

## General Bussey

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very certain that Ord gave no such *written orders*, and Lauman, as I know, did not see General Ord after receiving the written orders until he relieved him. When this brave little band saw no chance for retreat, and death staring them in the face, they rushed madly on determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible, and neither the gallant old Pugh, of the First Brigade, nor the beloved Lauman could check them. So desperate was their charge that the enemy in their front, three times their number and behind strong works, began to waver and seek refuge in flight. There may have been officers who were better skilled in the art of war, but none more gallant on the field, none more obedient to orders, and none more devoted to the cause of the country. Never can it be said of him, *he knew his duty, but did it not*; never can it be said that he avoided any responsibility, however dangerous, or however hard. Though he is dead, yet, he still lives in the hearts of the brave soldiers and gallant officers whom he commanded, who still survive him. Never did he ask an officer or soldier to go where he was not willing to go himself, and none that knew the kindness of his heart will ever say that he would, carelessly or madly, push his troops into a danger that could be honorably avoided.

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Very truly yours,

W. H. F. RANDALL.

#### GENERAL BUSSEY.

Cyrus Bussey, Major General by Brevet, U. S. V., came to Iowa in the summer of 1855; then a young man 22 years of age; located at Bloomfield, Davis county, and entered at once into mercantile business. Young as he was he had already been in business in his own name for six years; and had already an established business character and reputation in the state from which he came, as among the stable and reliable business men of the community in which he resided. He was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, October 5th, 1833. His

father was a Methodist minister in poor circumstances, with a large family. In those days Methodist ministers received very poor support, which, together with the practice of frequent change of location of their ministers peculiar to that religious denomination, disabled him from giving to his son the advantages of a liberal education at school.

The first four years of the boy's infancy were passed in Ohio. Then his father, having been transferred to the Indiana Conference, two years were passed at Greensburgh; then followed two years at Paris; and thus a change every one or two years, as the father changed to a new circuit or station, until the age of fourteen.

At the many places at which his childhood and youth was spent none afforded the facilities for anything more than the most rudimentary course of instruction. And the father's means not being adequate to sending him away from home to better schools, the youth, through all these years, had opportunities for only the most meagre advantages for study and mental culture. A few months of each year, at the very ordinary schools at the various places of his residence, were all the opportunities afforded him. Once only, for a brief season, were better advantages obtained. When twelve years of age his father was stationed at Columbus, Indiana. At this place there was a respectable seminary to which the youth was sent and continued for six months, which closed his school-going career for life. And yet the General is a fair scholar, a man of extensive general information, good literary acquirements, a fine public speaker, and a writer of easy and graceful style, and is thoroughly skilled in some special branches of science; all of which indicate a self-culture and discipline of mind from persistent habits of thorough study. To what extent and in what manner will be developed as we pass along through this sketch.

When thirteen years of age, he entered a dry goods store as clerk, where he remained a few months; but his father having been assigned to another circuit Cyrus accompanied him. On his way to his new field of labor he stopped over

night at Dupont, Jefferson county. Here the son made the acquaintance of a merchant who offered him a situation as clerk in his store, which was joyfully accepted, and he at once entered upon his duties, where he remained two years, learning the business so thoroughly, and discharging his duties so intelligently and with so much fidelity, and manifesting so good a business capacity, that he won the confidence not only of his employer, but of the wholesaling dealers in the large cities, where he was frequently sent to transact business, to such an extent that they volunteered to sell him all the goods needed to start business on his own account, notwithstanding he was destitute of a dollar of capital and only a boy. Accordingly, at the age of sixteen, he purchased a four thousand dollar stock of goods and began business in his own name.

At this time he was very small of his age and youthful in looks, not being larger than boys usually are at twelve or thirteen. His diminutive size and youthful appearance attracted frequent attention, when visiting the cities for the purchase of goods, as contrasting so remarkably with his matured judgment and capacity "as a man of business." However, at the age of eighteen he commenced growing, and very rapidly stretched up to the manly height of nearly six feet.

During the following six years young Bussey pursued the business of merchandising with varied success. One year of the time he returned to a clerkship with his old employer, at Dupont, having previously sold out his business. After a year's interval he entered into company with an older brother and opened anew. This brother was a physician, and, being actively employed in his profession, the management of the mercantile affairs was left entirely to the younger.

During these six years the young man completed his education; or rather laid the foundation for that mental discipline and culture which has developed his fine powers of mind into strength and activity; which has rendered him accomplished in varied fields of learning, and fitted him for the successful discharge of every duty which in public or private life he has been called upon to perform. During all these

years he devoted several hours of each day to laborious study. Rising at four in the morning he applied himself until business hours; then, after business hours, until ten at night, was with him an invariable rule. Two years of this time he pursued a course of medical studies, under the instruction of his partner brother, until his health failing he was compelled to give up study for the time and limit his exertions to the single occupation of his merchant business. In the meantime, during these years of labor and study,—the formative stages of his character,—he had united with the Methodist Church, and, in being fixed in his religious principles, was kept aloof from the evil associations which throng the pathway of youth, and especially those who are thrown thus early on the world, on their own resources, and which thousands of the most gifted, and kindly of heart, find beyond their unaided powers of resistance.

In 1855, Mr. Bussey, having married and determined upon a new and wider field of business than his present, turned his attention to looking up some spot for a permanent home, and having been captivated by the descriptions of the bright skies, and the beautiful and vast prairies of Iowa, removed hither in August of that year, as heretofore mentioned; became here, as he had been previously, a successful and prosperous merchant; came through the panic of 1857 with unimpaired credit, and branching out into other channels of investment went on prospering as before. Much of his success is, no doubt, due to a habit of his, of looking thoroughly and minutely into the details of his affairs, and leaving nothing to loss by the carelessness or dishonesty of employees.

Thus the war found him—a successful and thriving merchant. Before entering upon the part he performed in the war of the rebellion, which has brought his name before the country, it is proper to make some mention of his political record.

Up to the time of the inauguration of the rebellion he had been an earnest and efficient democrat. In 1858, he had carried his county in a hotly contested canvass, and been elected

a member of the senate over Judge Moon, and served through the session of the succeeding winter. In 1860, he was a delegate to the Charleston Convention, which, reassembling at Baltimore in June, nominated Stephen A. Douglas for President. Returning home he supported the candidate presented by that convention with all the zeal, energy, ability, and influence he possessed, fully impressed with apprehensions that the country was rapidly drifting toward a revolution, which the election of only one of the several candidates—his own—could avert.

The signal gun having been sounded at Sumter, and the issue having been made clear and sharp between the government and its enemies, he took the side of the government. Stepping out of the ranks of his party, no longer a partisan, he became simply a patriot. Like the great leader whom he had supported through the late canvass; like thousands of other noble spirits of his party all over the country; at this trying time, he recognized no longer a party whose single interests were to be served; but a country to be defended and saved. At a war meeting, called by the citizens of Davis county, he came boldly forward to the support of the government, and, in a speech of great eloquence and power, publicly recognized the claims of the government to be paramount to those of any party, and pledged himself to so vote and act in the General Assembly, if it should be convened in extra session,—a pledge which he fully redeemed when the extra session was called.

To any one of the next generation who may incidentally fall upon this number of *THE ANNALS*,—if it should so happen,—the foregoing few sentences will no doubt sound strangely. That a writer of this day, in representing the character and actions of a public man from the true and loyal State of Iowa, should deem it necessary in defining his political position at the opening of the great contest in which the integrity of the Union, and even life of the government, was involved, to mention that his subject joined the friends of the government in measures for its defence against its enemies,

will be regarded, no doubt, as at least a supererogate explanation. For it is not probable that the next or any future generation of Iowans will properly appreciate the true status of parties, or the exact temper of the people of those times, which to be appreciated needs to have been felt. That there could at such a time have remained in life any considerable force of a grand old party organization, which had been potent in influence, and had become venerable as one of the ancient pillars of the republic, to now stand passive through the fearful crisis, with the calm, deliberate, unfeeling expression, as their motto: "It is an abolition war; let them fight it out; Democrats have nothing to do with it," will not be readily comprehended. Nor was a "masterly inactivity" in behalf of the country always the state of these partisans: at times, and at certain points, a bitter feeling was developed which led to acts of opposition. Davis county was one of those points, and Senator Bussey, on his return from the extra session of the Legislature, where he had distinguished himself by his bold and unequivocal position in favor of his country, and as a member of the Military Committee of the Senate, labored to place the state in a position to perform her share of the work of suppressing the rebellion, was advised by his party, that he had "misrepresented his constituents," given "aid and comfort to an abolition war, and was no longer worthy of fellowship as a democrat," and was thus formally read out of the party for no crime but loyalty to the country.

Governor Kirkwood, who was laboring untiringly to place the state on an ample war-footing, and who was watching carefully the actions of the leading citizens for the purpose of selecting efficient co-workers for responsible positions, had not failed to notice the intelligence and energy with which this young Senator had demeaned himself throughout since the opening of the war, sent him a commission as aid-de-camp with rank of Lt. Colonel, and assigned him to the control of the militia of the south-east part of the state.

At this time, the rebels in north-east Missouri were ac-

tively engaged in hostilities against the government, and maintained a menacing attitude toward the frontiers of Iowa, for purposes of plunder. Colonel Bussey immediately occupied himself in arming the militia of his district and preparing them for defence of the border. A collision of these two irregular forces finally occurred at Athens, where fifteen hundred rebels, under command of General Martin Green, attacked about four hundred militia, under command of Col. David Moon, and were repulsed.

About this time Col. Bussey was authorized by the U. S. Government to raise a regiment of cavalry, which he set about doing at once with his usual energy and success; and by the 20th of August had his regiment, the 3d Iowa Cavalry, in rendezvous, having been commissioned its Colonel on the 10th of the same month.

Early in February, 1862, he was ordered from Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Mo., to Rolla; a few days afterward to Springfield to join General Curtis; arriving at Springfield, found Curtis already in pursuit of Price toward the Arkansas border. Stimulated by the rumors of an approaching battle, he pushed forward and overtook Curtis at Sugar Grove, having marched two hundred miles in four days. Here he at once became incorporated into the Army of the South-West, and was assigned the command of a brigade of cavalry.

Colonel Bussey's first battle was that fierce and famous encounter at Pea Ridge, where he commanded his brigade and did efficient service, establishing his reputation at once as a brave and discreet officer, and secured the confidence of the troops under his command and also of his commanding General.

Throughout the several encounters of this hotly contested and protracted battle the 3d Iowa behaved gallantly. Like their Colonel, it was their first time under fire, and probably the hardest fought battle that the regiment ever witnessed, but they came through nobly. A portion of General Bussey's command,—the Benton and Fremont Hussars,—however, are said to have acted badly in this battle. On two occasions, in fighting which occurred in the vicinity of Leetown, during



some of the counter movements of General Curtis to resist a flank attack of Van Dorn, they broke and fled without firing a gun. The disastrous result of their cowardice, however, was prevented by the steadiness and courage of the gallant 3d Iowa and the balance of the brigade, under the immediate direction of their intrepid leader. After the defeat of the enemy, Col. Bussey's command was among the pursuing forces that followed them to their strongholds among the Boston Mountains.

It was at Pea Ridge that civilization was outraged by the shocking barbarities perpetrated by the savage hordes, led to the field by Albert Pike. Among the victims of these barbarians were eight of the 3d Iowa, found scalped, and many others bearing the evidence of having been murdered after their capture.

Continuing with the Army of the Southwest during the spring and summer of 1862, participating in the long and tedious march through Arkansas, he was frequently sent out on separate expeditions from the main army with his brigade, but without finding any considerable force of the enemy, had no opportunity of signalizing the campaign with any farther battles. On the 10th of July, 1862, he was assigned the command of the 3d brigade of General Steele's division of the same army. On the 11th of January, 1863, was appointed to the command of the District of Eastern Arkansas, which he filled until the following April, when he succeeded Major General Washburn in command of the 2d Cavalry Division, "Army of the Tennessee." At his own suggestion was relieved and ordered to report to Vicksburg, then the most active field of military operations in the west. Soon after his arrival was appointed Chief of Cavalry, and, until the fall of Vicksburg, commanded all the cavalry engaged in the operations connected with that famous siege; especially rendering important service to General Grant in watching the movements of the rebel General Joe Johnston, who was hovering near with a large force waiting an opportunity to raise the siege. He led the advance in Sherman's movement against John-

ston at Jackson, Miss., after the fall of Vicksburg; meeting the rebel General Jackson on the 8th of July and forcing him to retire. During the few days' siege of Jackson, he was active in visiting different points, Calhoun, Beattie's Bluff, Vernon and other places, driving in the outposts of the enemy and feeling his strength. Met Jackson again at Canton on the 17th of July, and, after a battle that lasted all day, from 8 o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock in the evening, drove him to the east side of Pearl river.

January 5th, 1864, he was commissioned Brigadier General U. S. V., for "special gallantry," on reports of commanding officers. It was, probably, a misfortune to General Bussey, that, at the time of this promotion, he was serving in the trans-Mississippi Army: for the reason that an order of the War Department assigned all officers promoted to Brigadier General to duty with the corps in which they were serving at the time of promotion. Under this rule, General Bussey was still left with the 7th Army Corps in Arkansas, where but few military movements of any magnitude affording opportunity for distinction took place from that time on to the end of the war.

His promotion found him at Little Rock, where he remained until the winter of 1865. When General Reynolds took command of the Department,—relieving General Steele,—General Bussey was assigned to a new and very important command in the re-organization which took place. At this time in the Department of Arkansas there was three divisions of federal troops belonging to the 7th Army Corps, and at the same time twelve Brigadier Generals in the Department, all but two of whom ranked General Bussey. Under this state of facts he could only expect to be assigned to the command of a brigade at best. What, then, was his surprise on receiving an order assigning him to a command, embracing Western Arkansas and the Indian Territory, and the 3d Division of the 7th Army Corps, numbering about ten thousand men, stationed at the military posts of Fort Smith, Fort Gibson, Van Buren, and Fayetteville; and this over the heads of ten

Generals, his seniors in rank. This appointment was peculiarly complimentary, when the circumstances and the particular reasons for it are considered.

Grave charges of corruption had been made against all the the officers who had served in that District. The War Department had sent several inspectors to examine the charges. One of them, Maj. Gen. Herron, recommended the removal of all the important officers of the District, which was done, and General Bussey was selected with the view of breaking up the corruption and restoring discipline,—a compliment both to his integrity as a man and capacity as an officer. To understand the exact character of the work which he had to perform, it may be proper to give a brief outline sketch of the “situation” of his district at the time of his assuming command. An officer, who was stationed within the District prior to that occurrence and who remained there during Gen. Bussey’s administration, sends us an account from which we gather the following condition of its affairs:

Fort Smith, the Headquarters of the District, had from its first re-occupation been the resort of a crowd of speculators, traders and contractors; many of them unscrupulous to the last degree. These men, by corrupting some officers and overawing others by their influence, had committed a series of enormous abuses, which ended in great demoralization to the troops and loss to the Government. Illicit and contraband trade in violation of the treasury regulations was openly carried on; Government transportation was used in the carrying of traders’ and sutlers’ goods, while the troops were destitute of clothing and food; private property was taken from the people and sold to the Government by the parties taking it, and the proceeds appropriated to their own uses; beef, which cost the contractors nothing, being taken without pay and driven in by the soldiers, was sold to the government at high prices; hay, which was cut by the soldiers on the prairies, was sold by the contractors to the government for thirty dollars per ton; scouts, sutlers, cotton speculators, robbed and plundered the people; houses were burned, fenc-

ing destroyed, and the country generally laid waste. The discipline of the troops had become greatly relaxed; drunkenness, theft and pilaging prevailed to an alarming extent; and to add to the disorder, through the neglect of the proper officers, food, clothing and equipments were not forwarded, and the stores that were on hand suffered to spoil. The people plundered alike by friend and foe, were utterly disheartened; and, abandoning all attempts at cultivation of the ground or self-support in any way, resorted in crowds to the Commissary Department for subsistence. 300,000 rations were issued per month to white refugees alone. The troops, badly fed, badly clothed, badly equipped, were discontented and disorderly.

General Bussey, upon his arrival, entered immediately upon his duties with an intelligence of business, a promptness of decision, an efficiency of action, and an integrity of conduct, that bore speedy and beneficent results. A few weeks changed the whole aspect of affairs and made his District and Division one of the most orderly and best disciplined in the Department. The hords of contractors and spoilsmen were sternly and quickly dispersed; incompetent and immoral officers summarily dismissed; ample supplies were brought forward, and the troops, fed, clothed, and equipped, for the first time, acquiesced cheerfully in the regulations which were established, and rigid discipline was restored. The whisky-shops were closed; the people were encouraged to re-build their fences and cultivate their fields, and were protected from depredation, thereby helping to lessen the immense expense of the government in their support.

To remedy all these evils and re-organize his command, required the most arduous and laborious personal direction of the commander. The work was herculean. To every branch of business, and every class of complaints, or abuses, he gave careful personal attention. Every paper requiring his endorsement was carefully inquired into, and every transaction, involving the interests of the District or Government, was given a personal cognizance. All persons had free access to

him, and his affability of manners, his kindness, firmness and rectitude of character, impressing itself upon all who came in contact with him, created a marked influence over citizens and soldiers, and secured him the confidence and good will of all.

General Bussey was commissioned Major General by brevet March 13th, 1865; remaining in command of his District until the 1st of October of the same year, when the war having ended he was mustered out of service.

General Bussey is now a resident of New Orleans. Finding himself enfeebled in health on his return from service, which seemed to be aggravated by a return to a northern climate, he was induced, after a few months' trial at his Iowa home, to return and take up his abode under the more genial skies of the "Sunny South," where, recovering in a measure, he has entered into an extensive, and, as usual with him, prosperous business.

#### GIFT.

Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Money, proprietors of the *Jefferson Era*, have presented the Historical Society, for preservation in its cabinet room, an Indian Bow, Quiver and Arrows. These, with the Scalping-knife and Tomahawk already the property of the Society, makes a complete equipment of weapons for the hunt or "war-path." A light equipment, it may seem, to those accustomed to the crash of Columbiads, and the rapid death-dealing fire of Spencer rifles, in this latter-day civilized warfare. Yet, silent, swift, sure and murderous, are these iron-pointed, feathered-shafted arrows, when sent by vigorous and trained hands from ambuscades or in close encounter.

But the days of their dusky proprietors are nearly over. Doomed, they are passing to the company of the peoples who have been—but are not—with a rapidity seldom equaled by any who have gone before. Then will these little relics, and all others pertaining to this race—who were once masters of a continent—be sought and examined with eager curiosity. The donors show that they properly appreciate the value of the gift, by thus placing it where it will be secure and preserved until the fulness of that time has come, when an enhanced significance will obtain for it.

Both the Library and Cabinet rooms contain a large collection of articles, books and papers, of great interest, pertain-

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