



# THE CRUTCH.

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## THE CRUTCH,

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For the Crutch,

## Sherman's March to the Sea.

BY LIEUT. S. H. BYERS, 5TH IOWA VOLS.

Our camp fires shone bright on the mountains  
That frowned on the river below,  
While we stood by our guns in the morning,  
And eagerly watched for the foe;  
When a rider came out of the darkness  
That hung over mountain and tree,  
And shouted—'Boys! up and be ready!  
For Sherman will march to the sea!'  
Then cheer upon cheer for bold Sherman,  
Went up from each valley and glen;  
And bugles re-echoed the music  
That came from the lips of the men.  
For we knew that the stars in our banner  
More bright in their splendor should be,  
And the blessings of North-land would greet us,  
When Sherman marched down to the sea!  
Then 'Forward, boys! Forward to the battle!'  
We marched on our wearisome way,  
And we stormed the wild hills of Resaca,—  
God bless those who fell on that day!  
Then Kenesaw,—dark in his glory—  
Frowned down on the flag of the free;  
But the East and the West bore our standards,  
When Sherman marched down to the sea!  
Still onward we pressed, till our banner  
Swept out from Atlanta's grim walls;  
And the blood of the patriots dampened  
The soil where the traitor flag falls.  
But we paused not to weep for the fallen  
That slept by each river and tree,  
Yet we twined them a wreath of the laurel,  
As Sherman marched down to the sea!  
Proud, proud was our army that morning,  
That stood 'neath the cypress and pine,  
When Sherman said—'Boys you are weary—  
This day fair Savannah is thine!'  
Then sang we a song for our chieftain,  
That echoed o'er river and lea,  
And stars in our banner shone brighter,  
When Sherman marched down to the sea!

## The Unknown Guest.

A REMINISCENCE IN THE LIFE OF WASHINGTON.

One pleasant evening in the month of June, in the year 17—, a man was observed entering the borders of the wood, near the Hudson River; his appearance that of a person above the common rank. The inhabitants of a country village would have dignified him with the title of "squire," and from his manners pronounced him proud; but those more accustomed to society, could inform you that there was something like a mili-

tary air about him. His horse panted as if it had been hard pushed for some miles; yet from the owner's frequent stops to caress the patient animal, he could not be charged with want of humanity, but seemed to be actuated by some urgent necessity. The rider, forsaking a good road for a bye-path leading through the woods, indicated a desire to avoid the gaze of other travelers. He had not left the house where he inquired the direction of the above mentioned path, more than two hours, before the quietude of the place was broken by the noise of distant thunder. He was afterwards obliged to dismount, traveling becoming dangerous as darkness concealed surrounding objects, except when the lightning flash afforded him a momentary view of his situation. A peal louder and of longer duration than any of the preceding, which now burst over his head, seeming as if it would rend the woods asunder, was quickly followed by a heavy fall of rain that penetrated the clothes of the stranger ere he could obtain the shelter of a large oak which stood at a little distance.

Almost exhausted with the labors of the day, he was about making such disposition of the saddle and his overcoat, as would enable him to pass the night with what comfort circumstances would admit, when he espied a light glimmering through the trees. Animated with the hope of better lodgings, he determined to proceed. The way, which was steep, became attended with more obstacles the further he advanced, the soil being composed of clay, which the rain had rendered so soft that his feet slipped at every step. By the utmost perseverance, this difficulty was finally overcome without any accident, and he had the pleasure of finding himself in front of a decent looking farm house. The watchdog began barking, which brought the owner of the mansion to the door.

"Who is there?" said he.

"A friend who has lost his way, and in search of a place of shelter," was the answer.

"Come in, sir," added the speaker, "and whatever my house will afford, you shall have with welcome."

"I must provide for the weary companion of my journey," remarked the other.

But the farmer undertook the task, and after conducting the new comer into a room where his wife was seated, he led the horse to a well-stored barn, and there provided for him most bountifully. On rejoining the traveler, he observed, "That is a noble animal of yours, sir."

"Yes," was the reply, "and I am sorry I was obliged to misuse him so as to make it necessary to give you so much trouble with the care of him; but I have to thank you for your kindness to both of us."

"I did no more than my duty, sir," said the entertainer, "and therefore am entitled to no thanks.—But, Susan," added he, turning to the hostess, with a half reproachful look, "why have you not given the gentleman something to eat?"

Fear had prevented the good woman from exercising a well known benevolence; for a robbery had been committed by a lawless band of depredators, but a few weeks before in that neighborhood, and as report stated that the ruffians were all well dressed, her imagination suggested that this man might be one of them.

At her husband's remonstrance, she now readily en-

gaged in repairing her error, by preparing a splendid repast. During the meal there was much interesting conversation among the three. As soon as the worthy countryman perceived that his guest had satisfied his appetite, he informed him that it was now the hour at which the family usually performed their devotions, inviting him at the same time to be present. The invitation was accepted in these words:

"It would afford me the greatest pleasure to commune with my Heavenly Preserver, after the events of this day; such exercises prepare us for the repose which we seek in sleep."

The host now reached the Bible from the shelf, and after reading a chapter and singing, concluded the whole with a fervent prayer; then lighting a pine knot, conducted the person he had entertained to his chamber, wishing him a good night's rest, and retired to an adjoining apartment.

"John," whispered the woman, "that is a good gentleman, and not one of the highwayman as I supposed."

"Yes, Susan," said he, "I like him better for thinking of his God, than all his kind inquires after our welfare. I wish our Peter had been at home from the army, if it was only to hear the good man talk; I am sure Washington himself could not say more for his country, nor give a better history of the hardships endured by our brave soldiers."

"Who knows now," inquired the wife, "but it may be himself, after all, my dear: for they do say he travels just so, all alone, sometimes. Hark! what's that?"

The sound of a voice came from the chamber of their guest, who was now engaged in his private religious worship. After thanking the Creator for his mercies, and asking a blessing on the inhabitants of the house, he continued: "And now Almighty Father, if it be thy holy will, that we shall obtain a place and a name among the nations of the earth, grant that we may be enabled to show our gratitude for thy goodness, by our endeavors to fear and obey thee. Bless us with wisdom in our council, success in battle, and let our victories be tempered with humanity. Endow, also, our enemies with enlightened minds, that they may become sensible of their injustice, and willing to restore liberty and peace. Grant the petition of thy servant, for the sake of Him thou hast called thy beloved Son; nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done. Amen."

The next morning the traveler declining the pressing solicitations to breakfast with his host, declared it was necessary for him to cross the river immediately; at the same time offering part of his purse as a compensation for what he had received, which was refused.

"Well, sir," continued he, "since you will not permit me to recompense you for your trouble, it is just that I should inform you to whom you have conferred so many obligations, and also add to them by requesting your assistance in crossing the river. I had been out yesterday, endeavoring to obtain some information respecting our enemy, and being alone, ventured too far from the camp. On my return, I was surprised by a foraging party, and only escaped by my knowledge of the roads, and the fleetness of my horse. My name is George Washington."

Surprise kept the listener silent for a moment; then