



THE CRUTCH.

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THE CRUTCH,

A Weekly News and Literary Paper devoted to the interest of the Soldier, Published on

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At the U. S. A. General Hospital, Div. No. 1. Annapolis, Md.

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For the Crutch.

Lines:

Written by the bedside of a soldier friend.

Move quietly about the room,
Speak in low tones, and lightly tread,
The weary form has sunk to rest,
Soft slumbers soothe the aching head.

Come gently, ye mild autumn winds,
Silently through the casement flow,
Come with your perfume laden wings
And fan the sleepers fevered brow.

Ah, what a holy thing is sleep!
How sweetly is the spirit bound,
Forgetting pain he slumbers on,
While dreamy visions float around.

And now, a smile of brightness flits
Across the fevered cheek and brow;
And the lips murmur plaintively
One word, soft, tremulous and low.

Was it the name of one beloved,
Who for a time around him shed
The light of love, then stole away
To slumber with the dreamless dead?

What glorious visions filled his soul,
Visions all free from sin and tears!
Oh, lightly tread, and silent keep;
Disturb ye not his holy sleep—
He's living over by-gone years.

R. S. E.

The Shepherd's Home.

My banks are furnished with bees,
Whose murmur invites one to sleep;
My grottoes are shaded with trees,
And my hills are white over with sheep.
I seldom have met with a loss,
Such health do my fountains bestow;
My fountains all bordered with moss,
Where the harebells and violets grow.

Not a pine in the grove is there seen,
But with tendrils of woodbine is bound;
Not a beech is more beautiful green,
But a sweet-brier entwines it around.
Not my fields in the prime of the year,
More charms than my cattle unfold;
Not a brook that is limpid and clear,
But it glitters with fishes of gold.

I have found out a gift for my fair,
I have found where the wood pigeon breeds,
But let me such plunder forbear,
She will say 'twas a barbarous deed;
For he ne'er could be true, she averred,
Who would rob a poor bird of its young;
And I loved her the more when I heard
Such tenderness fall from her tongue.

SENATOR.

For the Crutch.

The Knights of the Quill at Breakfast.

BY ONE OF THEM.

If a stranger happened to be in the neighborhood of the clerk's quarters about seven o'clock in the morning, he might hear the rattling of a bell, and at its first note he would be startled to see the Knights of the Quill swarming from their doors in the greatest haste. Coatless, hatless, and even bootless, we rush pell mell toward the breakfast room. At the door where we meet, there is a combined yell, and a grand squeeze, and we all tumble with shouts of laughter into the room.— Though there is a great deal of merriment about all this haste, it is a very good feeling to get in first, when rations are small and appetites good. The first act of each Knight when he reaches the table, is to seize a fork, and attach a steak to the end of it before he sits down. This is a wise precaution, as there may be more Knights than steaks. Terrible confusion prevails for some time while each individual heaps up his plate and prepares his coffee for drinking. The rattle of spoons and plates, the smack of lips, the clatter of crockery moving around with astonishing velocity; all these sounds are conglomerated into one common buzz, and above all may be heard the Knights crying out for something to eat. "Pitch me a peice of bread," cries one, and forthwith a slice of bread curves high in the air.— "Pass the sugar in this direction, my boy," cries another, and the bowl slides over the table, threatening death and destruction to all weaker vessels. "Chuck me the pepper box," cries a third, and this article wings and aerial flight, dusting everything in its path, and a general fit of sneezing is the consequence. After all are sure of getting something to eat, comparative quiet is restored. The Knights feel easy and the joke circles round the table. One Knight after vainly endeavoring to swallow a piece of beef which he has been vigorously masticating for some time, exclaims, "Well, that steak must have been cut from the form of a patriarch."— Another consoles him with the information "that the steak is sirloin, cut from behind the horns," and other complimentary remarks, not quite so choice, are heard from different parts of the table. One praises the manner in which the cooks have smoothed up the butter, to give it the appearance of a fresh pound. Another thinks the butter is strong enough to churn itself, but yet not very old, since the flies imbedded in it are not yet decayed. During all this time, however, there is no inactivity—jaws are continually in motion—steaks vanish as soon as they are brought in, and the moment the dish touches the table. Mammoth piles of bread dwindle away, and are renewed, only to disappear, in a manner which has well earned for the clerks the title of the "Vanderkief Breadcraters." When the table is about cleared of everything in the shape of food, the Knights one after another retire, and when the last disappears, a mouse could scarcely make a meal from the remains on the table.

Under General Orders No. 144, a Board is now in session at 212 F street, Washington. Applicants for examination for commissions in colored regiments are referred to the General Order—No. 144—for information how to get authority to appear before it.

Protection for Disabled Soldiers & Seamen.

Claim Agency U. S. Sanitary Commission—Soldiers and Seamen Save your Money—No Charge for Services.

The United States Sanitary Commission, Army and Navy Claim Agency, will obtain Pensions, Bounties, Arrears of Pay, Prize-Money, and all other Military and Naval claims on the Government without charge for services to Claimants.

The United States Sanitary Commission has organized a system of Agencies for the prosecution of Military and Navy claims without charge for services, which it proposes to extend to every prominent point in all the loyal States, with a Central Agency at Washington, D. C., by which all the business with the several Government Departments will be transacted.

This Agency has already commenced its work, having secured the services of DARIUS FORBES, late Examiner-in-Chief in the Pension Bureau, who is thoroughly informed in all the details of such business. His high standing with the Pension Office and with the other Departments of the Government, joined to his energy and industry are such that, united with the facilities secured by the Commission, no other agency can offer equal assurance for a speedy adjustment of all legal claims against the Government.

The plan embraces the establishment of Auxiliary or Sub-Agencies at as many points as the funds of the Commission will warrant, or public liberality will sustain.— The location of these various Agencies will be announced as soon as they are established.

At these Agencies the necessary papers for the prosecution of all legal Claims will be prepared, duly executed, and forwarded to the Central Agency at Washington, to be presented to the proper Departments.

Accompanying this is a list of places at which Agencies are already organized.

Individuals desirous of obtaining blanks or instructions for making out papers for their friends, without charging them for their services, to establish claims on the Government, can obtain them by addressing the General Agent, Washington, D. C., or by applying to any of the Sub-Agencies; but these papers, when executed, must be sent to the nearest Sub-Agency to be forwarded to the General Agency.

All communications relative to the business of the Agency should be addressed to DARIUS FORBES, General Claim Agent for the United States Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C.

The co-operation of all the friends of disabled soldiers and of the dependents of those who have sacrificed their lives in defense of the country, is asked in aid of this enterprise. Let every loyal citizen do what he can to communicate to every Disabled Soldier, Widow, Orphan, Dependent Mother, and Orphan Sister, entitled to the bounty of the Government, the fact that the benevolent of the Loyal States have made provisions for securing their claims without cost to them.

The newspapers throughout the country will do a service to the cause of humanity by calling public attention to this Agency.

By order of the Standing Committee,

J. FOSTER JENKINS,
General Secretary.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 12, 1864.
OFFICE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

Printing Office Rules.

1. Enter softly.
 2. Don't inquire for the news.
 3. Subscribe for the paper and pay in advance.
 4. Read the news for yourself.
 5. Engage in no controversy.
 6. Keep six feet from the table.
 7. Hands off the type.
 8. Don't talk to the compositors.
 9. Eyes off the manuscript and proof sheets.
- By a strict observance of these rules, you will greatly oblige the printer, and need not fear the "Devil."