

## Reception of the 34th Regiment.

### GRAND SUCCESS.

Herkimer County did herself honor last Saturday—and we may add, without a reflection upon other towns, that Little Falls did *herself* honor. The welcome which

was prepared for our returning veterans was one of which we, as well as they, have reason to be proud. The notice of their coming on Saturday was only made known on Tuesday evening; the weather had indeed been most unpromising; and the rain of the morning, as we have good reason to know, prevented the completion of

I remember the difficulties and hardships many decorations, and we doubt not, kept at home many people who would otherwise have gladly been present. Yet it is impossible for us to estimate the thousands who were here or to describe all there was to be seen. The clouds gradually cleared away and by the time the procession was formed the weather was by every one pronounced just suited to the occasion. Many who were present at the Utica reception assert that, for good taste in the arrangements made and for beauty of the whole display, we were far ahead of our neighbors, although many of their arches and other objects were much more expensive and elaborate than ours.

From early morning, long lines of wagons and horseback delegations from the different towns came crowding into town and long before the regiment arrived every stable and hitching post in town was appropriated. At the depot the crowd was absolutely impenetrable and when, about 10 o'clock, the train with the regiment stopped and the boys began to appear, the cheers and confusion were actually deafening. It was difficult to form them in line, but this was finally effected.

They were then greeted by President M. W. Priest, as follows:

WELCOME OF PRESIDENT PRIEST.

Gentlemen of the 34th Regiment:

Upon me, as President of this village, devolves the duty and the pleasure of welcoming those of you, the officers and soldiers of the 34 Regiment of New York State Volunteers, who belong to this county on their return home. In behalf of my fellow citizens I thank those of you who belong to other parts of the state for your presence on this occasion, and hope that nothing may occur here that may cause any but kind recollections toward us when you shall be far away. To the relatives and friends of those brave men who, alas! do not return I can only say that you have the sincere and heartfelt sympathy of this entire community.

Hon. AMOS H. PRESCOTT will address you in a more appropriate manner than I am able to do; and again I bid the heroes of the 34th Regiment a warm and cordial welcome to the village of Little Falls.

The officers of the Day were:

President—Hon. Robert Earl.

Orators—Hon. A. H. Prescott, Hon. Ezra Graves.

Marshal—Maj. Z. C. Priest.

Assistant Marshals—Oliver Ladue, Little Falls; Floyd C. Shepherd, German Flatts; Col. James A. Suiter, Herkimer; Samuel Franklin, Fairfield; J. J. Cook, Salisbury; Morgan Bidlemire, Manheim; Jacob Connor, Danube; Robert Etheridge, Franklin; Albert Story, Little Falls; Geo. M. Cleland, Warren; S. L. Day, Winfield; Harris Lewis, Schuyler; Wm. Coppemoll, Ohio; Solomon Graves, Russia; Richard Van Horne, Stark; Alanson Burlingame, Newport; Alonzo Rust, Norway; E. D. Beckwith, Columbia; O. B. Beals, Litchfield.

The procession was then formed on John St. in the following order:—

ORDER OF PROCESSION.

Squad of Police.

FIRST DIVISION.

Maj. Z. C. Priest, Marshal of the Day.

Mohawk Valley Band.

County Committee Mounted.

Mounted citizens from the various towns.

Marshal. Visiting Committee. Marshal.

SECOND DIVISION.

Marshal. Frankfort Band. Marshal.

President and Trustees of the Village.

Orators of the Day.

President of the Day.

Clergy.

Operatives from the Factories.

Citizens in General.

THIRD DIVISION.

Band.

Marshal. FIRE DEPARTMENT. Marshal.

character from any you had before that time been engaged in. You did not go to gratify an ambition, to obtain wealth, or for place, or position, whereby you could personally enjoy the favor, comforts and emoluments of the world—but it is in response to the call of our country to perform not a pleasant, though a highly important duty which belongs to the citizens of all classes who live in the land of Washington. You, of your own free will and accord, abandoned all you held dear so far as the social relations were concerned, because you desired to obey the summons which called you to defend the institutions of our fathers.

The time when your organization was effected is fresh in my memory,—well do

you encountered, and the sacrifices made to reach the battle-field. Well do I remember the day when you bade adieu to the loved ones, and amid their tears, with firm and manly bearing, departed upon the train which was to convey the regiment to the scenes of deadly conflict and strife, and which also was to many of your brave comrades their departure upon a journey from which no traveler returns.

As you went away, the sympathies and prayers of the people were with you. All had a deep interest in you as citizens—a county that has, since the days of the revolution, been always distinguished for its firm attachment to the principles of a Republican Government. The honor of the fair fame of the county of Gen. Herkimer, was committed to your trust. You were to prove, whether or not you were worthy of your noble ancestry. Did the same unaltering courage, devoted patriotism, and fidelity exist in A. D., 1861, as prevailed and were exhibited in the days of 1776?

The record already made up in the history of this great contest, still existing in behalf of Human Freedom and the "inalienable rights of man," shall speak and answer the question. The battles of Fair Oaks, Nelson's Farm, Glendale, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Antietam, and Fredericksburg were, each and all of them, distinguished as closely contested fields, by the opposing forces, for the unflinching bravery, and valor there displayed and have become classic ground. On those bloody fields tens of thousands of brave soldiers, sacrificed their lives on the altar of Liberty and have gone to receive their reward in the land of light beyond the sun. The soiled, blood-stained and tattered banners which I see before me this day, proud emblem of a nation's hope, were there unfurled and nobly sustained by you. That brave, accomplished and deeply lamented officer, Gen. SUMNER, in his official report of the battle of Fair Oaks, by simply stating facts in regard to what you did there, has made a page in history which is destined to place unfading laurels upon the 34th New York. When the fortunes of the day were against us, and the traitorous legions of the enemy were advancing, and nothing except firm, noble and decided action could prevent defeat, your services were requested, and upon you rested the responsibilities of that important contest. Your line of battle, on that occasion was as perfect and in as good order as though you were only on dress parade, or drawn up for review. Shoulder to shoulder, every man at his post, you made that noble, gallant and glorious charge which will be remembered, "not for a day, but for all time." The enemy fled, and one of the most brilliant victories of the war, was thus achieved, but at a

loss of ninety-eight of your brave comrades.

At Antietam, when outflanked and surrounded, you nobly cut your way through the enemy, and saved the regiment, coming out of the contest with numbers much diminished. Nobly did you stand up against the iron hail and missiles of death and destruction at Fredericksburg. But I have not time to continue the history of your gallant deeds further here.

You have gained the imperishable glory of true courage, and bravery at all times and in all places, in which you have been called upon to act. "The fighting 34th," well in the advance at all times when on the march against the enemy, and in the rear at the retreat.

More than the full period of your enlistments having expired, you are now about to lay down your arms and return to your families and firesides. A cordial, earnest, and happy greeting awaits you.

The assembled multitude here affords evidence, of the place which you each and

Herkimer Fire Company.

Mohawk Fire Company.

Ilion Fire Company.

## LITTLE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Cascade Engine Co., No. 1.

Protection Engine Co., No. 2.

Gen. Herkimer Engine Co., No. 3.

Citizens Brass Band.

Marshal. Drum Corps. Marshal.

## 34th REGIMENT N. Y. S. VOLUNTEERS.

Disabled and Discharged Soldiers.

The line being formed, Rev. Mr GREGORY eloquently addressed the Throne of Grace, offering up thanksgiving that we were permitted to enjoy this festal day under circumstances so beneficent and propitious to our happiness. He expressed sincere gratitude to God for the return of the regiment, which might be deemed a harbinger of the day when all who have gone forth shall return with peace and praise upon their banners. He invoked the blessing of God upon the large assemblage present and upon all the returned soldier's of the 34th regiment, praying that such might be our appreciation of their heroic deeds that the memory of them might ever be as fresh in our hearts and in the hearts of our children, as are the bright evergreens under which we now welcome them home. Most earnestly did he commend to God the families who have been bereaved by the casualties in that regiment, mentioning such names as Middlebrooks, Terry, Barton, and others, and asked for them all the consolations of God's abounding grace. In conclusion he alluded to the day when the Son of God shall lead forth in triumphal procession the redeemed hosts to the reception of the blessed on the evergreen shore, the Paradise of God, and prayed that on that day all might be there.

Hon. A. H. PRESCOTT then forcibly and with much feeling addressed the Regiment.

## SPEECH OF GEN. PRESCOTT.

Col. Laflin, Officers and Soldiers of the 34th Regiment of the Volunteer forces of the State of New York:—

I have unexpectedly been selected to perform the honorable duty of greeting you, and in behalf of the people of the county, to extend to you their cordial and heartfelt welcome.

It is now more than two years since you, each and all, abandoned your peaceful pursuits in civil life, left your homes, friends and kindred to engage in a new vocation.

The employment was one of a different

all hold in the affections of the people of the County, who all hail and know you, the survivors of so many well fought battles.

But the rejoicings and congratulations of this hour must be disturbed by the incidents that are always connected with each conflict—in proportion to the character, magnitude and severity of the contest must be our losses and reverses.

How happy we should feel if *all those* who went out with you in April 1861, could be restored to society, friends and families on this occasion.

While your safe arrival causes the tears of joy to flow down many cheeks, emotions of a different character prevail in many sad hearts. But about one half of your original number have been permitted to return. Where are those who went with you, but who cannot be present here to-day? A large proportion of them have fallen in battle and their remains repose beneath the clods of the valley; their bones are now bleaching in the sun in a distant land—All honor is due to the memory of the illustrious dead! Their names and deeds are recorded in our hearts and in a suitable manner shall the record be preserved, and transmitted from generation to generation. I trust, also, that each and all of us, will remember in a manner to be exhibited by substantial acts of kindness and charity the widows and the orphans.

Another painful consideration is suggested here. Notwithstanding your part has been well performed the end has not yet been accomplished; the rebellion against the best Government, that the light of the sun has ever shone upon still rages with undiminished fury. While much has been accomplished, great sacrifices and exertions are yet necessary and demanded—I desire to ask a question here, put to all those who composed this assembly, returned soldiers as well as civilians—shall we abandon this contest, allow our institutions to be overthrown, and the fit and chosen emblem of our nation's glory to trail in the dust? Will we, as far as our action is concerned, continue to make all the further sacrifices that are, and may become necessary to preserve to the world, to bless mankind the richest boon which God in his wisdom, has ever vouchsafed to man? I believe it to be the firm and decided opinion of all present. "That our glorious Union must and shall be preserved."

Then in conclusion, permit me to say,

let this consideration be uppermost in the minds of all, and let all else be subservient to that great end:—

To establish our glorious Government required the sincere and earnest efforts and the greatest sacrifices of all those possessed of patriotic hearts. To preserve and continue it requires greater exertion, more united action, than it did to establish it.

From this time henceforth, then, let us each and all feel that we have an individual duty to perform, and waiving less important considerations, let us be united as one sacred band of patriotic men and women, and let the only question be—In what way and manner can we do the most good towards the accomplishment of this much desired object?

Fellow citizens: The example of the 34th is before you. It has been noble, manly and glorious from the beginning to the end. If we do our part, yet to be performed as well as they have done theirs, the rebellion will be speedily put down.

Officers and soldiers: Trusting your presence with us will incite in all emulation and action for that purpose, in this hour of peril, I welcome you, and may the richest of Heaven's blessings reward and bless you and yours.

Loud cheers were given at the conclusion both for the speaker and for the regiment.

At the conclusion of Gen. Prescott's address, Col. LAFLIN responded, briefly as follows:—

#### REPLY OF COL. LAFLIN.

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens:—

In behalf of the officers and men of this command I thank you for the compliment paid us, and for the very magnificent reception given us. And while it is exceedingly gratifying to us, it is also encouraging to those brave men of our own county whom we left last Sunday crossing the Rappahannock below Fredericksburg.

Our flag to which you have so complementarily alluded has been with us through many a field of battle, and we love it with a love stronger than words can express; and should we be called upon to defend that flag, I assure you that our future will not belie our past.

In conclusion, I cannot refrain from thanking the ladies for their kind presence here, for I assure them it has been long since the soldiers of the Potomac have been blessed with a sight of such fair faces. (Cheers and applause.)

The line of march was then taken, presenting a most beautiful and imposing spectacle. The several bands struck up lively music and the long procession took its way through crowded streets, under beautiful arches, greeted on every hand by words of cordiality and welcome. As it passed along Main St. the enthusiastic masses could hardly be driven back from the center of the street sufficiently to permit it to pass. It was a sight the like of which many an old inhabitant had never seen. The Regiment itself was the center of all attractions. The returning veterans marched finely and in excellent order, although greeted on both sides by friends and relatives, and in fact their uniform good behavior and gentlemanly appearance was the subject of universal remark through the day.

#### MOTTOES AND DECORATIONS.

We shall not be expected to give one half of the many decorations with which almost every house along the line of march was ornamented. The hundreds of flags flying from windows, house-tops, arches and flag-poles and from ropes drawn across the various streets it would be impossible even to enumerate. Many of them were very large and very fine and they added greatly to the beauty of the occasion.

At the Freight House the following mottoes were displayed:—"To all Friends of the Union," "Welcome to our Brave Boys," The Union Forever."

Maj. PRIEST'S residence was decked with flags. In front was the motto—**IN MEMORIAM.**

The Gallant Dead of the 34th Regiment.

"Whether on the gallows high

Or in the battles van;

The fittest place for man to die,

Is where he dies for man."

W. H. Williams had a number of fine wreaths with a Gothic archway and the words, "Thanks 34th, defenders of our Homes;" also a statue of Washington holding a scroll with the inscription, "Though dead I am with you."

Messrs. Richmond and Bennett displayed a photograph of "Old Abe," and the words, "Long live the heroes of Fair Oaks."

The arch at the corner of John and Mary St. was a beautiful structure, covered with evergreens and on one side the sentiment, "Welcome, gallant 34th; on the other "Your record is immortal." M. M. Abel had a portrait of McClellan and "Welcome 34th" over gateway.

Lipe and Abel's store was trimmed in excellent taste.

From the *Courier* office hung the motto, "Soldiers of the 34th Regiment, a grateful people welcome you."

The entire block of buildings from Burch & Co's to W. T. Wheeler's was decorated with evergreen wreath-work.

At the crossing of the streets was hung a large pencilled likeness of "Little Mac" with the names of the regimental battlefields. Although the likeness was shabbily done, the design of the poles supporting it was very pretty. They were wound with cedar wreaths and stripes of red white and blue cambric.

Ed. Lee had a portrait of Washington and large festoons and wreaths in front of his store.

Tiffany's store was trimmed with evergreens.

From Mrs. Pepper's Millinery shop was "Welcome, brave 34th!"

The Benton House displayed several large flags, one of them across the street being forty feet long. Long festoons and wreaths hung tastefully upon every side and at the entrance were the words, "Brave Defenders, Home Again!"

Opposite this office was another of the fine arches, planned and erected by the Committee. Upon one side of this arch was the sentiment "To Valor and Constancy;" upon the other, "Brave as the Bravest."

At Fralick's Store was, "Gallant 34th, Welcome Home."

Kibbe's saloon was neatly decorated.—Portraits of Washington and McClellan were hung out and the words, "How are you, boys?" "Happy to greet you."

At Carver's was an eagle with the mottoes, "Stand by the Old Flag," "The Star-spangled Banner in triumph shall wave."

Wm. Taylor's store was beautifully ornamented. Upon the awning was a bronzed eagle, behind which between two flags was a statue of Washington.

The windows of Miss Wright's school-room contained mottoes in bronzed letters: "The patriots of '63," "34th, Welcome," "Home, Sweet Home."

The Post Office was trimmed neatly with festoons of evergreens; over the doorway was, "Welcome 34th."

At Mr. Dygert's were fine wreaths of flowers.

Wm. I. Skinner's residence and gateway looked beautifully. "Welcome 34th" was displayed.

"All honor to the brave defender of our country" appeared at Perrine's shop.

W. H. Klock had wreaths and a "Welcome, brave 34th."

At Esq. Uhle's was the salutation "We greet you, 34th."

At Geo. Ransom's, "Thrice Welcome, Gallant 34th."

At Eph. Boyer's, "Welcome home, boys!"

At A. Griffin's, "Welcome."

At J. Griffin's "Welcome, gallant 34th," in a fine wreath over the gateway. Here was another arch of evergreens with, "34th, Welcome."

Wm. Ingham's residence was trimmed with festoons.

The stores of Wm. Southworth and P. A. Staring were nearly covered with cedar.

R. C. Petrie displayed, "Welcome Home," "Honor to the 34th."

At the large gateway of the Woolen Mills, in letters made of blue shoddy, was "Herkimer is proud of the 34th."

Heath's bakery had the sentiment, "Stand by the Old Flag."

Upon the iron railings of the canal bridge were the words, "Happy Greeting to all," and "Spirit of '76."

The arch just across the bridge was finely located so that the procession passed twice under it. "Welcome, thrice welcome, noble 34th" was on one side; "Home Rweet Home" on the other.

"Honor to the brave 34th" appeared near Mr. Heath's and from that to the house of Messrs. Bellinger and Casler, an arch trimmed with flowers.

Upon No. 3 Engine house was, "Gen. Herkimer greets you," and opposite was a splendid arch of cedars and flowers with red, white and blue letters, "Welcome Home, 34th."

From Mrs. J. N. Barber's were hung wreaths and the Constitution of the United States in a frame.

The festoons around D. H. Hull's were among the finest seen.

Another beautiful arch was located here. Upon the lower side was, Herkimer greets her heroes;" on the upper, "Ever faithful to the Flag."

The residence of M. W. Priest was draped with the Stars and Stripes, with "Welcome Home" and a portrait of Washington.

At Dr. Ingham's was the expressive word "Union."

A. Zimmerman displayed likenesses of Washington and McClellan and wreaths very tastefully arranged.

At Dr. Brown's was a beautiful arch. Messrs. Wright and Levi had each a Welcome to the gallant 34th.

Col. Griswold's portico was neatly festooned.

The residence of O. Ladue displayed a large "Welcome" and much beauty in its adornments.

At J. T. Alden's and L. D. Waite's were various ornaments of evergreens.

A pretty thought it was which suggested the idea of the motto of his mother on Major Sponable's home, "My all for my Country."

At L. O. Gay's were the words, "Honor to the brave 34th" in evergreen letters.

W. T. Wheeler's piazza and gateway were suitably decorated.

The house of Mrs. Brooks was beautiful in an abundance of wreaths and bouquets of choice flowers.

At the entrance to the park was a chaste little arch and upon it the words, "Fair Oaks—Better Fare."

The Mohawk Fire Company bore upon their banners: "Welcome, 34th! Our latch-string is out, boys!"; "Honor to the 34th—Welcome home!"

Upon the whole these decorations were most beautiful and are said to have surpassed even those of our neighbors of Utica at their recent reception; and although there would seem to be a sameness which no effort of ours can avoid in a brief description of them, yet the styles of lettering and the variety of tastes displayed in ornamenting were so different that the effect, in almost every instance, was good

Upon its arrival at the public square the procession was formed on both sides of the park, the regiment only being admitted within, where already a crowd, estimated at more than ten thousand had gathered. And here transpired one of the prettiest and most impressive events of the occasion. Upon a large, elevated platform stood thirty-four young Misses, scholars of Miss WRIGHT'S school dressed in white and arranged to represent a "pyramid of beauty." The most perfect stillness reigned as they arose and clearly and in perfect concert repeated the following:

#### WELCOME OF THE YOUNG LADIES.

SOLDIERS:—We welcome you! Gladly we hail this day that returns to home and friends those who went forth to battle for a nation's honor. You left us amid rejoicings, tears and benedictions; your return is greeted by the same. Rejoicings that, protected by an invisible hand, you have returned, scarred perhaps by many a conflict, but returned to home once more.

Tears we drop for the fallen brave, tears for the unmarked grave. Hallowed be the spot where the bones of our bold repose! and benedictions, aye, let them rest unnumbered upon the heads of those who have fought our battles.

We know the war cry still resounds; the angel of peace sits afar off with folded wings, and who can know when his blessed pinitas shall again hover over this free "Land of the West?" God in his mercy has chastised us deeply, and while we bow in humility to His will, we would not forget those who, thus far, have so nobly done the nation's bidding. We welcome you proudly; no stigma of cowardice has ever been coupled with the name of our gallant 34th.

When the tale of Fair Oaks gleams upon history's page, it will picture a true, warrior band, eagerly responding to the noble SUMNER'S command. Even now we hear that order—"Charge 34th"—and your thinned ranks tell, alas, too well, how there you met the traitor.

Of memory's immortal tablets we know there is one for the heroes of Malvern Hill, Antietam and Fredericksburgh. Kindly we welcome you to the rest so nobly won.

As the address was concluded each lady came forward and threw a bouquet of fresh spring flowers among the deeply affected soldiers. Those who saw this beautiful scene can never forget its impressiveness.

The President, Hon. Robert EARL then announced Hon. EZRA GRAVES who spoke as follows:—

#### ADDRESS OF JUDGE GRAVES.

Officers and Soldiers:—

Our friends and neighbors, who have come back from the field of blood and carnage with your garments faded by a southern sun and your faces bronzed by a southern wind. You have come home unharmed from the rebels, from whose hearts the sting of national death has emanated and by whose hands the temple of freedom has been desecrated. You are permitted to meet again the kind embraces of those you left behind, with such additional claims upon them as your fidelity and heroism have created. The two years that you have been absent have been long years to those who have missed you at home, and who have gazed upon the vacant chair with tearful eyes and prayerful hearts, whose thoughts and imaginations have followed you from your enrollment in 1861, to the barracks at Albany, and onward to your encampment on Kalorama Heights,

exhaustion brought you back to Chain Bridge. We followed you to Tennytown, Rockville, to South Mountain and on to the long-to-be-remembered bloody field of Antietam, where you escaped destruction by unequalled coolness and unparalleled bravery; from thence to Harper's Ferry and Baldwin's Heights, thence to London Valley, clearing the gaps of the Mountains by your firm step and deadly fire, until you reached Warrenton; and then to Fal-mouth, when, by that fatal order which

brought you over the Rappahannock on the 13th of December last, you fearlessly mingled in that bloody scene which moistened the earth of Fredericksburg with blood too pure for rebel soil.

Although we have detailed ourselves to do sympathetic duty at home, yet we know we have not followed you through all the trying and embarrassing duties which have blocked your pathway. And although we have stood by your side in thought and hope, amid pelting storms, in dreary marches, in tents of wasting fever and bleeding wounds, and although we listened to the throbbing heart of electric-ity with breathless suspense as it out-rote time to bring us the soul-inspiring tidings that victory was not for our enemies while the 34th remained unconquered; yet you know, with all our solicitude and anxiety, we could no comprehend that self-sacrifice and deprivation to which you have been subjected through the complex realities of a soldiers life. It would be unworthy a freeman who loved his country and his country's cause to be unmindful of any who periled their lives to save its laws and institutions. But when the news came of the sacriligious and cowardly attack upon Fort Sumpter, you left the plough in the field, the work shop, the counting room, the halls of science, the sacred altar, the learned professions, parents, brothers, sisters, friends and home, to mingle your bones and blood, if freedom demanded it, on soil cursed by rebel footsteps. No glittering gold invited you to the contest. No government bank-bill was placarded before you to arouse your patriotism. With that intuitive impulse of passion which every true lover of his country feels, you drew the sword and shouldered arms, and with firm step and manly bearing, went to the battle field to honor the cause you espoused; and if succeeding regiments had imitated your example, provost marshals and sheriffs would have had but small duties to perform in searching in the crevices of the rocks for those ruffian deserters and niggardly cowards who have stolen the form of man to disgrace the creature that God made in his own image. You saw the embers of Liberty were uncovered afresh; you saw the fires of freedom burning with renewed heat over the prairies of the west, mountains of the north and granite hills of the east; you saw the lovers of your country renewing their allegiance. You saw the mountains and the valleys, the ships and the rail roads teeming with fathers, brothers, sons and lovers, eager for the battle field, demanding an atonement for the insult offered to our flag on the walls of Sumpter. Officers and soldiers, you went at the call of your country, with hearts beating and throbbing for victory, and you bore with you the prayers of those who, from age and inability were not permitted to share with you a soldier's fate and a soldier's honor. You went to join your brethren in arms, to strew your pathway with laurels of fame to be won by noble daring in deadly conflict.

With the patriot's prayer your bosoms were beating  
With the patriot's arms the flag you unfurled,  
Defend it or die, each man was repeating,  
It is liberty's cause—it's the hope of the world."

You went exhibiting that cool, calm, determined fortitude and bravery which enabled you to welcome the approach of your enemies with a heroism that has quailed at no glistening steel or booming cannon.

The contract you entered into with the Government, has been performed, its conditions executed and nobly done. And we have met this day with this vast assembly to satisfy you that we are proud of our country, that we are proud of our institutions, that we are proud of our Government, but, above all, that we are proud of you, the citizen soldiers, who have gallantly defended them. And although our hearts are made glad at year presence, yet where are all the brave men who went with you? I see your ranks are thinned, your numbers lessened—where are they? Have they fallen? Yes, the rebel foe cast his arrow but to slay. The sacred soil, cursed by the ingratitude of its owners, is to be enriched by the flesh and bones of brave men who fell fighting with you. They lived for imitation, they died for example. Though the sigh of affliction may heave, the tear of regret may fall at severing the cords of consanguinity, yet we will boast of their deeds with an enthusiasm, in after years, that shall blot out the anguish their dead has created. The sleeping patriotic friend upon the battle field is a heaven-born legacy. It is a legacy which time cannot destroy. It is written in the ...

in a "Republican form of Government does not demoralize the citizen soldiery.

Col. LAFLIN called for three cheers from the regiment at the conclusion of the speech, and they were given with a will.

#### THE COLLATION.

The soldiers were then conducted to the tables which had been prepared for them under the most active and efficient superintendance of M. W. PRIEST Esq. Here everything was provided in the most liberal manner, and nearly one hundred ladies gladly waited upon the youthful heroes of so many battles. Some idea may be obtained of the magnitude of these preparations from the following figures:

Length of table for Soldiers	1054f
" " Firemen and Cit.	850f
No. pounds of meat	800
" loaves of bread	200
" large pies	150
" loaves of cake	200
" pounds of sugar	100
" " cheese	100
" " coffee	40
" boiled eggs	360
" pounds of butter	50
Besides pork and beans, pickles, radishes, oranges, tarts, &c., &c., in quantities that cannot be estimated.	

While at the table, and indeed, throughout the entire day, the men of the 34th behaved with that gentlemanly bearing for which they have received so many compliments at New York, Albany and elsewhere. These gallant fellows, seated around so festal a board, and the attentions paid them by the ladies were a most beautiful sight to be long remembered.

Besides these tables at which sat the soldiers, were those of the firemen and citizens. Our village firemen entertained the visiting companies in a most hospitable and liberal manner. Among the citizens' tables we noticed particularly that of the ladies of Manheim. It was fairly overloaded with choice eatables and was magnificently decorated with fine buoquets.

After the soldiers had left the tables the hungry crowd rushed forward and scenes were enacted both shameful and ridiculous. People who, we presume to say, have enough to eat when at home, acted as though they expected never again to have such a chance and so a general stampede for the tables began. But, by the efforts of the committee some show of order was finally secured and we believe everybody ate to his heart's content—and there was plenty to spare which, it is a pleasure to announce, has been distributed, among the needy widows and families of deceased soldiers.

After dinner the crowd swayed to and fro after squads of soldiers who roamed where they pleased. Joyous greetings and happy, hearty shakings of the hand, and fears and kisses of affection were the order of the day. Everybody was happy and we trust everybody was satisfied with the reception. The soldiers appreciated fully the efforts made to honor them and their friends were proud that the brave fellows were so deserving it and all other honors that could be given them. It was a proud day both for them and for us.

At live o'clock that portion of the regiment who did not have furloughs for home visits returned to Albany. Loud cheers were given on their departure, after which the multitude quietly dispersed. Not an unhappy or disgraceful scene occurred during all the day. Everything was in good taste and in good order, and everybody was happy and proud of his participation in the festivities.

The residence of Mrs. Geo. Morse was draped in mourning and in front was a fine likeness of Sergt. Morse.

At Wm. B. Houghton's was the motto, "Our first volunteers—we are proud of you."

The houses of Messrs. Rust and Dorr were very finely decorated with cedar wreaths and over the street were hung two large flags,

H. Whittimore displayed a shield with "Welcome home, 34th."

M. Baddy had prepared a fine arch with "Welcome 34th," in gilt letters.

Rev. B. F. McLaughlin had flags waving from every window, with photographs of Washington and McClellan.

On the Academy belfry was a fine flag and the word "Union."

At John Feeter's were seen some of the finest bouquets and wreaths of flowers of the day and "Manheim" on an arch over the gateway.

Wreaths of flowers and cedar were festooned about the piazza of Judge Loomis.

At H. Burrill's flags and wreaths were hung out and a "Happy Greeting" upon an arch at the gate.

Geo. Bertram had flags at every point and over the doorway the words, "Welcome, brave boys of '61."

The Nelson House was trimmed in excellent taste with cedar and the stars and stripes.

At Nelson's store was a neat arch of evergreens and the salutation, "How are you vets?"

J. Churchill's gate was surmounted with a neat arch.

The stores of G. F. Girvan, B. R. Jones, and Knapp and Arnold and the hotel of E. Davis were decked with cedar wreaths.

Mrs. Dibble's Millinery shop was carefully adorned and bore the words, "Home, Sweet Home."

Nearly opposite Snell and Scott's store was a very beautiful arch from which were pendant circular wreaths each containing upon a red, white or blue canvass, the name of a principal battle in which the regiment has been engaged. It was designed by Mr. I. Snell and was very prettily done.

J. Lee displayed a likeness of Washington and the motto, "We honor the living and mourn the dead. Your heroism is recorded."  
Geo. Feeter had a "Welcome."

A neat arch fronted the residence of E. Reed.

Wreaths and festoons and a likeness of the President appeared at Dr. Stebbins'.

At James Feeters were two pretty gateway arches and a crayoned likeness of Washington.

Mrs. Beardslee's residence was decorated with much taste. Upon the piazza was the motto, "Honor to the brave 34th Regiment."

One of the most beautiful, imposing and appropriate features was the large monument erected on Ann St., in memory of the fallen heroes, whose absence from the festivities of the day gathered afresh choking sobs and burning tears of mourning relatives. It was a massive structure, twenty feet high, surmounted by a large eagle grasping in each claw an American flag. Upon the column, wreathed in cedar and white flowers were the names of the battles of "Fair Oaks, Glendale, Antietam, Yorktown, Fredericksburg, South Mountain, Malvern Hill, and Edward's Ferry" and upon the base, "Nelson's Farm, Fredericksburg Heights, Savage's Station, and Peach Orchard Station." Upon four sides of the base, festooned in white and cedar wreaths were the following:

They died in defence of the GOOD OLD FLAG.

"Freedom's battle once begun,  
Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,  
Though baffled oft is ever won."

The MEMORY of their GALLANT DEEDS,  
Will live FOREVER.

Virginia's soil is consecrated to FREEDOM  
by the BLOOD of our HEROES.

As the procession passed this point heads were reverently uncovered, steps were measured to the solemn music of the bands, silence came over the crowds of people and many a tear was shed in memory of those who would never return. The effect upon the brave fellows of the regiment, as they looked anew upon their thinned ranks, was too deep for utterance. It was indeed a beautiful tribute to departed patriotism—a tribute too often forgotten in the glad times of welcoming those whose lives, though not less freely offered, have *not* been taken.

Upon this street also the houses and grounds of Geo. Ashley, H. M. Burch and A. G. Story were most fittingly and neatly ornamented, as were those of Jas. Aldrich, Jorame Petrie, on Gansevoort St.

from thence to Seneca Mills, to the Great inheritance which descends to future generations, Falls, to Edwards Ferry, Poolsville, Bald-erations unimpaired and unstained. wins Heights, Charlestown, Berrysville, The humble graves where rest those who Winchester, and back to Sandy Hook, and struggled with you for victory have no Washington, and Alexandria, and then by Parian marble to mark the place where ship to Fortress Monroe, disembarking at sleeps the man, but at that roll call of national justice, the true and good will point Hampton. We followed you through Big and Little Bethel, the entrenchments at the spot and the acacia of fame, fresh Howard's Bridge, pursuing the rebels on from the grave of loyalty, will rise a tower their retreat to their formidable defences; ering evergreen, spreading its branches to at Yorktown, and from thence to your en- shade a world of freemen, as fadeless and campment at the Tyler House. We fol- undying as the fame of those who gave lowed you to Fair Oaks, to witness the full nourishment to its roots.

strength of your heroic daring, as you took the place of Gen. CASEY'S vanquished forces and came to the relief of Gen. COUCH, who was then about yielding the field to the enemy. We heard your shouts as they welled up from your patriotic hearts on that memorable day at Fair Oaks, when, with glistening bayonets, you charged the rebel foe with such intrepidity and determination that stone walls, underbrush and swamps were no obstacles in your way to the attainment of that glory that came with a halo clustering around your heads, writing on the trees as it passed over the field of deadly conflict. "The brave, invincible 34th;" we read it on the wings of the wind, as it passed over the homes you left behind, and our bosoms beat with pride and our hearts throbbed with gratitude that you, our associates, had nobly defended our country's flag though the missiles of death thinned your ranks and laid low by your side your valiant companions in arms. We followed you through that seven days bloody conflict, at Peach Orchard, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, Glendale, Nelsons Farm, and Malvern Hill, where you met the enemy and added to former successes by forcing them to flee before you, leaving their dead and dying in your hands. We saw you at Harmons Landing, erecting breastworks, cutting down the forests and making corduroy roads, faithful to duty everywhere. Next at Newport News and then at Alexandria. Thence by peremptory order you was summoned to Bull Run, the order was changed while you were on the march as you met the Yankee in disrespectful retreat before the enemy, and you will all remember that dreary and fatiguing all night march to Chain

Bridge, arriving there early in the morning and breaking camp the same afternoon, and taking up march for Centreville to cover Pope's retreat. Six days mud and

You have come back to finish that which you had commenced when the clarion note of war summoned you to the temple of Freedom. You have learned the casualties of war, have felt its burdens and responsibilities, and have come home to enjoy its honors so richly won. Yours indeed is an enviable reputation. It is a reputation worthy of preservation. As a regiment your glory is unfading. That glory is the individual property of you all; each man wears the crown of success; each man holds before him the record of his own achievements, written with the indelible ink of a nation's gratitude. To preserve that reputation is the work of your coming life and, whether in the tented field or on the battle ground, amid shot and shell from deadly foes, or surrounded with Northern traitors or Southern sympathisers, with hypocritical cant or loud professions, or reposing in the more quiet and unobtrusive employments of life, I pray you, yield to no allurements or enticements that shall betray your want of courage to overcome every enemy which may assail your future comfort. History informs us that war demoralizes a nation. The experiment has never been tried where, like this, the people are the government. Remember that each man here is a sovereign and charged with the preservation of our institutions and the moral character of our nation. Remember that though the strong arm of military power may resist aggression and subdue rebellion, that power must be based upon the moral character of the people. Go then, officers and soldiers, to your different employments and associations, crowned with the congratulations of a grateful people, and may that God who guided the dove from the ark to the mountain, direct your footsteps and preserve you through the frost of many winters, to live in the affections of the people and prove a national truth, that