

THE MITCHELL RAIDERS.

THE MOST ROMANTIC EVENT OF THE LATE WAR.

Interesting Reminiscences—Meeting of Those Who Took an Active Part on Both Sides—List of Surviving Members of the Expedition.

The JOURNAL office this morning received a pleasant call from Captain Jacob Parrott, of Kenton, O., one of the few surviving members of the band of Gen. Mitchell's raiders, known in the Confederate annals of the war as the "Engine Thieves." The story is the most thrillingly interesting one connected with the late "unpleasantness," and its details, which are more romantic than anything which was ever drawn from the most fruitful imagination, are, no doubt, familiar to all. Were there not plenty of reliable witnesses among surviving soldiers upon both sides, it would be impossible in these hum-drum days to give credence to the wonderful tale.

A party of twenty-four Union soldiers volunteer their services for an expedition against the enemy, the details of which are as yet unknown to them; they are only apprised of the fact that the mission is so desperately dangerous that there is very little chance of their escaping death. The character of men who would thus deliberately offer their lives for the success of the cause in which they had enlisted can be appreciated and admired equally by friend and foe. Under disguise, they penetrate into the enemy's country, meeting at a given time, according to previous arrangement, at Big Shanty, on the Western and Atlantic railway, detach a locomotive and two cars from a train filled with Confederate troops, who had stopped for dinner, and, boarding them, steam away like the wind, stopping to cut the telegraph wires and tear up the track as they go, the grand object being to burn bridges along the road and prevent reinforcements from reaching Chattanooga, thus allowing that stronghold and immense supplies to fall into the hands of the Union troops. Conductor Fuller, of the Confederate train, with the engineer and others, start in desperate pursuit on a hand-car, fortunately find a locomotive (the Yanties) upon a small branch road, and, after a most dangerous and exciting chase (during which they are so close upon the fugitives that there is no opportunity to fire the bridges), the latter are obliged to abandon their engine beyond Dalton, and fly to the woods. Chattanooga is saved, and great disaster to the Confederate cause averted; every one of the fugitives is ultimately captured; some are tried and executed as spies, others die in prison, and a few, after untold hardships, escape.

The heroism and valor displayed on this occasion, both by those who made such a well executed effort to carry out their bold scheme, and by the men who, in the face of such desperate disadvantages at the onstart, so successfully defeated it, is unsurpassed in the history of nations.

The survivors of the Mitchell Raiders, as near as can be ascertained, and their present places of residence, are as follows: William Knight, Stryker, O.; Wilson Brown, Perrysburg, O.; Alf Wilson, Haskins, O.; Elihu Mason, Wood county, O.; William Porter and William Bensinger, McComb, O., all of the 21st Ohio Infantry; also Wm. Dorsey, Nebraska; Wm. Pettinger, Patterson, N. J.; Jacob Parrott, Kenton, O., all of the 33d O. V. I. A reunion of these survivors was recently held at Findlay, O.; and all of the nine were present excepting Brown and Mason. It is supposed that Wm. Rettick and John Wollum, both of the 21st Ohio, are still living, but their whereabouts are unknown. They went West several years ago. Mr. Knight is the first one who pulled the throttle and run the engine until relieved by Brown. Alf Wilson acted as fireman.

Capt. Parrott, through the courtesy of the engineer, rode in the cab of the old historic locomotive—the "General"—yesterday morning, from Marietta to Atlanta. His emotions created by the thrilling incidents which came to mind, as, for the first time since that eventful day, he stood again upon the captured engine, and was transported swiftly over the track, can be imagined. He has met Capt. Fuller, who led in the recapture, and others now living in Atlanta who took an important part in the adventure, and a pleasant hour has been spent in forming new friendships and talking over these past events. Capt. Andrews, a Kentuckian, who led the raiding expedition, was executed and buried in a vacant lot near the gallows, on the east side of Peach-tree street; his remains are to be taken up and conveyed to his friends. Capt. Parrott this morning had his photograph taken while standing upon the historical locomotive, at the Western and Atlantic engine house; it will be cherished as a valued memento.