

State of New York,

No. 56.

IN ASSEMBLY,

January 29, 1864.

COMMUNICATION

FROM THE GOVERNOR, TRANSMITTING THE FIRST ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF MILITARY
STATISTICS.

STATE OF NEW YORK:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
ALBANY, *January 29th*, 1864. }

To the Assembly:

I transmit herewith the First Annual Report of the Chief
of the Bureau of Military Statistics.

HORATIO SEYMOUR.

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REPORT.

STATE OF NEW YORK:
BUREAU OF MILITARY STATISTICS, }
ALBANY, *January 26, 1864.* }

SIR: The act of April last, "in relation to the Bureau of Military Statistics," requires that an abstract of the statistics collected by this Bureau shall accompany your report.

The continuance of the war renders it impossible to furnish full abstracts, as the materials are necessarily incomplete. I can, therefore, give only a summary, for which you are referred to the appendix to this report. I also deem it proper to briefly present the objects of the Bureau, with the hope that they may meet with more attention from the army and the public.

The specific duties imposed by the act are:

First. To collect and preserve in permanent form an authentic sketch of every person from this State who has volunteered into the service of the General Government since April 15, 1861.

Second. A record of the services of the several regiments, including an account of their organization and subsequent history.

Third. An account of the aid afforded by the several towns and counties of the State.

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To these objects the chief attention of the Bureau is directed; but, incidentally, every fact relating to the rebellion, and especially to the part which New York has taken in the war, whether now recorded or printed, or still existing only in memory, is sought for. No event connected with this epoch is insignificant; hence no fact should be omitted, for each has its value in modifying or coloring every other, and, collectively, they would be infinitely valuable for official uses, and to the historian surely they will not be less useful. As it has been well said, the record should not omit the battles, the sieges, the seditions, but with these should be interspersed the details, which are the charm of history. "At Lincoln cathedral there is a most beautiful painted window, which was made by an apprentice out of the pieces of glass which had been rejected by his master. Thus a great author has often used with marked effect those fragments of truth which others have scornfully thrown behind them." In preserving the leading facts, minor matters need certainly not be lost; and thus without appreciable expense, if the thousands who can aid in reclaiming and recording will assist in the good work which this enlightened State has projected, the collections of this Bureau can be enriched in all that concerns the military, the material, the moral, and the religious interests of this remarkable period. Much that is of value is already obtained, and more has been promised, but the aid of all is requisite to produce a complete collection.

On the passage of the Act, blanks for obtaining the required facts were prepared and widely distributed, but active operations in the field had already begun, and the War Department did not deem it proper to allow agents to visit the armies for statistics. Facilities were sought

agents for the care of sick and wounded soldiers, appointed by the Governor at New York, Baltimore and Washington, have interested themselves. All postmasters in the State have been addressed, and invited to place conspicuously in their offices the card issued by the Bureau, briefly presenting its objects, and announcing that blanks for personal facts would be found in every post-office. Medical officers in charge of the United States military hospitals were likewise applied to for their records of New York soldiers. The principals of male academies, and other educational institutions, were asked for lists, as well as for the record, civil and military, of volunteers who were at any time connected with those establishments; and boards of supervisors have also been personally visited or addressed, inviting their co-operation. It is gratifying to say that, in a multitude of cases, these various requests have been cordially responded to, and it is believed they generally meet with favor. The clergy throughout the State are being solicited for sketches of those belonging to their churches who have volunteered, and also for accounts of church action in behalf of soldiers, their families, and aid for hospitals. The foremen of fire companies are likewise asked for similar information. Public-spirited individuals, in different parts of the State, are also aiding in the work of collecting personal and other statistics. Friends of officers and of soldiers, so far as their post-office address could be obtained, have been solicited, and are engaged in preparing biographies, and in writing out the history of regiments and other organizations. No little pains have been taken to secure the earliest sketches of deceased officers and soldiers.

The clerks of the Bureau have made short visits to nearly half the counties of the State for statistics, and

for the purpose of engaging the attention of prominent citizens to the objects of the Act. The small sum that could be spared for traveling expenses precluded an extended canvass, but the advantages of a personal visit to all parts of the State have thus been shown.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The State furnished 292,982 men between April 15, 1861, and December 31, 1863. Of this number 230,442 were mustered for three years; 30,131 for two years; 2,516 for nine months; 29,893 for three months. Reduced to a common term, the State has furnished the equivalent of 253,649 three years men. This ratio applied to the loyal States should produce an army of 1,439,500, or one soldier for every thirteen persons in the loyal States. The Bureau will soon be able to give the number furnished by each town, and the companies and regiments to which they were assigned.

The appropriations made by Boards of Supervisors and by Common Councils of cities for bounties, support of soldiers' families, &c., and by the Legislature for raising men, care of sick and wounded soldiers, and other objects incident to the war, are given below. Returns from towns are still too incomplete to be included in this exhibit.

1. By Boards of Supervisors,* exclusive of action by towns :

In 1861	\$362,700 00
In 1862	2,967,871 96
In 1863	11,033,291 95
Total	\$14,363,863 91*

* The Boards of Supervisors for ten counties made no appropriations, bounties being paid by towns entirely. In several counties bounties were paid by towns in addition to that by the county.

2. By Common Councils :

In 1861	\$2,307,248 33
In 1862	1,824,032 12
In 1863	2,579,668 50
Total	<u>—————</u> <u>—————</u> \$6,710,948 95

3. By the Legislature :

In 1861	\$3,505,048 00
In 1862	1,216,351 00
In 1863	8,841,098 00
	<u>—————</u> 13,562,497 00

Total appropriated..... ————— ————— ————— \$34,637,309 86

Paid by counties and cities to Dec. 31, 1863.....	13,795,247 27
Paid by State Treasurer to Sept. 30, 1863.....	9,932,276 31

Total paid

————— ————— ————— \$23,727,523 58

Town reports to July 1, 1863, and supplemental returns to the first of January instant, are coming in. Those to July 1, are tabulated. They represent a few villages and rural districts, and number 205 towns, with a population of 446,815, and afford the following, among other facts :

Amount of money raised by tax to promote enlistments,	\$679,019 14
Amount by individual subscriptions,	339,094 57
Amount of aid furnished by churches, schools, and individuals, for families of volunteers,	56,056 22
By churches, schools and academies, for soldiers in hospital or in service,	6,290 04
Aid sent to hospitals, to sanitary commission, &c., by associated effort,	101,736 94
Total,	<u>—————</u> <u>—————</u> <u>—————</u> \$1,182,196 91

These amounts, especially for bounties, have been largely increased since July 1.

The statistics uniformly show that the people have not become weary in giving for the war. Appropriations are augmented and donations continue unintermitted. Each town is a little world, busy with its part of the labor, providing for its soldiers' families and its share of hospital

supplies. The prosperity of our material interests and the patriotic pride of localities, provide the way, and the will is not wanting to meet the obligations of the period. Coercion seems no where necessary, for all is in advance of requirements of law. But little difficulty has resulted from scarcity of labor, machinery, in a great measure, supplying its place. The aggregate productions of the State have been largely enhanced; the usual staples increased in amount, and new ones added, and the markets have been high and active. Pauperism has diminished, crime decreased and the business of courts lessened.

The courtesy of District Provost Marshals has placed the Bureau in possession of details of the enrolment and draft ordered by the President. The statistics by districts appear in the appendix. The more general facts are as follows: Whole number of persons enrolled of the first class, 427,469; of the second class, 199,485;* number examined about, 78,000; number exempted for physical disability and other causes, about 53,150; number that passed the medical examination, 23,249; number that entered the service personally and by substitute, about 9,176; number that paid commutation, about 14,100.

The Assessors of internal revenue (with the exception of the 32d Dist.,) have furnished the material for the following summary of taxation under the United States laws, viz:

Income tax, one year, in 31 Districts,	\$4,665,610	30
Internal revenue, including income tax, viz:		
12 Districts, one year,	6,370,679	11
19 Districts, fifteen months,	11,685,764	85
 Total	 \$18,056,443	 96

The public correspondence of the Governor, by telegraph and mail, commencing in 1860, relating to preparations for

* Excepting the Second district.

public defence and military affairs generally, orders, proclamations, messages and formal actions of State authorities, boards and commissions, so far as accessible, are being arranged in the order of their dates, with such brief and valuable explanations, obtained from the living actors, as are often requisite to their clear understanding. This collection will have an index, and be deposited in the Bureau under the title of "The Executive Record."

Files of the daily and weekly newspapers of this State and leading journals published elsewhere, have been collected with care. The value of these chronicles of current events, these records of all shades of public sentiment, for official uses and as sources of history, is beyond estimate. The Bureau already possesses a large number of files, many of them running back to January, 1861, including papers of nearly every county, of several of the States and Territories, military and illustrated papers, and also journals devoted to specialties. They are equally divided, politically. Many of the files were obtained at a nominal cost, at reading rooms and editorial offices, others have been donated by publishers, who have placed the Bureau on their free lists. The names of these publishers are given in the list of patrons.

Messages, documents, orders, circulars and other printed matter relating to military affairs, published by Congress and by the several State governments, since 1860, are being collected. Through the courtesy of members of Congress and State officials, these efforts will be successful.

General orders, issued by Union commanders of the several military departments, have been obtained. So cordially have these officers responded to my request that they have supplied back numbers, and in several instances have furnished manuscript copies, the printed

editions being exhausted. The value of these important documents is fully appreciated by you.

Collections of proceedings of Boards of Supervisors and of Common Councils are being made, and will be indexed, so far as their contents relate to national affairs.

The formal action of religious bodies, having reference to the present crisis of the country, has been carefully sought for, and with considerable success. In addition to printed proceedings, a volume of manuscript and newspaper reports of denominational meetings is in course of perfection. Sermons of the period, and accounts of the organized aid afforded by churches, are being collected.

Sixty-six flags and guidons have been deposited with the Bureau. Six of these are rebel trophies, and fifty-six are Union flags, representing thirty-one different organizations of this State. So tattered and wasted are some that they could no longer be used to lead the way of duty and danger; their record, fraught with intense interest, stirs the patriotism, and their sight quickens the blood of the most thoughtless. They are precious now—who will estimate their value in the future? The officers of several returned regiments have engaged to place their flags in the Bureau. In some instances, they are retained only for recruiting purposes, in others a natural reluctance to part with these cherished mementos has not yet been overcome; but, sooner or later, it is believed, that most of the flags carried by our regiments will find their way into our collection. A public presentation to the Legislature is expected to take place during the present session of the flags received since April last. It is much to be desired that suitable means be granted for the careful preservation and display of the flags now and hereafter placed in the keeping of the Bureau.

The liberality of publishers has put the Bureau in possession of sheet music of a patriotic or military character, to the extent of two or three volumes. Several hundred patriotic ballads have also been procured at a trifling cost.

Posters and hand-bills, with their varied devices and staring capitals, and military placards used by recruiting agents and others, are being collected. They briefly present the special advantages claimed for the several regiments, and show the amount of bounties paid at different periods. Many of them already possess no little interest. Several hundred have been obtained.

Multitudes of local and special publications, mostly of limited editions, have appeared. They embrace diaries and personal narratives connected with the times, biographies, public addresses, sermons, opinions and arguments on the great variety of topics presented by the civil war. Many have been secured, and a collection, as perfect as the nature of the case will admit, is contemplated.

Scrap-books have been begun for each volunteer regiment and each county, and will be filled from cuttings of newspapers not kept for files. A volume of a thousand pages, devoted to the draft and riot in New York city, has been prepared in this manner. Suitable space has been left for correcting errors in date, names, and other statements occurring in the printed page. A copious index will form a part of each.

Relics of the war in great variety are being collected. The first of these was the gun with which the rebel Jackson shot Colonel Ellsworth, which was presented by Lieutenant Brownell, who so promptly avenged his commander's death. Other guns, captured from the enemy, swords, cutlasses, knives, and various military trappings, have been deposited.

From Capt. E. C. Boynton, of the West Point Military

Academy, an interesting collection of shot and shell has been received, and from Mr. R. P. Parrott, of the West Point Foundry at Cold Spring, samples of the several projectiles used in the Parrott guns. Additional contributions have been promised from the Watervliet Arsenal, and other sources. Samples of primers, fuses, powder, fixed ammunition, and rebel trophies have been deposited. From different points in the field other specimens are promised.

Dr. Tripler, late medical director of the army of the Potomac, has generously presented photographic copies of several of the valuable maps ordered and used by General McClellan on the Peninsula. In all, over fifty war maps have been contributed.

Mr. M. Knœdler, the publisher, has presented two fine engravings of loyal prisoners at Richmond, and at Salisbury, N. C. Several elegant photographs have also been furnished, and photographs of barracks and of recruiting depots have been collected.

It is understood that the colonels of Pennsylvania regiments make duplicate reports to the Adjutant General of that State of all services performed by them. I would respectfully request you to take such action as will obtain a similar privilege for the commandants of New York regiments. These reports would possess great practical value.

A partial examination of the places of nativity of western soldiers has been made, and it is gratifying to say that New York is the birthplace of many of them. The military reports of Iowa, to December, 1862, give the names of 48,814 volunteers. Of these 5,647, or more than eleven per cent., are New York men by birth. This proportion will hold, it is believed, throughout the west.

The collections of the Bureau are being availed of for official uses, and their value for this purpose is continually

increasing. Persons who have applied, have had their questions answered from the Bureau in respect to volunteers, when they failed of answer at Washington and elsewhere. Our records may be made so complete as to give information about every man that has volunteered from this State.

It would be a matter of great convenience to this Bureau if muster rolls were required to contain the places of residence of volunteers at the time of their enlistment, and the advantages of this addition to other departments of the State service, as well as to localities in obtaining proper credits on their quotas, are obvious.

It is certain that the war will entail a great amount of legislation; hence it is desirable to preserve all that conduces to a clear understanding, not only of what has been done, but the manner and motive for doing it. There has been raised a vast number of men—their terms of service various—some will make claims upon the State. Bounties, constantly changing in amount, have been paid by individuals, towns, cities, and counties, which the State may be called upon to refund. The support of soldiers' families has been largely pledged, and, unfortunately, these promises have not always been performed. Other pledges have been respected. Ultimately the State may be called upon to make good everybody's promise; but there is a limit to its equitable liability in this regard, and unless now, when men's minds are fully charged with all the facts, and no motive exists for misstating them, they are collected, the whole subject will become confused—a labyrinth of difficulty.

Those who have aided by home efforts with money, hand, voice or pen, in providing means for upholding the Union, should have suitable record made of their labors and sacrifices, and richly do the labors of the women of

the State deserve especial commendation. Each town, city and county has some special reason for pride, and the whole account will redound to the lasting honor of the State and the generation.

It is becoming that I should express my great obligations to His Excellency Governor Seymour; to the Honorable Edwin D. Morgan; to yourself and the several members of the Governor's Staff; to the Honorable Lucius Robinson, Comptroller, and other State officers, and to Doctor John Swinburne, for the uniform encouragement extended to this Bureau; and also to the Atlas & Argus and Evening Journal, and Editors of newspapers throughout the State.

Our regiments have won imperishable names. Their designations, even now, are synonyms of heroism. They have asked little from the State they have so greatly honored. Their record, at least, should be collected and preserved with a sacred care.

To the men who peril their lives in the war the promise that a faithful record of their services shall be kept, is grateful—its effect cannot fail to make them better soldiers.

CONCLUSION.

The expressions of pride and gratitude to the State for the organization of this Bureau have been hearty and general. No plan so comprehensive and simple as this, has been formed elsewhere. The officers of several of the States have asked for copies of our act of organization, and for complete sets of our blanks, circulars, &c., accompanying their requests with cordial praise of the enterprise. Friends of the dead, especially, are excited to thanks for the opportunity thus afforded them of depositing in the State's keeping records of heroism and sacrifice so fraught with interest. The plan embraces all—omits no

rank. Says a mother, mourning her son fallen in the ranks: "I did not know that the State regarded the services of those in so humble a position as worthy of its attention, and I cannot sufficiently express my thanks that through your Bureau the memory of my son shall not perish." An officer writes: "I feel deeply interested in the subject, and deem it well worthy the greatest effort of all who cherish a feeling of pride for the honor and glory of the Empire State. Though my history may be uninteresting, posterity will look with admiration upon others—the gallant living and heroic dead—whose noble deeds have clothed American arms with imperishable renown."

No State has sent its sons more freely to the conflict for the integrity of the nation, nor has any State been represented on so many battle-fields as has New York. From the going out of the Seventh Regiment to the present time, they have been found in every post of danger. At Antietam and Gettysburg—at Hatteras and Port Hudson—on every field of battle, the flag of the State has been borne in triumph, and "above the clouds" on Lookout mountain the Star of Empire led the embattled hosts to victory. Those fields have become doubly dear to us as a people for having in their embrace all that was mortal of thousands of our noblest sons. The pages of the State's history will be enriched with the story of the deeds of our fallen brave. Appropriately, then, may the Legislature say of those who have entered the Federal service from this State: "We will preserve the memory of their virtues—we will lament the early deaths of all who fall in their country's cause. Their names are known, and will grow brighter with the lapse of coming years. Their memories will be defended and cherished so long as men love liberty, or rivers run

into the sea. They could die no nobler deaths—they could shed their blood in no better cause.”

Here at the capital of the State, should these records of the war be collected. The preliminary work is already well advanced, and what has been so favorably begun should be carried to completion. It is hoped that the objects and the plan of the Bureau will commend themselves to the continued favor of the Legislature, and that they will early provide further means for prosecuting a work which cannot fail of the noblest results.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

LOCKWOOD L. DOTY,

Chief of Bureau.

To Brig. Genl.

JOHN T. SPRAGUE,

Adjutant General.

APPENDIX.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

BIOGRAPHIES.

The biographical blank, issued by the Bureau, embraces the following points of inquiry, viz.:

First. Name (in full); date and place of enlistment; regiment, company and rank; promotions or transfers; previous military service in militia or regular army, or the navy, or in military organizations in Europe; service in the present war, including battles and skirmishes in which engaged; an account of wounds or injuries, condition of health, period during which detained from service by sickness, wounds, or as prisoner; date of discharge, of decease, or of resignation, and cause.

Second. Date and place of birth, names of parents and nationality; degree of education; if married, name of wife and number of children; residence at date of enlistment, and present postoffice address of family or nearest relative; profession or occupation prior to entering the service; inquiries in relation to service of relatives in war of revolution, war of 1812, or in European wars; relatives engaged in the present war, with regiment and rank; remarks in reference to general character, if blank is filled for one deceased; request for photographic or other likeness, and name of person furnishing information.

Upon the margin of each blank is printed the object in view in making the inquiries, viz.: "That they are designed for reference by themselves or their friends and to preserve a record of the services which each man has performed, that the future may award to our volunteers the meed of praise to which they will be so eminently entitled."

Fully 125,000 of these blanks have been issued, and in several instances entire regiments have been supplied. The restriction

placed upon the visit of agents to the army, however, has prevented that access to our volunteers which it was expected would be afforded, and hence other sources of information have been appealed to, prominent among which has been the surgeons of the several U. S. hospitals, from whom reports have been received as follows:

Harewood hospital, by F. M. Marshall, hospital steward.

Jews' hospital, N. Y., by Dr. S. Teller.

Marine hospital, New Orleans, by Jacob Bockee, surgeon in charge.

General hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., by Wm. V. Keating, surgeon in charge.

City hospital, Indianapolis, by John M. Kitchen, surgeon, per R. H. Barnes, clerk

General hospital, Parkersburg, by Wm. P. Marr, surgeon in charge.

Chase hospital, Columbus, by R. M. Barr, surgeon in charge.

Officers' hospital, Memphis, by J. M. Strudy, surgeon in charge.

General hospital, Mound city, by C. M. Crocker, Co. A., 33d Ill. volunteers.

Corps hospitals, at Gettysburg, Pa., by H. C. May, assistant surgeon, and also from Rev. E. M. Welling, of sanitary commission.

Camp Letterman hospital, Gettysburg, Pa., by H. C. May, surgeon in charge.

General hospital, Annapolis, Md., by G. A. Wheeler, surgeon in charge.

General hospital, Annapolis, Md., by G. B. Parker, surgeon in charge.

General hospital, Camden street, Baltimore, by Jesse Johnson.

Fairfax seminary hospital, Washington, by George S. Bennett.

Lincoln hospital, Washington, by J. C. McKee, surgeon in charge.

Convalescent hospital, Philadelphia, by B. Knickerbocker, surgeon in charge.

Grace church, branch hospital, by T. H. Stilwell, surgeon in charge.

Campbell hospital, by Dewitt C. Peters, surgeon in charge.

Stanton hospital, by Chas. J. Osborne, surgeon in charge.

Second Division hospital, Alexandria, by T. Rush Sprague, surgeon in charge.

Mount Pleasant hospital, Washington, by C. A. McCall, surgeon in charge.

Lovell hospital, Portsmouth Grove, by J. W. Merriam, surgeon in charge.

Mason hospital, Boston, by W. E. Townsend, surgeon in charge.

Island hospital, New York, by B. B. Sibell, steward.

Army hospital, Islington Square, Philadelphia, by J. V. Patterson, surgeon in charge.

Newton University hospital, Baltimore, by C. W. Jones, surgeon in charge.

Christian Street hospital, Philadelphia, by John J. Reese, surgeon in charge.

Hampton U. S. hospital, by H. B. White, surgeon in charge.

Complete lists of deaths in Baltimore and Philadelphia hospitals, from J. M. Redfield, State agent, Baltimore.

Complete list of New York men buried at Alexandria, Va., from T. H. Stilwell, of Grace Church hospital.

Saterlee hospital, West Philadelphia, Pa., by Chas. H. Thomas, hospital steward.

These returns include lists of deaths of New York volunteers, and also names of those discharged, from date of organization of hospital. In several instances competent persons have been detailed by surgeons in charge to fill up the personal blanks, and I take great pleasure in acknowledging the services of this class of correspondents. The value of an abstract of all the hospital registers cannot be too highly esteemed, and I have the most sincere hope that complete reports will be received.

It is also proper to acknowledge the services of town correspondents in collecting biographical sketches and materials for biographies, as well as the aid afforded by gentlemen who have volunteered their services as biographical correspondents. As the public shall become more acquainted with the work of the Bureau, the latter class will be, I am confident, rapidly augmented.

A favorite feature in the work recently inaugurated, is to secure a record of the contributions, in men and money, of the several Fire Companies in this State. The men engaged in this important branch of the public service, have no general depository in which records are preserved, and it is believed to be due to them that some special recognition of their patriotism and valor should be made.

The returns received from colleges and academies are interest-

ing and valuable, and it is confidently expected that a similar result will attend the effort to enlist the assistance of pastors of churches of all denominations.

The following sketches are introduced as showing the general character of the biographical materials collected by the Bureau, and are given without other change than the omission of several interesting letters and papers deposited with them, which are reserved for use when the sketches are finally prepared for publication. The selection has been made with reference to locality rather than for superiority of interest, but will be found of merit in the latter respect.

CHARLES OSBORN GRAY, *Colonel 96th Regiment. N. Y. S. V.*, was born at Warrensburgh, county of Warren, New York, on the 24th day of March, 1839. Enjoying unlimited educational advantages, his youthful days were but a routine of scholastic duties. In his 14th year, he was placed under the instruction of Colonel Kinsley, near West Point. The regulations and exercises of the school were strictly military, and being located in the immediate vicinity of the West Point Academy, the students were favored with the privilege of seeing the practical instructions there taught. Thus the early habits and military bearing contracted whilst under the instruction of Col. Kinsley, were retained and fostered by Col. Gray in after years.

In 1857, he entered the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, became a member of the Troy Citizens' Corps, and was selected by the professors and students as captain of the Institute cadets. He graduated with the class of 1861, and received his diploma as civil engineer.

Deferring a trip to Europe, for which he had made arrangements, he decided to enter the service of his country, for which he was so well qualified by his previous habits and education, and, with others of his immediate acquaintance, was active and influential in successfully raising the 96th regiment, N. Y. V., which was quartered at Plattsburgh barracks. The regiment was organized and received marching orders about the 1st of March, 1862, and Col. Gray, although quite young, "being in his 23d year," after a strict examination, was commissioned its lieutenant colonel.

The appearance of the regiment, on its march through the cities of Albany and New York, under the command of its lieutenant colonel, gave evidence that it had been disciplined by no ignorant mind, and trained by no unskilful hands. Arriving at

the seat of war it was immediately brigaded, and attached to the division under Gen. Casey, in the army of the peninsula, and at once embarked for its destination. On the arrival of the regiment at Fortress Monroe, the command devolved on Lieut. Col. Gray, by reason of the disability of the Colonel. It was first stationed at Young's Farm, where it was frequently harassed by the rebel gunboat *Teazer*; and, subsequently, was in the siege of Yorktown. In the battle at Williamsburgh, however, the regiment was called, for the first time, to struggle in the realities of war; and it was in this battle that Lieut. Col. Gray gave evidence of ability to command, and established himself in the full confidence of the regiment. Covering the battery of Major Robinson of the regular army, while being shelled from Fort Magruder, he displayed the coolness and resolution so essential in a commanding officer, and for which he received the verbal compliments of Gen. McClellan.

The 96th was in the advance during the arduous march on the peninsula, with the rear of the retreating enemy in front, and who were driven across the railroad bridge near Richmond. It was then placed in the advanced picket guard of Casey's division, four and a half miles from Richmond, where it was engaged in frequent skirmishes with the enemy, in one of which Major Kelly was killed, and was subsequently in action at Seven Pines and at Fair Oaks. After the battle at Fair Oaks, Lieut. Col. Gray, borne down by the long and arduous marches on the peninsula, and suffering with typhoid fever, was carried from the field and sent to the State Hospital at New Haven, Conn.; but, while only partially recovered, he rejoined his regiment at Harrison's Landing, and on the final retreat, led the advance to Williamsburgh, marching his regiment thirty-two miles in eleven hours. By order of Major Gen. Peck, the following battles were inscribed upon the banner of the regiment, viz.:

Chickahominy Swamp,
Railroad Bridge,
Jones' Ford,
White Oak Swamp,
Bottom's Bridge,
Harrison's Point,
Charles City Cross Roads.

After the withdrawal of the army from the peninsula, the 96th regiment was attached to Wessel's Brigade, Peck's Division. It

was stationed at Suffolk, Va., and was occupied in frequent reconnoissances in vicinity of the Blackwater. While stationed here, Lieut. Col. Gray made himself especially useful as a topographical engineer, in which branch of engineering he was quite proficient.

Lieut. Col. Gray was promoted and commissioned colonel of the regiment on the 25th day of September, 1862. He was then in his 24th year, and was probably the youngest colonel in the service. On the 5th of December, following, the regiment left Suffolk to join an expedition under Gen. Foster at Newbern, N. C., and on this expedition Col. Gray was killed (Dec. 14), while gallantly and splendidly leading his regiment to a successful charge upon the enemy at the bridge over the Neuse river at Kinston. Referring to that battle, the chaplain of the regiment writes:

“On the morning of the 14th, the sun rose broad and bright over that field, so soon to be the scene of deadly strife. At half past seven we were on the advance, our young and gallant colonel, mounted on his favorite black charger, leading the way; and never did he appear more calm and self-possessed, or give his commands with easier dignity and grace than on that memorable morning. All had faith in his courage and ability, and followed him with a confident step. Never did a colonel possess more fully the respect and affection of his men; his word was law, and his commands needed but to be heard to be obeyed. Moving forward some distance, while occasional rifle shots in the advance gave earnest of approaching battle, the order came for the regiment to halt. Having done so, we here received the first cannon-shot. It tore up the ground but a few feet from our colonel, baptizing him for the conflict in dust, while he remained undisturbed as if nothing had happened. Our artillery now opened from a field on our left; the rifle-shots became more frequent, until volley answered volley, and battery replied to battery. The fight had commenced. Receiving orders to advance, we moved a short distance on the direct road, and formed in line of battle on the extreme right. On our left, for a distance of half a mile along the line, was heard a continuous roar of artillery and rattle of small arms.

“Col. Gray rode along the line of the regiment, his evident coolness imparting courage to his men. Occasional firing of skirmishers, but slightly advanced, gave evidence that the enemy were

before us. The colonel dismounted, (pursuant to an order from the commander of the department,) and ordered his regiment forward. We had advanced but a short distance when we came upon the enemy at the edge of the woods, and after a sharp engagement, succeeded in totally routing them and driving them across an open field in the direction of the bridge. Our regiment was ordered to feel its way cautiously along the edge of the woods at the right of the open field, to a road leading from the bridge directly down the river. Col. Gray led the advance, and on reaching the road we marched within some three hundred yards of the bridge. It was then filled with the enemy passing over, and a large body on this side were waiting their opportunity to cross. At the same time their forces in the earthworks on the other side kept up a most terrific fire on our troops. This bridge was now their last hope, and they were prepared to defend it with desperation.

“At this moment, colonel Gray, seeing the situation, ordered a “charge,” with a voice that inspired new courage, and he, leading the way, musket in hand, the regiment charged with irresistible impetuosity, though exposed to a galling fire from the opposite bank. They reached the bridge, cutting off five hundred of the enemy, who surrendered. Our gallant colonel, the color-bearer, and two other officers, were first upon the bridge, and planted the regimental colors upon it amidst a most severe fire by the enemy. At this moment of victory, the colonel was struck in the left breast by a ball from the enemy; turned instantly, walked a few steps, and fell into the arms of some of his officers, who assisted him, with sad hearts, to the rear. He lived two hours, then closed his eyes on the scenes of battle, but not without the assurance that his own intrepid bearing had contributed largely to the brilliant success that crowned the day. Brave officers and men, whose hearts were as steel in the presence of the foe, wept as though their “hearts were waters, and their eyes a fountain of tears.” In his fall, his country has to lament the loss of one of her most talented, brave, and self-sacrificing officers.”

With Col. Gray, war was a reality. In his last letter to his parents, dated Dec. 5, 1862, he wrote: “I leave to-day for North Carolina, expecting active and arduous service. If the fortunes of war favor me, I shall hope to have leave to visit you before spring. If I should fall, remember me kindly as having

endeavored faithfully to discharge my duty to my country." He did fall, nobly and honorably, and his country will remember him.

The remains of Col. Gray were conveyed from Kinston to Newbern, under escort, and were received at the latter place with more than usual attention. A lady, writing from Newbern, under date of Dec. 17th, says: "All officers of any distinction remaining in Newbern, came as mourners and pall-bearers, together with five companies of infantry—all that could be spared from guard. It was a solemn sight when the procession passed with all that remained of the young hero, wrapped in his country's flag, borne by the loving hands of perfect strangers. The ceremony on the boat was very touching, the soldiers all in a line to receive the body. The chaplain of the regiment, who accompanied the remains, made a short address, thanking those in command, and all was over." The funeral at Warrensburgh was conducted according to the ancient rites of the masonic order, of which the deceased was a member; and notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, a large concourse of people from the adjoining towns was in attendance.

JOSEPH ANTOINE VIGUIER DE MONTEIL, *Lieutenant Colonel 53d Regiment N. Y. S. V.*, was born in France, at Toulon, department of Vas, on the 14th of June, 1818. His father, Vincent Barthelemy Viguier, was a captain in the marine artillery. His mother's name is Josephine de Monteil. Both families are very ancient and were once very wealthy; but, as were many others, were ruined during the revolution of 1793. Yet the lieutenant colonel's father was still in very good circumstances when he married. He had seen a great deal of active service, was made a prisoner of war at Trafalgar, and taken to England, from whence he managed to escape with several other prisoners. Returned to France, he married. He had thirteen children—the eldest was the lieutenant colonel. Two only are living now,—daughters; one is in Paris with her mother, the other in Toulon.

The education of the lieutenant colonel was made in the colleges of Toulon and Lorient. He always distinguished himself in mathematics, for which he had a great taste. His father destined him for the navy, but he preferred artillery, and enlisted in his father's regiment. He crossed the Atlantic several times to go to the French colonies in the West Indies, where the marine

artillery is usually garrisoned. In 1838 he went to Mexico with the expedition of Admiral Baudin and Prince de Joinville, and fought at the attack of San Juan d'Ulloa. He became first lieutenant, and was to be raised to the rank of captain when the revolution of 1848 broke out. Then, without thinking of his military career, he came to Paris and mixed with politics. An ardent and devoted republican—a lover of freedom, which he always advocated, he could not think that it would be considered a crime, and that a revolution, saluted by so many with tears of enthusiasm, would so soon be confiscated to the profit of one man; that under a government called republican, republicans would be hunted like enemies, imprisoned, exiled. When the “coup de etat” of 1851 broke out, Viguier de Monteil, who had been living in Paris ever since 1848, fought in the streets against the new despotism that wanted to stifle liberty again. Every one knows the history of that last revolution, when a handful of resolute men kept three days in check the armies of the President, who thought himself lost for a time, and whose carriages were in readiness to take him away from that city which dared to revolt against his good will. But even courage and enthusiasm have a term. Men are but men, and, when after three days of hard fighting, the heroes of the barricades found themselves abandoned by their friends, exhausted, and without ammunition, they had to give up in despair. Some were taken prisoners, and many of them were not seen afterwards; some, but very few, were happy enough to escape.

Lieutenant Colonel Viguier de Monteil, managed to hide himself at first, but was found and arrested; he would probably have paid with his life for his love of liberty, if, by dint of exertions, a friend had not found means to free him. The gaols were then so full of prisoners that it was almost impossible to know who they were, so great was the confusion. The friend in question, who was a lady, did so much that she had the good fortune to obtain his examination before the proofs of his culpability reached the judge, and he was set free. Two days after they tried again to arrest him, but this time he was safe, and three months later his friends succeeded in making him flee to Belgium, where he was not allowed to remain, and which he left for London. Then commenced for him the hard life of the exile, who finds himself in a foreign land, his heart bleeding for the loss of his country, of his friends, and more than all this, who sees the beloved land of his birth the