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THE CRUTCH.

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THE CRUTCH,

A Weekly News and Literary Paper devoted to the interest of the Soldier, Published on SATURDAY OF EACH WEEK, At the U. S. A. General Hospital, Div. No. 1, Annapolis, Md.

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From the Knapsack.

The Christian's Joy.

The Christian's Joy! a constant light,
Forever burning—ever bright;
Calm sunshine of the soul;
No cloud obscures its radiant beam,
No passing doubt, no painful dream,
Its influence can control.

The Christian's Joy! a gentle stream,
Whose placid bosom still is seen,
A part of Heaven to bear!
While undisturbed it calmly flows,
Its bosom widening as it goes,
Till all of Heaven is there.

The Christian's Joy! a glorious sun,
That never shall its course have run,
Illuminates its way,
No flickering gleam—no dazzling glare,
But ever steady, light and fair,
It lights eternal day.

Paroles.

(General Orders, No. 49.)
WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, February 28, 1863.

- The following rules in regard to paroles, established by the common law and usages of war, are published for the information of all concerned:
 - Paroling must always take place by the exchange of signed duplicates of a written document, in which the name and rank of the parties paroled are correctly stated. Any one who intentionally misstates his rank, forfeits the benefit of his parole, and is liable to punishment.
 - None but commissioned officers can give the parole for themselves or their commands, and no inferior officer can give a parole without the authority of his superior, if within reach.
 - No paroling on the battle-field; no paroling of entire bodies of troops after a battle; and no dismissal of large numbers of prisoners, with a general declaration that they are paroled, is permitted, or of any value.
 - An officer who gives a parole for himself or his command on the battle-field is deemed a deserter, and will be punished accordingly.
 - For the officer, the pledging of his parole is an individual act, and no wholesale paroling by an officer, for a number of inferiors in rank, is permitted or valid.
 - No non-commissioned officer or private can give his parole except through an officer. Individual paroles not given through an officer are not only void, but subject the individuals giving them to the punishment of death as deserters. The only admissible exception is where individuals, properly separated from their commands, have suffered long confinement without the possibility of being paroled through an officer.
 - No prisoners of war can be forced by the hostile

government to pledge his parole, and any threat or ill-treatment to force the giving of the parole is contrary to the law of war.

8. No prisoner of war can enter into engagements inconsistent with his character and duties as a citizen and a subject of his State. *He can only bind himself not to bear arms* against his captor for a limited period, or until he is exchanged, and this only with the stipulated or implied consent of his own Government. If the engagement which he makes is not approved by his Government, he is bound to return and surrender himself as a prisoner of war. His own Government cannot at the same time disown his engagement and refuse his return as a prisoner.

9. No one can pledge his parole that he will never bear arms against the Government of his captors, nor that he will not bear arms against any other enemy of his Government not at the time the ally of his captors. Such agreements have reference only to the existing enemy and his existing allies, and to the existing war, and not to future belligerents.

10. While the pledging of the military parole is a voluntary act of the individual, the capturing power is not obliged to grant it nor is the Government of the individual paroled bound to approve or ratify it.

11. Paroles not authorized by the common law of war are not valid till approved by the Government of the individual so pledging his parole.

12. The pledging of any unauthorized military parole is a military offense, punishable under the common law of war.

11. This will be published at the head of every regiment in the service of the United States, and will be officially communicated by every General commanding an army in the field to the commanding general of the opposing forces, and will be hereafter strictly observed and enforced in the armies of the United States.

By order of Major General H. W. Halleck:
L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

Exchange of Prisoners.

(General Orders, No. 207.)
WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, July 3, 1863.

1. The attention of all persons in the military service of the United States is called to Article 7, of the cartel agreed upon on the 22d of July, 1862, and published in General Orders, No. 142, September 25, 1862. According to the terms of this cartel all captures must be reduced to actual possession, and all prisoners of war must be delivered at the places designated, there to be exchanged, or paroled until exchange can be effected. The only exception allowed is the case of commanders of two opposing armies, who are authorized to exchange prisoners or to release them on parole at other points mutually agreed upon by said commanders.

11. It is understood that captured officers and men have been paroled and released in the field by others than commanders of opposing armies, and that the sick and wounded in hospitals have been so paroled and released, in order to avoid guarding and removing them, which in many cases would have been impossible. Such paroles are in violation of General Orders and the stipulations of the cartel, and are null and void. They are not regarded by the enemy, and will not be respected in the armies of the United States. Any officer or soldier who gives such parole will be returned to duty without exchange, and, moreover, will be punished for disobedience of orders. It is the duty of the captor to guard his prisoners, and if, through necessity or choice, he fail to do this, it is the duty of the prisoner to return to the service of his Government. He cannot avoid this duty by giving an authorized military parole.

111. A military parole not to serve until exchanged must not be confounded with a parole of honor to do or not to do a particular thing not inconsistent with the duty of a soldier. Thus, a prisoner of war actually held by the enemy may, in order to obtain exemption from a close guard or confinement, pledge his parole of honor that he will make no attempt to escape. Such pledges

are binding upon the individuals giving them; but they should seldom be given or received, for it is the duty of a prisoner to escape if able to do so. Any pledge or parole of honor extorted from a prisoner by ill usage or cruelty is not binding.

11. The obligations imposed by the general laws and usages of war upon the non-combatant inhabitants of a section of country passed over by an invading army cease when the military occupation ceases; and any pledge or parole given by such persons, in regard to future service, is null and of no effect.

By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Sergeant Otis O. Roberts.

HEADQUARTERS 3D BRIGADE, 1ST DIVISION,
6TH ARMY CORPS, November 18, 1863.

Sir:—I desire to call the attention of the War Department to the gallant conduct of Sergeant Otis O. Roberts in the recent engagement with the enemy at Rappahannock Station Virginia.

At the storming of the enemy's entrenchments in the engagement at Rappahannock Station, Virginia, on the 7th day of November, 1863, Otis O. Roberts, Sergeant in Company H., of the 6th Regiment Maine Volunteers, was one of the very first of the assaulting party to leap into the enemy's larger redoubt.

Four of the rebels rushed upon him, demanded his surrender, and took from him his gun. Looking back just then he saw several more of his regiment entering the redoubt. He instantly seized his musket again, and clubbing it drove the four men out of the fort and to our rear as prisoners. Then seeing the color-bearer of the 8th Regiment Louisiana Volunteers standing near advanced upon him, seized the colors, and, though his adversary was a larger and more powerful man, succeeded after a hard struggle in wresting them from his hands, took him also prisoner, and bore off his well-won trophy.

As an acknowledgment of Sergeant Roberts' gallantry upon the occasion above described, General Wright, upon reassuming command of the Division, immediately published the order subjoined:

(Special Order, No. —,)

HEADQUARTERS 1ST DIVISION, 6TH CORPS,
November 8, 1863, 10 A. M.

As an acknowledgment of his gallantry in capturing the battle flag of the 8th Louisiana Infantry after a hand-to-hand conflict with the color bearer, Sergeant Otis O. Roberts, Company H., 6th Maine Volunteers, will be permitted to present the flag in person to the Chief of Staff of the Army of the Potomac, and his Company will be sent with him as an escort to the flag.

By command of Brigadier General Wright:
HENRY R. DALTON, A. A. G.
I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.
D. A. RUSSELL,
Brig. Gen. Commanding Brigade.
L. THOMAS, Brigadier General and A. G.

Passes to Visit the Army of the Potomac.

1. Applications must be made at the office of Colonel Conrad, No. 132 Pennsylvania avenue, above Nineteenth street, between 11 A. M., and 1 P. M., except Sundays. Lieutenant Colonel J. S. Conrad is authorized to sign the passes.

2. If not granted at the office of Colonel Conrad the decision is final, and no reference need be made at the War Department.

3. Passes cannot be given to females to visit the Army.

By order of the Secretary of War:
E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Men of high or mean birth may be possessed of good qualities; but falling into bad company; they become vicious. Rivers flow with sweet waters; but having joined the ocean, they become undrinkable.