Battle Gossip.

"The thing in the world I am most afraid of is fear," says old Montaigne; "and with good reason, that passion alone, in the trouble of it, exceeding all other accidents." And yet extreme fear causes actions which the most daring courage would fail to urge men to.—As in the first pitched battle the Romans lost against Hannibal, under the Consul Sempronius, a body of ten thousand foot, that had taken fright, "seeing no other escape for their flight, threw themselves headlong upon the great array of the enemy, which with wonderful force and fury they charged through and through and routed, with a very great slaughter of the Carthaginians." Courage is indispensible to the soldier; yet some of the greatest commanders have in their youth shown signs of nervousness. Philip of Macedon ran away, in his first battle. Sanchio XII., King of Navarre, was surnamed "the Trembling," because, going into battle, he was always seized with violent tremors. Yet he was a truly brave man; for one of his friends attempting to comfort him by representing as less the dangers he was encountering, the stout old king replied: "You understand me ill; for could my flesh know the peril my courage will presently carry it into, it would sink down to the ground." That gallant general, Lord Hill, was so sensitive that in his youth he fainted at the sight of blood, and after he had entered the army fainted again, on beholding from his window a prize-fight in the court. A lady once wondered how, with such sensitiveness, he was able to act with great coolness and vigor in the midst of dreadful scenes of carnage. "I have still the same feelings," said he, "but in the excitement of battle all individual sensation is lost sight of."

Next to courage, endurance is the greatest military virtue. The two qualities, in fact, go together; and have never had a finer example than in the wreck of the British transport ship in the Bay of Bengal, in the early part of this century. The vessel had sprung a great leak; and being about to sink, all efforts to relieve her being vain, the Colonel commanding first put the women and children in the only boats which could be used, and then ranged his brave soldiers upon deck under arms, told them their inevitable fate, and, seeing the ship now about to give her last fatal lurch, ordered to "present arms." Thus, standing firmly in their ranks, no man moving or showing fear, they fired a volley as she sank, and went down standing at ease, in as fine order as though they had been arrayed upon parade ground.

Since the days when Alexander the Great, marching at the head of his army through the borders of India, suffering with the soldiers excessive thirst, yet threw away the casque full of water which was brought him in the presence of all, saying that one soldier is no better than another—since that day, the burning plains of India have witnessed some noble examples of bravery, endurance, and self-sacrifice. Sir William Napier relates that on one of the long marches the Twenty-fifth sepoys, being nearly maddened by thirst and heat, saw one of their water-carriers approaching with full skins of water. They rushed towards him in crowds, tearing away the skins and struggling together, with loud cries of "Water! water!" At that moment some half-dozen straggling soldiers of the Twenty-second came up, apparently exhausted, and asked for some. At once the generous Indians withfield their hands from the skins, forgot their own sufferings, and gave the fainting Europeans to drink; then they all moved on, the Sepoys carrying the Twenty-second men's muskets for them, patting them on the shoulders, and encouraging them to hold out. It was in vain; they did so for a short time, but soon fell. It was then discovered that these noble fellows were all wounded, some deeply, but thinking there was to be another fight, they had concealed their hurts, and forced nature to sustain the loss of blood, the pain of wounds, the burning sun, the long marches, and the sandy desert, that their last moments might be given to their country on another field of battle.

☞ In the card of a dancing master, the printer made a funny mistake, by substituting an *s* for a *t*. The card read thus: "I offer my most respectful *shanks* to all who have honored me with their patronage."

Medical Dep't. at Annapolis and Annapolis Junction, Md.

October 29th, 1864.

U. S. General Hospital, Division No. 1.

B. A. VANDERKIEFT, Surgeon U. S. Vols., in charge.
Wm. S. Ely, Ass't Surgeon, U. S. Vols., Executive Officer.
S. J. Radcliffe, Ass't Surgeon U. S. Vols., Ass't Executive Officer.
Rev. H. C. Henries, Chaplain U. S. A., Hosp'l Chap.
Rev. I. O. Sloan, Vol. Chaplain and Representative of Christian Commission.
Capt. Crossman, Commanding 96th Co. V. R. C.
Lieut. Chas. Reynolds, Commanding 118th and 119th Companies of the 2d Battallion Veteran Reserve Corps.
Sergt. O. H. Wolcott, 118th Co., V. R. C., Chief Clerk.

Miss Maria M. C. Hall, Directress of Female Nurses.

Sec. 1,—A. Claude,	Act'g	Ass't	Surg.	U. S.	A.,	Wards	A B C D.
Sec. 2,—Wm. H. Grafton,	"	"	"	"	"		Ward B.
" " J. S. Fulks,	"	"	"	"	"	"	E F G H I.
" 5 Joshua Sweet,	"	"	"	"	"	"	A B.
" " A. H. Maughlin,	"	"	"	"	"	"	C D.
" " W. P. Willis,	"	"	"	"	"	"	E F G.
" " Wm. S. Ely, Ass't Surgeon, U. S. Vols.,						"	H & I.

Officers' Hospital, Middle Department.

ANNAPOLIS, MD.,

Comprising Wards E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, Sec. 1, and Wards A, B, C, D, E, F, Section 3,

B. A. VANDERKIEFT, Surgeon U. S. Vols., in charge.
Wm. S. Ely, Ass't Surgeon U. S. Vols., Ex. Officer and Treasurer.

Medical Officers, } J. H. Longenecker, Act. Ass't Surg., U.S.A.
H. A. Maughlin, " " " "
Joshua Sweet, " " " "

Religious services on the Sabbath, at 2 and 7 o'clock P. M. and Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock. On Thursday evening, Bible Class at 7 o'clock.

Library open every day from 8 A. M. to 12 M., and from 2 to 8 P. M.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR VISITORS:

I. It is strictly forbidden to any one not belonging to the MEDICAL DEPARTMENT of this Hospital, to visit patients, without permission from the Surgeon in Charge, or Executive Officer.

II.—All articles brought in for the use of the patient by visitors must be deposited in the Hospital store room unless by special permission from the Officer of the day.

III.—The hours for visiting the Hospital will be from 2 A. M. to 6 P. M., daily.

Mails arrive at 10 o'clock A. M. and 8 o'clock, P. M.
" depart at 2½ o'clock P. M. and 9 o'clock, P. M.

Office Hours, from 8 to 12 o'clock, M., and from 1 to 5 o'clock, P. M.

Board for Examination of Invalid Officers

Meets every morning, (Sundays excepted,) from 11 o'clock. A. M., till 2 o'clock, P. M. The Board consists of the following members:—
Brigadier General L. P. Graham, U. S. Vols.
Major T. Hendrickson, U. S. A.
Surgeon G. S. Palmer, U. S. Vols.

St. John's College Hospital, Div. No. 2

G. S. PALMER, Surgeon U. S. Vols. in charge.
W. S. Tremaine, Ass't Surgeon, U. S. Vols., Executive Officer.
Rev. J. P. Hammond, Chaplain, U. S. A.
L. Smith, Acting Ass't Surgeon U. S. A.,
Henry H. Inloes, " " " "
R. N. McCleery, " " " "
L. S. Pridham, Hospital Steward, U. S. A.
Wm. F. Bailey, Chief Clerk.

Religious services on the Sabbath, at 2½ P. M., and 7½ P. M. Prayers daily, at 9½ A. M.

Camp Parole Hospital.

GEO. B. PARKER, Surgeon, U. S. Vols., in charge.
J. T. Brown, Ass't Surgeon, U. S. Vols.
W. M. Babbitt, " " 55th Mass. vols.
C. T. Simpers, " 6th Md. Vols.
A. T. Pick, Act. Ass't Surgeon, U. S. A.
Wm. St. Geo. Elliott, Act. Ass't Surgeon, U. S. A.
W. M. Line, " " " " "
Henry Richardson, " " " " "

U. S. Gen'l Hospital at Annapolis Junction

C. BACON, JR., Ass't Surgeon, U. S. A., in charge.
Rev. B. F. Phillips, Chaplain, U. S. A.

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May 20, 1864. 20-tf.

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Jan. 6, 1864. 1tf

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