

## THE CRUTCH.

W. S. A. GEN'L HOSPITAL, DIV. I, SATURDAY, JAN. 16, 1864.

### Our Government Shall Stand.

The fact, as it regards the perpetuity of our institutions, save one, has now we think, been placed beyond a doubt or question. No Nation probably, ever passed through such an ordeal as that through which our country has passed in the last three years, and none ever sustained itself, against such a powerful antagonist as it has, and with such untarnished results. With such a momentous, wide spread, and concerted rebellion, originating amidst a people eminent for their previous intelligence and cultivation, as well as for their ardor and excitability, and warlike proclivities; with enemies at home and enemies abroad—enemies at our very doors, with a combination of circumstances which the world has never known before, instituting a civil war which has scarcely been witnessed by any Nation—the masses of the people, though seemingly unprepared, armed themselves for the conflict, and with gigantic energy and heroic bravery, met the emergency in such a manner as must command the applause, not only of the present generation, within the bounds of civilization, but of all posterity.

We look back upon the past three years with amazement, when we see the tremendous appliances of war gathered together—the vast armies with their costly equipments, their almost numberless and variety of arms, the prancing steeds, the display of banners and shining steel, and the enormous means supplied for their comfort and protection. We say we are amazed, and yet why wonder, when such an issue was before us—that of the integrity and perpetuity of our Country's Union.

From the first sound of the bugle, the hearts of the people have been in the work, laboring diligently and with harmonious action, giving proofs of their devotion constantly, by placing upon the great altar the sacrifice of "their lives, their property and their sacred honor."

What people ever passed through three years under like circumstances, and presented such a pleasing front, as the loyal portion of the United States of America does at this time? When was there more prosperity? When less adversity? When less pauperism? When less real want? What country can afford luxuries better? Where will more comforts be found? In a word, where do the people, high and low, rich and poor, feel the effect of a great war less than the people of the United States do at the present moment?

It is true, society, friends, relatives, feel it more or less. Many noble heads have been laid low; many a family circle has been broken; many a familiar face has paled in death; many a community mourns some of its brightest ornaments, yet these sorrows and bereavements are willingly borne, and the asseveration is constantly made, that the sacrifice cannot be too great, seeing the cause and the demand is so great.

Already we see evidences of dawning day, and we hope soon to see the clouds all dispelled, and the cheerfulness and glory of the sun of peace shine upon us in all its power.

Armies never gathered around the standard of Napoleon with freer hearts than the loyal around the standard of the Union, and we believe the time will soon come when those now in rebellion will welcome the commanders of the Union armies, their deliverers, as joyously as did the people of England during its civil war, their deliverer, the Prince of Orange.

**INFLUENCE.**—Every one exerts an influence in this world. We are so constituted that none can live to himself. However isolated or obscure the situation, others are affected either for good or evil by our having lived in the world. We are all imitators, and what is painfully true we are more disposed to imitate evil than good. Our aim therefore should be to exert a good influence. Especially in the army, among our soldiers, should each one try to make his example felt on the side of all that is excellent and praiseworthy.

Subscriptions for the CRUTCH, continue to pour in upon us, and we return thanks to all those who have so kindly aided in procuring subscribers.

For the Crutch.

### Richmond—The Rebel Capitol.

Richmond is most beautifully situated on the James River. The whole city includes seven hills like ancient Rome. The most noted of these are those upon which the chief part of the city is built, Shockoe and Church hills. Shockoe is an Indian name. It has on it the State Capitol, surrounded by a good sized park, in which is a monument with an equestrian statue of Washington, bearing at its base a bronze likeness in full form, of Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry. On one side of the park is also the Governor's house—occupied now by that chief of Virginia traitors, John Letcher, who in 1847, was a decided Abolitionist, and one of the most strenuous advocates of a division of the State, on account of the diverse interests of the two sections. One being largely benefited by the breeding of slaves for the Cotton States and the other having but few slaves and finding the labor unprofitable. But power and position are very apt to blind the mind and to make us forget principles if self is to be elevated. He however, when he was nominated for Governor eschewed all the sentiments on this question, that he had formerly advocated, and came out one of the most earnest advocates of the "peculiar institution," and in rebellion a decided traitor. The Churches on Shockoe hill are the "United Presbyterian Church," and Duval St. Presbyterian Church. The pastor of the former is the Rev. Charles H. Read, at one time settled in New-York City—a northern man by birth but now a thorough rebel and sympathizer with the secession movement; also Rev. Dr. Moore's church. The Episcopal Churches are St. Paul's, Rev. Mr. Peterkin, a Marylander, the rector. The Monumental Church, Rev. Mr. Woodbridge, a Massachusetts man, the rector. This church is built on the site of the old Theatre that was burned in 1811, where so many lives were lost and sadness and gloom were cast over the whole State. Besides these there are other churches, fine buildings, the Methodist Church, a beautiful and costly structure, and in addition are two fine Baptist Churches. On this same hill are the Baptist College, the Medical College, and the Alms House. There are also many handsome private residences, both on Franklin and Grace streets. The residence of Jeff Davis is on this hill, and also, that of many of the officers of the Confederate Government. Three of the principal hotels are located here, the Ballard House, the Kirkwood, and the American House.

Church hill is one of the most beautiful included within the limits of Richmond. Here stands the old Episcopal Church in which Patrick Henry made his famous speech in favor of separation from the mother country. From this point may be obtained a fine view of the James River and its Falls. Here too you may see that dreaded Belle Isle so well known to many of our soldiers. It stands in the James River without anything in appearance to attract the eye. But it will in the future be well known in the pages of history. Many noble sons of the Union have suffered and died there.

Oh thou "Isle" of the James,  
Dreaded by every loyal son,  
No catalogue of names  
Can describe what thou hast done!

Often have we wandered over these hills, and as we write, every spot comes vividly up to memory. The kind friends scattered on these hills, in whose homes we have spent days, never to be forgotten are before us. We love them. The past cannot be obliterated. But oh! rebellion. We cannot be one in this great sin! We mourn that Richmond—that beautiful city has become what she is. We mourn that she has turned into a nest of traitors—vile conspirators, seeking to destroy this good and cherished government. Several railroads center in Richmond. The road from Aquia Creek running through Fredericksburg, the Richmond and York River Road, running down the Peninsula having its terminus at West Point—the Petersburg road—the Virginia and Tennessee road—each leading to Danville, Lynchburg and other parts through the State. In former times Richmond was the center of much intellect, and an influence radiated from this point that tended to cement the Union in stronger ties, greater perhaps than from any other section. But how fallen! The Wises—

the Letchers—the Seddens—the Tylers—are names that will pass down execrated to the latest posterity—while the Marshalls—the Madisons—the Monroes—and a host of other great names of men borne in that State, will illuminate the pages of our country's history. Ex-President John Tyler has been taken away since the rebellion commenced. Providence has spared him from a due reward of his folly, in beholding the failure of his attempts to destroy this government. He has left several scions, each true to the principles of their father and busily engaged, if king alcohol has not taken away all power, in helping to dissolve the union. Which is not unlikely in the case of John and Tazwell. Richmond and the surrounding country offer many items of historical interest. The James River and the Chickahominy are noted in the early settlements of the country. It was in this region that Pochahontas, Powhatan and Capt. Smith figured in the first settlement of the country. Seventy-five miles from Richmond, at what is known as the White House is where General Washington married the widow Custis. The old house in which he was married is not now standing. The present one which General McClellan was so careful to protect, has no association with Washington or his marriage. It is sometimes stated that he was married in St. Peter's Church, near what was then the residence of Mrs. Custis. But we have heard it often said by the oldest inhabitants of the county, and relatives of the Custis family that he was married at her house. This we believe to be true. We were in Richmond at the time John Brown made or attempted to make a raid into Virginia by way of Harper's Ferry. Henry A. Wise was Governor. When word came by telegraph to Richmond it was in the night. The Governor had all the bells rung, the engines fired up and the trains got ready. There was great excitement and all thought Gerritt Smith, Joshua Giddings and Fred Douglass, with all the rest of the Yankee abolition crew were surely in full march upon the sacred soil. The Governor was all riss and ready to whip the universal Yankee nation. Serious as the reports were that came over the wires, we could not help seeing how ludicrous all the movements of the Governor were. And was not all his conduct in that affair as crazy as the attempt of John Brown and his associates, whose death could only satisfy the sentiments and feelings of the chivalry. But we fear our letter is already too long for the little CRUTCH. We have many things about rebellion to write but must defer them to another letter. REFUGEE.

### Our Country.

"Patria fumus, igne alieno, luculentior." "The smoke of one's own country appears brighter than any foreign fire." This is the reason why we are determined that our noble government shall not be destroyed. Our country and its interests, are only second in claiming our devotion and service, to the great duty which we owe to God our Creator. The man that does not love his country and remains indifferent in the struggle against those who seek her destruction, is not worthy of her protection. He should be cast out beyond the pale of all government. Shall the traitors in arms against the government succeed in their wicked scheme? Never! The voice of every lover of his country is raised against it. The noble army of brave hearts in the field will never consent to it. Be patient; we shall conquer.—God is on the side of truth, liberty and justice.

**NUMBERS SLAIN IN DIFFERENT BATTLES.**—At Durham, 1346, there fell 15,000; at Halidon Hill and Agincourt, 20,000; at Bantzen and Lepanto, 25,000 each; at Austerlitz, Jena and Lutzen, 30,000 each; at Eylau, 60,000; at Waterloo and Quatre Bras—one engagement, 70,000; at Borodimo, 80,000; at Fontenoy, 100,000; at Yarmouth, 150,000; at Chalons, no less than 300,000 of Attila's army alone! at Cannae, 70,000 fell; Marins slew in one battle 140,000 Gauls, and in another, 290,000; in the battle of Arbela, 300,000 were slain.

**THE THIEF'S REPARTEE.**—A soldier of Marshal Saxe's army, being discovered in theft, was condemned to be hung. What he had stolen might be worth five shillings. The Marshal meeting him, as he was led to execution, said to him: "What a miserable fool you were to risk your life for five shillings." "General," replied the soldier, "I have risked it every day for five pence." This repartee saved his life.