



Scenes and Adventures in the Army, Or, Romance of Military Life.by P. St. G. Cooke

Philip St George Cooke

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1857 edition. Excerpt: ...in the minds of a succeeding generation. To these we must look to account for the apparent preference of Congress for irregular troops, and their reluctance to substitute dragoons. It is on such foundations that, in moments of excitement, members have indulged the remark, that a company of men on the frontier are worth more than our whole army, 'composed of the sweepings of cities.' A twofold calumny! That member had every opportunity of knowing, when he uttered it, that a regiment of infantry had been, for near ten years, stationed three hundred miles beyond the most remote settlements, in constant contact with the Indians. "Under these false impressions, did a certain honorable and intelligent Senator from the West, state during the discussion of the Ranger bill, and the campaign of 1832, that the frontier men, then out in the field, soon destined some of them, to become rangers, were infinitely superior to the army, to the poor infantry (whom he would seem to reproach for not being mounted): that they could subsist themselves, 'be here to night, and fifty miles off by morning.' What must have been the feelings of officers on reading this, as they did, inactive in a wilderness--a swamp--delayed by these same boasted volunteers, who had marched to a fort for provisions,--it being notorious that they had thrown away their rations, to avoid the trouble of carrying them. 1J "Convinced by the experience of late years, of the necessity of a mounted force, to cope with mounted and other Indians, Congress passed the bill to raise a regiment of dragoons, on the 2d of March, 1833. The officers were forthwith appointed from the infantry and mounted rangers. They were immediately ordered to recruit for the regiment, and were restricted in...

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