The Charge on Battery Robinet

Cyrus C. Carpenter
excellent business; for, differing from many others of more show, he grasped the main question and took no time with non-essentials.

Iowa has had few men taken in all the relations of life—the home circle, church, at the bar, his connection with state institutions, filling as he did so many positions and the very highest; and indeed in all his life-work—of whom the State, his friends or his family (the latter among the best and most honored in Iowa or elsewhere) should be more justly proud. When the work of frescoing the ceiling of the magnificent Hall of Representatives in our new capitol was in progress, it was deemed most appropriate to include among the portraits of State and National worthies that of one of our Iowa jurists. When this was suggested no other name was mentioned except that of Caleb Baldwin. Notwithstanding this portrait was copied from another, it is a very correct likeness of the man to whose precious memory it most appropriately stands as an imperishable monument.

THE CHARGE ON BATTERY ROBINET.

BY EX-GOVERNOR CYRUS C. CARPENTER.

(Concluded from July number.)

It is perhaps fitting in this connection that I should give a summary of the casualties and of deeds which received special mention, in the Iowa regiments engaged in the battle of Corinth. The 10th Regiment belonged to the Second Brigade, Third Division of the Army of the Mississippi. It was commanded by Major Nathaniel McCalla. In his report, Captain N. A. Holson, acting Lieutenant Colonel, and Captain Jackson Orr, acting Major, and the Adjutant, William Manning, were specially mentioned for coolness and courage. Ninety-six enlisted men and one officer were wounded and three enlisted men were killed. The 17th Regiment was conspicuous, especially during the second day's battle; charg-
ing upon the left of the enemy's lines and capturing prisoners and a battle flag. Lieutenant Garrett of Company A, and Lieutenant Morris of Company F, were severely wounded. Sixteen enlisted men were wounded and one killed.

The 2d Iowa Infantry, which belonged to the First Brigade, Second Division, Army of West Tennessee, suffered severely, especially in its officers. Major James B. Weaver, who was in command at the close of the battle, reported: Killed on the first day, three officers, Lieutenants John G. Huntington of Company B, Thomas Snowden of Company I, and Alfred Bing of Company C; enlisted men, Corporal Wesley H. Henderson; privates, John W. Dunn, Marion French and James C. Manswell; wounded, Colonel Baker, mortally, and Second Lieutenant V. P. Twombly, severely; enlisted men, 31, and two missing. In the engagement of the second day, Second Lieutenant George W. Neal of Company H and Corporals Henry A. Seiberleicht, A. Stevenson and Jacob M. Males, and privates John W. King, John A. K. Klough, W. W. K. Harper, W. M. Summers, Charles E. Walker, John W. Dows and Franklin Prouty were killed. Wounded, Lieutenant Colonel Noah W. Mills, mortally; Captain N. B. Howard, Company I, First Lieutenant C. C. Parker, Company F, severely; Second Lieutenant George Blake, Company K, dangerously; Second Lieutenant Frank M. Suiter, Company B, severely, and 44 enlisted men. This makes the aggregate of killed, wounded and missing during both days' engagements—killed, commissioned officers, four; enlisted men thirteen; wounded, commissioned officers seven (two mortally); enlisted men, seventy-five; missing, five; constituting a loss of one hundred and eight.

Major Weaver says: "In this protracted and desperate engagement, in many respects the most desperate of the war, the officers and men displayed the most laudable gallantry and heroism. Colonel Baker fell mortally wounded on the first day, at the very time his regiment was charging upon the retreating rebels with the greatest enthusiasm and fury. He remarked as he was being borne off the field: "Thank God! when I fell my regiment was victoriously charging." Lieu-
tenant Colonel Mills was wounded in the second day's engagement, while fighting with the most conspicuous courage and coolness. He was loath to leave the field. Better and truer officers never fought. He says: "Lieutenants Huntington, Bing, Snowden and Neal fell at their posts fighting like heroes." Speaking of Adjutant George L. Godfrey, he says: "He could be seen riding along the lines, and heard shouting to the men to be steady and cool." Of Captains Cowles, McCullough, Mastick, Howard, Ensign and Davis he says: "They were marked instances of bravery and efficiency upon the field." Conspicuous for bravery were: Lieutenants Parker, Duffield, Marsh, Wilson, Tisdale, Suiter; Hall, Blake, Duckworth, Bullinger, Twombly and McCoid." He continues: "After Lieutenants Parker and Twombly of Company F were wounded Sergeant James Terry took charge of the company and displayed marked efficiency and courage. So after the fall of Lieutenants Huntington and Suiter, of Company B, Sergeant Lewis took charge of the company and rendered most satisfactory service." He also speaks in high praise of Assistant Surgeon Elliott Pyle and the Quartermaster, Lieutenant John Lynde; and then says: "Sergeant Major Campbell distinguished himself throughout the battle for coolness and bravery. Color Sergeant Harvey Doolittle while supporting the colors was again wounded and Color Corporals Henry A. Seiberleicht, G. C. Phillips, G. B. Norris, J. C. Wise and John Stewart were all wounded while supporting the old flag."

The 7th Regiment Iowa Infantry was commanded during the two days' engagement by Colonel Elliott W. Rice; and formed a part of the first Brigade, Second Division, Army of West Tennessee. Its loss was 122 in the two days' battle. One officer and twenty enlisted men were killed; and seven officers and eighty enlisted men were wounded. One officer and thirteen enlisted men were missing. Colonel Rice speaks of Lieutenant Colonel Parrott with unstinted praise; and mentions other individuals as follows: Of Major McMullen he says: "He did efficient service until he was wounded and disabled on the evening of the 3d." "Captain Coun though wounded remained
with his command through both days' battle." "Captains Hedges and Mahon, left in camp sick, left their beds and came on the battle-field on Saturday, and did efficient service. Their companies were well commanded Friday by Lieutenants Dillin and Sergent." "Lieutenant Gale displayed great gallantry, and was very severely wounded in the battle of the 4th, after which the company was bravely led by Lieutenant Morrison. Captains Irvin and Reiniger also performed their duties nobly. I must also mention Lieutenants Hope, Longbridge, Irwin, McCormick, Bennett and Bess." "Captain Benton K. Smith, who was killed in the last hour of the battle of the 4th, was one of the most promising young officers of the service. Color Sergeant Aleck Field was wounded in the battle of the 3d; afterwards the colors were borne by William Akers of Company G, who was also wounded. They were then carried by George Craig of Company B. All the color guard with the exception of one being either killed or wounded, Sergeant Major Cameron, severely wounded, must not escape favorable mention for his bravery and valuable duties upon the field." And of Surgeon Lake he says: "He and his assistant labored day and night to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded."

The Union Brigade was composed of detachments of the 8th, 12th and 14th Iowa Infantry, and was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John P. Coulter of the 12th Iowa Infantry. In the two days' battle it constituted a part of the First Brigade, Second Division, Army of West Tennessee. In the engagement the 8th lost in killed one officer and two enlisted men; wounded, two officers and thirty-two enlisted men, and missing, seven enlisted men; making a total loss of thirty-seven. The 12th lost in killed, four enlisted men; wounded, five officers and twenty-three enlisted men; missing, seven enlisted men. Total loss, thirty-nine. The 14th lost in wounded eleven enlisted men and three missing, total fourteen. Colonel Coulter says in speaking of the first day's battle: "The day was one of the hottest of the season; many of the men were completely exhausted." "We lost this day Lieutenant Tichenor, a meritorious young officer of the 8th Iowa, who was
killed, and Lieutenant Palmer of the 12th, shot through the chest and left for dead on the field. He is, however, likely to recover.”

The Third Brigade, Sixth Division of the Army of West Tennessee (called the Iowa Brigade), was composed of the 11th, 13th, 15th and 16th Regiments Iowa Infantry; commanded by Colonel Marcellus M. Crocker. In these regiments the following casualties occurred. In the 11th one enlisted man was killed; two officers wounded and eight enlisted men, and ten enlisted men were missing. Total loss, twenty-one. In the 13th Iowa one enlisted man was killed, one officer and thirteen enlisted men were wounded, making a total loss of fifteen. In the 15th Iowa three officers were killed and eight enlisted men. Three officers were wounded and sixty-four enlisted men. Eight enlisted men were missing, making a total loss of eighty-six. In the 16th Iowa one enlisted man was killed, two officers and eighteen enlisted men were wounded, and six enlisted men were missing, making a total loss of twenty-seven.

Colonel Crocker, in his report, speaks of the following individual instances of signal bravery. He says: “I deem it my especial duty to particularly mention Lieutenant-Colonel Belknap, who commanded the 15th Regiment. This regiment was under the hottest fire, and Colonel Belknap was everywhere along the line, mounted, with sword in hand, encouraging by voice and gesture his men to stand their ground.”

“Lieutenant-Colonel Addison H. Sanders, who commanded the 16th, is entitled to great praise. He rode along the line of his regiment amid the storm of bullets, encouraging his brave boys who had so lately suffered at Iuka to remember their duty, and although severely wounded, remained with his regiment until it marched off the field.”

“Majors Cunningham of the 15th and Purcell of the 16th did their whole duty and conducted themselves with great bravery. Two companies of the 13th Iowa, Company A, in command of Captain Kennedy, and Company G, in command of Captain Walker, had before the engagement commenced been deployed as skirmishers. The advance of
the enemy drove them in. They were ordered to form on the left of the 15th Iowa. They formed in order, fighting like veterans, retiring under their brave commanders without confusion, when ordered to do so.”

The 15th Iowa was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel William W. Belknap (Colonel Reid being sick and unable to command the first day of the battle), who says in his report: “The three officers killed (First Lieutenant Eldridge of Company K, and Second Lieutenants Kinsman of Company C and Cathcart of Company G) were among the best in the service. Though young—dauntless in fight and devoted to duty—their loss can hardly be overcome. Personally witnessing their conduct on the field, I can truly say they did their duty well; none could have done it better.” He further says: “The officers whose gallant conduct came under my official observation were Major Cunningham and Adjutant Pomutz; Captain Kittle and Lieutenant Whitenack, of Company A; Lieutenant Wilkins of Company B; Captain Seevers of Company C; Captain Madison and Lieutenant Throckmorton of Company F; Captain Hanks of Company G and Lieutenants Miller and King of Company I. Others doubtless did as well, but those referred to were noticed by myself. Major Cunningham throughout the contest rallied the men and cheered on the regiment, and, though quite severely wounded, remained with the regiment to the close.”

“Of the staff officers Assistant Surgeon Gibbon and Quartermaster Higley, and of non-commissioned staff, Sergeant-Major Brown, who was wounded, and Commissary Sergeant Elliott, have my thanks for services promptly rendered in their departments. Color Corporal Black of Company E had charge of the colors, and commanded applause by his great gallantry. Clinging to the standard, he only gave it up when severely wounded, at which time Color Corporal Wells of Company I took the flag as it was falling and bore it bravely through the remainder of the fight.”

“During the action of the 4th (or second day) the regiment, under command of Colonel Reid, was placed in position to
support the fort from which the artillery of Captain Phillips was served with such terrible effect, and while there had two men wounded.

The 16th Regiment at the close of the battle was under the command of Major Wm. Purcell. In his report, after describing the movements of the regiment at the beginning of the engagement, and subsequent change of front in consequence of the maneuvers of the enemy, he says: "During the fight this day Lieutenant Colonel Sanders was severely wounded in the thigh and had his horse shot in several places, but retained command until the regiment was ordered to the inner line of fortifications, when he retired to have his wounds dressed, and the command devolved upon me." He says of the entire regiment: "Permit me to say while at this point that the officers and men are entitled to great credit, and their superior officers and their State may well be proud of them. They did their whole duty in the engagement of Friday. They displayed great courage in reforming the regiment in the presence of the enemy and seemed willing to engage them again. I noticed with pleasure the courage and bravery displayed by the Color Sergeant, Samuel Duffin, Company F. He stood waving the colors and encouraging the men both by actions and words. He was the last to leave the field, and bore the colors away with him while missiles of death flew thick and fast around him. The Color Corporals, McElhany of Company E, H. B. Eighnoy of Company H, and J. Kuhn of Company C, also deserve mention for their gallant conduct.

It had not been my purpose in preparing this article to go into their details respecting the meritorious conduct and the losses of Iowa regiments in the battle. But as I began to review these events to refresh my mind for its preparation, it occurred to me that a simple recital of how officers, wounded and bleeding, remained on the field with their boys during these two memorable days; and of how the brave boys who bore the colors, torn and bleeding with wounds, stood at their posts waving the flag and shouting their comrades to the contest; and how when one fell another was ready to snatch up
this dangerous mark for rebel bullets and bear it forward nearer the enemy—would recall to the grasping, money-getting, bloodless ingrates of this generation the spirit of heroic consecration that animated the country in those days of patriotic fervor. The contrast will also in some measure illustrate the supreme littleness and meanness of men who took no part in the contest, who are now higling about the pension list with the hope of reversing the policy so solemnly enjoined by Lincoln in his last inaugural address: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans."

THE MUSQUAKIES.—The census of the Musquakie Indians in Tama county was taken the other day. There were 389 persons living, a decrease of four during the year. There were twenty deaths and sixteen births during the year. Males 195, females 194. Two Indians have crossed the 100-year line—one being 112 years of age and the other an even 100, according to the best obtainable authority. The Musquakies were never a great tribe, but in aboriginal days they were greater as a nation than they are now. The occasional brawls in which individual members of the tribe became embroiled with one another and with white men were most invariably to be traced to the fire water supplied by the latter. The women and occasionally the men are seen here once in a while selling some articles of native handiwork. They are slowly and steadily growing less in number.—Cedar Rapids Republican.

DUBUQUE'S GRAVE.—There was no mausoleum or even a slab of marble there. A stone wall, enclosing a space about six feet long and three wide, two feet high, and covered by a light roof, contains his bones. . . . At the head of the grave stands a cross of red cedar, about ten feet high, on the arms of which are inscribed his name, the time of his death, and age. The following is the inscription: "Julien Du Buque, Mineur de la Mine Espagne, mourait le 24 mars, 1810: age de 45 1/2: annees."—Cor. Dubuque Visitor, August 10, 1836.