

MY PLAYMATES.

The wind comes whispering to me of the country green and cool—
Of redwing blackbirds chattering beside a reedy pool;
It brings me soothing fancies of the home-
stead on the hill.
And I hear the thrush's evening song and
the robin's morning trill;
So I fall to thinking tenderly of those I
used to know
Where the sassafras and snakeroot and
elderberries grow.

What has become of Ezra Marsh who
lived on Baker's hill?
And what's become of Noble Pratt whose
father kept the mill?
And what's become of Lizzie Cram and
Anastasia Snell,
And of Roxie Root, who 'tended school in
Boston for a spell?
They were the boys and they the girls who
shared my youthful play—
They do not answer to my call! My play-
mates—where are they?

What has become of Levi and his little
brother Joe
Who lived next door to where we lived
some forty years ago?
I'd like to see the Newton boys and Quincy
Adams Brown,
And Hopsy Hall and Ella Cowles who
spelled the whole school down!
And Grace Smith, the Cutler boys, Leander
Snow and all
Who, I am sure, would answer could they
only hear my call!

I'd like to see Bill Warner and the Conkey
boys again,
And talk about the times we used to wish
that we were men!
And one—I shall not name her—could I
see her gentle face
And hear her girlish treble in this distant,
lonely place!
The flowers and hopes of springtime—they
perished long ago,
And the garden where they blossomed is
white with winter snow.

O cottage 'neath the maples, have you
seen those girls and boys
That but a little while ago made, oh! such
pleasant noise?
O trees, and hills, and brooks, and lanes,
and meadows, do you know
Where I shall find my little friends of
forty years ago?
You see I'm old and weary, and I've trav-
eled long and far;
I am looking for my playmates—I wonder
where they are!

—Eugene Field, in Chicago Record.

THEY SAVED THE GUN

It is not yet quite fifty years since
the close of our war with Mexico, yet
the swift movement of modern life has
nearly obliterated recollection of it among
our people, the colossal tragedy of the
civil war intervening between now and
then, serving still further to dwarf the
older and smaller event. In its day it
was one of the most remarkable military
events in history.

The battle of Buena Vista, on the
22d and 23d of February, 1847, was,
after the opening fights of Palo Alto
and Resaca de la Palma, the only con-
siderable conflict of the war in which
our forces stood on the defensive, if
they may be said to have so stood in
those opening battles. After the cap-
itulation of Matanzas, General Taylor
had moved forward with a strong col-
umn, attacked and taken the fortified
city of Monterey, had advanced to
Saltillo, where he had been joined by
the column commanded by General
Wool, which had marched from La-
vaca, Texas, by way of San Antonio,
and was preparing to push forward to-
ward the Mexican capital, and a meet-
ing with the strong force which Santa
Anna, the Mexican president, was col-
lecting to "destroy the invaders," when
he was overtaken by the order from
General Scott, detaching the larger
part of his force, including nearly all
his "regulars" and the larger part of
his seasoned volunteers. This was done
to strengthen the column destined to
invade Mexico from the southeast,
landing at Vera Cruz.

The effect of this order was to re-
duce General Taylor's force to less than
5,000 men, made up of volunteers, much
the larger number of whom had been
soldiers little more than six months,
and had hardly been "under fire" at all.
Most of them not at all. There were
left to him two or three batteries of
"flying artillery," commanded by regu-
lar army officers, but in large degree
manned by men detailed from volun-
teer infantry regiments. There were
one or two squadrons of regular cav-
alry, but other than this insignificant
squad of trained soldiers his force was
made up of green volunteers, mainly
from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Mis-
sissippi and Arkansas.

Before General Scott's orders had
been carried into effect General Tay-
lor had advanced to Agua Nueva, about
twenty miles beyond Saltillo, but the
exasperating depletion of his forces
made further advance impossible; and
here, too, he was met with intelligence
that General Santa Anna had organ-
ized an army of more than 20,000 men,
and was pushing northward with the
purpose to destroy him, and then turn
his victorious forces to meet Scott,
wherever he might land. There was
no ground at or near Agua Nueva
where an inferior force could hope to
stand, and General Wool was sent
back to select a place where defense
might be made.

Near Buena Vista, a dozen miles in
the rear of Agua Nueva, the mountains
on the left of the road along which
Taylor had advanced approached more
closely than elsewhere to a deep and
impassable valley on the right of the
road, the sharp foothills running to-
ward the ragged ravine like the out-
spread fingers of a man's hand, until,
at the Pass of Augustura, there were
but a few yards between the point of
the rocky spur and the brow of the
deep valley.

This was the ground selected for de-
fense, and the whole of the small army
fell back to this point. Captain Wash-
ington's battery, in which the after-
ward famous General George H. Thom-

as was a lieutenant, was posted im-
mediately commanding the pass, sup-
ported by six companies of the First
Illinois Infantry, commanded by Col-
onel John J. Hardin, who was killed
near the close of the battle, and whose
oldest son, General Martin D. Hardin,
subsequently graduated from West
Point, was desperately wounded at the
second battle of Bull Run, where he
lost an arm.

Two incidents of this extraordinary
battle illustrate in a forceful way some
of the peculiar qualities of the Ameri-
can soldier, and as general history
makes no mention of them, being mere-
ly details, hidden in the general event,
it may prove of some interest to recall
them for the readers of this generation.

The first attack of the second day,
by a Mexican column of some four
thousand men, was delivered directly
at the Pass of Augustura, and was
beaten off almost, perhaps quite, alto-
gether by the terribly destructive fire
of Washington's guns. It was barely
over, when a second column of five
thousand or more, headed by a brilliant
body of lancers, moved out to attack
the American line nearer its center.
Almost at the same moment a body of
American troops, only a few hundred
in number, moved out toward the front
and advanced beyond supporting dis-
tance, as if challenging the whole
Mexican army. It was composed of
Colonel Bowles' Second Indiana In-
fantry, or a large part of it, with a sec-
tion—two guns—of a light battery, un-
der the command of Lieutenant
O'Brien—regarded as one of the most
brilliant and promising of the younger
officers then in the army—and manned
mainly by men selected from volunteer
regiments of infantry.

Orders had been sent to Colonel
Bowles to take up a designated position
and aid in repelling what seemed the
grand attack of the day. But the posi-
tion to be taken was not clearly spec-
ified, or for some other reason he mis-
understood it, and advanced his men



LIEUTENANT O'BRIEN ORDERS FLYNN TO HELP HIM.

entirely beyond support. The first
shock of the attack by more than ten
times their number fell on this little
force, and they stood in peril of being
literally trampled under foot. They
were as good fighting material as there
was in the army, and they fought de-
spairately, until their officers, seeing,
too late, the error that had been made,
without deliberation, gave a vague or-
der to retire, and they did retire. There
was no limit to the order and it might
have meant "clear home to Indiana,"
as one of them subsequently said. Not
to put too fine a point on it, they liter-
ally ran off the field, and though all,
or nearly all, of them fell in with other
troops or fought bravely through the
day, they did not regain their own or-
ganization.

Before this disaster many had been
killed and wounded, and the men of
O'Brien's guns had more than shared
their losses. The trained soldier knew
into what a shambles he had been led,
but he never wavered or grumbled, and
he worked his guns with desperate en-
ergy, every discharge opening long
lines in the advancing column and
shaking it to the remotest ranks. At
last all the men and horses of one gun
were disabled, and all but the com-
mander at the other gun were stricken
down, even part of the horses. And
even as the supporting infantry were
melting from the field, and O'Brien
stood alone, within less than a hun-
dred yards of the head of the advancing
column, with his own hands, unaided,
he charged his own active gun, double-
shotted with grape and canister, and
hurled its tempest of shot full in the
faces of the foe with terrible effect.

Then, as the column reeled under the
blow of his single gun, he glanced
swiftly about him. Not a man of the
little force was left on his feet, but he
saw one man—a member of an Illinois
regiment, Flynn by name—who was
one of his command, half lying, half
sitting against a small boulder. To
him he spoke fiercely:

"Get up here, damn you! and help me
limber up this gun!"

"I can't, Lieutenant," replied Flynn.

"I'm shot through both legs."

"Well," replied O'Brien, "you can lift
a little," and so saying he seized the
man, sat him down on the ground un-
der the limber—prolong, perhaps they
call it—of the old-fashioned gun, cut
loose the harness from the dead horse,
and with superhuman strength rolled
the body out of the way, and while
Flynn lifted, despite the torture of his
wounds, the gun was limbered. Then
he dragged the man from the ground,
threw him like a saddle, astride the

still hot and smoking gun, and shouted:
"Hold tight, now, for I'm going off
from here like hell!"

And leaping, like a fiend incarnate,
on the back of one of the horses, with
a defiant shout to the foe, in a hurtling
rain of bullets, he did "go off like"—he
said he would. Twenty minutes later,
from a new position with the nearest
friends, his gun was again hurling
grape into the still advancing column.
And Flynn lived to tell the story long
afterward at his home in Illinois.

The other gun, which O'Brien was
forced to abandon, was one which had
been captured from Santa Anna eleven
years before by General "Sam" Hous-
ton on the bloody field of San Jacinto,
where Texas independence was won.
Had Santa Anna won at Buena Vista,
how he would have vaunted the re-
capture! But he did not win, and after
the battle was over the gun was found
by some of our soldiers, spiked and
thrown into a ravine. A few years later
O'Brien died in Tampa, Fla., sincerely
mourned by the whole army. Of such
material have our American armies,
North and South, been made up.

The other incident referred to, affect-
ing more men, but illustrating similar
soldierly qualities, followed on the heels
of this.

The misfortune that overtook the In-
diana men was full of the presage of
defeat. Another such disaster, and the
destruction of the little army, outnum-
bered more than five to one from the
first, could hardly be averted. The
next force to feel the attack was the
Second Illinois Infantry, commanded
by Colonel William H. Bissell, subse-
quently Governor of Illinois, and also
a member of Congress from that State,
who, while holding this latter position,
"gave pause" to a fiery Southerner who
sought a duel. However, "that's an-
other story." The light of the In-
dians had left this full Illinois regi-
ment almost as far beyond effective
support as the routed men had been,
yet they calmly stood in line and await-

ed galloped to the center and rear of
his line, and his familiar voice rang in
his men's ears: "bent face!" and the
line turned in its track. "Forward!
Quick time! Steady—men—steady—
march!" and the line swung steadily to-
ward what had been the rear, following
the Colonel's uplifted sword and the
aid with his crushed hat and his heart
in his mouth, while men dropped in the
ranks as they moved away, and some
were caught and helped on by their un-
wounded comrades.

The aid measured with excited eyes
the distance from the foe and that to
where Hardin's and McKee's panting
men and Bragg's mad gunners pressed
forward, and presently said, half un-
der his breath:

"That will do!"

Instantly Bissell wheeled his horse,
waved his sword, and swiftly rang out
the commands: "Halt! Right dress!
About face! On the right, commence
firing!" and once more Bissell's guns
poured in a storm that checked the
cheer of the enemy even as it began.

"The battle's won, by God!" shouted
the excited Bliss, as he clapped his bat-
tered hat on his head, and, dashing his
spurs into his horse, rode swiftly away
to report.

And, even as he spoke, Hardin's and
McKee's men opened fire, and Bragg's
madened gunners poured in, with in-
credible swiftness, a tempest of grape
that broke up the enemy's column and
shattered the grand charge of the day.

These are some of the "little things"
—the details—which general history
cannot pause to record, but which
vividly illustrate qualities of the Ameri-
can soldier, and, taken together, make
up and are indispensable to the great
things—the results—which history does
record.

RATTLESNAKE WINE.

It Is a Favorite Medicine in the West
Indies.

Benjamin Gooch, in his "Medical and
Surgical Observations," published in
1771, gives a summary of different an-
cient therapeutic methods, based on
the use of animal poisons. One of his
observations relates to a case of severe
pains, spasms, etc., of long duration.
Gooch says, after speaking of the pa-
tient's sufferings: "Not to appear in-
human to so wretched a being, after
telling him I could do nothing, I sent
him a bottle of rattlesnake wine, to
take a glass of frequently. This was
in the West Indies drunk as the high-
est cordial. Three nights after the
patient walked in. 'Sir,' said he, 'you
cannot be so much amazed as I am, nor
half so much pleased; I am come to
thank you, and, if not criminal, to
worship you.' Gooch's account of
how he learned the virtues of rattle-
snake wine is as follows: "A very
wealthy old gentleman in the West
Indies had long been afflicted with
leprosy to a high degree, which was
deemed incurable by his physicians.
Apparently in a dying state, he made
his will, leaving a large legacy to a
female servant, who had lived with
him many years. This circumstance
being known to the servant, she and
her paramour studied and contrived
how to make away with him in such
a manner as to raise the least suspi-
cion. They put the heads of rattlesnakes into
the wine he drank, thinking it would
prove an infallible poison; on the con-
trary, he grew better, and the crim-
inals, imagining the poison was not
strong enough, added more snake ve-
nom, whereby the gentleman was re-
stored to perfect health. Conscience
finally put this servant upon her knees
before her master, confessing her
crime. Forgiveness was granted, and
the old gentleman gave her a sum of
money, ordering her to depart and
never see him more."

An Oregon Freak.

A curious physical freak has been dis-
covered on the tongue of the infant
child of Mrs. Carl F. Wagner, the wife
of a railroad man of Albina, Ore.
About a week ago, when the child was
but a week old, the mother called the
attention of the family physician to
the fact that she experienced a pecu-
liar feeling when the child was nurs-
ing.

She had not investigated for herself,
but thought the babe's tongue was ex-
ceedingly rough for one so young. The
doctor opened the child's mouth and
was astonished to find its tongue cov-
ered with silken hair of short growth.
This was somewhat extraordinary, and
he could hardly believe that what he
saw was a fact. The attention of some
of the most prominent physicians there
has been invited to this freak of na-
ture. They say it is an unparalleled
case. It is so extraordinary that a
report of it will be furnished all the
leading medical journals in the coun-
try and Europe. A local museum man
has already made Wagner, who is a
poor man, an offer for the use of the
child as soon as it can be safely taken
from its mother.

Aluminum.

The production of aluminum in this
country has increased from eighty-three
pounds in 1883 to 850,000 pounds in
1895, and the estimate for 1896 is 3,000,-
000 pounds, the process for making it
having been greatly improved. The
price at the reduction works ranges
from 50 cents to 55 cents a pound. Ap-
plied electricity explains the ease with
which the light metal is now turned out.

Will Last a Lifetime.

Prof. A. C. Totten, of New Haven,
has issued a calendar good for 67,713,-
250 years. It is said to have a very sim-
ple key, and is evolved on a cycle of
1,000,000 years.

A New York electrician has succeed-
ed in sending messages over a tele-
graph wire at the rate of 1,714 words a
minute.

Mamma—Willie, where are those ap-
ples gone that were in the storeroom?
Willie—They are with the gingerbread
that was in the cupboard.—Exchange

DUNKARDS IN EXODUS

TWENTY COLONIES GO FROM THE EAST TO THE WEST.

Members Are from Six Different States
and They Pass Through Chicago on
Their Way to Dakota—Britain to Re-
cognize Cubans.

Seek New Homes.

Twenty colonies of Dunkards from six
different States passed through Chicago
on their way to new homes in North Da-
kota. The colonists, numbered 1,500, and
they expect to settle along the line of the
Great Northern Railroad in North Da-
kota.

The Dunkards arrived over the Balti-
more and Ohio, Wabash, Nickel Plate,
Pan-Handle and Menon roads. They
are from colonies in half a hundred towns
in Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania,
Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. The special
trains were slow in arriving. As fast as
sufficient cars were on hand a new train
was made up in the Wisconsin Central
yards and started for the Northwest. In
order to carry all the emigrants four
trains were necessary. The composition
of these trains was twenty passenger
coaches and 102 freight cars.

In the freight cars were families mov-
ing their household goods, farm imple-
ments and live stock. In the coaches
were families having sold out most of
their goods, thinking it cheaper to pay
cash for what will be needed in their new
homes than to pay freight rates on the
old. A number of women used the
coaches while their husbands and elder
sons looked after the goods in the freight
cars.

Their Second Exodus.

The present is the second exodus of
Dunkards from the East to North Da-
kota in the last three years. They come
from old-established colonies which have
been sending out members to the West
for half a century. Often children grow
up, have families of their own, and leave
the parent colony much after the nature
of bees, which swarm when their quarters
become too crowded. Such is the case in
this instance. The fathers of large fam-
ilies have left their Eastern homes, where
land is high, with a view to establishing
large family estates in the West. These
emigrants are not of the poorer class.
Many are well-to-do and all are indus-
trious, desirable citizens.

For some time the elders of the church
have been investigating the desirability
for settlement on North Dakota lands.
The reports have been favorable and the
present emigration is the result. The fate
of the present colonists will decide the
future action of several times as many
who have staid at home and are watching
the venture with a view to following
should it prove successful.

The one great object of the movement
is the desire to possess more land. In the
country where they are going there re-
mains a large tract of Government land
open to settlement. This was not ready
for such purposes until recently, when
the Great Northern pushed its road
through what is known as the Devil's
Lake country. Within a few years many
small towns have sprung up along the
line and the country is rapidly being
broken up into farms.

Each head of a Dunkard family will
homestead on 160 acres of land. His sons
and sons-in-law over 21 years old will
take a like amount. In this way families
will absorb entire sections of land. Each
family will also be a nucleus around
which other Dunkards will settle. In a
few generations the big farms will be di-
vided and subdivided among the children,
until finally no more land will remain and
another exodus will be necessary.

A MORTON RALLY.

Enthusiastic Gathering of Republi-
cans in the Empire State.

Messrs. Depew, Miller, Platt and Lan-
terbach will be the four delegates-at-large
to St. Louis from New York State, and
they are instructed for Gov. Morton.
The blot upon the in-
dorsement which
New York gave to
Gov. Morton con-
sist of 169 votes out
of a total of 740,
against the election
of Messrs. Platt and
Lanterbach as dele-
gates-at-large to St.
Louis. A correspon-
dent says: In reality
this vote was a pro-
test against the leadership of Mr. Platt
rather than a protest against the candi-
dacy of Gov. Morton, and in the major-
ity those who at heart favored Major
McKinley as second choice numbered at
least 300.

In the platform no mention is made of
State issues, and the expected fight over
the Raines excise tax law did not there-
fore materialize. The resolutions de-
clare for a protective tariff, are unquali-
fiedly for a gold standard and against
the free coinage of silver, and present
Gov. Morton to the Republicans of the
nation as New York's choice for the
presidency, lauding his public service,
praising his ability, and declaring that
notwithstanding his age he is still in
the prime of his vigor.

BRITAIN TO AID CUBA.

To Follow America in Recognizing
the Patriots.

Aid for Cuba has come from an unex-
pected source. John Bull will pat Uncle
Sam on the shoulder in any proposition
to intervene to stop the butchery on the
island. An informal intimation to this
effect has been received at the State De-
partment and the status of the Cuban
question has changed at once owing to
this sudden development.

While Spain has been preparing for an
appeal to European nations against the
United States, Great Britain has quietly
taken the other tack, and decided to join
with the United States in helping the Cu-
ban patriots. Naturally, such a communi-
cation was not conveyed in an official
letter, but Secretary Olney was given to
understand by Sir Julian Pauncefote that
Great Britain would not only not object
to any action the United States might
take in regard to Cuba, but would even
welcome any reasonable interference
which would tend to stop the butchery
now going on in the island.

That such an intimation was given
semi-officially was learned positively, and
the effect of the information when it be-
comes generally known will be to render
almost certain speedy action by this
country. Dispatches from Spain within
the last few days are authority for the

statement that a definite policy has been
agreed upon there. Spain proposed to
pose as the champion of European na-
tions holding possessions in America
against the arrogance of the Yankees.
The European nations were to be sound-
ed in order to secure concert of action,
and then Spain was to tell President
Cleveland to go ahead if he dared in the
face of a formidable alliance which would
prevent active intervention by force if
necessary.

This plan has been blocked completely
by the action of Great Britain, and Presi-
dent Cleveland's hands have been
strengthened immeasurably by Lord Salis-
bury's government. Great Britain de-
plored the inhuman Spanish warfare on
the island, and English commercial in-
terests could not look on unmoved while
the price of sugar was moving upward as
the result of the destruction of Cuban
cane-fields. Therefore came the informal
intimation that Great Britain would
gladly stand aside and see the United
States take the initiative in Cuba. No
promises were made that could bind Great
Britain in any way, and the Queen's gov-
ernment was not put on record in any
way, but Secretary Olney has been given
to understand that if the President de-
cides to recognize the patriots as belliger-
ents Great Britain will not be far be-
hind in doing the same thing.

MILLS IS FOR WAR.

Texas Senator Says the United States'
Duty Is to Free Cuba.

Senator Mills spoke Tuesday in defense
of the Cuban resolution introduced by
him. He said the resolutions heretofore
before the Senate were steps in the right
direction, but very short steps. The peo-
ple of Cuba had far greater claims on
the United States than mere recognition
of belligerency. If Ireland struck for
liberty to-day the hearts of the American
people would beat in sympathy, and so if
Poland or Hungary asserted the right of
liberty. But the United States had much
closer relations to Cuba than to Ireland
or Poland or Hungary, for it was part of
the Western Hemisphere over which the



SENATOR MILLS.

Monroe doctrine extended the influence
of this country. Mr. Mills declared that
the Monroe doctrine was a law of protec-
tion and that as such God was the author
of it. It was the same right of self-pro-
tection which an individual exercises in
altering a nuisance or destroying a pow-
der house near his premises.

Jefferson had used plain words in
threatening to join England and sweep
the French fleets from the seas if France
persisted in holding the mouth of the Mis-
sissippi river. The same spirit had
brought forth President Cleveland's Van-
couver message. Cuba stood as the key
to the gulf, and our unvarying policy, said
Mr. Mills, has been to resist any trans-
fer of Cuba to another monarchy. The
United States has stood by as a jailer
and prevented Cuba from going to France
or England. And, if we insisted on keep-
ing Cuba in the possession of Spain, was
it not the moral obligation of the United
States to see that Spain gave Cuba fair
government, to see that the hell of all
hellish despotism was lifted from the Cu-
ban people?

"The day will come," said Mr. Mills,
"when the American conscience will be
aroused to its guilt in permitting the op-
pression of Cuba, and when that con-
science comes the American people will
fill this chamber with Senators who
will stop that oppression."
The Senator read of atrocities attrib-
uted to Gen. Weyler and added: "This
is the work of that atrocious scoundrel.
He could not be in Cuba to-day if the
United States would draw her sword.
How the cheeks of our American women
must be suffused, how our children must
blush to know that this government
stands idly by while Spain, with the keys
of her dungeons dangling at her side, per-
mits such an atrocious villain to raise his
hand against defenseless women."

BOOST FOR M'KINLEY.

Eighteen More Votes Go Into the
Ohio Column.

Just before the Minnesota State Republi-
can convention was called to order it
was announced that Senator Davis had
wired Congressman

Tawney withdrawing
from the presi-
dential race. This
action was due to
the refusal of three
of five Minnesota
district conventions
to endorse his candi-
dacy. Before an ad-
journment the fol-
lowing resolutions
were adopted by a
rising vote:

"Resolved, That
the well considered and pronounced pref-
erence of the Republicans of Minnesota
for presidential standard bearer in 1896 is
William McKinley, and this convention
expects the delegates and alternates at-
large to-day to be elected by it to do all
in their power honorably from now until
that object is accomplished to bring about
promptly the nomination of William Mc-
Kinley for President of the United States."

Telegraphic Brevities.
Col. Thomas P. Ochiltree is seriously
ill at his home in New York. His valet
says he is unable to see anyone and his
physician has ordered absolute quiet.

Capt. W. H. Bradbury, deputy warden
of the Missouri penitentiary for thirty-six
years, is dead, aged 75. He had a re-
markable record for personal courage.
John Jones, who is wanted by Gov. Al-
gould for kicking Mrs. Susan Menhall
to death while he was town marshal of
Anna, Ill., has been arrested in St. Louis.
The barn of Seelye V. Mason, five miles
from Monmouth, Ill., burned. Louis Dut-
ton, a farm hand in the employ of Thos.
Hays, who rented the place, was sleeping
in the barn and lost his life.