

**INCIDENTS AND
ADVENTURES IN
REBELDOM: LIBBY,
BELLE-ISLE, SALISBURY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649136292

Incidents and adventures in rebeldom: Libby, Belle-Isle, Salisbury by George W. Darby

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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GEORGE W. DARBY

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GEO. W. DARBY.

INCIDENTS AND ADVENTURES

OF THE

REBELDOM



LIBBY, BELLE-ISLE, SALISBURY.

BY GEO. W. DARBY.

DRAWING BY J. W. HENSTON.
PRESS OF RAYSTON'S ENGRAVING & PRINTING COMPANY,
PITTSBURG, PA., 1892.

DEDICATION.

To all soldiers who defended the Union from "sixty-one" to "sixty-five" when "The bloody hand of Treason sought its overthrow." To the memory of the noble dead on many bloody fields and to those heroic martyrs who "Suffered death before dishonor" in the prison hells of the South, this work is respectfully inscribed by the author.



"THE SPECTER OF THE REBEL PRISON HELL."

PREFACE.

As the events herein narrated are true and veracious facts no apology or excuse is necessary for their publication. Let the work be judged according to its merits or demerits. I believe that the criticism on McClelland's conduct is fully justified by the evidence produced. Enthusiastic and unreasoning hero worshippers of whom I was one of the most radical had erected Gen. George B. McClelland upon a high pedestal of fame, loyalty and patriotism and were enthusiastically paying devotion to the savior they had so unthinkingly erected. And yet they were unknowingly paying homage to the most secret, wily and specious traitor that this century has produced. He laid siege to Yorktown when its ramparts were defended by wooden guns manned by a corporal's guard of rebels. He camped in the swamps of the Chickahominy for three months while twenty thousand of his soldiers died of disease, and never made an effort to take Richmond. During all this time he was howling for more men, when he well knew he had plenty of men and that the government had no more men to spare him. The battle of Malvern Hill afterward conclusively demonstrated that there never was a time during the entire campaign when his army could not have defeated the rebel army and taken Richmond. Lee's army being defeated he ordered a retreat on Richmond and McClelland's victorious army was ordered by him to retreat on Harrison's Landing, and thus were the victor and vanquished fleeing from each other at the same time. On Lee being informed of McClelland's retreat he returned and occupied the battle ground. All of McClelland's delays were purposely made by him to avoid striking a death blow at the rebellion before the rebels were fully prepared to successfully resist it. I have no motive or desire to malign the dead but the facts as set forth in this work are made to correct the false praise and flattery so lavishly bestowed upon this wretchedly

incompetent general by historians and hero-worshippers ; to vindicate the bravery and devotion of the noble old Army of the Potomac, and that coming generations may know the actual truth and execrate him as his baseness and treachery so richly merit. This work has been compiled from the vivid recollections of the events as they occurred during the civil war, and now after the lapse of thirty-four years the memory of them seems as fresh and green as though they had occurred but yesterday. I appreciate fully this grand era of brotherhood and goodfellowship now so happily arrived at between the two sections of our re-united country and therefore beg indulgence from the reader for any seemingly too vigorous language which may occur within this work, but truth impels me to say that the cruelties perpetrated upon the defenceless prisoners of war fully justify its use.

THE AUTHOR.