

**RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY DAYS  
OF THE NATIONAL GUARD,  
COMPRISING THE PROMINENT EVENTS  
IN THE HISTORY OF THE FAMOUS  
SEVENTH REGIMENT NEW YORK MILITIA**

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Recollections of the early days of the National guard, comprising the prominent events in the history of the famous Seventh regiment New York militia by Asher Taylor & John Mason

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**ASHER TAYLOR & JOHN MASON**

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OF THE  
EARLY DAYS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD  
COMPRISING THE  
PROMINENT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY  
OF THE  
FAMOUS SEVENTH REGIMENT  
NEW YORK MILITIA  
UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA  
BY AN EX-ORDERLY SERGEANT  
A VETERAN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD



*Jay L. Anderson*

NEW YORK  
J. M. BRADSTREET & SON  
1868

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NO. 1011  
AMERICAN

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1866,

By JOHN MASON,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, in and for the Southern District  
of New York.

#### ADVERTISEMENT.

THE manuscript of these "Recollections," having lain disregarded for two or three years, happened to fall under the notice of the publishers, who saw at a glance that it contained much that must greatly interest the members and friends of the distinguished Corps of which it treats, and they took steps to possess and publish it. The work certainly makes no pretension to the style and polish that would indicate a practiced writer, and the first intent was to have it rewrought; but its subjection to the anvil and hammer of a professional smith would involve the necessity of *drawing the temper of the metal*, and it was possible, and indeed probable, that in hammering it into new shape, and giving it literary accuracy and polish, the work might yet lack the simplicity characteristic of truthfulness—the peculiar *temper* that, with all its imperfections, imparts so much interest to its details and descriptions. It is, therefore, retained in the shape in which it was found, in the belief that its defects in style and method may be compensated by the fidelity and fullness of the narration, and the intrinsic merit of the subject.

THE PUBLISHERS.





## TO THE READER.

It may, perhaps, be supererogatory in the writer to avow that he makes no pretension to any of the art or skill of book-making, as that will doubtless sufficiently appear in the pages of the work. He wishes, however, to remark, in explanation, that, having been one of the earliest members of the National Guard; from its "early days" he was familiar with all that was going on in the Corps, and, although in a subordinate position, had a hand in much of it; and was in the habit of noting down various circumstances and events of interest as they occurred in the course of his service. Having also gathered up some notes and memoranda by others, and observing a general interest and desire among the members of the Corps to learn the history of its origin and "early days," he was led to devote some leisure hours, in the intervals of a close and exacting occupation, to the jotting down of such things as he could "Recollect," and, as he deemed, might be interesting and amusing to his friends of the past, and also to the present members of the Corps, without, however, any pretension to the making of a History such as *should* be written of the Regiment, and such as there is a demand for, but rather suggestive of such an undertaking by some more competent hand; nor had he the least idea that his labors would ever be thought worthy of a general publication; others, howbeit, either wisely or otherwise, after looking over its pages, think differently, and their opinions have prevailed—so it goes to the printer.

The writer is conscious that the subject of the work—to him

"A dear, enthusiastic theme"—

has led him, perhaps, to an undue indulgence of his "*esprit de corps*;" but he could not help it—it was in him, and if it be a fault, it must go with the thousand and one of its kindred scattered through all the pages of the book;—"what is writ is writ."

