

Triumph of the 28th U.S.C.T. (1)

Letter from Richmond

City Point, Va., April 12, 1865

“I have just returned from the city of Richmond; my regiment was among the first that entered that city....

Late in the afternoon, we were honored with his excellency the President of the United States, Lieutenant General Grant, and other gentlemen of distinction. We made a grand parade through most of the principal streets of the city, beginning at Jeff Davis mansion, and it appeared to me that all the colored people in all my life, women and children of all sizes running after father or master Abraham, as they called him. To see the colored people, one would think that they all had gone crazy....

Some people do now seem to believe that the colored troops were the first that entered Richmond. Why, you need not feel at all timid in giving the truthfulness of my assertion to the four winds of the heavens, and let the angels re-echo it back on earth, that the colored soldiers of the army of the James were the first to enter the city of Richmond. I was with them, and am still with them, and am willing to stay with them until freedom is proclaimed throughout the world. Yes, we will follow this race of men in search of Liberty through the whole Island of Cuba....”

G.H. White, Chaplain 28th U.S.C.T.
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- 1. What honor was granted to the 28th Regiment U.S.C.T.?**
- 2. What two leaders of the Civil War participated in the march through Richmond?**
- 3. How did the former slaves of Richmond react toward President Lincoln?**
- 4. How does Chaplain White feel about the future activities of the 28th Regiment?**

Triumph of the 28th U.S.C.T. (2)

Letter from Richmond

City Point, Va., April 12, 1865

“...Among the densely crowded concourse there were parents looking up children who had been sold south of the state....Among the many broken-hearted mothers looking for their children who had been sold into Georgia and elsewhere, was an aged woman, passing through the vast crowd of colored inquiring for a man by the name of Garland H. White, who had been sold from her when a small boy, and was bought by a lawyer named Robert Toombs, who lived in Georgia. Since the war has been going on she has seen Mr. Toombs in Richmond with troops from his state, and upon her asking him, where his body servant Garland was, he replied: ‘He ran off from me at Washington and went to Canada. I have since learned that he is living somewhere in the state of Ohio.’ Some of the boys knowing that I lived in Ohio, soon found me, and said: ‘Chaplain, here is a lady that wishes to see you.’ I quickly turned, following the soldier until coming to a group of colored ladies, I was questioned as follows: ‘What is your name, sir?’ ‘My name is Garland H. White.’ ‘What was your mother’s name?’ ‘Nancy.’ ‘Where was you born?’ ‘In Hanover County, in this state.’ ‘Where was you sold from?’ ‘From this city.’ ‘What was the name of the man who bought you?’ ‘Robert Toombs.’ ‘Where did he live?’ ‘In the State of Georgia.’ ‘Where did you leave him?’ ‘At Washington.’ ‘Where did you then go?’ ‘To Canada.’ ‘Where do you now live?’ ‘In Ohio.’

‘This is you mother, Garland, whom you are now talking to, who has spent twenty years of grief about her son.’ I cannot express the joy I felt at this happy meeting of my mother and other friends....I have witnessed several such scenes among the colored regiments....”

G.H. White, Chaplain 28th U.S.C.T.
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- 1. As the African-American troops marched through Richmond what did some of the newly emancipated slaves look for?**
- 2. With whom was the Chaplain White reunited with?**
- 3. How did White and his mother recognize each other?**

Triumph of the 28th U.S.C.T. (3)

From Our Indiana Corresponding Editor

“...I have something to tell you concerning the late celebration in our city over the surrender of General Lee and his forces, and over, as was thought, near approach of peace. Last Friday, the 14th inst. Was the day fixed upon for the occasion, and the evening paper called earnestly and eloquently upon the citizens to lay aside their usual avocations, and join in the great demonstration, ending a flaming editorial with the following words,

- all are invited.

...The streets were a living mass of people, all joyful and happy. What was our surprise on beholding the procession, to see in it, the dusky forms of nearly one hundred colored soldiers with their guns and bayonets gleaming in the sun, and one of their number carrying the American flag! And all this in Albany. The white soldiers in front seeming from their looks to think it all right. Next the colored soldiers, then the various secret and benevolent societies, in their rich and splendid regalias, the Sabbath schools and a large crowd of citizens. Some looked upon it as rather a “dark transaction,” and it is said that Colonel Fry had some hard things said about him for making the arrangement, but thank God he is one of the gallant few, who believe that the soldier who fights for his country should be allowed to participate in the glorious results. Long live Colonel Fry, I say, and may he still enjoy the love and respect of the friends of freedom everywhere. I must confess I was surprised myself, and for awhile I could hardly realize I was in the same city, where only a few months ago, the colored people were mobbed and persecuted indiscriminately, and even now are insulted at every opportunity.

Yours,
M.

New Albany, Ind. April 17th, 1865

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- 1. What celebration took place in New Albany, Indiana on April 14, 1865?**
- 2. What surprised the author about the celebration?**
- 3. How had people in New Albany treated African-Americans?**
- 4. Did the author believe that the attitude toward African-Americans was changing? Explain your answer.**