

## ☆ FOREWORD

This is a fascinating little book and I personally am glad that the Bassett family of Nobles County, Minnesota, decided that it should be printed. I am only sorry there weren't more letters and reminiscences about Edward H. Bassett the Civil War veteran.

Here we have precise detail: what the soldiers ate in the Civil War, how they felt about the flag (they had a passion for it), what they thought of mules, how their thoughts returned again and again to the folks back home, how the soldiers fared in rain and snow. This book is not only interesting in its own right but provides much good source material for writers of articles and stories.

For myself I particularly delighted in the expressions of the day, some humorous, some piercingly sad, some philosophic. "I am in favor of keeping away from mules," writes Edward H. Bassett, "don't like their playful way of boxing." Again, "The boys threw in and bought a violin. Graham plays it in the evening and we have a regular tear down." "Our Chaplain thinks this is a hard place to serve the Lord, but still takes courage when he thinks of the Paymaster and the Greenbacks that are forthcoming." "I heard a rooster crow on the other side of the river. If he had been on this side he would have lost his head." "The Rebs sent over a little sail boat with a Richmond paper in it, and we returned it with a cargo of coffee." "Tell her (Mrs. Messick whose captain husband was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg) that we are trying to keep up the reputation of the Minnesota First."