

THE DEMOCRAT

TON, KY., SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1884.

The Invincibles.

A few evenings since, our mind being in a meditative mood, something in our surroundings impressed us more forcibly than usual with the fact that in this world "change is written on all things," and traveling back into the past, we halted in the ante bellum days, or rather, at about the period when 75,000 Northern troops were marching "on to Richmond" with more than the ordinary "pomp and circumstance" of war. Government officials, Congressmen, private citizens, and ladies, on horseback and in carriages, followed the troops in the gala march against the despised Southrons. The story is familiar to all. How Beauregard and Johnston spoiled the picnic, and inaugurated the extraordinary Bull Run races, in which the watch cry was, "Every fellow for himself and the devil take the hindmost." The martial spirit pervaded the whole land, but, as yet, few realized what war meant, and probably none even imagined how dreadfully horrible this civil war would be. The sound of the drum and the inspiring notes of the fife; the showy uniforms, the shining guns and gleaming sabres, charmed the youths, both North and South, and they heedlessly, thoughtlessly hurried to the muster grounds, having possibly a vague idea of danger, but mainly impressed with the idea that the war would be of short duration, and that they must hurry and enlist if they would have their share of the frolic and fun. They had not yet looked upon the picture of a land drenched in blood and tears. They had not yet heard the shrieks of the wounded, dying in their terrible agony; nor yet witnessed the fixed, stony stare of the countless dead.

At about this time the young men, patricians and plebeians, of Hunters Bottom, and vicinity, and numbering about fifty, organized themselves into a company, and became a part of the Kentucky State Guard, then under command of that excellent soldier, Gen. S. B. Buckner. They called themselves the Invincibles. Our memory being refreshed in some instances, by Mr. Harvey Conway, who with his brothers, George and Clinton, was a private soldier boy in this invincible company, we write these reminiscences, thinking they will be of interest to the survivors and their friends. The roster of commissioned officers was as follows: W. J. Hoagland, captain; Wm. H. Bradley, first Lieut.; Henry Spillman, second Lieut. and Jarrett Banks third Lieut. The names of the non-commissioned officers we cannot call to mind. We remember however, that H. S. Wright was elected Orderly Sergeant, but declined to serve. Wm. Taylor, now living at Prestonville beat the bass drum; Fred Springer, now dead, we believe, rattled the snare drum, and Tom Taylor, now living near Pryor Hill, was the good natured fifer. The boys wore a gray uniform, and were armed with remodeled old muskets, called Kentucky rifles. The Invincibles usually drilled on Saturday afternoons, in what was called the Blue Grass Pasture, on the farm of Okey Hoagland. These drills were interesting affairs, and as they all occurred during the summer months, they partook very much of the nature of a picnic. Fair women came to see the brave boys march; their approving smiles and waving handkerchiefs encouraged the boys to "do or die." Those were enthusiastic days. Eloquence and song mingled with the strains of martial music, which were wont to cheer the "tramp, tramp of the boys a-marching."

One incident, especially, we shall never forget. The company and an immense audience of ladies and gentlemen, on a bright Saturday afternoon assembled on the "green" near a spreading beech tree to witness the ceremonies of the presentation to the company of a magnificent silken flag. The star spangled banner was of unusually large proportions, cost probably fifty dollars and was wrought by the hands of the fair ladies of Hunters Bottom, by whom it was presented to this heroic, and invincible soldier band. Miss Alma Britton, on the part of the ladies, in a neat little speech, presented the flag to the boys, who deputized Lieutenant Henry Spillman to receive it from the fair hands of the lady, and to deliver a fitting responsive oration. This he did somewhat dramatically. Taking the flag, and twirling some of its folds about him, he eloquently and impressively assured the ladies that no vandal hand should ever be permitted to desecrate that beautiful flag, and invoked all sorts of anathemas upon the head of him who should ever suffer its resplendent folds to trail in the dust. Alas! poor flag! We know nothing ultimate fate. But we do know that when Kentucky's neutrality was ignored, and the State called upon the boys to "on Stanley on," as it were, and repel the invader, they disbanded, in August or September, of the same year in which they were organized, and the flag was folded up tenderly, and carefully, and ignominiously laid away until Col. Gray, of the Federal army, came along and captured it, in a bloodless victory, without the firing of a gun. We can trace the flag no farther, and know not how often it may ingloriously have "trailed in the dust." Southern plains were now the scenes of a mighty conflict; an additional 400,000 men had been called out to put down the rebellion, and war in all its horrible reality, had taken the place of the theatrical pomp and holiday soldiering. Of the Invincibles, eight went into the Federal army and sixteen mounted their chargers, and road down south, "In Dixie's land to take their stand." Of those

who went to the war we believe the plebeian element predominated. Lieutenant Wm. H. Bradley, now living near here was the only one of the "invincible" officers, who went into the army. He was one of those who went south, and did honorable service in the Confederate army. Capt. M. J. Hoagland died a few years ago at his home in Hunters Bottom, and Lieutenant Henry Spillman is in the commission business in Cincinnati, his wife being the same lady from whose hands he received the flag as detailed above. Lieutenant Banks we believe is living in Missouri. Wm. Taylor went south, he being the only one of the musicians who went into the army. Of the private soldiers probably more, or an one half are dead. Our space will not permit us to follow them in detail. Of those who went into the army some were killed, others returned, of whom some have died since the war, others are living at their old homes, while not a few are scattered in other states. The same may be said of the majority, who stayed at home. The appellation of Invincibles was no misnomer. Throughout that awful conflict, the Invincibles, though sometimes invisible, were absolutely uncooperable. They were never defeated and never surrendered. They invincibly held their position, statu quo. DALLAS.

The following are the most important general bills passed during the recent session of the Legislature. Repealing that portion of the Civil Code which provided for an Assignment of Errors; amending the Common School Law; amending the Exemption Laws, funding the State debt, increasing its rate of taxation 5 cents on the \$100; establishing a branch penitentiary; equalizing assessment of property; requiring the County Attorney to assist the Commonwealth's Attorney in prosecutions before the Circuit Court; to prevent the sale of liquor without license; doubling the tax on retail liquor dealers and fixing on druggists who sell liquors for other than medicinal purposes; requiring distillers to report property for county taxes as they do for State taxes; the appropriation for the Louisville Exposition; creating superintendents of mines; regulating carriage of explosives; exempting railroads hereafter built from taxation for five years from the time work is commenced; and establishing the Agricultural Bureau.

Henry Loeb: Mr. W. W. Masterson, after taking a course in law at the Cincinnati Law School, returned home last Friday—Mr. H. K. Bourne, son of Jeff Bourne, who graduates at Center College, Danville, in June, has received the highest honor by being awarded the valedictory over eighteen members of his class. Mr. Bourne entered college four years ago.

Colonel H. L. Stone made a sensational speech at Mt. Sterling Monday, in which he denounced the attack on the late Judge Reid, and spoke unsparingly of the men who hounded him to his death. He accused Judge Robert Riddle, who is a candidate for Judge of the Court of Appeals, of attempting to defeat Judge Reid in his own county, and predicted his defeat either in the nominating convention or at the polls.

Henry Hays, a noted desperado, was found dead near Owensboro, Wednesday, with his neck broken and four bullet holes through his head and two through his body.

NOTICE.

We would like to get possession of some of the papers that were published in Carrollton before the "Democrat" was started. Persons having such papers will confer a great favor by sending them to us. The older the paper the better. We would pay liberally for all the numbers of the Eagle, Family Mirror, Carroll Courier, and Signs of the Times or for a complete file of either of those papers. We want them for the reason that they contain much information which will be a valuable material for use in writing a history of Carroll county—a work which we expect to enter upon some time in the future.

Court Directory.

CARROLL CIRCUIT COURT.
Begins first Mondays in March and September.
Officers:
Patrick U. Major, Judge
A. G. DeJarnette, Commonwealth's Atty
W. O. Gallion, Clerk
W. M. Fisher, Master Commissioner
W. O. Butler, Trustee Jury Fund

QUARTERLY COURT.
Is held the Fourth Mondays in January, April, July and October. J. A. Donaldson, Judge and ex-officio Clerk.

CARROLL COUNTY COURT.
Third Monday of every month. County officers:
J. A. Donaldson, Judge
John S. Gavett, County Attorney
E. A. Gallion, School Commissioner
R. F. Harrison, Clerk
P. M. Bridges, Sheriff
J. M. Giltner, Treasurer
Frank News, Assessor
M. M. Smith, Surveyor
J. L. Lepp, Jailor
A. F. Kipping, Coroner

MAGISTRATE'S COURTS.
Are held only in the months of March, June, September and December, as follows:
Carrollton District—W. A. Fishback, 2d Mondays; Wm. Cochran, 3rd Mondays. E. H. Smith, Constable.
Grant District—Ed J. Tandy, 1st Saturdays; J. W. Hoggett, 4th Saturdays. Walton O'Neal, Constable.
Locust District—Lewis Wright, 1st Fridays; B. G. Hoagland, 2d Fridays. D. P. Brown, Constable.
Mill Creek District—Ben T. Robinson, 2d Thursdays; G. V. May, 4th Thursdays. Ben Hartman, Constable.
Workville District—Geo. R. Dean, 2d Fridays; Amos, 4th Saturdays; J. E. Hunt, Constable.
Jordan District—O. F. Searcy, 2d Saturdays.
Frank Bassford, Liberty Station, 3d Saturdays. J. B. Gardner, Constable.

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