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CHAPTER XXVIII

THE FIRST CAVALRY REGIMENT

Organization—Departure for Washington—At Annapolis—Under Banks in the Valley—Death of Colonel Holliday—Skirmishes at Mount Jackson and McGaheysville—Colonel Tompkins assumes command—Banks's retreat—Middletown and Winchester—Campaign under Pope—Orange Court House—Second Bull Run—Resignation of Colonel Tompkins—Major Sawyer promoted Colonel—Ashby's Gap—Outpost duty and troubles with Mosby—The Gettysburg Campaign—Hanover—Gettysburg—Hagerstown and Boonsboro—Return to Virginia—Fighting Stuart at Culpeper, Brandy Station and Buckland Mills—Kilpatrick's Raid—Lieut. Colonel Preston appointed Colonel—The Wilderness Campaign—Craig's Church and Spottsylvania—Sheridan's Raid—Yellow Tavern—At the door of Richmond—Back to the Army—Ashland—Hawes's Shop and death of Colonel Preston—Major Wells appointed Colonel—Wilson's Raid—Stony Creek and Ream's Station—In the Shenandoah Valley—The Opequon—Columbia Furnace—Tom's Brook—Cedar Creek—Expiration of Three Years' term—Skirmishes in Shenandoah Valley—Spring campaign of 1865—Waynesboro—Five Forks—Appomattox—Ordered to North Carolina—Back to Washington—Return home and muster out—The Frontier Cavalry—Final statement.

Vermont sent one regiment of cavalry to the war. It was the first full regiment of mounted men raised in New England, and was the largest regiment but one sent from Vermont, comprising from first to last 2,297 officers and men. It has a notable history. All previous Vermont regiments had been recruited by the State authorities. The cavalry regiment was raised under the direct authority of the United States. A proposal to raise such a regiment was made to Governor Fairbanks in the summer of 1861 by Lemuel B. Platt, of Colchester; but as no State law authorized the recruiting of cavalry, the Governor declined the offer and Mr. Platt turned to the National Government. Accompanied by Senator Foot, he laid the matter before the Secretary of War. Mr. Cameron had heard of Vermont

horses—whose fame had crossed the Atlantic and brought orders to the Green Mountains from Louis Napoleon for animals for the imperial stables—as well as of Vermont troops, and he promptly commissioned Mr. Platt as a colonel, with authority to raise and equip a cavalry regiment. Colonel Platt was that time a well-to-do farmer, 50 years old, of tall and powerful frame, of marked energy, and of considerable prominence in local politics. He was wholly without military training, and frankly told the Secretary, when he inquired concerning his military experience, that it consisted of three days spent at a militia muster when he was a young man, two of which he passed in the guard-house. But he could raise a regiment, though he did not consider himself qualified to drill and command it; and he would undertake to do it in forty days. In forty-two days from that date the regiment was in camp, the uniforms provided, and the horses on the ground. The recruiting officers were as follows: George B. Kellogg, Brattleboro; John D. Bartlett, Montpelier; George P. Conger, St. Albans; Frank A. Platt, Burlington; George T. Roberts, Rutland; James B. Wood, Dorset; Franklin Moore, Shoreham; Reed Bascom, Windsor; Edward B. Sawyer, Hyde Park; Salmon B. Hebard, Chelsea.

The companies organized at the several recruiting stations between the 4th and 15th of October, and rendezvoused at Burlington, and by the 16th all were in camp on the fair ground, designated as “Camp Ethan Allen,” in honor of the revolutionary hero whose grave was near the spot. The men were quartered for three weeks in the wooden buildings of the Chittenden County Agricultural Society, till the tents, of the conical “Sibley” pattern, arrived, when they were transferred to these, six tents covering a company, with about fifteen men in each tent. The horses arrived as soon as the men; were inspected on the ground; were purchased (at an average price of \$110) by

Quartermaster G. S. Blodgett; and were branded with the familiar "U.S." on the fore-foot and fore-shoulder. They were between 15 and 16 hands high, as required by the government standard, and between five and nine years old, sound, well knit and serviceable, though as untrained as the men. They were originally assorted by colors, each company having horses of one color; but the vicissitudes of the service soon disturbed this arrangement, and the attempt to maintain any uniformity of colors was abandoned.

The men were almost wholly native Vermonters. In the words of Surgeon Edson, "they had enlisted in companies by counties; and had, by election, generously given into the hands of men entirely their equals in lack of military training and in many cases in no way superiors in courage, patriotism or intelligence, the superior positions, honor and pay of company officers. These officers they recognized and obeyed by a tacit compact, springing from the same good nature that elected them, and from a recognition of the necessity for organization and subordination. But in doing so they by no means surrendered their right of independent judgment and the consequent expression of their opinions. 'Fraternity, equality, liberty' Americanized indeed, expressed the mental and moral relations toward the officers they had themselves created. The true relation of officer and soldier they had not in the slightest degree comprehended; nor did they, for a long time, nearly attain any condition of discipline that would not have driven a regular officer to madness. The company officers were but counterparts of the men, bred in the same school. It was one of their functions to participate in company caucuses, and to hold mass meetings with brother officers of the line. Such were the units of the organization. The field and staff officers were but privates raised through the company grades, alike inexperienced and ignorant of their duties, except those appertaining to the regimental town meeting that seemed to be always in session."

The field and staff officers were commissioned by the governor upon the recommendation of the colonel—the selection of the chaplain, however, being determined by an informal ballot, taken by the line officers.

The lieutenant colonel was George B. Kellogg, a lawyer of Brattleboro, 36 years old, of a well-known family high in social standing, a son of Hon. Daniel Kellogg, for many years judge of the Supreme Court of Vermont. Lieut. Colonel Kellogg was a man of education, genial temperament and convivial habits. He had held the State office of adjutant and inspector general. He recruited the Windham county company, was elected as its captain and then was at once appointed lieutenant colonel.

The senior major, William D. Collins of Bennington, was an Englishman, and the only officer in the regiment who had seen any mounted service. He had been a sergeant in a battery of light artillery in the British army. This experience, magnified by common report into command of a light battery in her majesty's service, together with his showy appearance on horse-back, gave him great distinction, and he was for a time the recognized military authority in the regiment.

The junior major was John D. Bartlett of Montpelier, a tall and fine looking young Vermonter, who had recruited the Washington County company, had been elected its captain, and was then promoted to the majority.

The adjutant, Edgar Pitkin of Burlington, had seen three months' service as a sergeant in company H of the First Vermont regiment. He was young, enthusiastic and brave, and he gave his life to the national cause before the war ended.

The quartermaster, Archibald S. Dewey, was a Burlington merchant, a man of 50 years, of superior intelligence, of strong patriotism, and of a dry humor which made him as entertaining companion. The surgeon, Dr. George S.

Gale of Bridport, was a well-known, thoroughly educated and successful physician of Addison county. He was one of the older officers, being now nearly 50, a man of marked character, earnest and blunt of speech, and devoted to the regiment. The assistant surgeon, Dr. P. O'M. Edson of Chester, was a young physician of high promise and professional ability, a graduate of both the academical and medical departments of the University of Vermont, patriotic, high-minded and always deservedly a favorite in the command. The chaplain, Rev. John H. Woodward of Westford, was a Congregational clergyman of marked earnestness and devotion, of intense patriotism and of a personal courage which took him often to the front and gave him the name of "the fighting chaplain." He was a State senator when appointed, and left his seat in the Senate Chamber to enter upon his duties as chaplain.

The first organization of the regiment was as follows:

Colonel—Lemuel B. Platt.

Majors—William D. Collins and John D. Bartlett

Adjutant—Edgar Pitkin.

Quartermaster—A. S. Dewey.

Surgeon—George S. Gale

Assistant Surgeon—P. O'M. Edson.

Chaplain—John H. Woodward.

Sergeant Major—A. H. Danforth.

Q. M. Sergeant—C. V. H. Sabin.

Hospital Steward—J. H. Fiske.

Commissary Sergeant—Mark H. Wooster.

Chief Buglers—Cyrus Green and F. A. Prouty.

Veterinary Surgeon—Hosea Stone.

Company A, Chittenden County—Captain, Frank A. Platt; first lieutenant, Joel B. Erhardt; second lieutenant, Ellis B. Edwards; orderly sergeant, Warren Gibbs.

Company B, Franklin County—Captain, George P. Conger; first lieutenant, William B. Beman; second lieutenant, Jed P. Clark; orderly sergeant, John Sawyer, Jr.

Company C, Washington County—Captain, William Wells; first lieutenant, H. M. Page; second lieutenant, Eli Holden; orderly sergeant, Chauncy Bennett.

Company D, Orange and Caledonia Counties—Captain, A. W. Preston ;

first lieutenant, John W. Bennett; second lieutenant, William G. Cummings; orderly sergeant, Jacob Trussel.

Company E, Windsor County—Captain, Samuel P. Rundlett; first lieutenant, A. J. Grover; second lieutenant, John C. Holmes; orderly sergeant, A. H. Chandler.

Company F, Windham County—Captain, Josiah Hall; first lieutenant, Robert Schofield; second lieutenant, Nathaniel Hayward; orderly sergeant, S. A. Clark.

Company G, Bennington County—Captain, James A. Sheldon; first lieutenant, George H. Breat; second lieutenant, D. M. Blackmer; orderly sergeant, Frank Ray.

Company H, Rutland County—Captain, S. G. Perkins; first lieutenant, F. T. Huntoon; second lieutenant, Charles A. Adams; orderly sergeant, C. A. Barrows.

Company I, Lamoille and Orleans Counties—Captain, E. B. Sawyer; first lieutenant, H. C. Flint; second lieutenant, Josiah Grout, Jr.; orderly sergeant, C. A. Woodbury.

Company K, Addison County—Captain, Franklin Moore; first lieutenant, John S. Ward; second lieutenant, John Williamson; orderly sergeant, E. H. Higley.

The uniforms of the rank and file consisted of dark blue jackets trimmed with yellow braid, with brass scales on the shoulders, trousers of light blue, hats of black felt, turned up at one side, top boots, and overcoats of brown cloth. No arms were obtainable for the men at first, and for a month the camp sentinels did guard duty armed with clubs, the weight of which was felt by some of the officers who tested the vigilance of the sentries. Sabres were distributed later. The men were first drilled on foot in infantry tactics, There was the customary run of measles in camp, and one man died therefrom in the camp hospital.¹ The Legislature voted to the privates the seven dollars a month State pay, which had been given to the infantry regiments, and visited the camp in a body, one fine November day, taking dinner in camp, as the guests of the regiment, and witnessing a mounted parade. The ladies of Burlington and vicinity knit woolen socks and mittens for such of the boys as were not supplied therewith, and the citizens of Burlington procured the colors—a State flag of heavy blue silk, richly embroid -

¹ A. F. Harris of Vernon, of company F.

ered (not painted) with the coat of arms of the State; a United States flag of silk, and four guidons of red and white silk. These were formally presented December 12th by Governor Holbrook and Lieut. Governor Underwood.

The regiment was mustered into the United States service by Lieutenant J. W. Jones, Twelfth United States Infantry, on the 19th of November, with 966 officers and men. December 14th the regiment broke camp, under orders to report to Washington, and started thither by rail. The men were loaded in the freight cars with the horses, passenger cars being added for the officers. The regiment filled *one hundred and fifty-three* cars, which left, in five separate trains, at intervals of an hour each. The sick men filled three cars, before they reached Washington. Twenty-five sick men were left at Burlington.

A day and a night on the rail brought the regiment to New York, where the men were quartered in the "Empire Works" on 24th street and in the stables of a street car company. On the way down a man fell from a car, in the night, and was cut to pieces by the wheels.² Another man fell from the top of a freight car and had an arm broken; and another man starting up from sleep in the night, sprang through the open door of a car while the train was in rapid motion, but somehow escaped serious injury.

Next morning the regiment marched down Broadway, escorted by a delegation of the "Sons of Vermont," of New York City. The pavements were slippery with rain and slime, and some good riders got falls before they reached the Battery; but on the whole the regiment appeared well, and was highly praised by the thousands of spectators and the press of the city. At Jersey City, after a lunch supplied by the ladies, the regiment mounted and marched twelve miles

² James Hogan of company E.

over dusty roads, through Newark³ to Elizabethport, N.J., where it took cars for Washington by way of Harrisburg and Baltimore. The ride from the latter city to Washington occupied a long chilly night. In the abandoned cemetery on Capitol Hill, where jaded, hungry and nearly frozen, they stumbled into graves recently emptied of their former occupants, and camped without straw, wood or rations.⁴ These were supplied in time, and though 21 horses died of hardship and lung fever during the five days at Washington, the regiment as a whole was able to make a very fair appearance, and was pronounced “the best cavalry mount that had been seen at the Capital.”⁵

On the 22d the regiment paraded, and was addressed by Senator Foot in a stirring speech.

On the 24th, Colonel Platt received orders to take his regiment to Annapolis, to be drilled; and on the morning of Christmas day it started, expecting to make the thirty-five miles march thither that day. But the roads were narrow and sandy, and nightfall found the regiment hardly half way to Annapolis. At Marlboro, Md., where it made its first bivouac in a pine grove outside of the village; Lieutenant Wheeler, then a corporal in the ranks, this describes the

³ “The Green Mountain Boys arrived about four o’clock and marched up Market street amid liveliest tokens of enthusiasm, The men are of a superior class, with true Yankee grit blazing from their eyes. The horses are small, compact and sinewy, and evidently capable of great endurance. It was the general remark that so splendid a body of animals had never been seen together in this city.”—*Newark Advertiser*, Dec. 17, ‘61.

⁴ “In others’ grief we sometimes find solace for our own. The only thing that saved the regiment from utter despair was the consternation of the wagoners when they saw the transportation furnished by the Quartermaster’s Department—nondescript wagons, broken-down horses and mules, saddles and ‘yea-a’ lines—for men who had visions of four-horse teams with reins, and whips with silk snappers. This joke on the teamsters was food and fuel for the men.”—Dr. Edson.

⁵ Major Ben Perley Poore. To the *Boston Journal*.

march: “Our appearance must have been picturesque. In addition to our equipments of saber, pistol, haversack, canteen, lariat rope and pin, feed-bag and blankets, we had cups, plates, frying-pans, coffee-pots, shawls, mattresses, pillows, valises, satchels, brushes, and other things too numerous to mention—all in some unaccountable way attached to our horses and ourselves, so that we had, when mounted, breastworks in our front and bulwarks in our rear. With horses unused to marching, and riders unused to riding, and officers unused to everything in the service, we went most of the way at a pace little short of a charge. The little Maryland village where we stopped did not tend to us an enthusiastic welcome. We were tired and lame, sore and hungry; the slaves were having a holiday, and the sulky whites were neither willing nor able to do anything for our comfort. This was not to us a merry Christmas, and in all our subsequent experience there were few marches that seemed more severe than this first march.”

Nightfall of the next day brought the regiment to Annapolis, where it went into camp in a large tobacco field, about two miles southwest of the city, by the side of the Fifth New York Cavalry, which had been there a few days. The two regiments were often side by side, in camp, in the field and in battle, in subsequent years, and formed a fast friendship which outlasted the war.

Annapolis was just now full of men and military bustle, for 11,000 infantry were there, making ready for Burnside's expedition against Roanoke Island; but they soon departed, and the city resumed in a measure its normal stagnancy. The two cavalry regiments, with a battalion of the First Massachusetts Cavalry which was soon sent to Hilton Head, were here brigaded under General John P. Hatch, a New Yorker and West Point graduate who had seen service in the Mexican war, and was now a captain in the Third U.S. Cavalry and brigadier general of volunteers. Experienced,

methodical, precise in his requirements, and concise in speech, he gave officers and men their first ideas of discipline, and they began to learn to care for themselves and their horses.⁶

Here at “Camp Harris,” so named by the Fifth New York, who were otherwise known as the “Ira Harris Cavalry,” the regiment went into winter quarters. The men stockaded and floored their tents, and surrounded them with pine branches to make them warmer; built long sheds for the horses between the rows of tents; and dug wells, water not being abundant. The armament of the regiment was here completed by the distribution of self-cocking revolvers, which proved more dangerous to the men than to the enemy. Ten men in each company were armed with Sharpe's carbines, The officers were schooled in the tactics and the men were drilled in the manual and sabre exercise, and a regimental band was organized.

Having accomplished his task, Colonel Platt now tendered his resignation to General Stoneman, chief of cavalry, who designated Captain Jonas P. Holliday of the Second United States cavalry as his successor, Captain Holliday was accordingly commissioned as colonel on the 14th of February, and on the 22d joined his command.⁷

The new commander was a New York man and a graduate of West Point, of the class of 1850. He was 33 years old, tall, slender, grave, a thorough disciplinarian and a spirited and sensitive gentleman. The regiment gave him a cordial welcome and their entire confidence. Colonel Hol –

⁶ “General Hatch insisted upon company officers attending to stable duty, though buckwheat cakes grew cold.”—Surgeon Edson.
“We now came down to camp discipline under General Hatch, and as we came down our horses went up, in importance.”—Lieutenant Wheeler.

⁷ In accepting Colonel Platt's resignation General Stoneman said, in writing: “Allow me to express the wish that your success through life may equal your success in raising, mounting and bringing into service, one of the very best regiments of cavalry which has been brought to my notice.”

liday rearranged the squadrons.⁸ He gave careful attention to discipline and drill, did dress parade with full ceremony, and spared no pains to make soldiers of his men. Two weeks had been so spent when on the 7th of March, he received an unexpected order to report at Washington with his command. The regiment was ordered forward to join the forces guarding the line of the Potomac above Washington, to take the place of some cavalry which had been sent to General Banks. The regiment left Annapolis March 9th, bivouacked at night at Buena Vista, Md., and arrived next day at Washington, going into a dirty camp on East Capitol Hill, just vacated by the Sixth United States Cavalry. On the 12th it marched to Rockville, and the next day went on through the tented villages which dotted the left bank of the Potomac, to Poolesville, and went into camp about three miles from Edwards Ferry, companies D and I being stationed in the village. Among the incidents of the march was the reclamation by their masters of some fugitive slaves who had hid themselves in the baggage wagons, but were found and taken away, to the great indignation of the men.

Active operations were now in progress in the Shenandoah Valley. Stonewall Jackson had attacked General Banks's advance under General Shields, at Kernstown, had been repulsed with serious loss, and had fallen back ten or fifteen miles up the valley. General Banks had followed him to Strasburg, and wanted more cavalry with which to press his advantage. Accordingly the Vermont cavalry was sent to him. The men were excited by the news of the fighting in the valley, and eager for active duty, and the regiment broke camp on the 28th, with a cheerfulness not shared by its colonel, who was depressed both by personal

⁸ The new order was as follows: *First* squadron A and G companies, Captain Platt; *Second*, B and H companies, Captain Conger; *Third*, D and I companies, Captain Preston; *Fourth*, F and C companies, Captain Hall; *Fifth*, E and K companies, Captain Rundlett.

troubles and by his official responsibility. The regiment arrived at Harpers Ferry on the 29th, and was quartered in the deserted houses in the village.⁹

On the 31st the regiment started for the front, marching through Charlestown and on up the valley turnpike, and camping at night in the pine woods, five miles from Winchester. The next day, April 1st, it marched to Middletown, passing the battle-ground of Kernstown, and seeing all along the way the marks of war, in houses filled with wounded men, new-made graves, dead horses and wrecks of army wagons. After four days at Hupp's Hill, between Middletown and Strasburg, and of picket duty along Cedar Creek, the regiment moved on to Woodstock, where General Banks now had his headquarters. This day, April 5th, was a gloomy one for the regiment, for it lost, by his own hand, the commander on whom it placed its chief reliance. Colonel Holliday had been for weeks in an unsound condition of both mind and body. He brooded over the fact that his command was not in what he considered a proper condition to take the field, and his depression deepened as the days went on.¹⁰ On the morning of the 5th, when the regiment was passing Fisher's Hill, Colonel Holliday left the column and went back to Strasburg, on some business with the provost marshal. Returning, accompanied by his bugler and orderly, at the stone bridge across Tumbling Run he drew bridle, and sent the bugler forward to tell Adjutant

⁹ "In the house where I am writing (March 30th), the basement is used for culinary purposes and horse stalls. On the first floor, up a flight of eight steps, some thirty horses are stabled. My horse, with four others, is in the front parlor."—Army letter.

¹⁰ "The death of Colonel Holliday was very sudden and very sad. He appeared greatly depressed about the condition of his regiment. He spoke upon no other subject while here. His officers say he had been insane for three weeks and attributed his depression of spirits to personal disappointment not connected with his profession. I do not know how this may be."—Banks to McClellan, April 6th, 1862.

Pitkin that he wished to see him. Five minutes later he sent the orderly after the bugler. A soldier in the rear saw him, after they left him, turn from the pike into a by-road leading to the Shenandoah. The adjutant came, in obedience to the message, was direct by the soldier to the by-path, and following it came upon the colonel's horse hitched to a bush upon the bank of the river. Close by, in the water lay the body of Colonel Holliday. A pistol ball, fired by his own hand, had pierced the centre of his forehead, and his face and beard were dripping with blood. His body was borne to the camp near Woodstock, and a court of inquiry, consisting of Major Collins and Captains Perkins and Moore, with Lieutenant Erhardt as judge advocate, pronounced it a case of suicide. His body was sent, in charge of Captains Sawyer, to his home in Central New York. He had been but six weeks with the regiment; but long enough to win the respect and attachment of all. That night a group of officers, who had gathered, stunned by the suddenness of the blow, feeling themselves without a head in the face of the enemy, were electrified by the hot words of surgeon Gale: "Gentlemen, our duty is with the living and not the dead. There is material enough in this regiment to save it." "The wise doctor," says Surgeon Edson, who tells the story, "knew what he was saying."

Among the mournful incidents attending Colonel Holliday's death, was the accidental shooting of Thomas McCullough, a young man of company A, who was one of the numbered detailed to escort the colonel's remains to Winchester. While stooping his pistol fell from the holster and exploded, the ball entering his breast and killing him instantly.¹¹

The spirits of the men revived somewhat, on the arrival, a day or two later, General Hatch, who was assigned to

¹¹ McCullough's body was taken to Vermont and interred at Burlington, with military honors.

the command of the cavalry brigade. This comprised the First Michigan, First Maine and First Vermont cavalry, and, a few days later, the Fifth New York cavalry. Jackson was now near Mount Jackson, twelve miles south of Woodstock, with six or seven thousand infantry and Turner Ashby's cavalry. The opposing forces picketed the opposite banks of Stony Creek, half way between the respective headquarters. The first sight of the enemy obtained by any men of the First Vermont, was on the 8th of April, when Captain Preston, with 55 men of D company and a company of the First Michigan cavalry, went out after forage. They came upon one of Ashby's outposts at Columbia Furnace, and shots were exchanged which emptied a confederate saddle.

The spirits of the command were elated by one or two such trifling encounters, and the reports of citizens, refugees and deserters from Jackson's army bringing the news, "important if true," that the rebellion was everywhere caving in, gave assurance that the war was to be short as it would be glorious for the defenders of the flag.¹²

The regiment was now for a week scattered in detachments along the pike from Middletown to Edinburg, the third squadron being at Middletown and the fourth at Strasburg, guarding the telegraph lines and watching the mountain passes. The left wing of the regiment was at Woodstock. At this time General Banks decided to move up the valley after Jackson, who was preparing to fall back to Harrisonburg. The cavalry were to lead the Union column, and on the evening of the 16th the cavalry brigade was concentrated at Edinburg. The infantry and artillery were in motion, amid the stir and excitement of a forward movement of a column

¹² Captain Strother, better known to many as "Porte Crayon," who was on General Bank's staff, says in his "Personal Recollections". "Our cavalry had been strengthened by the arrival of the Vermont regiment. The spirit and discipline of this new force gave us entire predominance over the enemy in our front. Ashby's vagabonds were beaten whenever encountered."

of fifteen thousand men. At midnight the column moved forward, the Vermont cavalry in advance, under whispered commands, though the tramp of hoofs, and rumble of artillery must have announced to all around that a heavy force was in motion. Before daylight the skies in front reddened by the light of burning bridges, showed that the enemy was fully aware of the advance. At daybreak the head of the column passed through the lower village of Mount Jackson. The main village, a mile and a half beyond, was the terminus of the finished portion of the Manassas Gap Railroad, and was full of engines, trains and railroad property, brought thither by the enemy from along the line. Ashby's cavalry was in the village and was busily engaged in firing the station houses and cars and the bridges across Mill Creek. Columns of smoke rose high over the scene of destruction, and from beyond a sound of artillery, with which the enemy was warning the skirmishers to keep their distance, indicated the possibility of serious resistance. The column halted. The position of the hostile guns was visible on the heights beyond the village. General officers came forward to observe the position. A battery was ordered forward and opened fire. Things began to look like business, and it was without surprise that the First Vermont cavalry here received its first fighting order, to "make ready for a charge."¹³ In preparation for this the carbineers in the regiment were placed in the rear, and various other things were done in ways quite different from the methods in subsequent use. Lieut. Colonel Kellogg was directed to charge through the village and clear the enemy from it. The order was executed by a dash of a mile and a half along the turnpike, in close column of fours. As the regiment moved forward on the trot the cannonading grew brisker. The men pulled their caps tightly

¹³ "As the cavalry were filing past the column of infantry, the men of an Indiana regiment called out: 'Let the Green Mountain Boys go at them. They are all sons of Ethan Allen, and will show the Michigan boys something new!'"—Surgeon Edson.

over their heads, saw that their sword knots were about their wrists and grasped their sabers firmly. The bugle sounded the charge, horses shared the excitement of the troops as the gallop began, and with lifted sabres glistening in the morning sunlight, and clatter of thousands of hoofs on the hard turnpike, and clinging of scabbards, and the Union cheers ringing high over all, the long column dashed into the village, from which a party of Confederate cavalry beat a hasty retreat. The bridge over the creek was in flames and Kellogg ordered a halt; but the head of the column, consisting of company A, commanded by Lieutenant Erhardt, company B, Captain Conger, and a part of company D, under Lieutenant Cummings, not hearing or not heeding the recall, dashed into and forded the stream, and followed the retreating enemy a mile farther, nearly to the bridge over the North Fork of the Shenandoah. Here the river runs from west to east, and the ground on the south bank rises sharply to the eminence of Rude's Hill, over which the turnpike passes. On these heights Jackson had been in camp for two or three weeks with his main army, but he had fallen back to Harrisonburg, leaving Ashby, with a battery, to delay the Union advance. The river, not being fordable, would be a formidable obstacle if the bridge were destroyed, and Ashby remained in person to make sure of its destruction. The fuel was piled to fire it, but he delayed to apply the torch till his rear guard should come up from Mount Jackson. When they came in sight, with the Vermonters upon their heels, Ashby at once fired the combustibles in the bridge. The smoke was rising from it when Lieutenant Erhardt reached the brow of the hill above the river, and he at once ordered his men to charge, and led them down the hill and into the bridge. At the entrance of it they struck a dozen of Ashby's troopers and passed through it pell-mell, capturing two men in the bridge and making a prisoner of Ashby's adjutant, a tall Confederate lieutenant, who was taken by Corporal John Chase of company D, beyond the

bridge. This officer was supposed at the time to be the redoubtable Ashby himself, but the mistake was corrected by Captain Strother of General Banks's staff, who was personally acquainted with Ashby. Strother states in his "Reminiscences" that Ashby was in the melee, and had his white horse shot under him. Some more of the Vermont cavalymen were brought forward by Chaplain Woodward, whose eagerness to take a hand in any fighting had brought him considerably in advance of the position commonly occupied by army chaplains,¹⁴ and while some put out the fire in the bridge with water brought in the horses' nose-bags, others pursued Ashby's men beyond the river, till his artillery opened from the hill, when they returned to the bridge. This was held, under a fire of artillery from the hill and of small arms from the meadow where some of Ashby's troopers had halted, till a Union battery came up, when Ashby's artillery limbered up and he retired. Though a shell exploded in the bridge while half a dozen men were in it the only casualties among the Vermonters in this their first actual collision with the enemy were some bruises received by one or two men whose horses fell with them.¹⁵

¹⁴ "The Vermont chaplain evidently has some of the spirit of Peter Muhlenberg, the old revolutionary minister of Woodstock, Va., who after preaching to his flock, called them out into the churchyard, and said: 'There is a time to pray, and a time to preach, and a time to fight, and the time to fight has now come,' and them led them on to the fight."—Correspondence of the *New York World*.

¹⁵ "Perhaps the nearest approach to a life being lost, was that of one of the prisoners, a boy of about 18, who, after his surrender, struck at one of our men. The latter, who was dismounted, went up close to the young man, cocked his carbine, and pulled trigger. The cap only snapped. He was putting another cap on the nipple, when perceiving that he was so excited that he did not know what he was about, I covered him with my revolver and told him if he shot that boy I would blow his own brains out. It seemed to dawn on his mind that he was committing murder, and he lowered his carbine. After giving the young man advice not to raise hands against his captors while he was a prisoner, I sent him to the rear. He, too, realized what had been done, and thanked me earnestly. I do not know what became of him; but he probably remembers this incident if he remembers anything, for the gates of the next world were swinging open before him."—Statement of Captain Erhardt.

The skirmish made no little stir at the time, and Erhardt, Conger, Cummings, the chaplain, and the men engaged, were the heroes of the hour. The New York and Richmond papers published extended descriptions of the affair, and Ashby said to some of the Vermont cavalry taken prisoners a few days later: "That was a desperate charge made by your men at the bridge."

Banks's army crossed the bridge that afternoon. The Vermont Cavalry was sent in the afternoon to join a column of 5,000 infantry, which was pushed up the valley by a back road to cut off Jackson's retreat. As he had a straight line of march to Harrisonburg, this of course was not accomplished. The flanking column reached a ford west of New Market about sundown, and began crossing, each cavalryman taking an infantry soldier behind him on his horse. The river ran breast-high and the operation proved so difficult that the few who got across without a dunking were ordered back, and the column camped for the night on the west side of the North Fork. Next morning they crossed the river at a better ford and joined the main body at New Market.¹⁶

General Banks remained at New Market for nine days, and the regiment went into camp in sheds of rails. The regiment was here paid off, in part in gold—the last of that commodity seen by the men during their term of service. In a foraging expedition on the 19th, three men were captured by a Confederate scouting party, and two days later two men were captured while on picket.¹⁷

Jackson continued his retreat to the neighborhood of

¹⁶ "We arrived [at New Market] about four P.M.; found the infantry all there and reading the daily papers;—and when we asked them what was the news, they said that "Banks had taken New Market."—Capt. Ide.

¹⁷ These were: J. H. Abell, John Brown and A. E. Miller of company B, and Christopher Caffrey and James Moore of company G. They were paroled a month later, and according to the record, were at once mustered out of service—why is not explained. Miller subsequently re-enlisted in the same company.

Swift Run Gap; and on the 24th the regiment started with the cavalry brigade, under General Hatch, for Harrisonburg and Staunton, where Hatch, was to meet General Milroy, who was coming from the west with the advance brigade of Fremont's army. Hatch camped near Harrisonburg that night, and next day moved on to Mount Crawford. Finding the bridge there burned and the river unfordable, he returned to Harrisonburg.

On the 25th, the resignation of Major Bartlett, who had gone home on leave, on account of the sickness of his wife and child, was accepted, and Captain E. B. Sawyer of company I was appointed major, over seven captains whose commissions antedated his.

On the 27th, General Hatch, with companies A, D and K of the Vermont cavalry, a squadron of Ohio cavalry and a section of Cothran's battery, started on a reconnaissance round the south end of Massanutten mountain. After marching twelve miles from camp, and at a point near the little hamlet of McGaheysville, company A of the First Vermont, which was in advance, ran on to some Confederate videttes, and chased them back to their reserve, which came swarming out of the woods in such force that the boys of company A thought it best to halt and then fall back to their supports. After some shots had been exchanged between the two bodies, General Hatch ordered a charge, which was led by company D. The Confederate troopers turned and fled, and the Vermont boys pursued them fro a mile, till they disappeared in some woods beyond a hollow. General Hatch brought forward his artillery and shelled the woods, and then sent company K under Lieutenant Ward forward to reconnoitre. They went up the road a mile or more and found that the enemy had disappeared. In the first part of this skirmish Private Stephen Morse of company A had his horse shot under him and fell into the enemy's hands. In the second charge, Corporal John Chase of com -

pany D received a ball in the hip, which passed into his bowels. He nevertheless kept on and overtook and captured one of the enemy, and was bringing him in when he fainted and fell from his horse. He was taken back to the camp and died next day—the first man of the regiment to fall by a hostile bullet. He was a Danville man, and one of the best soldiers in the regiment and his death caused a deep sensation among his comrades. His body was sent home to Vermont. General Hatch returned to Harrisonburg that evening, with three prisoners. This is the skirmish entitled “Port Republic” in Adjutant General Washburn's list of cavalry engagements, Port Republic being the nearest place of any size to the scene.

Finding his lines of communication uncomfortably long, and learning that Jackson had been reinforced by Ewell's division, General Banks withdrew his army from Harrisonburg to New Market, May 5th. The cavalry broke camp that day, pressing some farm wagons into the service, to supplement the twenty-three army wagons allowed to the regiment for the tents and baggage. The regiment saw the time in later years, when eight pack-mules took the place of all this wagon train. The cavalry brought up the rear, Ashby following closely, till admonished to keep a respectful distance by a squadron of the Fifth New York cavalry, which turned and charged his advance, killing three men, wounding five and taking seven prisoners, with a loss of one killed and one wounded.

The regiment went into camp at New Market, on the ground previously occupied by it, and was occupied in reconnoissances and forging. Here news of the evacuation of Yorktown was received. The regimental bands serenaded the generals in honor of this event and there was much rejoicing. The first and second squadrons—companies A, G, B and H—were detached and sent, under Major Collins, to report to General J. C. Sullivan, who with an infantry

brigade was stationed at Columbia Bridge on the South Fork of the Shenandoah, seven miles southeast of New Market. Here they shared in a somewhat exciting experience on the 7th. Ewell, who had been left by Jackson to threaten Banks while Jackson crossed the mountain to strike Milroy, was making his presence known, and in the forenoon of that day some of his men drove in the videttes stationed several miles to the south of Columbia Bridge. General Sullivan thereupon sent the Thirteenth Indiana, Colonel Foster, to drive back the intruders. Foster in the afternoon came upon the Confederate force, consisting of an infantry battalion and two companies of Ashby's cavalry, with a field-piece, and drove them back to and through the hamlet of Somerville. Near here he was joined by Captain Conger with 40 men of company B, who had been sent from the cavalry camp at Honeyville, a little south of the bridge, to report to Colonel Foster. The latter, under orders not to pursue the enemy, drew in his skirmishers early in the afternoon and started back to camp, ordering Conger to follow at a short distance and cover his rear. Unwilling, however, to return without a sight of the enemy, and having, as he says, orders from headquarters to go up the river and burn a foundry where the enemy was making shot and shell, Conger went forward instead of back. From the top of a hill he soon discovered a company of Confederate cavalry, retiring at a moderate pace, a mile away. He at once pursued them and before they discovered him was within pistol shot. They did not wait to be attacked, however, but fled in haste and Conger pursued them for a mile.

In the course of the chase Chaplain Woodward, who had accompanied the detachment, captured two Confederate prisoners. The chaplain this narrates this occurrence: "The horses of the captain and the chaplain being the fleetest, they were some distance in advance, and drew so near to the retreating foe as to give them several shots. Coming to a

road that turned to the left, two of the flying rebels leaped from their horses and fled into a house a little way from the corner. I followed them. On entering the house an elderly lady broke out in an unearthly screaming: 'O dear, O dear, the Yankees have come !' I opened a door into the bedroom, and seeing two feet protruding from under the counterpane, raised it and said: 'Jonathan, come out ! I want you !' He came out, and proved to be the son of the woman, who was now entirely beside herself. I tried to calm her, telling her that the terrible Yankees would not hurt her or her son if they behaved themselves. By this time our men had come up, and I delivered the prisoner to them, and going into another room found the other man. Two of our men took the prisoners on behind them, on their horses, and we started back."

About this time sharp fighting to the north indicated that the infantry were engaged, and company B, which had turned back, soon met a dozen flying infantry-men, who reported that their regiment had been struck on its return by Ewell's infantry, which had come round upon them by a cross-road from the east, and that they alone had escaped. Proceeding a short distance toward the scene of the action, Conger found the enemy's infantry filling the road in front between the river on one hand and a precipitous bluff on the other. Conger's first impulse was to attempt to cut his way through; but wiser counsels prevailed; and turning back to a favorable spot the company made their escape by swimming the river, taking with the Indianians, but without the prisoners, who escaped in the confusion. Returning to the bridge in the dusk of the evening, the company was mistaken for a party of enemy and was fired on by an infantry picket reserve, in spite of the protestations of the chaplain, who, riding in advance, had reached the Union line shortly before, and tried in vain to prevent the firing. Surprised at this reception, the cavalry-men wheeled and retreated; but were

soon overtaken by the chaplain, who explained that mistake; and the company returned to camp without further trouble, and without loss, which the exception of a horse shot by the Union pickets, and were received with much rejoicing by their comrades, who supposed that they had been cut off and captured. The Indiana regiment lost three men killed, five wounded and a few missing.

The Third squadron, companies D and I, was sent from New Market on the 8th, on a foraging expedition, and secured 60 head of cattle.

While the regiment lay at New Market, Captain Preston was appointed provost marshal of that post, and 20 men of D company were detailed as provost guard. The principal excitements were the bushwhacking of Union pickets by the guerrillas, and rumors of the approach of Stonewall Jackson. The energetic officer had attacked Schenck and Milroy at McDowell, and after a sharp fight, in which they had the advantage, losing 256 men to Jackson's 461, Schenck and Milroy fell back to Franklin, while Jackson returned to Harrisonburg and began preparations to drive Banks out of the Shenandoah Valley.

On the 12th General Banks withdrew his headquarters and most of his army thirty miles down the valley, from New Market to Strasburg. The cavalry under General Hatch followed on the 13th, acting as the rear guard, and camped that night at Narrow Passage Creek, between Edinburg and Woodstock, where the regiment remained the next day, and on the next moved with the cavalry brigade to Tom's Brook, three miles south of Strasburg. The companies which had been on detached service now joined the regiment, and it was all together for the first time in five weeks. The regiment remained here on Fisher's Hill for eight days, and was occupied in picket duty and in scouting. On the 23rd the regiment was joined by its new Colonel—the third in six months. This was Colonel Charles H. Tompkins. He was

a native of Virginia, who had been six years in the regular army and had risen from the ranks to a lieutenantcy in the Second U. S. Cavalry. He was not unknown to fame, having commanded a Union troop in the first skirmish of the war on the soil of Virginia. This was on the 1st of June 1861, when with his company he made a dash through the village of Fairfax Court House, then occupied in force by the Confederate infantry, winning both praise for his gallantry and blame for his rashness. In November, 1861, he had been transferred to the quartermaster's department with the rank of captain and A.Q.M. He had been highly commended to Governor Holbrook, as a suitable successor to Colonel Holliday, and he was appointed colonel of the First Vermont Cavalry, April 24th, 1862. He was 31 years old, and thoroughly familiar with the duties of his arm of the service, and the regiment was glad to have again at its head a "regular" who knew his business. As Major Sawyer, who was absent in Vermont at the time of his promotion, had now returned, the regiment was once more equipped with field officers.

BANKS'S RETREAT.

The situation in the Valley at this time was as follows. General Banks was at Strasburg, near the foot of the mountain chain which divides the Shenandoah valley into the upper Shenandoah and Luray valleys. His command, Shield's division having departed, numbered about 9,000 men. He had at Strasburg 4,700 infantry, 1,600 cavalry and two batteries. At Front Royal and along the Manassas Gap Railroad between that point and Strasburg he had 2,500 infantry, 300 cavalry and a battery.

Stonewall Jackson was at Harrisonburg with his division of three brigades, and Johnson's Division. General Ewell was near Swift Run Gap, at the head of the Luray Valley,

with his division. General Banks had been industriously fortifying his position at Strasburg, expecting Jackson to advance upon him by the Valley turnpike. But instead of marching direct upon Strasburg, General Jackson moved to the east and through the Luray valley, adding Ewell's division to his own, on the way. The two made an army of nine brigaded, numbering 20,000 men. Jackson had two bayonets to Bank's one, as many sabres as Banks had, and three times as many guns, his light batteries being eleven in number. Marching from New Market via Luray on the 23rd, he struck and overwhelmed the First (Union) Maryland regiment, Colonel Kenly, and two companies of the Fifth New York cavalry, at Front Royal. He thus turned Banks's flank and the roads were open to him to Middletown and Winchester. By occupying these points he would cut Banks's line of supply, and expected to effect his destruction. On the 24th Jackson marched with the main body of his army on Middletown, while Ewell with a brigade pushed for Winchester, thirteen miles farther down the valley. No warning of this movement reached General Banks. A scouting party of two squadrons of the First Vermont cavalry and a squadron of the First Maine, under Major Sawyer, galloped through Woodstock on the 23d, but of course saw no signs of any enemy. Jackson's cavalry intercepted all direct communication with Strasburg, and it was late that evening when news of the disaster to Kenly and that the enemy was moving in force on Winchester reached Banks by telegraph from Winchester. Unable to believe that events of such consequence could have occurred that day within eight miles of his headquarters, without his knowledge, Banks took only precautionary measures that night. Next morning ample confirmation of the intelligence showed the necessity for prompt action. Knowing that he was vastly outnumbered, he did not dare to await attack where he was. Retreat to the west over the mountains would probably involve the

abandonment of his supply train. If he should promptly fall back to the north by the valley turnpike, he might pass Winchester before Jackson reached that point, and make good his retreat to the Potomac. He decided on the latter course. It was not an easy operation. He had at Strasburg and elsewhere in the valley great quantities of army stores. In addition to his own sick he had to care for nearly a thousand invalids left behind by General Shields. His supply train numbered five hundred wagons, and with the ambulance train, sutlers' wagons and vehicles laden with refugees filled about seven miles of highway.

It was hurrying times at Strasburg that morning. By eight o'clock the trains were in motion. The main column of infantry followed, leaving General Hatch with most of the cavalry to follow and cover the rear. At Middletown Jackson's cavalry, preceding his infantry, attacked the train, but the way was cleared by Donnelly's brigade; and a battalion of cavalry (comprising two companies of the First Vermont) was sent out by General Banks toward Front Royal to reconnoitre. This force was driven in by Jackson's infantry and artillery, which then occupied Middletown, cutting off Hatch and the cavalry, with a portion of the train and a battery, from the main column. After a vain attempt to force a passage, Hatch's force became divided. One body made a detour to the west and joined the infantry at Newtown, half way between Middletown and Winchester, where Gordon's brigade was holding Jackson's advance in check, and went on in the evening to Winchester with the main column. The rest fell back toward Strasburg, made a stand at Hupp's hill, and there divided again into two bodies, one of which under Colonel Tompkins, by a detour of greater length, joined the infantry about midnight at Winchester. The third body, under colonel De Forest of the Fifth New York, crossed the mountains to the west, and thence got across the Potomac into Maryland. Each of these three bodies comprised a

portion of the First Vermont cavalry, whose varied experiences will be related in detail. General Banks effected his retreat across the Potomac at Williamsport on the 26th, with a loss of 200 men killed and wounded and 700 missing, in his running fight of sixty miles, besides the Maryland regiment captured at Front Royal. He lost two field-pieces and 55 wagons—a surprisingly small loss under all the circumstances.

Returning to describe the details of these operations with reference to the Vermont cavalry, the regiment was in camp at Tom's Brook, when shortly after midnight Saturday morning, May 24th, Colonel Tompkins received orders from General Hatch to send the baggage to the rear, and hold his regiment ready to march at a moment's notice, with a day's rations. Before daylight the baggage train of 19 wagons and two ambulances, started in charge of Quartermaster Dewey, and moved through Strasburg and on past Cedar Creek to the ridge south of Middletown, where it halted by the side of the pike.

At daybreak, Major Collins, with the first squadron, reported to General Hatch at Strasburg, and was thence sent with five companies of the First Maine cavalry, under Lieut. Colonel Douty of the latter regiment, via Middletown, to reconnoitre out upon the road to Front Royal. With the rest of the regiment, Colonel Tompkins, starting at five A.M., made a reconnaissance to and beyond Woodstock. Finding no enemy at that point he returned to camp at nine A.M. An hour later companies F, C and I, under command of Captain Hall, were detached to report to General Hatch for immediate service. At noon, Tompkins, with the remaining half of the regiment, (companies B, H, D, I and K), moved to Strasburg, intending to destroy the stores that could not be loaded, and to bring up the rear of the army, now in full motion down the valley. At Strasburg he received orders to hurry forward and join General Hatch, who had been sent for in

haste by General Banks when the latter found that the enemy's cavalry had struck his trains. Hatch thereupon started on, ordering Tompkins to follow, leaving DeForest to destroy the stores and bring up the rear. Before Hatch reached Middletown, Banks's infantry had brushed away the intruding cavalry and had gone on, the enemy closing in behind him as he left Middletown, thus cutting off from the main column the larger part of Hatch's cavalry, Hampton's (Pennsylvania) battery of four guns, and a zouave infantry company (which had been Banks's headquarters guard), left to burn the bridge at Cedar Creek; together with the wagon trains of the battery and Vermont cavalry and a train of wagons loaded with army stores.

The Confederate force which broke through Bank's column at Middletown consisted of "Dick" Taylor's brigade, with Ashby's cavalry and two batteries. These had been kept back for over an hour on the Front Royal road by the detachment of Maine and Vermont cavalry sent out to reconnoitre, or they would have made more trouble for the rear of the Union column. They made trouble enough as it was for the cavalry battalion opposed to them, whose experience will now be related. This, comprising companies A and G, under Collins, had gone out four miles or more toward Cedarville, on the road to Front Royal, when it met Jackson's advance of cavalry pushing toward Middletown. Douty and Collins deployed, and held it back till the enemy's infantry and artillery came up, and then fell back slowly, at times under artillery fire, to Middletown. They halted about noon in the side street of the village, east of the pike; and there learned that Banks with his main body had passed on toward Winchester. But as General Hatch was still back toward Strasburg, they decided to wait for him. About two o'clock Hatch appeared in sight. Almost at the same time the enemy's infantry appeared in the northern outskirts of Middletown and opened a scattering fire, while a battery which

had come up on the southern edge of the village opened from a ridge 400 yards away. After several men had been wounded, the battalion moved to the pike, which runs through the centre of the village. Outside of the village the pike was filled with army wagons, cut off from the main body of the train, and dust clouds obscured the outlook. Here Collin's squadron was joined by company E, Captain Rundlett, who had been sent forward by General Hatch; but before the two cavalry battalions effected a junction. General Hatch, discovering that the passage through Middletown was blocked, concluded to turn off from the pike to the west, and to make his way round to the main column by the side roads. Douty received no order to follow him, and was awaiting orders, when his command, by whose order does not very clearly appear, started down the pike in the direction of the enemy. It went on at full speed till the head of the column was suddenly stopped by a blockage of wagons. Douty, with about half his battalion, then fell back to the center of the village, was fired on by a party of Confederate infantry which appeared at the head of a cross street, and then struck into the fields, and following Hatch, overtook him about two miles from Middletown. Three days later Douty reported 125 of his men missing. Collins was even more unfortunate. In the dust and confusion attending the first stoppage by the wagons, the Vermont companies became separated from the column; and, when for a moment the dust cloud lifted, they found themselves alone. Supposing, as he says, that Douty had cut his way through the enemy, and that the rear of Banks's main column was probably but a short distance ahead, Collins gave the order to charge. This was a charge into a *cul de sac*. The turnpike was fenced with stone walls. A quarter of a mile in front a jam of army wagons filled the road; in front and on the right and left of this was a battalion of Ashby's cavalry, with two field-pieces. There could

be but one outcome of an attempt to force a passage through such obstacles. The Vermonters—most of them having little idea where they were going—charged squarely up to the wagons. As they reached them, two discharges of canister tore through the ranks. Down went the horses and men of several files, and those behind, unable to halt, became piled upon them in a mass of struggling kicking humanity and horseflesh, from which it was a wonder that any escaped alive.¹⁸

Major Collins, was hurt in the knee by a fragment of a shell which wounded two men close by him, and soon after was struck from his horse by a blow on the head, and captured. Captain Platt and Lieutenant Edwards leaped the stone fence with a dozen of their men, got out across the fields to the middle road, and reached Winchester that night. Captain Bean was captured, Lieutenant Danforth was wounded in the face and captured, but made his escape. One man (Henry Lynde of company A) was killed. A dozen men were wounded and scores were unhorsed and captured. The rest scattered into the woods and made their escape. Some followed General Hatch to Winchester. Others pushed direct for the Potomac. Some joined Colonel DeForest and made their way across the mountain. That more were not killed and wounded was due in part to the fact that the enemy was considerable demoralized by the audacity of the charge, and in part to the fact, mentioned by Colonel Crutchfield, chief of Jackson's artillery, that his ammunition was defective, many shells bursting within 50 feet of the guns.

Jackson now occupied the village, sent his cavalry down the pike after Banks, and despatched some infantry to Taylor's brigade to seize the cavalry wagon train, in sight on the ridge, and to meet Tompkins, who with half his regiment

¹⁸ "The road was literally obstructed with the mingled and confused mass of struggling and dying horses and riders."—Report of General T. J. Jackson.

and two guns of Hampton's battery was approaching from Strasburg. Hampton's guns went into battery on the ridge near by, before the enemy reached the wagons, and checked their advance for half an hour, when, threatened by flanking parties, Tompkins and the artillery went back across Cedar Creek. The wagons and train-guard—a detail of 20 men of company D under Lieutenant Cummings—followed, closely pursued by the Confederate skirmishers, who swarmed around within pistol-range and shot down wagoners and horses. Four wagons and an ambulance succeeded in crossing the creek. Then the ford became obstructed by fallen horses; a jam of wagons took place; the train was abandoned; and Tompkins fell back to Hupp's Hill, north of Strasburg, where he was joined by DeForest and the Fifth New York cavalry. After a hasty consultation, it was decided that the best course was to strike for Winchester by a detour to the west. Tompkins accordingly led off in that direction, after burning the wagons which had been thus far saved, and all with varying fortunes made good their escape.¹⁹

This experience of the rear guard near Middletown is thus described by Captain H. K. Ide, who was then a sergeant in company D:

“The portion of the regiment left in camp having received orders to come forward in haste, we left the camp ground and left at a trot through Strasburg, where we

¹⁹ The statement in Colonel Tompkin's report that “the entire baggage train of the regiment was abandoned and fired and rendered entirely worthless to the enemy,” is somewhat misleading. The larger part of the train was captured, and the Confederates had high times overhauling the officer's valises and ransacking the commissary stores. The ambulance, containing two sick cavalry-men, followed the battalion, and was brought safely through Maryland by its driver, L. W. Young of company D. Quartermaster Dewey said of his wagoners: “Not a man left his seat while his horses kept their legs. When a horse fell, another was cut loose; the driver would mount and be off. In this way 17, out of 73 horses were saved.” One of the wagons burned contained the regimental colors, which had been placed in it by the adjutant, and they were burned with the headquarters baggage.

passed quite a number of sick and disabled men of Banks's and Shields's commands, who had been left to their fate. We proceeded north from Strasburg two miles and crossing Cedar Creek by the ford, went up the hill on the pike and found the wagon train at a halt. Before us along the pike as far as the eye could reach arose a cloud of dust, from the runaway teams and the enemy's cavalry, while in front, in the village of Middletown and to the right, shots sounded. We drew up in a line and drew sabres, while two pieces of artillery with us unlimbered and opened fire toward Middletown. Soon after, to the right, the shots came nearer, and out of the woods came Collis's Zouaves of General Banks's bodyguard, falling back before the enemy, and in a minute the bullets were whistling around us. We were not armed or formed to resist infantry, so we countermarched and moved down the hill and across the creek, the chaplain, who had drawn his sabre and taken his place in line, accompanying us. We retired in good order, though assisted by several shells from the rebel artillery. After crossing the creek, we passed up the hill and at the top our artillery opened on them again while some of our carbineers dismounted and checked the rebel skirmishers. When we came back the wagons came also; but one of the foremost got stalled; the rest were unable to get by and the enemy came up and captured them right under our noses. Just then along came Colonel DeForest with part of the Fifth New York. Colonel Tompkins stated the situation and said we could do one of two things—charge through, or try to go around, and he was willing to lead through. But some of company I, knew of a way to the west of the pike, by which we could reach Winchester, so it was decided to try that way. We marched along the middle road, most of the time at a trot, till about midnight, when we struck the pike in the rear of the army, and passing into Winchester bivouacked in the streets for the rest of the night.”

During the march Major Sawyer's horse fell with him, severely bruising one of his legs. He was taken along with the command into Maryland, and then went to Vermont, where his injury kept him on crutches for months.

About 500 officers and men of the regiment thus reached Winchester. A detail was sent out on picket on the pike south of town, and the rest of the men tied their horses to the fences and slept in the streets, on the sidewalks, or

wherever they could find a soft spot in the gardens. Of their missing comrades, some 300 in number, the larger portion accompanied Colonel DeForest and the Fifth New York, around under the mountain.²⁰ A few made their way singly or in squads to the Potomac. Major Collins and some 60 men were prisoners. The major and 16 men were taken back to Front Royal that night where Collins and two wounded men, privates Hoskins and Failey of company E, who could not march, remained for four days under guard, when they were recaptured, together with Adjutant Griffin and a lieutenant of the Fifth New York and other Union prisoners, by Major Nelson of the Rhode Island cavalry, in a dash on Front Royal preceding the advance of Shield's division in the subsequent operations for the expulsion of Jackson from the valley. The other prisoners who were able to march were taken back up the valley with Jackson's army in his retreat and sent to Richmond.

At Winchester Banks was reinforced by a regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry previously station there. All were astir at dawn. During the night Jackson had been hurrying forward his advance in order to occupy at daylight the heights which look down on Winchester, while Banks with his little army of 6,000 men, prepared to make a stand for the protection of his trains. At daylight the artillery opened. The infantry were soon engaged. And for four hours the enemy were held in check, till the trains were well under way toward Martinsburg, when, outnumbered three to one, Banks fell back into Winchester, and moved out thence over the turnpike to the north.

In this engagement, the Vermont cavalry formed at daybreak and moved out to the north of the town, where it waited on the side of the pike while the long wagon trains,

²⁰ A few of these were men who had been on detached duty at Strasburg; but most of them were men who became scattered in and after the charge at Middletown.

followed by crowds of the stragglers and camp followers, streamed by. Shells began to fly from the enemy's artillery southwest of the town, where Gordon's brigade was holding back Winder's and Taylor's Confederate brigades. Soon the regiment was ordered to move back through the town to assist in checking a flanking movement of the enemy. Formed in columns of fours, with drawn sabers, the regiment moved into the main street of the village, still full of stragglers and disabled men. As the head of the regiment passed out on the street it met the infantry falling back, and shrill yells beyond showed that the enemy was rapidly moving to encircle the town, the only safety was prompt retreat. Colonel Tompkins gave the order to "right about wheel," and turning down a side street the regiment moved around to the Martinsburg pike, passing almost through the flames from some large buildings full of army stores which had been fired by General Banks's order. While passing through the street Corporal Meacham of company D was shot through the body, probably by one of the citizens of Winchester—who had been baking bread all the day before for Jackson's army and who fired from the houses into Banks's columns as they passed out of the village.²¹ Beyond Winchester the regiment covered the retreat of the main column, and the third squadron, companies D and I, under Captain Preston, with a section of Hampton's battery, formed the rear guard, which halted on every ridge, and by use of the guns held the pursuing force effectually in check. Jackson hung on their rear for two hours, and then practically abandoned the pursuit, though his cavalry followed at a safe distance for twenty-three miles, to Martinsburg.²² Here the cavalry halted

²¹ Meacham was held on his horse for a short distance by two of his comrades, and was then laid down to die by the side of the road.

²² General Jackson, in his report blames the cavalry for wasting time in pillaging, and attributes to their inefficiency his failure to reap greater fruits of his victory.

during the afternoon, while the rest of the column continued its march twelve miles farther, to the Potomac. Banks effected his crossing at Williamsport that night and the next forenoon, and his famous retreat ended.

The First Vermont cavalry forded the river before noon of the 26th and went into camp in a piece of woods two miles from the village of Williamsport. Tents and baggage had been lost, and the men built sheds for shelter. Officers and men were depressed by the supposed loss of 300 of their number; but the loss rapidly lessened as the missing men came in. These, in parties from six to sixty, some mounted and some on foot, crossed the river at various points between Williamsport and Hancock twenty miles up the river, and 200 of the missing men reported in camp within three days. A nominal list, prepared by Adjutant Pitkin on the 29th, gave the names of five supposed to be killed, eight wounded and 100 missing—a total of 113; but this total was afterwards somewhat reduced. The actual casualties at Middletown and Winchester, as nearly as can be determined, were four killed, 19 wounded, and about 60 captured, 12 or 15 of whom were wounded.²³

General Banks, in his report, says that the conduct of his cavalry was “equal, if not superior, to the best of the enemy's long-trained mounted troops.” General Hatch praises the Vermont cavalry for “steadiness in ranks ;” and commends Colonel Tompkins and Lieutenant John W. Bennett, the later for coolness under fire and for gallantry in cutting his way through the cavalry of the enemy on the 24th, in order to carry a message to the commanding general. Colonel Tompkins mentions with “highest praise” the

²³ The killed were: Henry Lynd of company A; Ashbel C. Meacham of company D; M. B. Hebard of company H; and Daniel Wilson of company K.

Captain Ide say that Ralph W. Merrill of company D, reported as having deserted May 24th, was sick and in one of the wagons when the train was burned at Cedar Creek that day, and was never heard of afterwards.

services rendered by Adjutant Pitkin and Quartermaster Dewey, and commends to the attention of the brigade commander Captains Preston and Conger, Lieutenants Huntoon, Beman and Adams, and chief waggoner C. P. Stone. Of the men he says that they "bore their arduous duty with the courage and steadiness of old and well-trying soldiers, and behaved in a manner to surprise and excite the admiration of their commander."

The regiment remained at Williamsport with the cavalry brigade for a fortnight, during which Jackson slipped back between the armies of Fremont and McDowell which undertook to cut off his retreat. His rear guard of cavalry under Ashby had a fight with Fremont's advance, in which Colonel Percy Wyndham was captured and Ashby was killed, and after a fight at Cross Keys with Fremont and at Port Republic with Shields, Jackson retired up the valley.

At Williamsport a hundred sick men went into the hospitals, most of whom were subsequently discharged for disability. During this period four companies, under Captain Preston, did outpost duty on Antietam Creek; two companies under Captain Hall were on detached duty with General Sigel, at Winchester; and Captain Conger with a squadron made a reconnoissance to Martinsburg, Va., and returned, bringing several prisoners.

On the 11th of June the regiment received new shelter tents and horse equipments, and exchanged their Savage revolvers for a better pistol. Four companies, D, E, I and K, received Sharpe's carbines instead of revolvers. The loss of the regimental colors burned at Cedar Creek, was not long after made good by the citizens of Burlington, who sent a handsome silk flag similar to the colors destroyed.

June 13th, the re-occupation of the valley began, and the cavalry brigade re-crossed the Potomac and camped three miles beyond Martinsburg, Va., and companies C and F of the First Vermont went on a reconnoissance to Wood-

stock. On the 13th, the regiment went into camp at "Camp Hatch," two miles from Winchester, where it remained for ten days, and the men ground sabres. During this time Lieut. Colonel Kellogg went with two squadrons (companies E, F, K and C) on a scout to Snicker's Ferry. On the 24th the brigade was reviewed by Generals Hatch and Williams. On the 25th it moved forward to the vicinity of Middletown, and thence to Cedarville on the 28th.

SERVICE UNDER POPE

The forces under Generals Fremont, Banks and McDowell were at this time consolidated under Major General John Pope, with the title of the Army of Virginia, of which Banks's command, to which the First Vermont cavalry was attached, constituted the Second Corps. In the concentration of his army, which was General Pope's first business, Banks was ordered to the east side of the Blue Ridge. In preparation for this movement a reconnoissance of two regiments of infantry, ten companies of Vermont, Maine and Michigan cavalry, under Colonel Tompkins, and a battery—all under General Crawford—was sent to Luray, where a Confederate outpost of four cavalry companies was stationed. Starting from Front Royal on the 29th, Crawford camped that night beyond Milford. Next morning Captain Preston commanded the advance guard, and about four miles from Luray captured a cavalry vidette. A second vidette escaped capture, gave the alarm, and the enemy made a hasty retreat to the southwest, pursued closely by Preston with three companies, D, G and I, and a company of the Maine cavalry. Half a mile beyond Luray he overtook the enemy, who turned to fight, and a skirmish ensued in which a Vermonter²⁴ was shot through the head and killed and a Maine cavalry-man was wounded. Two Confederates were captured and several

²⁴ Joseph W. Gordon of company D. He was buried at Front Royal.

wounded. The battalion returned, with the expedition, to Front Royal, the same day.²⁵

July 6th, Banks began to move across the Blue Ridge. The regiment bivouacked that night ten miles south of Front Royal, and the next night companies B and I, sent forward under Captain Conger, charged into Sperryville, from which place a Confederate outpost made a hasty retreat, and the regiment moved to Hedgeman's river near Amissville, where the main body remained for three days. On the 9th a detachment scouted Snicker's Gap and Front Royal, and on the 10th the regiment made a reconnoissance toward Culpeper.

On the 12th, the regiment started, with the rest of Hatch's brigade, in what was intended by General Pope to be an important raid upon the railroad communications between Richmond and the Shenandoah Valley. Hatch was ordered to strike the Orange and Alexandria railroad and destroy it from Gordonsville to Charlottesville. Instead of moving promptly and rapidly with his cavalry, Hatch hampered himself with infantry and artillery, and made such slow progress that Jackson's advance under Ewell reached Gordonsville before he did, and the attempt to cut the road there was abandoned. General Pope then directed Hatch to strike the railroad west of Gordonsville with 1,500 cavalry, and if possible destroy the track between Charlottesville and Lynchburg. General Hatch commenced this movement, but soon abandoned it; and, disgusted by his want of energy, General Pope relieved him of his command, and sent General John Buford, who was a brave and good soldier, to take his place. In the first of these movements three of the Vermont cavalry were wounded by the enemy's pickets as the column approached Culpeper. Captain Wells with company C,

²⁵ This is the affair which, under an erroneous date, stands as "Luray Court House, July 2d, 1862," in the official list of engagements in the Adjutant General's reports.

charged into the village of Culpeper, taking several prisoners; and the regiment went into camp near by. General Hatch was nervous and apprehensive, and his troopers had to stand to horse at every alarm.

On the 16th the regiment moved out a short distance toward Raccoon Ford, and the next day marched with the brigade to Robertson's river. Next day it forded the river and halted at Madison Court House, while companies D, E, F and C went out toward Gordonsville, to reconnoitre. Sergeant Ide and Private Durlam of company D, who were in advance, pursued two Confederate troopers with more zeal than discretion and were captured by the enemy's picket reserve.²⁶

Learning that the enemy was in force at Liberty Bridge, seven miles south of him, General Hatch on the 19th moved back to Culpeper. At about this time Lieut. Colonel Kellogg resigned under a charge of absence without leave, which resulted in his dismissal from the service.

In the second expedition General Hatch took his brigade as far south as Stannardsville, twenty-five miles from Culpeper, and then, in consequence of reports of the presence of hostile cavalry at points beyond, turned to the northwest, crossed the Blue Ridge through Swift Run Gap and returned to Culpeper by the way of Sperryville. The regiment reached its old camp between Culpeper and Raccoon Ford on the 27th, with men tired and horses jaded by a ride of 110 miles in hot weather. Hatch brought in a Confederate captain and several other prisoners, captured in the Luray Valley, but otherwise had little to show as results of his expedition.

Next day General Buford assumed command of the brigade, consisting of the First Vermont, Fifth New York, First West Virginia and First Michigan cavalry.

²⁶ Durlam died on Belle Isle, at Richmond, a few weeks later; Ide was paroled and exchanged in November.

August 2d, Buford with the First Vermont and Fifth New York cavalry accompanied Crawford's infantry brigade on a reconnoissance to Orange Court House, and had a lively sabre fight with Robertson's cavalry in the streets of the village. The Fifth New York had the advance, as Buford's command approached the village, with companies D and I of the Vermont regiment, under Captain Flint, in front as skirmishers. A Confederate cavalry outpost was driven in and the column was passing through Main street when the Seventh Virginia cavalry, Colonel Jones, which had been sent thither from Gordonsville, arrived and charged the Fifth New York by a cross street, striking and scattering Captain Hammond's squadron and crowding back the squadron behind in some disorder. A vigorous counter attack was made by the fourth squadron of the First Vermont, under Captain Wells. The New York cavalry rallied, and the Virginians were driven out of the village and a mile beyond it, where Jones was reinforced by cavalry and artillery, but did not resume the offensive. Buford held the village for an hour or more, destroyed a portion of the railroad track, cut the telegraph wires, secured some valuable information in reference to the concentration of Jackson's army at Gordonsville and Louisa Court House, and then returned to Culpeper. In this affair the First Vermont lost three men wounded and four missing,²⁷ and the Fifth New York had a few men wounded and half a dozen captured. Colonel Tompkins reported 25 of the enemy killed, two mortally wounded, several severely wounded, and 40 captured. Colonel Jones reported his lost as 10 wounded and 40 missing. Colonel Tompkins commended Captains Hall, Wells and Flint, Adjutant Pitkin, Assistant Surgeon Edson, and Lieutenants Erhardt, Edwards, Grant, Wood -

²⁷ Wounded—James B. Lee, seriously; Ovid Seymour and John T. Pierce, of company F.
Missing—A. A. Hoyt and J. McLaughlin, of company C; L. A. Barber and Ellis Draper, of company B.

bury, Grover and Cushman. The troops discovered on this occasion that they had a cool and competent commander in General Buford. During the week following, the regiment was engaged in picket service along the river, and outpost duty at Liberty Bridge.

By the 7th of August General Pope had his army of 29,000 men assembled along the pike from Sperryville to Culpeper. Buford's cavalry brigade was in front near Madison Court House. On the 9th Banks's corps moved forward to Cedar Mountain, where it was met by Jackson's army, of three divisions, each as large as Banks's corps, and after an obstinate and sanguinary battle, the latter was driven back to the supports sent forward by Pope, with a loss of over 2,000 men killed, wounded and missing. In this first battle of Pope's campaign the Vermont cavalry had no part. The regiment was sent that day ten miles north to Woodsville, and knew no more than General Pope did of what was going on in front. On the 10th it was recalled and joined Buford's cavalry in pressing the rear of Jackson, who fell back across the Rapidan on the 11th. Companies A, D, E, and I, under Captain Preston, were in advance and took 20 prisoners, and on the 12th a portion of the First Vermont and First Virginia swam Crooked Run and pursued the flying enemy to Robertson's river, taking a number of wounded rebels, among them Major Andrews, Jackson's chief of artillery. The regiment spend the next week in camp at Mitchell's Station, resting, many of the men being sick, and many of the horses broken down.

The retreat of McClellan from the front of Richmond now left Lee free to operate against Pope, and he proceeded to Gordonsville with a large portion of the army of Northern Virginia. General J.E.B. Stuart was placed in command of his cavalry, comprising the three brigades of Hampton, Fitzhugh Lee and Robertson. Warned by a letter of Lee to

Stuart, found on the person of the latter's adjutant general who was captured near Louisa Court House on the 17th by a party of Union cavalry who came very near capturing Stuart also, General Pope withdrew across the Rappahannock, leaving cavalry to guard the fords. Some sharp skirmishes took place in resisting Longstreet's advance, in which the Vermont cavalry participated. On the 23rd the regiment was sent to Waterloo Bridge, where Stuart had crossed the day before upon a raid on General Pope's rear, and took part in a skirmish with confederate infantry in which Corporal B. E. Walker of company I and D. C. Dana of company D were killed, and several others were wounded. In the retirement of Pope's army from the line of the Rappahannock, companies A and I were left on picket at Kelly's Ford, became cut off from the rest of the army, and were for a week supposed to have been captured. They made their retreat, however, by the way of Aquia Creek, with the loss of seven men captured on picket, and rejoined the regiment on the 6th of September.

During the operations preceding and attending the second battle of Bull Run, the regiment was almost constantly in the saddle, night and day. On the 29th it moved from Haymarket to Manassas Junction. During the fighting of the 30th, it was in the rear of the left wing of Pope's infantry, and was occasionally under fire from the shells which came over the latter. Details of the service of the regiment in this campaign are lacking, for the duty was too arduous to permit its members to write letters, and the official record is exceedingly deficient—a bare allusion to the “severe service” of the cavalry in the report of the Adjutant General of Vermont for 1862, and brief reports of the reconnoissance to Luray and the skirmish at Orange Court House, constituting the entire official record of the part taken by the Vermont cavalry in Pope's campaign.

At the close of this campaign the regiment went into

camp near Alexandria, and was employed during the remainder of the fall in scouting and outpost duty in and near the defenses of Washington. General McClellan had taken General Buford to be chief of cavalry of the Army of the Potomac, and the brigade was now commanded by Colonel R. Butler Price of the Second Pennsylvania cavalry. Being divided into detachments, which accompanied various commands, it received little notice in the reports, though it was represented in many of the skirmishes which stand credited to the Pennsylvania and New York cavalry.

On the 7th, Captain Preston wrote of his company: "I have but 24 men fit for duty. The rest are worn out. We have scarcely a moment's rest night or day since the battle of Cedar Mountain. Sometimes we have been in front of the enemy, sometimes in his rear. Twice we have marched for miles with one division of the rebel army in our front and another close in our rear, on the same road." The condition of this company was that of the regiment. Not over 400 men were mounted, for want of horses. On the 15th the rapidly lessening number of effective men was increased by the return from Belle Isle of a number of men captured during Banks's retreat, who had been exchanged and now returned, half-starved, ragged and shoeless.

September 9th, Colonel Tompkins resigned, and Major Edward B. Sawyer was promoted to be colonel in his place.²⁸ Captain Preston was appointed lieutenant colonel, and Lieutenant John W. Bennett succeeded him as captain of company D.

²⁸ Edward Bertrand Sawyer was a son of Joshua Sawyer, of Hyde Park, for sixty years a leading member of the bar of Northern Vermont, and widely known as a lawyer, legislator, scholar and wit. He was of patriotic ancestry, his maternal grandfather, Captain Aaron Keeler, of Norwalk, Conn., having served in the Continental army through the war of the Revolution, after the close of which he came to Vermont and was one of the pioneers of the town of Hyde Park. Others of his ancestors had held commissions in both the army and navy in the Revolutionary war. He studied law in his father's office, and was admitted to the bar in 1849; became prominent in politics, as was delegate from Vermont in the National Convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln. When the war broke out he was County Clerk of Lamoille County. Moved by patriotic impulse and hatred of human slavery, he at once devoted his energies to the National cause. He was active in recruiting company D of the Fifth regiment, and then recruited company I of the cavalry regiment, of which he was the first captain. He was in the prime of life, now 34 years old, and a good horseman, having been much in the saddle in his youth and riding much with officers of the Royal cavalry during a residence of three years in Canada.

On the 21st of September, Colonel Price, with a force of cavalry consisting of detachments from the First Vermont and other regiments of his brigade, was sent to cut off a supply train known to be on its way to Lee's army, which was then lying near Martinsburg after the close of the Antietam campaign. The column moved by way of Fairfax Court House to Aldie, where some 200 sick and convalescent Confederates who had been there in hospital since the Second Battle of Bull Run were captured and paroled. Thence it passed on, in the forenoon of the 22d, towards Ashby's Gap. Two miles beyond Upperville, Preston, who led the advance of Price's column with three small squadrons of the First Vermont, found the way blocked by the enemy. This was a force of 300 men of the Sixth Virginia cavalry, under Lieut. Colonel John S. Green, who had arranged his command in platoons, filling the road, which ran between stone walls, to await attack. Preston was a mile in advance of the main column, and had fewer men with him than those who disputed the passage; but he did not hesitate. Sending two small parties into the fields on right and left as flankers, with the rest, some 60 or 70 in number, he moved up the road at a trot to within 200 or 300 yards of the opposing force, which stood motionless and without firing a shot. Disconcerted by the firm front and absolute silence of the enemy, the front ranks hesitated and the battalion halted. Ordered forward by Preston, it started on and again halted in a crowded mass, when Preston, making a circuit through the field at the side of the road, suddenly leaped the stone fence

into the road in front of his men, and, waving his sabre and shouting to them to come on, dashed straight at the force in his front. Three of the company commanders, Captains Erhardt, Perkins and Flint, were near the head of the column and spurred to Preston's side. The men followed, and the little column charged at full speed. When it was fifty feet from his front the Confederate commander ordered his men, who were awaiting the onset with leveled revolvers, to fire, and a shower of pistol balls whistled among the Vermonters. But he had reserved his fire too long. The impetus of the charge was too great to be stopped. Preston was wounded. Perkins fell dead, shot through the head. Erhardt's horse was shot under him and fell partly on him. Lieutenant Adams of company H received a ball in the chest, and six men were wounded; but before the Virginians could fire another volley the Vermonters were upon them, and went through their ranks with a rush. Lieut. Colonel Green was cut down and captured, with some ugly sabre cuts in his head, and four of his men were killed, 13 wounded and 14 captured. The rest broke and retreated through the Gap. Lieut. Colonel Preston had himself a very narrow escape in the melee. In the rush of the charge he passed through the enemy's rear rank, and when they turned in flight they carried him with them, wedged in between two of their number, each of whom drew his pistol on him. He managed to knock one of the revolvers and disabled its owner with a back-handed blow with the hilt of his sabre. The other's shot passed through his right arm. Another ball grazed his stomach; but he extracted himself and joined his men, and, though faint from the loss of blood, retained command till Price came up with the main body.

In his report of this affair Colonel Price says his advance guard was "aided by two companies of the First Vermont." The fact was that the advance guard consisted of the Vermont cavalry, and that they did all the fighting, Colonel

Price and the rest of his command not even being aware that they were engaged, till the affair was over. Colonel Price accorded high praise to Lieut. Colonel Preston, Captains Perkins, Erhardt and Flint, and Lieutenants Adams and Cummings. The loss of the regiment in this skirmish was one killed, seven wounded and one missing.²⁹ All the wounds received by the Vermonters were by bullets and all those inflicted on the enemy were by sabre. Green complained that he was sabred after he surrendered; but there was evidence that after firing his revolver—the ball from which killed Captain Perkins, whose sword was lifted over Green's head when he fell—he was drawing his sabre when cut down.

Five wagons were taken here, three of which, containing clothing, were burned. Price proceeded to Paris, at the entrance of the Gap, where learning that the enemy's wagon train had crossed the Blue Ridge, and that the Gap was held by a strong force of infantry, he returned on the 23d to camp.

The vacancy caused by the death of Captain Perkins was filled by the promotion of Lieut. Franklin T. Huntoon to the captaincy.³⁰

²⁹ The rank and file wounded were: Corporal L. Tinkham, B. Scully and Abram Day of company G, and Frank Dragon and A. Fortuna of company B.

An officer relates the following incident of this affair:

“A private of company D was shot through the body; and as the surgeon in charge stated that he could not live more than two hours, he was left by the roadside, well cared for, till we should return. We did not return there; but six weeks afterwards this dead private put in an appearance at camp and demanded his pay. Being informed that the men had been paid in the interval, and that he was marked on the rolls as dead, and figuring it out that would probably take a year to convince the Department that he was not dead, he intimated, as we supposed jocularly, that he would take the Department at their word. That night he went to Canada, where he is still for all I know.”

To whom this can refer does not appear.

Jude Brown, reported missing, turned up later, and was finally reported as missing at action at Craig's Church, in May 1864.

³⁰ Selah G. Perkins was a son of Dr. Perkins, dean of the Castleton Medical College. He was a graduate of Union College and of the Castleton Medical School, and was a practicing physician at Castleton when he enlisted, at the age of 34 years. He was elected captain of company H, at its organization, and showed himself a brave and good soldier. One who knew him well says of him. “He was a man of much more than average ability, and superior culture, of elevated character, with earnest feelings, quick and tender sympathies and genial disposition. He entered into the war with enthusiasm and uniformly discharged his duties as an officer with fidelity and zeal.”

On the 24th of October, a scouting party of thirty men, under Captain Flint, with fifty of the First Maryland cavalry, were surprised near Manassas Junction by a squadron of 150 Confederate cavalry, but escaped with a loss of nine men, captured.

On the 27th of October the following order was promulgated:

[Extract.]

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 27th, 1862. }

Special Order, No. 314.

Colonel E. B. Sawyer, First Vermont Cavalry, is hereby mustered out of the service of the United States from September 16th, 1862—the date of his present commission—for inefficiency and neglect of the welfare of his regiment, while a major thereof.

By the order of the Secretary of War,

L. THOMAS, Adjutant General.

The controversies which contributed to this action on the part of the Secretary of War do not come within the scope of this history, and may well be allowed to pass into oblivion. The order was subsequently revoked and Colonel Sawyer was restored to his command.

Meantime the command of the regiment devolved upon Major Collins, Lieut. Colonel Preston being in Vermont on leave of absence. November 1st found the headquarters of the regiment at Fort Scott, north of Alexandria, and its morning report of that date showed an aggregate of 951 officers and men, with 713 for duty. The regiment had lost in the first year 319 men by death, discharge and dismissal; but this number had been nearly made good by the addition of a new company—company L, Captain Parsons—recruited

in Vermont in August and September, and of the 200 recruits distributed among other companies. The regiment had had, in its twelve months of service, four colonels. Lieut. Colonel Kellogg had been dismissed, Major Bartlett had resigned, and Quartermaster Dewey and Adjutant Pitkin had been mustered out (in September) under a general order requiring quartermasters and adjutants to be detailed from among lieutenants in the line.³¹ Dewey had been succeeded by Sergeant C. V. H. Sabin, promoted regimental quartermaster; and Clarence D. Gates, who, after some service in an independent cavalry company in Illinois, had recently enlisted in the First Vermont cavalry, had been appointed adjutant. Of the line officers, Captain Perkins had been killed and Captains Platt, Sheldon, Moore, Conger and Ward, Lieutenants Haywood, Danforth and Clarke, had resigned. Captains Hall and Wells had been promoted to the vacant majorships, and the vacancies in the line were filled by promotions. The condition of the regiment improved somewhat during the closing months of the year. The dismounted men were remounted upon 500 new Vermont horses, and the regiment was armed throughout with carbines, which greatly increased the fighting efficiency of the command.

During November and December detachments of the regiment were stationed at Annandale, Mount Vernon, Dranesville and Jeffersonville, Va., and took part in reconnoissances to Hopewell Gap and Aldie, November 10th and 12th, and to Ashby's Gap and beyond in the Shenandoah Valley, November 16th to December 2d—in the course of which some skirmishing took place with White's cavalry. On the 23d of December Colonel Sawyer returned and resumed command.

³¹ Both returned to the service. Lieutenant Dewey was appointed captain and A.Q.M. of volunteers, in November 1862 and Adjutant Pitkin enlisted in the First United States Cavalry and died in Campbell Hospital, Washington, of a wound received in action.

On the 1st of January 1863, the headquarters of the regiment were still near Fort Scott, the camp being practically and invalid camp, all the effective portion of the regiment being engaged in outpost and picket duty upon the outer line of the defenses of Washington. Three companies were at Annandale; two at Lewinsville; and the remainder, under Major Wells, at Dranesville. The men of the outposts erected shanties for shelter during the snowstorms and severe weather of the winter. The partisan Mosby became a constant annoyance during the latter part of the winter and spring of 1863. In a scouting expedition February 1st, while attempting to ford Broad Run, Lieutenant Charles H. Pixley, of company B, having spurred his horse into the current to encourage his reluctant men, was swept from the saddle and drowned. His body was recovered two days after.³² In fording Goose Creek, on the 14th, Private James L. Rush, of company C, was drowned.

During January the twelfth company, M, Captain John W. Woodward, recruited chiefly in Chittenden County, joined the regiment, raising its aggregate to 1,034. As spring opened the cavalry service around Washington became more active. It was conducted under a singular system or want of system. The picket details were made up of squads from different regiments. The picket reserves consisted of groups of similar fragments, under officers who were commonly strangers to most of the men. The pickets were posted at isolated stations outside of the line in infantry pickets, with no proper system of patrols. Dissensions prevailed among the officers; there could be little *esprit de corps*, where the organic unity, both of the regiment as a

³² Lieutenant Pixley was one of the most spirited and capable young officers of the regiment. He was a native of West Fairlee; but had removed thence with his parents to Enosburgh Falls, where he enlisted in the cavalry. He was appointed quartermaster's sergeant of company B, attracted notice by his efficiency and received as commission as second lieutenant. He was a fine soldier and general favorite in the regiment.

whole and of the companies, was so broken up, and the morale of the troops in all the cavalry regiments suffered seriously. The arrangement of picket stations could hardly have been better adapted to encourage the operations of Mosby, and it was not surprising that these were often successful.

AFFAIRS WITH MOSBY.

On the 2d of March, a detachment of 50 men of companies H and M, under captains Huntoon and Woodward, were sent out to scout for Mosby. Near Aldie, they met a party of 200 men under Major Gilmer of the Eighteenth Pennsylvania, returning from an expedition to Middleburg. Taking Huntoon's squadron for a party of the enemy, Gilmer, though in much larger force, made a hasty retreat, for which and for drunkenness on the occasion, he was dismissed from the service. Some stragglers of his men, however, reported to Huntoon that they had just passed through Aldie, and found no enemy there. Thrown off his guard by this report Huntoon entered the town, and stopped to feed the horses in the yard of a grist-mill. Officers and men dismounted, some of the horses were taken to a blacksmith shop near by to be shod, and the rest were unbridled and feeding, when Mosby appeared upon the scene. With a party of about 30 men he had been following Gilmer in the hope of capturing some stragglers, and discovering the dismounted troopers about the mill in Aldie dashed in upon them. Huntoon and a number of men were surrounded and captured in and about the mill. The rest scattered and escaped, with the exception of Captain Woodward. He had ridden a short distance outside the village to reconnoitre and hearing firing, hastened back. As he reached the bridge, in the village, two of Mosby's men attacked him. He defended himself till his horse was shot and fell upon his leg, pinning him to the ground. While thus disabled one of his antagon-

onists rode up close to him and began firing at him. His right arm fortunately was free, and drawing a small revolver from his breast pocket, he succeeded in putting a ball through his assailant; but would have been killed by the comrades of the latter if Mosby, who had seen the transaction, had not ridden up and rescued him. The partisan chieftain had him taken to a house and put to bed—his injury from the fall of his horse being severe—took his parole and rode away.³³ The loss by this affair was two officers and 14 men captured, most of whom were exchanged in month or two later.

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A few days later the regiment suffered a more serious loss. An outpost had been established at Herndon Station, on the Loudon and Hampshire railroad, six miles from Dranesville where a considerable cavalry force consisting of portions of half a dozen companies of the First Vermont and detachments from other cavalry regiments was stationed, under command of Major C. F. Taggart of the Second Pennsylvania. From this force the details were made for Herndon Station. The extreme exposure of the outpost at this point had been made the subject of a written report to General Heintzelman by Major Wells, and Mosby himself says he never could see why it was stationed there, unless to be captured. The picket guard at Herndon Station on the 17th of March consisted of 25 men under Lieutenant A. G. Watson of company L. On that day Mosby started from Middleburg with a force of 50 men, and making a circuit to the rear of the post, came in upon it from the direction of Dranesville. It was just noon. Watson's men, who were lounging around an old saw-mill, their horses standing tied to the fence near by, saw him coming; but it was time for them to be relieved, as they had been forty-eight hours on picket, and as Mosby

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had in advance some men in blue overcoats which he had secured at Aldie, they supposed his force to be the relief. They discovered their mistake only as he dashed in upon them. They had no time to mount, and took refuge in the saw-mill. Mosby surrounded this, and ordering it to be set on fire, gave them the option to surrender or be roasted alive. As the mill was full of dry shavings and it was easy to fulfill the threat, they chose the former alternative. A single man, Blinn Atchinson of company A, was fired upon and seriously wounded. The rest were captured, unharmed. This was not all. It happened that a commission, consisting of Major Wells, Captain Scofield of company F, and Lieutenant Cheney of company C, had gone to Herndon Station that day to investigate a charge of stealing brought by a citizen against some of the troopers. They had been getting their dinner at a house near by. Their horses, standing in front, betrayed their presence, and they were also surrounded and captured. Four or five of Watson's men out on picket escaped capture. One of these, discovering what had occurred, started back for help, and met two miles back the relief guard of 30 men under Lieutenant Higley of company K. Hurrying forward to Herndon Station, Higley found that Mosby had departed with his prisoners, and started forward in pursuit. But the mud was deep, Mosby was better mounted, had a half an hour the start, and had no difficulty in putting the swollen Horsepen Run between him and his pursuers. Higley followed Mosby to the Run and then returned to his station. The men captured by Mosby were paroled the same day. The four officers were sent to Richmond, and spent two months in Libby Prison.

General Heintzelman, commanding the defenses of Washington, began about this time to investigate the frequent captures of portions of Taggart's command. The latter desired a scapegoat, and found one for a time in Lieutenant Higley. Taggart not only stated in his report that if Higley

had done his duty, Mosby's whole party would have been taken—a wholly unreasonable statement—but placed Higley under arrest for cowardice and then procured an order dismissing him from the service without trial or hearing. The case, was, however, after considerable delay, re-opened and referred to a military commission of which General James B. Ricketts was president. Before this, Lieutenant Higley had no difficulty in establishing his character as a brave man, nor of relieving himself from the charge of inefficiency in pursuit of Mosby. The commission found no ground for the charges of cowardice and breach of duty, and, upon its recommendation, the Secretary of War ordered the restoration of Lieutenant Higley to his rank and command, with full pay for the three months during which he had been suspended from the service. After the affair at Herndon Station the posts at that point and at Dranesville were withdrawn across Difficult Run.

These affairs were comparatively bloodless; but a bloody and more disastrous one was to follow. March 31st a loyal citizen brought word to the cavalry camp that Mosby was at Dranesville, twelve miles away, with 80 men, and that he would probably camp there that night. Major Taggart at once sent thither a force of 130 men, of companies A, B, C, G and I, of the Vermont cavalry, under command of Captain Henry Flint, one of the most resolute officers in the regiment. Starting at midnight the battalion reached Dranesville before daylight, to find that Mosby had left the evening before, going toward Leesburg. Flint followed on his track to Broad Run, where the rangers had turned off from the pike to the farm of a man named Miskel. Here Mosby had stopped for the night. His men had picketed their horses inside a large barn-yard, and had gone to sleep in the barn and before the farmer's kitchen fire, for the weather was cold and snow lay on the ground. One of Mosby's lieutenants, Dick Moran, had stopped at the house

of a friend two miles below, where he was awakened at daylight by a column of Union cavalry passing by the house. Knowing what this must mean, he mounted in haste and, cutting across lots, reached Miskel's and alarmed Mosby just before Flint arrived. The latter's force was in two bodies, one in advance with himself, the other under Captain Bean, following at an interval. Flint reached the farm house through a narrow wood road, ending at a plantation gate leading into the enclosure surrounding the farm buildings. As he passed through the gate, Mosby and his men were saddling in mortal haste, in the barn-yard. If Flint had halted and used his carbines, a number of the enemy could doubtless have been put hors de combat and the rest driven from their partial shelter, and once outside the yard they could have been attacked with every prospect of success. But Flint thought he had his opponent in a trap; and disregarding a suggestion from Lieutenant Grout that it would be well to wait till the rest of the command came up, he ordered a charge and dashed forward to the gate of the barn-yard. This was more of a fort than a trap. The high fence protected the partisans from the cavalry who encircled its sides, while Mosby—always an advocate of the use of the revolver in preference to the sabre—received his assailants at the yard gate with a shower of pistol bullets. Flint fell dead with six bullets in his body, Grout was terribly wounded in the body and hip, and a dozen or fifteen men received more or less severe wounds. Bewildered by this reception and by the fall of their commander, the cavalry-men became demoralized; and when Mosby, who had now mounted, dashed out of the yard upon them, followed by his men, who were as numerous as their assailants on the spot, they turned in flight. They lost several more men by pistol shots; and a much larger number, whose escape was prevented by a choke in the narrow gateway, were captured. Lieutenant Sawyer was among those here wounded and captured. Those who got out of the farm

enclosure fled to the pike, where Lieutenant Woodbury made a last effort to rally the few men left unhurt, but he soon fell with a ball in his brain (fired, as Mosby says, by Ames, the deserter from the Fifth New York cavalry) and all attempt at resistance ceased. Mosby's pursuit ended at Dranesville, and the uncaptured survivors returned sadly to camp. The casualties in this lamentable affair were seven killed and mortally wounded; 22 wounded and 82 captured unwounded.³⁴

Lieutenant Holden received a flanking sabre cut on the head, which nearly scalped him, as was Lieutenant Sawyer. Holden's rank was not discovered by his captors and he was paroled with the other enlisted men. Sawyer was sent to Richmond. Mosby secured 95 horses, and stated his loss at one killed and three wounded. It was certainly a very spirited fight on his part, and the promotion which it brought him from General Lee, was fairly earned.

Major Hall started out at once with a party, and brought in the bodies of Captain Flint and Lieutenant Woodbury, and the wounded who could be moved. Lieutenant Grout's wound was pronounced mortal; but he survived and was afterwards brought in by his brother, Lieut. Colonel Grout of the Fifteenth Vermont, under a flag of truce. He was promoted to be captain for gallantry in this action, but was unable to do duty and was discharged six months after, for disability from his wounds.³⁵

³⁴ The rank and file killed and mortally wounded were: Horace H. Bradley of company A; John E. Morton and George S. Woodward of company C; John N. Frost and John Reed of company I.

Among the wounded were: Sergeant Horace A. Hyde, Abel H. Coburn, Corporal Hiram B. Johnson and Mitchell Sharrow of company B; Sergeant Harlan P. Aldrich, Corporal A. George, Harrison S. Foster, Thomas Owens, Albert A. Northrop, James T. Reed, Harley T. Sawyer and Joseph N. Wright of company C; W. H. Belding, and S. B. Chellis of company G; Ephraim H. Brewster, George H. Gilman, Augustus Paddock and Eliab Smith of company I.

³⁵ Captain Grout finally recovered his health, commanded the Frontier cavalry after the St. Albans raid; and attained prominence in civil life, as Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives.

Two of Mosby's prisoners³⁶ made their escape that night at Middleburg, whither all of them were taken, and made their way back to camp. The rest went to Richmond and after a month in Libby prison were paroled and exchanged.

The loss of Captain Flint and Lieutenant Woodbury, who were among the most spirited young officers in the regiment, created a deep sensation, and the whole affair was alike a mortification and an exasperation to the whole command. Captain Bean was severely blamed for failing to support Flint with the rear squadron, and upon recommendation of General Stahel, who now commanded the cavalry in the defenses of Washington and wanted to punish somebody, was dismissed from the service.

About this time the cavalry of the Twenty-second Corps was organized into a division of three small brigades, the First Vermont with the Fifth New York and First Michigan constituting the Third brigade, Colonel DeForest commanding. On the 13th of April the headquarters of the regiment were removed to Fairfax Court House, where General Stahel had his headquarters, and remained there till the brigade started on the Gettysburg campaign, detachments being stationed at Annandale, Freedom Hill and Vienna. During the month portions of the regiment took part in a scout to Catlett's Station and in an expedition made by General Stahel in force to Aldie and Middleburg.

Early in May Lieut. Colonel Preston, who had been looking after the enlistment of recruits and purchase of horses for the regiment in Vermont, returned to the command. Detachments of the regiment were now employed in guarding the Orange and Alexandria railroad, which was being opened to the Rappahannock. On the 3d of May, Mosby, after surprising and capturing a battalion of the First West Virginia cavalry at Warrenton Junction, was himself attacked and routed by Major Hammond of the Fifth New

³⁶ Sergeant H. K. Ide and O. S. Hendrick of company D.

York. A squadron of the First Vermont was stationed at the time near by; and some of the Vermonters took part in the pursuit of Mosby, but had no fighting to do.

At midnight, May 27th, Colonel Preston, with a detachment of 150 men from the First Vermont and 25 from the First Michigan cavalry, started on a reconnoissance to the gaps of the Bull Run Mountains. Dividing his force at Gainsville, he sent a detachment to White Plains by way of New Baltimore and another to Thoroughfare Gap, while with a third he proceeded to Hopewell Gap. He reconnoitred the country to within a mile of Middleburg, and returned to White Plains with a number of fresh horses and several prisoners, taken on the way. At White Plains he was joined by the detachment sent thither, and after dispersing a party of mounted men who seemed inclined to dispute their passage, Preston proceeded to Thoroughfare Gap. Here he found that the detachment sent to occupy the Gap had possession of the western side, while a scouting party of Stuart's cavalry, 50 strong, under command of Captain Farley of General Stuart's staff, were posted in the rocky cliffs of the eastern end. Pushing into the Gap, Preston was fired on and had several horses wounded. He then dismounted some men, and sending them with carbines along the sides of the defile, directed Captain Frank Ray to take a squadron and charge through the pass. Stuart's men received them with a volley, which wounded some more horses, and then scattered, with a loss of one man killed and Captain Farley and three men wounded. The detachments then united and returned to camp on the evening of the 28th. This was a well-managed affair, for a small one, and raised Colonel Preston's reputation, both with the regiment and his superior officers.

On the 30th of May Mosby's attack on a supply train, near Catlett's, described in preceding pages,³⁷ took place. A

³⁷ Vol. II., pp. 436-7.

detachment of the First Vermont, under Preston, with other cavalry, was in bivouac that day at Kettle Run, five or six miles away. The sound of Mosby's howitzer, with which he disabled the locomotive and frightened away the train-guard, was heard by them. Preston had 125 men in the saddle in ten minutes after the first shot was fired and galloped directly thither, guided by the smoke of the burning train, while a battalion of the Fifth New York was sent across the country to intercept Mosby's retreat. Preston reached the spot in thirty minutes; but before he arrived Mosby had secured the mail bags, fresh fish and sutler's goods, and departed. Preston at once started hotly on his track and soon overtook Mosby's rear guard, and skirmished with it for a mile or two, while Mosby was endeavoring to reach a place where he could make a stand. Coming to a spot where the road ran over the brow of a hill through a deep cut, with woods on either hand, Mosby posted his howitzer in the cut, withdrew his rangers behind it, and awaited the attack. Lieutenant Barker of the Fifth New York, with 30 men, charged up the hill upon the gun and received a charge of canister which killed three men and wounded seven, and disabled a number of horses. Barker, who was himself wounded, was then charged and driven back by Mosby. The Vermonters then took their turn. With a cheer companies H, Lieutenant Hazelton, and C, under Sergeant D. J. Hill charged squarely up the hill to the very muzzle of the gun. The howitzer was fired when the head of the squadron was less than twenty feet from it, the shell passing through the horse of one of Preston's men. A hand to hand fight followed around the gun, in which Sergeant Corey was killed, and his brother Stephen, both of company H, wounded. Captain Haskins, an English officer who had fought in the Crimean war and had joined Mosby's partisans from love of adventure, was mortally wounded. Lieutenant Chapman of Mosby's party, who had been an artillery officer and who managed the field-piece, was shot

Through the thigh and captured, with two others of Mosby's men. Mosby himself received a sabre blow on the shoulder; but he and his men scattered into the woods and made their escape. The howitzer was taken to General Stahel's headquarters, and Mosby was quiet for some days thereafter. This affair took place near Greenwich, and it appears in the official list of engagements under that title. This was the last encounter of the Vermont cavalry with Mosby. The loss on this occasion was one killed and seven wounded.³⁸

On the 16th of June the regiment was consolidated at Fairfax Court House preliminary to joining the Army of the Potomac, now marching to the north on the Gettysburg campaign. On the 17th the regiment was sent, under Colonel Sawyer, on a reconnoissance to Warrenton. Hampton's division was then passing through Warrenton on its way from the Rappahannock to join Stuart at Middleburg; and two miles from Warrenton. Sawyer's advance ran on to some of Hampton's pickets. These were driven by the skirmishers of the Vermont cavalry, till they were in turn driven back by the enemy's cavalry, which came out from the town. A lively exchange of shots took place between the enemy and the advance squadron (companies D and I) of the Vermont cavalry, till the former saw fit to retire. The regiment then moved back to Centreville and the next day returned to Fairfax Court House, to find the place full of the infantry and artillery of the Army of the Potomac, and the Sixth Corps and First Vermont brigade passing through on their march to the north. On the 21st Stahel's division was sent to Warrenton, to look after Hampton, but he had passed on, and the division returned to Fairfax Court House on the night of the 23d.

³⁸ Killed—Sergeant Job Corey of company H.

Wounded—Sergeant Daniel J. Hill and Sergeant Homer Ruggles of company C; Sergeant Waldo Clark and John H. Hill of company G; George M. Gorton, John McIntire and Stephen Corey of company H.

MARCH TO GETTYBURG.

On the 24th Stahel's division moved a few miles to the north, bivouacking near Dranesville, and on the 25th marched to the Potomac, and forded the river at Young's Island Ford, below Edwards Ferry, where the infantry of the First and Eleventh corps were crossing. The regiment went on with the brigade through Poolesville, forded the Monocacy and bivouacked at Licksville, Md. The next day it passed through Crampton's Gap and bivouacked at Rohrersville, and the next reach Frederick City. Here on the 28th General Stahel was relieved of the command, and the division was consolidated into two brigades, which formed the Third division of the Cavalry Corps, under General Judson Kilpatrick. In this re-arrangement the First Vermont, Fifth New York, Eighteenth Pennsylvania and the First West Virginia cavalry constituted the First brigade, under General Elon J. Farnsworth of Illinois, whose merits had just won him promotion from a captaincy to the rank and command of a brigadier general. The other brigade, of four Michigan regiments, was commanded by General Geo. A. Custer, who had been a captain on General Pleasonton's staff till he was promoted to be a brigadier general. With a division commander as restless as Kilpatrick and brigade commanders of such spirit and capacity, there was every prospect that this would be a fighting division, and the expectation was not disappointed.

The regiment was now in good condition, having 840 men reported present for duty and about 600 actually in the ranks. Major Wells had returned from Libby prison, Major Collins had resigned and had been succeeded as major by Captain John W. Bennett, Lieutenant W. G. Cummings succeeding the latter as captain of company D. Lieutenant E. B. Edwards had become captain of company A, vice Erhardt resigned; Lieutenant O. T. Cushman, captain of company E, vice Rundlett, resigned; Lieutenant Frank Ray, captain of

company G, vice Bean, dismissed; Lieutenant C. A. Adams, captain of company H, vice Huntoon, honorably discharged; and Lieutenant A. J. Grover, captain of company K, vice Ward, resigned. The spirit of the men was excellent, and all welcomed the more effective, if not more active service, which they expected as a part of the cavalry arm of the Army of the Potomac.

On the 29th Kilpatrick's division, leading the advance of the right of the army, moved by way of Taneytown into Pennsylvania to Littlestown, ten miles southeast of Gettysburg, and keeping on to the northeast, next day at 10 o'clock A. M., marched into the streets of Hanover.

General Stuart, with the larger part of Lee's cavalry, was now in the rear of Meade's army. Having crossed the Potomac between it and Washington, he had pushed on to Westminster, Md., where he lay the night of the 29th, expecting the next day to pass on through Hanover and join Lee in Pennsylvania. Had he succeeded in doing this, he would have supplied the lack of cavalry at this time, to which Lee attributed the failure of his Gettysburg campaign. But at Hanover he struck an obstacle in the presence of Farnsworth's brigade. This was passing through the village, with the First Vermont in advance and the Eighteenth Pennsylvania in the rear. The troops were enjoying the welcome of the citizens and accepting refreshments at the hands of the Hanover ladies, when Stuart's advance, the Second North Carolina, of Chambliss's brigade, charged in upon the Pennsylvania regiment. This broke and scattered, with loss of 86 officers and men. General Farnsworth at once faced about the Fifth New York, which was next to the Eighteenth Pennsylvania, first ordering Preston to send a squadron of his regiment to support a counter charge. For this Preston sent Major Bennett with companies M, Captain Woodward, and D, Captain Cummings. These charged the enemy with

the Fifth New York, capturing Lieut. Colonel Payne,³⁹ commanding the North Carolina regiment, and 20 men, and driving the remainder out of the village. General Stuart, who witnessed this proceeding from a field just outside the village, narrowly escape capture with his staff and guard. This was the first engagement of the war on free soil. General Kilpatrick, in his somewhat magniloquent report of it, says: "The attack [Stuart's] was determined and fierce. The main and side streets swarmed with rebel cavalry. The Eighteenth Pennsylvania was routed; but the gallant Farnsworth had passed from front to rear, ere the shout of the rebel charge had ceased to ring through the quiet streets, faced the Fifth New York about, countermarched the other regiments, and with a rush and a blow struck the rebel hosts in full charge. For a moment and a moment only, victory hung uncertain. For the first time our troops had met the foe in close contact; but they were on their own free soil, fair hands waved them on and bright tearful eyes looked pleading out from every window. The brave Farnsworth made one great effort, and the day was won." There is no doubt that it was a sharp and exciting encounter while it lasted, both for the troops engaged and the citizens of Hanover.

Stuart, after this rebuff, withdrew Chambliss's brigade to the hills south and east of Hanover. Farnsworth's brigade followed and formed in front of them as was soon joined by Custer's brigade, which had passed on some three miles when it was recalled by Kilpatrick. As the rest of Stuart's division had now come up, there was for a time a prospect of a general cavalry engagement. The streets of Hanover were barricaded, the citizens assisting. Elder's battery was brought forward and an artillery duel followed, during which the first and second battalions under Majors Hall and Wells supported the battery. The this battalion

³⁹ Payne was brought in by one of the Vermont boys who captured him in a barn, where he had sought shelter.

was sent to the left of the town and drove back the enemy's skirmishers, which were active and aggressive during the afternoon. Finding that his way was fairly blocked, Stuart now gave up his purpose to force a passage and at nightfall withdrew to the east, marched all night through Jefferson towards York, and making a long circuit to the north by way of Dover and Carlisle, only joined Lee at Gettysburg in the afternoon of the second day of the battle. There can be no question that his repulse at Hanover had an important bearing on the final result of the campaign. In that affair the First Vermont cavalry lost one man wounded and 16 missing.

During the night of the 30th the regiment encamped at Hanover. The next morning the division moved north to Abbottstown, picking up on the way some stragglers from Ewell's corps, which had just crossed that road on its way from York to Gettysburg. Passing on to Berlin Kilpatrick found that Stuart had passed that point two hours before, and, as it would not now be possible to head him off, Kilpatrick halted and bivouacked. This was the first day of the great battle.

GETTYSBURG.

Early in the morning of July 2d, Kilpatrick was ordered to General Pleasonton to move to Gettysburg, and starting at once, had reached the neighborhood of the field at two P. M., when he was met by an order to move out to the northeast to prevent any attempt of Lee to turn the right flank of the army, now posted along Cemetery ridge. He accordingly moved out five miles, to Hunterstown, whither Hampton's division had also been sent by Stuart. The latter was first in position and was found posted on a knoll beyond a fork in the road. Here he was charged by Custer with the Sixth Michigan, and driven back sufficiently to

enable Pennington's battery to go into position on a knoll near by. The First Vermont supported the battery, while Pennington opened with canister and drove Hampton farther back. The Vermont regiment was then dismounted and deployed as skirmishers in a wheat-field in front of the battery. After an hour's firing, the enemy, whose artillery practice was generally inferior to that of the Union batteries, retired. At eleven o'clock Kilpatrick received orders to move back to the Two Taverns on the Baltimore pike, five miles southeast of Gettysburg. The brigade marched all night, passing very near the left of Ewell's corps which lay in front of Culp's Hill, and arrived at daylight at the Two Taverns. Custer remained back, having, by some mistake, been ordered to report to General Gregg, and it was fortunate for the latter that he did so, as he rendered important aid to Gregg in a furious fight with Stuart next day. At Two Taverns the brigade rested for several hours, and the men got coffee and a little sleep, till at eight A. M. Kilpatrick received orders to proceed to the extreme left and with his own command and Merritt's reserve brigade of regular cavalry to demonstrate against Lee's right flank and prevent any movement from his right around the left flank of the Army of the Potomac. Kilpatrick moved with Farnsworth's brigade up the Baltimore pike for two or three miles, then struck across to the Taneytown road, and thence to the west, passing south of Round Top. Then, turning to the north, shortly after noon, he moved up to the front of Hood's division, stretching from the southwestern base of Round Top to the west across the Emmitsburg road. Preston, with the Vermont cavalry, was in advance, and as they approached the enemy he threw forward two squadrons,⁴⁰ dismounted, as skirmishers, supported by a mounted squadron, and drove the enemy's skirmishers back upon his main line. In the course of this operation, Lieutenant Watson, with a few men of

⁴⁰ Companies A, D, E and I.

company L, drove a party of the enemy from a knoll, with a house on it, to the left and front, which they were holding, perhaps with the intention of bringing a battery thither. Watson, with his men, rode square upon them, through a volley of musketry, and drove them off, though they staid till the revolvers flashed in their very faces. In this skirmish Private George S. Brownell was killed.

The situation in this part of the field was somewhat peculiar. During the sanguinary fighting of the previous afternoon the brigades of Law and Robertson had made their way past the Devil's Den and into the notch between the Round Tops. At the close of that day, Longstreet's troops had been driven back from all other portions of Meade's lines. But here, on the extreme Union left, Law and Robertson held much of the ground they had gained. During Thursday night and Friday morning, they were withdrawn from the notch and extended to their right along the base of Round Top, and almost upon its slope. Above them, on the height, two Union lines, behind breastworks of stone, held them back from any advance. They could not withdraw without exposure to the batteries on the heights above; but the rocky hill side afforded them such protection that they could stay where they were. While at other portions of the field the opposing lines held each other off at arm's length, here they were near together, and every man on either side who showed head or arm above his rocky shield, was a mark for hostile bullets. At right angles to the main line of Law and Robertson, the First Texas maintained a skirmish line extending to the west across Plum Run and half way across the undulating ground between that and the Emmittsburg road, connecting with a cavalry skirmish line extending across that road and protecting the front of Anderson's brigade, which was the extreme right of Lee's army.

There were two powerful reasons on the part of the

Union commanders, for attacking the troops whose position has thus been described. One was to relieve the Union left from the menace of these bodies of infantry entrenched near the base of the citadel of Round Top. The other was to keep Hood from assisting the main Confederate assault on the Union left centre, which Meade expected, and which was in preparation. In furthering these two objects Kilpatrick also hoped to find or make an opening through which he might reach Lee's trains, in the Confederate rear. No infantry being available for the purpose, Meade used his cavalry.

Between one and two o'clock, while the great cannonade on the left centre was in progress, Farnsworth's skirmishers were driving in the opposing skirmishers, until the latter had fallen back to the shelter of Reilly's (North Carolina) and Bachman's (South Carolina) batteries, which, using grape, drove back the Vermont cavalry-men for a short distance.

At three o'clock Merritt's brigade came up and formed on Farnsworth's left. Elder's battery was brought forward, and for two hours there was artillery firing and skirmishing. At five o'clock, in the pursuance of his orders, General Kilpatrick ordered the cavalry attack. Merritt was directed to press Anderson with a dismounted line, while Farnsworth was to charge the enemy in his front. Major Wells had inspected the ground in front, and as he reported that it did not look promising, Farnsworth asked permission, before attacking, to send forward a party to reconnoitre. This was granted with apparent reluctance by General Kilpatrick, and the reconnoissance was made by Captain Woodward, with company M. It disclosed the presence of hostile infantry under Round Top, and of ample infantry supports for the two Confederate batteries in front. General Farnsworth reported the facts and expressed his opinion that it was a desperate thing to take mounted men into such a place. Kilpatrick replied that the charge must be made and at once, adding that if General Farnsworth did not want to lead

it, he would lead it himself. Farnsworth's rejoinder was that he was not afraid to go as far as any man, and that nobody could take his men any farther than he could. wheeling his horse he at once gave his orders for the charge. For this he took Wells's battalion, with the First West Virginia cavalry, Colonel Richmond. Farnsworth placed himself by Wells's side at the head of the column, and led it forward by a wood road through a piece of timber and through an opening in a stone fence into open ground, where it came under the fire of some infantry to the left. Passing on through a field and over a second stone fence, the battalion pierced and scattered a line of infantry, and came into a field swept by Bachman's guns, which had been advanced east of the Emmitsburg road. These opened at short range and emptied many saddles. The cavalry column here became divided. Richmond turned back to the south, and after cutting his way through the infantry which had formed across his path, got back with most of his command whence he started. Farnsworth still kept on.

Meantime Kilpatrick had ordered Preston to support Farnsworth with the remainder of the regiment. Taking the first battalion, commanded by Captain Parsons, and a part of the third battalion under Captain Grover—the rest of the battalion being dismounted and placed behind a stone wall as a support—Preston accordingly followed Farnsworth and Wells over the stone fence, and into the open field, where he encountered an infantry regiment which had moved in to intercept the retreat of the second battalion, and a sharp contest followed. Checked by the fire in his front, Preston obliqued to the right and charged the flank of the opposing line. "The Contest," he says in his report, "became a hand to hand one, in which our sabres were effectually used. The enemy being completely cut up, surrendered in squads and were sent to the rear. Had I had two companies of carbineers at my command, I think I

could have held the position and removed my wounded; but being exposed to the fire of the enemy's batteries and sharpshooters I was obliged to fall back." Not many of the enemy who thus surrendered and were sent to the rear, saw fit to go there. Shortly after this encounter the three battalions united. Farnsworth's horse fell, shot under him, but Corporal Freeman of company C gave him his horse, by direction of Major Wells, and he was again in the saddle. As he and the rapidly lessening number of men with him, aiming toward the Devil's Den, neared the Slyder House, the Fourth Alabama, of Law's brigade, which had moved down, left in front, from its position at the foot of Round Top, emerged from the woods along Plum Run and opened a raking fire upon them. Wheeling to the left, they now charged straight toward Reilly's battery. As they came over a swell of open ground between them and this, the Ninth Georgia infantry and Reilly's and Bachman's guns opened fire on them at short range. Beaten back here, they turned to the south, to find that there was no exit where they had entered, the enemy's infantry having closed in behind them. Again turning to the east, they crossed Plum Run, and dashed up the hillside upon the line of the Fifteenth Alabama, which had faced to the rear to receive them. Riding up to this General Farnsworth ordered the men in his front to surrender. The reply was a volley, before which horse and rider went down. By this time formations had become largely lost. Captains Parsons and Cushman fell about this time and near the same spot where Farnsworth fell, both dangerously wounded. Lieutenant Cheney was shot through the body, Sergeant Duncan of company L was killed, and other good men were killed, wounded or captured. The rest scattered and escaped as best they could. Wells and Preston with the larger portion of their commands, fell back to the south. Of the rest, some passed through a gap in the enemy's line and made their

way out between the Round Tops. Some passed around the base of Round Top, and came in through the skirmish line of the First Vermont brigade, behind the hill.

The account of this transaction given by General Benning, of Georgia, who witnessed it from the side of the ridge of the Devil's Den, is as follows:

On the last day's fight about two P. M., we heard from the mountain we had taken the day before a great shouting in our rear down the Emmitsburg road. We soon distinguished it to be the enemy's cheer. Very soon the head of a line of his cavalry in that road emerged from the wood, galloping hurraing and waving their swords as if frantic. Our artillery, which had been thrown forward across the road, opened on them. They rode on. An infantry fire from a wood on their left opened on them. They then turned to their right to escape, taking down a lane. Some men of ours (cooking details) threw themselves behind the stone fence on the side of the lane and opened on them as they came down the lane. They then turned again to the right and entered the field and directed themselves back towards the point where they had first appeared to us. In doing so they had to pass a wood on their left. From this an infantry fire opened on them, and their direction was again changed to the right. The result was that they galloped round and round in the large field, finding a fire at every outlet, until most of them were killed or captured. Every thing passed before our eyes on the mountain side as if in an amphitheatre.

Some of the men engaged (Cook's) told me that the prisoners said it was General Farnsworth's brigade, and that they were all drunk. The same men told me that in going over the field for spoils they approached a fallen horse with his rider by his side, but not dead. They ordered him to surrender. He replied to wait a little, or something to that effect, and put his hand to his pistol, drew it, and blew his brains out. This was General Farnsworth.

Brigadier General E. M. Law, who commanded the division, General Hood having been wounded the day before, made the disposition to receive this cavalry. At very short notice he put the artillery across the road, the Seventh Georgia beside the road in a wood a little beyond the artillery, and the Ninth Georgia in a wood at some distance on the other side of the road and of the enclosed field. These two

regiments were all that could be spared from the line of battle, and to spare them was a risk. Lee's baggage and rear were saved. There was nothing else to protect them.

This and other Confederate reports show that the Vermont regiments encountered in this assault at leave five regiments of infantry—the First Texas, Seventh and Ninth Georgia, Fourth and Fifteenth Alabama—and two batteries. That any considerable number of the men who charged with Farnsworth survived so desperate a duty, is explainable only by the fact they were in constant and rapid motion. The loss of the regiment was 12 killed, 20 wounded—two of them mortally, and 35 missing.

The story that General Farnsworth committed suicide by blowing his brains out, rather than surrender, though current on the Confederate side at the time, and stated in various official reports and by several southern writers, had no foundation in fact, and it is time that it ceased to be repeated. He was not the man to commit suicide, though he would fight to the death, and his brains were not blown out by his own or any hand. On this point the evidence of an unimpeachable witness is offered in the statement of Surgeon Edson, who brought in his body, and who says that there was no wound in the head.⁴¹

⁴¹ 249 Warren St., Boston, Mass., June 25, 1888.

Dear Sir:

Early in the forenoon of July 5, 1863, Surgeon Lucius P. Woods, Fifth New York cavalry, and myself, then Ass't Surgeon First Vermont cavalry, found the body of General Farnsworth upon the wooded spur that connects Little Round Top and Round Top at Gettysburg, and carried it to the hospital of the Third division of the Cavalry Corps.

When found, the body was stripped to flannel shirt and drawers and stockings. There were five bullet wounds upon the body—four in the chest and abdomen, and one high up in the thigh. He had no wound or injury of any sort in the head or face.

In view of these facts it seems improbable at least, that General Farnsworth had any need to shoot himself, though Colonel Oats [of the Fifteenth Alabama], who claims to have seen it, was undoubtedly there and has declared that it was suicide. General Farnsworth certainly did not blow his own brains out, nor did any one do it for him.

The current talk at the time, was, that when ordered to surrender by a party of the enemy who covered him with loaded muskets, he called out that he would never surrender to a rebel, and fired his revolver, receiving in return a volley that made suicide unnecessary, if not impossible.

In explanation of this discrepancy of statement, I offer the following: General Farnsworth was described by the rebels as a man wearing a white havelock. The General did not wear one. Captain Cushman of E company—the peer of any man in bravery—did wear a white handkerchief under his cap behind, so that it fell down upon his neck and shoulders. He got a musket ball through the face, from side to side, disfiguring him horrible, though not killing him. He may have been mistaken for General Farnsworth—but even this cannot explain the declaration of suicide.

P. O'M. EDSON,

Late Ass't Surgeon First Vt. Cavalry.

Hon. G. G. Benedict.

General Pleasonton says that Farnsworth's attack "caused the enemy to detach largely from his main attack on the left of our line." General Kilpatrick says: "I am of the opinion that had our infantry on my right advanced at once when relieved [by the cavalry charge] from the enemy's attack on their front, the enemy could not have recovered from the confusion into which Generals Farnsworth and Merritt had thrown them, but would have rushed back, one division on another, until, instead of a defeat,, a total rout would have ensued." Other similar testimonies to the value of the diversion made by Farnsworth's charge might be cited if space permitted. After the repulse of the cavalry the enemy pushed forward his skirmish line, but it was easily held in check.

On the morning of the 4th, General Kilpatrick received orders to follow Lee. Starting accordingly at ten A. M., the regiment left the battlefield, with the brigade, now commanded by Colonel Richmond, and marched to Emmittsburg, reaching there at three P. M., and then turned west to the South Mountain behind which Lee's trains and columns were moving.

At Monterey, near which place the First West Virginia captured 160 wagons and many prisoners, the Vermont cavalry was detached and sent by Kilpatrick along the ridge

of South Mountain to Smithburg and thence to Leitersburg, in hopes of striking there another wagon train. The march was hard, rain fell constantly, many of the horses lost shoes on the rocky mountain roads, and the regiment was diminished nearly one-half by straggling during the night march.

At Leitersburg Preston found that the confederate train had passed two hours before. He secured, however, a hundred prisoners, chiefly cavalry and infantry stragglers, a drove of cattle, and several wagons, and went on to Hagerstown, reaching that point in advance both of Lee's infantry and cavalry. There he learned that the main Confederate train has reached Williamsport, and turning to the southeast he joined Kilpatrick at Boonsboro after an exhausting march of 48 hours' duration, and bivouacked in a ploughed field, at two o'clock on the morning of the 6th. Having established communications with Buford, it was arranged that Kilpatrick should take his division to Hagerstown to hold back Stuart, who was approaching that point by the Greencastle road, while Buford should try to strike and destroy the wagons at Williamsport. Before Kilpatrick reached Hagerstown the two small brigades of Chambliss and Robertson, of Stuart's division, had reached that point, but were driven out by Kilpatrick's advance, of Richmond's brigade. Three companies of the Vermont regiment, D, ?L and A, dismounted, took part in this operation. Leaving Richmond's brigade to hold Hagerstown, Kilpatrick then hastened with his other brigade to assist Buford at Williamsport. Richmond soon had all that he could attend to. Stuart was at hand in strong force, leading the advance of Lee's army, and he at once took measures to clear the Union cavalry from his way. In the preparations to receive his attack, companies L, E. F and I, of the Vermont cavalry were stationed as skirmishers in the village; the rest of the regiment was posted with the rest of the brigade at the rear of the town.

The brigade was soon in a very tight spot. Stuart reinforced Chambliss and Robertson with Jenkins's brigade, which pushed in on Richmond's left flank. Jones's brigade with artillery close in on his right and rear, while in front a body of Iverson's infantry, of Rodes's division, began to crowd upon the troops in the town. These, firing from behind the houses and around corners and falling back slowly from street to street, held back the intruders for two hours or more, but were at last driven out of the village. A party of fourteen Vermonters were cut off from the rest, but dodged into a house and were secreted by a citizen until the 12th, when the Federal troops again occupied the town. Four men were here captured.⁴²

The brigade was now united outside the town, and began to retire slowly toward Williamsport. Two regiments with a section of Elder's battery, faced the enemy for a time, while the other two regiments and the other section of the battery selected a position for a stand farther back, when the troops in front withdrew behind them. The brigade thus fell back, fighting, and holding in check a greatly superior force. About two miles from the village, where the First Vermont and Fifth New York were facing the enemy, the latter got into the woods on both flanks, and gave them some sharp fighting. A mile farther back the Vermont regiment was the rear guard, and was twice almost surrounded. Here, near the toll-gate, Captain Grover, with company K, made a charge which beat back the enemy's advance; but his sharp-shooters soon made the place too warm and the regiment retreated, fighting and falling back by squadrons, one squadron making a stand until a second squadron could form in its rear, and then withdrawing and forming farther

⁴² Two of these, Silas Kingsley and Samuel Washburn of company D, died in Andersonville prison. Several others who were hidden in houses escaped by donning citizen's clothing, and Private A. H. Curtis, while so dressed, had the distinction of saluting General Lee in person.

back. At this point Captain Woodward of company M, was killed, pierced through heart and brain.⁴³

Half a mile farther back Preston again made a stand, and then charged the enemy's advance, the men becoming intermingled with the enemy, till they suffered from their own as much as from the Confederate artillery. At one point Captain Beeman was surrounded and ordered to surrender. "I don't see it," he shouted, and by leaping a fence he and most of his squadron escaped. At dusk the brigade met General Kilpatrick returning, the attempt on Williamsport having failed; and the division, turning to the south, marched to Jones's Cross Roads and bivouacked. In the fight at Hagerstown and in the retreat the Vermont cavalry lost five men killed, 16 wounded and 55 missing.⁴⁴

Early in the morning of the 8th, Stuart moved from Hagerstown in order to get possession of Boonsboro Gap and close the pass to Meade's army, now approaching on the other side. In the fight to prevent this, made by Buford and Kilpatrick, the Vermont regiment was held in reserve during the forenoon, and had little to do except that a squadron was sent to level the fences in readiness for retreat, should it

⁴³ John W. Woodward was the only son of Chaplain Woodward. He graduated from the University of Vermont in August, 1862, and at once enlisted in the Vermont cavalry, was chosen captain of company M, and showed himself one of the bravest, most spirited and most reliable officers in the command. A few days before his death he received the sad news of the death of his betrothed, a lovely and accomplished girl, who died of typhoid fever. Thereafter he cared little what happened to him; exposed his life more freely than ever, and evidently welcomed a soldier's death. His remains were taken to Vermont, and two grave stones, side by side, in the cemetery in Cambridge, record the close of a mournful romance of real life.

⁴⁴ "The Vermont cavalry fought most desperately, and I saw men shed tears that they could not do more. We were in a very dangerous position, with the rebel army on three sides, but we cut our way through with the loss of but about 50 men, making 120 which we have lost in about three days. You cannot imagine how desperately our boys will fight."—Lieut. Colonel Preston, in a private letter.

become necessary. In the afternoon the sixth squadron, under Captain Cummings, was sent to the extreme right of the line, where it took a position near one of the enemy's batteries, from which the carbineers annoyed the cannoneers considerably. Companies E and I, under Captain Scofield, were next sent forward, and took position near the Hagerstown road and helped to hold back the enemy. The third battalion, under Major Bennett, (companies L, F, K and M), was sent by Colonel Richmond to the right and front of the Hagerstown road, where the men suffered seriously from the enemy's batteries.

The latter part of the afternoon Major Wells's battalion, now reduced to less than 60 men, was ordered to charge down the Hagerstown road. The charge was made with spirit, and sabre cuts were freely given and taken, but the force was not large enough to hold the ground gained, and Wells retired, having inflicted serious injury on the enemy. In this melee Major Wells crossed sabres with a Confederate officer and received a glancing thrust in the side which passed through his clothes and scratched his skin. While so engaged in front he was attacked from behind by a trooper, received a blow across the back, and was in serious danger, when Sergeant Jerome B. Hatch, who was lying pinned to the ground by his horse which had fallen on him, disabled one of Wells's assailants by a shot from his revolver, and Wells beat off the other. Fighting was kept up this with varying success till just at dark the head of Meade's infantry column appeared in the Gap, and Stuart, having gained neither ground nor information, withdrew. That night the regiment bivouacked on the road beyond the Gap, and remained there for the next two days. Its loss at Boonsboro was two killed, eight wounded and five missing.

July 10th, Colonel Sawyer, who had been absent since the 22d of June, rejoined his command at Boonsboro, and that afternoon it moved with the division to the right flank

of Meade's army, where the Funkstown pike crosses Antietam Creek. That night and the next day, the First Vermont did skirmish and picket duty on the division front.

On the 12th, Kilpatrick reoccupied Hagerstown without much opposition, and took a position near the seminary, where the men stood in line of battle thirty-six hours without unsaddling. In the afternoon of the 13th Colonel Sawyer, with the First Vermont and some Pennsylvania militia was sent to reconnoitre above the town. The enemy's pickets were encountered on the outskirts of the town, and were driven in by the skirmishers under Captain Cummings and Lieutenant Grant. Then companies I and F, under Captain Scofield and Lieutenant Newton, charged down a road, lined by high fences, till they received a volley from a force of infantry or dismounted cavalry in the edge of a piece of woods skirting the road. Scofield was wounded and taken prisoner, Newton's horse was shot, and 13 men were killed, wounded and missing. Having developed the position of the enemy, the regiment withdrew to Hagerstown.

Early next morning the regiment moved out on the Williamsport road, discovered that Lee had crossed the river in the night, and captured many stragglers. It then moved to Falling Waters with the brigade, but arrived too late to help Custer in his fight with the rear guard of Lee's army, in which the Confederate General Pettigrew was killed. On the 16th the regiment marched with the division from Boonsboro to Harpers Ferry.

In the Gettysburg campaign the loss of the regiment was 19 killed, 63 wounded and 101 missing—an aggregate of 183. Of the wounded men five died of their wounds. Captain Parsons received an honorable discharge in consequence of his wound. Captain Scofield remained a prisoner for twenty months, when, in March, 1865, he was exchanged. Captain Cushman and Lieutenants Cheney, Steward and Caldwell,

returned to the regiment as soon as they recovered from their serious wounds.⁴⁵

On the 17th the regiment guarded the bridges, seven miles below Harpers Ferry, by which the infantry was crossing into Virginia. Next day it halted, with the division, at Purcellsville, Va., where the horses were shod, and on the 19th moved to the neighborhood of Ashby's Gap, where the pickets of the two armies again faced each other. On the 20th the infantry of the Third Corps came up, and the cavalry returned to Upperville. On the 21st the Vermont regiment was sent to Snickersville, and on the 22d it occupied Snicker's Gap, remaining there until the night of the 23d. July 24th the regiment rejoined the brigade and marched with it to Amissville. Colonel Richmond having been detached with

⁴⁵ The rank and file killed were: Corporal Orris P. Beeman of company B; Joel J. Smith and T. C. Ward of company C; Sylvanus Lund of company D; George W. Everest, Franklin Gould, Oramel Morse and Wesley Watts of company E; Loren M. Brigham of company F; George D. Bucklin, Joseph Buffum, John Sulham and Henry M. Worthen of company H; John Galvin of company K; Sergeant George W. Duncan, Corporal Hiram L. Walker, George S. Brownell and Rufus D. Thompson of company L.

The wounded were: Sergeant Warren Gibbs and Homer E. Bliss* of company A; Sergeant Harmon D. Hall, Corporal Samuel Ufford, Orson T. Bigelow, Eli Hibbard, Hannibal S. Jenne, James M. Lake and Mitchell Sharrow of company B; Corporal Marcus M. Rice, William P. Mason, Jr., James T. Reed and Gilbert O. Smith of company C; Harvey J. Allen and Harrison K. Bard of company D; Sergeants Joseph W. Bailey and Jarvis Wentworth,* Major Gould and Orris F. Kimball* of company E; Corporal Douglass Edmonds of company F; Sergeant John M. Vanderlip and John H. Hill of company G; Sergeants Lensie R. Morgan and Emmet Mather, Corporal George M. Gorton, Willard Crandall, Darwin E. Eames, George J. Everson, George W. Knight, James O. Riley and James Stone of company H; James Greaves, Aaron S. Ober and George S. Spafford of company I; Sergeant Jones R. Rice, David S. Dillon, Edwin E. Jones, Charles N. Lapham, Alexander W. Ross and Hiram E. Tupper of company K; Sergeants William L. Greenleaf and Seymour H. Wood, Corporals Robert Pollenger and Ira E. Sperry,* J. A. Fobes, Timothy Keefe, J. Scott Merritt* and Edgar J. Wolcott of company L; and Thomas McGuire and Austin McKenzie of company M.

* Died of wounds.

his regiment, Colonel Sawyer was now in command of the brigade, and the command of the regiment again devolved on Lieut. Colonel Preston. ON the 31st the division moved to Warrenton Junction, where the brigade was occupied with picket duty, the Eighteenth Pennsylvania and First Virginia being stationed at Stafford Court House and the First Vermont and Fifth New York near the United States Ford on the Rappahannock, with headquarters at Hartwood Church. Here a number of men were sent in to Washington in charge of Major Wells, and were remounted, many horses having given out with the hard service. From this time until September the headquarters of the Third division were at Warrenton, and the regiments in rotation picketed the line of the river. Lieut. Colonel Preston was absent during a portion of this time, leaving Major Wells in command, and companies A, D, K and M, under Major Grover, were detached for duty at the headquarters of the Sixth Army Corps.

On the 20th of August, in a partial re-organization of the division, the First Vermont was transferred to Custer's brigade,(the Second), and Colonel Sawyer returned to the command of the regiment. On the 24th the regiment formed part of a cavalry force which made a reconnoissance to Port Conway, on the Rappahannock, in King George County, returning the same night after a march of sixty-four miles. September 1st the regiment went again, this time with the division, to Port Conway, to which point the Confederates had brought two gunboats, the "Satellite" and "Reliance," recently captured by them off the mouth of the Rappahannock. Kilpatrick moved with his division to King George Court House. The road thence for five miles to Port Conway was narrow, running through dense woods. On entering this, the Vermont regiment was sent to the front, with company I thrown forward as skirmishers. The enemy's pickets were soon seen, and were driven to and across the Rappahannock the two gunboats were found lying on the

southern bank of the river, and the enemy were removing portions of the machinery, until they were driven away by the Union sharp-shooters. General Kilpatrick waited a while for the Union gunboats which he was expecting to co-operate with him; but as these did not appear—being detained by low water in the river—he brought forward his batteries, and after shelling the gunboats till they were believed to be rendered useless to the enemy, Kilpatrick returned with his expedition. In these two affairs at Port Conway, which were considered of consequence enough to appear in the official list of engagements, the regiment suffered no casualties.

September 3d the regiment went into camp at Berea Court House, four miles north of Falmouth, and picketed the Rappahannock until the beginning of the campaign south of the Rappahannock, on the 12th of September.

CULPEPER COURT HOUSE.

On the 13th of September the Cavalry Corps was sent across the Rappahannock to clear the ground for an advance of the Army of the Potomac to the Rapidan. Stuart's cavalry occupied the region between the two rivers, with his headquarters at Culpeper Court House; and, if he had received no warning, it might have been an unpleasant surprise to him. But information of the movement was conveyed to him by a citizen the night before, and he had time to get his trains across the Rapidan and to make arrangements to meet the emergency, and succeeded in withdrawing his division across the Rapidan with a loss of three guns and a number of men.

In this operation the First Vermont cavalry, under Major Wells, Colonel Sawyer being absent in Washington and Lieut. Colonel Preston sick, had a creditable part. The cavalry now numbered some 10,000 sabres. Crossing at

Kelly's Ford and the fords above, the three divisions of Kilpatrick, Buford and Gregg united at Brandy Station. The country was open, and the Vermonters found the movement the most imposing one in which they had as yet taken part. A line of carbineers, deployed as skirmishers, led the advance of each brigade, followed, 200 yards back, by a long line of battle, moving at a walk, with drawn sabres. Back of this move the remainder of the brigade and the artillery in column of march. The nine brigades made a column over five miles long. At Brandy Station the enemy, of Lomax's brigade, began to contest the advance, meeting skirmishers with skirmishers and opening with artillery from the slope beyond the Station; but he was heavily out-numbered, and there was no serious fighting till the Union line reached Culpeper Court House. Up to that point the line pressed on, the officers and men of each command eager to keep their own front as well advanced as any other, and pushing forward with the animation of a fox-hunt with a spice of danger added to make it more exciting.

In the advance Custer's brigade, of which the Vermont regiment now formed part, had the extreme left. On approaching Culpeper, a little after noon, a long line of dismounted cavalry, supported by artillery, was seen along a fence across a swollen creek, evidently posted to guard a train of cars about to start for Orange Court House. Kilpatrick ordered Custer to charge the train; but the overflowed creek and the marsh which skirted it could not be passed at that point, and Custer, giving up the attempt on the train, placed himself at the head of the First Vermont and the Second New York and dashed into the town. Here three guns of Thompson's battery were taken, one of which was captured by the Vermonters with all its appurtenances complete, and eight prisoners. The Vermonters next occupied a knoll on the south side of the village in the face of a sharp artillery fire, and then, by order of General Custer,

attacked the enemy the enemy along the road leading to Orange Court House. Companies E and I, sent forward to the right, dismounted and engaged the enemy's skirmishers, and the second battalion, companies B, C, H and G, under Captain Adams, charged the enemy. Here the fight was somewhat protracted. The Second New York had already been once repulsed, but rallied and charge with the First Vermont, and the two regiments drove the enemy from the road, into the woods, to the protection of his artillery. General Custer, who led the first charge, was wounded by an exploding shell which killed his horse, and Major Wells received a slight wound in the shoulder from the same shell. The enemy succeeded in holding the line in check till he removed the rest of his artillery. A third charge by the First Vermont forced him to full retreat, and he retired to the Rapidan. Nightfall checked the pursuit. In this engagement the Vermont cavalry was under fire for about four hours and took some 40 prisoners. The infantry followed; and General Meade established his headquarters at Culpeper Court House. The enemy made another stand at the base of Pony Mountain, but were driven off and the First Vermont bivouacked near the foot of the mountain that night. The casualties in the regiment in this action were one killed, four wounded and four missing.⁴⁶

Adjutant Gates charged the enemy's guns with the regiment, and after one gun had been taken, went on with the battalion after the second gun. The cavalry which defended this made a fight for it, and several charges and counter-charges took place in quick succession. After one of the latter, while Adjutant Gates was trying to rally some of the

⁴⁶ Killed—John Henry of company B.

Wounded—Sergeant A. R. Haswell of company G; Monroe Lyford of company C, and Frank A. Russell of company I.

Missing—Adjutant Gates, Sergeant B. Chapman and B. J. Merrill of company B; Sergeant H. P. Aldrich of company C, and A. F. Hackett of company M.

men who had fallen back to the edge of a piece of timber, he found himself surrounded by a flanking party of the enemy which had come in from the left through the woods. Gates's horse was wounded, and the Confederates continued to fire on him after he had surrendered; but fortunately without effect. He was marched nearly twenty miles on foot that night with other prisoners to Orange Court House, and thence taken to Libby Prison, where and on Bell Island he remained for three weeks, when he was sent to a hospital in Richmond. He had concealed the fact that he was a commissioned officer, and passed for only a sergeant major. Being a fine penman, he was taken to assist the Confederate clerk in preparing lists of enlisted men to be paroled and exchanged, and by slyly inserting his own name in the list, was sent with other paroled prisoners a few days later to City Point and exchanged. He rejoined the regiment in front of Richmond in June, 1864. Mason A. Stone of company F was promoted to be first lieutenant of company M and acting adjutant, in his place.

The next morning, the 14th, the whole command moved forward to the Rapidan. Custer's brigade at noon reached Raccoon Ford, where a rebel force was found on the other side prepared to dispute the crossing. The First Vermont cavalry, under Major Wells, was then sent up the river with orders to cross at Somerville Ford and come down on the south side. This proved to be impracticable. The regiment moved rapidly through a field, down a bank, and across a strip of meadow, beyond which was the ford. But the opposite bank was high, and was occupied by the enemy in force, with plenty of artillery, which opened sharply, and the attempt to cross was wisely abandoned. All the other troops fell back but the First Vermont, which had taken shelter from the enemy's artillery behind a small knoll and some old log houses on the bank, where it remained all that night and the next day. One of Stuart's regiments of the Sixth Virginia,

crossed the river, but was soon repulsed. At midnight of the 16th the regiment was relieved, having been for thirty hours within forty rods of the enemy's artillery across the river, and withdrew to near Mitchell's Station.

September 17th, in a general order, Kilpatrick expressed his thanks to "Colonel Davies and his command, and to Colonel Sawyer and his command, for the prompt and gallant manner in which they met and repulsed the enemy's attack yesterday." A day or two later the regiment was sent north of the Rappahannock, to do picket duty, where it remained until the 28th. It then rejoined the brigade in camp at Wayland's Mills near Culpeper. Lieut. Colonel Preston was again in command of the regiment, Colonel Sawyer taking the brigade, in the absence of Custer, during these three weeks.

October 8th the regiment left Wayland's Mills at one A. M. and proceeded to James City, a hamlet seven miles southwest of Culpeper, where it remained doing picket duty until the 10th, when it returned to Wayland's Mills, only, however, to be summoned back in haste to James City.

Lee had begun the movement around the right flank of the Army of the Potomac, resulting in the march of both armies to the north, in the Bristoe campaign, which has been described in previous pages. It was Stuart's duty to cover and cloak the movement of the Army of Northern Virginia; and of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac to discover the nature of the movement of its adversary, known to be in progress, and to conceal the counter movements of General Meade. The result was an almost daily clashing of the opposing cavalry, during a period of ten days, in which the First Vermont cavalry took part in five engagements, in one of which almost the entire cavalry arms of both armies were engaged, and several of which were highly exciting. The account which follows is largely condensed from Colonel Sawyer's report.

The recall of the Vermont regiment to James City was in consequence of an advance upon that place by Stuart with Hampton's division. Kilpatrick had posted his division, with Pennington's battery, on a range of hills north of the village, while Stuart occupied a parallel range south of it. When the Vermont cavalry arrived on the scene, it was at once ordered with the Sixth Michigan, both under command of Colonel Sawyer, to support Pennington's battery on a hill, near the Culpeper road. A squadron of the First Vermont, with carbines, was deployed as skirmishers, while the two regiments took position in a hollow in the rear of the battery. No advance was made by either side, and beyond an occasional shot from the artillery, there was little done during the day. In the evening a strong picket line was posted in front, and the men slept on their arms.

General Meade having started for Centreville, Kilpatrick was ordered to follow, and drew out most of his division before daylight next morning. At four o'clock Colonel Sawyer was ordered to report with his regiment to General Davies, in command of the First brigade, which was to be the rear guard. This began to fall back at daylight, but no enemy appeared until it reached Culpeper Court House, where Kilpatrick was making a stand. Here Colonel Sawyer rejoined Custer's brigade. General Custer withdrew his brigade through the town, and was crossing Mountain Run, when Stuart appeared in force, coming in on the left over the Sperryville turnpike. The First Vermont was at once formed in line of battle on the side of a hill, while a sharp artillery duel took place, the shots of both batteries passing over the regiment. This continued for half an hour, when Colonel Sawyer was ordered to report again to General Davies, by whose order the regiment formed in line of battle, a short distance behind its first position, and faced right, left, front or rear according to the necessity of the movement.

BRANDY STATION.

Presently Kilpatrick discovered that Stuart had withdrawn from his front and was marching to Brandy Station, his plan being to attack and use up Buford, who was falling back from Stevensburg to Brandy Station, followed by Fitzhugh Lee's division. Divining his purpose Kilpatrick at once started for Brandy Station. In the race for that point the First Vermont marched on the extreme right of the division, on the right of the railroad, where heavy oak woods came close to the track and where progress was more difficult than in the open field on the left, through which the rest of the division moved.

For five miles the rapid march continued, when a stretch of open country on both sides of the track allowed the First Vermont to move in column by battalion. As the regiment and brigade neared Brandy Station, the sounds of firing to the right showed that Buford was not far away and that he was sharply engaged. He succeeded, however, in reaching the Fleetwood Hill, and taking a strong position there, which he held till he was joined by Kilpatrick. The latter part of the march of Custer's brigade, thither, was sufficiently exciting. It was a race with Stuart's advance, on parallel roads, the columns being near to and in full sight of each other. At one point three Confederate regiments blocked the way but the road was cleared by a charge of a battalion of the Fifth New York. There was danger that between Hampton's division coming in on the right, and Fitzhugh Lee's on the left, the brigade would get sorely pinched; but it got through and joined the division, which effected a junction with Buford. On the other side Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee united and attacked Pleasonton, who was now in command of the two Union divisions, and a spirited cavalry battle occupied the latter part of the afternoon.

The descriptions of the rush into Brandy Station given by the division, brigade and regimental commanders, all make lively reading. General Kilpatrick's is as follows:

The situation was indeed most critical; there was but one way out, there was but one road over which we could pass, and across that road stood Fitzhugh Lee with his division, larger than my own. I rode over to General Pleasonton, who had joined Custer in the fight, and said: "I propose to charge straight to the front on Fitzhugh Lee's division." "The only thing left for us to do," he replied. In five minutes every man knew what was expected of him, and with brave heart only waited for the cry to "charge." General Henry G. Davies rode upon the right with his four regiments—the second New York, First Vermont, Eighteenth Pennsylvania, and Twelfth Virginia—in column by squadrons doubled on the centre. Custer, with hat off, laced jacket, yellow hair dancing in wild confusion over his head and shoulders, rode—a perfect picture of manly health and courage—at the head of his Michigan brigade. As our column closed in compact order, and 3,000 bright, sharp sabres leaped from their scabbards and danced in the sunlight, the rebel chiefs realized for the first time and to their great astonishment that we were not captured yet or even frightened, but were preparing to charge through their lines and that their task had only just begun. In three heavy columns of a thousand each, we slowly but firmly moved down upon the foe, while a strong line of skirmishers on front, flanks and rear held back the eager, yelling foe, while from out the intervals the batteries of Pennington and Elder opened huge gaps in the strong rebel lines as they closed in upon us. When within a few hundred yards of Fitz Lee's position, our band struck up "Yankee Doodle," a hundred bugles rang out the charge, and 3,000 men in one unbroken front, with the grandest cheer I ever heard, like a loosened cliff fell upon the foe. Stuart's and Fitz Lee's cavalry corps had not the moral courage to witness and stand fast before this vast array of rushing squadrons and flashing sabres, but broke in wild dismay, opening wide a road over which passed my brave command, uniting with the men of Buford on the hills beyond.

Custer's account is as follows:

My advance had reached the vicinity of Brandy Station, when a courier hastened back with the information that a

brigade of the enemy's cavalry was in position directly in my front, thus cutting us completely off from the river. Upon examination, I learned the correctness of the report. The heavy masses of Confederate cavalry could be seen covering the heights in front of my advance. When it is remembered that my rear-guard was hotly engaged with a superior force, a heavy column enveloping each flank, and my advance confronted by more than double my own number, the perils of my situation can be estimated. Lieutenant Pennington at once placed his battery in position, and opened a brisk fire, which was responded to by the guns of the enemy. The major general commanding the cavalry corps at this moment rode to the advance. To him I proposed with my command, to cut through the force in my front, and thus open the way for the entire command to the river. My proposition was approved, and I received orders to take my available force and push forward, leaving the Sixth and Seventh Michigan cavalry to hold the force in the rear in check. I formed the Fifth Michigan cavalry on my right, in column of battalions; on my left I formed the First Michigan in column of squadrons. After ordering them to draw their sabres, I informed them that we were surrounded, and all we had to do was to open a way with our sabres. They showed their determination and purpose by giving three hearty cheers. At this moment the band struck up the inspiring air, "Yankee Doodle," which excited the enthusiasm of the entire command to the highest pitch, and made each individual member feel as if he was a host in himself. Simultaneously both regiments moved forward to the attack. It required but a glance at the countenances of the men to enable me to read the settled determination with which they undertook the work before them. The enemy, without waiting to receive the onset, broke in disorder and fled. After a series of brilliant charges, during which the enemy suffered heavily, we succeeded in reaching the river, which we crossed in good order.

How the thing looked from Buford's position is thus described by Captain Whitaker of the Sixth New York cavalry:

Buford fell slowly back in the direction of Brandy Station, and as his rear there was much shorter than that of Kilpatrick's division, found himself there before Kilpatrick. Custer's brigade was on the right of the Third division, and

Pleasanton was with Kilpatrick. Therefore the position was now very curious. At Brandy Station, with his back to the river, was Buford, a force of cavalry and infantry, with several batteries, pressing all round him. Several mounted charges had been made to drive back the enemy, and in every instance they fell back. Suddenly the heavy fire in Buford's front ceased, and

then recommenced with tenfold fury, but not a shot came near Buford's men. In increased to a perfect roar, while the yells of charging men were plainly audible over the firing. The next moment, out of the woods into the open fields, came tearing Kilpatrick's men, charging in column, Pleasonton with the guns, in the middle of the column, all looking pretty well used up. Had it not been for the firm attitude of Buford's division, whose flanks were safe, and who had kept the enemy all in the front, Kilpatrick's men must have suffered as fearfully as they did a few days later at Buckland Mills. As it happened, Buford's stand gave them time to rest and get into decent order, and the rest of the afternoon the two divisions confronted the enemy without further disaster, till nightfall the most exasperating part of this battle at Brandy Station was however yet to come. It was when the cavalry after dark rode down to the fords to cross the Rappahannock and beheld the whole country on the further bank bright with the camp-fires of their own infantry, who had been compelled to lie idle all day, passive spectators of a fight which their presence could have determined. To the cavalry, the battle of Brandy Station was creditable. It was a gallant struggle against fearful odds.

Colonel Sawyer's description is as follows:

The scene began to grow interesting. It was seen that we were not only flanked on both right and left, and closely pressed in the rear, but that right across the road we desired to travel, we were confronted by a strong force; that we were surrounded. We now supported the right of Captain Elder's battery, who directed his attention to the columns of rebel cavalry, infantry and artillery, on the east of the road. I was then ordered to recross the railroad—having crossed a little previously to the left—and again cover the right of General Davies's brigade. The road is here built upon an embankment, raised, I should judge, ten feet above the surrounding ground, so that while we were on the left of the road we had a very good cover from the enemy's batteries. But we had to cross this embankment and re-form under a

terrible fire, at point-blank range. We re-formed in column of squadrons, and moving up on parallel lines with the cavalry on our left, came to a run, with steep banks, compelling us to break by fours to cross it, and re-form again on the other side in column of squadrons. Here a good many stragglers from other regiments rushed wildly by us. Several horses being wounded became unmanageable, and communicating their excitement to others, considerable disorder was likely to ensue. I halted the command and addressed a few words to the officers and men. The majors deliberately dressed their battalions, and the regiment moved on, passed the station, and came into line of battle in splendid order, eliciting the warm compliments of General Kilpatrick, who personally witnessed the manoeuver. We were now ordered to support a section of Captain Elder's battery, and formed on its left.

The scene had become wild and exciting. We had formed a junction with Buford. The batteries of the two divisions, and more than an equal number on the rebel side—in all probably forty—were vigorously playing. Charges and counter-charges were frequent in every direction, and as far as the eye could see over the vast rolling field, were encounters by regiments, by battalions, by squads and between individuals, in hand-to-hand conflict. We were not allowed to remain long as idle lookers on. General Custer with the other regiments of the Second brigade had made a magnificent charge, but finding the rebel line formed beyond a ditch too wide for his horses to leap, he had, after the exchange of a few rounds been obliged to retire in considerable disorder. The rebels seeing this disorder, were coming with strong force from the woods on our left, aiming for Captain Elder's guns, which we were supporting. The regiment obeyed the order to charge with more than their usual alacrity. The enemy was held in check until the guns took up another position. The contest was sharp and severe, my loss in killed, wounded and missing being four officers and 29 men. To charge into woods with the sabre, against cavalry supported by infantry or dismounted cavalry, requires high courage, and is against immense odds. But not one faltered, officer nor man. After this charge the regiment re-formed under a heavy fire from the enemy's artillery, and took its full share in the subsequent scenes of the day.

In this engagement nearly the whole cavalry force of the armies of the Potomac and Virginia confronted each other, and, having a splendid field, undoubtedly exhibited the most

magnificent display ever witnessed upon this continent; and had it not been for the well known fact that the rebels were heavily supported by infantry, or had the rebels displayed more ardor for the offensive, after our junction with General Buford, it must have resulted in one of the most bloody cavalry fights in history.

Exciting as was this battle, not much blood was shed. The bodies of eleven men of Custer's brigade were buried on the field. The loss of the Vermont regiment was reported at the time as one killed, four wounded and 28 missing. Sergeant Jason A. Stone, the man reported killed, was wounded and captured, and died of his wounds in Richmond at some date not known. Captain Adams of company H, who was with the rear guard, was cut off with 13 men of that company and captured, and Captain Beeman and Lieutenant Horace A. Hyde of company B, with 10 men, were also taken prisoners in some of the skirmishing. Captain Beeman was confined in Libby Prison until May, 1864, when he was taken to Macon, Ga. While on the way thence to Charleston he escaped from the cars, was recaptured by means of blood-hounds, and after five months' further confinement in Charleston and Columbia, was paroled December 9th, and mustered out of the service December 17th, 1864. Captain Adams was confined at Charlotte, N. C. He escaped from prison March 1st, 1865, made his way on foot to the Union lines at Knoxville, Tenn., and rejoined his regiment soon after. Sergeant A. M. Crane of company I, and Private Solon D. Davis of company H, escaped from Libby in October by lowering themselves by the lightning-rod from the upper story of the laundry, and rejoined the regiment soon after. The capture of the senior major of the regiment was an unfortunate sequel of the battle of Brandy Station. Major Hall, being barely convalescent from a recent illness, was compelled by exhaustion to leave the field. During the action, he crossed the Rappahannock, and while searching for the regiment next day was captured, with the orderly who

accompanied him. He was confined in Libby Prison until August 26th 1846, when he was exchanged and rejoined the regiment.

There was a good deal of scolding on the part of officers and men of the cavalry, when on crossing the Rappahannock they found that the larger part of the infantry of the Army of the Potomac had been lying within sight and hearing of the cavalry fight, without rendering any support.

The regiment had bivouacked two miles beyond the Rappahannock, when it was ordered, with the Fifth Michigan, to picket the river from Ellis's to United States Ford, involving a night march of thirty miles for a portion of the regiment. On the 13th the two regiments joined the division at Bealton Station, and marched with it, covering the left flank of the Second Army Corps, to within three miles of Buckland Mills.

Early the next morning, the 14th, the command was aroused by the firing near Warrenton, where Stuart had attacked Gregg, and the division started thither; but finding it was not needed, it returned and moved to Gainesville, where for several hours it stood in line of battle while General Warren was making his splendid rear guard fight at Bristoe Station. No enemy appearing it then marched to Sudley Church, on Bull Run. Here the division was reinforced by Merritt's brigade, and for that day and the next, covered the right flank of the army. The regiment remained in that vicinity with the division until the 18th of October, the enemy being still in force in front. On the 18th it having become evident that Lee was withdrawing his army, Meade began to press his rear with the cavalry. That day the division moved rapidly to Gainesville, the Second brigade, with the Vermont regiment in advance, moving by the New Market road. Company I, thrown forward as skirmishers, soon encountered the enemy's pickets, and the first battalion becoming engaged, drove up the enemy's rear-guard to the junction of the New Market road with the War-

renton pike. Here the Vermont regiment was joined by the Second New York cavalry and followed the enemy to Gainesville, where a formidable line checked further pursuit. The regiment was on duty during that cold and rainy night. Next morning Bennett's battalion was deployed, with Wells's battalion in support, and charged the enemy, who beat a hasty retreat.⁴⁷

BUCKLAND MILLS.

An immediate advance of the division to Warrenton was now ordered and the regiment started, without time to make coffee. Stuart, who was at Buckland with Hampton's cavalry division, retired slowly before Kilpatrick on the Warrenton pike, in order to draw him on till Fitzhugh Lee, who was at Auburn, should get into his rear. Between them they expected to crush him. At they had 7,000 men to Kilpatrick's 3,500, this was not an unreasonable expectation. At Buckland Mills, the passage of Broad Run was forced by Custer's brigade, and after halting for an hour to feed the horses, Kilpatrick pushed on to and beyond New Baltimore after Stuart, with Davies's brigade, leaving Custer at Broad Run. There Custer was found by Fitzhugh Lee, who, advancing from Greenwich with his division, expecting to get unopposed into Kilpatrick's rear, was surprised to find Custer's brigade across his path. Custer had barely time to get into position before he was attacked by a line of dismounted men a mile long, supported by artillery and heavy bodies of mounted men. Custer's left rested on Broad Run, where he placed a section of Pennington's battery, supported by the First Vermont cavalry, his right extended through a piece of woods along a ridge, on which he placed the rest of the battery. At the first sound of Fitzhugh Lee's guns

⁴⁷ General Custer in his report, says: "The First Vermont cavalry, Colonel Sawyer, deserves great credit for the rapidity with which it forced the enemy to retire.

Stuart turned upon Davies, attacked him in front and on each flank, and drove him back to Buckland with serious loss. His stampede placed Custer in a critical position, and compelled him to get away in a hurry. Pennington fired till the enemy was within twenty yards of his guns on the right, and then took them across the Run. His left section was protected by two companies of carbineers of the First Vermont, who resisted the enemy's advance till the guns were safely withdrawn. The regiment was pressed on front and flank and was under artillery fire, but withdrew across the Run in good order.⁴⁸ Custer then retreated with his own and a portion of Davies's brigade, hotly pursued, till he was met by the advance of Howe's division of the sixth Corps, at Gainesville, where the infantry of the First Vermont brigade relieved his tired troopers from further pursuit and drove back the enemy.

Colonel Sawyer's report of this affair commends Major Wells as especially efficient in preserving order during the retreat; Major Bennett, who commanded the rear battalion and remained back till the skirmishers were all across the Run; Captains Ray and Hazelton and Lieutenant Williamson, commanding skirmishers, and Acting Adjutant M. A. Stone; and adds that all, officers and men, behaved well. Lieut. Colonel Preston also distinguished himself this day, fighting with the rear guard, and doing gallant service.

The regiment move don the 20th to Groveton, and was on picket till the 24th, when it returned to Gainesville. It moved thence October 31st to the south by way of Bristoe's to Catlett's Station, and on the 4th of November took part in a reconnoissance to Falmouth, where there was a skir-

⁴⁸ "Custer was a hard fighter even in retreat, and he succeeded in saving his artillery, and in recrossing Broad Run without any serious disorder."—Major McClellan in "Campaigns of Stuart's Cavalry."

mish with the enemy.⁴⁹ November 7th it left Catlett's for Grove Church, with the division, which was covering the left of the army. Lieutenant Newton, now detailed on the staff of General French, commanding the Third Corps, had a narrow escape from capture by guerrillas, this day, while on an errand to General Pleasonton's headquarters.

On the 8th the regiment crossed the Rappahannock with the division, at Ellis's Ford, and moved slowly to Stevensburg, where it went into winter quarters. On the 27th of November it was at Morton's Ford, and crossed the river with Custer's brigade, returning to the north side that night. Next day the brigade crossed again, the First Vermont in the advance, and a cavalry picket post was attacked and driven off by Captain Cushman of company E, with ten men. One man was wounded in this skirmish. At night the enemy returned with artillery, and Custer again withdrew across the river.

On the 21st of November, Colonel Sawyer, with a man from each company, went to Vermont to enlist recruits for the regiment, which was much reduced in numbers. The last morning report of the year showed 623 officers and men present for duty, with about 400 men actually in the ranks, the rest being on detached service. The regiment was without a chaplain, Chaplain Woodward having resigned in impaired health and saddened by the death of his gallant son. It had an additional assistant surgeon in the person of Dr. Elmore J. all, of Highgate, who had been promoted from the ranks to that position.

The remainder of the winter passed uneventfully in the camp at Stevensburg, which was kept in such good order that General Custer used to send the officers of some of his other regiments to see it, as an example of neatness and good order. The regiment was occupied, with the rest of the Cav-

⁴⁹ This is included in the official list in Adjutant General Washburn's report, under the erroneous date of October 4th.

alry Corps, in what General Sheridan when he took command pronounced to be "excessive and unnecessary picket duty." The men were on duty three days out of six, and a detail of 162 men was sent daily to guard the fords of the Rapidan. The numbers of the regiment were gradually increased by the addition of recruits, till on the 1st of March it had the largest aggregate ever reported, being 1,128, with 931 nominally present for duty, and about half that number actually in the ranks, 120 men being still on duty at General Sedgwick's headquarters, others at the headquarters of General Hancock, and 181 on the sick-list. The horses were thin, but the men generally in good condition. Regimental drills were frequent and brigade drills occasional.

KILPATRICK'S RAID.

During the first half of March the regiment took part in Kilpatrick's famous raid against Richmond. The objects of this were the liberation of the Union prisoners in that city; the destruction of mills and army stores in Richmond; the capture of the reserve artillery at Frederick's Hall Station, on the Virginia Central railroad, and the distribution of President Lincoln's amnesty proclamation. Kilpatrick started with 4,000 mounted men, February 28th, at sundown, after a demonstration on Lee's left had been made by Custer to distract the enemy's attention. The First Vermont mounted that evening with three days' rations and one day's corn for the horses. The young and daring Colonel Dahlgren, who was Kilpatrick's second in this enterprise, started on in advance with a body of 500 men, comprising detachments from the First Vermont, Second and Fifth New York, First Maine and Fifth Michigan cavalry. The Vermont detachment consisted of a hundred men under Lieutenants Hall and Williamson. Dahlgren crossed the river at Ely's Ford, capturing a lieutenant and 14 men on picket at that point,

and thus securing a safe passage for the main body. He proceeded thence rapidly in a southeasterly direction around the right of the Confederate army, and hurried on without halting until ten A. M., when the men stopped near Spottsylvania Court House to feed the horses. Then diverging from the route to be followed by the main body, he pushed on to the southwest by way of Fredericks Hall to the James river. The main column, going almost due south, marched steadily until five P. M., when it arrived at Beaver Dam Station. Here Kilpatrick remained until dark, destroying the railroad property and tearing up the tracks in both directions. Then starting again, in a heavy rain, he crossed the South Anna in the morning of March 1st, and shortly after noon crossed the south branch of the Chickahominy and halted before the fortifications of Richmond on the Brook turnpike, three and a half miles north of the city. A detachment had been sent to destroy the railroad bridge across the South Anna river; but it was found guarded by infantry with artillery, and after a slight skirmish the detachment withdrew. That evening Kilpatrick proposed to Preston to take his regiment, with a few other picked men, and to make a dash into Richmond in the early twilight of the next morning and break open the doors of Libby Prison. Preston accepted the desperate undertaking, and spent most of the night in arranging for it; but before he started, such information in regard to the strength of the enemy's infantry in the works was received by Kilpatrick, that he abandoned the enterprise. If any man in the command could have accomplished the task it was Preston.

Hearing nothing from Dahlgren, and judging the capture of Richmond to be impossible, Kilpatrick decided to move around the city and join General Butler at Yorktown. At four A. M., the column started, and after destroying two miles of the Fredericksburg railroad, moved on to Mechanicsville, six miles from Richmond. Here, after destroying the depot

building and cutting the track, the men got an hour's rest. At 10:30 P. M., the enemy began to shell the camp, and soon after the pickets were driven in and an attack was made on the part of the line held by the Seventh Michigan. This was easily repulsed, the Vermonters taking a part which entitled them to place this skirmish on the list of their engagements. The division then moved off to the east, and at three A. M. the men went into bivouac, and slept until nine. At that hour the Vermont cavalry was sent back to the relief of the rear guard, which had been attacked by a mounted force at Piping Tree. Here the regiment, under Preston, had a skirmish which constituted almost its only serious fighting during the raid. In this two men were wounded and three or four horses were killed. The enemy was soon dispersed, and after waiting half an hour for a renewal of the attack, the rear guard followed the column, which had moved in the direction of White House. Leaving White House on his left Kilpatrick proceeded to Tunstall's Station. Near here what was left of Dahlgren's' command overtook and joined the main body. Dahlgren had arrived at Fredericks Hall Station, where Lee's reserve artillery was parked at three P. M. on the 29th. Had he been there a little sooner he might have captured Lee, who had just passed over the road on his way back to his army, after a short visit to Richmond. Dahlgren found the artillery strongly guarded by an infantry brigade and did not dare to attempt its capture. Withdrawing from that dangerous locality after tearing up the railroad for a mile from Fredericks Hall, he resumed his march. The rain fell in torrents, rendering the roads almost impassable. Men and horses were suffering for food and rest. Moreover, Dahlgren was led astray by a guide, who through treachery or stupidity, guided him to Goochland, representing that the river was fordable at Dover Mills. No ford was found, and the false guide was hanged. An attack upon Richmond from the south side of the river

being thus impossible, Dahlgren determined to try to enter the city from the north side. On his way thither he burned the flour-mills and saw-mills, the boats and locks of the canal and the iron works at Mannakin, with the barns of Confederate Secretary of State Seddon, on whose farm the command encamped. Hearing that General Wise was on his farm near by, a detachment was sent to capture hi, but he had fled. Dahlgren then proceeded down the Westham road, and about four miles from the city had a skirmish with the enemy's pickets and pursued them inside the outer lines of their fortifications. At the second line the enemy rallied in considerable force under cover of a wood. Skirmishers were deployed, who flanked the enemy and by successive charges, led by Colonel Dahlgren and Major Cook, the hostile infantry, comprising the Richmond City battalion, were driven across the fields nearly to the city. It was now dark and the city gas lights could plainly be seen. But here a large force was encountered whose longer line it was impossible for Dahlgren's small force to turn. He accordingly decided to withdraw and seek the main column. On this march, the main body of Dahlgren's men, in which was the Vermont detachment, became separated from Colonel Dahlgren, who fell into an ambush and met his death soon after. The larger body pushed on to the east and joined Kilpatrick at Tunstall's Station.

“No one,” says Major Merritt of the Fifth New York, “engaged in that night's march, will ever forget its difficulties. The storm had set in with renewed fury. The fierce wind drove the rain, snow and sleet. The darkness was rendered more intense by the thick pines that overgrew the road and dashed into our faces almost an avalanche of water at every step. Being on unfrequented wood roads, we were halted frequently to remove trees fallen across the path, and to trace the course with our hands, for even the sagacity of the horses was often at fault. Tired and exhausted, the men

fell asleep on their horses. It became necessary to march by file, and at every turn of the path to pass the word to turn to the right or keep to the left of the tree. It was utterly impossible to see a yard in advance. Slowly and laboriously we thus toiled through to Hungary Station.”

At eight A. M. of the 3d, the entire command resumed the march, the First Vermont acting as rear guard. That night it bivouacked within twelve miles of Williamsburg, and reached Yorktown March 4th. Here the entire force remained a week resting. On the 11th the First Vermont embarked for Alexandria; arrived there on the 13th; moving thence marched by way of Fairfax Court House on the 16th to Warrenton Junction; and arrived in camp at Stevensburg on the 18th. The loss of the regiment in this expedition was 12 wounded, seven of whom were captured, and 59 missing, most of whom were lost in the night marches.

For the next two weeks the regiment remained at Stevensburg, picketing the line of the Rapidan, and in camp near Grove Church. On the return from Richmond, the Seventh Michigan being without field officers, its lieutenant colonel having been captured, Major Wells was detached from the regiment, and commanded the Seventh Michigan for the month following.

The month of April brought great changes in the organization of the Cavalry Corps. One of General Grant's first measures as Commander in Chief was to relieve General Pleasonton and give the command of the corps to Brigadier General Philip Henry Sheridan. Aware that he had been an infantry division commander, the cavalry looked hard at him at first; but it was not long before they all owned that Grant knew his man, and that the man was equal to the place. Of the three division commanders of the corps but one now remained. The gallant Buford was dead and was replaced by Brigadier General Torbert, who had previously commanded a New Jersey infantry brigade. General Gregg

retained the Second division. Kilpatrick was sent to join Sherman in the west, and the command of the Third division, to which the Vermont cavalry belonged was given to Brigadier General James H. Wilson, who had been recently taken from staff duty. The brigades were re-arranged. Custer's brigade was transferred to the First division, and the First Vermont with it. This arrangement, however, only last for eight days, and as finally arranged the Vermont cavalry became the first regiment of the Second brigade of the Third division, the other regiments brigaded with it being the Eighth New York,, Third Indiana and Eighth Illinois. The brigade commander was Colonel George H. Chapman of the Third Indiana. April 28th, Colonel Sawyer resigned, and the command of the regiment devolved on Lieut. Colonel Preston, to whom this was no new responsibility. He was at once promoted to the colonelcy; but he did not live to see his commission.

At this time the regiment lost Assistant Surgeon Edson, whose professional skill, high spirit, and fidelity had been of the greatest service, by his promotion to the surgeoncy of the Seventeenth Vermont. He was succeeded by Dr. Edward B. Nims of Burlington.

The period of arduous service now about to open with the opening of Grant's overland campaign, was preceded by a review of the division, on the 3d of May, by General Wilson. That night at midnight the men were aroused by marching orders, and two hours later they were on their way to Germanna Ford, where they crossed with the division without much opposition. It was Wilson's duty to lead the way for the Fifth Corps, and when that corps arrived at the ford, he moved on nearly to the Old Wilderness Tavern and thence across the fields to the Orange Plank Road, and along this to Parker's store, where the division bivouacked. The regiment reached Parker's store at three P. M. A battalion was sent out on the road under Major Bennett, went several

miles and had a slight skirmish with a party of the enemy, and returned at dark.

CRAIG'S MEETING HOUSE.

The engagement was the first of the Wilderness campaign. At five A. M. of May 5th, General Wilson, leaving Colonel Hammond with the Fifth New York at Parker's store till the infantry came up, moved towards Craig's Meeting House on the Catharpin road. At the junction of the cross road leading from Parker's store with the Catharpin road, he stationed his First brigade and sent Chapman's brigade on to Craig's Meeting House. A squadron of the First Vermont, under Captain Cummings, had the advance. The brigade proceeded nearly thither unmolested. At about eight A. M. the advance squad reported a body of the enemy in sight. This was Rosser's brigade (of Hampton's division) which was reconnoitering. Cummings immediately brought his companies into line, sent a courier to brigade headquarters to announce the presence of the enemy, and in a few moments received a charge from Rosser's advance, in which a Vermonter had his skull laid bare by a sabre stroke and another was captured in consequence of a fall of his horse.

Cummings's squadron rallied, fired and fell back to the support of the brigade. Meantime Colonel Chapman had ordered forward Major Bennett's battalion and Bennett was moving out when he was met by the retreating detachment, and a moment later received the full brunt of the enemy's charge. For a few minutes there was a scene of much confusion, the enemy and the Union troopers being closely intermingled. Soon, however, as the Vermonters breasted back the enemy, the confederates began to give ground. A captain and several of his men were captured, and the brigade coming up, Rosser was driven back two miles to the point where the fight began. Here at the left of the road

a strong skirmish line of dismounted men was sent forward, and became sharply engaged. This line held the enemy till afternoon when it was flanked on the left, and fell back with a loss of one or two men. Rosser had now been heavily reinforced with cavalry and infantry; and General Wilson, cut off by the enemy's infantry from Parker's store and the direct road, retreated with his division by way of Shady Grove Church, to Todd's tavern. Here he was joined by Gregg, who had been sent forward by Sheridan to help him, and Rosser and Fitzhugh Lee were driven back three miles to Shady Grove Church. In this action the regiment lost four killed, 31 wounded of whom four died of their wounds, and 14 missing; total 45.⁵⁰ Major Bennett and Captain Grover were each wounded in the leg and Lieutenant Henry O. Wheeler of company A was shot through the chest, the ball entering near the heart.⁵¹

The regiment bivouacked that night near Lewis's Creek, a mile or so east of Todd's tavern, and picketed a line near the tavern the latter part of the night. In the morning it was relieved by Custer's brigade and returned to the trains at Piney Branch Church drew forage and rations, and then moved a mile or more to the right, where the brigade stood in line of battle most of the afternoon and till after dark, but did not become engaged. Surgeon Gale, who was now medical director of the division, was captured this day with his field hospital full of wounded men. He was held for a time as a prisoner; but he and the wounded were soon rescued.

May 7th, the rest of the Cavalry Corps attacked and

⁵⁰ Killed—Parker Cole of company B; Horace Hall of company D; John Q. French of company E, and George W. Hemingway of company I. Died of wounds:: Albert Taylor and Ebenezer Blongy of company A; Clarence E. Cushman of company E, and Cyrus S. Tuttle of company F.

⁵¹ Lieutenant Wheeler's wound was supposed at the time to be mortal, and his death was reported in the Vermont papers. He was sent to Georgetown Seminary Hospital, recovered and returned to the regiment in time to take part in the Shenandoah Valley campaign.

defeated Stuart's cavalry near Todd's tavern; but Wilson's division was not engaged. On the 8th, starting early in the morning, Wilson moved to Spottsylvania Court House, expecting to be supported by the Fifth Corps. But Warren was delayed by Fitzhugh Lee, and Wilson was soon driven out of the village and back across the Ny by Longstreet's infantry. Company D of the Vermont cavalry was on picket that night, and captured a dozen men of the Thirteenth Mississippi, of Longstreet's corps, before rejoining the regiment next morning.

SHERIDAN'S RAID.

Finding that the task of dislodging Lee from Spottsylvania was not likely to be a short one, and lacking forage for his cavalry, general Grant directed Sheridan to collect his corps, clear Stuart's cavalry from his way, and proceed to Haxall's Landing on the James river, south of Richmond, where he was to be supplied from General Butler's stores, and then to return to the army, wherever it might be. Starting next morning, the 9th, with Merritt's and Gregg's divisions, Sheridan moved to the east by the plank road, to get well clear of the enemy's infantry. At the point where the Telegraph road crosses Massaponax Run, he was joined by Wilson's division. Turning then to the south down the Telegraph road, he moved cautiously past the right of Lee's army. The corps moved in a single column, thirteen miles long; Merritt leading, Wilson in the centre, and Gregg in the rear. Stuart pursued with Wickham's, Lomax's and Gordon's brigades (number between 4,000 and 5,000 men), and harassed Davies's brigade, which was the rear guard all the way from the Ta to Chilesburg, but did not hinder the march of the column. The weather was hot and a number of men were sunstruck.⁵²

⁵² Joseph Benoit of company D was among these. He was captured, and died in Andersonville prison.

Wilson's division bivouacked that night on the north bank of the North Anna at Anderson's Ford. Custer was sent to cut the Virginia Central railroad at Beaver Dam, where he recaptured 375 officers and men taken prisoners in the Wilderness, and destroyed the depot buildings, with three locomotives, 100 cars, 90 wagons, ten miles of railroad, over 1,500,000 rations and nearly all the medical stores of Lee's army.

Next morning a shell which fell in the camp of the Vermont cavalry announced Stuart's presence, and the regiment mounted and moved into position, but was not called in action, Gregg doing the fighting, while Wilson crossed the river, and then with dismounted men in rifle-pits and artillery, protected Gregg's crossing. During the remainder of this day, the 10th, the column pressed steadily forward, crossed the South Anna at Ground Squirrel Bridge, and bivouacked at night on the south bank, the First Vermont camping in a large field just across the bridge. Throughout the day, Gordon's brigade hung on the rear, while Stuart with Fitzhugh Lee's division turned to the left and pushed on, hot foot, to get between Sheridan and Richmond. That night Davies's brigade was detached and sent to Ashland Station, where it destroyed the depot buildings, a locomotive and train of cars, a considerable quantity of military stores, six miles of the railroad and two bridges.

In the morning of the 11th some of Gordon's men charged into the field where the Vermont regiment was lying; but were easily repulsed.

YELLOW TAVERN.

Starting on again and striking a broad road, the column moved forward about six miles, when the advance encountered Stuart at Yellow Tavern, six miles north of the city of Richmond and three miles from its outer line of defenses,

So called from a large tavern which had stood at the junctions of the Mountain road and the Brook turnpike, of which the chimneys now only remained. Each commander prepared at once for action. Sheridan formed between the turnpike and the Fredericksburg railroad, while Stuart took position at the intersection of the Brook pike and Mountain road. Wells's battalion was dismounted and put into the woods on the left, but was soon withdrawn and sent to the right to support Merritt, who had gained the Brook road. Here the battalion formed part of a long line of skirmishers which advanced till they found the enemy posted behind a knoll and fence, with artillery, which opened viciously from behind a curtain of timber. As the skirmishers were without cover they halted, and Wells moved his men to the left under some slight cover, connecting with a Pennsylvania regiment on the left. Custer's brigade was on the right of Wilson; and the edge of the woods nearest Custer's front was held by the enemy's dismounted men, who kept up a heavy fire. The Fifth and Sixth Michigan were dismounted and drove the enemy from this position. While this movement was in progress a portion of the First Vermont in an open field was exposed to a hot fire from a battery posted on or near the Telegraph road, and the men were becoming somewhat restive when General Custer rode by from the edge of the woods, where he had been superintending the operations of the skirmish line, and as he passed informed Colonel Preston that he was about to make a charge on that battery, and asked if he would like a hand in the affair. The colonel replied that he was agreeable, and was directed to wheel the regiment to the right into column of squadrons.⁵³ Custer then formed the First Michigan

⁵³ The story at the time was that Colonel Chapman, commanding the brigade, objected to Preston's joining Custer, and that the latter appealed to Sheridan, who told him to take any regiment that was willing to go with him.

under the cover of the woods, for the purpose of charging the battery on the flank, while the First Vermont attacked in front. As soon as the Michigan boys moved from the cover of the wood, the enemy opened a brisk fire from his guns. Before the battery could be reached, there were fences to be cleared and a broad ditch to be crossed. Surmounting these obstacles the Vermont and Michigan boys started on at a walk, then increased the pace to a trot, and when within two hundred yards of the battery, charged it with a yell. Two guns, with caissons filled with ammunition, and a number of prisoners, were the fruits of this charge, and the enemy was forced from his position and driven back. In endeavoring to rally his men, general Stuart was here mortally wounded by a ball through his stomach, and was taken from the field to Richmond, saying as he left: "I had rather die than be whipped." The enemy's loss was over 200 in killed, wounded and prisoners. The two guns were the first captured by Grant's army during this campaign. In the death of General Stuart, the enemy lost by far the best cavalry general in the Confederate service, and his place was never supplied. /The Confederate general James B. Gordon was also wounded in this engagement and Lieut. Colonel H. Clay Pate, commanding the Fifth Virginia cavalry, was killed. The Union loss was less severe. Among the Union wounded were Captain Frank Ray of company G, and Lieutenant A. G. Watson of company L. The regiment lost two killed and 10 wounded.⁵⁴

After the fall of Stuart the enemy made a desperate rally, but Custer's brigade, with the First Vermont added, again charged, and the opposing force was cut in two and driven from the field, Hampton withdrawing to Richmond and Rosser retreating north to Ashland.

Misled by a report brought by the negroes that Butler

⁵⁴ Killed—Herbert A. Garvin and Michael Phillips of company L.

was making a demonstration against Richmond from the south, Sheridan now decided to go around Richmond on the east side, in order to help Butler. He accordingly started at eleven o'clock that night, and moved slowly four or five miles toward Mechanicsville, massing his corps on the plain after midnight, south of Meadow Bridge. The only hindrance encountered was from torpedoes planted in the road, one of which exploded under company A of the Vermont cavalry, but did no harm except the killing of several horses. After the explosion of one or two of them, some of the Confederate prisoners were sent ahead to remove any remaining in the road. Next morning the First Vermont and Third Indiana, having the advance of the Third division, encountered the batteries of the enemy just before daylight near the Mechanicsville pike. These opened a brisk fire of grape. In view of this obstacle, Sheridan decided to cross to the north side of the Chickahominy. But this was not so easy, for the bridge had been destroyed, and the enemy's cavalry was strongly posted on the north bank. The situation seemed critical. The Chickahominy, without a bridge, with its muddy bottom and swampy banks, and a strong force of the enemy, were in front; in the rear were the fortifications for Richmond, from which General Bragg, in command, was advancing with infantry and artillery. To turn back whence he came would be to encounter the entire Confederate cavalry corps, reinforced by infantry. General Merritt was directed to repair the bridge. The enemy's guns causing great inconvenience to the working party, Merritt crossed two regiments dismounted, which were repulsed; but the work of rebuilding went on, and when the bridge was completed he crossed nearly his entire division, dismounted, drove the enemy out of his works, and having crossed his horses, mounted his men and moved to Gaines's Mill. In the meantime, General Bragg had advanced on the Mechanicsville road and attacked Wilson and Gregg. Wilson, receiving the brunt of the attack,

was at first driven back, but Gregg concealed a line of skirmishers in a ravine and when the enemy marched up he opened a destructive fire with repeating carbines, and the First Vermont at the same time coming in on their flank, their line broke in disorder and retired behind the fortifications. After this attack the enemy did not again show himself in force. Having collected the wounded and buried the dead, the remainder of Sheridan's command crossed on the bridge and by fords, and by four o'clock the whole force was on the north bank of the river, going into camp at Walnut Grove and Gaines's Mill. During the afternoon some enterprising newsboys from Richmond entered the lines and sold the morning papers, which showed that no little trepidation prevailed in that city; and there was good reason for their fright. Had General Sheridan's orders permitted him so to do, he could probably have entered Richmond this day.⁵⁵ The loss of the regiment in this day's skirmishing was one killed, five wounded two of whom died of their wounds, and one missing.⁵⁶

The next morning the corps moved forward, the second battalion of the First Vermont being detached for picket duty at Gaines's Mill, and remaining back while the rest of the regiment proceeded in advance of the corps to within two miles of Bottom Bridge and encamped. At nine A. M. the next day, the 14th, the cavalry crossed Bottom Bridge, burning it after them, and in the afternoon reached Malvern Hill, where they received a welcome of shells from some

⁵⁵ "I was so near Richmond that I could hear the bells ring. It was Sunday, and it was an awful temptation to go into Richmond that day and attend church. We hadn't been to service for a good while; but it was against orders, and I had to keep out."—General Sheridan, in an interview reported in the *National Tribune*.

⁵⁶ Killed—Azra P. Noyes of company H. died of Wounds—Hazen Gott of company H and J. W. Hillock of company L.

Union gunboats in the James river, which took them for a hostile body.

On the 15th the corps moved down the James to Haxall's Landing, where it remained two days, drawing rations and forage from the transports. On the evening of the 17th Sheridan started on his return, marching all night. Next day at noon he recrossed the Chickahominy at Jones's Bridge, and that night encamped near Baltimore Cross Roads. On the 19th Gregg's and Wilson's divisions were sent to Cold Harbor, to demonstrate against Richmond, while Custer started north to destroy the railroad bridges over the South Anna.

On the 21st, in consequence of firing heard in the northwest, where Custer had encountered the enemy's infantry, the horses of Wilson's division were kept saddled all day. At two o'clock next morning, the 22d, the division left Cold Harbor and marched to White House on the Pamunkey, where the corps was again concentrated. Here it was met by transports sent from Fortress Monroe with rations and forage. During that day and night the other two divisions passed over the railroad bridge, made passable by a flooring of railroad ties. Wilson's division bivouacked that night on the south side of the river. Next day, the 23d, it crossed, and marched through King William Court House to Aylett's, the First Vermont acting as rear guard. Having learned that Grant had reached the North Anna river at Chesterfield, twenty miles to the northwest, Sheridan started thither and marched all day of the 24th. That night most of the cavalry corps rejoined the army.

The raid had occupied sixteen days. The men had not been hardly marched, but had been constantly on exciting duty, and they were glad to return to regular rations and to get their mails. There were, however, allowed but little time to rest. The whole army started on the 26th for Hanover town. Torbert's and Gregg's cavalry divisions were

in advance, and Wilson's division relieved the infantry at the river crossings and brought up the rear. At noon of the 26th the regiment crossed the North Anna with the division and relieved the troops of the Sixth Corps. The regiment was in line for two hours; then, recrossing the river, the men stood to horse the rest of the night, while most of the army moved away to the southeast. At daylight of the 27th Wilson moved back from the river a short distance, while a part of the Ninth Corps, in which the Vermonters recognized the Seventeenth Vermont regiment, moved past. At daylight of the 28th the division brought up the rear of the army, marching toward King William Court House.

On the 31st, While Torbert and Custer were fighting at Cold Harbor, Wilson was ordered to occupy Hanover Court House, and did so after a sharp encounter with Young's cavalry, in which the Vermont regiment supported the troops in front, with the loss of one man killed and one or two wounded.⁵⁷

June 1st, General Wilson took Chapman's brigade and started out to destroy the two railroad bridges across the South Anna, while the First brigade (McIntosh's) went to Ashland to cover the operation and destroy the railroads south of the river. Chapman reached and burned the bridges after a slight skirmish with the bridge-guard at the bridge of the Richmond and Fredericksburg railroad. McIntosh was attacked at Ashland, in front by Fitzhugh Lee and in rear by Hampton; and, calling for help, General Wilson sent the First Vermont to his assistance. Wells's battalion, which had been thrown forward while the rest of the regiment was engaged in destroying the railroad track, started first. As Wells reached the junction of the road to Ashland with that to Hanover Court House, a mile east of Ashland Station, the First Connecticut, which was McIntosh's rear guard, was coming back over the latter road, with the enemy in close

⁵⁷ Killed-Joseph Demareaux of company M.

pursuit. Wells at once attacked the latter and drove them back some distance, losing one man mortally,⁵⁸ and six others less severely wounded, and inflicting greater loss on the enemy. After holding Hampton's advance in check for half an hour, Wells was charged in force and driven back until he met Preston coming with the remainder of the regiment. The latter reached the cross roads at a critical moment. McIntosh had begun to withdraw his brigade, which had been almost all deployed dismounted, and was in serious confusion and in imminent danger of being roughly handled when Preston arrived. He at once charged the enemy on the flank and made a diversion which enabled the First brigade to get out. The First Vermont was then attacked and driven back by a greatly superior force, when the Fifth New York came up and opened fired with their carbines, and enabled the First Vermont to withdraw. Wilson then retreated. Hampton's pursuit ended at dark, and Wilson halted and bivouacked on the river road near Hanover Court House. In the action Colonel Preston, Captain Edwards, Lieutenant Williamson and a number of men were cut off from the rest and were supposed to be captured; but they made their way back and joined the regiment next morning. The loss of the First Vermont in this fight was seven wounded and two officers—Lieutenant C. P. Stone of company F, and Lieutenant Emmett Mather of company H—and 24 men missing. Both of these officers, however, escaped, and subsequently made their way back to the regiment.

June 2d the division rested near Hanover Court House, while the two armies were preparing for the deadly clinch of Cold Harbor. After dark it started to the south to take position for its share in the fighting which was to begin at daybreak next morning.

⁵⁸ Sergeant Thomas F. Bartleff of company F

HAWES'S SHOP.

It was part of Grant's plan of the battle of Cold Harbor that Wilson's division should co-operate in the general assault of June 3d by moving out from its position on the extreme right and attacking the enemy's left, held by Early's division, in flank and rear. In order to get within striking distance, Wilson moved his division during the night previous from Hanover Court House across the Pamunkey and to within about two miles of Hawes's Shop, where he bivouacked till daylight. Moving forward in the morning of the 3d, he soon encountered Barringer's brigade of Fitzhugh Lee's division, occupying rifle-pits which had been dug by the infantry in some previous operations. In disposing his command for attack, the First Vermont was placed to the extreme left of the division. There was some skirmishing for an hour or two, when, about ten o'clock A. M., the men were dismounted and moved to the front through a piece of woods. They soon became engaged with the enemy, the skirmishers on each side firing from behind the trees, Indian fashion. Seeing a line of men in front at a point midway between the main lines, which he probably supposed to be Union troops, Preston went toward it on foot. Suddenly he was fired on and a ball passed through his body near the heart. Major Wells, in front of whose battalion he fell, at once advanced the line in order to secure his body. The advance was obstinately resisted, and two attempts to reach the spot were unsuccessful. In a third attempt the enemy's line was driven back long enough to enable Sergeant Ide and some men of company D, Preston's old company, to crawl forward and reach the colonel. He was found speechless, but still living, and was taken back a short distance and placed upon a horse to take him to the rear, but his brave spirit had left his body before a surgeon could reach him. One of the men who rescued him, H. P. Danforth, was

wounded, receiving injuries from the effect of which he died two months after. Captain Cushman of company E was also killed nearly at the same time, and not far from the same place, as Colonel Preston.⁵⁹

A little later the enemy was driven from the rifle pits, and withdrew on the road running east toward Enon Church. General Wilson then attacked the enemy's left rear on the road running south from Hawes's Shop, where he drove back an infantry brigade of three regiments. But failing to connect with Burnside's infantry, which was near Bethesda Church, Wilson withdrew to Hawes's Shop, where he received

⁵⁹ Addison Webster Preston was born in the town of Burke, Vt., but removed in early childhood with his parents to Danville, which was thenceforward his home. He fitted for college, entered Brown University at the age of 21, and took high rank as a scholar; but after a year and a half, was obliged to leave college by the condition of his health, and as his physician advised a sea voyage, he sailed to Australia, where after a stay full of adventure, he sailed for California, where he spent several years. He had returned to Danville and was engaged in business there when the war broke out. He enlisted in September, 1861, in the First Vermont Cavalry, was chosen captain of company D, which he had been active in recruiting, and from that day gave all his energy of mind and body to the duties of a soldier. He had had the command of the regiment for much of the time during the twenty months preceding his death. He was one of the best disciplinarians that ever commanded the regiment. He took good care of his men and was popular with them. As a man he was frank, hearty, genial, quick of thought and action. As a fighter he was brave to a fault, impetuous, eager to strike, ready to go himself wherever he sent his men, and unwilling to leave any place of danger as long as there was anything to be done. He was twice wounded, at Hagerstown in the Gettysburg campaign and at Culpeper Court House two months later. His commission as colonel was delayed in transit by the exigencies of the campaign and reached the headquarters of the regiment the day after his death. Had he lived a few days longer he would have been promoted to a brigadier generalship; for he stood very high with his superiors, and they were only waiting for his appointment as colonel, to give him high rank and more responsible duties. General Custer voiced the opinion of many, when, as he turned away from his corpse, he said: "There lies the best fighting colonel in the Cavalry Corps." Colonel Preston's remains were taken to White House and thence to Vermont, where his funeral took place at Danville, with extraordinary demonstrations of honor and respect on the part of his townsmen and of the citizens of the surrounding towns and of a large portion of Caledonia county. He left a widow, an estimable lady, whose maiden name was Juliette Hall, of Lowell, Mass., and two children.

Captain Oliver T. Cushman was one of the noble boys who entered the service from the highest motives. He was a student in Dartmouth College when the cavalry regiment was organized and left college at the age of 20 years to enlist in its ranks. He went out as a sergeant of company E, and was advanced through the intervening grades to the captaincy of his company. He was recognized as one of the finest young men and best soldiers in the regiment—gallant, patriotic, high-spirited and faithful to every duty. He was severely wounded at Gettysburg, receiving injuries which would have justified him in resigning; but instead he hastened back to his regiment almost before his wound was healed, and served till he met his death. His body was brought off by his men, and taken to Vermont and received an honored burial at his home in Hartland.

the general order suspending further offensive operations, in consequence of the bloody repulses of the Second, Sixth and Eighteenth Corps. A little church at the junction of the roads opposite Hawes's Shop, known as Salem Church, as given this engagement in some reports the title of "Salem Church." Its more frequent title in both Union and Confederate accounts is "Hawes's Shop." It was in fact part of the general battle of Cold Harbor.

The third day of June 1864, was a sad day to the regiment. The loss of two such officers as Colonel Preston and Captain Cushman was a serious blow to the command, and it is not too much to say that the loss of Preston was felt not only throughout the regiment and brigade, but throughout the Cavalry Corps. The loss of the regiment was three killed and five wounded.⁶⁰

Upon the death of Colonel Preston the command of the regiment devolved upon Major Wells, who was soon promoted to the vacant colonelcy.⁶¹ Major Bennett was ad-

⁶⁰ Killed—George McIvor of company H.

⁶¹ Colonel Wells was a native of Waterbury and one of the seven sons of the late William W. Wells of that town, four of whom served in the Union army. He was in business with his father when, at the age of 23, he enlisted in the First Vermont cavalry. He was elected first lieutenant when the company organized and went out as captain of company C. He made his mark as an officer, was promoted to be major in October, 1862, and distinguished himself at Gettysburg, Hagerstown, Boonsboro, Culpeper Court house and other engagements, and was twice wounded. He was modest, brave, faithful, and equal to every position in which he was placed. He had the unanimous recommendation of the officers for the office of colonel, and in the trying experiences of the regiment while under his command he fully justified their choice. He was promoted to the command of a brigade before the close of the year, became a full brigadier general and brevet major general; and before he left the service was the ranking general and the last commander of the Cavalry Corps.

vanced to be lieutenant colonel and Captains Grover and Paige were commissioned as majors.⁶²

The regiment remained in the vicinity of Hawes's Shop until the 6th, when it moved with the brigade (which about this time was strengthened by the addition of the First New Hampshire cavalry), to Bottom's Bridge, on the extreme right of the army, where on the 10th a slight picket skirmish took place in which one man was wounded. The regiment was engaged in picketing the north bank of the Chickahominy at that point and at Long Bridge, five miles below, for five days.

On the 12th of June began the preliminary movements of the march of the Army of the Potomac to the James river. The task of masking and covering the main movement was committed to Wilson's cavalry and the Fifth Corps. In the performance of its part of this duty, the regiment broke camp with the division in the evening of the 12th; crossed the Chickahominy on pontoons at Long Bridge at one A. M. of the 13th, and marched to White Oak Swamp, reaching White Oak Bridge about daylight. Here the enemy was encountered in force, and a sharp skirmish took place. On the arrival of the infantry the enemy fell back and Wilson moved on with his main column toward Riddle's Shop, at the junctions of the Charles City road with the road to Malvern Hill. Here Chapman's brigade, in advance, encountered Barringer's brigade of cavalry, and an

⁶² Captain Paige however, was never mustered as major.

additional mounted force posted in the woods on the farther side of an open field. Into this field the First Vermont moved with Chapman's brigade, and the men were dismounted under a fire by which several men and horses were wounded. The Eighth New York then charged the enemy in flank while a battery shelled them, and after a short resistance, they were driven back with considerable loss. The brigade then advanced about half a mile, extemporized some breastworks of fence rails, and awaited an attack, which came at the end of an hour, when an infantry line advanced and drove Chapman back to the edge of the woods. The brigade then fell back to its horses and the regiment mounted and prepared to charge the enemy as soon as they should leave the cover. This, however, they did not do, and some desultory skirmishing and artillery firing occupied the afternoon till about sundown, when a portion of Crawford's division of Pennsylvania troops came up and took position to the right of the cavalry. At dark the enemy charge from the woods, scattering the infantry skirmishers, but were held in check by the First New Hampshire and First Vermont, till the guns of the battery were withdrawn, when they fell back to the infantry supports. The division soon started forward and at three A. M. of the 14th bivouacked near Saint Mary's Church, ten miles to the southeast. The First Vermont was on the skirmish line, dismounted most of the time, from eleven A. M. to eight P. M. of the 13th, and lost during the day one man killed, 11 wounded and three missing. This action appears in the official list of engagements, under an erroneous date, as 'Ridley's Shop, June 30th.'⁶³

On the 14th the regiment proceeded to Harrison's Landing, and toward night the First Vermont and Eighth New York with a section of a battery were sent out to reconnoitre toward Malvern Hill. After going two miles they halted for

⁶³ Killed-Sergeant Martin Heath of company C.

the night. Proceeding next morning, they met the enemy at Turkey Island Creek, which curves about the base of Malvern Hill. The Eighth New York, which was in advance, having been driven back, the First Vermont was dismounted and advanced to the creek. Here Lieutenant Williamson of company K, received a gunshot wound in the thigh from which he died five days later.⁶⁴ The position was held until dark, with a loss of three men wounded, when they returned to the division, which moved to Wilcox's Landing. There the regiment with the division and the Sixth Corps remained covering the crossing of the army, until the morning of the 17th, when it crossed the James river on the long pontoon bridge, bringing up the rear of the army, and marched to Prince George Court House, where the regiment bivouacked at ten P. M. Half an hour later it was sent back to Wilcox's Landing to guard some cattle which were being taken across the river. The cattle, however, had already gone across when at daylight the regiment arrived at the river, and the bridge had been taken up. The regiment rested till four P. M., and then returned to the brigade, having marched sixty miles in twenty-four hours.

WILSON'S RAID.

The Army of the Potomac having established itself in front of Petersburg, Wilson was sent by General Grant upon a raid against the Weldon, South Side and other railroads. He took for this his own division and Kautz's cavalry of General Butler's department, forming a force of over 5,000 sabres, with three four-gun batteries and a battery of mountain how-

⁶⁴ Lieutenant John Williamson was a deserving young officer, who left Middlebury College to enter the army, was chosen second lieutenant of his company upon its organization, and was subsequently promoted to the first lieutenancy. During the winter of 1863-4 he was provost marshal of the Third cavalry division, on the staff of General Kilpatrick, and proved himself as capable, as he was brave in battle. He was taken to Chesapeake General Hospital at Fortress Monroe, where he died.

itzers. The column started from Prince George Court House at one o'clock in the morning of June 22d, and moved to Reams's Station on the Weldon road, burned the station and destroyed a piece of track, and then pushed on to the west. Discovering the departure of Wilson, General Lee promptly despatched General W. F. h. Lee with his division, to pursue and harass him. The latter overtook Wilson at Reams's Station. The First Vermont covered the rear of the column and was shelled by Lee's artillery, as it left the burning station. A running skirmish followed, in which the regiment easily held back the enemy, for ten or twelve miles, with a loss of two men wounded. At the little village of Dinwiddie Court House, the enemy appeared in greater force, but was repulsed by the Twenty-second New York, which formed on each side of the road, and as the First Vermont fell back by the road, received the enemy with a sharp fire. Five miles beyond Dinwiddie Court House, Wilson struck the South Side railroad at Ford's Station, and there captured two railroad trains and burned them and the railroad buildings. On the 23d, commencing at three A. M., the command moved down the railroad, destroying it as it went. At two P. M., when the raiders had nearly reached Nottoway Court House, the enemy appeared in force in front. General Kautz, who was in the advance, had passed that point and gone on to Burke's Station, where he destroyed the depot and the track. Meanwhile, passing Wilson's division by by-roads, Lee interposed his division between Wilson and Kautz. Finding him in his way, Wilson at once attacked Lee, and an engagement ensued which lasted all the afternoon and a good part of the night. The First Vermont, with nearly the whole of Chapman's brigade, went in dismounted, and drove the enemy from their guns and across the railroad, but the latter rallied in stronger force, and the Vermonters were in turn forced back before they could drag away or spike the pieces. In an effort again to advance the line, Captain H. H. Hall

of company E was killed,⁶⁵ and Lieutenant J H. Moore of company D and Lieutenant W. L. Greenleaf of company L were seriously wounded. The regiment lost three killed and 21 wounded.

The First Vermont was kept in the skirmish line through the night until three A. M., when Wilson withdrew southward to Concord Church at Hungrytown, where the command halted. Here Corporal Woodbury of company D, mortally wounded the preceding day, was buried in the church yard. Starting at nine A. M. next day, the 24th, Wilson proceeded to Meherrin Station, on the Danville and Richmond railroad, there effecting a junction with Kautz at two P. M. The men were employed during the day in destroying the railroad track, which was a rail of wood armed with strap-iron. This was left in one long blaze for ten miles from Meherrin to Keysville.⁶⁶ Bivouacking at Keysville the division moved on to the south along the railroad next day, the Vermont cavalry having the advance of Chapman's brigade, and still employed in destroying the track, bridges, mills and stores of grain,

⁶⁵ Captain Hiram H. Hall was a native of Williston. He graduated from the University of Vermont, at the head of his class, in 1859 and was studying law in the office of Hon. George F. Edmunds in Burlington when company L was organized. He enlisted as a private, was promoted second lieutenant of company E in February, 1863, and first lieutenant a month later. He was successively detailed for duty upon the staffs of Colonel DeForest and General Farnsworth, commanding the brigade, and of the division commander. He was provost marshal of the brigade in the Gettysburg campaign. He then returned to his company, and commanded it after the death of Captain Cushman. He had been appointed captain of company E June 4th, but his commission—as so often happened—had not reached him before his death. He was killed by a ball which entered above the left eye and penetrated the brain. He was one of the best officers in the regiment, and his genial spirit, generosity, bravery, steadfast fidelity and high sense of honor, won him the respect of all who knew him. He was buried at the time by his comrades near Hardaway's House, three miles from Nottoway Court House. His remains were subsequently disinterred and buried in Green Mount Cemetery in Burlington.

⁶⁶ The official list of engagements of the cavalry includes one under the title of "Keysville, June 24th." If any encounter took place there it must have been an unimportant skirmish.

cotton and tobacco along the line of march. In the afternoon the column reached the Stanton river at Roanoke Station, the important bridge at which place was found defended by a force of a thousand infantry, with artillery, strongly entrenched. While an unsuccessful attempt to carry the bridge was made by General Kautz, Chapman's brigade guarded the rear, which was soon attacked by Lee, and the First Vermont stood to horse all night. General Wilson now abandoned the effort to force a passage, and decided to return to Petersburg. Starting back before daylight in the morning of the 26th, he left the railroad bridge over the Little Roanoke in flames, and moved to the southeast to Christianville, where he destroyed large quantities of corn, and thence on to Buckhorn Creek, five miles from the Meherrin river, where the division halted for the night. Next day the column moved on to the east twenty-three miles, bivouacking on Great Creek, north of Lawrenceville, at nine P. M.

On the 28th, starting at three A. M., the division at noon crossed the Nottoway river at the Double Bridge, (Bolling's), thirty miles south of Petersburg. Then turning to the north, Wilson moved toward Petersburg for ten miles, to Stony Creek. Here there began to be trouble. General Lee, kept informed of Wilson's route and still holding the Weldon railroad which Wilson had expected to be seized by Grant the day before he started on his raid, had reinforced his cavalry by two brigades of infantry under General Mahone; and three most of his cavalry, thus strengthened, across Wilson's homeward path. At Stony Creek Wilson found himself confronted by the enemy in force, and he was heavily attacked by Hampton about sunset. In resisting this attack the Vermont cavalry was dismounted and threw up some slight breastworks in a ploughed field, and held the enemy in check at that point with the help of about sixty men from the Second Ohio. The regiment was then advanced in the

darkness, while the artillery was firing canister over the heads of the men. Captain Cummings here received a minié ball in the face and Lieutenant Gilbert Steward of company G was mortally wounded.⁶⁷ An other advance brought the regiment under very severe fire. The worst of the fighting was over before midnight, but throughout the night the enemy would occasionally feel of the line, and fusillades of carbines, and often discharges of artillery, would break out along the front. The loss, however, was slight, being two officers wounded, one mortally, one man killed and one wounded. Just before daylight of the 29th Chapman's brigade moved back a mile to the west, with the division, in an effort to reach the old stage road to Petersburg, but was again attacked by Hampton with Butler's and Rosser's brigades and cut off from the rest of the division. The men were once more dismounted and put in behind a breastwork of fallen trees constructed during the night, and while most of the division moved off toward Reams's Station which Wilson supposed to be in the possession of Union troops, the First Vermont, Third Indiana and Eighth New York were left to withstand Hampton. The fire in front became heavier, as Hampton brought up regiment after regiment, and soon the line was heavily attacked from the left and rear. The men with the led horses, in a field a few rods back, retreated, leaving a considerable part of the regiment without horses. A hasty retreat was the only course open. The portion of the regiment that succeeded in regaining their horses, followed the brigade toward Reams's Station. Of the rest, a part under colonel Wells cut their way through the enemy. The remainder, including Captain Grant, Lieutenant Higley and sixty men, were captured. After a

⁶⁷ Lieutenant Steward enlisted from Clarendon as a private, was promoted from a sergeantry to be second lieutenant and then first lieutenant. He was considered one of the best swordsmen in the regiment and was a brave and capable young officer. He died June 29th.

rapid ride of eight miles, the regiment overtook what remained of the brigade and soon joined the main body of the division at Reams's Station. Here Wilson was attacked by a force of 9,000 infantry and cavalry, and lost 1,500 men and 12 guns. In this disastrous battle Chapman's brigade took little part, its men and horses being used up by its forced retreat from Stony Creek. Many of the exhausted men fell down and slept during the battle. General Kautz got around the enemy's left and made his escape through the woods. Wilson retreated toward the Double Bridge, abandoning his wagons and guns and leaving his ambulances with the wounded parked in a field by the roadside. It was hard for the poor wounded fellows, some of whom had been carried over a hundred miles with much suffering, to be thus left, and all who could mounted horses and rode on.

In this retreat the First Vermont followed the First New Hampshire, which had the advance, and the two were the only regiments that retained their organizations. The retreat was made in a cloud of suffocating dust, and lasted during the afternoon and night. At the double bridge over the Nottoway, which was reached in the night, a terrible scene took place. Some 1,200 colored fugitives from slavery had accompanied the column. With these were hundreds of dismounted troopers. General Wilson placed a guard at the bridge and allowed no men on foot to pass till the mounted men had crossed. These had not all filed over the bridge, when the enemy rode up and opened fire on the helpless mass of unarmed men. The bridge at once became filled with a mass of footmen, black and white, mingled among the horsemen. Many were pushed over its sides, and fell upon the rocks or into the stream below. The enemy shot and sabred the negroes without mercy. Most of them that were not killed were surrounded and retaken, some 200 only succeeding in crossing the river and keeping up with the cavalry column.

Making his way back to Jarrett's Station on the Weldon railroad, Wilson struck off to the east and crossed the Nottoway river at Peter's Bridge, fording the stream, the bridge being destroyed, and then pushed north to Prince George Court House, crossing the Blackwater on a bridge constructed by the men, at three A. M., July 1st.

This raid was a hard piece of experience. Since June 22d the regiment had marched about three hundred miles, and had rested nowhere more than six hours. The loss of the regiment was three killed, 11 wounded, and one officer, (Lieutenant Moore, who was left wounded in an ambulance), and 75 men captured. Most of the wounded were also captured—an aggregate of 90.⁶⁸ The Sixth Corps was sent to Reams's Station, as has been related in previous pages, after Wilson's reverse. Had it been sent sooner, or had Wilson kept on to the east instead of striking for Reams's Station, the loss of 1,200 men might have been saved.

The regiment, much reduced in numbers by the vicissitudes of the past few days, went into camp with the division July 3d, at Light House Point on the James, northeast of Petersburg, where it remained for three weeks, when it was transferred on the 29th to the left of the army, to the position near the Weldon railroad which had been held by the First Vermont brigade before it went with the Sixth Corps to Washington to guard the capital from Early's raid. Next morning, July 30th, in the operations which were to accompany the explosion of the famous mine, Wilson was directed to make a lodgment on the Weldon railroad. He moved out accordingly with his division; but the failure of the assault on the mine involved the abandonment of

⁶⁸ The rank and file killed in Wilson's Raid were: corporal Hannibal S. Jenne, company B; Daniel F. Perham, company F, and Adoniram J. Burr, company I. Died of their wounds: Corporal J. W. Woodbury, company D; Edward J. Whipple and Corporal I. W. Mattocks, company A, and Sergeant C. W. Bishop, company E.

this part of the programme. The regiment at this time did picket duty for a week in the vicinity of Davenport Church, when it moved to City Point with the division, on its way to join General Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley. The division embarked August 8th for Washington, arriving at Geesboro Point on the 10th. Here the return of 80 convalescents increased the effective number of the regiment to 450. On the 13th the regiment with the division moved out to Dranesville, and on the 15th, started for the Shenandoah Valley by way of Leesburg and Snicker's Gap.

BACK IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

On the 17th it arrived at Winchester, where Torbert's division, with some New Jersey infantry, was covering Sheridan's withdrawal to Berryville. The regiment went into line of battle with the brigade during the day. At night it fell back and bivouacked on Summit Ridge, where it remained until the 21st, guarding the crossing of the Opequon and scouting the east bank. On the 21st, when Early moved to attack Sheridan, Wilson resisted the advance of Anderson's division at Summit Point, and prevented him from aiding Rodes and Ramseur in their fight with Getty and the First Vermont brigade at Charlestown. In this engagement at Summit Point the First Vermont supported Pennington's battery, and one battalion was engaged on the line, with some loss of horses. After several hours of skirmishing Wilson fell back to Charlestown, the First Vermont forming part of the rear guard; and next morning retired to Bolivar Heights on the left of Sheridan's position at Halltown.

On the 25th General Torbert, who was now chief of the cavalry of the Army of the Shenandoah, moved out with Wilson's and Merritt's divisions to Kearneysville, and there encountered the larger part of the army of Early, who with

four infantry divisions preceded by cavalry was moving north and threatening a fresh invasion of Maryland. Supposing at first that he had only cavalry to deal with, Torbert attacked vigorously and drove back the advance of Wharton's division for three-quarters of a mile to their main body, when he was attacked in turn and driven back with some loss. In this engagement the First Vermont supported Pennington's battery for a time, and was then dismounted and placed on the skirmish line, where it was under fire for two hours. It then fell back, in good order, by the way of Duffield's Station, covering the rear of the division and facing about from time to time to fire on the pursuing force. In the fighting Wharton lost 200 men killed and wounded. The casualties in the Vermont cavalry were eight wounded, three of them mortally.⁶⁹ That night the division moved through Harpers Ferry and across the Potomac to Boonsboro to guard the South Mountain gaps in case Early should move into Maryland; but he did not see fit to do so.

On the 26th Early began to retire up the valley, and on the 27th Wilson's division marched to the Potomac, recrossed near Shepherdstown on the 28th, and proceeded to Charlestown, Va. During the week following, the Vermont cavalry took part in several reconnoissances, and Sheridan moved up to the Clifton-Berryville line, while Early took position at Bunker Hill.

On the 4th of September Wilson's cavalry had a skirmish with the advance of Anderson's division at Berryville, in which the First Vermont took part, and during the next two weeks it was employed in picket duty and on reconnoissances, in one of which, toward Paris, it had some skirmishing with a part of the enemy's irregular cavalry.

⁶⁹ Died of wounds—Edward S. Wright, company A; Sergeant Harmon D. Hall, company B, and William N. Day, company H.

THE OPEQUON.

In the battle of the Opequon, Chapman's brigade followed the first brigade through the defile, and when the infantry came up moved along the Senseny road to a position south of Abraham's Creek near the Greenwood Church. Here the second battalion of the First Vermont, Captain Ray, was deployed as skirmishers and the rest of the regiment was dismounted and sent in against the right of Lomax's cavalry. General Chapman having been struck by a spent ball, Colonel Wells took command of the brigade and pushed Jackson's brigade, of Lomax's division, back across the creek to the crest beyond, where Jackson made a stand, with the aid of a battery; and finding him strongly posted the skirmishers withdrew across the creek. Several Vermonters were wounded as they remounted and moved back up the slope on the east side of the creek. Here the regiment held its position with the brigade till the general movement upon Early's lines took place at five o'clock, when Jackson was dislodged by the advance of Getty's division, and with the rest of Lomax's cavalry and of Early's army was soon in full retreat. The Vermont cavalry joined in the pursuit, which was kept up as far as Kernstown, when darkness and a line of Ramseur's infantry put an end to it for the night, and the regiment bivouacked after an exciting and victorious day.

When Early retreated to Fisher's Hill next day he sent Fitzhugh Lee's division, now commanded by General Wickham, Lee having been severely wounded in front of Winchester, to the Luray Valley, to hold that gateway to his rear. Sheridan thereupon sent Torbert with Wilson's and Merritt's divisions to drive Wickham up the Luray Valley, and having thus cleared the way, to cross to New Market, and cut off Early's retreat. In this movement, the First Vermont, having the advance of Wilson's division, followed

Wickham's rear guard along the Front Royal pike, as far as the river, where Wickham took position and Wilson halted. At daylight next morning, the 21st, Colonel Wells was ordered with the First Vermont and First New Hampshire to force a crossing upon the right of the pike. He dismounted the New Hampshire regiment and attempted to drive the enemy from the south bank, by use of his carbines; but Wickham's men held their ground. The Vermont regiment was then brought up, charged across the river, and dislodged the opposing line. The rest of the division meantime crossed along the pike, and joining the column, the regiment followed Wickham for two miles to Front Royal. Here the Vermont regiment was gain detached and sent on in advance along the road known as "Gooney Manor Grade," leading to the hamlet of Gooney Manor, four miles above Front Royal. Here the Vermonters found Wickham's rear guard in position with artillery at the top of an ascent on the south side of Gooney Run. Skirmishing soon began and lasted till ten P. M., when the troops of the First brigade relieved the regiment at the front, and it rejoined its own brigade.⁷⁰ Next morning Wickham had retired to Milford, where the valley contracts to a gorge, and where he made his main stand, having a creek in his front, and his flanks protected respectively by the Shenandoah river and a spur of the Blue Ridge. The position was a strong one; but Torbert had ample force to carry it and had no excuse for his failure to force or turn the defile.⁷¹ In the skirmishing in front of Milford, after which he gave up the attempt to reach Early's rear, the Vermont cavalry had a prominent part. Torbert then withdrew his cavalry seven

⁷⁰ This day's skirmishes appear in Adjutant General Washburn's official list under the titles of "Front Royal" and "Mooney's Grade, Va."

⁷¹ "Its [the cavalry's] operations up the Luray Valley, on which I calculated so much, were an entire failure."—Sheridan to Grant, September 25th.

miles, back to Buck's Ford, and the First Vermont picketed a line in front. After two days, and after had cleared Early out of Fisher's Hill and Wickham had departed, Torbert boldly advanced, drove Payne's cavalry brigade from Luray, bivouacked at the Massanutten Gap on the night of the 24th; next day joined Sheridan at Newcastle, and went on with the army that day to Harrisonburg.. Here General Chapman relinquished the command of the Second brigade, and was succeeded as brigade commander by Colonel Wells. Their regiment was sorry to lose the latter as its immediate commander, for in the four months of his leadership he had handled the regiment with efficiency and fought it with vigor and judgment in more than a dozen engagements, and had won the full confidence of officers and men. Colonel Wells was succeeded in the command by Lieut. Colonel Bennett.

On the 26th the regiment started from Harrisonburg for Waynesboro, whither Torbert was sent with Wilson's division and Lowell's brigade of regular cavalry, to destroy the Virginia Central railroad bridge at that point. The brigade halted that night at Staunton, and next morning, while the rest were destroying Confederate stores and ammunition, the First Vermont and Eighth New York scouted ahead to Waynesboro, whither the division moved at night. Next day, the 28th, the troops were busy destroying the bridge and various mills, when Wickham's cavalry and Pegram's infantry, despatched thither by Early from Port Republic, appeared on Tunnel Hill; and, after some skirmishing, Torbert fell back to Staunton, and moved thence twenty miles north to Bridgewater, where large quantities of tobacco and stores were seized.

On the 30th of September General Wilson was relieved of the command of the Third division, and sent to be General Thomas's chief of cavalry in Tennessee. He was succeeded by the fiery Custer, under whom the division was to acquire its most brilliant fame. He was no stranger to the Vermont

troopers; and they welcomed the change, though they knew it meant mounted charges, instead of dismounted skirmishing, and a foremost place in every fight.

During the first week in October the regiment was in camp on the north side of the North River, near Mt. Crawford. Its numbers had been increased by 140 recruits, and over 400 men were present for duty. Early, heavily reinforced, was now on the other side of the river, and becoming demonstrative; and, on the 5th, Sheridan began his retrograde movement down the valley, his cavalry following the infantry and devastating the valley as they went. Custer's division moved by the Back road, parties being detached to right and left to burn the barns and hay-stacks. In this work of destruction, as it happened, the Vermont cavalry had little or not part, the duty falling to other troops. The brigade camped the night of the 6th near Brock's Gap, two miles west of Timberville, and next day moved on through Columbia Furnace. In the forenoon of that day, General Rosser, who had just joined Early with his cavalry, made his appearance with great suddenness, and began to crowd on the rear guard, which consisted of a squadron of the Vermont regiment. This had repulsed two attacks of Rosser's advance, when, at two P. M., at a point five miles north of Columbia Furnace, the wagon-train halted, and Bennett had hardly formed his regiment to cover it, when his line was charged once and again in considerable force. The repulse of these attacks was followed by a heavy development of force on the part of the enemy, and a line of dismounted skirmishers thrown forward by Bennett came near being captured owing to the retreat of the men who held their horses. These, however, were overtaken and brought back by Adjutant Gates, and the squadron, mounting, fell back to the main line of the regiment. A squadron of the Eighth New York and one of the First New Hampshire were now sent to Bennett's support. After some sharp skirmishing, he was

charged by a heavy force. This was checked by the small portion of the regiment, under Captain Watson, held in reserve; but was followed by an assault in still greater force, and Bennett was driven back in disorder for two miles, till he reached the support of the brigade and of a piece of artillery which General Custer had sent back. In this stampede, Lieutenant H. O. Wheeler of company A and 34 enlisted men were captured. Of these four were wounded; one died of his wounds,⁷² and three others of wounds or disease in the hands of the enemy; two others reported missing also probably died in Confederate prisons.

Next day the division moved to Tumbling Run, near Mount Olive, the Eighteenth Pennsylvania being the rear guard, and having repeatedly to turn and fight. That night Sheridan came back to see what was going on. He found Custer enraged by the constant harassing of his rear and chafing under orders which compelled him to retreat from his old class-mate Rosser, whom he wanted to fight. Sending for Torbert, Sheridan ordered him to "start out at daylight, and whip the rebel cavalry or get whipped himself." The result of this order was the victory of Tom's Brook.

TOM'S BROOK.

This was, in Sheridan's words, "a square cavalry fight." The opposing corps were as a whole about evenly matched in numbers, 5,000 against 5,000. The opposing divisions, however, were not equally matched, Custer's 2,500 sabres being opposed to Rosser's 3,000 or more, while Merritt's 2,500 confronted Lomax's 2,000. Each division on each side had a battery of six guns. In carrying out Sheridan's order Custer and Merritt moved back at daybreak, the former by the Back road and the latter by the valley pike, there

⁷² Edwin R. Jones of company C. It was currently reported that this man died of a sabre thrust wantonly inflicted by one of his captors after he had surrendered.

two miles apart. About nine o'clock they met Rosser and Lomax on the south side of Tom's Brook. The ground was favorable for a cavalry fight, the rail fences having long ago vanished from that thoroughfare of armies, and the ground being for the most part smooth and open. The hostile lines deployed along opposing crests, in plain view of each other, in the bright sunlight; and a fresh breeze cleared the smoke quickly from skirmish line and battery front, and left all in clear view. Rosser's line was on the higher ground of the two. His guns were posted on the rounded crests, and his skirmish line, dismounted, was behind a line of stone fences, near the base of the ridge. Custer's two brigades were deployed, his first on the right and Wells's on the left of the road. His guns were placed on separate knolls, and between them and not far behind his skirmish line fluttered Custer's headquarters flag. It is related that before he ordered the grand charge of his division, Custer rode out alone, in advance of his staff, and taking off his broad sombrero hat swept it to his knee in a knightly salute to his foe; and that Rosser from the crest beyond pointed him out to his staff, saying: "That's Custer; and I am going to give him the best whipping to-day that he ever got."⁷³ Instead Rosser got the worst whipping he ever had. As soon as his brigades were fairly in position Custer attacked in one sweeping charge. It was first a walk to the skirmish line, then a trot, then a gallop, then a wild rush of shouting troopers with waving sabres and frantic horses. The charge was so sudden and rapid that the enemy's fire of artillery and small arms took little effect, and before Rosser knew what had happened, his position was carried. His battery limbered up in haste and made for the rear. Its supports broke before they were fairly struck, and the entire force fell back half a mile to a belt of woods. Here Rosser re-formed his line and his battery opened and soon Custer's advance fell

⁷³ Whittaker's Life of Custer.

back before a counter-charge made by Rosser, which, however, was checked by Custer's artillery. Custer then re-formed his division; and in a second charge swept all before him, taking all of Rosser's guns, caissons, wagons and ambulances, and following him on the run, for twelve miles, to Columbia Furnace.⁷⁴

Merritt meantime had made equally short work with Lomax, taking five of his six guns (the other having been crippled and sent back early in the battle) and chasing him through Woodstock to Mount Jackson. "The enemy," said Sheridan, "was defeated with the loss of all his artillery but one piece, and everything else which was carried on wheels."

In this memorable fight, the First Vermont cavalry had an active part. In the formation for the first charge the regiment was formed across the back road, along which it moved to the charge. At the summit of the hill beyond the brook, the portion of the enemy's line in front of the third (Grover's) battalion, stood its ground better than some other portions and the battalion became slightly broken. The first and second battalions, however, came quickly to the support of the third, and the enemy fell back. Lieut. Colonel Bennett had his horse shot under him here. The regiment then moved on to the front of the woods where Rosser was making his second stand, and a stubborn contest followed, in which Captain Frank Ray, commanding a squad-

⁷⁴ "Rosser's men had been doing brilliant service, and were so greatly elated by it that they had adopted a laurel leaf as a badge, and permitted themselves to be called the Laurel Brigade. They came to the discouraged soldiers on the Shenandoah, therefore, with much swagger, and promised to clear the valley of Yankees in no time; but in the very first engagement Sheridan drove back those boasters and chased them at full speed for twelve miles. Jubal Early's only comment on it, when he met the crest-fallen commander a day or two later, was to drawl out this remark: "I say, Rosser your brigade had better take the grape leaf for a badge; the laurel is not a running vine."—Editor's Drawer, *Harper's Magazine*, January, 1884.

ron, fell mortally wounded.⁷⁵ After half an hour's fighting the line of the enemy began to waver, when the regiment, commanded for the time being by Major Grover, charged. The opposing line broke and fled and the Vermonters captured two field pieces with their caissons and a number of prisoners. The regiment here became divided in the rush. Part, under Adjutant Gates, went on with other troops on the right and followed the enemy for ten miles, to Columbia Furnace. The rest of the regiment met a stronger resistance, and made slower progress, but drove a superior force for miles, made a number of captures, and followed the enemy until recalled by Colonel Wells. "The conduct of ht men," says Lieut. Colonel Bennett, "exceeded my most sanguine expectations, though upwards of 100 were recruits who had never drilled a day." He mentions Sergeants Haswell and Cook of company G, Frost of company A and Wright of company L, for conspicuous bravery. This battle demoralized Early's cavalry and contributed largely to the crowning victory of the campaign ten days later at Cedar Creek. The Union loss was small. The Vermont regiment lost one officer mortally wounded, two men killed, and several men wounded.⁷⁶

On the 13th the enemy drove the pickets of the Second New York cavalry across Cedar Creek, behind which Sheridan's army now lay. Custer re-established the line, with some skirmishing which lasted till dark. The Vermont regiment moved out and stood in line with the division; but was not seriously engaged.

⁷⁵ Captain Ray died next morning. He was a Bennington man. He enlisted as a private in company G, and was promoted for bravery and efficiency through the intermediate grades to the command of the company. He was 25 years old at his death, had distinguished himself in a score of fights, and was regarded as one of the best officers in the line.

⁷⁶ Killed—James Lowell, company I, and Carlos Hodgdon, company L.

CEDAR CREEK.

On the morning of October 19th, Custer's division was guarding the fords across Cedar Creek, at the right of the infantry, and Wells's brigade was the extreme right of the division and of the army. At the sound of the first firing on the picket line, in the early morning, Wells put his brigade in readiness for action, and soon after sent forward the First battalion of the First Vermont under Captain Cummings, to reconnoitre. Cummings returned with information that the enemy's cavalry was in force in the edge of the woods in front; but they did not advance, and, with the exception of some artillery practice, there was little done on the right while the rout of the infantry was in progress to the left. About nine o'clock General Wright directed Torbert to transfer his cavalry to the extreme left, to assist the infantry there. In obeying this order, having learned through Lieut. Colonel Bennett that the enemy was moving upon the right, Torbert detached Wells with the First Vermont and two other regiments of his brigade to guard that flank. These had lively work to prevent Rosser from breaking through into the rear; but they held him back for over two hours with constant skirmishing, in the course of which Wells fell back about a mile under orders to keep in general line with the infantry. About noon Custer returned to the right with his first brigade and a battery,--having been recalled by Sheridan, who was now on the field,--and drove Rosser back almost to Cedar Creek. The cavalry held their position till Sheridan had completed his arrangement for the final movement. Of the service of the Vermont Regiment during this portion of the day, Lieutenant H. O. Wheelers says: "Our regiment was sent from one part of the field to another, as the needs of the place and hour required. Now it strengthened the picket line; now stood as a wall against the advancing foe and covered some retreating division as it fell back;

now it dashed down a road and checked some advancing column; now it kept up a lively skirmish; and now it charged into the woods to break or drive back the enemy's line. On whatever errand it was sent it did its duty."

In the final advance, Custer moved to the left and front, dividing Rosser's cavalry from the infantry. Then leaving his First brigade to engage the cavalry, he took the First Vermont and Fifth New York and went rapidly across the field, to strike the left and rear of Early's infantry, now trying to make a stand on the north bank of the creek. The enemy however, did not wait to be thus struck; but scattered across the creek before the grand charge of the Union infantry. Sheridan's infantry halted in their old breastworks; but Custer and Wells, with the two regiments named, kept on. The Vermonters were in advance, and led the way through a ravine to Cedar Creek, striking it at a ford a quarter of a mile west of the pike. Here Captain A. G. Watson, commanding the foremost squadron, before he allowed his men to cross, forded the stream and rode up the opposite bank to reconnoitre. Finding the enemy still retreating, he called his command over, and they advanced skirmishing to a stone wall some sixty rods from the creek, where they were received by a volley from some of Pegram's infantry. Watson fell with a ball through the shoulder and a wound in the head, and was taken to the rear; and the squadron halted till the remainder of the regiment came up. Not a moment was to be lost, for the enemy's artillery could be heard rumbling over the pike near by, and if Early's veterans should rally, the situation of the two regiments—over a mile from any support—would have been precarious.

Custer had stopped after telling the Vermonters that if they got a single gun he would be satisfied with them; but Wells went on with his command and now directed Bennett to charge the opposing line. As they started for the stone fence the Vermonters received a volley and then were over

the wall and among the enemy. "My men," says Bennett, "rushed upon them as though they were the appointed avengers of their comrades slain, [whose stripped and naked bodies they had passed on the way to the creek], and considering our numbers the slaughter was fearful." The enemy soon threw down their arms, and pushing on through their disorganized line, the two cavalry regiments, the Vermonters still leading, shortly struck into the valley pike, a mile below Cedar Creek. Darkness was now falling fast on the field; but there was light enough to see that the pike was filled with artillery and wagons. Several pieces of artillery were at once captured by the Vermonters, with the cannoneers. But not satisfied with this success they pushed on to find the head of the tangled column. They found this half a mile beyond Strasburg, where some wagons, upset by the breaking down of a little brigade over a brook, had blockaded the road, which for two miles back from there was a jam of guns, caissons, wagons and ambulances filled with wounded men. "Here," Bennett, "with only about 20 men, four miles from any organized support, surrounded by prisoners thrice our number, and constantly augmenting, I was compelled to send captured ambulances and wagons without change of drivers, accompanied by small parties of prisoners, unguarded to the rear. Support came and midnight found my regiment again on the north bank of Cedar Creek, guarding the prisoners and captured property."

The captures here made by the First Vermont cavalry are described in the following receipt, which is perhaps the most eloquent piece of paper held by any regiment in the entire war:

Headquarters Second Brigade, Third Cavalry Division,
Middle Military Division, October 22, 1864.

Received of the First Vermont cavalry, Lieut. Colonel Bennett commanding, the following amount of property, and number of prisoners, captured on the 19th inst., at the battle of Cedar Creek; One hundred and sixty-one prisoners, among which were one general officer, one colonel, and one

lieutenant colonel; three battle-flags, 23 pieces of artillery, 14 caissons, 17 army wagons, six spring wagons and ambulanced, 83 sets artillery harness, 75 sets wagon harness, 98 horses and 69 mules.

Approved:	G. H. Rogers,
C. M. Lee,	Lieut. and Provost Marshal of
Provost Marshal of Third Cav. Div.	Second Brigade, Third Cav. Div.

Of the forty-eight Confederate guns captured by Sheridan in this battle forty-five were taken by the First Vermont and Fifth New York cavalry, and of these, twenty-three, being one more than half, were taken by the Vermont regiment.⁷⁷

Some noticeable personal incidents attended these captures. The general officer captured was Major General S. D. Ramseur of North Carolina, commanding a division of Early's army. He had been mortally wounded in front of Getty's division, and placed in an ambulance, which was halted on the pike by Corporal Fred A. Lyon of company A. to an officer or orderly accompanying the wounded general who wanted to know what he meant by stopping the general's ambulance, Lyon replied that he "guessed the General was the very man he was lookin' for"; and ordering the driver of the ambulance to turn about he marched the general and his escort to headquarters.

Soon after the regiment struck the pike, Lieutenant Trussell, commanding company D, of the leading squadron, riding in advance of his command on the right of the pike, saw in front a battery whose commander was urging it along the road. Riding up to him Trussell ordered him to "halt that battery!" Supposing that he was addressed by a Confederate staff officer, the latter replied that he was all out of ammunition, and that this was no place to use artillery anyhow. Trussell, placing a revolver close to the temple of the battery-commander, said in a low voice, "I am a Yankee,

⁷⁷ "As there were but forty-eight pieces of artillery captured by the entire army, this splendid achievement of the Green Mountain Boys can be fully appreciated. General Sheridan states that no regiment has captured so much since the war commenced. The First Vermont has long been a terror to the rebels."—Army correspondence *New York Tribune*.

and you are my prisoner; turn the head of this battery to the left!" The Confederate obeyed, and the battery wheeled from the pike, and company D, coming up, took it in charge. Its commander soon after escaped in the darkness, but the guns were brought in.⁷⁸

Not far from the scene of these occurrences, Sergeant Eri D. Woodbury of company E met four Confederate foot-men, each apparently carrying a musket. He ordered them to surrender, and they obeyed. As he was marching them away he noticed that one of them hung back, and that he was carrying his gun behind him in a peculiar way. Looking closer in the dusk, Woodbury discovered that instead of a weapon, the man was bearing a flag rolled on its staff. Woodbury thereupon relieved him of his burden, which proved to be the colors of the Twelfth North Carolina infantry, and delivered it and his prisoners at the brigade headquarters. Private James Sweeney 2d, of company A also captured and brought in a battle-flag. Lyon, Sweeney and Woodbury were sent to Washington after the battle, with others who had taken colors, to turn them over to the War Department. They were introduced personally to Secretary Stanton by General Custer, and each received from the secretary a medal of honor, together with a twenty-days' furlough. This was a larger share of these marks of especial distinction than fell to any other cavalry regiment. Of the eight medals of honor awarded to the cavalry for captures of colors at Cedar Creek, three went to members of the First Vermont cavalry, and two to members of the Fifth New York cavalry, of Custer's division. The Sixth Michigan cavalry, Sixth New York cavalry and Ninth New York cavalry, of Merritt's division, each had one medal.

⁷⁸ A quite similar incident, in which Sergeant Blinn Atchinson of company A was the chief acted, is related by Captain E. B. Edwards.

October 21st General Custer issued the following order:

Headquarters Third Cavalry Division,

October 21st, 1864.

Soldiers of the Third Cavalry Division:

With pride and gratification your commanding general congratulates you upon your glorious achievements of the past few days. On the 9th of the present month you attacked a vastly superior force of the enemy's cavalry, commanded by that famous "Savior of the Valley," Rosser. Notwithstanding the enemy's superiority in numbers and position, you drove him twenty miles from the battle-field, capturing his artillery, (six pieces), also his entire train of wagons and ambulances, and a large number of prisoners. Again, during the memorable engagement of the 19th inst., your conduct throughout was sublimely heroic, and without a parallel in the annals of warfare. In the early part of the day, when disaster and defeat seemed to threaten our noble army on all sides your calm and determined bravery while exposed to a terrible fire from the enemy's guns, aided not a little to restore confidence to that portion of our army already broken and driven back on the right. Afterwards, rapidly transferred from the right flank to the extreme left, you materially and successfully assisted in defeating the enemy in his attempt to turn the left flank of our army. Again ordered upon the right flank, you attacked and defeated a division of the enemy's cavalry, driving him in confusion across Cedar Creek. Here, changing your front to the left at a gallop, you charged and turned the left flank of the enemy's line of battle, and pursued his broken and demoralized army a distance of five miles. Night alone put an end to your pursuit. Among the substantial fruits of this great victory you can boast of having captured five battle-flags, a large number of prisoners, including Major General Ramseur, and forty-five of the forty-eight pieces of artillery taken from the enemy that day, thus making fifty-one pieces of artillery which you have captured from the enemy within the short period of ten days. This is a record of which you may well be proud, a record made and established by your gallantry and perseverance. You have surrounded the name of the Third Cavalry Division with a halo of glory as enduring as time. The history of the war, when truthfully written, will contain no brighter page than that upon which is recorded the chivalrous deeds, the glorious triumphs, of the soldiers of this division.

G. A. CUSTER,

General Commanding.

This regimental history must hasten to its close. October 22d, 271 men and 12 officers whose term of service had expired left the camp of the Cavalry at Cedar Creek. They arrived at Burlington in the afternoon of the 29th, and were received with an address by Lieutenant Governor Underwood, and a substantial supper at the American House. The men

were then furloughed until November 18th, when reassembling they were mustered out of the service of the United States. The following officers were mustered out at this time: Lieut. Colonel John W. Bennett, Major Andrew J. Grover, Major Henry M. Paige, Surgeon George S. Gale, Adjutant Clarence D. Gates, Captain Ellis B. Edwards, Lieutenants Cornelius W. Morse, Waldo J. Clark, John Sawyer, Jr., Jacob Trussell, Brainard M. Parker, and Richard A. Seaver.

Four hundred men remained in camp, under command of Captain Cummings, who was promoted to be major. The following promotions were made at this time: Major Josiah Hall, a prisoner of war, to be lieutenant colonel; Captain Robert Scofield, Jr., of company F, a prisoner of war, to be junior major; Lieutenant Patrick H. Caldwell, of company I, to be quartermaster.

November 10th the regiment moved with the Army of the Shenandoah to Kernstown. On the 11th, the regiment was doing picket duty on the Middle road, when it was attacked by the enemy's cavalry. Its supports came up and a skirmish ensued which lasted until dark, when the enemy retired. The regiment captured several prisoners and lost one man killed and three wounded.⁷⁹

On the 12th before daylight the regiment, which was still on picket, was again attacked by Rosser's cavalry, but held the line until Custer came up at 11 A. M. and drove Rosser back for two miles. The latter was then reinforced by Lomax and Custer fell back. Skirmishing continued all day, with occasional charges, till just before dark Merritt's division arrived and the enemy was driven from the field. This fighting was part of a larger indecisive affair entitled "Middletown" in General Sheridan's list of battles. Sheridan and Early were present and directed operations during the day, and portions of the infantry of both armies supported

⁷⁹ Killed—Michael Donovan of company H.

the cavalry on the two sides. "The regiment," says Major Cummings, "never fought better, though some 250 of its members were recruits just from the State, and had never seen a day's drill. The officers, Captain Chandler and Lieutenant Mitchell, acquitted themselves with great gallantry. We missed the colors (taken to the State by the men discharged) to rally the regiment on, more in this engagement than at any time since, on account of the small number of officers present." The loss of the regiment was one killed, 13 wounded and three missing.⁸⁰

On the 21st the regiment started with the division on a reconnoissance made by Torbert with Custer's and Powell's divisions to determine the truth of a report that Early had left the valley. Beyond Mount Jackson, on the 22d, the enemy's infantry was discovered in force, and learning that only one division (Kershaw's) had left the valley, Torbert withdrew. The Vermont regiment was rear guard, and in a skirmish with some of the enemy's cavalry lost two men wounded and one captured. The regiment returned with the division to camp at Kernstown on the 23d.

On the 29th Custer's division was sent west across the mountain to Moorefield, to intercept Rosser, who had surprised and captured the post at New Creek, West Virginia. The regiment marched fifty miles in sixteen hours, reaching Moorefield next forenoon; but Rosser had already passed through that place on his return, and Custer returned to camp December 2d. On the 9th of December the regiment moved with the brigade to Camp Russell, near Winchester. On the 18th of December, Custer's division made a demonstration toward Staunton to cover a raid of Torbert's on the Virginia Central Road at Gordonsville. The regiment moved with the brigade at daylight on the 18th and bivouacked near Woodstock that night. Next day while scouting in advance,

⁸⁰ Killed-Paul Dumas of company L.

the Vermont cavalry had a skirmish with a party of the enemy at the Narrow Passage near Edinburg. The division bivouacked at Lacy's Springs the night of the 20th—a stormy night with snow and sleet. There was picket skirmishing all night; and before daylight next morning Rosser's and Payne's cavalry charged into camp. Anticipating something of this sort the Vermont cavalry had saddled their horses before light, and mounting at the first firing they charged a body of the enemy and took 30 prisoners, without losing a man. This vigorous action checked the enemy, and enabled Custer to withdraw his command with a loss of fewer men than the Vermonters had captured. He returned to camp on the 22d.

The regiment remained during the winter at camp Russell in a comfortable camp of log houses built by the men on a slope near the Middle road. Colonel Wells was still in command of the brigade, and Major Cummings commanded the regiment until Lieut. Colonel Hall, having been exchanged, arrived from parole camp February 1st, and took command. The regiment on the 1st of January had an aggregate of 908 men, with 593 for duty and 292 on the sick list.

SHERIDAN'S SIXTH EXPEDITION AND MARCH TO PETERSBURG.

The Spring campaign of 1865 opened on the 27th of February, when Sheridan started out with the finest body of mounted men that took the field during the war. This was in two divisions of nearly 5,000 each, under General Merritt, who had succeeded Torbert in command of the corps. Sheridan was ordered to destroy the Virginia Central Railroad and Canal, take Lynchburg if practicable, and then join Sherman in South Carolina, if no other course seemed preferable.

March orders came on the 26th of February, and at daylight next morning the regiment moved to Kernstown, where the corps was concentrated and started on its march. Moving from Woodstock next day, Well's brigade led the

column to Staunton, in rain and sleet and mud, which made the marching hard and progress slow. Meantime, Early with two brigades of infantry and two brigades of infantry and Rosser's cavalry, took position at Waynesboro, in front of Rockfish Gap, to dispute the passage through the Blue Ridge. At one o'clock P.M. of March 2d, Custer reached the front of Waynesboro and found Early posted behind breastworks along a ridge west of the village. Custer decided to attack without waiting for the rest of the corps. Colonel Wells was thereupon ordered to throw forward a heavy skirmish line and to deploy two regiments in a hollow in front of the enemy's position. Lieut. Colonel Hall was directed to take the Vermont regiment to a position on the left. "Here," says Colonel Hall in his report, "the regiment formed in line of battle, just in rear of the skirmish line and in full view and easy range of the enemy's guns, partly to draw their fire and partly to cover the manoeuvring of other portions of the division; and, although standing under a most galling fire and in a very exposed position, the lines were kept as complete and steady as on review."

While Early's attention was taken by these movements and by the skirmishers in front, Custer sent Pennington's brigade around his (Early's) left. As soon as firing was heard from the flanking force, the First Vermont advanced across the fields against the enemy's right. Soon Pennington emerged from the woods and Woodruff's guns opened with shell. The enemy dropped flags and muskets and fled in every direction. The retreat of the larger portion of Early's infantry was cut off by various detachments of Custer's cavalry, and he captured 1,600 of Early's men, with eleven guns and a great quantity of military stores. In the combined assault the Vermont regiment, after floundering through the swampy fields, entered the village from the left and changed upon the panic-stricken enemy, hundreds of whom surrendered there. The regiment pursued a flying body along the South River road, and captured most of them, with a gun and two cais-

sons. General Early and four of his brigadier generals—Wharton, Rosser, Long and Lilley—seeing that everything was lost, got out of the village into the woods and escaped capture. The Vermont regiment lost but one man killed⁸¹ and one wounded. At nightfall the regiment crossed the river, moved over the mountain after dark, and encamped at the eastern base. Custer followed up his advantage vigorously by sending a force to Greenwood Station, where a train of cars, with five guns and large quantities of army stores were captured. In fine, half Early's force and all of his artillery, with supplies and materials of war aggregating over a million of dollars in value, were taken, and the latter destroyed by Custer in this brilliant operation.

Next day the column plodded on to Charlottesville and bivouacked in the mud; the next passed near Monticello, the residence of Thomas Jefferson, and on the 6th passed the University of Virginia, moving by the roads parallel with the Lynchburg railroad, and destroying this and burning the bridges at many points. On the 7th Well's brigade was detached and sent toward Lynchburg, and burned the Buffalo bridge near Amherst, within fifteen miles of Lynchburg, and other bridges. This day the main column reached the James river at New Market. Here Sheridan found that the pontoon bridge he had brought was too short to reach across the river; and in view of the horrible condition of the roads and of the fact that the horses' feet were becoming diseased from constant marching and standing in the mud, he decided to relinquish the rest of his programme and to join Grant in front of Petersburg. His column moved thither along the north bank of the James river, marching for the most part on the tow-path of the canal, the embankments of which were broken at every convenient point. Near Columbia the column rested a day. Turning to the northeast on the 12th it moved in two columns by different

⁸¹ Killed, Asa M. Bonway

routes, to Frederick's Hall, where the Virginia Central Railroad was struck. Nearly the whole of the next day was spent in tearing up the railroad. A few shorts were exchanged at this point with scattered parties of the enemy. Thence, by way of Ground Squirrel Bridge, the column marched to Ashland, where the First brigade had a skirmish with Pickett's infantry, which had been sent out from Richmond to intercept Sheridan. By withdrawing before this force the latter was drawn on by Sheridan across the South Anna, far enough to make it certain that it could not get back to the south side of the Pamunkey to dispute his crossing. Then, crossing the North Anna at Hanover Junction, he turned to the southeast and moving down the peninsula between the Pamunkey and Mattaponi, reached White House the 18th and went into camp, accompanied by a crowd of 1,500 colored fugitives. Here Sheridan rested for five days. On the 26th the cavalry marched across the peninsula, crossing the Chickahominy at Jones Bridge and moved by Charles City Court House, Malvern Hill and Deep Bottom, to Bermuda Hundred, the men leading their horses across the pontoon bridge. The next day the column crossed the Appomattox and went into camp near Hancock Station on the military railroad. The corps had been for twenty-one days in the region held by the enemy, and made a longer march within the limits of the Confederacy than Sherman's march from Atlanta to the sea. Of this march Sheridan said: "There perhaps never was a march where nature offered such impediments and shrouded herself in gloom. Incessant rain, deep and almost impassable streams, swamps and mud were overcome with a constant cheerfulness on the part of the troops that was truly admirable. Both officers and men appeared buoyed up by the thought that we had completed our work in the Valley of the Shenandoah, and that we were on our way to help our brothers in arms in front of Petersburg, in the final struggle."

FIVE FORKS AND THE PURSUIT OF LEE.

The closing movements of the war were now at hand. Divining Lee's purpose to retreat from Petersburg, Grant on the 29th of March sent Sheridan around the right of Lee's lines to Five Forks. Lee could not permit him to occupy so menacing a position. Pickett's and Bushrod Johnson's divisions of infantry were sent to support his cavalry, comprising of two divisions under Fitzhugh Lee, and to drive Sheridan away. The latter fell back toward Dinwiddie Court House on the 31st. Next day, supported by the Fifth Corps and masking the infantry with his cavalry, Sheridan attacked Pickett and Fitzhugh Lee at Five Forks, and routed them with a loss of 5,000 men. In this battle, which was the beginning of the end for Lee, Custer's division held the extreme left of Sheridan's line, with one brigade dismounted. With the other two brigades he charged Fitzhugh Lee, who covered Pickett's right. In the final resistless assault, Custer's mounted brigade, led by Custer and accompanied by Sheridan in person, carried the breastworks in front of them and received the surrender of a thousand of the Confederate infantry. Fitzhugh Lee, separated from Pickett struck off to the west, past Custer's left and was pursued by the latter for six miles till after dark. The part taken by the First Vermont is thus described by Captain H. K. Ide:

On the night of the 29th, the advance of the cavalry column occupied Dinwiddie Court House. As the continuous rains had rendered the roads almost impassable for teams, our division had to stay behind to guard and help the trains. In the afternoon of the 30th we finally left this position, and it seemed that the soil had no bottom, so deep was the mud. We lifted and tugged at the wagons, and cut trees and piled rails on the road for corduroy until night, when we lay down in the woods just where we happened to be. The next day we rested in the pine woods, some helping meanwhile with the wagons and some foraging. Throughout the day, Sheridan was having a hard fight at Dinwiddie Court House. Toward night he sent back for help to Custer, who, only too

glad to leave the train to Colonel Wells, took Pennington's and Capehart's brigades and arrived at the Court House just in time to aid in the final repulse of the enemy. April 1st Well's brigade was also summoned to the front, and leaving the wagons, hastened forward to Dinwiddie. The enemy had fallen back to Five Forks, and we followed, passing on the way some of the Fifth Corps. The firing in front of us was very heavy; and as we came in behind the First brigade (Pennington's), we found them dismounted, engaging an enemy who was protected by breastworks. The led horses were being taken to the rear, and as all were at full speed, things looked rather lively. We passed along the rear to the left of the line; and, as the enemy seemed to be flanking the First brigade, the Fifteenth New York cavalry was sent to drive them back. We saw the Fifteenth New York charge, and supposing we were to follow, advanced carbines and crew sabers and started, but were ordered back and came into line under shelter of a little ridge. Custer stationed his band on the top of the ridge in front and ordered them to play. The rebels shelled us, but inflicting no damage. The Fifteenth New York was repulsed, and returning took position beside us. Custer made a short speech to us; the bugle sounded a charge, and away we went.

The enemy fought well; but soon gave way all along the line. A column of the enemy's cavalry came toward us. The Fifteenth New York was on their right, our infantry on their left and we in front of them; but they came right down toward us as cool and in as good order as if on dress parade until they were within pistol-shot, when they broke and fled, we after them, helter-skelter, until we struck a road which we followed a short distance; then across the fields to another road leading to the right. We captured several prisoners, but as it was getting dark, we went slow. We soon saw before us some mounted men who asked, "Who are you?" Some one answering: "We are Vermonters," they replied: "We are Carolinians," and fired. But it was so dark and they were in such a hurry that no one on our side was hurt. But it threw us into some confusion; and when we got straightened out they were gone. We pursued them some distance, but hearing Custer's bugle on the other road, which showed that we were too far in advance, we

returned to the column, which marched back a mile or so and went into bivouac. In this battle the usual order had been changed, the infantry doing the flanking, while the cavalry charged the enemy's works in front."

Colonel Wells let the first charge of his brigade, thus described, and received several bullets through his clothes and was also struck in the chest with a piece of shell; but kept his saddle and command, and directed the subsequent movements of the brigade. After the repulse of the Fifteenth New York, Custer mounted Capehart's brigade and placed it on the left of Wells. In the subsequent advance the two brigades made a detour to the left over very broken ground and coming in partially on the flank of the enemy's line, struck a strong body of the enemy's cavalry. The front line drove the enemy some distance and was then driven in turn, and fell back to the line of the First Vermont, which had followed at a short interval. When within pistol-shot of the First Vermont, as described, Hall was ordered to charge. He did so and was joined by the other regiments on the right and left, and the enemy was routed all along the line. A number of Vermont cavalry-men were wounded; but most of them only slightly.

During that night the sound of artillery from the lines in front of Petersburg was almost continuous, and increased to a steady roar just before daybreak, when the Sixth Corps went through A. P. Hill's lines. Later in the day word came from Meade to Sheridan that Petersburg was taken, and that the cavalry must start at once to head off Lee's retreat. This was led by Anderson, who with his own and what was left of Pickett's division and Hill's corps, was sent forward along the south side of the Appomattox, while Lee's main army retreated by the roads on the north side of the river. Fitzhugh Lee covered the rear of Anderson with his cavalry. Custer's division bivouacked that night at Ford's Station. On the

2d the regiment crossed the South Side railroad, following Devin's division, till latter was brought to a stand shortly before dark at Scott's Corners by Lee's rear guard of infantry and cavalry. The firing soon became rapid and heavy in front and the Vermont regiment, alone of Custer's division, was sent forward, and was stationed, dismounted, in a piece of woods through which the shells were flying; but it did not become engaged. Next morning Wells's brigade led the division, with the First Vermont in advance, along the Namozine road leading into Amelia County. At the ford of Namozine Creek Fitzhugh Lee's rear guard, consisting of Barringer's brigade, now commanded by General Gary, was posted behind breastworks on the opposite bank. Company D was deployed as skirmishers and sent forward, and the Eighth New York advanced to the creek. Custer, who as usual was near the head of the column, came forward with Colonel Wells to examine the position and they at once took measures to force the crossing. A detachment of the First Vermont under Captain Hazelton was dismounted and sent down the stream for a short distance to a shallower place where they forded the creek and attacked the opposing line on the flank, while a piece of artillery was brought up in front and opened with grape. The enemy soon gave way, and, crossing the stream, Wells pursued them as rapidly as possible. At one point they had abandoned a broken down caisson, after setting it on fire, and the exploding ammunition compelled the command to make a circuit around it through the woods. Near Namozine Church, six miles beyond, the enemy made another stand on the crest of a hill. His rear-guard was at once charged by the Vermont regiment in column by battalion and driven back on the main body, which was then attacked by Wells with most of his brigade and routed with the loss of the Confederate brigade commander and 350 prisoners and a field piece. The gun was captured by Q.M. Sergeant Jerome B. Hatch of the Vermont regiment, and of the prisoners a large

portion were taken by the Vermonters, among the number being Gary's adjutant general, who was captured by Major Cummings.⁸² Two Vermonters were killed and nine wounded in this brilliant engagement.⁸³

Captain Chandler with 100 men was here detached to guard prisoners, and the next day turned over 673 Confederates to the provost marshal at army headquarters, being more prisoners than he received the number being increased by accessions of stragglers picked up on the way.

On the 4th the division crossed Deep Creek and followed it down to the Appomattox; and, marching all night, next morning reached Jetersville on the Danville railroad, having got beyond Lee and between him and Burke's Junction, which he was trying to reach. Here the regiment stood in line of battle all day with the division, expecting to be attacked; but Lee, finding his way to the south blocked, had struck off across country due west, aiming for Lynchburg.

On the 6th, while Sheridan and Wright and Humphreys were fighting Ewell and Anderson at Sailor's Creek, Wells's brigade was detached and sent back to Amelia Court House; but found no enemy there, Lee having passed on, leaving behind a hundred limbers and caissons with a large amount of ammunition. Wells rejoined the division that night beyond Sailor's Creek, crossing on the way the field of the battle of Sailor's Creek, fought that day, covered with the dead piled one upon another.

That night Sheridan had almost all of his old Army of the Shenandoah encamped by him on Sailor's Creek. Wright, Merritt, Devin, Crook and Custer were there. Custer was

⁸² "The pursuit of Lee was taken up early on the 3d. The leading brigade of Custer's division, Commanded by colonel Wells, overtaking near Namozine Church the rear of Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry, Barringer's brigade, which suffered severely in the contest, its commander and many others being captured. "—Humphrey's Virginia Campaign, p. 374.

⁸³ Killed—Andrew Calderwood of company I; Willis Lyman of company L.

guarding about 6,000 prisoners, captured that day, and next morning was riding round with an escort of 29 men, each carrying a Confederate battle-flag taken the day before.

That morning, the 7th, the cavalry were off again, Merritt being sent with Custer's and Devin's divisions to the southwest to Prince Edward Court House, whence on the 8th he moved to Appomattox Station. Custer, reading the column, had halted two miles from that point, when he learned at sunset that the enemy was loading several trains of cars at the station with artillery and ammunition. He started thither at once, and speedily surrounded the trains, which appeared to be unguarded. Suddenly a cannonade opened upon him from the guns of Lee's reserve artillery, which had been sent there to be loaded on the cars, and upon Custer's approach had gone into battery on a knoll near by. Custer at once started in the direction of the flashes of the guns. A portion of Wells's brigade was dismounted and sent against these, through a piece of woods, while the First Vermont with other cavalry advanced in front, returning pistol and carbine shots for the canister which the enemy dispensed freely. The result was the capture of thirty guns and a wagon-train. The First Vermont took eight of the guns, and eighteen in all were taken by Wells's brigade, among them being the Washington Artillery of New Orleans. One Vermont cavalry-man was killed⁸⁴ and five wounded, among the latter being Lieutenant E. D. Woodbury, acting adjutant of the regiment, who was struck by a ball which took off two fingers of his right hand and passed through his left arm, and Lieutenant Willard Farrington, also severely wounded.

APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE

April 9th, the last day of fighting for the two armies which for four years had been in almost constant contact,

⁸⁴ Killed—George B. Dunn of company M

opened clear and bright. Lee had not quite given up the hope of forcing his way on to the west, and his orders to Fitzhugh Lee and Gordon were to attack Sheridan's cavalry at daylight and force a way if possible; but if infantry were found supporting the Union cavalry they were to halt and report to him. Skirmishing began at sunrise and lasted till 9 A.M., when Gordon's infantry made an attack in front and flank upon Crook's cavalry division, which was driven back. Custer then brought forward his division, Wells's brigade leading, in column by squadron, with the First Vermont in front. As the brigade moved on at a trot, it passed through a brigade of colored troops of General Foster's division of the Twenty-fourth Corps, then deploying at double quick in splendid style. Wells formed his line in front of Gordon, but has not stood long when the order came from General Sheridan to withdraw and unmask the lines of the infantry of the Fifth Corps on the right, and of the Twenty-fourth on the left. In the withdrawal Custer moved to the right across the enemy's front, the Vermont regiment still leading the column, which passed as if in review between the two armies. "Never," says Captain Ide, "did the regiment, even on dress parade, keep in better line than it did then, though it was the especial mark of two batteries." As the division came around upon the left flank of the enemy, it came in sight of Lee's supply trains, with a confused mass of men about the wagons. Custer at once ordered Colonel Hall to charge them. Hall made the proper disposition of his command and the first battalion had broken into a gallop and the others were following at a fast trot when a staff officer came up on the run, with an order to halt, as a flag of truce had arrived, understood to be to announce Lee's surrender. Before the regiment could be halted, the first battalion, commanded by Captain Harris B. Mitchell, had passed the confederate pickets next to the trains, and in another moment would have struck the latter. The regiment was then brought back into line to await

events. Later it moved toward the left, where a portion of Merritt's cavalry was preparing to resist an attack of General Gary's brigade, which had not received the order to stop fighting. If this attack had been made, Wells's brigade would have supported the line in its front, and the men were in line of battle with carbines advanced, when Lieut. Colonel Whittaker, of Custer's staff, accompanied by two Confederate officers, rode along the line, saying: "Lower your carbines men, lower your carbines. You will never have to raise them again in this war! " The men threw up their caps and hurraed; but there was but little other demonstration of joy. It seemed difficult to realize that the war had ended. About five P.M., General Custer rode along the lines and announced that the terms of surrender had been signed, and the cavalry bivouacked where they stood, with but scanty rations for themselves and little forage for their horses. The regiment captured some prisoners and had two men wounded in this final day of fighting. It received, and in part executed, the last order given for a cavalry charge in the Army of the Potomac.

That day Custer issued the following order:

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION,
APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VA., April 9th, 1865

Soldiers of the Third Cavalry Division:

With profound gratitude to the God of Battles, by whose blessings our enemies are humbled and our arms rendered triumphant, your commanding general avails himself of this his first opportunity to express to you his admiration for the heroic manner in which you have passed through the series of battles which to-day resulted in the surrender of the enemy's entire army. The record established by your indomitable courage is unsurpassed in the annals of war. Your prowess has won for you even the respect and admiration of your enemies. During the past six months, although in most instances confronted by superior numbers, you have captured from the enemy in open battle, 111 pieces of field artillery, 65 battle flags, and upwards of 10,000 prisoners of war, including several general officers. Within the past ten days, and included in the above, you have captured 46 pieces of field artillery and 37 battle flags. You have never lost a gun, never lost a color, and have never been defeated; and notwithstanding the numerous engagements, including the memorable

battles of the Shenandoah, you have captured every piece of artillery which the enemy have dared to open upon you. The near approach of peace renders it improbable that you will again be called upon to undergo the fatigues of the toilsome march, or the exposure of the battle field; but should the assistance of keen blades, wielded by your sturdy arms, be required to hasten the coming of the glorious peace for which we have been so long contending, the general commanding is proudly confident that in the future, as in the past, every demand will meet with a hearty and willing response. Let us hope that our work is done, and that blessed with the comforts of peace, we may soon be permitted to enjoy the pleasures of home and friends. For our comrades who have fallen let us ever cherish a grateful remembrance. To the wounded and those who languish in Southern prisons, let our heartfelt sympathy be tendered. And now, speaking for myself alone—when the war is ended, and the task of the historian begins; when those deeds of daring which have rendered the name and fame of the Third cavalry division imperishable, are inscribed upon the bright pages of our country's history—I only ask that my name be written as the commander of the Third cavalry division.

George A. Custer

Brev. Major General

Custer's men fully reciprocated his attachment and admiration, and formally adopted as a division badge the scarlet neck-tie, which they had so often seen streaming back over Custer's shoulder as he led them into battle.

In the morning of the 10th the regiment started back with the army and arrived at Petersburg on the 19th, going into camp west of the city near the Appomattox river, whence on the 20th it moved camp to Powhattan, on the north side of the river. Here it remained in camp until the 24th, when the cavalry and the Sixth Corps were ordered to North Carolina. Starting on the 24th of April the column moved southwest by the Boydton plank road, crossed the Staunton river on flat-boats on the 27th, and camped that night near Clarksburg, four miles from the North Carolina border—the most southern point reached by the regiment during its service. At Clarksburg news was received of the surrender of Johnston's army, and on the 29th the division started back. The Vermont regiment passed through Petersburg on the 3d of May, and went into camp a mile north of the city. On the 10th it started with the Cavalry

corps for Washington, passing through the camp of the Army of the Tennessee, crossing the James on a double pontoon bridge, marching through Richmond with drawn sabres and camping that night on the Brook turnpike at Yellow Tavern. The next morning they moved over that and other battlegrounds of the year before and marched by the familiar way of Stevensburg, Catlett's, Manassas Junction and Centreville to Potomac, going into camp on the 15th near Alexandria. The difference between this and their other marches over the same ground was marked by the circumstance that two ladies, Mrs. Custer and Mrs. Pennington, rode for the whole distance at the head of the column.

May 19th, Colonel Wells was promoted to be brigadier general; and Lieut. Colonel Josiah Hall, an efficient and popular officer, was appointed colonel. Both promotions were well deserved. May 21st the regiment moved camp to near Bladensburg, Maryland. On the 23d, it took part in the grand review of the Army of the Potomac, bearing its new colors received that morning from Vermont. At the close of the review General Custer, who was ordered to Texas, bade farewell to his division, and General Wells succeeded him in command.

On the 7th of June the regiment took part in the review of Vermont troops, at Bailey's Cross Roads, by Governor Smith. Next day it received orders to start for home, and that night the camp of the brigade was illuminated in its honor by the other regiments of the brigade. June 9th it marched on foot over Long Bridge to Washington, and went thence by way of New York and the Hudson river to Burlington, where it arrived June 13th, and had a cordial reception. The Third battery, which had arrived the day before, fired a national salute. The regiment was received by Mayor Catlin in the City Hall and welcomed home by Lieutenant G. G. Benedict, Colonel Hall responding; and a collation was served by the Burlington ladies, after which the men

marched to quarters on the Hospital grounds. On the 21st of June, 21 officers and the recruits whose terms of service would expire before October, some 400 in number, were mustered out at Burlington.

The officers so mustered out were Colonel Josiah Hall, Major Robert Scofield, Jr., Major Charles A. Adams, Regimental Commissary William H. Eastman; Captains Horace K. Ide, Alexander B. Chandler, Eben Grant and Alexander G. Watson; Lieutenants W. H. Burbank, Eri D. Woodbury, Josiah H. Moore, Frederick G. Cook, R. A. Howard, Jonas R. Rice, Barney Decker, Charles N. Jones, James Barrett, Carlos A. Barrows, Jonas Stevens, Ozro F. Cheney and George Miller. Lieutenants Eli Holden and H. O. Wheeler had been mustered out in March previous and Lieutenant Edwin H. Higley in May previous. The remainder, comprising 26 officers and 446 men, were consolidated into a battalion of six companies, under Lieut. Colonel Cummings, and were assigned to duty on the northern frontier. They were stationed, one company at St. Albans, two at Champlain, N.Y., one at Malone, N.Y., one at Ogdensburg, N.Y., and one at Sackett's Harbor, N.Y. Colonel Cummings's headquarters were at Champlain. Lieutenant Eugene Consigny of company M was appointed adjutant. These companies had easy duty until August 9th, where they were concentrated at Burlington, paid off and mustered out of the United States service, after which the military rendezvous at Burlington was broken up.

The officers so mustered out were Lieut. Colonel William G. Cummings, Major John H. Hazelton, Adjutant Eugene Consigny, Quartermaster Patrick H. Caldwell, Surgeon Almon Clark, Assistant Surgeon Edward B. Nims, Chaplain John E. Goodrich, who had been chaplain since June, 1864, Captains Mason A. Stone, Harris B. Mitchell, Ebenezer K. Sibley, Clark P. Stone, Alvah R. Haswell and Emmett Mather, Lieutenants James Kinehan, Jerome B.

Hatch, Willard Farrington, Stephen A. Clark, William W. Foster, Abraham S. Van Fleet, Martin V. B. Vance, Henry C. Streeter, Charles B. Stone, William C. Joyce, Marvin M. Mason and Samuel F. Stearns.

General Wells, who had been breveted major general of volunteers for gallant and meritorious service March 13th, 1865, remained in the service; was the last commander of the Cavalry Corps; and after the corps was broken up commanded the First Separate Brigade of cavalry, with his headquarters at Fairfax Court House. He was finally mustered out on the 15th of January, 1866.

The following members of the First Cavalry regiment died in Confederate prisons:

MEMBERS OF THE FIRST VERMONT CAVALRY WHO
DIED IN CONFEDERATE PRISONS.

COMPANY A

Name.	Captured.	Died.
Zebina Landon,		Richmond, August 22, 1862.
Edward J. Whipple,	June 29, 1864,	In Confed. Hosp'l, Jul 12, 1864.
Joshua L. Day,	June 1, 1864,	Andersonville, October 7, 1864.
Louis Green,	June 29, 1864,	In prison, October 7, 1864.
John M. Humphrey,		Andersonville, July 23, 1864.
John McCune,	May 5, 1864,	Charleston, S.C., 1864.
Orville Rounds,	June 29, 1864,	In prison, 1864.
Henry E. Sweet,	July 6, 1863,	Belle Isle, 1863.
COMPANY B		
Lieut. Horace A. Hyde,	October 11, 1863,	Andersonville.
Joseph E. Brewer,		Belle Isle, October 20, 1863.
Andrew J. Farrand,	May 5, 1864,	Andersonville.
Joseph B. Farrand,	Nov. 16, 1863,	Belle Isle, 1863.
Frank B. Jocelyn,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, July 24, 1864.
Nelson M. Perry,	July 6, 1863,	Andersonville, July 24, 1864.
Lyman C. Wright,	October 11, 1863,	Florence, S.C. September, 1864.
Milo Farnsworth,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, July 27, 1864.
Henry Jerdo,	June 29, 1864,	Wilmington, March 2, 1865.
Benson J. Merrill,	Sept 13, 1863,	Andersonville, August 30, 1864.
William O. Spoor,	July 3, 1863,	Andersonville, April 20, 1864.
COMPANY C.		
Wesley Dodge,	June 23, 1864,	
Malon Norris,	July, 1863,	Richmond, Feb. 1, 1864.
Horace M. Abbott,	October 7, 1864,	Richmond, Jan. 1, 1865.
Horace G. Atwood,	June 23, 1864	Andersonville, September 28, 1864.
Joseph Jordon,	March 14, 1865.	

Name.	Captured.	Died.
Walter W. Kingston,	June 29, 1864,	Charleston, Nov. 14, 1864.
Eri McCrillis,	March 2, 1864,	Andersonville, August 1, 1864.
George H. Nownes,	June 29, 1864,	Andersonville, August 23, 1864.
George W. Scott,	June 29, 1864,	Andersonville, August 17, 1864.
John S. Towner,	June 29, 1864,	Charleston, October 2, 1864.
George E. Watkins,	June 29, 1864,	Andersonville, September 8, 1864.
Joseph N. Wright,	October 7, 1864,	
	Company D.	
Orange S. Ayers,	June 29, 1864,	Supposed dead.
Charles Cunningham,	Feb. 26, 1864,	Supposed dead.
John Horn,	June 29, 1864,	Supposed dead.
Darwin J. Wright,	June 29, 1864,	Florence, S.C., October 20, 1864.
Dennison C. Badger,	May 5, 1864,	Florence, Nov. 1864.
Joseph Benoit,	May 9, 1864,	Andersonville, August 22, 1864.
Norman J. Kingsbury,	June 29, 1864,	Petersburg, July 12, 1864.
Silas Kingsley,	July 6, 1863,	Andersonville, September 4, 1864.
Frederick A. Powers,	March 1, 1864,	In prison, 1864.
Walter Stone,	March 1, 1864,	Richmond, 1864.
Charles P. Varnum,	October 7, 1864,	Libby Prison, Feb., 1865.
Samuel Washburn,	July 6, 1863,	Andersonville, August 2, 1864.
Sias T. Worthing,	June 29, 1864	Andersonville, Nov. 6, 1864.
	Company E.	
Henry A. Smith,		Richmond, Feb. 25, 1864.
Amos S. Lamson,	July, 1863,	Richmond, December 9, 1863.
Ransom T. Fay,	June 29, 1864,	In prison, 1864.
Francis A. Gibbs,	June 29, 1864,	In prison, 1864.
	Company F	
George H. Forbush,	July 6, 1863,	Richmond, October 11, 1863.
Herbert S. Pierce,	June 1, 1864,	In prison.
Jason A. Stone,	October 11, 1863,	Richmond.
George B. Roundy,	July 13, 1863,	Richmond, October 19, 1863.
Cassius M. Stickney,	June 1, 1864,	Richmond, July 20, 1864.
Cyrus S. Tuttle,	May 5, 1864,	Andersonville, July 22, 1864.
Eugene McCarthy,	June 1, 1864.	In prison.
Theodore Witt,	June 1, 1864,	Andersonville, September 3, 1864.
William F. Barnes,	June 1, 1864,	Andersonville, August 23, 1864.
John Bathrick,	March 1, 1864,	In prison, July 18, 1864.
Charles A. Corey,	July 6, 1863,	Andersonville, May 11, 1864.
Julius Cunningham,	Mar. 1, 1864,	Andersonville, September 3, 1864.
Patrick Donahue,	June 1, 1864,	Andersonville, August 17, 1864.
Francis Drew,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, July 9, 1864.
James H. Howard,		Andersonville, October 25, 1864.
William C. Ingraham,	June 29, 1864,	Andersonville, October 1, 1864.
John C. Pierce,	June 1, 1864,	In prison.
Henry C. Spaulding,	March 1, 1864,	In prison, August 11, 1864.
	Company G.	
Charles Sherwood,	July 4, 1863,	Richmond, Feb. 29, 1864.
Henry Squires,	May 24, 1862,	Richmond, August 1862.
Joseph Taylor,	May 24, 1862,	Richmond, August 1862.
William W. Wickwire,	May 24, 1862,	Richmond, August 1862.

Name.	Captured.	Died.
Palmer Clapp,	July 3, 1863,	Richmond, December 19, 1863.
Lewis Conger,	July 3, 1863,	Richmond, March 7, 1864.
Eugene F. Bellows,	July 6, 1863,	Richmond.
Winslow A. Colby,	March 1, 1864,	Richmond.
William J. Fuller,	June 29, 1864,	Andersonville, August 24, 1864.
Daniel M. Russell,	March 1, 1864.	In prison.
George H. Calkins,	March 1, 1864,	Richmond.
Nelson Dragoon,	March 1, 1864,	Richmond, 1864.
Charles C. Dunn,	March 1, 1864,	Richmond.
George E. Dunn,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, August 18, 1864.
William N. Dunn,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, October 6, 1864.
Lewis Knapp,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, July 26, 1864.
Charles Mattison,	July 3, 1863,	Richmond, April 7, 1865.
Samuel Simmons,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, August 23, 1864.
	Company H.	
Frederick Cowley,	July 3, 1862,	Richmond, October 27, 1863.
Samuel P. Bailey,	October 11, 1863,	Andersonville, August 18, 1864.
William O'Brien,	July 3, 1863,	Andersonville, April 23, 1864.
John McIntire,	July 3, 1863,	Andersonville, June 17, 1864.
Dean W. Reed,	July 3, 1863,	Andersonville, June 13, 1864.
John C. Smith,	October 11, 1863,	Andersonville, July 5, 1864.
Malverton R. Claflin,	May 12, 1863,	Richmond, May, 1864.
Joseph M. Cowley,	October 11, 1863,	Andersonville, June 15, 1864.
James M. Cowley,	October 11, 1863,	Andersonville, June 15, 1864.
Hazen Gott,	May 12, 1864,	Richmond, May 22, 1864.
Joseph Hodge,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, December 17, 1864.
	Company I.	
Silas Hinds,	July 6, 1863,	In prison.
Elias M. Quimby,	June 29, 1864,	In prison.
John J. Cook,	November 13, 1863,	Andersonville, September 10, 1864.
James M. Manchester,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, September 10, 1864.
Warren M. Reed,	June 29, 1864,	In prison.
Chauncey C. Thurston,	July, 1863,	In prison.
Andre M. Washburn,		Andersonville.
	Company K.	
Thad. A. Canfield,	July 27, 1863,	Richmond, June 8, 1864.
Frank R. Tremble,	March 1, 1864,	Richmond, March 9, 1864.
Alfred A. Mosey,	July 27, 1863,	Andersonville, June 1, 1864.
Jenness Thomas,	June 23, 1864,	In prison.
Samuel F. Whitlock,	October 15, 1863,	About June 1, 1864.
Franklin J. Blood,	March 1, 1864,	
Elmer J. Leonard,	March 1, 1864,	Richmond, March 3, 1864.
Oliver Lupien,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, September 3, 1864.
William W. Pond,	June 29, 1864.	In prison.
Daniel Ross,	June 29, 1864,	In prison.
John Shea,	June 1, 1864,	Andersonville, January 8, 1865.
John Sheldon,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, January 29, 1865.
Horace Taylor,	March 1, 1864,	Richmond, March 18, 1865.
Hiram E. Tupper,	June 18, 1864,	Andersonville, September 11, 1864.
	Company L.	
Albert R. Green,	July 3, 1863,	Richmond, October 12, 1863.
Hugh Mooney,	July 3, 1863,	Richmond, September 1863.
Albert F. Sawyer,	July 13, 1863,	Richmond, September, 1863.

Name.	Captured.	Died.
Joseph A. Brainerd,	May 5, 1864,	Andersonville, August 16, 1864.
Joseph P. Brainerd,	May 5, 1864,	Andersonville, September 12, 1864.
Thaddeus H. Clark,		Andersonville, November 18, 1864.
Charles D. Harvey,		Richmond, January 1, 1865.
Frederick H. Bliss,	May 5, 1864,	Andersonville, August 15, 1864.
August M. Boyd,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, August 3, 1864.
James Little,	May 5, 1864,	Florence, S.C., November 7, 1864.
	COMPANY M.	
William Russell,	July 6, 1863,	Richmond, November 16, 1863.
Joseph Buchanan,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, August 1, 1864.
Henry Labonty,	July 6, 1863,	Andersonville, August 3, 1864.
Joseph Martin,	February 24, 1864,	Andersonville, August 8, 1864.
David Niles,		In prison, July 1864.
Harry G. Sheldon,	March 1, 1864,	Andersonville, October 14, 1864.

The battles and skirmishes in which the regiment took part were 75 in number, averaging two for every month of its service in the field. These were as follows:

The battles of the First Vermont Cavalry.	
Mount Jackson,	April 16, 1862.
McGaheysville,	April 27, 1862.
Middletown,	May 4, 1862.
Winchester,	May 25, 1862.
Luray Court House,	June 30, 1862.
Culpeper Court House,	July 10, 1862.
Orange Court House,	August 2, 1862.
Kelley's Ford,	August 20, 1862.
Waterloo Bridge,	August 22, 1862.
Bull Run,	August 30, 1862.
Ashby's Gap,	September 22, 1862.
Aldie,	March 2, 1863.
Broad Run,	April 1, 1863.
Greenwich,	May 30, 1863.
Warrenton,	June 18, 1863.
Hanover, Pa.,	June 30, 1863.
Hunterstown, Pa.,	July 2, 1863.
Gettysburg, Pa.,	July 3, 1863.
Monterey,	July 4, 1863.
Leitersville, Md.,	July 5, 1863.
Hagerstown, Md.,	July 6, 1863.
Boonsboro, Md.,	July 8, 1863.
Hagerstown, Md.,	July 13, 1863.
Falling Waters,	July 14, 1863.
Port Conway,	August 25, 1863.
Port Conway,	September 1, 1863.
Culpeper Court House,	September 13, 1863.
Somerville Ford,	September 14, 1863.

Raccoon Ford,	September 15, 1863.
James City,	October 10, 1863.
Brandy Station,	October 11, 1863.
Gainesville	October 18 and 19, 1863.
Buckland Mills,	October 19, 1863.
Falmouth,	Nov. 4, 1863.
Morton's Ford,	Nov. 28, 1863.
Mechanicsville,	March 1, 1864.
Piping Tree,	March 2, 1864.
Craig's Meeting House,	May 5, 1864.
Spottsylvania,	May 8, 1864.
Yellow Tavern,	May 11, 18674.
Meadow Bridge,	May 12, 1864.
Hanover Court House,	May 31, 1864.
Ashland,	June 1, 1864.
Hawes's Shop,	June 3, 1864.
Bottom Bridge,	June 10, 1864.
White Oak Swamp,	June 13, 1864.
Riddle's Shop,	June 13, 1864.
Malvern Hill,	June 15, 1864.
Reams's Station,	June 22, 1864.
Nottoway Court House,	June 23, 1864.
Roanoke Station,	June 25, 1864.
Stony Creek,	June 28 and 29, 1864.
Reams's Station,	June 29, 1864.
Winchester,	August 17, 1864.
Summit Point,	August 21, 1864.
Charlestown,	August 22, 1864.
Kearnesyville,	August 25, 1864.
Opequon,	September 19, 1864.
Front Royal,	September 21, 1864.
Gooney Manor Grade,	September, 21, 1864.
Milford,	September 22, 1864.
Waynesboro,	September 28, 1864.
Columbia Furnace,	October 7, 1864.
Tom's Brook,	October 9, 1864.
Cedar Creek,	October 13, 1864.
Cedar Creek,	October 19, 1864.
Middle Road,	Nov. 11, 1864.
Middle and Back Roads, or Middletown,	Nov. 12, 1864.
Lacy's Springs,	December 21, 1864.
Waynesboro,	March 2, 1865.
Five Forks,	April 1, 1865.
Scott's Corners,	April 2, 1865.
Namozine Creek,	April 3, 1865.
Namozine Church, or Winticomack Creek,	April 3, 1865.
Appomattox Station,	April 8, 1865.
Appomattox Court House,	April 9, 1865.

The final statement of the regiment is as follows:

FINAL STATEMENT

Original members—com. officers, 44; enlisted men, 1130; total	1174
Gains.	
Promotion from other regiments—com. officers, 1; transfers from other regiments, enlisted men, 11; total	12
Recruits—com. offices, 5; enlisted men, 1106; total	1111

Aggregate	2297
Losses.	
Killed in action—com. officers, 8; enlisted men, 55; total	63
Died of wounds—com. officers, 2; enlisted men, 37; total	39
Died of disease—com. officers, 2; enlisted men, 110; total	112
Died (unwounded) in Confederate prisons—com. officers, 1; enlisted men, 171; from accident—com. officers, 2; enlisted men, 9; total	183

Total by death	397.
Honorably discharged—com. officers (resigned), 24; (disability), 4; enlisted men (disability), 340; com. officers (for wounds), 1; enlisted men (for wounds), 26; enlisted men paroled prisoners), 5; total	400
Dishonorably discharged—com. officers, 2; enlisted men, 5; total	7

Total discharged	407
Promoted to U.S.A. and other regiments—com. officers, 4; enlisted men, 3; total	7
Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, Navy, etc.	119
Deserted, 150; unaccounted for, 6; total	156

Total loss.	1086
Mustered out—com. officers, 62; enlisted men, 1149; total	1211

Aggregate	2297
Total wounded	275
Total re-enlisted	171

The Frontier Cavalry.

In December 1864, in the preparations for the protection of the northern frontier from invasion from Canada, following the St. Albans raid, two companies of cavalry, each of 100 men, were raised for the First regiment of Frontier Cavalry, which became companies M, Captain Josiah Grout,

Jr., and F, Captain George B. French, of that regiment. Elisha May was appointed regimental commissary in May, 1865, and Edward L. Richmond sergeant major of the regiment. The companies were mustered into the service of the United States January 10th, 1865, and were stationed in St. Albans, where they did guard and patrol duty for nearly six months. March 22d, Captain Grout was promoted to be major of the regiment, and was succeeded as captain by First Lieutenant Edwin M. Baldwin, First Lieutenant George D. Howard of Company M resigned March 16th, and Second Lieutenant Carlos E. Cheney took his place, and Sergeant John P. Eddy was appointed second lieutenant. No deaths occurred in their number during their term of service. They were mustered out of the United States service at Burlington, and disbanded, June 27th, 1865.

The final statement of these companies is as follows:

FINAL STATEMENT

Original members—com. officers, 6; enlisted men, 200; total	206
Losses.	
Honorably discharged—com. officer (resigned)	1
Deserted	1

Total loss	2
Mustered out-com. officers, 8; enlisted men, 196; total	204

Aggregate	206