
THE HENKEL SQUARE HERALD

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Henkel Square, Round Top, Texas, May 1865

NO. 5

To Render Textile Fabrics Waterproof.—Take one pound of wheat bran, and one ounce of glue, and boil them in three gallons of water in a tin vessel for half an hour. Now lift the vessel from the fire, and set it aside for ten minutes; during this period the bran will fall to the bottom, leaving a clear liquor above, which is to be poured off, and the bran thrown away; one pound of bar soap cut into small pieces is now to be dissolved in it. The liquor may be put on the fire in a tin pan, and stirred until all the soap is dissolved. In another vessel one pound of alum is dissolved in half a gallon of water; this must be added to the soap-bran liquor while it is boiling, and all is well stirred; this forms the water-proofing liquor. It is used while cool. The textile fabric to be rendered water-proof is immersed in it, and pressed between the hands until it is perfectly saturated. It is now wrung, to squeeze out as much of the free liquor as possible then shaken or stretched, and hung up to dry in a warm room, or in a dry atmosphere out doors. When dry, the fabric or cloth so treated will repel rain and moisture, but allow the air or perspiration to pass through it.

The alum, gluten, gelatine [sic], and soap unite together and form an insoluble compound which coats every fibre of the textile fabric, and when dry repel water like the natural oil in the feathers of a duck. There are various substances which are soluble in water singly, but when combined form insoluble compounds, and vice versa. Alum, soap, and gelatine are soluble in water singly, but form insoluble compounds when united chemically. Oil is insoluble in water singly, but combined with caustic soda or potash it forms soluble soap. Such are some of the usual curiosities of chemistry.

BELLVILLE [TX] COUNTRYMAN, May 2, 1865, p. 3, c. 4

Preserve Your Letters.

Ed. Tel.—I wish through your Journal and all others in Texas who may be kind enough to copy this article, to make a suggestion to a majority of this State. It is to preserve your letters received from the army, as well [as] those on hand as those hereafter to be received. I refer to letters which speak of events relative to military movements, individual officers or soldiers. A vast amount of most reliable history, news to be found in official documents or newspapers, is embraced in private letters from men in the army to their friends at home. Invaluable anecdotes of isolated actions and individual prowess are found in such letters. When the bloody battle of Corinth was fought in October 1862 the press teemed with accounts of it. Perhaps thirty different persons furnished accounts of that bloody day. But by far the most full, satisfactory and (apparently) candid statement of the whole campaign which it was my privilege to see, was in a private letter from a Belton, Texas, boy, of perhaps 18, Ed. Smith, by name, of Ross' 6th Texas cavalry, to his brother, Capt. Smith, of

of Allen's regiment.

The same remark applies to the cavalry portion of the battle of Chickamauga, the writer in that case being a young man named Coleman writing to his father in Fannin county. These are two striking cases under my own observation, though I have seen innumerable valuable letters of similar character.

No doubt is entertained but immediately after, if not before, the conclusion of this war, a "Texas State Historical Society" will be formed and chartered. Indeed, such a society should have been formed at the beginning of the war. This Society is the body for which all such letters should be preserved. By it they can be arranged, labeled, indexed, or extracted from as the case may be, thus preparing them as raw material for the searching analysis of our future State historians.

While the general history of this war may be written from public documents and other sources, those letters will furnish a vast fund towards a more particular State and individual history, the sources most likely to foster a proper and honorable State pride, and to build up in the breasts of our descendents a genuine appreciation of both the value and cost of liberty, of manly patriotism and hatred of oppression.

This is a passing glimpse of the subject. Its importance will be evident to the least reflecting, and therefore, my only present object is to call attention to it.

The papers of the State are respectfully requested to copy this note.

J. H. B.

Fredericksburg, March, 1865.

BELLVILLE [TX] COUNTRYMAN, May 2, 1865, p. 2, c. 5

Ed. Texas Republican:—An effective army must be well fed, clothed and paid. This proposition is so well established, that it needs no argument to demonstrate. The Government has already fed and equipped our armies, and can continue to do so to a final and successful termination of the war. The friends and relatives of the soldiers in the field, have heretofore clad them in the Trans-Mississippi Department. They can and will continue to do so, as our social and political existence depends on a continuation of these efforts. The pay of the army in this Department is then the *sine qua non*, without which its future usefulness and efficiency seems to be greatly impaired. . . W. R. D. Ward.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, May 3, 1865, p. 1, c. 4

A large lot of cotton cards and medicines, imported by the Military Board, has arrived. We learn that another lot is in transitu between this point and the Rio Grande. The whole will be distributed as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made for that purpose.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, May 10, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Col. H. B. Andrews stepped into our office yesterday, on his return from another trip into the country, where he has been several times in the discharge of the duty devolved upon him of procuring supplies for the poor of Galveston. He informs us that he has found our planters very liberal, knowing, as they do, the utter destitution of the poor of Galveston, and the fact that the war has rendered all the property in the city nearly valueless. Col. A. has procured about 5000 bushels of corn, and a proportional supply of bacon and other country products. He has also obtained quite a liberal supply of fabrics from the Penitentiary.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, May 3, 1865, p. 1, c. 1

May Day Celebration.—The young ladies belonging to the various Sunday Schools of Marshall, participated in a May Day celebration on Monday evening, which was witnessed by a large concourse of admiring soldiers and citizens. The scene was in the open air. The decorations, arrangements, dress, speeches, music, &c., presented a picture full of beauty and romance. Miss Margaret Friou was crowned Queen of May. The artistic taste displayed was creditable to the lady (Mrs. S. D. Rainey) under whose management the celebration was gotten up. We would be pleased, when we have more room than at present, to publish a more extended account.

[MARSHALL] TEXAS REPUBLICAN, May 5, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Five Days in the Enemy's Lines.

A lady, residing in Montgomery, S. C., who was virtually in the enemy's lines for five days, writes her experience to a friend in Augusta as follows:

Having an opportunity, I thought I would give you some faint idea of our experience with the Yankees. 'Twas on Wednesday, Feb. 8th, that we first took alarm, hearing that Kilpatrick's cavalry, 5,000 strong, were but seven miles distant. Mr. _____ instantly retreated to the woods, taking with him his negro men, horses, and a wagon load of provisions. Thursday was a day of expectation, but none came. Early Friday morning, Dr. and Mrs. _____ aged relatives of Mrs. _____, suddenly arrived, having walked seven miles, leaving their beautiful home in the possession of the enemy.

It may have been an hour after their arrival at Montmorenci, I was alone at the moment, when Pauline came rushing to me saying the Yankees had come. A hasty glance from the window confirmed her words, and we instantly retreated to Aunt's room. This being on the first floor was speedily filled with armed men. At first I very politely unlocked several trunks, assuring them that they only contained ladies' apparel; but as the number increased we gladly retreated to the sitting room, where the whole family soon collected. There we remained from 2 to 6 o'clock, while this band of one hundred and fifty men ransacked every nook and corner; breaking open trunks and boxes, singing, whistling, swearing. Many passed through the room in which we were. At first none addressed us. At last one young villain came in, fastened the door, demanded our watches, and using the most profane language and terrible threats, ordered us to confess where your gold and silver was buried; laid his hands on Pauline's shoulder and mine, while we obediently emptied our pockets. They then marched Dr. _____ into the entry, stripped the poor

old gentleman to the waist, robbing him of the \$1,000 he had succeeded in bringing from his own house, which meanwhile has been laid in ashes—so he is homeless.

When the house was clear, we scattered over it; such a scene of desolation can better be imagined than described. Words cannot picture it. On Saturday we saw comparatively few. They made a raid on Aiken, but were repulsed by Wheeler's men. The skirmish lasted several hours.

Saturday night was one of anxious dread. They were prowling about the premises and the entreaties of our faithful servants alone saved the house from conflagration. Several Yankees slept in the room above us and was rumored that Mr. _____ was a prisoner. On Sunday Mrs. _____ rode to the camps, two miles off, in a cart with a blind mule, all the horses taken, to get a guard; she could not do so, but obtained Mr. _____ release.

Sunday afternoon was terrible. They began digging—found all the concealed provisions, but gave us a few hams and some rice. Next Miss T's box of bonds and valuable papers was discovered, and such pleadings for restoration you never heard—I ransomed them at last with a heavy silver waiter I had contrived thus far to save.

Next discovery was our barrel of wine, old Madeira, seventy years old. I begged hard for one bottle for poor Aunt _____ and was thankful to get two. We have lost in silver, china and glass. All our blankets, quilts, bowls and all the pillow cases were used as bags to remove provisions. Great destruction in clothing, dresses torn up, etc. Hardly a handkerchief in the house, and but one comb to comb our hair.

Yesterday and the day before parties of Confederates rode up to the house; you cannot imagine how enthusiastically they were greeted. We have so little provision that we are on half rations. Think of it, for five days and nights we dared not even loosen our dresses.

[MARSHALL] TEXAS REPUBLICAN, May 5, 1865, p. 2, c. 5-6

City of Austin, May 6th, 1865.

His Excellency, P. Murrah, Governor of Texas.

Sir:--The young ladies of the Minerva Institute, of this city, anxious to do all in their power, in response to your call upon the benevolent and patriotic of the State, for contributions in aid of the "Association for the Relief of Maimed Soldiers," beg, through the undersigned, the teacher, to tender, through your Excellency, for the use of the Association, the sum of two hundred and three (203 75) dollars in specie, the proceeds of a May day celebration given by them at the Capitol. On behalf of the scholars, I have the honor to subscribe myself.

Your Excellency's ob't serv't.

S. A. H. Homan.

[there follows response]

[donation of silver tablespoon and three gold rings by "Louisiana" for "needs of the Confederate cause"]

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, May 10, 1865, p. 2, c. 3

We regret to state that our country, in one respect, is in a deplorable condition. We are without a currency. Confederate money is no longer received. While this will not seriously effect [sic] those of our citizens who are supplied with food, there are others to whom it is a great misfortune. They are without provisions, and with no means to purchase any. Now is the time for good deeds, and we sincerely trust our citizens, always noted for acts of generosity and kindness, will not fail at the present time. Divide not only with the soldier's family, but with any other that may require it.

[MARSHALL] TEXAS REPUBLICAN, May 12, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

For Sale for Confederate Money,

At Marshall Ordnance Laboratory, 1,500 lbs. of
Nitric Acid,
Strong and pure, for medical and telegraphic purposes.
Buyers must furnish their own vessels. Also a large lot
of

Red Dye-Stuff.

Chas. O. Curtman,

Surgeon in charge O. L.

April 24, 1865

[MARSHALL] TEXAS REPUBLICAN, May 12, 1865, p. 2, c. 7

We regret to state that the Soldiers' Home at this place has been broken up. This is much to be regretted. It was only required a few weeks longer, until absent soldiers passed through Marshall on their way to their respective homes. As it is, soldiers are continually passing through our town, with no provision existing for their comfort and sustenance. Cannot this be remedied?

[MARSHALL] TEXAS REPUBLICAN, May 26, 1865, p. 2, c. 2

We learn from Dr. E. R. Duval that four or five sick men have been left in the military hospital at this place. In the general breaking up the Departments in Marshall, the hospital attendants have gone home, and these sick men have, consequently no one to wait on them. They are therefore proper subjects of sympathy and kindness. Our citizens ought to take them to their homes and care for them. Besides the gratitude our citizens will receive from these afflicted men, arrangements have been made to pay a liberal compensation for such attention.

[MARSHALL] TEXAS REPUBLICAN, May 26, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

The following paroled prisoners have arrived at Galveston ... The following ladies also came over: Mrs. and Miss Baylor and Mrs. Withers, of Austin, and Mrs. Eagan, of Victoria.

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, May 30, 1865 [extra], p. 1, c. 2

Galveston, May 23d. ... and also the following passengers. R. S. Baylor, daughter and four servants, (Mrs. Withers, child and servant, Mrs. Eagin, mother of Mrs. Gen. Walker.)

AUSTIN STATE GAZETTE, May 30, 1865 [extra], p. 1, c. 1