

TO AN OLD FRIEND.

Written for the News.

Together we have journeyed long
And still good friends have been;
As no misunderstanding yet
Was ever come between.

Since ever I selected you
My closest friend to be,
I've treated you with gentle care
And you've requited me.

My close companion you have been
For half a hundred years;
You've admonished and encouraged me
Through all my hopes and fears.

Each morning of those fifty years
Soon as I open mine eyes:
You've faithfully apprised me of
The proper time to rise.

I've looked upon thy honest face
Ten thousand times and nine;
I've listened to thy beating heart
While lying close to mine.

Thy jewels I have counted oft
Both ruby and sapphire;
Thy odd but honest countenance
And hair-coil, I admire.

Thy hands which captivated me,
When first I saw thy face,
Are yet as fine as they were then;
Thy form as full of grace.

You tell me when 'tis time for lunch;
Just when to catch the train;
I know that you the minutes count
Till I come back again.

I eagerly consulted you
The day I bought thy ring;
But little thought at this late day
Thy praises I would sing.

O, when I shall be called upon
My latest train to catch;
Wilt thou be with me then, as now,
My trusty silver watch.

JAS. CAIRNS, Chicago.

FOUR DOLLAR FEED.

The soldier boys of the 15th Infantry have a warm place in their hearts for Highwood and Fort Sheridan and the feeling is reciprocated by the friends they left behind. Geo. Downs, quartermaster-sergeant of the 15th, was one of the best known members of that regiment when they were stationed here, and in a letter to E. A. Welch, written from Neu-vitas, Cuba, where the regiment is now stationed. Mr. Downs gives a graphic account of their surroundings and mentions the Christmas dinner participated in by himself and fourteen associates, and which cost them four dollars apiece to provide.

They indulged in turkey, mashed potatoes, canned vegetables and apple pie. The epistle itself is written upon a great sheet of common brown wrapping paper, a yard long and two feet wide. The recipient is showing it with pride to all friends of Mr. Downs and the 15th.

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