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APRIL 19, 1861.

“OLD SIXTH” MASS. REGT.

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NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF
"OLD SIXTH" MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT,
AT WORCESTER, APRIL 19, 1870.

The Regiment was formed in front of the Bay State House, by the Adjutant, at half past ten, and in the order of its march through Baltimore. The Regiment numbered 125 men, and was formed on the old colors.

Col. Watson then took command, and the Sixth was received by the escort, consisting of :

Detachment of Police.

General R. H. Chamberlain, Chief Marshal, and Aids.

Worcester Brass Band.

Battalion of the State Guard, Major S. V. Stone, 42 men.

City Guards, Captain J. A. Titus, 40 men.

Light Infantry, Captain J. H. Prouty, 30 men.

City Government.

Encampment George H. Ward, G. A. R., Commander

A. C. Soley, 100 men.

Fifth Battery Light Artillery, Captain H. W. Reed, 4
guns and 65 men.

The march was then taken up for Rural Cemetery.

On reaching the cemetery, the veterans assembled about the grave of Major Harrison W. Pratt, over which a temporary monument

had been raised. It was made in imitation of marble, and so closely resembled it that many people knew not that it was a temporary shaft, it had been so nicely set in the morning by Mr. E. L. Drury. The material used was wood, covered with heavy canvass; it stood fourteen feet high, and on one side were the names of Dexter F. Parker, Ira Hastings, Wm. Lincoln, Charles Dart, Orlando Hodgkins, J. S. Estabrook, Wm. H. Piper and Albert C. Walker, fallen members of Company G. On another side was a shield, on the third an anchor, and on the remaining side the coat of arms of the regiment.

At the monument an earnest and impressive prayer was offered by Rev. Charles Babidge, Chaplain of the "Old Sixth," a dirge was performed by the American Brass Band, a few remarks appropriate to the occasion were made by Col. Watson, and then evergreen was strewn on the grave.

The march was then resumed through Grove, Highland, Harvard, Chestnut, Pleasant and Main streets to the Bay State house, where the business meeting of the regimental association was held, there being one hundred and eighteen members present. Col. Watson called the meeting to order and delivered the following:

COL. WATSON'S SPEECH.

Comrades and Fellow Soldiers:—

By the favor of a kind Providence we are permitted again to assemble; again to take each other heartily by the hand, and through social intercourse to revive the memories of "sixty-one" and strengthen the ties of friendship then formed.

I congratulate you that so many, under all the circumstances, have been allowed to rally around the regimental colors to-day; that adverse fortune has not forced your absence; that health has favored your coming, and that death has spared you once again to aid in re-forming our contracting circle.

But all are not here! Scattered all over the broad land which now owns allegiance to the victorious stars and stripes, there are many warm hearts and manly forms whom we would gladly welcome to-day, but who, detained by the various vicissitudes of life, can join in our festivities only through the spirit of sympathy and fraternity.

In your name I send to all such this day, greeting: Good wishes of health, happiness and plenty.

Your patriot dead now number more than one hundred, making sad and ineffaceable inroads in the ranks of the gallant seven hundred whose victorious march nine years ago to-day made the "19th of April" doubly memorable in the calendar of our country's history. I trust that on this and all other similar occasions, which should follow this so long as survivors remain, we shall in silent reverence recall and venerate "the memory of the absent."

"The day we celebrate" was not rendered illustrious either in "seventy-six" or "sixty-one" by virtue of any carefully premeditated plans or elaborated designs of human wisdom, or through the agency of unusual display in pomp or numbers. On the contrary, in both of these historical events the actors were few and humble; their equipments scanty and incomplete, and the deeds of the

day were simple, natural and unpremeditated. Still the heroic actions, which this day shall ever hold in remembrance, and the mighty influences which flowed out from the affairs at Concord, Lexington and Baltimore, are related to each other as cause and effect. These deeds of your fathers and of yourselves were no miracles! They were the preludes and key notes to the ultimate determinations of free men, in favor of equality under the law, and against tyrannical usurpation. Our fathers of "seventy-six," as rebels, defied the power of the British nation to enforce injustice on a free people; and their not unworthy sons of "sixty-one" taught by their precepts, and inspired by their example, defied rebellion and British sympathy united, in the attempt to consecrate human servitude upon the ruins of the American Union.

Whatever rank among the conflicts of the late war, the march of the ever famous Sixth through Baltimore may, as a military movement, ultimately assume, it can never fail to confer proud distinction upon its heroes, from its peculiarity of time, place and incidents — from traits exclusively its own and admitting no rivalry — even should it fail to establish merits under the rules of tactics and strategy.

"First in the field," is a motto you may justly inscribe on your banners, and successfully maintain the high distinction against all pretenders, whatever their other claims to honor. If it be admitted that small numbers of men from the neighborhood of the federal capitol, anticipated, by a few hours, your own triumphant entrance into Washington, they, subjected to a short ride and molested by no one, you, uniformed and armed, crossing seven States and six hundred miles of distance, encountering and defeating a formidable resistance offered against your march as the first object worthy of opposition; your claim to precedence, in point of time, over the million of patriotic men who followed where your steps led, would not be thereby weakened.

On the 19th day of January, 1861, exactly three months prior to the struggle in the streets of Baltimore, which we to-day commemorate, the field and staff officers and commanders of companies of your regiment were called together by regimental order, with the view of tendering to the commander-in-chief its services, should they be required, in support of the constituted authorities of the nation. The meeting was full, the vote unanimous; the legislative and executive departments of the commonwealth passed upon, approved, and forwarded this offer of service to the President of the United States, accompanied by the following resolution:

“*Resolved*, That the legislature of Massachusetts, now, as always, convinced of the inestimable value of the Union, and the necessity of preserving its blessings to ourselves and our posterity, regard with unmingled satisfaction the determination evinced in the recent firm and patriotic special message of the President of the United States, to amply and faithfully discharge his constitutional duty of enforcing the laws and the integrity of the Union; and we proffer to him, through the Governor of the commonwealth, *such aid in men and money* as he may require to maintain the authority of the national government.”

Approved January 23, 1861.

Through this early action on the part of your officers the distinction doubtless came, of being the first organization called for when the president believed the national capitol to be in danger.

That the military authority of the nation should pass by the many prominent and efficient organizations that had gained a wide reputation for drill and discipline, located nearer the scene of action, and should trust their defence to your gallant arms in that hour of supreme peril, was indeed an exhibition of confidence well calculated to inspire you with patriotic pride, and to nerve you with invincible valor.

Fellow soldiers, it is your right to say that confidence so generously bestowed was not misplaced.

Scarcely had one hundred hours elapsed after the receipt of your telegraphic order to rally in defence of your country's capitol, before you had gathered from homes scattered over an area of forty miles, and from the pursuits of industry — deserting farm and factory, workshop and store — surrendering, without hesitation, the implements of mechanics and the obligations of the professions, to assume the yet untried weapons of war; had taken hasty, but sad, leave of near and dear ones, in most cases depending upon your manly arms for protection and support; had rallied around the proud flag which your time-honored regiment had never dishonored; had organized, hastily equipped, marched through continuous ovations, fought your passage through a hostile city of two hundred thousand inhabitants, and reported yourself ready for duty to the commander of the army, the war-worn veteran Scott.

That your patriotic promptness, your soldierly celerity and tested bravery were appreciated and acknowledged by that noble old chieftain, I can bear personal testimony.

On that first Sunday morning in the beleaguered capitol, in the presence of the lamented president, General Scott's emphatic words were, "Sir, the Sixth Regiment of Massachusetts shall be provided with everything it wants; for, sir, we rely on the Sixth Regiment to save the capitol." Those cognizant of the order issued by the military authorities in Washington during that eight days of siege, cut off from the north and all its gathering forces — that dark period of distrust and danger from foes within and foes without — will have little doubt of the sincerity of that eminent testimony to the firm reliance of the authorities upon your presence and your arms.

Congress too, joined with the unanimous acclaim of the people in ascribing to you the honor of precedence in that patriotic race. The National House of Representa-

tives, when the events were fresh in their recollection, expressed their gratitude in an unsolicited resolution passed July 22, 1861 :

“*Resolved*, that the thanks of this house are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Sixth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers for the *alacrity with which they responded to the call of the President*, and the patriotism and bravery which they displayed on the 19th day of April last, in fighting their way through the city of Baltimore on their march to the defence of the national capitol.”

But, fellow soldiers, I need not multiply this citation of proofs that you were “first in the field,” a reference to which was perhaps not altogether inappropriate in consequence of the recent attempts in high places to fix upon others this coveted distinction belonging exclusively to you. I therefore refrain from drawing more fully upon the ample evidence now easily attainable. At this late date it would seem to be a bold bid for fame in him who attempts to wrest from you and appropriate to others this well-earned honor, so universally accorded to you by the grateful voice of authorities and people ; and the glory of which has inspired the orator and enriched the poet’s song.

This day on its annual return shall ever bring to you and to your children the grateful proof that your devotion of your fortunes and lives to the service of your country was prompted by patriotism, and by patriotism alone. Whatever those critically disposed may find it in their hearts to imagine as to the motives actuating those who followed your lead, after the grim visage of war had, by familiarity, lost some of its terrors, your motives in that startling hour of impending doom can never be fairly questioned. It was not from the love of strife, for your training, dispositions and pursuits had been eminently peaceful. Neither was it the desire for fame which led you on, in sadness more than in anger, to arrest the destroying arm of misguided brethren about to fall on the

glorious fabric erected by a common ancestry,—a service disclosing less of glory than of unwelcome duty. It was not for pay or advancement, for if the first had been offered, (and it was not,) it would not have equalled your sacrifices, and the idea of advancement from a government put to the experiment of testing its ability to preserve its own existence, offered but slender inducement for perilling life and limb; neither were you impelled by your party zeal into a crusade in favor of the dogmas of any particular partizan school, as can easily be demonstrated by an inquiry into the then party relations of the regiment. No, thank God! mere party politics have never been permitted to invade with discordant presence our patriotic organization. Suffice it for us that a comrade's politics teach him to count life and treasure as a feather in the balance when the lawful government is defied and the time-honored flag of the republic is assailed. No, none of these motives—neither the hope of gain, the cravings of ambition, nor the prejudice of party, moved you to your memorable deeds of that April day. Nothing but pious veneration for the rich heritage which the fathers had, through toil and blood, transmitted to their children, and with it the obligation to preserve and defend it from all perils.

It is not probable that the lustre of your achievements can be dimmed by mustering alleged faults of omission or commission in the manœuvring and management of the regiment on that eventful day. It would indeed be a startling assertion to make, that from a military point of view, no mistakes were committed by a mere handful of citizens, soldiers for the first time under fire, and commanded by officers equally inexperienced, in their attempt to force a passage through the crowded streets of a populous and hostile city; suddenly confronted with every possible exhibition of demoniac passion, and with barricades and deadly assault. None regret more than you, comrades, the errors of that day. And while it is but manly and fair to acknowledge such errors, still it is

simple justice to say that many palliating circumstances exist, which can be, and when time and opportunity serve, should be, set forth in explanation, if not in justification, of departures from methods which doubtless would have been adopted under circumstances of greater deliberation.

The passage of Baltimore, like many other influential events in the history of war, does not depend upon the quantity of blood spilled for the measure of its importance. The overwhelming impulse of northern patriotism which surged across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and returning swept rebellion forever out of sight, sprang from the blood shed in that street fight as certainly and naturally as the explosion follows the spark in the magazine. But judged by the standard of *execution* alone, the affair is not altogether insignificant. In the battle of Lexington the Americans had eight killed and nine wounded by the deliberate fire of six companies of the flower of the British army, commanded by Major Pitcairn. In return no account makes the British loss more than one man killed, and it to this day remains a disputed question whether the Americans, under Capt. Parker, succeeded in doing *any* execution upon the foe who had approached them openly and deliberately. In the battle of Concord and during a retreat of over fifteen miles, the whole in point of time occupying the entire day from light until dark, (the British troops during most of that time, consisting of eight companies under Lieut. Col. Smith, with whom was Major Pitcairn, and a brigade of a thousand men under Lord Percy) the British had 68 killed, 178 wounded and 26 missing. The American loss, not including that at Lexington, was 85 killed and wounded.

To accurately compare the severity of the fight in Baltimore with that of Concord and Lexington it must be borne in mind that Col. Jones with his staff officers in the immediate command of six companies and a portion of another company, passed through the city from depot to

depot, without occasion to use their arms—that Capt. Sampson of Company K, with a part of his men, not numbering fifty all told, under the immediate command of the second officer of the Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Watson) who drew and returned the first fire of the day, were not exposed to serious assault over half an hour—and that the other four companies also left behind by accident, C, D, I, and L, under Captains Follansbee, Hart, Pickering and Dike, and numbering all told less than 200 men, in their gallant march were certainly not under fire for more than one hour. Yet in this short period 4 of your comrades were killed, and 38 wounded, making about twenty per cent. of the number engaged. Hanson's History estimates 100 as the killed and wounded among our assailants. This number has never been accurately ascertained, and the reasons for concealment will probably prevent the publication of the correct number. It is hardly reasonable to place the number much below Mr. Hanson's estimate when it is considered that the firing was rapid, and the foe on every hand. †

Time does not permit me to make even a passing allusion to the numerous events of interest occurring during your campaign of fifteen weeks. It, to most of you, was but the prelude to other and more extending meritorious service to your country. Look upon whatever page you may in the records of the great rebellion, you will find inscribed the deeds of daring and devotion by the heroes of Baltimore. The proud record may never be fully written up, in the annals of the "Old Sixth," but your mark will ever remain on nearly every battle field of the war, and no one need, for shame, erase any one of them. Of the seven hundred men at one time and another, in one organization and another, in one rank and another, from corporal to general officer, it is known (and doubtless much remains unknown), that over 240 of you have had your merits acknowledged by promotion from the rank you assumed on entering the service. Who shall

say that you are not entitled to feel a just pride in being of the Historic Sixth Regiment of Massachusetts! Company B dates its organization prior to 1775, and its connection with the Sixth Regiment to October 17, 1778. Co. G was organized in 1803, and K in 1810. Other companies are venerable with years, and all inherited an honorable record. As you found it honored and honorable, so, after your short and brilliant campaign, you left it brave, ready, efficient. Nobly, my friends, did our successors to the organization and the colors maintain the reputation which was submitted to their keeping. In the dark, trying hours of the conflict, when the struggle was fiercest and the result trembling in doubt, the government twice again leaned on the Sixth Regiment for aid, and, as ever before, found them minute men whenever the flag was threatened.

As the organization (amid the general wreck of the old militia regiment), has been preserved so that it may transmit its deeds to after time in its historic garb, may it ever be said of her, "she is the first called, and the first to respond."

Comrades one and all, you are co-equal heirs to the plaudits which future years shall bestow upon the deeds of April 19th. No one man, no single organization of the Old Regiment can appropriate them. They belong alike to all. Individual sacrifice and personal deeds may differ in magnitude, but the glory thereof is a common heritage. Nor is this assertion in opposition to the just rule which has always prevailed among us, at least, of rendering "honor to whom honor is due." Every man of your intrepid band promptly and voluntarily enlisted; each one of them cheerfully encountered his own sacrifice—all alike offered to their country fortunes and life; all armed, all marched, all obeyed, all faced deadly menace with unfaltering step; no one, provided with weapons, turned back from that dangerous duty, and, so far as I know, or ever heard, no one ever expressed a de-

sire to do so (save one;) no one failed to fire when rebel aggression seemed to warrant that extreme resort; every man who found not the opportunity, possessed the will to answer treason with fire; and no man among you, so far as the memory of that trying hour serves, but exhibited that enthusiastic devotion which counted life of little moment when the glorious Union of our fathers was threatened with dismemberment.

Your children and those who come after you, desiring to estimate aright your individual merits in that day's work, will have no occasion to inquire your rank or position; whether it was yours to order or obey, or into which particular detachment the fortunes of that occasion threw you; whether with the main body under the colonel, true to a soldier's discipline, you calmly submitted to insult and menace, awaiting with breathless eagerness the welcome order to punish the insulters of the flag you loved; rendering implicit obedience to the trying order of submission to threat, derision and everything but deadly assault—an order based upon the still lingering hope of government and people that a resort to arms might be avoided, and a desire that the first blow should not be struck until reconciliation was utterly hopeless, (even so thought and acted our wise fathers at Lexington.)

Or whether separated from the main body, as well as the detachment still in the rear, your fortunes lay with that band of less than fifty men, who, notwithstanding their apparent desertion by their brave comrades, kept their faces to the front and their course onward; undeterred by the maddened rebels, which surged through Pratt street, promising annihilation to every Yankee soldier; replying to none of the vile epithets hissed with angry violence into their very faces; silently and sternly grasping their trusty weapons, ready for instant duty when the order should come; undismayed by obstructions to their progress or by accompanying volleys of paving stones and other missiles which wrecked the car and show-

ered sash and glass into their midst; earnestly asking orders to fire upon their assailants, and at last almost triumphantly holding up the bloody hand as a warrant justifying the order to attack; and when it came, "Shelter yourselves while loading, take careful aim when firing," obeying with steadiness and alacrity, and returning rebel lead into that furious multitude, measure for measure with usury added; held at bay in the centre of that seething cauldron of rebel passion and fury, apparently devoted to destruction, ignorant of the fortunes of the remainder of the regiment, no heart-cowering, no hand trembling, no tongue faltering, while heroic blood (in that traitorous conflict) poured its first offering upon the altar of country; (and deeds of patient bravery and individual daring were performed which have yet to be truly written, and the vivid recollection of which impelled me to say thus much in justice of the brave men whose admirable conduct I witnessed).

Or whether your good luck enrolled you among that fortunate detachment left by accident alone in the rear, who under the gallant Follansbee, Dike, Pickering and Hart, marched through two miles of rebel abuse and assault, and encountering the fully aroused venom and fury of the mob; nobly surrounding, bearing aloft and defending with precious blood the colors entrusted to their keeping by the patriot Governor, now gone to his reward; bidding defiance to every menace, surmounting every obstacle; offering up precious lives upon the altar of country; steadily delivering terrible retribution into the ranks of treason; an immortal band upon whom the fortunes of war that day placed the heaviest burdens, and who will be crowned by posterity with the highest honor.

No, my friends and fellow soldiers, after years need not press inquiries to fix your relative rank among the heroes of Baltimore, for the glory of that day sheds its lustre over and upon all of you; the sacrifices were your sacrifices, the offering was your offering, the deeds your

deeds, and the fame thereof shall, as a grateful blessing, be transmitted to your inheritors, undivided and indivisible.

Comrades, though your ranks wavered not, and your files were unbroken from the assaults of rebel foes, yet, to-day we miss the gallant forms of tried and proved patriots, who in one place and another have paid that last debt to nature from which no virtuous deeds or noble aspirations could exempt them. So long as our circle shall re-form—while the events we to-day commemorate are honored, we will ever reverence the names and memories of our comrades fallen in battle:

Scott Stewart of Company A.

Eusebius S. Clark, E. Dexter Sawtell, Henry E. Tozier, Wm. H. Priest, Henry J. Parker, Aaron Carter, and George A. Fullick, of Company B.

Ruel Greenleaf, Henry H. Pearson and Amaziah H. Goodwin, of Company C.

Luther Ladd, Charles A. Taylor and Addison O. Whitney, of Company D.

Henry W. Wilder, and John H. P. White, of Company E.

Thomas C. Ames, Frank Sanborn, George W. Morgan, Frank H. Merrill and Lyman V. B. Furber, of Company F.

Harrison W. Pratt, Dexter F. Parker, Mullineaux Seif, and Albert C. Walker, of Company G.

Timothy Crowley, David W. Russell and Martin V. B. Strong, of Company H.

Sumner H. Needham, Milton Blood and Daniel H. Yeaton, of Company I.

John T. Dunning, Gilbert W. Homan and George W. Gardner, of Company K.

Charles H. Carr Joseph LaClair, Sidney F. Mellen and Augustus M. Parker, of Company L.

The records of the last meeting were then read and approved.

The annual report of the Secretary was read and accepted.

A design for a permanent badge was presented by Col. Watson, which on motion, was accepted and adopted, and the President and Vice-Presidents were appointed a committee to procure them for the members. It was afterwards voted to lay the matter over until the next meeting.

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to send each member a copy of the address of Col. Watson.

On motion of Capt. Wright it was voted that a committee of one from each Company be appointed to nominate a list of officers for the ensuing year; afterwards amended that Col. Watson be elected by acclamation and unanimously adopted, and he was so elected.

A motion was made and carried that the nomination be taken from the hands of the committee and that the old officers serve the next year, as follows:

President—Col. B. F. Watson.

Vice-Presidents—Gen. A. D. Wass, Col. A. B. Farr.

Secretary—Lieut. I. N. Marshall.

Treasurer—Col. Melvin Beal.

Finance Committee—Capt. Daniel Tuttle, Capt. W. S. Sampson, Col. A. S. Follansbee.

A committee consisting of Capt. Sampson, Col. Sawtelle, Capt. Prouty, Capt. Dike, and I. N. Marshall were appointed with full powers to procure a suitable certificate of membership.

It was now past two o'clock, and dinner received the next attention. It certainly was a most bountiful repast, and round the table were seated about two hundred and forty persons. Before partaking of the food, his honor the Mayor, was introduced by Col. Watson, was received with cheers, and addressed the company in the following speech:

MAYOR BLAKE'S SPEECH.

Mr. Commander, Soldiers of the Old Sixth Massachusetts:

I cannot express and you can hardly appreciate the feelings of the civilian who is summoned before a presence like this, to utter a word of interest, where by personal association you have been drawn together and where those precious anniversary hours should be devoted to those reminiscences of the past, which can only be understood as the hand presses the hand and the heart responds to the heart of the comrade soldier.

In a farewell address to a departing regiment, the lamented Governor Andrew says: "Yesterday you were citizens; to-day you are heroes;" and the sentiment comes up afresh, with renewed pathos and force as we recall the varied scenes of the past few years. To-day *you are heroes*, soldiers of the "Old Sixth" Massachusetts; the advance guard of the one hundred and sixty thousand of Massachusetts' sons who left home in defence of the Union, you who responded so promptly to the first sum-

mons, who sacrificed all for national honor, who went *through* Baltimore and saved the capital from the rebel hands; and who by personal effort and example struck the key note of that sentiment which gave direction to coming events, strengthened the doubting and the wavering, stimulated the heart of loyalty and led the way to permanent peace, a united country, and freedom to all.

Yes, to-day you are heroes, and thank God to-day you are citizens, in the full enjoyment of the blessings of republican liberty, which through your valor is established forever.

This day, so memorable in the annals of American history, so precious to the hearts of all; a day which we looked back upon in our boyhood as the record of a past century was presented to our imaginations; a day which in the full realities of our manhood has become by its present personal experience established in its sanctity, as the sacrificial blood of Massachusetts men in 1775 first consecrated the altar of American liberty, and in 1861 was the first shed by this corps in the consecration of American unity.

This day, so full of the sacred associations of the past, becomes hallowed forever in the calendar of the present century by you, citizen soldiers, to be handed down through the future time; and with the patriot fathers of Concord and Lexington will be inscribed in immortal record the loyal sons of Lowell, and Groton, and Acton, and Lawrence, and Boston, and our own Worcester, absorbed and concentrated in their ever dying history of the "Old Sixth" Regiment.

But the honors which you have individually won are not yours alone; the laurel wreath of heroism wrought by your valor will be ascribed to the community from whence you went forth, and appropriated by the city or town you so nobly represented; for Lowell claims the honor of her sons in the National Greys, the Mechanics' Phalanx, the City Guard, and the Watson Light Guard;

the town of Groton claims her Artillery, and Acton her Davis Guard; and Lawrence her Warren Light Guard, and Stoneham its Light Guard, and Boston its Washington Light Guard, and Worcester its Light Infantry; and each corporation of municipal or town becomes the possessor of the honor and heroism of its individual citizens, which by aggregation give character and renown to our ancient and honorable Commonwealth.

Speaking to you therefore in the character of a civilian, may I not give expression to feelings of appreciation and gratitude in behalf of our fellow citizens for the honor which your regiment has reflected on our city, and pride that having from this community been able to contribute so largely to your number, we also rejoice in the assumption of our proportion of the imperishable honor of the "Old Sixth."

Mr. Commander, you will pardon me in thus detaining you so long from the more agreeable and festive duties of the occasion, while I would extend to you and your command in behalf of all our citizens a cordial welcome to this city of Worcester, and express the assurance of their continued and ever increasing regard for this association which is bound to us by ties of personal attachment; and believe, sir, as the recurrence of these annual reunions shall pass, and year by year the numerical character of your corps shall be changed, and these ranks shall become decimated by the hands of time, and all present shall have passed away, the readiness and loyalty, and heroism of this regiment will ever freshen and keep green its history, and inspire and quicken and direct the hearts of generations yet to come to the full realization of those attributes which alone can give to this country its true heroes and its loyal citizens.

There has been a little question, I believe, in military circles, as regards the precise status of the Light Infantry of this city, in this regiment, whether it was an accretion to, or a part of this organization. To you, members

of the "Old Sixth," comrades who have marched shoulder to shoulder, bivouacked, rationed and lived together for a common purpose, surrounded by common danger, there *can be no question*; and with us civilians who cheered and blessed this corps as it took its departure on that gloomy April morning, at a few hours notice in response to the Governor's call, we who knew no test of superiority or affinity save the test of promptness to duty and loyalty to country, the question, if any, would seem to be, does the Sixth Regiment of Massachusetts by the true spirit of association belong to the Worcester Light Infantry.

Without questioning your response I would now in behalf of your comrades of the Worcester Light Infantry cordially invite you to partake of this refreshment which has been provided by their bounty.

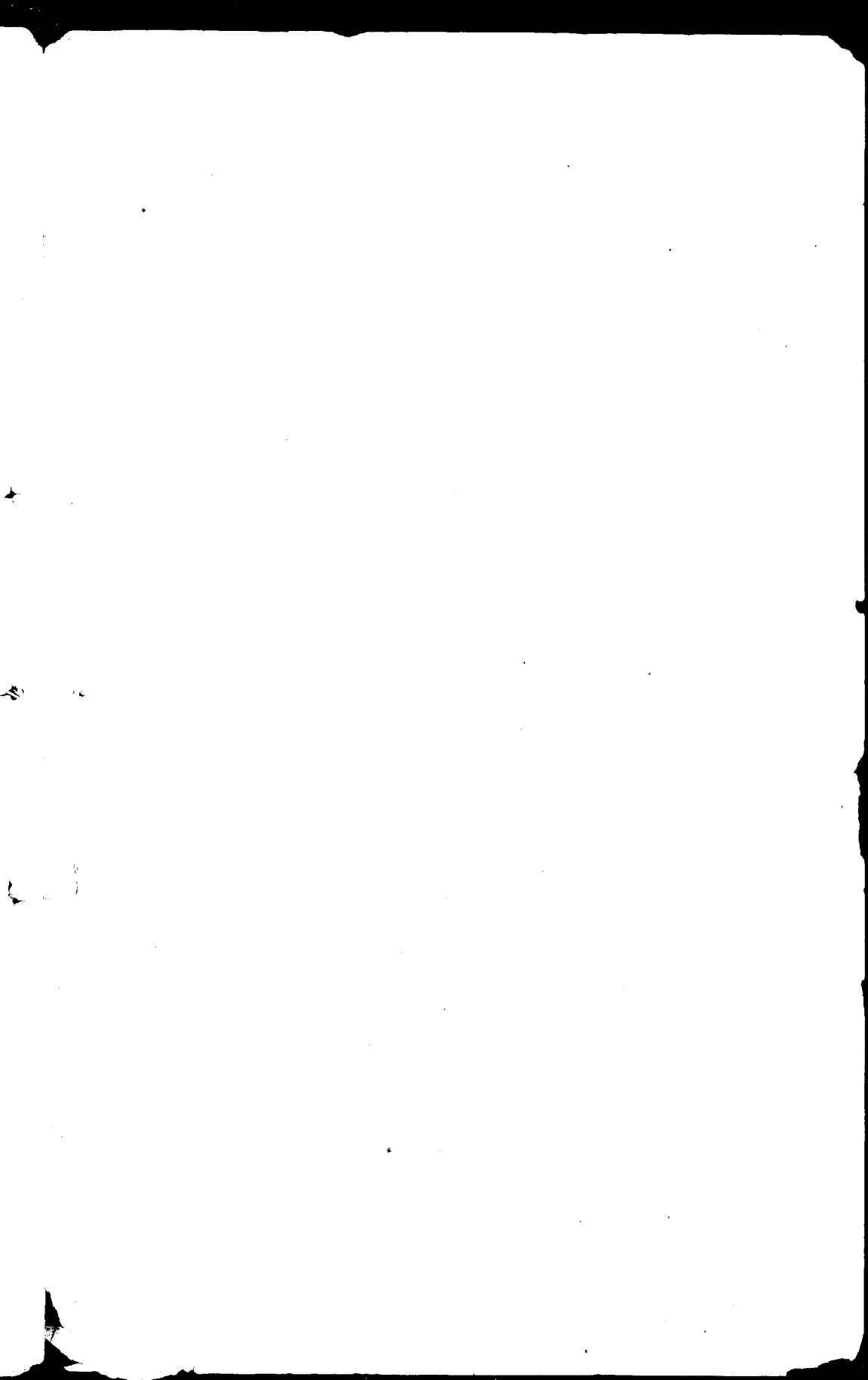
The business of the day was completed at the tables after dinner, the principal matter of which was the fixing of a place for the next year's meeting. It was finally voted that it should be held in Boston. After dinner speeches were wisely dispensed with, and after some excellent music by the Worcester Brass Band, a vote of thanks for the bountiful repast, and rousing cheers, the company broke up, and the out-of-town members of the regiment were escorted to the Foster street station, where they took the cars for home. A few remained in the city, however, and were entertained by the members of Company G.

The effort of the citizens to make the day a fitting celebration of the memorable 19th of April, nine years ago, is praiseworthy, and

they had the satisfaction of seeing a good display. Flags were flung out all along the line of march, and handkerchiefs were waved from doors and windows. The old colors of the regiment were carried in the procession. At the Washburn & Moen works flags were profusely displayed, and a banner bearing an appropriate motto was suspended over the street.

ISAAC N. MARSHALL,

Secretary.





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