

# MILITARY CEMETERY. AT VICKSBURG:

## Curious Story about a Petrified Body.

From the Chicago Journal

A letter from Vicksburg, of a recent date, gives an interesting account of the National Cemetery, located two miles north of that city, on a beautiful height overlooking the majestic Mississippi river—land in which is to be deposited the remains of from thirty to forty thousand Union soldiers, all belonging to Western States. It comprises forty acres, purchased by the government for that purpose. The remains of all that have been buried between Helena, Arkansas, and Grand Gulf, Mississippi, on the Mississippi river, together with those of Champion Hill, and in the Yazoo district, are to be removed to this Cemetery. Those interred between Grand Gulf and the mouth of Red river are to be removed to Cemeteries at Natchez. Both of these Cemeteries are in charge of Captain J. W. Southy, Assistant Quartermaster United States Army.

The very tasteful manner in which Captain Southy is having the cemetery laid out, and the work prosecuted, reflects credit alike upon himself and the government. He has in his employ 300 Irish and 100 freedmen, in the District of Mississippi. The exhumation of dead soldiers is not let out to contractors, but the work is superintended by Captain Southy in person, the clerks and agents being employed by government at a monthly salary, thus having no chance for speculation on the bones of our heroic dead. It is estimated that the cost to the government of exhuming and reinterring will not exceed two dollars per body, exclusive of the coffins. They were made by contract, and delivered at ninety cents each. Captain Southy has procured authority from the Secretary of War to use some seven large columbiad guns that had been captured from the Rebels to decorate the cemetery, one of which has been placed in front of the marble monument, that has been picked and chipped into pieces, to mark the site of the interview between Generals Grant and Pemberton. The old marble one now stands at the railroad depot. A more imposing site could not have been procured, as it is opposite the point, on the peninsula, commanding a splendid river view, either ascending or descending.

For the accommodation of thousands who will desire to visit this resting place of their deceased friends, the citizens, with what aid the government may give, contemplate bridging the stream between the city and the cemetery, and making a plank road, thereby making it accessible at all times. Already several thousand bodies have been interred. One petrified body has been exhumed under a sand-bar that has been a long time under water. No mark or name could be found, but it was the body of a captain. Not only were the face, hair, whiskers, &c., perfectly natural, but every part of the uniform, although one mass of stone, was perfect. So great was its weight that it raris near sinking the skiff in taking it ashore. It had been a very large, man-looking man.