

## FAREWELL ADDRESS

To the 154th Reg't N. Y. S. Volunteers.

SANDUSKY, August 10, 1865.

EDITOR OF THE CATTARAUGUS FREEMAN.—  
Will you please publish the farewell address of Col. L. D. Warner, of the 154th Reg't N. Y. S. V.

Yours Respectfully,  
H. CHENEY.

HEAD-QUARTERS 154th N. Y. S. V.,  
ELMIRA, July 22d, 1865.

FELLOW SOLDIERS:—The time to which we have long looked forward with pleasing anticipations having at length arrived;—the task which we set ourselves to accomplish having been done, and well done;—our presence in the field (to sustain and defend the best of Earthly Governments against the most uncalculated and infernal conspiracy for its overthrow, that ever emanated from the grand council of the Arch Friend himself,) being no longer required; the cause which led us to leave our farms, workshops, counting-houses and studies, buckle on our armor and march forth to fight (and if needs be, die) for freedom and free institutions having ceased to exist, we are now about to return to our homes, and to exchange the implements and habiliments of war for those more congenial to our tastes and education.

Yes, Fellow Soldiers, the war is over—the Rebellion crushed. The Olive Branch of Peace now waves over our entire land, mingling its green with the red, white and blue of our National banner, whose stars shine with an additional lustre, since the fiery ordeal through which it has so lately and so triumphantly passed.

Under these pleasing auspices it is but mete that, ere we separate, ere this organization dissolve into the constituent element of which it is composed, I should say a few words with regard to the time in which we have been so closely connected, as members of the 154th.

This Regiment is composed of men who, when our Country in its hours of peril called for help, nobly came forward in its defence without hope of other reward than a consciousness of having done their duty.—You left your homes actuated only by motives of patriotism; desiring no richer recompense than to see peace once more restored, and the monster Rebellion lie crushed and lifeless at your feet, and then to hear the plaudit, "Well done, brave and faithful ones," from a grateful Nation.

Actuated by such motives, you could not be else than Soldiers, brave noble and true. And that you have proved yourselves all these, the history of Chancellorville, Gettysburg, Lookout Valley, Chattanooga, Rocky-faced Ridge, Resaca, Dallas, Pine Knob, Kanawha, Peach tree Creek, Atlanta, Savannah, and the campaign of the Carolinas has fully proved. Fellow Soldiers the 154th needs no eulogist to portray its deeds; they are inscribed in enduring characters upon the annals of the past three years:—and there, while our Nation exists, they will remain, and will be held in remembrance by a grateful people.—What a bright and glorious galaxy glitters upon its historic page! Standing here, as I now do, with your achievements fresh in my memory, I would not exchange my three years' connection with this little band for all the rest of my life together; for I feel that, in after years, I can look upon these as of more value than them all

These depleted ranks, too, tell their own tale of battles, marches, exposures, privations, hardships, and all that tends to exhaust the physical powers, and shorten the life of man. Entering the field near a thousand strong, we return with little more than one-third that number. Are we the balance? They have fallen here the battle-field; have died of wounds received there, or of diseases engendered by the exposures and privations of a soldier's life; have starved and rotted in Southern Prisons; have been sent to their homes maimed or broken down by wounds or disease, or have been transferred to an organization where they could yet serve, and be cared for by the Government. While we rejoice in the prospect of our own speedy restoration to our homes, let us not forget those who have thus fallen by the way, or neglect to sympathize with their bereaved ones, around the desolate hearth.

This much for the past.—The present is made up of pleasing anticipations of the future. There is pleasure in the thought of being freed from the restraints of Military laws and discipline; which, however easy and light, is always irksome to those who are, like our Citizen Soldiers, all Sovereigns, and every one of whom is, in his own estimation, fully competent at all times and upon all occasions, to judge of the propriety or necessity of anything he is required to do. I say this is irksome; but while the war continued, your intelligence and good sense told you that implicit obedience to order's was essential to military success. Now, however, the yoke presses

more severely, and there is a great and growing impatience to throw it off.

There is pleasure in the thought of meeting loved ones who are anxiously watching for your coming.—Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Wife, Children, Sweet-heart, Friends, all. There are none here but their heart-strings thrill with pleasure at the thought of greeting one or more of these, and of realizing the warm and affectionate welcome in store for you. Yes! your reception will be a pleasant one, and you will feel more than repaid for your past year of dangers and privations.

There is pleasure in the thought of the esteem in which you will be held by all whose esteem is worth the possession;—and in the proud consciousness of having done your duty as a citizen of this favored land. I do not believe there is one now within the sound of my voice who regrets that he became a Soldier Boy; or who would not, were our Country again in danger,—were the war-cry again to resound from the hill-tops and along the valleys of old Cattaraugus and Chautauqua—buckling on, as before, his armor, and rally round the Old Flag, shouting the battle-cry of Freedom.

You and I are about to part. Our official connection, and my authority over you, about to cease. And I cannot let you go without expressing my thanks and acknowledgments for the ready obedience to order, and general good behaviour of you all, as well as for the many marks of personal respect which I have received at your hands. The memory of these will ever be a green oasis in the rugged journey of life. Coming among you simply as commander of a Company, it has been my fortune, through the resignations and promotions of those above me, to find my authority extended over the entire Command, for a good portion of the time we have been together. How well, or ill, I have acquitted myself, is not for me to judge; but one thing I can say, I have ever endeavored to do my duty, and have been governed by what appeared to me to be the best interests of the Regiment and the service. I part from you with good will, and my best wishes attend you all, and I can only hope that these sentiments are reciprocal. As you have been good Soldiers, so, I trust, that from the moment you receive your discharge, you will become good, law-abiding, peace-loving Citizens. May no act of yours, either individually or collectively, sullify the reputation of the Regiment, which is now equalled by few, and excelled by none. May the moral effect of the association of the past years cause no thrill of sorrow to convulse the frame of those loved ones, whose daily prayer has been, that if your life was spared you might return to your homes as pure as when you went from their Angel care and influence.

That your reception at your several homes may be all that the heart can wish, that your repose beneath the laurels you have so nobly won may be long, and that happiness and prosperity may ever attend you, is the sincere wish of your late Commander,  
L. D. WARNER,  
Lieutenant-Colonel.