

station,—which is generally but a moment or two, as somebody is always on the watch at the glass. The officer in charge seats himself at the glass, and, having observed the answer to his signal, calls to the man on the platform the figures which he wishes represented or waved. Thus, for example:

3—11; 21—5; 2—31—11; 1—43—5; 22—31; 14—22—23;
1—43—5; 11—1—42; 1—42—2; 23—11; 1—11; 5—55.

The substance of the above message is to inquire if a certain officer has arrived at a certain place, as expected. In what seems scarcely more than a single minute after the last word is sent, the answer comes from Fort Transit, and is read by the officer at the glass.

For the transmission of messages, different-colored flags are employed, as best suits the state of the atmosphere. There are now in use at Murfreesborough one black with a white centre, one white with a red centre, and one all red. Sometimes one can be plainly seen and recognized when another cannot be seen at all; hence the variety. As already said, there are two stations in the court-house at Murfreesborough, to which are assigned two officers and four men. The stations are kept open all the time, night and day, officers being constantly on the watch at the glass. When the station is "called" by one of the outlying stations, the officer in charge by whom the message is to be received and answered, if below in his office, is notified by the tapping of the court-house bell, two strokes calling him to one station, and three to the other. All messages sent and received are written out and copies of them preserved, which are often called for as evidence in courts-martial, &c. Messages received were formerly delivered at head-quarters by orderlies, but are now sent by the newly-arrived telegraph train.

The system now in use in all the Union armies was invented by Major Meyer, the Signal Officer of the army, since the beginning of the present war, the one previously in use having become valueless because of certain officers of the corps having gone with the South. The rebels, too, have a system, invented or perfected by one Alexander, formerly a lieutenant under Major