

Chapter 1 : Fitful Fancies [poems] by william kennedy Free Download. Read online books at blog.quintoapp.com

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The day was clear, very warm and very dusty owing to the long drouth. It was pleasant to witness the greetings of the Comrades and heir families as they arrived, but it was supreme happiness to be one of that number, and feel the thrill of the soul at meeting and clasping the hands once more of those dear friends comrades. We were assembled in a large parlor on the second floor where we spent the time in sweet converse. Time flew all to swiftly. Most of us had breakfasted very early and couple with our long morning ride made our appetites sharp, but the stores were ample and all were filled. After dinner, through the courtesy of the adjutant of Gustin Post to whom our thanks are due and hereby given. Our business meeting was held in the G. By request of the president, comrade Rev. Delmot asked for divine blessing. At roll call the following comrades with their families were found present: Benedict, his adopted daughter, Mrs. Richard Gustin, her sons Richard J. Gustin and wife of Sylvania; and daughter Eva T. Lucas and wife of Williamsport; and their niece, Mrs. Patterson of Elmira; Mrs. Matson and Cyrus of Grover: Mason, her son Daniel and wife of Elmira; Mrs. Reported by letter, read by the secretary: Lemuel Barnes, Andale Kan. Bentzel, Harrisburg; George S. Borden, Niles Valley; Mrs. Foster, Tompson; Daniel R. Rohn, Mechanicsburg; George M. Pardoe, of Sioux City, Ia. Received since reunion; E. Snell, Forksville; and George Comfort, Gilletts. The minutes of year were read and approved as read with one correction, viz; the chairman of Executive Committee should have been Frank, instead of Jerome Spencer, as printed. Roll call was followed by an address of welcome by president Lucas, which was ordered to be printed with the proceedings; replied to by comrade Delmot for the company. It was of such excellence and general interest he was unanimously requested to furnish a copy for publication. The secretary announced the deaths of the following members since last meeting: Wright, were appointed a Committee to present suitable resolutions. Those following were presented and adopted. Lucas was reelected president, C. Wright, Vice president, E. The first Wednesday in September , was fixed for date of next reunion. At their request a vote was taken to show preference between Rorick Glen and Troy; resulting almost unanimously for Troy. It is hoped that this feature will be more exhibited in the future. A collection was taken to pay for copies of paper in which proceedings of meeting is printed and sent to members. A vote of thanks was given Gustin Post for use of their hall, and then adjourned. I am glad to be here today, and I want to congratulate our executive committee on the good judgement displayed in selecting Troy, as the place for holding the 20th annual reunion of the survivors of the Troy Guards. As a former son of Troy, I greet you and welcome you to the hearts and homes of her patriotic people. In this beautiful Borough, our company was born, and received its first instructions in the school of the soldier. This meeting has been called to celebrate and revive the memories of the past. In looking back over the scenes of our early soldier life, we recall the appearance of these gray-haired veterans, as they fell into line with an elastic step, nearly forty years ago; then they were young and athletic and represented all the various avocations of civil life. When these recruits came together for the first time at Camp Curtin, armed to the teeth with belt, bowie knife and pepper box revolver; they were a dangerous looking crowd; but did not make an impressive military appearance. They were beardless, fresh of face and full of life and hope, but rather husky looking clad in a suit that had seen better days; and one they believed was soon to be exchanged for a United States uniform. I see them even now as they appeared on dress parade in all shades and grades of costume. As a whole they were decidedly verdant and ignorant of many things pertaining to their calling. The officers were no exception to this rule, except that they occupied a more conspicuous position in the parade, where their dress could be inspected to better advantage. They did not lack for patriotism, and were familiar with the use of fire-arms; many were expert marksmen; they also had a fair appetite for army rations, when nothing better was within their reach. I never heard of their hankering to wade in gore, just for the pleasure of the thing. These men took to fighting much as a person takes to disagreeable medicine, merely as a means to an end; not because their stomachs craved it.

They enlisted exclusively for business, without bounty, or hope or reward; and when their services were needed in line of battle, they marched up in front of the foe with undaunted courage, and took their medicine like men; this was done rather from a sense of duty than a gratification of taste. It is partly a selfish pride that brings us here; this being the recognized home of Company C; here it was organized and named in honor of the place; many of its members were then citizens of the Borough; now it cannot boast of a single survivor who is a resident of the town. The people of Troy have just reason to be proud of the services this company rendered the county, while battling for the cause of freedom and humanity. These survivors appear here today wearing the garb of citizens, and are not a bad looking crowd either, considering all they have gone through, and all that has gone through them. We meet on a par, where all alike reverence the stars and stripes which they so successfully carried to victory. The glory that your daring courage threw around it eagle crowned folds, is now a common heritage. Long may you be spared as witnesses of the earnestness and valor of those who dared so much and fought so well, to preserve the integrity of this peerless land; the queenly mistress of all the lands of earth. The Troy guards will soon become a thing of the past; and, unless the Borough authorities take some action in order to preserve and perpetuate the name, it will go down into the mists of obscurity unhonored and unknown. Many of our comrades have followed their beloved Commander to the bivouac across the dark river, leaving each year vacant seats around our camp fire that can never be filled. It is no part of my duty here to rehearse the gallant achievements of the American volunteer during the war of the Rebellion, in which you bore so conspicuous a part; yet I cannot help but refer to some of the results attending their hard service in the cause of our country. They overcame armed rebellion, and won a glorious peace. They gained a victory so complete, that slavery bowed its head in humble submission. They conquered ignorance, hatred and oppression; and opened all the land to the sunbeams of modern enlightenment. They conquered the hearts of unborn generations, to whom their suffering and sacrifice have given the priceless heritage of noble deeds, and an undivided country. They subdued states, and built around the regenerated nation a rampart of freedom, so high, so strong, so steadfast, that it may bid defiance to a hostile world. To you and your friends, we again say, welcome. An almost impossible thing is expected of me in responding on your behalf. To bring you back to present duty, and the grave responsibilities that grow out of citizenship in this great country, whose safety and perpetuity rests not upon a large standing army, but upon millions of liberty-loving, loyal volunteers, like unto the vast army of which you comrades formed a noble part. Our pleasure and happiness at this our annual reunion is tinged with feelings of sadness, in the fact that several since the meeting one year ago have been called to enter the unseen world of spirits, to which each member of the association will sooner or later be called upon to go. Let each one strive to so conduct themselves that at the last and final roll call, we may have a happy and unending reunion with the loved ones gone before. In his infinite wisdom, it has pleased the Supreme Ruler of the universe, before whom all must bow in humble submission, to remove from his earthly labors and associations our friend and comrade, James Sturdivant; therefore, Resolved, That while we sincerely mourn the loss of a true and tried comrade, one of the faithful and efficient members of an organization, whose ties were cemented in blood; nevertheless we recognize the mandate of Divine authority and bid our murmurings cease, humbly bowing to the will of Him who doeth all things well. Resolved, That the memory of his gentle unassuming nature, his thoughtfulness for the welfare of others, his devotion, self-denial and zeal in the cause of his country, his love and firm adherence to the performance of duty, shall ever live as shining lights along the pathway of his surviving comrades. Resolved, That we extend to the bereaved family our united prayers and heartfelt sympathy, hoping that a higher power will assist in healing the wounds of the sorrowing, and direct them to look beyond this vale of tears, to where the loved one is holding communion with other kindred spirits, where sorrow never lives, and friendship never dies. Resolved, that the minutes of this association be draped in mourning for a period of 30 days; that these resolutions be published in the Troy Register, and that a copy of the same be sent to the bereaved family. The committee on Resolutions submitted the following relative to the death of Mrs. Benedict, of Austinville, Pa Whereas, It has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from her earthly labors, another true and tried comrade, Mrs. Benedict, whose whole life was devoted to the best interest of our association. Resolved, That while we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well, and who notes even the fall of the sparrow; we

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nevertheless mourn the departure of a true friend, a loyal and benevolent member of this organization, one whose kindly manner and gentle influence have left an impression our hearts that will be keenly felt at our subsequent annual meetings. Resolved, That we extend to the bereaved family and the community in which she lived, our heart-felt sympathy for the loss they have sustained, in a loving and affectionate wife and mother, a gentle and obliging neighbor whose presence was a ray of sunshine. And we commend them to the considerate care of that All Gracious Being who shields the feeble, and fills the heart with hope, confidence and courage. Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the association and published in the Troy papers, and that a copy of the same be sent to the bereaved family.

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