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*Pure Heart: The Faith of a Father and Son in the War for a
More Perfect Union* by William F. Quigley, Jr. (review)

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David L. Shultz, *“Double Canister at Ten Yards”:
The Federal Artillery and the Repulse of Pickett’s
Charge, July 3, 1863.* El Dorado Hills, CA: 2017).
109 pp. Paper, \$13.95. ISBN 978–1-61121–272–3.

Many readers are aware that the Army of the Potomac’s artillery played a decisive role in repulsing Longstreet’s Assault (or Pickett’s Charge, if you prefer the less-accurate appellation) on the third day at Gettysburg. *Double Canister at Ten Yards* provides a comprehensive overview of the Union artillery’s role on that famous day. Author David Shultz goes into great detail, explaining how Brig. Gen. Henry J. Hunt was able to deploy his batteries and work within and without the army’s regulations to keep them supplied and belching death at the unfortunate infantrymen of Robert E. Lee’s army.

Double Canister at Ten Yards is well written and provides vivid detail. Shultz makes good use of the *Official Records* and other primary sources to piece together the Union artillery’s scattered positions. Excellent maps and photographs accompany the text.

Primarily, Shultz credits General Hunt with organizing the Union artillery’s success. According to the author, Hunt brilliantly predicted the Confederate assault’s location. As the morning of July 3 unfolded, Hunt meticulously positioned his batteries to cover the Union center along Cemetery Ridge and achieve a crossfire. During the pre-assault bombardment, he ordered his batteries to cease the return-fire in order to deceive the Confederates. The noticeable slackening in the counter-fire caused the Confederates to think the Union gunners were low on ammunition, and thus, Lt. Gen. James Longstreet sent word to begin the attack. Hunt’s ruse worked, even though the act of ordering the cease-fire proved especially challenging. Each chapter illustrates Hunt’s skill at battlefield management, applauding his communication with his battery commanders, his ability to assess enemy intentions, his speed in reacting to changing situations, and his knack for remaining mobile throughout the engagement.

Even though *Double Canister at Ten Yards* is commendable, there are places where more explanation would have been helpful. For example, the book could have benefited from additional background on artillery tactics. Introductory readers

will not likely understand the complexities of artillery deployment and terminology. For instance, Shultz repeatedly referred to the *prolong*, the long rope that allowed gunners to connect their piece to the limber without hitching it. When he first introduced the prolong, Shultz did not specify what it was. Occasionally, the author assumes his readers already possess an advanced understanding of Civil War terminology and tactics. Consequently, this book could be a hard sell for readers who are just beginning to learn about the battle.

Also, the author makes a claim that requires more explanation. On page 30, Shultz writes, “By and large, Union gunners were also better artilleryists than their Southern counterparts.” Without any examples or explanations, Shultz lets that generalization hang there awkwardly. I wouldn’t necessarily disagree with him, but a deeper analysis of Confederate shortcomings would have been a helpful addition.

In any case, *Double Canister at Ten Yards* is a good overview of the importance of Union artillery during this chaotic phase of the battle, and it should be read by anyone who wants to study Longstreet’s Assault. Should the author want to turn his eye toward the Union artillery’s counterpart—the less-decisive role of the Confederate artillery during the bombardment—I’ll bet readers would be just as interested in it.

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William F. Quigley, Jr., *Pure Heart: The Faith of
a Father and Son in the War for a More Perfect
Union.* Kent, OH: Kent State University Press,
2016. 416 pp. Cloth, \$39.95. ISBN 978–1-60635–
286–1.

William F. Quigley, Jr.’s *Pure Heart* tells the story of Rev. Benjamin Dorr, rector of Christ Church, Philadelphia, and his son, Capt. William White Dorr, 121st Pennsylvania. During the war, Reverend Dorr held together one of the nation’s well-known and most deeply divided Episcopal congregations. Meanwhile, as his father preached, Captain Dorr faithfully served in the ranks of the Army of the Potomac, dying at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.

Quigley's book is more than a mere dual biography; it is also the story of a community at war. He focuses much of his narrative on the national politics that resonated within the walls of Christ Church—the "Nation's Church," as it was popularly known—highlighting the various ways in which the war divided the congregation. Reverend Dorr was no extremist. In 1861, he urged the nation's leaders to avoid war if possible, doing little to champion the abolitionist cause. After Fort Sumter, Dorr focused his energies on keeping his flock unified behind Abraham Lincoln's wartime policies. As Quigley put it, Dorr "stood at a sensible but lonely point of intersection between religion and politics," an isolated middle-ground that caused both radicals and conservatives to look on him with suspicion (25–26).

Dorr's task grew harder in the summer of 1862 when his son, William, enlisted in a three-year volunteer regiment. At the same time, Copperhead criticism of the Republican administration—which included Christ Church parishioners Charles Ingersoll and John C. Bullitt, among others—reached fever pitch, with Democratic leaders denouncing the war as a foolish abolitionist crusade. Reverend Dorr did his best to stay his middle-course, but ultimately, when it came time to choose, he leaned toward supporting emancipation in a public sermon (although he chose not to mention slavery by name). Dorr defended the actions of the army in which his son served, potentially alienating his conservative congregants. Ultimately, Quigley's book is a cautionary tale about the importance of moderation. He points out that mid-nineteenth century Americans became overly bellicose and self-righteous on behalf of party and principle. Somehow, says Quigley, Reverend Dorr and his soldier-son demonstrated a purer heart, rejecting the triumphal tones of American exceptionalism that ran through the language of Philadelphia's extremists.

Although *Pure Heart* narrates the life and times of the Dorrs from birth until death, the bulk of

Quigley's narrative covers the wartime years. Most of the book's heavy drama comes from Quigley's narration of Capt. William Dorr's army service. Dorr's regiment endured its baptism of fire at Fredericksburg and it built breastworks during the Chancellorsville Campaign. Battle of Gettysburg enthusiasts will be pleased to see a thirty-page chapter dedicated exclusively to the battle, narrating Dorr's harrowing experience on McPherson's Ridge, where his tenacious regiment, the 121st Pennsylvania, lost 179 of its 263 officers and men. On May 10, 1864, Captain Dorr was killed in action during the Fifth Corps' attack against Confederate earthworks at the Sarah Spindle farm.

Although it is a good book, *Pure Heart* is not without its faults. At times, the book is burdened by needless tangents. Quigley's obsessive effort to contextualize every historic event and character, however minor, distracts from the main narrative. Confusingly, a few stories do not appear chronologically. For instance, Chapter 9 includes a long description of a bizarre, unsent letter written by Captain Dorr addressed to a woman he met at a Sanitary Fair—whose name may or may not have been Evangeline. Quigley analyzes the letter after describing Dorr's death at Spotsylvania, and not before, where it should logically appear. Undoubtedly, Quigley intentionally misplaced the letter's analysis for dramatic purposes. But the misplacement does not improve the book's drama; instead, it causes an acute case of chronological whiplash. Finally, Quigley gives only limited attention to Reverend Dorr's other children—Mary, Essie, Hattie, and Dalton. The reader is left to wonder why they are left outside of the tale, a story meant to be about a tight-knit family at war.

But these are small quibbles. Overall, *Pure Heart* is excellent addition to the scholar's bookshelf and it should appeal to readers who are interested in the religious history of the war.

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