woods, & here we went along nicely
 for some time until about eight
 o'clock, we came out upon a fine
 rolling country, & leaving the road
 started off across the fields, - and soon
 came to what is called Sully Church Ford
 which was the first water, we had
 seen since starting early in the morning
 and as it was getting quite hot, and
 the many feet made the dust lively
 the men were suffering from thirst
 The Col. ^{the regiment} ~~planted~~ and such a scramble
 for water I never saw before, but
 we could not stop long - And here
 let me say that we ^{had} neither Corps
 Division nor Brigade formations at
 this time, and did not know who
 our Commanders were, for myself I

6 had never, even seen General
McDonnell. who had command
of the forces that day, and also
I must speak of our Arms
& Ammunition - We were
armed with what is known
in Army life, as the old
Harpers Ferry Musket, from
the fact that they were made
at that place, and were
of large caliber and used
the old - large ball & 3 Ball
Shot, Cartridge - The Rebels
had, you probably heard, ^{name} secured
all the best arms of the Government
& had them shipped to various
points convenient for them -
Some time before the war
broke out - and these poor boys
were the best that could be
obtained at that time -

7 We had better ones afterwards
We were in General Hunter's
immediate command
and were selected by
Gen McDowell to make
an attack upon & break
the enemy left wing
and which we accomplish
ed — even after crossing
the Ford, while passing
up a side road an
aid came riding
down at full speed

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Spent with (as I afterwards was told) orders for us to bring up, & to go across a certain field, where, we would find something to amuse us, this was about 9³⁰ AM for going across this field, we were for the first time fired upon by the Rebs - a Battery on our left flank commenced sending round shot, at us at long range, doing but little damage for some time, when we were ordered, on the right; left front into line and on the formation being made a charge was ordered, and off we went keeping a pretty good alignment until we were in close range when the aforesaid Battery gave us grape & canister that opened large gaps in the line but before we were very near they limbered up & got out of the way, we went to the top of the elevation I should think it was about 25 or 30 feet above the rest of the field that we passed over & then we were halted & reformed our line and had a chance to see what was about us, for a short time and for a short time only - While we were standing there a regiment

in grey uniforms came along the depression in front of ^{us} partly hidden by some scrub pine trees within easy pistol range and some of our men fired at them but orders were passed down the lines, that they were a Brooklyn Regt of Militia, and to cease firing, which was done, but in a moment they turned & fired on us with terrible results - Our Col H. W. Sturman fell, wounded several other Officers were killed & wounded besides about 40 of the ranks & file.

The Boys would not stand this - down they went without orders as any thing else & off went the Rebels on a run we followed on, a short distance to another rise in the land ^{where they halted.} ^{point} ^{in the distance perhaps} ^{where} ^{we} could see ~~about~~ a mile away, a ^{train} of Cars, with two locomotives, attached to them, and men all over them - on tops of the Cars & tenders, soon off they went, and as another train was ^{hooked} ^{to our} ^{immediate} ^{rear} ^{that} ^{the} ^{Rebels} ^{were} ^{retreating} ^{as} ^{they} ^{had} ^{driven} ^{off} ^{from} ^{all} ^{points} ^{of} ^{the} ^{line} ^{at} ^{the} ^{same} ^{time} ^{that} ^{the} ^{train} ^{was} ^{passing} ^{by} ^{them} ^{and} ^{the} ^{smoke} ^{was} ^{very} ^{thick} ^{and} ^{the} ^{air} ^{was} ^{stingy} ^{was} ^{full} ^{of} ^{smoke} ^{and} ^{hardly} ^{fit} ^{to} ^{breathe}. After resting here a short time our Maj assessing Comd

Song

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During the

Col. Starnes wounded & as Lt. Col. King
 urgent business elsewhere, we again
 found in line & had hardly done
 so when a Reb battery opened on us
 and soon got the range. and we
~~falling~~ ^{falling} back under the little ~~clutter~~ ^{clutter} &
 started for the rear of that Battery
 single handed & alone I have often
 thought, how easy it would have been
 for the Rebs to have gobbled us up.
 but it was not so to be. On getting
 a little west of the Hollow, we were
 in, we saw the Battery dead, which
 seemed to be a Regt or two for support
 but we were ^{from the Batt} getting a good deal
 of attention & some shots from the ^{Support}
 until we were stopped by some one
 on horse back and ~~ordered~~ ^{ordered} to attack
 some traps that were around & about
 a large house ^{on a hill} on our right, which
 was ~~the~~ the "Honey house", we started
 off & soon found it convenient to
 lie down under the banks of a creek
 or run as they call it down there
 & here we stayed until we were
 ordered to fall in & join with two or three
 other regts the 11th N.Y. & 69th N.Y. (Concord)
 the rest of the other I have forgotten & suffered

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+ Support two batteries that were on a
 Knoll a short distance away the
 Batteries were Ricketts & Giffens as parts
 of them ~~had~~ We started off and
 soon drew the fire of several Batoys
 of Rebs and at least two Batteries
 being some were but finally ~~we~~
^{reached} our position in pretty good shape
 but had hardly done so, when down
 came the Rebs & drove us back, and
 firing with such deadly effect that
 nearly every Artillery man in both
 batteries ~~was~~ ^{was} killed or wounded and
 the horses & drivers nearly all killed
^{or} run away - I saw one team 3 Horses
 going at full speed dragging the dead
 but we charged & recaptured the
 guns only to be driven back again,
 and again we drove the Rebs back
 recapturing the guns and lost them
 after all for the want of Horses to take
 them off the field. Our Regt lost heavily
 in this last struggle (for us of the day)
 The casualties in my own Co were 22 killed & wounded + 8 Prisoners ^{who were afterwards}
 The Rebs seemed to have had enough of us
 for a time at least + we were left in
 possession of the Knoll - Our Regt
 (now Gen Bustlett) + several of the Companies
 of Companies getting together through here

I remained the duties of a soldier of a Comp of Instruction
 + I remained the duties of a soldier of a Comp of Instruction
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as we were sent of Washington
 to go back to Centerville and we
 started for the Trippe & then
 for Camp with our Drum Corps playing
 & in perfect order soon after reaching
 the fork a Section of a Battery
 came tearing ~~down~~ along at
 full speed & ran into one left Co
 injuring two or three ^{of the men} the bat of Company
 & regiment broke to the right & left
 & gave way for them to pass. This
 was near the Stone Bridge across
 Oak Run The Battery that made us
 the trouble was stalled at this bridge
 by a lot of baggage wagons & that filled
 up the road and they lost their pieces after
 all We got back to our old Camp ground
 between 10 & 11 ^{o'clock at night} and after getting something
 to eat rolled up in our blankets ^{& laid} ~~down~~
 down to rest after 22 hours of marching ^{with fatigue such as we had never}
~~run before~~ ~~at~~ but about an hour
 after were ordered to fall back as rapidly
 as possible on Washington & then for the
 first time, did I at least, think we had
 been whipped but how I could not tell
 on getting out from the Camp ground
 which was a little back from the Trippe
 we formed everything & everybody seemingly on his
 own back & of course it did not take long for
 our Regt to get in the same shape and soon
 all signs of Regimental or Company formations
 were lost, & mingled in that motley throng we
 made the best of our way to Washington where we
 Monday morning about daylight I went into one Old 22 on 72nd & 73rd Square