

From: **Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-1865**, by Walter Clark. Publ. 1901

ADDITIONAL SKETCH SIXTY-THIRD REGIMENT.
FIFTH CAVALRY.)

BY PAUL B. MEANS, PRIVATE, COMPANY F.

The Fifth North Carolina Cavalry was a superb regiment in every respect. It was composed of representative men, mostly active, intelligent young men, from the counties of Cumberland, Lenoir, Greene, Sampson, Rockingham, Chatbarn, Mecklenburg, Davie, Guilford, Randolph, Lincoln, Catawba, Cabarrus and a few other counties.

The moral character of this great body of men was remarkable. After diligent enquiry, there was not a grave offense of any sort, done in camp or elsewhere by any man of the regiment during the entire war, which survivors of the regiment now remember. Of course minor offenses were doubtless done, but none grave enough to be remembered today. And this is stated and emphasized because there can be no true courage without moral character as its basis. Such courage is of the soul. It is a purely psychological phenomenon. The soul is of God and cannot assert itself fully in an immoral person. And when the soul is not on guard, not supreme, we are all cowards at heart in the face of any great and recognized danger. And then, like any other simple animal, under this trying test, we will run, unless somebody else's soul restrains us or our own rallies us. In camp, on the march and on picket every duty was well done. In battle, whether fighting on foot, as infantry, or in the mounted charge, there never was any better troops. The First North Carolina Cavalry had a greater reputation than the Second, Third and the Fifth Cavalry, which, with it, constituted the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade, in the last years of the war. But this was because of the longer service of the First in Virginia and because of some peculiar advantages from its earliest, dashing, Murat-like field and other officers and especially because of its opportunities for fame ahead of the other regiments. But the Fifth was actually just as good as the First in every way and either regiment of the brigade was worthy to ride in the front rank of "The Old Guard" in a charge or fight, dismounted, side by side with the best British infantry of today. The First, fortunately for itself, simply won its great fame earlier and most worthily maintained it to the end. And the officers of the First have most beautifully and harmoniously vied with each other in perpetuating that fame, as can readily be seen by reading its splendid history in the first of these volumes. I wish that in North Carolina's "Temple of Fame" there were such glorious paintings, deservedly glorious paintings, of each regiment of our great cavalry brigade as the officers of the First, have in unison, made for it; where, Aeneas-like, the children of the immortal men of that brigade, regardless of regiments, together could stand and say: Of all these glories our fathers were "a great part." And it painfully hurts me that I cannot make such a painting for the Fifth North Carolina Cavalry.

THE AUTHENTICITY OF THIS PAPER.

1. It is based largely on the printed reports of Confederate and Federal cavalry officers in that great work published by the United States Government and entitled Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. To the volumes of which I will refer by their serial number as Vol. -, p. -. The serial number is in figures on back of all the books after and including No. 36.

Every Confederate soldier and their children for all time should ever be grateful to the United States for the publication of those records. They make complete and eternal the fame of our dead Confederacy as nothing else could. And when, in the distant future, far from the sound of the guns and untouched by any of the feelings of our war, the great, cool, philosophical historian, whom God shall give this be-loved republic, under the guidance of the "spirit of truth" and seeking the truth and the truth alone for the love of truth, shall have given his entire life to a careful examination and study of those great volumes and shall have fully and faithfully done his work, as he will, it will reflect the splendors and glories of the South for the admiration of the ages, the stigma of "rebellion" all forever gone under the light of truth.

2. I have recently visited and talked with every member of the regiment I could reach and taken down, in their presence, their memories. I have written to many others whom I could not see and asked their recollections. Some have most kindly and generously helped me and some have not. And where any deserved mention of the regiment or any member of it is not made I am not responsible. I did not see it all and could not remember it if I had. But I did my best to get personal incidents especially.

3. As a courier at headquarters of the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade, I had a large scope of observation and I used it. In this capacity I had the very best opportunities to compare and judge the regiments of this brigade in their camps, and on their marches and especially as I rode, with orders, along their lines of battle. My judgment of the regiments of the brigade is, therefore, the result of careful comparison, without which no judgment is good.

4. And it is also based on printed "Sketches of the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade," which I published in the Concord Sun in April, 1881, from "full notes and official reports," made contemporaneously with the events. Of these sketches General Barringer and Colonel Cheek, Colonel of the First North Carolina Cavalry, wrote as follows to the editor of the Sun, at the time of their publication.

General Barringer wrote thus:

CHARLOTTE, N. C., May 3, 1881. Mr. Wade H. Harris, Editor of The Sun, Concord, N. C.:

DEAR SIR: I have read with very great interest "Sketches of the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade," by Colonel P. B. Means, and I have often been asked if these articles give authentic reports of the operations of my old command. I am able to state unhesitatingly that they do. I happen to know that Colonel Means has in his possession full notes and official reports of nearly all the actions and incidents alluded to, and I think he has used his material wisely and impartially. Of course in mere "sketches" there must be many omissions; and yet Colonel Means has so grouped his facts as to give a very vivid picture of the achievements of the North Carolina Cavalry. People wonder that the cavalry accomplished so much. And it surely afforded me great pleasure to see my comrades in arms so fully and ably vindicated. Colonel Means, though a mere boy when he volunteered, was allotted to my headquarters after some service as a private in the Fifth Cavalry Regiment and bore a gallant and conspicuous part in most of the movements recounted and he does but justice to the North Carolina troops when he claims for the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade a heroic place in the glorious record of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Respectfully and truly yours,
RUFUS BARRINGER,
Brigadier-General North Carolina Cavalry.

After acknowledging to the editor "copies of the Concord Sun containing sketches of the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade," Colonel W. H. Cheek, in part, wrote thus:

"These articles I have read with much interest, and I am glad to see that some of the daring deeds of that brave command are being put in print and transmitted to posterity. If thorough discipline, cool courage, dash and reckless daring are qualities that adorn and beautify the name of soldier, then this North Carolina Cavalry Brigade and especially the First North Carolina Regiment has a rich legacy of fame to bequeath to coming generations.

"Of the correctness of your correspondent as to the part taken by the several regiments composing the brigade in the different engagements he describes, I suppose and believe that in the main he is generally correct."

Of course you could not get any officer or man of the First to praise the brigade without his giving a special tribute of his love to the First. No more than you could get an officer or man of the "Tenth Legion" to praise the then conquering forces of the world without his saying just a little more for that wonderful legion than he could for all the armies of Rome. But it is a beautiful and pardonable pride which every officer and man of the other three regiments salutes as the "Old First" passes in review.

It is presumed that the readers of these volumes, entitled "North Carolina Regiments, 1861'65," will be intelligent investigators of history. All such will want to know each writer's authority for his statements. I have, therefore, given mine, and in preparing this paper on the foregoing bases, my highest aim has been to follow the direction of Judge Walter Clark, the editor of this work, as to accuracy. On 8 August, 1901, he wrote me about this paper: "Be sure your history is accurate and reads well afterwards." By which, of course, he meant sacrifice style and everything to truth. I answered him 9 August: "You struck the key-note of my whole purpose in your words about accuracy. I prove all things."

I am especially indebted and gratified to General F. C. Ainsworth, Chief of Record and Pension Bureau, War Department, Washington, D. C., for invaluable aid in finding some records I refer to.

THE REGIMENT ORGANIZED AS REGULAR CAVALRY.

All the companies of the regiment and the names of their officers and men are given with some accuracy in Moore's "Roster of North Carolina Troops," Volume IV, beginning at page 21 under the title of the "Sixty-third Regiment." A perfect roster of all North Carolina regiments is being pre-pared by the United Confederate Veterans of North Carolina through Dr. B. F. Dixon, now State Auditor. To these rosters I refer the reader for information about companies, without attempting it here from imperfect data.

There was an act of the Confederate Congress, approved 21 April, 1862, "to organize bands of Partisan Rangers." Under this act some of the companies of the Sixty-third (Fifth Cavalry) enlisted. Captain N. P. Rankin, of Company I, in a sketch of this regiment, published in the Frank-lin Press, Macon county, N. C., 29 August, and 12 September, 1900, says this about its organization :

"Major White, a Virginian, connected with the ordnance department at Greensboro, received authority from the Secretary of War to raise a battalion of mounted men to be known as 'Partisan Rangers,' to operate under 'Stonewall' Jackson in the Valley of Virginia. Four companies were thus enlisted-three in the county of Guilford, to-wit: Wharton's, Faucett's and Rankin's, and one in Davie county, Capthin Booe's. In August, I think, these companies were mustered into service, and soon afterward orders to report to General Robertson at Garysburg, near Weldon, N. C., were received. My own and Captain Booe's companies moved promptly and reported to General Robertson as ordered, the other two companies following a few days later. On our arrival it was learned that a regiment was to be formed by uniting our battalion and that of Major Evans, who had a similar organization in the eastern part of the State. In fact, other detachments were ordered to this point sufficient to form two regiments, afterwards commanded respectively by Colonels Evans and Ferrebee, composing Robertson's Brigade and thus instead of a body of Partisan Rangers, we became parts of regiments of regular troops. The companies of Wharton, Booe and Rankin were assigned to Colonel Evans' Regiment, and Faucett to Colonel Ferrebee's."

Volume 69, page 1252, Official Records Union and Confederate Armies, General R. E. Lee, writing General Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General, 1 April, 1864, says:

"Your circular of 23 March with reference to Partisan Rangers has been received. The organizations of Partisan Rangers with this army are the Fourth and Fifth North Carolina Cavalry," etc. "Of these, the Fourth and Fifth North Carolina Regiments have been serving as regular cavalry, and will come under Act No. 19, published in General Orders No. 29, Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, current series, being continued in their present organization as regular cavalry." And in the same paper General Lee thus expresses his opinion of Partisan Rangers:

"Experience has convinced me that it is almost impossible, under the best officers even, to have discipline in these bands of Partisan Rangers, or to prevent them from becoming an injury instead of a benefit to the service."

On page 194, Vol. 129, is found that part of "General Orders No. 29," referred to by General Lee. It thereby appears that the Partisan Rangers act of 21 April, 1862, was repealed 17 February, 1864, and that all so-called Partisan Rangers "acting as regular cavalry shall be continued in their present organizations and shall hereafter be considered as regular cavalry and not as Partisan Rangers."

Thus, while the name of their enlistment seems to have attached for some time to the Sixty-third (Fifth Cavalry) as Partisan Rangers, according to Captain Rankin and the record, they were in fact always "regular cavalry," and thus freed from the ill repute given Partisan Rangers by General Lee.

The organization of the regiment occurred at Garysburg in August, 1862, with Peter G. Evans as Colonel; Stephen B. Evans, Lieutenant-Colonel; James M. McNeill, Major; J. Turner Morehead, Adjutant, and Charles Haigh, Sergeant Major, and, shortly after on 10 October, 1862, this regiment became a part of General Beverly H. Robertson's Cavalry Brigade at Garysburg, in accordance with orders in Volume 40, page 823.

SERVICES IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The regiment did duty in Eastern North Carolina until May, 1863, when it joined the Army of Northern Virginia. General Robertson was "a good organizer and instructor," as General R. E. Lee, himself, terms him in Vol. 26, page 1088. And under his instruction and West Point discipline the regiment was well drilled in cavalry tactics, perfected in picket duty on outposts and trained in other elements of its future greatness and was also in action in North Carolina.

THE FIGHT AT PLYMOUTH.

This was a very successful and in some respects peculiar and amusing affair. The attack, well premeditated, occurred between 4 and 5 o'clock on the morning of 10 December, 1862. Lieutenant-Colonel John C. Lamb, of the Seventeenth North Carolina Infantry, was

in command of all the forces, and Lieutenant-Colonel S. B. Evans, of that part of the Sixty-third (Fifth Cavalry) which was present. Most of the enemy's pickets were captured and our cavalry went upon the town with a rush in the face of volleys from the Federal infantry who quickly broke in all directions and took refuge in and behind the custom house. The gunboat Southfield was in the river in rear of the town and before and after she was disabled kept up a brisk firing with her guns. She was shot "through the boiler" at the third fire of our artillery and then drifted. Captain Galloway, of the Sixty-third, was wounded and six men. The demoralization of the enemy was complete and their official reports of the affair, Vol. 26, pages 45-49, are ridiculous and pitiful. They all bear evidence of terrible fright. The commandant of the port, Captain Ewer, at 7 p. m., 11 December, says: "All this day they have been stationed outside of the town." But he could not attack, the health of his men being seriously affected by guard and picket duty. And Lieutenant Mizell on 16 December, six days after the fight, says that "he resumed his seat for the purpose of reporting the attack," and that he "heard they had four wagon loads of killed and wounded." "The best and most principal parts of the town are burned up. The families of our men are left without a change of clothing. We have lost all our books, pay and muster rolls, a quantity of clothing belonging to the men and some ammunition. I believe I have given all the particulars that I can think of." Lieutenant Flusser, a brave man of the United States gunboat Perry, to whom all the reports were referred for information, says that he found Ewer on the Southfield a mile and a half down the river; did not know where his men were, but "hoped most of them were in the swamp," that is, those not captured; that as "soon as the Southfield fell back (which she ought maybe not to have done) Ewer got frightened, left his men and went on board. The whole affair was disgraceful."

Fighting gunboats with cavalry took place several times in our war. For instance, the attack by Lieutenant A. B. Andrews, Ninth North Carolina, upon this same Lieutenant Flusser 9 July, 1862, Vol. 1, p. 446, of this work, the capture of a gunboat in New River by Company A, Forty-first North Carolina, and attack on Washington, N. C., by cavalry, see Vol. 2 (of this work), pp. 774-775, and Lieutenant Thomas Ruffin's capture of a gunboat on the Chowan with a part of his company of the Fifty-ninth North Carolina, present volume, p. 459, and there are other instances recorded in these volumes. General Fitzhugh Lee fought gunboats with his cavalry command at Kinnon's Landing on the James 25 May, 1864, and General Bedford Forrest did the same feat repeatedly, and in fact captured and disabled several boats.

THE BATTLE OF WHITE HALL.

On the morning of 11 December, 1862, the Federal General Foster left New Bern, N. C., on his expedition against Goldsboro, with 10,000 infantry, 40 pieces of artillery and 640 cavalry. Vol. 26, page 54. On the 14th the Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third North Carolina (Fourth and Fifth Cavalry) were moved from Garysburg by train, via Goldsboro, to Moseley Hall, now LaGrange, on the railroad between Goldsboro and Kinston, the horses being sent through the country. On 16 December a fierce fight raged for several hours at White Hall bridge, over the Neuse, and while the Sixty-third (Fifth Cavalry) was held in reserve dismounted and not actively engaged in this battle they were under heavy artillery

fire sufficiently to show their mettle. The explosion of an 18-pounder near their colors, as the regiment marched as on dress parade to the front, gave the men an idea of what war meant. In his report of this battle General Robertson says:

"The Fifty-ninth (Fourth Cavalry) and the Sixty-third (Fifth Cavalry) Regiments, although in reserve, were nevertheless exposed to a galling fire from the enemy's artillery. A few were killed and a number wounded. Both officers and men behaved admirably." Vol. 26, p. 122.

To show the discipline of the officers and men at this time, by a small matter full of meaning, as the line of the Sixty-third marched to the front, in almost perfect alignment and order, with Colonel Evans in the centre and lead he struck the middle of the edge of a long lake of water about one-third of the regiment's length in width and about three feet deep. Colonel Evans marched right through the lake straight to the front and every man on that part of the line did the same. Older soldiers, with more experience, not in the immediate face of the enemy, would have opened ranks and gone around that water on that cold December day. But the Sixty-third was on dress parade in its first great fight and it kept "right dress."

COMPANIES C, I, AND G.

After the affair at White Hall, Companies C and I went on detached duty, of which Captain Rankin wrote in the Franklin Press as follows:

"Our horses were soon after ordered around to Goldsboro, and the regiment was divided up into detachments for picket duty, hence I can speak only of my squadron. At first it consisted of Companies C and I, Captain Shaw commanding. Shaw's company was soon relieved by Company G, Captain McLenahan. The squadron was thereafter commanded by the writer until it rejoined the regiment in the spring.

"With headquarters at Wise's Fork, we did picket duty on all the roads leading into the city of New Bern. Some skirmishing occurred on the picket lines, and two or three times the enemy made demonstrations in force, and was met by a counter move by our infantry encamped around Kinston. At such times the squadron had hard times. Of course the enemy showed us no favor, and our own footmen did not appreciate very greatly a man on horseback, as was shown when one of my Lieutenants, who had a spat with the enemy on the picket line reported the fact to General D. H. Hill, the general carelessly asked if any one got hurt, and expressed a desire to see a 'dead man with spurs on.' In the spring of 1863 orders were received for the squadron to rejoin the regiment at Richmond, Va. This was accomplished by marching from Kinston through the country to the latter point, the squadron being several days behind the regiment.

"There we drew fresh clothing, saddles, bridles and other equipments, preparatory to going to the front. Passing through Richmond to Culpepper Court House, we arrived in time to join in the grand review of all the cavalry by General Lee, just before the noted cavalry fight at Brandy Station."

COMPLIMENT FROM THE ENEMY.

In their operations in Eastern Carolina the Sixty-third occasionally met the Fifty-eighth Pennsylvania Infantry and their commander, Colonel J. Richter Jones, 8 March, 1863, on page 161, Vol. 26, says of this regiment: "They are a different class of troops from those we have hitherto met, contesting successively every strong position and giving way only to very superior numbers."

LIEUTENANT W. J. WILEY, COMPANY F.

On page 197, Vol. 26, General Robertson reports: "With a view to carrying out the instruction of the Major-General commanding, D. H. Hill, I detached a party under Lieutenant W. J. Wiley, Company F, Sixty-third Regiment, with directions to move rapidly and cut the railroad between Sheppardsville and New Bern. * * * Some time before day Lieutenant Wiley's party returned and reported they had torn up the railroad track at a point three miles above Sheppardsville. From the proximity of the enemy's forces they were compelled to wait till after night to commence operations. I was highly gratified with the promptness and efficiency displayed by Lieutenant Wiley and party." This was done 13 March, 1863. The party with Wiley consisted of Denson A. Caldwell, R. Baxter Caldwell, two as good soldiers as ever rode in the ranks, and others. And even General D. H. Hill, with his well known dislike to cavalry, says this: "Robertson sent me out a Lieutenant who partly cut the railroad." Vol. 26, p. 189. His feeling about cavalry was amusing. Writing to Secretary of War Seddon, 5 May, 1863, General Hill says: "In the whole brigade of cavalry there has been but one man killed in the war. I propose to have a magnificent monument erected to his memory." Vol. 26, p. 1048. General R. E. Lee spoke of the cavalry as "My eyes and ears," and after Jackson and A. P. Hill were wounded at Chancellorsville General Lee put our cavalry leader, General J. E. B. Stuart, in their place to command, and on page 803, Vol. 39, in his official report of Chancellorsville, General Lee speaks most exaltedly of this cavalryman and his action and ability in that great battle.

THE SIXTY-THIRD SELECTED BY GENERAL R. E. LEE.

General Lee's accurate knowledge, even to minute details of every regiment in the Southern armies is astounding to any one carefully studying the "Official Records Union and Con-federate Armies." He knew how each was mounted and armed and he knew any petty jealousies and differences among the officers of a regiment that might weaken its efficiency. His choice of a regiment, therefore, was a great credit to that regiment.

21 April, 1863, S. Cooper, the Adjutant and Inspector General of the Confederacy, wrote General R. E. Lee:

"The President has shown me your letter of the 20th instant on the subject of an increase of cavalry for your command." He then offered General Lee a list of six regiments to choose from, and continues: "The President suggests that you make your selection of

three regiments and give the necessary orders in the case." Vol. 40, p. 741. He selected the Nineteenth, Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third North Carolina Regiments (Second, Fourth and Fifth Cavalry). Thus the Sixty-third North Carolina went to Virginia, in May, 1863, by General R. E. Lee's own selection.

The Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third North Carolina (Fourth and Fifth Cavalry), constituted Robertson's Brigade in Virginia and jointly numbered 1,068 "effective mounted men" and 67 officers, and was one of the six brigades constituting Stuart's Division of Cavalry. The Fifty-ninth had 568 men and 36 officers, and the Sixty-third 500 men and 31 officers, and were the two largest regiments in the division, except the Ninth North Carolina (First Cavalry) and the Ninth Virginia, which had, respectively, 534 officers and men and 616 officers and men. Vol 40, p. 823. Thus, at the opening of the great campaign of 1863, we stood about the best of all General Lee's cavalry. Great and startling events now occur fast-fatally for many of the Sixty-third, famously for all of it.

BRANDY STATION OR FLEETWOOD.

Without incident worthy of note after arriving in Virginia, the Sixty-third Regiment was in the grand review General R. E. Lee made of all Stuart's Cavalry near Brandy Station, 8 June, 1863. It was the greatest gathering of Southern cavalry ever seen. And no regiment there made a better appearance than the Sixty-third North Carolina. That review was a grand pageant and a glorious sight. But another sight and other sounds greeted us the next morning.

On 7 June the Federal cavalry general, Pleasanton, was ordered by General Hooker, commanding the Northern army, to "cross the Rappahannock at Beverly and Kelly's Fords and march directly on Culpepper," with "the object in view to disperse and destroy the rebel force assembled in the vicinity of Culpepper, and to destroy his trains and supplies of all description to the utmost of your ability. It is believed that the enemy has no infantry." Vol. 45, p. 27-28. That "rebel force" was Stuart's Cavalry, in all, 9,536. Pleasanton had 10,980 horsemen, with a large force of infantry and artillery. The same order, just cited, also said to General Pleasanton: "If you should succeed in routing the enemy, the general desires that you will follow him vigorously as far as it may be to our advantage to do so." Vol. 45, p. 28. Under this order, at dawn of 9 June, there was a mighty crossing by Federal cavalry at Beverly Ford, above the railroad and at Kelly's, south of it. Part of the Sixty-third Regiment was on picket at and near Kelly's Ford, among them a detachment from Company F, under Lieutenant Wiley. All the pickets at both fords were soon driven in, and the greatest purely cavalry battle of the war ensued. It was a fight with the saber and pistol by charging squadrons and horse artillery and "the cannoneers were for a time engaged hand-to-hand with the enemy." Stuart's report, Vol. 44, p. 681 Such a fight could not be described here. Besides the Sixty-third North Carolina did not participate in the glories of these charges because of its distant position at Kelly's Ford. But it played an important part in checking the enemy's "infantry, artillery and cavalry, marching directly upon the right flank of our troops engaged in front of Rappahannock Station." General Robertson's report, Vol. 45, p. 734.

At the great crisis of the battle a courier from General Stuart directed General Robertson to advance rapidly with one regiment and report to him, as the enemy had possession of Stuart's headquarters on Fleetwood Hill. General Robertson selected the Sixty-third Regiment and pushed rapidly forward, but Hampton and Young with their commands, and Baker, with the Ninth North Carolina, by "a series of charges, most successful and brilliant," drove them off and captured their artillery and cannoneers just in front of the Sixty-third Regiment, without its striking a blow. Vol. 45, p. 736 and 682. On page 683 General Stuart says: "General Robertson's command, though not engaged, was exposed to the enemy's artillery fire, and behaved well." The battle lasted from early in the morning till late in the afternoon.

In the evening of 9 June, General Pleasanton, from the same side of the Rappahannock, where he received his orders of 7 July, sent "the following important dispatches" to General Stahl: "The enemy has his whole cavalry force here and I have had a severe fight. Please send some cars down this side of Bealton for our wounded. Have crossed. Enemy in some force of cavalry." Vol. 45, p. 38. And to General Stuart on the 10th he wrote: "I am anxious to obtain information as to the condition of a number of officers of my command who were left in your hands yesterday, to obtain the bodies of the dead and the privilege of sending medical supplies and comfort to those who are wounded." Vol. 45, p. 46. And thus ended the orders "to disperse and destroy the rebel force assembled in the vicinity of Culpepper." All was done by our cavalry alone. Of it General Robert E. Lee wrote to General Stuart: "The result of the action calls for our grateful thanks to Almighty God, and is honorable alike to the officers and men engaged. Vol. 44, p. 687.

MIDDLEBURG AND UPPERVILLE.

All cavalymen of the Army of Northern Virginia stop to listen when you say "Middleburg and Upperville." Those names are full of great and also sad memories to them. Great for their glorious charges and conflicts; sad for the comrades who fell there. Our cavalry fought fiercely for a great purpose those days at Middleburg and Upperville. The greatest crisis of the war was approaching. Mighty movements were going on. Ewell was pressing up the Valley on his march to Pennsylvania, which purpose was positively known only to a very few but frightfully feared by the North. Winchester and Martinsburg had fallen and Milroy had been "wiped out." Mr. Lincoln had issued, 15 June, his proclamation calling for 100,000 additional men to meet the fearful invasion. Vol. 45, p. 136. Longstreet's great corps was stealthily moving near the base of the mountains "east of the Blue Ridge," making for Ashby Gap to follow Ewell, A. P. Hill was to follow Longstreet closely for Chester Gap, and Stuart's Cavalry had crossed the Rappahannock, 16 June, (the Sixty-third Regiment at Hinson's Mills), and were in the Northern part of Fauquier county the night of 16 June, all bivouacked near Salem. Vol. 44, pp. 295, 687, 688, and Vol. 45, p. 896. Now to understand and appreciate what immediately follows and the consequent magnitude of the part therein of the Sixty-third, three things must be borne in mind:

1. General Lee was making his mightiest moves of the war and he was anxious above all things to keep them secret.

2. Stuart knew the great secret fully and was guarding it with his cavalry alone.

3. The enemy were in absolute ignorance as to Lee's position and purpose. Their suspense was supreme and they were determined to locate him at any cost. It must be remembered also that this great move began long before any of it was seen. At its start, McLaws' Division was withdrawn from Fredericksburg 3 June, 1863. Vol. 44, p. 293.

"Longstreet and Ewell were put in motion and encamped around Culpepper Court House 7 June." Vol. 44, p. 313. The very day of the battle of Brandy Station, while it was on General Lee sent Stuart word that he wished "our force and position concealed as much as possible, and the infantry not to be seen, if it be possible to avoid it." Vol. 45, p. 876.

16 June General Lee wrote A. P. Hill directions for movement "to deceive the enemy as to our ultimate destination, at least for a time." Vol. 45, p. 896.

22 June, after Middleburg and Upperville, General Lee wrote Stuart: "I judge the efforts of the enemy yesterday were to arrest our progress and ascertain our whereabouts. I fear he will steal a march on us, and get across the Potomac before we are aware." Vol. 45, p. 913.

Same day, from Millwood, Longstreet wrote Stuart suggesting precautions not "to disclose our plans." Vol. 45, p. 915.

10 June, Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War, telegraphed: "Pittsburg will certainly be the point aimed at by Stuart's raid, which may daily be expected." Vol. 45, p. 54.

At General Hooker's headquarters, 12 June, it was thought that Lee only intended "to commence a raid with his cavalry." Vol. 45, p. 73.

At Hooker's headquarters, 13 June, they telegraphed General Reynolds that they had heard of a "probable movement to turn our right or go into Maryland," but "we cannot abandon this line on any uncertainty." Vol. 45, p. 81.

17 June, General Pleasanton, commanding Federal cavalry, received from Hooker's headquarters this: "The commanding general relies upon you with your cavalry force to give him information of where the enemy is, his force, and his movements. You have a sufficient cavalry force to do this. Drive in the pickets, if necessary, and get us information. It is better that we should lose men than to be without knowledge of the enemy, as we now seem to be." Vol. 45, p. 172. June 17, General Meade telegraphed General Butterfield, Hooker's Chief of Staff, "I have informed Pleasanton he can have any support from me to the extent of my command," and that "command" was the Fifth Army Corps. 17 June, 8 :20 p. m., General Butterfield telegraphed General Ingalls in Washington: "Try and hunt up somebody from Pennsylvania who knows something, and

has a cool enough head to judge what is the actual state of affairs there with regard to the enemy. Enemy reported to have appeared at Poolesville, and everywhere else in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Western Virginia. Cavalry enough is reported to have appeared to fill up the whole of Pennsylvania and leave no room for the inhabitants. My impression now is that Lee is in as much uncertainty as to our whereabouts and what we are doing as we are as to his; that his movement on the Upper Potomac is a cover for a cavalry raid on the north side of the river, and a movement of his troops farther west." Vol. 45, pp. 174-175.

Same day, at 10:30 p. m., General Butterfield, having heard of the fight at Aldie, telegraphed General Pleasanton: "If Lee's army is in rear of his cavalry we shall move up by forced marches. Give us any indications of it as soon as possible." Vol. 45, p. 177.

17 June, General Hooker himself telegraphed General Tyler, at Sandy Hook: "If Longstreet's and Ewell's Corps have been at Winchester at all, they are now somewhere in that vicinity. I hope you will keep out all of your cavalry until we find out his whereabouts. I have directed mine to feel up to him and they are now hard at work." Vol. 45, p. 180.

Again, in the apparent despair of ignorance, General Hooker, himself, at 1:05 p. m. 17 June, telegraphed General Tyler, at Sandy Hook: "Can you give me positive and correct information of any force of any kind and number of the enemy at any particular spot? From all reports here, we might conclude that he covered all western Pennsylvania and Maryland, or that he was not there at all. Can you give me anything correct?" Vol. 45, p. 181.

Now we see what the opposing forces were fighting for at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville. Ashby's Gap is at the top of the Blue Ridge, northwestern corner of Fauquier county, Va., a great crossing to the Valley; just at the foot of the mountain is Paris, four miles east of Paris is Upperville, ten miles east of Upperville is Middleburg and five miles east of Middleburg is Aldie.

Wednesday morning, 17 June, Fitz Lee's Brigade was redirected toward Aldie, W. H. F. Lee's Brigade was put at "The Plains," about eight miles south of Middleburg, and Robertson's Brigade, the Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third North Carolina Regiments, at Rectortown, about eight miles south-west from Middleburg. These three brigades, with Breathed's Battery, constituted Stuart's entire force. Pleasanton had his entire corps of cavalry and artillery with him and two brigades of infantry. Vol. 45, pp. 175 and 246. General Stuart went with Fitz Lee's Brigade to Middleburg and there stopped to keep in easy communication with W. H. F. Lee and Robertson. Fitz Lee's Brigade opened the ball at Aldie late in the afternoon. General Stuart says that it was "One of the most sanguinary cavalry battles of the war." While this fight was going on Stuart heard that a large force of the enemy's cavalry was advancing on Middleburg from towards Hopewell, near and to the right of Thoroughfare Gap, in Bull Run mountains. He at once ordered up to Middleburg Robertson's Brigade from Rectortown and Chambliss with W. H. F. Lee's Brigade, from "The Plains." This last force of Federal cavalry got to Middleburg about 4

p. in., ahead of Robertson and Chambliss. It had a sharp fight with some of Fitz Lee's forces while we were coming up and drove them off. Vol. 44, p. 688. It marched through the town and barricaded it and held it till about 7 p. in. Vol. 43, p. 963. In the meantime, Robertson and Chambliss were coming and coming fast. The Sixty-third rode at a gallop the last few miles. This Federal force now at Middleburg was, in part the First Rhode Island Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Duffle in person. He soon heard of what was coming. He threw out pickets, manned his barricades and dismounted his regiment about a half mile from Middle-burg toward Hopewell, in a wood and behind stone walls on the Hopewell road preparatory to what the Sixty-third North Carolina was about to do. The head of Robertson's Brigade reached Middleburg "just at dark." Under Stuart's own orders the Sixty-third North Carolina immediately charged through the main street of Middleburg and a short distance beyond up the road towards Aldie and having easily driven the pickets and the force on that road out of sight, it hastily came back and took the Hopewell road after Colonel Duffle's main force. Colonel Duffle says of our action: "They surrounded the town and stormed the barricades." And when the Sixty-third charged down upon that stone wall with a terrific yell, there was blaze after blaze of fire, out on the darkness and into those charging Carolinians. They recoiled and rallied. Three times they charged that line of fire and then went into that wood and around those walls and the First Rhode Island Cavalry was defeated and destroyed in dead, wounded and prisoners. We captured their standard and a large body of prisoners that night. and Chambliss' command, on to whom we had driven them, captured the rest. of them next morning. Colonel Duffle, from "near Centreville, Va., 1S June, 1863." reported: "I returned here exhausted at 130 p. m. today with the gallant debris of my much loved regiment-four officers and twenty-seven men." Vol. 43, pp. 963--964 and 1056.

General Stuart reports that Robertson "drove him handsomely out of Middleburg and pursued him miles on the Hopewell road." Vol. 44, p. 683.

Major McNeill was badly wounded in this charge on Duffle and among our killed was Winfield Smith and Robert Flanigan, of Company F, and D. M. Gibson, of Company F, wounded. Lieutenant Wiley and part of Company F brought in twenty-six prisoners.

We occupied Middleburg that night and the Sixty-third camped near there on the road to Upperville. The country is rough and rises and falls in alternate ridge and depression all along the turnpike to Ashby's Gap, which was hard on the horses and absolutely crippled the unshod.

Morning of the 18th we took position around Middleburg with W. II. F. Lee's Brigade, under Chambliss, and, because of encroachments on our left, at Union, where Fitz Lee was, Stuart "deemed it requisite to leave Middleburg out of his line of battle," upon which place Colonel J. I. Gregg advanced with the Third Brigade of the Second Division of Federal cavalry and with this force we skirmished all day and they fell back that evening "to a point midway between Middleburg and Aldie." And the town was again ours and our pickets posted east of the town. Vol. 43, p. 953, and Vol. 44, p. 689.

On the morning of 19 June General Pleasanton "directed three brigades under Gregg to move on Middleburg, drive out the enemy and send a force on to Upperville and Ashby's Gap." Vol. 43, p. 909.

About a mile west of the town, in a strong position on wooded heights, were posted W. H. F. Lee's Brigade on the left and Robertson's Brigade on the right of the Upperville turnpike. Colonel Gregg's Brigade advanced as skirmishers and the firing was fierce. So that General Gregg, there in person, reported that the fire of the enemy's artillery "and his skirmishers concealed in wheat fields and woods made any advance of our line apparently impracticable." And now came the fight, says General Gregg: "Determined to drive the enemy from his position, I directed all available force upon his centre. An increased force of dismounted skirmishers was placed to the right and left of the turnpike, and regiments held in readiness to charge upon the road. The enemy made strong resistance, but at last yielded and abandoned his position." Vol. 43, p. 953. General Stuart says: "This attack was met in the most determined manner by those two brigades, which rough roads had already decimated for want of adequate shoeing facilities." And, "appreciating the difficulty of the situation I withdrew my command to a more commanding position half a mile to the rear." Vol. 44, p. 689. And that day they did not "send a force on to Upperville and Ashby's Gap." The Sixty-third North Carolina camped again that night east of Upperville. General Pleasanton says: "General Gregg sent in about fifty prisoners * * * all from-North Carolina," which shows that the Sixty-third Regiment was in the front of the fight and stayed there longest. Vol. 43, p. 910.

On the 20th it rained all day and Stuart was waiting for Hampton, who had been left with his brigade on the Rappahannock and who arrived on the 20th too late to attack the enemy, still in possession of Middleburg. Vol. 44, pp. 687 and 690.

General Pleasanton in his report, 20 June, says: "I am just in from General Gregg's battlefield of yesterday. He had a very hard fight. Our cavalry is really fighting infantry behind stone walls. This is the reason of our heavy losses." Vol. 43, p. 911. What a tribute is that sentence about "infantry" to the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment! There was no infantry with Stuart.

Sunday, 21 June, was to witness the fiercest fighting of all and to end the contest. Fitz Lee was away off to our left at Snicker's Gap and not in the action at all. Jones' and W. H. F. Lee's Brigades under Chambliss were from four to six miles off to our left on Goose creek and thus Hampton and Robertson were to bear the brunt of the battle, as it must be noted that the North Carolinians had been doing since the evening of the 17th. Vol. 44, pp. 688-690.

Pleasanton had five fresh brigades engaged against our four and three of these were against the brigade of Hampton and the worn out, decimated two regiments of Robertson and one of these brigades against Hampton and Robertson was Vincent's Infantry Brigade, which brigade Pleasanton says "was kept busy by their dismounted infantry." Vol 43, pp. 913 and 614; Vol. 44, p. 690.

Our little force was between Middleburg and Upperville, in a position of great strength previously and carefully selected by General Stuart who was commanding in person. And we would have held it against a force even double ours in strength. Part of our cavalry was, at the beginning of the battle, mounted for charging and guarding flanks while the rest were dismounted behind a series of stone walls on the south side of the turnpike, and running at right angles with it, the cavalry in the road and fields, and Hart's battery of horse artillery of six guns was near the road on the left. A long belt of woods marked our position.

In front of us was Fuller's Artillery, a great line of Kilpatrick's Cavalry, with General Buford's Division moving to our left flank and behind and immediately with Kilpatrick's force came a great brigade of the Fifth Corps of infantry under command of Colonel Vincent, who sent the Eighty-third Pennsylvania to flank us on our right. About 8 a. m. the battle began and soon it was on most furiously. One regiment of infantry and their dismounted cavalry was hurled on our front. According to Colonel Vincent's own report and under the urgent orders of General Pleasanton himself, Vincent rushed three different infantry lines on us one after the other. Fuller's Battery roared and poured death into our ranks and utterly disabled one of Hart's Blakely guns. General Gregg commanding their cavalry says we "stubbornly contested." Long and superbly they were beaten back until our right flank and rear were attacked by the Eighty-third Pennsylvania Infantry, when we retired under Stuart's orders, having to leave the Blakely gun with its broken axle, the first gun Stuart ever lost, and he says "its full value was paid in the slaughter it there made." We took position, similar to the first, behind "stone walls immediately in the rear" and met them again and again were driven back in the same irresistible way for long weary miles along which brilliant and dashing mounted charges on each side were made and met. "Thus the fight continued, with the same tactics on the part of the enemy and the same orders from General Pleasanton to dislodge them," says Colonel Vincent. Our last stand east of Upperville was on the west bank of Goose creek. "Whence," Stuart says, "after receiving the enemy's attack, and after repulsing him with slaughter, I again withdrew en echelon of regiments in plain view, and under fire of the enemy's guns. Nothing could exceed the coolness and self-possession of officers and men in these movements, performing evolutions with a precision under fire that must have won the tribute of admiration from the enemy even, who dared not trust his cavalry unsupported to the sabers of such men. The enemy attacked Brigadier-General Robertson, bringing up the rear in this movement, and was handsomely repulsed." Vol. 44, pp. 690-691.

COLONEL PETER G. EVANS MORTALLY WOUNDED.

The Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment won this tribute for our brigade from Stuart while filling the post of honor there, as rear guard and Colonel Peter G. Evans was mortally wounded and captured then and there. Just prior to the charge, in which Colonel Evans was shot, the Sixty-third, then mounted, was subjected, on its left, to a most terrific artillery fire which slew men and horses. Companies A and F were ordered to support the charge dismounted behind some rock walls along the pike a few hundred yards west of Upperville. When Colonel Evans gave the order to charge, General Robertson about the same moment gave an order not to charge just then and, by the consequent confusion of

orders, only part of the Sixty-third Regiment followed Colonel Evans, Company H leading. The first Maine Cavalry was coining magnificently in column up the pike and the yelling men of the Sixty-third North Carolina went at them with a rush. "The First Maine, after firing a few shots, scattered to the right and left," and this charging part of the Sixty-third rode headlong into a hot carbine fire from the Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry, suffered fearfully and was driven back. Vol. 43, pp. 983--984. But the Sixty-third still rode and charged and fought as rear guard back to Paris, near which we camped, in Ashby's Gap, that Sunday night. In these actions it had twice as many men killed and wounded as any other Confederate regiment engaged. Vol. 44, p. 712. At 5:30 p. m. 21 June, General Pleasanton reported: "I have not been able to send to the top of the Blue Ridge. Stuart has the gap covered with heavy Blakeleys and 10-pounder Parrots. I shall return to Aldie tomorrow." General Meade, commanding the Fifth Army Corps, reported 22 June, of Pleasanton: "He was yesterday opposed only by a brigade of cavalry and one battery, but the character of the country was so favorable for defense that it took him all (lay with his large force to drive them back some twelve miles." "Character of the country" was a pitiable excuse. 21 June, 5 p.m., General Hooker, commanding Army of the Potomac, telegraphed President Lincoln: "This cavalry force has hitherto prevented me from obtaining satisfactory information as to the whereabouts of the enemy. They have masked all their movements." Thus our actions were of sufficient importance to attract the attention of General Hooker and the President of the United States and the former shows that we sacredly guarded General Lee's great secret and that our duty was "well done." Vol. 43, pp. 54, 614, 912, 954; Vol. 44, p. 690, and Vol. 45, p. 255.

In his official report to General Lee of these actions General Stuart wrote: "I was extremely anxious now to attack the enemy as early as possible, having, since Hampton's arrival, received sufficient reinforcement to attack the enemy's cavalry, but the next morning (21st) being the Sabbath, I recognized my obligation to do no other duty than what was absolutely necessary, and determined, so far as was in my power, to devote it to rest." Vol. 44, p. 690. But, as we have seen, he was forced to fight. And this extract is quoted here that all young North Carolinians, in studying Confederate soldiery, may see that this great, ideal cavalry general of the South, with Jackson and Lee, recognized and obeyed God, as the "Lord of hosts."

Jackson prayed as hard as he fought. He always prayed fervently first and then fought. And his battles and victories were the answered inspirations of his prayers. When a great crisis was upon him, the flaps of his tent hung closed for hours and no one dared approach, for all knew that "Jackson was holding a council of war with God." And the South's sublimest and truest title of Lee was-"Our Christian Leader." The Commander-in-Chief of a Christian people, whose hearts, together with those of their three greatest generals, were continually and earnestly asking their God to give victory to their Confederacy. They were the great typical sons of the Southern men and mothers around them; testifying, as the presence of such men always does, by their individual greatness, the greatness of those about them. Not exceptions to but only exalted emblems of the South's men and women. Just as our own Mitchell and other great mountains are elevated expressions of the earth's surface around them, without which respective surroundings neither these "giants among men" nor the mountains could exist. And these "Princes in

Israel" and these mountains and their environments are not, in any way, the result of the so-called evolution of certain scientists nor of their "law of the survival of the fittest," but each and all are the result of the immediate word and work of God. The South's God did not answer those patriot prayers for their Confederacy, as they prayed, for, "He doeth all things well" and not always as we ask. He saw that, for us and our posterity and all the world beside, it was best that the Confederacy should die, after writing its glories of men and women with letters of eternal stars in the everlasting firmament of history. And thus, by Him and by His love, ours became "The Lost Cause," that as a magnificent part of this great republic, magnified through Him by our glories of war and our "white robes of great tribulation," we may majestically move along the mighty marches which He has mapped out for us even to "the uttermost parts of the earth for our possession," utterly regardless of all small men and measures and political parties intervening between His "chosen people" and His great predestined plans and purposes for us, "who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises."

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JAMES B. GORDON.

Under special instructions from General Stuart, dated 24 June, 1863, Vol. 45, p. 927, General Robertson's cavalry covered the front of Ashby's and Snicker's Gap for some days and then moved to Gettysburg, via Williamsport and Chambersburg, arrived near Cashtown 3 July, and was put on our army's right flank. After the fall of Colonel Evans that great cavalry leader, Lieutenant-Colonel James B. Gordon, of the Ninth North Carolina Regiment, and of Wilkes county, N. C., was put temporarily in command of the Sixty-third Regiment and commanded it all during the Gettysburg campaign and some time after. The night of 4 July, when the retreat began, the Sixty-third Regiment was again assigned the post of honor as picket and rear guard. At the instance of General R. E. Lee, General Stuart instructed General Robertson, now on the right near Fairfield, Pa., "that it was essentially necessary for him to hold the Jack Mountain passes," including two prominent roads. Vol. 44, p. 699. As Company F, of the Sixty-third Regiment, rode to the top of one of the passes to picket, it met the head of a Federal cavalry regiment coming to take possession of the pass. Company F, under Lieutenant Wiley, attacked at once and Baxter Caldwell, a young, daring trooper of Company F, was sent at a rush down the mountain to Colonel Gordon for help, who dashed to the top with the Sixty-third whooping and yelling, drove off the enemy and camped on the mountain that night. 6 July, the regiment, via Leitersburg, was with Stuart at Hagerstown on his urgent mission to Williamsport to save the Confederate wagon trains all "congregated in a narrow space at the foot of the hill, near the river, too much swollen to admit their passage to the south bank" of the Potomac.

WAGON TRAIN SAVED AT HAGERSTOWN.

At Hagerstown General J. E. B. Stuart rode along the line and said joyously, "We've got 'em now, boys," which was answered with a wild yell all along the line of the Sixty-third. In a moment Chambliss was pushing down the main road after the enemy and Robertson, with the decimated Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third Regiments, was moving parallel.

Chambliss put them on the run and the column that the Sixty-third Regiment was in hurried up to attack their flank, but post and rail fences delayed this column and it was raked with artillery. Jenkins dismounted and dislodged them. And Stuart says: "The enemy, thus dislodged, was closely pressed by the mounted cavalry, but made one effort at a countercharge, which was gallantly met and repulsed by Colonel James B. Gordon, commanding a fragment of the Sixty-third North Carolina, that officer exhibiting under my eye individual prowess deserving special commendation." Vol. 44, p. 702. Of the action that day General Stuart says: "Without this attack, it is certain that our trains would have fallen into the hands of the enemy." 7 July the regiment spent on the north front of Hagerstown, on the Cavetown road. Daily the regiment moved here and there to aid other cavalry in covering "the retreat of the grand army." 11 July, at 8:30 p. m., "Robertson was two and a half miles in front of Ewell." Vol. 45, p. 994. The night of the 13th was chosen to cross the Potomac from in front of Meade who "instead of attacking was intrenching in our front," and "the arduous and difficult task of bringing up the rear was, as usual, assigned to the cavalry" under this order, dated 13 July, 1863, 4:15 p. in., from General Robert E. Lee to General Stuart.: "General: As arranged this afternoon, I wish you to place your cavalry in position before night, so as to relieve the infantry along the whole extent of their lines when they retire, and take the place of their sharpshooters when withdrawn. They will be withdrawn about 12 o'clock tonight. Direct your men to be very vigilant and bold, and not let the enemy discover that our lines have been vacated. At daylight withdraw your skirmishers, and retire with all your force to cross the river. * * I know it to be a difficult, as well as delicate operation to cover this army and then withdraw your command with safety, but I rely upon your good judgment, energy and boldness to accomplish it, and trust you may be as successful as you have been on former occasions. After crossing, continue to cover the rear of the army with part of your force, and with the rest move forward to our front, where you will receive further orders." Vol. 45, p. 1001.

ACROSS THE POTOMAC

This order was as perfectly executed as anything human could be. "Just before night (which was unusually rainy), the cavalry was disposed from right to left, to occupy, dismounted, the trenches of the infantry at (lark," the Sixty-third taking their part of Ewell's line. "The operation was successfully performed by the cavalry" and on the 14th at Williamsport the Sixty-third Regiment crossed as the very last of Lee's army. It then picketed a few (lays the fords of the Shenandoah near Ashby's Gap. Soon the enemy was sending a heavy column east of the Blue Ridge to interpose between our army and Richmond. Longstreet's Corps moved to counteract this and again the Sixty-third was in the post of honor, being sent, with Robertson, as Longstreet's "advance guard through Front Royal and Chester Gap." On the 23d, with other cavalry, it reached Chester Gap and, "with great difficulty and a forced march, bivouacked that night below Gaines' Coss Roads, holding the Rockford road and Warrenton turnpike, on which, near Amisville, the enemy had accumulated a large force of cavalry. On the 25th the march was continued and the line of the Rappahannock resumed." Vol. 44, pp. 699-707.

NORTH CAROLINA CAVALRY BRIGADE FORMED.

4 August, at his own request, General Robertson was relieved from duty with the Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third Regiments. Vol. 45, p. 1075. On 9 Sept., 1863, under Special Orders, No. 226, Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia, there was a reorganization of the cavalry, the Sixty-third North Carolina becoming a part of General L. S. Baker's Brigade, Hampton's Division and Stuart's Corps of Cavalry. This was the First division of the corps. The brigade consisted of the Ninth, Nineteenth, Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third North Carolina Regiments, the Sixty-third commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel S. B. Evans. Vol. 49, p. 707.

In consequence of a wound General Baker was soon assigned to special duty and about 1 October this brigade became General James B. Gordon's North Carolina Cavalry Brigade. Vol. 48, p. 820. The Confederate army at this time was south of the Rapidan and our cavalry was picketing the Rapidan and Robertson rivers.

JACK'S SHOP.

On 21 September, 1863, General Buford started on a great reconnoitering expedition to cross the Rapidan, via Madison Court House, with a heavy force of cavalry and artillery. They reached Madison Court House about sundown that day and attacked the picket force there, which fell back to Jack's Shop, on the Madison and Orange turnpike about six miles south of Madison. General Stuart with the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade and other cavalry was at Jack's Shop early next morning, 22 September, to beat back the reconnoissance.

General Buford moved his first division down the pike to our front. Kilpatrick went by Wolftown to our left and another column marched towards Barnett's Ford to our right. We did not then see or know of these forces on our flanks, but we did ere long. The battle opened by a splendid mounted charge of the Ninth and Sixty-third North Carolina after the advance guard had located the enemy north of Jack's Shop. They drove everything before them back and on to the dismounted men of the enemy, where they were met by a galling fire from behind fences, trees cut across the pike and other protection. Both regiments dismounted to "fight on foot." Under this fire, right in the presence of the enemy and in splendid style, they formed their line of skirmishers and charging drove them back on their great line of advancing forces, which could be seen and was terrible to behold. We then fell back slowly before them to our main line of dismounted men, Buford not forcing us as he could and would have done with his great hosts had he not been waiting Kilpatrick's move. And here we fought one of the very fiercest fights of the war. Buford got his signal from Kilpatrick that he was full in our rear on the pike, and then he opened furiously on our lines with small arms and artillery. Stuart knew quickly that he was surrounded. He knew, too, the mettle of the men with him. There was no attempt at concealment from the men in the ranks. He trusted them and took them openly into his council. He was always greatest in a desperate emergency, as all great men always are. One of his own staff rode along the lines and told the men that we were surrounded and, said he, "Boys it's a fight to captivity, death or victory." A man in the

Sixty-third answered him, "We'll go out of here if there isn't but one of us left." And a great cheer greeted the words, which told what the Sixty-third would do. When he knew exactly where Kilpatrick was, Buford came on our front with all his power of rattling rifles and roaring artillery. We were pressed back by sheer brute force and deadly fire, General Devin's column on our right and Kilpatrick on the left and rear, and as we fell back and got into the open there, on a small hill, was a wondrous sight, probably never seen before nor since. There stood McGregor's Battery, Stuart, on horseback, commanding in person and pointing here and there with his great right arm, and under these orders the six guns of that glorious battery were firing fast and furiously in three direction at once; two on Buford, two to our immediate left and two on Kilpatrick. The sight was thrilling. The men were never going to pass Stuart and those guns. They yelled and fired and stood. That was enough. Stuart was satisfied as to what they would do. He dashed off with his staff down the pike towards Kilpatrick's coming columns and in a few moments a mighty cheer, that only Southern soldiers could give, came louder than the guns from our rear. Colonel Ferree with the Fifty-ninth North Carolina and a part of Jones' and Butler's Brigades, after desperate charges and countercharges, had beaten Kilpatrick back. Kilpatrick went back faster than he came, and the whole Federal force retreated to the Robertson river and crossed it next morning in haste after Buford wrote General Pleasanton: "I am proud to say that Stuart was whipped and his forces dispersed." Vol. 48, p. 141. Among our killed at Jack's Shop, from Company A, were Charles Murphy, son of Mr. David Murphy, and Alexander Bethune, son of Congressman Bethune, all of Fayetteville, N. C.

THE BRISTOE CAMPAIGN.

On 9 October, 1863, General Lee began his great movement, with Ewell's and Hill's Corps on Meade's right flank, known as the Bristoe campaign. The advance was by way of Madison Court House on the enemy then in Culpepper. Hampton's Division, he being absent from Gettysburg wounds, was under the immediate personal command of Stuart and acted on Ewell's and Hill's left flank to favor their movement. Gordon's Brigade, including the Sixty-third, bivouacked near Madison Court House the night of the 9th and crossed Robertson river at Russell's Ford about daylight on the 10th. The Fifty-ninth North Carolina beat off the Federal pickets and drove then back on their supports, the One Hundred and Twentieth New York Infantry and some cavalry, at Bethsaida church. Gordon attacked in front with the Sixty-third and others, dismounted, and the First South Carolina Cavalry assailed their right and rear. They broke and fled in utter rout and nearly every man of that infantry regiment was killed or captured. We then moved on to the village of James City, driving Kilpatrick's cavalry before us, through the village, on to their supports, consisting of the Second Division of Infantry of the Third Corps and artillery and cavalry under command of General Henry Prince. It being impossible to dislodge them, only sufficient demonstration was made to engage their full attention. The Sixty-third was on their right flank with Gordon's Brigade and Young's Brigade on their front and two pieces of Griffin's Horse Artillery. Heavy skirmishing and artillery firing was kept up on both sides until nightfall, when the "brigade bivouacked for the night on line of battle." Before daylight the enemy fell back on Culpepper, Kilpatrick covering the rear of the Third and Fifth Army Corps. Vol. 48, pp. 328, 439 and 460. On the morning

of the 11th we marched, with Gordon's Brigade, along the flank of our infantry column, toward Griffinsburg, and struck the Sperryville and Culpepper pike at Stone-House Mountain. Here Gordon was ordered to move down the pike and push the enemy back to Culpepper. This he did with the Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third Regiments-the Fifty-ninth bearing off the honors of the charge. The Sixty-third lost for the war the services of its brave, gallant and efficient Adjutant, Lieutenant J. Turner Morehead, son of Governor Morehead, severely shot in the mouth, the ball passing out through the back of his neck, and among its other wounded was that ever faithful soldier and valiant young officer, Lieutenant W. J. Wiley, of Company F, also shot in the mouth and his front teeth knocked out. The whole Federal army was now falling back across the Rappahannock on the roads to Brandy Station, rear guarded by all their cavalry, except Buford's Division, and Fitz Lee who had been left on the Rapidan, was fast driving back Buford's Division of cavalry and artillery towards Brandy Station from Stevensburg. The position of the enemy's artillery and his strength near Culpepper, across Mountain Run, was such that General Stuart would not attack; but left some artillery on his front to attack him and a squadron of the Ninth in Culpepper and moved to the left with the Seventh and Twelfth Virginia Regiments and Gordon's Brigade to get in his rear near Brandy. As we approached John Minor Botts' house there could be seen from the front of our column the dense columns of Federal cavalry moving along the railroad towards Brandy. They had perceived our purpose to get in their rear and were in full retreat, and across the plain to our right, towards Stevensburg, could be seen the smoke and heard the boom of Fitz Lee's guns after Buford's column, the fire of which reached our line over the columns moving between us and General Lee, who could not distinguish us from the enemy. The two columns from Robertson and Rapidan rivers were both now making for Fleetwood Heights, on Brandy Plains. The Ninth North Carolina was sent to capture what seemed to be a detached body on our right. The Ninth, as always, did its work well and captured or killed sixty of them, but found itself in front of Custer's Brigade. Colonel Massie, of the Twelfth Virginia, charged down on General Davies' Brigade, then retreating just in Custer's rear and the Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third were moved up to Massie's support. And here occurred a bad break in the glorious record, past and future, of the Sixty-third. At this moment the Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third in column of fours, were in a partly sunken road intently watching Colonel Massie's charge and waiting orders from Stuart and Gordon, both then and there in person. The Sixty-third's attention was all to the front on Massie. Close to their immediate right there was an elevation of some length through an open field, which rising ground absolutely cut off from their view Custer's and Davies' Brigades, now confronted by the Ninth and charged by Massie. This presence of the Ninth in their front and Massie's charge and Fitz Lee's coming columns filled these Federal officers with desperation, and they acted well in the face of the Ninth and Massie's men, which each thought and officially reported to be "a brigade" on their front and flank. Custer charged to the front with two regiments, formed by squadrons, and Davies by regiments to his right and left. The Sixty-third and Fifty-ninth's right flank was most unwisely and totally unprotected, when suddenly the Eighteenth Pennsylvania, in regiment front, led by General Davies, fell like a tornado on the Sixty-third and Fifty-ninth, over the open elevation which had concealed them, and both the Fifty-ninth and Sixty-third broke in confusion to their left until the Seventh Virginia, most opportunely coming up, charged the Eighteenth Pennsylvania on their left flank, and they fled. Our

regimental bugler, F. R. Hose, and Sergeant-Major Charles Haigh, both of Company A, Sixty-third Regiment, two as intelligent and brave boys as ever wore the gray, were off some distance to the right of the Sixty-third and saw the impending danger and, with that quickness to see and act which fitted them and so many of our Southern men in the ranks to command, they both hastened to prepare the Sixty-third for the terrible onslaught, but they were too late. They are both now living in Fayetteville, N. C. They both saw better than any one else the whole affair and they, together with others now alive and there present, claim that it was impossible for the Sixty-third to have resisted the impetuous rush of the Eighteenth Pennsylvania down that slope, placed as the Sixty-third was in that road. Privates G. A. Thompson and J. B. Hollingsworth, of Company A, were wounded and W. L. Jennings, of Company A, was captured, but his captor did not take his saber from him, and when the Seventh Virginia came to the rescue, Jennings used it freely upon his captor and took him prisoner. Private Ham. S. Alexander, of Company F, Sixty-third Regiment, brother of the Hon. S. B. Alexander, when wheeling suddenly to make that retreat, had his horse to fall on his leg and was unable to extricate himself. He thus lay until the Pennsylvanians rushed back in retreat, when Alexander leveled his rifle on a Federal private who had been dismounted in the melee, and actually took him prisoner and made him pull the fallen horse off his leg. All this shows that the mettle of the men of the Sixty-third was not broken, if its ranks had been. If ever a break in face of the enemy was excusable, this one was. But it was quickly all over and the regiment reformed and ready for action. The second great cavalry fight at Brandy Station then occurred and the Federal cavalry had all retreated across the Rappahannock by 9 p. m. and we bivouacked the night of 11 October near Brandy Station. Vol. 48, pp. 440, 460, 386 and 390.

On the morning of the 12th in accordance with General R. E.' Lee's instructions, General Stuart proceeded with Gordon's brigade and other cavalry to protect the right flank of our infantry column moving by Rixeyville toward Warrenton. Gordon's Brigade crossed the river at Warrenton Sulphur Springs about sunset and moved to Warrenton that night and occupied the town and bivouacked near there. At this crossing of the river the Sixty-third was in a glorious charge of which General Stuart, innocently and inadvertently, of course, gives all the praise to the Twelfth Virginia. But the Sixty-third was certainly in that charge as men now living well know. With the Twelfth Virginia, the Sixty-third North Carolina "charged first up to the piers of the bridge. It was discovered that it had been taken up thus exposing them to a dangerous fire from the enemy on the opposite side. Nothing daunted in purpose, however, they turned about and took the road to the ford below, which they plunged into in the face of the enemy's fire without halt or hesitation," and thus, with the Twelfth Virginia, the Sixty-third North Carolina forced that crossing most valiantly.

General Gordon strangely reports this "sunset" crossing as of the Hazel river. His statement about moving on "to Warrenton that night" shows his error. It was the Hedgeman river of upper Rappahannock. Vol. 48, pp. 444--445 and 460.

AUBURN.

On the morning of the 13th, our army was concentrated about Warrenton, holding the roads from the east, the enemy being in that direction and as far south as Fayetteville. About 10 a. m., General Stuart was directed by General Lee to make a reconnoissance eastward to Catlett's Station. He proceeded with Lomax's, Funston's (Jones'), and Gordon's Brigades, via Auburn, where he crossed the Fayetteville and Greenwich road, Greenwich being about five miles northeast of Auburn. At Auburn he left Lomax to guard his rear and, advancing towards Catlett, soon discovered an immense park of Federal wagons extending for miles south of Catlett's, and great columns of the enemy moving toward Bristol up the railroad and also via the Weaverville and Greenwich road, which latter road, converging north west from Catlett's, met at Greenwich the road we crossed at Auburn and thus made a triangle with its apex at Greenwich and its base at Cedar Run, flowing from west of Auburn east towards Weaverville, just north of which run, near Stuart's left, as he re-tired from Catlett's, was the road from Auburn to Catlett's, and along this road for several miles a mill race. As soon as Stuart made his discovery of the situation at Catlett's he quickly sent Major Venable of his staff to inform General Lee, so that a night attack might be made in great force at Catlett's, and retired towards Auburn. When he neared Auburn, about dark, he found that Lomax had been driven off and that the enemy's Third Army Corps and two brigades of Kilpatrick's Cavalry, with wagons and artillery were on the road we had crossed in the morning. Stuart had two brigades of cavalry and seven pieces of artillery and there was but one place to cross the Run, and that at Auburn, which was now in full possession and immediate use of the enemy. We were absolutely cut off from General Lee, whom Stuart, at once, informed of his perilous condition, by disguised volunteers sent through the lines of the Third Army Corps, in hope that relief would come by daylight, at least. As at Jack's Shop, every man in the ranks was taken into Stuart's confidence at once and told of the situation. It was soon evident that the enemy had no knowledge in the world of our presence. Stuart massed his men for an attack, the Sixty-third North Carolina being dismounted and placed in line of battle. Night favored us and we "went into silent, sleepless, cheerless bivouac." All night long we could clearly hear the tramp and the talk and the rumble of the wagons and artillery of the enemy along the road in our front. But everybody had faith that Stuart would come out all right. A contemporaneous correspondent wrote of our situation thus: "Not a word was allowed except in whispers, not a spark of fire could be struck, while through the long night we stood there listening to the sounds of that mighty column of armed foes passing near by us. Anxiously we waited the morrow, wondering and whispering conjectures of the result of our strange situation. The horses and mules seemed to feel the necessity for quiet and, though they had not been fed since morning, refrained from their usual demonstrative cries. All waited for the morning; and, oh, the wild waking of that morning!"

Just before day General Warren's Federal Corps and Gregg's Division of cavalry came to Auburn with orders to cross the run behind the Third Corps, turn to the right and move on the road to Catlett's immediately on our left, thus adding to the difficulties of the mill race and run, his column along the base of the triangle. He first crossed over General Caldwell's Division, with the batteries of Captains Ricketts, Arnold and Ames, and

placed all just in our front, facing Warrenton and rear to us, on a hill top which was soon blazing and lighted up with their camp fires around which they were plainly seen, cheerfully preparing their breakfasts, and then General Hays' Division crossed and took position immediately on our left. The cordon was closing. The heavy mists and fog of the morning still concealed us in the gray dawn while by their big camp fires we could see the enemy below us as plainly as at high noon. After the bright breakfast scene had progressed some time, volleys of musketry were heard on the road towards Warrenton and Stuart thought that General Lee, on his night messages, had attacked. Feeling that the hour had come as well as the man, still totally unobserved and absolutely unexpected, Stuart opened his seven guns, all at the same moment, upon Caldwell's Division of infantry and artillery and, as Stuart himself reports, "rained a storm of cannister and shell upon the masses of men, muskets and coffee pots." It was an awful sight, a fearful sound of shrieking shell and screaming soldiers. One shell killed seven men at the first fire, General Warren himself reports. But, bad for us, what was thought to be, and in fact were, Lee's guns entirely ceased their firing as soon as Stuart opened. For some cause Lee's advance was not hastened. Caldwell's veterans soon splendidly recovered from their consternation and his lines moved out on our front and each of our flanks, while Rickett's Battery fired furiously on our seven small guns, which thunderingly answered back.

Hays attacked on our left and we beat his skirmishers back badly with the Sixty-third's dismounted men, who fought desperately. Among our killed was George Andrews, of Company F. Hays then moved forward the Twenty-sixth New York and the Twelfth New Jersey Infantry. Our position was clearly untenable; but for us to escape, that advancing infantry must be stopped. Gordon ordered the old Ninth to charge and, as General Hays reports: "The rebel cavalry, led by Colonel Thomas Ruffin, charged furiously." That was a famous but a fatal charge. The gallant Ruffin was mortally wounded and about fifty men were killed and wounded, but its purpose, to allow our escape, was effected. The seven guns were limbered up and, at the head of our two little brigades of cavalry, were galloped to the rear and then to the right of Hay's Division before he could attack again; the mill race was bridged by us, the Run crossed as best we could and turning up it to our right again, we crossed the Fayetteville and Greenwich road where Warren's Corps had lately marched and captured a number of his stragglers. We brought out safely all our artillery, every ordnance wagon and ambulance and, if the infantry lines from Warrenton had advanced, as Stuart expected, we would have captured that whole corps or its annihilation would have been complete. Of this affair General Stuart wrote General Lee: "My extrication from this embarrassing situation with the comparatively small loss which I sustained is due, under Providence, to the gallant officers and men of my command, who, upon this trying occasion, which thoroughly tested their soldierly character, exhibited nerve and coolness which en-titled them to the highest praise from their commander."

General Warren reports to General Meade: "Its result was alike complimentary to my own command and the force I encountered." Vol. 48, pp. 238, 239, 289, 357, 447, 461.

On the morning of the 15th, Stuart's entire cavalry command, except Young's Brigade, pursued the retreating enemy to Manassas Junction. Near the junction the Sixty-third,

dismounted, with other regiments, made a fierce at-tack on them, which lasted till late in the afternoon, and drove them across Bull Run, their dead and wounded being left on the field. About this time Stuart learned of a large train of the enemy's wagons which had not yet crossed Bull Run. They were protected by a large force of cavalry and some artillery. We were soon up with them and Gordon at-tacked their front with the Sixty-third, and other dismounted men and Beckham's artillery. Stuart charged them in flank with the Twelfth Virginia and they were driven in precipitate flight across Bull Run, and we bivouacked that night near Manassas. Vol. 48, pp. 449-450.

Next morning Stuart took Hampton's Division on a long detour of reconnoissance by Groveton, crossed Bull Run and bivouacked near Stone Castle; continued this march on the 17th by Gum Springs to Frying Pan church, where the Sixty-third and other dismounted men for two hours or more briskly fought General Sedgwick's infantry, whom Stuart found intrenching Little River turnpike. The purpose of the trip being acquired in this information we returned. It was afterwards learned that this attack in their rear greatly disconcerted the enemy and caused the whole Federal force at Centreville to fall back towards Alexandria. That night we bivouacked near Little River turnpike and on the 18th moved back to Gainesville and learned of the retrograde movement of our army after the affair at Bristoe, General Lee, finding further northward movement useless in the attempt to turn Meade's right flank. The night of the 18th we camped near Hay Market and Stuart learned of Kilpatrick's advance toward Warrenton with his division of cavalry and six pieces of artillery and a column of infantry. Vol. 48, pp. 450--451.

"BUCKLAND RACES."

Stuart at once notified General Fitz Lee, now near Auburn, of the enemy's advance and to come to his support. To delay Kilpatrick for Lee's arrival, Hampton's Division, dismounted, fought him fiercely along Broad Run, the Sixty-third doing its part manfully. Lee soon answered that he was coming and suggested that Stuart fall back, as if in moderate retreat, toward Warrenton, to draw Kilpatrick on so that he could get full in Kilpatrick's rear and, when that was effected, he would fire signal guns of artillery. Stuart readily and quickly assented. And we slowly began that memorable retreat, so puzzling to our men, along the turnpike via New Baltimore towards Warrenton. We kept on going backwards, just enough resistance being made to keep Kilpatrick from suspecting Stuart's purpose. Kilpatrick grew bolder and actually boasted to citizens, on the road, that he would "catch Stuart before he got to Warrenton." We fell back faster and the men along our lines asked wonderingly what General Stuart could mean by retreating so and almost no fighting. But Stuart knew and that was enough. He must keep his own secret now. He was listening intently as we neared Chester Hill, only two and a half miles from Warrenton, and only a small line of our skirmishers fighting and falling back behind our retreating column. Suddenly there is one loud "boom" after another of artillery toward Buckland, which told Stuart that Lee was in their rear. Immediately we wheeled, under Stuart's own orders, and astonished the enemy with a ferocious attack, Gordon's Brigade, including the Sixty-third, anxious for the fray, was in the centre, on the pike, and Young and Rosser on their flanks. They fought stubbornly at first but nothing could resist the impetuous charges of the Sixty-third and other North Carolinians and those boasting

columns broke in confusion. They soon learned that Lee was in their rear and their rout became complete. For miles and miles, back through New Baltimore and on to Buckland and across Broad Run to Hay Market, we pursued them relentlessly and almost resistlessly, "the horses at full speed the whole distance." We captured hundreds of prisoners and eight wagons, including General Custer's headquarters wagon with all his personal effects and official papers, and one of their writers at the time described it as "the deplorable spectacle of 7,000 cavalry dashing riderless, haltless and panic-stricken" through the ranks of their infantry. The Eighteenth Pennsylvania, too, was in that panic and rout. The Sixty-third rode and cut and slashed into their ranks furiously, and they sadly learned as the Sixty-third joyously found that "there is retribution in history." Stuart wrote General Lee: "I am justified in declaring the rout of the enemy at Buckland the most signal and complete that any cavalry has suffered during the war." He laughingly spoke of the run as the "Buckland Races," and his troopers, with a smile, always so think and talk of it. On 20 October we leisurely followed the retrograde movement of our army and established our pickets on the south bank of the Rappahannock and on the Hazel river. Vol. 48, pp. 451, 452, 461 and 411.

Everything was quiet until 7 November, when dire disaster came to Hays' and Hoke's Brigades at Rappahannock Station that fateful Saturday night. Sunday and Sunday night General Lee withdrew, via Stevensburg, south of the Rapidan, Hampton's Cavalry, as usual, acting as rear guard. Near Stevensburg, on Sunday, the 8th, Hampton's Division had a fight with the enemy's advance guard and held them in check for the protection of our retreating army. The fight was on when Hampton rode along our lines for the first time since he was wounded at Gettysburg. The men cheered him gladly and wildly. The Sixty-third did its part splendidly at Stevensburg and on to the river as mounted skirmishers. Lee's infantry crossed south of the Rapidan that day never to recross it and again the Sixty-third acted well its part as "rear guard of the grand army" of Northern Virginia.

THE EIGHTEENTH PENNSYLVANIA PAID OFF IN FULL.

At early dawn of 18 November, Hampton with a small detachment of picked men from the Ninth and Sixty-third North Carolina crossed the Rapidan at Ely's Ford on a little prospecting tour of his own. The Eighteenth Pennsylvania, by some strange fatality of war, under that inexorable law of retribution, was on picket at the forks of the roads leading to Ely's and Germanna fords, a short distance northwest of Ely. They were at their breakfast; sixty of them had just gone down the Germanna road with Lieutenant Whitaker on an "important" mission for General Custer, "when," suddenly, as that same Federal General Davies reports, "their whole outpost was driven in upon them, mixed and struggling with a dense column of rebel cavalry." Nearly the entire regiment was captured and among them a Federal paymaster who had come down there to "pay them off." The Sixty-third took him and his pay-roll and his funds, which greenbacks the captors equally divided among themselves; and thus the Eighteenth Pennsylvania was "paid off" and driven off in dismay and our old score and sore, made near Botts' house, was forever settled and healed. Our force then went down the Germanna road and disposed of Lieutenant Whitaker and his sixty men by capture and dispersion. A squadron

of the Fifth New York was down at Germanna Ford on picket. They at once had very and more important business elsewhere and all escaped down the river. With "83 horses, 10 mules, 1 ambulance, 1 hospital wagon, 1 army wagon, 1 forge" and a host of prisoners, all of the Eighteenth Pennsylvania, Hampton recrossed the Rapidan at Germanna Ford about 10:30 a. m. And the Sixty-third North Carolina and the Eighteenth Pennsylvania then and there agreed never again to refer to the affair between us at John Minor Botts'. It was a final settlement between gentlemen and both sides prefer to hear no more talk about our matters by outsiders. The Sixty-third and the Eighteenth are satisfied and all others must be. Vol. 48, p. 656.

PARKER'S STORE.

On 26 November General Meade made a great display of force and movement south of the Rapidan, by fords from Ely's to Jacob's. General Lee moved to meet him. "Hampton's Division, with General Stuart present, preceded the advance of the main body." About 9 o'clock next morning General Stuart pushed forward with Gordon's Brigade, met the enemy's advance near New Hope church and, in an unequal contest, fighting on foot, kept the enemy back some distance from Mine Run till the arrival of Heth's Division, and Hampton having come up with Young's Brigade, the greater portion of which also deployed as skirmishers, the enemy was dislodged, the Sixty-third having done its part of the fighting fully and well. On the 29th General Stuart attacked the enemy near Parker's store with Rosser's Brigade most success-fully, but reinforcements coming up against him, General Gordon, who was fast marching to the firing on a road intersecting the Orange and Fredericksburg plank road, about one mile east of Parker's store, was ordered by Stuart's couriers to "move up rapidly; that the enemy was pressing back Rosser." We went forward at a gallop. The Nineteenth North Carolina and a portion of the Sixty-third were dismounted. A charge was immediately ordered "which was done in handsome style by the dismounted men, driving the enemy from the railroad cut, across the plank road, out of their camps and scattering them through the woods, capturing a number of prisoners, some horses, overcoats, blankets, guns and their camp equipage." We were then soon relieved and ordered to camp. "In the meantime the Sixty-third had been ordered back with the prisoners and most of the artillery." Vol. 48, pp. 827, 898 and 902-903.

Meade retired across the Rapidan by the same fords he crossed and we went into winter quarters near Milford Station, on the Fredericksburg Railroad, and picketed the Rapidan at Jacob's and other fords near it, thirty miles from Milford. Long, weary, winter work well done.

In the latter part of December General Stuart, in person, inspected our camp and condition. He wrote to General Hampton: "I desire to express my high gratification at the good order and military discipline in Gordon's and Young's Brigades during my recent visit to them." In February, 1864, the Sixty-third was sent to their homes in North Carolina for fresh horses for the coming campaign. Vol. 60, pp. 1100 and 1143.

Many North Carolina homes had been saddened never to be brightened, but the children of the men of the Sixty-third Regiment were given a high heritage by its great campaigns of 1863.

PERSONAL INCIDENTS.

At Middleburg Lieutenant Ward, of Company H, was wounded and disabled for the war, and Corporal Flemming was wounded in the foot and Sam Howard in the face, but they continued on duty three days.

That night, 17 June, at Middleburg, W. H. Hobson, of Company H, a nephew of Governor Morehead and cousin of our Santiago Hobson, while acting as vidette, was cut off. All thought him captured. But about 10 o'clock he came in with two prisoners. He found them up in a tree, trying to make observations of our camps by our fires, got between them and their guns leaning against a rock wall, made them come down to him in sullen surrender and brought them out and delivered them to our provost guard.

Under that terrible artillery fire at Upperville many men and horses were killed and wounded. Among them Captain Booe, of Company H, was disabled by wounds for the war. The same shell that hurt Captain Booe also wounded Henry Miller, of that splendid company, and killed his horse.

In that fateful charge at Upperville, Company H was in front, at Colonel Evans' side when he was mortally wounded and his horse killed, and it suffered fearfully, as this list shows: Lieutenant Pearson's horse was severely wounded; W. H. Hobson wounded three times, captured and horse killed; J. B. Foard, horse wounded; G. W. Fry, wounded and captured and horse killed; Thos. Bracken, wounded and captured and horse killed; Cope Wynn, wounded and captured and horse killed; John Kerr, Henry Jones, Henry Wood, Henry Minor and David Todd, all killed and horses killed or captured; Ellis Lakey and F. A. Beaty, wounded and captured and horses killed; F. A. Arnold, Joseph Brandon and J. D. Hodges had horses wounded. This is taken from a written record made at the time and if any one thinks it is merely fun to ride at the head of a charging cavalry column let him read this list and think over it.

Company H was a famous company, and all its survivors now lovingly testify that to Lieutenant, afterwards Captain, C. W. Pearson, the company owed more for its fame than to any one else. He was as brave as the bravest. Always faithful and true and ready for any duty he was foremost in as many splendid scenes of the Sixty-third as any man in the regiment. But when written to by his old company comrades recently, for a sketch of the company and some special acts of his own for this history, with his own hand he wrote out and sent to his men thirty-two pages of accurate, instructive and interesting history and incidents of the company, but never mentions his own name once. And in his letter to them, accompanying the paper, he writes: "For your sake as well as that of the old company, I regret that I can recall no act of special merit or bravery of my own; on all occasions Company H was never called for in vain." But true history loves such men too much to let them be concealed behind their own modesty and his men specially request

that the foregoing mention of him be made. Company H and its officers were just representative men of the Sixty-third in making its great history, but I am truly sorry that all other companies and officers have not done as well as H in helping to record that history.

Lieutenant Moore, of Company C, was captured on the Antietam. Lieutenant Gibson and Green Bingham, of Company F, were both severely wounded in the fight at Jack Mountain; and John Cahill, of Company F, shot through and through with his carbine while both were mounted, a large, grand looking, gallant Federal officer, leading their charge on Jack Mountain who tried to ride down and saber Cahill. This officer died in our regimental surgeon's chair that night. John Cahill was a plain, big, fat country boy, but it was the unanimous opinion of all officers and men of Company F that "John Cahill was the very best soldier in Company F," and Company F was just as good as any company in the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment. But when I urged him yesterday, in a meeting of some members of Company F to tell me some special act of his to record here, he laughed that big, jovial laugh we had heard so often in camp and even along the line of battle, and then said, seriously and thoughtfully and sadly to me: "Well, I declare, I don't know a thing in the world to tell you." I say "sadly," because such heroes, who immortalized the Army of Northern Virginia, are fast passing away and we just can't get them to tell their deeds for history. Others present knew and told about his shooting the Federal officer on Jack Mountain. Cahill then concurred in their statement and, with evident satisfaction, added: "But he is the only man, I am glad to say, that I ever knew I killed during the war." There are too many others in Company F almost as good soldiers as Cahill for me to name them all here. I am sorry I can not.

On the retreat from Gettysburg, J. D. Hodges, of Company H, was a picket on the Antietam and was cut off by Kilpatrick's cavalry. He made every effort to join his regiment and, in his movements, rode up on two Federal cavalymen coming out of a farm house. He knew that Kilpatrick's forces were all around him, but he leveled his carbine on them and ordered them to surrender. They did so and he was doing his best to take them out, they protested all the while that their men would see him and fire on him and kill them all. And finally he was seen and surrounded by a squad of Kilpatrick's men and one "boy in gray" was made very sad and two "boys in blue" very happy.

Company I lost fourteen men captured and several killed while on the picket line on Antietam.

Captain N. P. Rankin, of Company I, had command of the Sixty-third's dismounted skirmishers that terrible night at Auburn. Then, as always, he was efficient, capable and brave. After the regiment had mounted, from that fierce firing line, for our withdrawal, among the foremost and most helpful men in the dangerous and difficult task of bringing out from that triangle the heavy ordnance wagons of Gordon's Brigade was a first-class fighting private of Company I, D. B. Coltrane. All night and till we withdrew he was on the Sixty-third's line of battle. He is now the gentlemanly, courteous cashier of the Concord National Bank, Concord, N. C., to which position he has risen, from the war's poverty on all Southerners, by the same courage and character that succeeded, in the face

of adversity, in bringing out our brigade's ammunition at Auburn. Sergeant E. D. Hines, of Company I, was conspicuous for gallantry on the Sixty-third's line of battle at Auburn and was always brave and faithful. Sergeant Robt. A. Davidson, son of A. Brevard Davidson, of Charlotte, N. C., was captured at Jack's Shop and, in our mounted pursuit of Kilpatrick, after he was beaten back at Jack's Shop, John Cahill was severely shot in the hip, and, except for this wound, he never missed a single duty during the war.

Lieutenant J. C. Hines, a brave and efficient officer of Company G, was captured at Jack's Shop and was a prisoner during the entire war. For one year he was one of the 500 Con-federate officers placed under the fire of our guns of Fort Sumpter, on Morris Island near Battery Wagner. For month and months he and his fellow prisoners were almost starved to death, his only rations being one pint of spoiled meal and one pickle per day by orders of one Col. Holiday. And thus, by his imprisonment, he suffered for the South far more than many in our ranks.

At Jack's Shop, Lemuel Johnston Bailey, of Company H, was also captured and died of typhoid fever at Point Look-out, 7 January, 1864. He was a school boy soldier, bright and beautiful, brother of Thos. B. Bailey, of Mocksville. Of all the young lives willingly laid as sacrifices of love on the altar of the South, none was better, or braver, or purer than Lem. Bailey's.

One long night and the following day in December, 1863, a boy picket stood out in the bitter cold watching Jacob's ford on the Rapidan. There was near to his right a house on the overlooking hill, evidently once a prosperous, happy home, but now a very "bleak house," all desolate and shorn by war of every comfort, only the bare necessities of life left. In the afternoon of that day, a woman, most plainly dressed in deep mourning, with all the tenderness and refinement of the best Southern womanhood about her, came from that house to that picket, and, after being halted and readily allowed to approach, she took from its cover a plate on which was only a small bit of corn bread, a little piece of fat bacon, just about the size of the first two fingers together of a man's hand, and some parsnips, all beautifully neat and perfectly cooked, and then said: "I have been noticing you down here all day; you made me think of my boy, who is in our army, and to whom some other mother will be kind, as we all love to be to our soldiers, and I came to bring you a part of our little dinner." With a royal sense of true propriety and politeness, she uttered not a word of apology for the "little dinner," not a word of explanation about the war's ravages, but all was said and done with the sublime grace of a Southern mother courageously confronting cruel calamity. This little incident is recorded here that it may be known that, way off on the outposts, in the enemy's pitiless presence, the Southern woman never abated her love and loyalty to the South and the Southern soldier, which fact, all through the war, was the truest and strongest inspiration of that soldier's valor and virtue.

"God bless the Women of the South."

CAMPAIGN OF 1864.-REASSEMBLING AND RETURN TO RICHMOND.

The regiment temporarily disbanded at Henderson, N. C., in March, 1864, that each man might go to his home for a new horse, or the recuperation of the one he had and himself. This was a wise and economical act on the part of our poverty-stricken and staggering Confederate Government. It was a great and helpful blessing to our war-wearied men and animals. It must be borne in mind and always remembered that the Confederate cavalryman furnished his own horse and never received nor expected pay for his loss, unless he was "actually killed in battle or died of wounds" received in battle. It was so written in the bond of our agreement of love.

After a stay, all too short, at our respective homes until about 15 April, each man of the regiment reported in person with his horse to his own Captain at some place designated, when we parted at Henderson, and from that place we marched, by companies, to Richmond, Va., and reunited as a regiment in splendid condition and numbering over 500 effective mounted men and officers.

ORDERS TO REPORT.

At Richmond we received the following "orders," and immediately acted thereon :

"ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, Richmond, 2 May, 1864.

Special Orders No. 102.

The Fifth Regiment, North Carolina Cavalry, now in temporary service near this city, will immediately proceed to the headquarters Army of Northern Virginia and report to General R. E. Lee, commanding, etc., for assignment to duty with Brigadier-General Gordon's Brigade." Vol. 68, p. 940.

General Lee's headquarters, when we reported, were near New Verdierville, on the plank road a short distance north-west from Spottsylvania Court. House; and General Gordon's headquarters, under Hampton then, 2 May, were near Mil-ford, Va. Vol. 68, p. 941 and 948. Gordon's Brigade, then in Hampton's Division, consisted of the Ninth, Nineteenth and Sixty-third North Carolina (First, Second and Fifth Cavalry), as it did immediately afterwards in W. H. F. Lee's Division. Vol. 67, p. 1027.

TRANSFER FROM HAMPTON'S TO W. II. F. LEE'S DIVISION.

On 30 April, 1864, were issued "Special Orders No. 118, Department of Northern Virginia." The part of these orders applicable to Gordon's Brigade was as follows:

"In accordance with instructions from the War Department, the brigades of Brigadier-Generals Gordon and Chambliss are detached respectively from Hampton's and Fitz.

Lee's Divisions of cavalry, and will constitute a new division under the command of Major-General W. H. F. Lee."

These "special orders," being considered "unimportant," are not published in "Official Records," but this extract was kindly furnished me, as it is given, by General F. C. Ainsworth, U. S. A., Chief of Record and Pension Office, War Department.

The Sixty-third North Carolina afterwards became very much attached to General W. H. F. Lee and found him a fine cavalry commander; but not such a man or commander as Hampton, whom we loved personally and officially. There was sad regret on our part as there was with General Hampton at this transfer. Hampton's order in executing this transfer is on page 945, Vol. 68, and is now quoted in full to show his estimate of the Sixty-third and his attachment on that account to this regiment:

"HEADQUARTERS HAMPTON'S DIVISION CAVALRY, "CAVALRY CAMP, ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, "Milford, 5 May, 1864.

"Brigadier-General J. B. Gordon, Commanding Cavalry Brigade:

"GENERAL:-In pursuance of Special Orders No. 118, Department of Northern Virginia, of 30 April, and of instructions from Major-General J. E. B. Stuart, commanding cavalry, you are directed to proceed without delay with your command to the vicinity of Shady Grove, where you will concentrate your brigade and report for further orders to Major-General Stuart. I am directed by Major-General Hampton, in communicating the above orders, to express to you, and through you to your whole brigade, the surprise with which he has received the orders and the pain it causes him to execute them. He indulges the hope that his wishes may be consulted, and that a new assignment may be made as soon as the present emergency shall have passed, which will return your brigade to his division and give him back the troops to whom he has become so attached and whom he has learned to trust in times of danger and trial.

"Indulging this hope, he refrains from saying farewell, but will watch the performance of officers and men in the approaching contest with the same anxious interest as if they were under his own command, confident that if your regiments should be eventually returned to him they will bring back unsullied banners and a record of glory increased and illustrated by new achievements in the coming campaign.

"I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"THEO. G. BARKER,
"Major and Assistant Adjutant-General."

Thus we see that the illustrious Hampton had become "attached" to and had "learned to trust in times of danger and trial," the Sixty-third North Carolina which, by this order, he places side by side with the Ninth and Nineteenth in his attachment and estimate of merit,

without the slightest difference as to either. A great tribute of love and confidence to our regiment from a very great source.

BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS.

The foregoing orders and our execution of them placed the Sixty-third right on the ground for the great battle of the Wilderness. General Grant crossed the Rapidan 4 May with the intention of an immediate forward movement by his front, to Richmond. His instructions to General Meade were: "Lee's Army will be your objective point. Wherever Lee goes, there you will go also." Vol. 60, p. 828.

The battle began early on 5 May and raged furiously all day, and was renewed at 5 o'clock on the morning of the 6th, and continued with unabated fury until darkness set in, each army holding substantially the same position they had on the evening of the 5th. General Grant, Vol. 67, p. 18. Notwithstanding his statement as to "holding substantially the same position," the world now knows that the South won a great victory at the Wilderness. And that instead of going "wherever Lee goes," as ordered, Meade, under General Grant, began his famous movement via Spottsylvania by Lee's right flank, on night of 7 May, after a loss of 17,666 men in two days. Vol. 67, p. 188. If he intended to go by Lee's right flank, at first, why this awful sacrifice? In this great battle the Sixty-third fought most of the 6th near White Hall, close to the Catharpin road.

This action on our part was under the immediate supervision of General Gordon, who was continually riding and walking along the dismounted lines of the Nineteenth and Sixty-third, the only two regiments of his engaged. He thought "from the number and manner of firing and reports of officers" that we were fighting infantry. Vol. 68, p. 961. The firing on our regiment was terrific. Willis L. Miller, of Company F, of Davidson County, was killed here and many others of our regiment were killed and wounded. He was a splendid boy soldier. And one of the most touching scenes I ever witnessed was Captain John R. Erwin writing next morning to the boy's father of his death.

GENERAL LEE'S RELIANCE ON HIS CAVALRY.

May 7, 1864, Colonel Taylor, General R. E. Lee's Assist-ant Adjutant-General, wrote General Stuart: "General Lee directs me to say that he wishes you would make an examination and thoroughly inform yourself about the roads on our right, which it would be advisable or necessary for us to follow, should the enemy continue his movement toward Spottsylvania Court House, or should we desire to move on his flank in that direction. Find out about the roads which the infantry would take, and upon which our artillery, etc., could be thrown around. * * * He relies upon you to keep him accurately informed of the enemy's movements, should they be in the direction above indicated." Vol. 68, p. 969. The italics are mine and the letter is quoted to show the importance of our cavalry, in the face of much disparagement by the uninformed. And in this view this letter is a part of the history of the Sixty-third North Carolina. And now see the result of Stuart's Cavalry work along the lines of that letter. In his report of the terrible battle of Spottsylvania, General Grant says: "On the night of the 7th the march was commenced

toward Spottsylvania Court House, the Fifth Corps moving by the most direct road. But the enemy having become apprised of our movement, and having the shorter line, was enabled to reach there first." Vol. 67, p. 19. To same effect are General Sheridan's words at top of page 789, Vol. 67. Italics in last quotation mine. We all know the result. General Grant lost 18,399 men at Spottsylvania. Vol. 67, p. 188. How much the cavalry under Stuart, in conforming to General Lee's letter, aided in this no one knows. I merely give the facts. We were not in the battle of Spottsylvania at all, but we aided in this antecedent work.

Near White Hall, on 8 May, General Gordon received the "orders" of transfer to Major-General W. H. F. Lee's Division and reported to him that day. This division now consisted of Chambliss' Virginia and Gordon's North Carolina Brigades. Gordon's Brigade now consisted of only the Ninth, Nineteenth and Sixty-third North Carolina (First, Second and Fifth Cavalry), the Fifty-ninth North Carolina (Fourth Cavalry) having been assigned to Dearing's Brigade. The Sixty-third was commanded by Colonel S. B. Evans. Vol. 67, p. 1027.

SHERIDAN'S RAID.

On the morning of 9 May General Sheridan, from the vicinity of Alrich's, on the plank road to Fredericksburg, began his raid on Richmond, around the right of Lee's Army. He had with him his whole corps, three divisions of cavalry, at least 12,000 effective mounted men and one brigade, six batteries, of artillery under command of Captain James M. Robertson, of the regular United States Army. He moved via Chilesburg and Beaver Dam, at which latter place he destroyed large and valuable Confederate ration and medical supplies. Vol. 67, pp. 787-790 and 285.

It was absolutely necessary for some cavalry to be present with General Lee's Army and Hampton's Division and Chambliss' Brigade were left there for duty. So to contend with this great invading force and direct attack upon the capital of the Confederacy, for that was the ultimate purpose of the raid, its highest hope and aim, Stuart could command only three brigades, Lomax's and Wickham's, Fitz. Lee's Division, and Gordon's imperfect brigade, and of artillery only Johnston's Battery and a section of Hart's. All told not over four thousand. Vol. 1 North Carolina Regiments, p. 429. Vol. 67, p. 1045. Sheridan reported his cavalry force at 10,000, but it was much more, according to their organization returns. Sheridan had three entire divisions, Stuart had three incomplete brigades. General Stuart harrassed him in rear and on his flank with Fitz. Lee's forces, until Gordon could come up, which we did promptly. By forced marches, Stuart put Fitz. Lee's two brigades in Sheridan's front at Yellow Tavern on the Brook Turnpike at an early hour on the morning of the 11th, and at once began the battle of Yellow Tavern. About the same time Gordon attacked his rear ferociously at Goodall's Tavern, near Ground Squirrel Church. Devin's Federal brigade burned the Ground Squirrel bridge over the South Anna river in the early morning of the 11th, Vol. 67, p. 834 and p. 846, to impede our progress, and it would have direfully delayed almost any other man than Gordon. He knew or quickly found an old, steep-banked, almost impassable ford. As I remember it, it seems to me that the tops of the banks were at least fifteen feet from the

water. Of course they were not. Gordon knew that Stuart wanted him and that Richmond needed him over that river fast. He galloped to this ford with the Sixty-third in front, pointed to it and told us that it was our only place of crossing, gave the order "Forward!" and with a mighty plunge he led the way, and over that old ford every man of his brigade followed him. Some were seriously hurt, but we were out there expecting to get hurt. We were not "squirrel" hunting just then, even there. In a few minutes we were all up the high hill on the south side of the river, where the enemy had camped and in full sight now of their rear guard, whose skirmishers were firing on us as we crossed that ford and were driven off by our charge up that hill. Vol. 67, p. 846. Our regiment was all quickly dismounted, except one squadron. Company F was in the lead of the regiment, and as we walked up the road in column of fours the fire was fierce from their skirmishers and Lieutenant Gibson, at the head of the company, was badly wounded. In splendid style we swung out into line on the right of that road and went at their dismounted men with a steady step and fire, and drove them back in disorder and "confusion." On page 864, Vol. 67, we read: "May 11-Started from Goodall's Tavern, First Maine as rear guard. It became necessary to dismount the whole regiment to hold back a strong force of the enemy while the column moved on. On withdrawing these dismounted men, the enemy charged, both mounted and dismounted, and caused the regiment to fall back with some confusion and considerable loss." That "strong force" was just four-fifths of our regiment "fighting on foot," for one squadron was then mounted and no mounted charge was made until the dismounted men drove them back. That First Maine was a superb regiment. There was no better in the Army of the Potomac. But a part of the Sixty-third North Carolina beat them "back with some confusion and considerable loss" at Goodall's 11 May, 1864. They quickly had another force in front of our dismounted line and while we were driving them also with a rattling fire from their men and ours that grand old First Maine was in the saddle for coming events on horseback. Gordon then charged past our left with the Ninth North Carolina and that squadron of the Sixty-third. It was hand-to-hand, saber to saber, in deadly close conflict between the Ninth North Carolina and that squadron of the Sixty-third on our side, and the First Maine, now remounted, and the Tenth New York, Vol. 67, p. 870, on their side; and in a few moments the First Maine and the Tenth New York "fell back with some more confusion and considerable loss" before our sabers also. Men will not stand long the cold steel and clash of the saber. One side or the other gives way quickly as did Sheridan's splendid soldiers before these two North Carolina regiments in those glorious charges and counter-charges at Ground Squirrel Church.

We kept up the fight on their rear, pressing them hard continuously. General Gregg, commanding their Second Division, says: "On the 11th, near Ground Squirrel Church, this division, marching in rear, was attacked by Gordon's Brigade of rebel cavalry. The attacks of the enemy were repeated during the entire day, thus forming a part of the general engagement with the enemy at Yellow Tavern." Vol. 67, p. 853. "This division," mark you. And our attacks, on their rear, were as victorious as they were "repeated."

At Yellow Tavern, in their front, Stuart made for hours a terrible fight and his last, while the North Carolina Brigade fought them fiercely in their rear. But the odds and every hope, could we have realized it, were all against us from the start in that fatal fighting of

11 May at Yellow Tavern, and Wickham and Lomax had to give way before the overwhelming hosts and their defeat, gloriously resisted by them and lessened by Gordon, was made most direful by General Stuart's death-wound.

It seems to me that every reader of this history will be interested in the story of Stuart's fall and, therefore, I give it and General R. E. Lee's general order on his death,

Colonel Russell A. Alger, Colonel of the Fifth Michigan Cavalry, on 8 July, 1864, reports it thus: "Arriving at a point commanding a hill in rear of rebel battery, my attention was called by Captain Judson, of this regiment, to an officer, accompanied by a large staff and escort, carrying a battle flag, who was just coming on to the hill from the rear. This officer was shot from his horse by Private John A. Huff, Company E, formerly of Berdan's Sharpshooters. He was immediately carried to the rear by his staff. About thirty minutes later the hill was carried, and a woman and a negro informed me that General Stuart had been shot on the hill mentioned, and first brought to their house and afterward carried away in an ambulance." And Colonel Alger further says: "I regret to report that Private John A. Huff, Company E, the man mentioned who wounded General Stuart, has recently died of wounds received at Haw's Shop on 28 May." Vol. 67, pp. 828 and 829.

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA, 20 May, 1864.

General Orders No. 44.

The commanding general announces to the army with heartfelt sorrow the death of Major-General J. E. B. Stuart, late commander of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Among the gallant soldiers who have fallen in this war, General Stuart was second to none in valor, in zeal and in unfaltering devotion to his country. His achievements form a conspicuous part of the history of this army, with which his name and services will be forever associated. To military capacity of a high order and all the noble virtues of the soldier, he added the brighter graces of a pure life, guided and sustained by the Christian's faith and hope. The mysterious hand of an Allwise God has removed him from the scene of his usefulness and fame. His grateful countrymen will mourn his loss and cherish his memory. To his comrades in arms he has left the proud recollection of his deeds, and the inspiring influence of his example.

R. E. LEE, General."

"His achievements," as we have well seen, were in part the work of the Sixty-third North Carolina. This "General Order" is on page 800, Vol. 69.

But Yellow Tavern was to Sheridan what Guilford Court House was to Cornwallis. One more like it would have ruined him and his hosts. He knew it and began his midnight retreat with the spires of Richmond in sight and her church "bells heard ringing." Vol. 67, p. 834. And it was this regiment and other North Carolinians who were blasting the highest hope and aim of Sheridan and his raid and saving Richmond. Our regiment never think or speak of it vaingloriously, but always with sorrow for the dead and the defeat in

front at Yellow Tavern, but history must record that it was another case of "Pickett or Pettigrew." If Gordon and his North Carolinians had not pressed him as they did, Sheridan would surely have gone into Richmond 11 May, 1864.

Among our mortally wounded at Ground Squirrel Church were Lieutenant Samuel Hanner, of Company I, and Private R. Davis Kerr, of Company F, and of course, many others whose names I cannot recall.

The following appeared in the Richmond Enquirer of 12 May, and was copied in a North Carolina paper of May, 1864, from which I now copy:

"Individual instances of daring are numerous and we hope not to be invidious in mentioning an instance. In the charge the Yankee colors at one time being almost in reach, Lieutenant Lindsay, of the Fifth North Carolina, dashes at them and grapples with the color-bearer. As he reaches for them, an expert shift from one hand to the other by the color-bearer, saves them from his grasp, but, with well-plied stroke of the sabre, he almost unhorses the bearer, who, bleeding, reels, but gathers his equilibrium, and by means of the fleetness of his horse, saves himself with his devoted Yankee bunting.

"Another instance is, also, worthy of publicity. Private Frank Brown, of Company II, Fifth North Carolina Cavalry, a mere stripling, dashes into the heavy ranks of the First Maine Regiment and encounters an athletic Yankee Captain, who, with a stunning blow with his broad sabre, knocks the lad from his horse; at the same instant the Yankee Captain's horse was shot from under him. Just as this brave lad was rising from the ground, his eye caught the situation of his antagonist, and, raising the butt of his gun, he commenced clubbing the Yankee, who lustily cried out for quarter."

Frank Brown accepted his surrender and went with him, 12 May, as a "special guard" by reason of his own wound, to Libby Prison, in Richmond, and there in person, turned him over to our authorities.

I am assured that Frank Brown dismounted and with carbine leveled on them, also captured four privates of the First Maine that same day and three horses, one of which was given, there in the fight, to Lieutenant Kerr Craige, of Gordon's staff, and another to Captain C. W. Pearson, of Company H, both of whom had their horses killed there.

This same captain of the First Maine, seeing one of his own company privates surrender to Private J. B. Foard, of Company H, Sixty-third North Carolina, and, in the zeal and intensity of his own valorous fighting, being unconscious of the exact situation, called out to his man, naming him : "What in the thunder does that mean ?" Just then Frank Brown and the Captain met. Brown, in marching the Captain to the rear, overtook Foard and his prisoner, when the latter politely said: "Captain, what in the thunder does this mean?"

And there seems then to have been a mutual understanding between them as to what it did mean.

A member of the First Maine, in this same conflict, was in the very act of shooting Sergeant A. N. Campbell, of Company H, when the latter, with a tremendous "right cut against cavalry," knocked the gun out of his hand and took him prisoner. Captain Pearson writes of Campbell: "No braver man ever drew the breath of life."

S. F. Flemming, of Company H, got in this fight, a terrible saber cut on his head and forehead, the scar of which plainly shows today. We captured that day an entire wagon load of Spencer rifles and their special ammunition. It was a splendid, long-range, breech-loader and shot seven times without reloading. I carried one of them during the remainder of my service in the ranks, and was very much attached to it.

BROOK CHURCH.

General Sheridan calls this "Meadow Bridge." In gratitude, I guess, to the bridge that "carried him over" his imminent danger and disaster at Brook Church.

The Brook Turnpike above Richmond runs almost due north and south. The Military road at Brook, or Emanuel Church, strikes it at right angles from the east, in which direction this road crosses the upper Chickahominy at Meadow Bridge. In his midnight retreat of 11 May, from Yellow Tavern, General Sheridan took this Military road at Brook Church to escape, intending to cross the Chickahominy and move to his right from there to the James. And this he did, but he surely had an awful time of it and a narrow escape at Brook Church.

Early on the morning of the 12th, Gordon was on his rear at Brook Church. Sheridan was met by our forces, of cavalry and infantry, at Meadow Bridge, which we had destroyed and the river there was otherwise impassable. Sheridan says some fords were discovered by scouts, but if so, why on earth did he have such a desperate and deadly time repairing that bridge, as my references will show he did? Sheridan's rear occupied a strong position of his own selection on the Military road which he swept with canister constantly. Gordon dismounted the Ninth and Nineteenth North Carolina and attacked him fiercely, and sent his Aide, Lieutenant Kerr Craige, into Richmond for some artillery and to propose to the officer in charge of that portion of the city defences a combined attack on Sheridan's flanks. The Sixty-third was held in reserve in mounted column, under fire, just off to the right of the Military road, going east: With our regiment, as we all knew, Gordon intended to charge those batteries up the Military road after he got some supports from Richmond. And that charge, which he would have led in person, would have been about the last of our regiment. In a few minutes some artillery came. And oh! such artillery! It was the most beautiful in all its appearances that we ever beheld. The smoke of battle had never been about it. He placed it to the slight oblique right and front of our regiment on the elevation of some old entrenchments. It fired one time. Immediately one or more of Sheridan's guns were turned on it-canister for the first time in its history rattled around those beautiful guns and among its wheels and every man about the battery flew into the ditches of those old entrenchments. Gordon was furious. He raved and begged. He called it "Band Box Artillery," which would have occurred only to him, possibly, under such a fire. But those artillerists "held the trenches

faithfully" against Richmond's invaders. Some few of them could not even stand that and came through the woods by us. We laughed at them, ridiculed them and asked them to go back and man their guns. But they looked at us as if they thought we were surely crazy. Gordon became utterly disgusted and went back at a gallop right into the fire down that Military road and there he received the wound which ended his life and brilliant career six days later. The battle was raging furiously at Meadow Bridge on Sheridan's front and right flank. The command of the brigade now devolved on Colonel Andrews, of the Nineteenth, as ranking officer. The Sixty-third was dismounted to join in the attack on foot. Company F was in front of that column. The order was to cross the road, still swept by canister, and form on its left. Captain Erwin looked calmly around at us and said: "Come on boys." He led, and over the road the regiment went and formed in line of battle. We advanced fast to a horizontal, wide board fence, which looked literally perforated, and after short firing, on our part, the enemy disappeared. Sheridan had broken over at Meadow Bridge and escaped. Sheridan himself says, on page 791, Vol. 67, "The enemy considered us completely cornered, but such was not the case." Well, of course, none of us knew for certain, but those of us who were there will never cease to believe that if he had not broken over at Meadow Bridge, just when he did, that he and his men would have been given quarters in Richmond for the rest of the war.

He also says, page 801, of his raid: "The result was constant success and the almost total annihilation of the rebel cavalry." This shows, I regret to say, how unreliable his statements are, as he soon had full proof of by that same "rebel cavalry."

That the reader may see what a desperate state they were in at Meadow Bridge, I refer to Vol. 67, pp. 791, 813-814, 819, 835, 879 and 880. He lost 625 men on his raid and 1,003 horses. Vol. 67, p. 185, and Vol. 68, p. 851. We had no sufficient force to follow Sheridan, and it was useless as, after his passage of the Chickahominy, he could easily connect with Butler on the James, as he did, near Haxall's Landing on 14 May.

Our great loss at Brook Church was the gallant and glorious man B. Gordon. The Fifth loved him as its commander during the Gettysburg campaign and, as his entire brigade did, for his splendid courage and merit in all respects. He was the Murat of the Army of Northern Virginia, and had he lived he would have added increased lustre to our North Carolina Cavalry. I want to identify him with his home and people so that we can hold him in closer relation in this way and, therefore, I state that his sister was the mother of Messrs. R. N. and James Gordon Hackett, of Wilkes. That county was rather famous for such cavalymen Colonel W. H. H. Cowles was born and now lives there.

KENNON'S LANDING, OR WILSON'S WHARF.

The attack on Kennon's Landing was the most useless sacrifice of time and men and horses made during the war.

The brigade was camped 23 May near Hanover Junction, recuperating a little from the terrible ride and fighting of the Sheridan raid. Late that afternoon an order came to each Captain for a "detail of picked men for specially dangerous work." The Sixty-third

furnished about 225 men and officers, under command of Major McNeill. There surely were not over 1,000 men on the expedition. from our brigade. Wilson's Wharf was a fortified post of great natural and artificial strength on the James river, below City Point, and consequently fully in the enemy's lines. It was forty-seven miles in a straight line, by best military maps, from Hanover Junction. It consisted of a fort built in semi-circle form on a bluff of the river with each end resting on the James, with heavy parapets and a canal of water the entire front of the half circle. There was open ground for several hundred yards all around the fort covered with abattis and large fallen pine trees to impede assailants. If we could ever have taken it we never could have held it. The expedition was under the immediate command of General Fitzhugh Lee, and originated with him, it was said at the time, to drive some negro soldiers off Virginia soil.

We left Hanover Junction about 6 p. m. on the 23d and rode all night and much of the time at a gallop. Early on the morning of the 24th we were near the fort, but for some inexplicable reason the attack was delayed. A note, by flag of truce, was sent in to General Wild, commanding the post, demanding immediate surrender, and saying if not complied with, that General Lee would not be responsible for action of his men when the fort was taken. Wild answered: "We will try that." Vol. 68, p. 269. It was 11 o'clock before we began to get into position; in the meantime the gunboats Dawn, Pequot and the Atlanta (ironclad) were shelling us fiercely and the fort was filling with reinforcements. The enemy also had a small vessel named the Mayflower. Some of our forces wounded the captain and pilot of this boat. I never heard of any injury that we inflicted on the ironclad. We had no artillery; but with or without artillery, "no regiment of our cavalry was afraid of those things."

The shells were chiefly 100-pounders. We could see them plainly coming at and over us; great black masses, as big as nail kegs, hurtling in the air and making the earth tremble under us and the atmosphere jar and quake around us when they burst. They certainly were terrifying. And under their effect I compared the "details" from the Ninth and Sixty-third. The former was dismounted and ours mounted, each in column of fours near together under those awful missiles. As one came towards us and burst over us, I saw those old veterans of the Ninth looking up at it with horror, lean back slightly and out of line. Just such a look and backward in-cline of their bodies as I imagine the immortal sentinel at Pompeii made, momentarily, when that dark, ashen death fixed him erect at his post for the admiration of future ages. Captain N. P. Foard saw their momevent and, under the bursting, crashing sound and mass, he said. "Steady men, steady!" Possibly before the words were uttered they were erect as statues. At the same second I glanced along the Sixty-third, in the same line of my vision, and every man sat in his saddle absolutely motionless. It was no discredit to the Ninth, but the contrast was glorious for the Sixty-third.

We were soon put in line of battle around that fort, our regiment on the extreme left, the enemy's right. We were to charge, at the firing of a signal gun on our left. We lay there for an hour or more waiting that signal, eating strawberries in the fence corners and quietly talking of the scene in front of us ; and all the while we could plainly see platoon after platoon of reinforcements coming over the bluff into the fort on the decline next to

us. The shells from the 100-pounders, 20-pounders and 12-pounders were still bursting over us and other parts of the line. Our regiment and some others on our immediate right in the line were to make the charge, while those in front and on left of the fort were to fire incessantly on the fort when the charge began. About 2:30 or 3 p. m., the signal gun fired and the Sixty-third arose with a mighty yell for that terrible charge. We mounted the high rail fence in our front and went straight and fast, as the obstructions would permit, for that fort-yelling and firing as we went and receiving fierce front and cross fires into our ranks from rifles and artillery in the fort and the gun boats; we were within thirty feet of the fort when we saw the utter hopelessness of the attack. The line halted a moment; the order to retreat was given and we retired under that awful fire from the most useless and unwise attack and the most signal failure we were ever engaged in.

General Wild reports: "They massed troops on our extreme right, concealed by wooded ravines and made a determined charge, at same time keeping up a steady attack all along our front and left flank. This charge approached our parapet, but failed under our severe cross fires." Vol. 68, p. 270. For naval reports, giving names of vessels engaged and calibre of guns, see "Official Records Union and Confederate Navies," Series 1, Vol. 10, pp. 87-91.

Out of the detail of ten or twelve men from Company F, W. S. Prather and Green L. Bingham were killed outright; Worth McDonald and I were wounded. I was shot through the left shoulder within thirty feet of the fort, firing, at the moment, I am sure at the very identical white man who shot me. Worth McDonald was wounded by one of those 100-pounders. It passed at least ten feet from him and paralyzed his right arm by concussion of the air. There was no visible flesh injury to the arm, but it fell useless to his side, quickly turned black its entire length, and he never recovered the use of it during his life time. He got an honorable discharge charge for the war and I got a furlough, 5 June, from Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, for three months, with great joy at the thought of going home.

Some Virginians charged immediately on the right of our regiment. As we retreated we came to a long, wide lagoon in a ravine, back of where we began the charge. The water was three to four feet deep. In some way, unknown to me, I attracted the attention of one of those Virginians, a giant of a fellow. I knew he was a Virginian by his regimental designation on his coat sleeve. Of his own motion, he kindly and tenderly offered to carry me over that water. I thankfully declined and said to him: "I think that I can make it all right." He looked down at me and said: "Oh! boy get on my shoulders." And suiting his action to his words, he stooped down in front of me. I put my arms around his neck, he put his right hand under my right knee, his left holding his own gun, and thus, like we used to play when children, he carried me over that water and almost to the top of the steep slope beyond. It has always hurt me that I never knew his name. He stands in memory for Virginia. And this is stated solely to show and commemorate the courageous, absolutely unselfish, generous kindness of the private soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia in the face of danger to themselves, too, when showing it. There were millions of such acts that will never be known.

After he let me down, I walked a short distance and, from loss of blood, lay down in some young corn. I heard some one tell Major McNeill of my condition. The Major came to me and asked me to ride out on his horse, which had just been brought to him after he had led our charge, and from which he dismounted. I refused, he insisted. I refused positively, and he sent a man on his horse for mine and stood by me until the horse came, put me on it and sent the man with me to the surgeon, while he directed the men of the regiment how to move out ready for the expected attack from our rear. And it was acts like this, of gentleness and love for all his men, which he was continually doing, that caused the men of the Sixty-third all to love him.

NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE JAMES.

For some time now, I did not see any of the events that occurred and must utilize, in a running way, my "Sketches of North Carolina Cavalry Brigade."

About 26 May, 1864, the Forty-first North Carolina (Third Cavalry), arrived from Eastern North Carolina and in splendid condition, joined the brigade and our brigade commander was now Colonel John A. Baker, of the Third, he being the senior Colonel in rank. And now, for the first time during the campaign, the Sixty-third was associated with three other regiments in the brigade which was now composed of the Ninth, Nineteenth, Forty-first and Sixty-third, and remained so to the end of the war.

About this time General Grant. crossed the Pamunkey near Hanover town. Colonel Baker moved out promptly to meet the Federal advance and on 27 May a short action ensued. The enemy was strongly resisted until the Maryland line sent as a support gave way and we were forced to withdraw.

Here W. H. F. Lee rejoined us and we reported again to him as our division commander.

28 May, the Sixty-third took part in the bloody action at Haw's Shop, but did not get heavily engaged. Vol. 67, pp. 829-830, 854 and 1031. Vol. 69, p. 362.

On 30 May, Brigadier-General Young was temporarily assigned to command of the brigade.

On the 31st we attacked the enemy at Hanover Court House and drove them back in handsome style, but they received large reinforcements and drove us back. Next morning, 1 June, the Sixty-third and other cavalry attacked them furiously at Ashland and swept the enemy's lines and works for more than a mile, capturing many prisoners and horses. General Young was wounded and the command fell a second time on Colonel Baker. Their Colonel, Chapman, says: "The line was advanced cautiously and with some difficulty, but had proceeded only a short distance when the enemy attacked us in large force in front and we then fell upon their rear, charged down the road toward Ashland bearing everything before him. His progress was arrested at Ashland by the entrenchments of the enemy. General William H. F. Lee came up at this time with a part of his division and a joint attack was made. The enemy was quickly driven from the place

and pursued toward Hanover Court House until dark." Vol. 67, p. 1031. On 3 June General Hampton fought the second battle of Haws' Shop. The Nineteenth and Sixty-third Regiments by their charges elicited high praise from Generals Hampton and W. H. F. Lee. And General R. E. Lee says: "A part of General W. H. F. Lee's Division drove them from their entrenchments." Vol. 67, p. 1032 and p. 901 gives Federal account. 4 June, 1864, Brigadier-General Rufus Barringer was assigned to command of the brigade. Vol. 69, p. 873. On 6 June he received his commission and took command. 7 June, brigade was detached to picket lower crossings of Chickahominy, near Bottom's and Long Bridges.

On 13 June General Grant, in his move to the south of the James, forced in Barringer's pickets at Long Bridge, on the Chickahominy, and effected a crossing. Vol. 67, pp. 1035 and 1051. The Sixty-third Regiment and rest of the brigade was hastened to support the pickets; but the advance was with cavalry and infantry and we were driven back to White Oak Swamp, near Riddle's Shop, where General W. H. F. Lee joined us and the Sixty-third joined in a rattling fight with the entire division and held the enemy in check till our infantry came up and relieved us late in the day and the enemy "were driven back nearly two miles." Vol. 67, p. 1035. Vol. 67, pp. 1052 at top, 902, 1035 and Vol. 80, p. 643. The Sixty-third was then moved rapidly to the right and front to watch the enemy's movements. With the brigade we followed the enemy to Wilcox's Landing, fighting daily at different points, especially at Point of Rocks, Malvern Hill, Crenshaw's and Herring Creek. Vol. 67, p. 1035.

18 June we crossed the James, with the entire division and took position two miles south of Petersburg.

On 21 June, early in the day, the enemy advanced rapidly and most unexpectedly, with infantry and artillery to seize the Weldon Railroad. General Barringer barely had time to form his line of the Ninth, Nineteenth and Forty-first Regiments in front of the Davis Farm. McGregor's battery was put in position at the Davis House on the railroad; the Sixty-third, dismounted, supported the battery. To the left and front of the farm lay a body of woods easily reached by McGregor's guns and through which the enemy would likely pass in their route for the railroad. The whole front line was ordered to fall back rapidly to the rear and narrowest part of the wood, as soon as the action should begin, and there make a stand, out of the line of McGregor's fire. McGregor was directed not to fire until the enemy reached this wood. The orders were all executed well and had the desired effect. The enemy mistook the movement of our line for a flight. They poured into the woods by thousands. Suddenly McGregor's guns opened; for a moment the heavy lines of the enemy faltered and then fell back under the shock of this splendid battery, but rallying quickly they again rushed forward when all at once a furious, deadly fire from the dismounted men, at short range, cut them down by scores. The Federal officers dashed bravely forward and called upon their men to follow. But volley after volley thinned their ranks and they broke and fled. They left forty dead on the field there and twenty odd prisoners, including a Lieutenant-Colonel and two Captains. At one time the opposing lines were so close together that prisoners were taken on both sides near each other, and thus Colonel Baker and Lieutenant Fred. Foard, Aide to General Barringer, were

captured. Lieutenant Foard made a daring and miraculous escape by jumping from a car window of a fast running train between Washington and Baltimore. They were so sure he was dead that they never slackened speed; and when he soon returned he reported that the enemy's dead and wounded carried off reached several hundred. It was Barlow's infantry division into which the dismounted Sixty-third fired those awful and deadly volleys.

General W. H. F. Lee came to our support just at the close of the action with the other brigade and shortly our infantry arrived and pursuit was made, but the Federals had effected their escape.

WILSON'S RAID.-BLACKS AND WHITES.

That name was terribly typical of the mingled, motley mass that Wilson's invading "army with banners" became in its final, frightful fall and rout. The negroes flocked to him by thousands and mingled their black faces with his whites to his utter discomfiture and ruin-as such God-forbidden commingling of races always will, and his troopers' faces were often black and white with fear as the sequel will show. The name of that place now is Blackstone.

General Wilson, on page 620, Vol. 80, says that he was "ordered to strike the railroad and destroy it in the direction of Burkville and Roanoke (Staunton) river. High Bridge on the South Side & Roanoke bridge (Staunton river bridge) on the Danville road were especially to be aimed at. Having broken up these roads as far as possible, I was authorized to cross into North Carolina and make my way either to the coast or to General Sherman in North Georgia. If I could not cross the Roanoke (Staunton) river I was left to my own judgment what route to pursue in returning to the Army of the Potomac or the James river." "Fore-seeing," he says, in substance, that these grand purposes might possibly fail, he "wrote to General Meade the evening before starting that he anticipated no serious difficulty in executing his orders," but that Sheridan must keep Hampton off of him and the Confederate infantry kept so engaged as "to prevent Lee from making detachments." He was assured "that the Army of the Potomac should cover the Weldon road the next day, the South Side road the day after, and that Hampton having followed Sheridan toward Gordonsville, he need not fear any trouble from him." How hard it was to teach them, at General Meade's headquarters, anything about Hampton and that the "rebel cavalry was" not "almost totally annihilated."

Where not otherwise stated the references about Blacks and Whites will be only to pages of Vol. 80, without naming "Vol. 80." At 3 a. m. of the 22d the expedition consisting of about 5,500 cavalry and twelve guns, began the march by way of Reams Station, p. 621. "The expedition," by commands and columns, consisted of the Third Division, Wilson's own command, and General "Kautz's Division" of cavalry. W. H. F. Lee made instant pursuit, taking with him Dearing's Brigade and the Ninth, Nineteenth and Sixty-third Regiments of the North Carolina Brigade, and McGregor's Battery. They tore up and destroyed the railroad awfully, there is no doubt about that. We struck their rear guard at Reams Station, drove them off and pressed them rapidly until long after night. 645, 650. On page, 645, their Colonel Chapman says: "From this point, W. H. F. Lee's Division of

cavalry followed the rear of the column closely, keeping up a continual skirmish until a couple of hours after night-fall."

The next day, 23 June, we had gotten ahead of them and also between their two columns. General Lee was now on the north side of the railroad at a point where the railroad and public road cross each other, almost at right angles and in a cut about four feet deep and eight hundred feet long. On page 645, Federal Colonel Chapman says: "On the morning of the 23d I moved my command about an hour before daylight and proceeding by the Cox road, we reached Blacks and Whites, and upon reaching a point near Nottoway Court House where the road crosses the railroad the head of the column came upon the enemy. Soon ascertaining that it was the same force that had followed the rear the day previous I made dispositions to meet the enemy, who advanced to the attack, checked his advance, and subsequently drove him back a considerable distance. The enemy bringing up strong reinforcements my line retired to its original position along the railroad, from which repeated attempts of the enemy failed to dislodge them. This engagement lasted from 1 p. m. until dark and at times was quite severe. My command retrained in line of battle until near daylight, when, in accordance with instructions, I quietly withdrew."

To the same effect is General Wilson's report on page 621. and, on page 626, General Wilson says: "The enemy's cavalry had succeeded in interposing themselves between the two divisions of my command and that in the fight Chapman got 'possession' of our battery." And further: "This was one of the most determined cavalry engagements in which this division has participated," where he says: "I determined not to renew the engagement until I could hear from General Kautz."

Now for our view of the fight. General Dearing was in front, and with the Nineteenth North Carolina Regiment and McGregor's Battery made the first attack on Chapman. This battery was in position on the left of the public road, as General Lee approached the railroad. The fighting was furious. The Ninth and Sixty-third were back some distance in the road by which Lee moved, the former in front of our short train of wagons and the latter just behind the wagons. Dearing's Brigade began to break and finally fled. General Lee seeing the day going against him, rushed one of his couriers to the Ninth and Sixty-third with an order "to come to the front fast." The Ninth got its order and, as always, moved off as ordered; the same courier dashed by our short wagon train and gave the same order to the Sixty-third, marching by twos. The order for the Sixty-third rang out-"Open ranks; forward, gallop, march." And past those wagons the Sixty-third went in a rushing race right after the Ninth. We dashed up to the fight and as the Ninth gloriously rushed in on the extreme left of our line, the Sixty-third was dismounted, under the fastest orders ever given, and rushed in on the right of the Ninth. Dearing's men were fleeing in dismay before Chapman's victorious lines. McGregor's guns were just about to be captured. Captain S. A. Grier, commanding the fifth squadron, on the left of the Sixty-third's line and closest to the Ninth, says "the guns were abandoned." Near the extreme right of what had been our first line there was somebody firing into the foe and falling slowly back, and who had not fled with Dearing. As the Ninth and Sixty-third, wildly yelling, and firing furiously, went by our guns and beat back Chapman, it was seen that the somebody on the Sixty-third's right was Major W. P. Roberts, commanding the

Nineteenth Regiment. Roberts' courage never failed. He saw everything in battle just as lightning reads a landscape, absolutely unperturbed. He took in the situation at a glance. His orders rang out clear and strong. His regiment faced and wheeled to the left, the personification of his orders. And in a moment the fire of the Nineteenth and the fire of the extreme right of the Sixty-third was pouring into Chapman's left flank and rear. The tide of battle was turned and McGregor's guns and the day were saved. Chapman flew in disorder into the railroad cut and formed behind its banks and the battle raged on till darkness ended it. And during the night he "quietly withdrew," leaving his dead and wounded in our hands so entirely that he marks their number with a on page 645.

Next morning Wilson, veered off to the right, entirely out of his intended course, driven from the South Side Railroad and, by Hungarytown, tried to reach Staunton river bridge. He did not touch the South Side any more.

General R. E. Lee 25 June, says: "He withdrew from General Lee's front at daylight on the 24th, leaving his dead and wounded on the field, taking the road to Hungarytown. General Lee is still following them." 751.

And at Blacks and Whites we broke the backbone of Wilson's raid. But he had high orders and he was doing a soldier's best to obey them. I am quite certain that, on the night of 23 June, 1864, he totally abandoned all thought of crossing into North Carolina and joining and strengthening General Sherman in North Georgia.

On the 24th and 25th we were "still following them." The artillery was sent back. The North Carolina Cavalry Brigade alone pressed the pursuit, General W. H. F. Lee accompanying. They did do some tearing up of the Danville Railroad and burned also two private mills. 734.

We were "following them" when they reached Staunton river bridge "at 6 p. m. on the 25th." 626.

The south side of the river was defended by the "Home Guard" with some artillery, who made a gallant defence of the bridge. General Wilson terms them "the militia of eight counties." 627. General Kautz had rejoined him. Now let General Wilson tell the tale: "Our forces were unable to get closer than seventy or eighty yards to the bridge. After a determined effort, lasting till after dark, the attack was terminated and the troops directed to hold an advanced position, covering the road crossing at Roanoke Station. Simultaneously with Kautz's attack of the bridge, Lee's cavalry attacked our rear, under Chapman, but as usual, was held in check without any serious difficulty or loss. Finding that the bridge could not be carried without severe loss, if at all, the enemy being again close upon our rear, the Staunton too deep for fording and unprovided with bridges or steam ferries I determined to push no farther south, but to endeavor to reach the army by returning toward Petersburg. Our position, from the peculiar topography of the site, was rather dangerous, and in order to extricate the command it became necessary to move it by night. The march was therefore begun about midnight." 627. The presence of Lee's cavalry "close upon his rear" possibly, to some slight extent, caused him to see "the

peculiar topography of the site;" certain it is that he did not here exercise his own unaffected "judgment as to what route to pursue in returning to the Army of the Potomac or the James river." And oh! how much worse that "judgment" was all shattered later on by Hampton and our infantry at Stony Creek, Sappony Church and Reams Station, after the horrible heat, dust, smoke and fights of this raid and pursuit. Sketches 631, 632 and 633.

General R. E. Lee, 26 June, says: "This afternoon General W. H. F. Lee reports that he attacked the enemy near Staunton river bridge yesterday afternoon and drove him until dark. He also states that the enemy was signally re-pulsed at the bridge the same evening and retreated this morning, leaving about thirty of his dead on the field." 751.

The North Carolina Cavalry Brigade was much diminished in its effective force by the awful heat, dust and marches of the last few days. Turning back the disabled men and horses Lee renewed the chase with Dearing's Brigade and the remnant of our brigade. Most of this force moved on Wilson's flank to drive him into the snare set for him by Hampton at Stony Creek and Sappony Church. But Wilson was hurt and hastened and horrified most by a select detail of men and horses solely from our brigade, who followed in his immediate track and rear and harrassed him continually. They could not strike hard, but it was like the blows of enraged birds on the hawk. They were demoralizing and driving. And driving the enemy right into the ruin prepared for them, when they expected peace and rest.

And now let General Wilson talk again. He says, on page 627, that on the afternoon of 28 June, near Stony Creek Depot, "we learned that the advance of Hampton's Cavalry had just arrived from Richmond. Although it was then night, a fierce fight ensued lasting to nearly 10 o'clock. It was at once apparent that the prospect of penetrating their line at this place was by no means flattering and that a new route must be chosen." He prepared "for an attempt to break through the enemy's line between Reams and the Six Mile House. For the first time I then learned that, contrary to my expectations, no part of the Weldon Railroad was in possession of the infantry investing Petersburg, and that instead of my command being in the immediate vicinity of our lines the enemy held the road and interposed a strong force to pre-vent our junction." * * * He tried another "route," when "a large force of infantry in line of battle was re-ported advancing with a heavy line of skirmishers deployed across the fields through which I proposed passing. I found not less than a brigade of infantry with guns in position. My scouts soon reported the movement of troops toward our extreme left flank. Seeing no possible chance of getting through to our lines by this route and fearing the loss of my entire command, I ordered the immediate destruction of the wagons and caissons and that the whole force should move by the stage road. At Stony Creek the bridge being bad and the creek unfordable, at one time the situation was critical in the extreme. The negroes who had joined our columns in large numbers on all parts of the route added greatly to the embarrassment. * * * During the night the flankers of Chapman's Brigade met the enemy's scouting parties and brought in prisoners who said that Chambliss' Brigade had left Stony Creek that morning to intercept us. This caused my column to expedite its movements. Its advance reached the Blackwater to find the bridge gone and the stream utterly unfordable. I immediately

began the repair of the bridge and soon had it fit for crossing by file, but the materials, having been partly burned, gave way. It was promptly repaired, but after crossing a few more men again failed. New string pieces were cut from the woods and by 3 a. m. it was again covered with rails and ready for use. The whole command was over by 6:15 a. m., and the bridge destroyed." Now was not that an awful time in the darkness of the night to have his bridge breaking under him twice and precipitating into the Blackwater his now terrified, blanched-faced troopers, who had started out "to cross into North Carolina and make their way either to the coast or to General Sherman in North Georgia?" Why it was worse than "Buckland Races." But that is the picture that General Wilson himself draws, by my scattering quotations of his own words on pages 627, 628, 629 and 630.

Wilson left Kautz to his own fate and of that fate, in part, Kautz says: "As we pursued no road, but marched by compass, passing most of the way through timber and heavy undergrowth, the artillery could not be brought through. It was hauled off the field and finally abandoned in a swamp, where the carriages mired, and could not be extricated. 732.

He lost all of his guns. "Not a wheel was saved; mountain howitzers and all fell into the hands of the enemy." 735. "As we pursued no road, but marched by compass, passing most of the way through timber and heavy undergrowth, the artillery could not be brought through. It was hauled off the field and finally abandoned in a swamp, where the carriages mired, and could not be extricated. 732.

Now was not this, marching by a compass, through dense timber and heavy undergrowth and swamps, on "no road at all," a peculiar exercise of one's "own judgment as to what route to pursue in returning to the Army of the Potomac?" It was almost as much so as "the peculiar topography of the sight" at Staunton river bridge.

And from the remnant of our brigade at Staunton river, who followed in that final pursuit in Wilson's immediate track and rear, the Sixty-third North Carolina furnished more men than all the other regiments put together. So says Lieutenant Wiley, of Company F, Captain S. A. Grier, of Company D, and others now living. And Lieutenant Wiley says, that by his own personal knowledge of all that transpired when the selection of men and horses for that pursuit was made, Company F, of the Sixty-third, furnished more men and horses than any other company in the brigade; and that this fact was generally spoken of then.

And Lieutenant Wiley writes: "I led a detachment of Company F in the immediate rear of Wilson from Staunton river until they were driven into our infantry. This detachment, at one time charged Wilson's rear and captured several men and horses. John Jamison, still living, was in that detachment."

George E. Barnhardt, of Company H, writes: "Captain McKellar and some other officer, I do not remember, were appointed, at Staunton river, to select men and horses for the immediate pursuit on Wilson's rear. It was more a selection of horses than men. Horses able to make rapid and continuous pursuit. Company H, and I suppose all other

companies of the regiment, passed single file before these officers and they selected the horses." Sergeant Ratcliff, of Company D, Sixty-third, captured in that rear pursuit of Wilson a That night the Sixty-third camped on the Darbytown road. Federal Colonel on a magnificent gray horse, which he swapped to General Barringer and the General rode it till he was captured. My recollection is that the Colonel's name was Crook, as I heard afterwards. At Blacks and Whites, T. O. Serves was mortally wounded and "Joe" Blackwelder badly shot, both of Company F, with others I do not know.

BACK AND FORTH OVER THE JAMES.

On 28 July the Sixty-third marched north of the James to help meet a move of Federal cavalry against Richmond, joined in the affairs at Fuzzle's Mills and Riddle's Shop and then returned to our old position eight miles south of Petersburg.

On 14 August we were again summoned north of the James. Marching day and night the Sixty-third reached the Charles City road early on the 15th and met the Federal cavalry, advanced to White's Farm within six miles of Richmond and took part in the action there. We found a strong party near Fisher's Farm. General Barringer was ordered by Major-General Lee to drive them off. He put in the Sixty-third Regiment which ran the enemy clear across White Oak Swamp back to their infantry supports near Wilcox's house. Early next morning a Virginia regiment guarding the swamp was routed and General Chambliss killed trying to rally them and the enemy rushed forward victorious to White's Tavern. General Lee came up with our brigade and by his great personal courage rallied the Virginians and the Sixty-third with the bridge attacked the enemy who, after an obstinate and bloody struggle, now broke in rout and confusion and were driven back thus for several miles, many being killed and wounded and about 200 prisoners captured. At last, securing a strong, safe position for their artillery, they made a desperate stand. But just in the nick of time Gregg's Texas infantry brigade and Gary's South Carolina Cavalry Brigade came up fast from the direction of Fuzzle's Mill and struck the Federal left. Their rout was now complete, the enemy was driven violently into and across White Oak Swamp, a number of men and horses perished in the mire and water, and a great many prisoners and animals were captured. Here Charlie Brem, a brave and gallant boy soldier of Company F, Sixty-third Regiment, actually lost his boots in the mire by the eagerness of his individual pursuit of the fleeing foe. But they say that he borrowed a pair from a stranger right there. Vol. 87, pp. 217-220, 241-244 and 248.

These were two bloody days for the brigade which lost about 125 in killed and wounded.

POPLAR SPRING CHURCH.-FIRST REAMS STATION.

We found, on the 17th, that the main body of Federal cavalry had returned south of the James and we hastened there. The enemy had taken the Weldon railroad and there was an attempt by infantry and cavalry to retake it, 21 August. Our brigade was on the extreme right and moved along the path leading from Poplar Spring Church to the railroad. The Forty-first and Sixty-third regiments were put in to charge. They carried the works in their front in the most gallant and heroic manner-sweeping everything before them.

Major McNeill went within a few yards of the rail-road, when he found that the attack had failed on the part of the infantry on the left and that his position was untenable. Both regiments then fell back in order under a heavy fire. The enemy took the offensive; but the Ninth and Nineteenth formed on each flank of the retiring regiments and the enemy were checked. At dark the whole force withdrew. The loss of the brigade was sixty-eight in killed, wounded and missing, of which fully one-half were from the Sixty-third Regiment. Vol. 88, pp. 353-360, etc.

REAMS STATION.

On 25 August there was a combined attack by our infantry and cavalry. Hampton moved with all the cavalry, except the North Carolina Brigade, against the advance of the enemy at Malone's Bridge. Barringer, with his own brigade, advanced up the Halifax road toward Malone's Crossing. The attack by Hampton at Malone's Bridge forced the Federal cavalry in flight across the railroad. Barringer was ordered to cut them off, but he failed to strike them. His line of march, after this cavalry, brought him square against the enemy's rear near Reams Station. A. P. Hill was then advancing on our right flank and Hampton attacking in front. General Barringer seeing his advantage here, placed the Forty-first Regiment to protect the rear and attacked quickly at Tucker's Farm with the Ninth dismounted, closely supported by the Nineteenth and Sixty-third. The enemy were driven in consternation, some prisoners captured and their forces thrown into confusion. The position, of course, was critical and he withdrew and rejoined Hampton at Malone's Crossing, with all his brigade, except Company H, of the Sixty-third, which he left alone on picket under Hampton's order "to picket the road strongly," a most complimentary, but fully deserved assignment to duty, under the order, and the danger of the duty. Now, it is best to let General Hampton tell the rest: "At 5 p. m. the artillery of General A. P. Hill opened fire and I at once ordered an advance of my whole line, which was then formed across the railroad at Malone's Crossing. This order was promptly obeyed, and the enemy gave way. They were driven to their works near Reams Station, giving up several positions which they had fortified. * * * In the meantime, seeing that General Hill was forcing the enemy back from the west side of the railroad into their works around the Station, I withdrew all my force from that side of the road and formed a line, with Chambliss' Brigade on the left, the North Carolina Brigade in the centre, and Young's Brigade on the right. * * *

The line being formed, the commanding officers were directed to keep the left flank on the railroad, advancing slowly, while the right swung round to strike the rear of the enemy, who were in position behind the railroad bank, and in a work which ran east perpendicularly to the railroad for some distance; then turning north kept parallel with the railroad, enveloping Oak Grove Church. The ground over which my troops advanced was very difficult, and it had been rendered more so by the enemy, who had cut down the timber. In spite of this, and under a heavy fire of artillery and musketry the line advanced steadily, driving the enemy into his works. Here he made a stubborn stand, and for a few moments checked our advance, but the spirit of the men was so fine that they charged the breastworks with the utmost gallantry, carried them and captured the force holding them. This ended the fighting of the day, my men having been engaged for twelve hours. After

the fight, General Hill directed me to put my command in the trenches to cover the withdrawal of the infantry. This was done * * until 6:30 the next morning when, * * I left General Butler to remove our wounded and to collect arms." Vol. 78, p. 942; pp. 223-229 and 245.

Our charge was witnessed by our infantry and they greeted the cavalry with cheer after cheer as we gave this crowning triumph to that ever memorable day.

General R. K Lee wrote to Governor Vance the letter so appropriately quoted by Colonel Cheek on page 471 of Vol. 1, of these histories. The words "the 23d ultimo," in Colonel Cheek's copy, is correctly "the 25th ultimo" in "Official Records," Vol. 88, p. 1206. And the Sixty-third respectfully claims her "part in the operations of the cavalry," mentioned in that letter by General Lee.

HAMPTON'S "BEEF RAID."

This was the greatest and most successful achievement of the cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia during the entire war and in it the Sixty-third, as always, bore a gallant and prominent part. To the wearied reader, may be a mere short outline would be sufficient with a reference to Hampton's report but most of our people can never see "Hampton's Report" and I could not do justice to the Sixty-third by such a mere outline alone. And again it is best just to let Hampton tell it by extracts, made here and there, from his report on page 944, Vol. 87. His report is dated 27 September, 1864, and, in part, is as follows:

"On the morning of the 14th instant I moved with the division of W. H. F. Lee and brigades of Rosser and Dearing and Colonel Miller, of South Carolina, with 100 men, down the west side of Rowanty Creek to Wilkinson's Bridge and bivouacked that night. The object was to capture a large herd of cattle near Coggins' Point, on the James river. It was necessary to pass to the rear of the enemy and force his lines at some point. I selected Sycamore Church, in Prince George County, as the point to attack, as being the most central, the nearest to the cattle, and the one where the largest force of the enemy was camped. By dispersing them here I made it impossible for them to concentrate any force in time to interfere with the main object of the expedition. Left Wilkinson's Bridge at an early hour on the 15th and by a rapid march reached the Blackwater at Cooke's Bridge. The bridge had been destroyed, as I was aware, and I chose that route on that account, as the enemy would not look for an approach from that quarter. The command halted here to rest and feed, while the engineer party constructed a new bridge. The command moved at 12 midnight. General Lee was directed to move by the Lawyer's road to the Stage road, at which point he would encounter the first pickets of the enemy. These he was to drive in, and to move, then, to occupy the roads leading from the direction of the enemy to Sycamore Church. With Rosser's Brigade I moved on by-roads direct toward Sycamore Church. Rosser was charged with the duty of carrying the position of the enemy here and was directed after accomplishing this to push forward at once to secure the cattle. At 5 a. m., on the 16th, Rosser made the attack. The enemy had a strong position, and the approaches to it being barricaded he had time to rally in the roads around his camp, when

for some time he fought as stubbornly as I have ever seen him do. But he was completely routed, leaving his dead and wounded on the field and his camp in our hands. As soon as the attack was made at the church, General Lee on the left and General Dearing on the right attacked the enemy most successfully, and established themselves rapidly and firmly at the points they were ordered to secure. Having captured the whole herd of cattle, I withdrew everything before 8 a. m. The different columns were united before reaching the Blackwater, and all dispositions made to protect our captured property. General Lee brought up the rear. After seeing everything across the Blackwater I moved toward the plank road, but before reaching it was notified by General Rosser of the approach of a heavy force of the enemy down that road. I ordered him to hold the road at Ebenezer Church and I at once sent the cattle by Hawkinsville, crossing the plank road two miles in rear of my line of battle and placed them quickly across the Nottoway river at Freeman's Ford. The enemy attacked Rosser, I sent Miller and Dearing to him. I determined to pass to the rear of the enemy with General Lee's division, in order to attack him there. But it became too dark to make the movement advantageously, and I directed General Lee to reinforce Rosser and to protect our right. These orders were promptly carried out in the midst of an attack from the enemy, who were repulsed along the whole line. Several assaults were made on me, but always with a like result. I moved the command to their former bivouac, on the Rowanty, halting for the night.

"The next day the command returned to their old quarters, after an absence of three days, during which they had marched upwards of one hundred miles, defeating the enemy in two fights, and bringing from his lines in safety a large amount of captured property, together with 304 prisoners.

"Of the 2,486 cattle captured, 2,468 have been brought in and I hope to get the few remaining ones. My loss was ten killed, forty-seven wounded and four missing.

"I beg to express my entire satisfaction at the conduct of officers and men. Major-General Lee and Brigadier-General Dearing carried out my orders and wishes most skilfully, protecting the flanks and covering the main attack, thus contributing greatly to the successful issue of the expedition. * *

"I cannot close my report without notice of the conduct of the scouts who were with me. Sergeant Shadburne, who gave me the information about the cattle, acted as guide to General Rosser, accompanied the leading regiment in its charge, kept his party always in the front, and acted with conspicuous gallantry."

Coggins' Point is just seven miles below City Point, the base of operations of General Grant's army. At City Point Grant got all his supplies. And City Point was General Grant's headquarters.

Coggins' Point is just twelve and a half miles a. little south of northeast from Petersburg. It was, therefore, right in the rear centre of the enemy's lines. This magnifies the achievement. There was nothing rash in it. It was effected by great, cool courage and daring after long, careful consummate consideration. And every young North Carolinian

in studying such acts and their heroes should learn a great lesson for life from this way Hampton had of doing everything. Nothing in his line of duty was too small to study and master. "Genius is the capacity for taking infinite pains," said one of the world's greatest geniuses, the poet, Goethe. Every great result, whatever it may be, is simply careful, intense thought in concrete, visible form. This act burst upon the world like a meteor. But it had all been thought out and its wonderful success prepared for. And the boy or girl who expects success in any thing without first learning to think well, will be a failure sure.

Before 5 September, 1864, the plans were all accurately, exactly laid by Hampton's great scout "Shadburne." The whole Army of Northern Virginia and most all in the Army of the Potomac knew that name Shadburne. It meant terror to the enemy as much as Mosby's did.

On page 1235, Vol. 88, dated 5 September, 1864, begins a long report from Shadburne to Hampton giving in almost infinitesimal detail, an accurate picture in words of everything an eagle would see poised over Coggins' Point. Hampton knew, by that report, everything he wanted to know. He saw the situation just like the eagle would and he knew exactly how to swoop down on his prey.

Hampton had been in conference, as he was in duty required, with General R. E. Lee about it. On page 1242, Vol. 88, under date of 9 September, 1864, General R. E. Lee wrote Hampton: "I am not sufficiently acquainted with the country to say how you can return if embarrassed with cattle. * * * Let your movement depend upon the report of your scouts. Should time permit, a personal conference would be more satisfactory." And I feel sure, from my would be more satisfactory." The affair was guarded with perfect secrecy, until Hampton struck. I affirm as a fact, corroborated today by the evidence of D. B. Coltrane and Denson A. Caldwell, that no one but Hampton, R. E. Lee and Hampton's scouts, unless it was Hampton's own generals, knew anything about Hampton's purpose till Rosser made the attack at 5 a. m. on the 16th. Great men don't talk of their great purposes till as acts they speak for themselves. All this shows the importance and magnitude of the grand result. In it the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment acted a splendid part in fighting and as solitary picket at one time, at Sycamore Church on "the roads leading from the direction of the enemy." This was one of the Sixty-third's high trusts alone, the whole affair depending on its faithful performance and then, afterwards, as often before, the Sixty-third with "General Lee brought up the rear." And right here comes in an illustration of the beautiful necessity of these histories to unfold the glories hidden in general words. Please reread the last sentence quoted from Hampton's report-"Sergeant Shadburne acted as guide to General Rosser; accompanied the leading regiment in its charge. Kept his party always in the front, and acted with conspicuous gallantry." Well now pray what has that got to do with the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment? somebody will ask. Well, just lift that splendid picture of Shadburne, standing modestly behind it; and there right beside Shadburne, as he has been for years till he is as great as Shadburne, stands, as one of "his party," a young boy, Julian Shakespeare Harris, of Cabarrus County, and of Company F, Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment. For weeks, every night and often in the day in Federal uniform with his life in

his hand, Shakespeare Harris walked with Shadburne in the enemy's camps as one of "his party" and they together made that word-map by which Hampton captured 2,486 splendid beef cattle, which fed the Army of Northern Virginia for months with fresh beef which it hardly knew the taste of and added another glory to the fame of the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment

As a private of Company F, and as "one of Hampton's scouts, in every duty, there was not anywhere a better soldier nor one who did more daring, desperate deeds than "Shake" Harris.

Nothing ever so startled and shocked the Army of the Potomac as the capture of their beeves. As can be readily seen by their telegrams and reports of officers to each other from General Grant down to the humblest officer connected with the affair. I wish I could take space to copy some of them, which are full of fright and consternation and ignorance. These telegrams and reports begin early on 16 September and run for days. All through them appear "Barringer's Brigade" and the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment is mentioned. They run from p. 852 to p. 935 of Vol. 88. On which latter page, 20 September, four days after he heard of our "rich haul," as he calls it, on page 853, General Grant, with evident, uncooled irritation, writes to General Meade: "The ease with which our men of late fall into the hands of the enemy would indicate that they are rather willing prisoners."

About this affair General R. E. Lee wrote General Hampton as follows: "You will please convey to the officers and men of your command my thanks for the courage and energy with which they executed your orders, by which they have added another to the list of important services rendered by the cavalry during the present campaign." Vol. 87, p. 952.

M'DOWELL'S FARM.

On the morning of 29 September the enemy advanced on the Vaughn road and drove back our pickets and forces there to Hatcher's Run. Here he was driven back to McDowell's farm, where the fight becoming "a serious one," General Lee, under Hampton's orders, moved to the fight Barringer's Brigade, then en route, to the north side of the James. The Nineteenth and Sixty-third alone were put into the action, with our small forces then engaged, and drove back the Federal Cavalry for more than a mile to Wyatt's, capturing a Major and twenty other prisoners.

General Hampton says: "General Lee brought up Barringer's Brigade and at once ordered an attack. This was made promptly and most successfully. The troops behaved as well as possible and they were well led by their officers. The picket line was reestablished." Vol. 87, p. 947. The following day the enemy captured Fort McRae, which was re-taken by General Heth and two Virginia Regiments of Lee's Division and to the results here the enemy "attributed the failure of their whole movement on this side of the James river." Vol. 87, p. 948. The Sixty-third and our brigade took an unimportant part. Not being in action at all, but moved here and there as needed and kept in the trenches day and night.

BOYDTON PLANK ROAD.

On 27 October, 1864, on the Boydton Plank Road, near Wilson's house, occurred one of the most important actions and greatest victories that the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment, was ever engaged in.

Burgess Mill is seven miles from Petersburg, almost exactly southwest on Hatcher's Run. This stream flows almost exactly southeast from above Burgess' Mill to and beyond Monk's Neck Bridge, past Armstrong's Mill, which is about half way between Burgess' Mill and Monk's Neck Bridge, which is five miles from Burgess' Mill and eight and a half miles from Petersburg. White Oak Road runs exactly west from Boydton Plank Road, which it strikes about half a mile south from Burgess' Mill. The South Side Railroad runs almost parallel to White Oak Road and three miles north of it. And Wilson's House was about two miles from Burgess' Mill right on the Plank Road, and east side of it. These are the points of interest connected with this great battle, which was fought chiefly on the Plank Road or near it, in territory the form of an elliptical loop, with one end of "our left resting on Burgess' mill-pond," thence running around the Wilson House and the other end near Armstrong's Mill and above it. From this, any one, with an ordinary map locating Petersburg, can make a sketch of the scene. Fine sketches are on pp. 233 and 435 of Vol. 87. And the reader will also find a map with this history of the Sixty-third. All references under this heading are in Vol. 87, so that page alone will be given.

The enemy crossed Hatcher's Run early in the morning of 27 October, at Armstrong's Mill and Monk's Neck Bridge. p. 949. Hampton. His forces consisted of two and a half army corps of infantry, including half of Hancock's great veteran corps, which held the heights at Gettysburg, pp. 230 and 434; Gregg's Division of cavalry, pp. 231 and 608, and twenty entire batteries, pp. 154-159. This force signifies great importance. Generals Grant and Meade were there in person on the Boydton Plank Road, near the Wilson House with General Hancock about 2 p. m., pp. 231 and 232. This signified very great importance. And the movement's ultimate object across White Oak Road to destroy the South Side Railroad and make a tremendous advance on our right flank, was the supreme importance. Pages 230-231.

The principal forces engaged on the enemy's side were Hancock's infantry and Gregg's division of cavalry and Crawford's Division of the Fifth Corps, pp. 231, 497 and 608; and also much artillery, p. 408?

Hampton had Butler's and Lee's Divisions and Young's Brigade of cavalry, pages 953 and 954. Butler's left rested "on Burgess' mill-pond," 949, along the upper and northern line of the ellipse and joined on Lee's left at the curve of the loop, which crossed the Boydton Plank Road, next came Young, along the lower line of the loop to a point about one-fourth of its length from the Run, where this imaginary line reached the Quaker Road and thus Hampton's "line then enveloped the enemy from a point on the Quaker Road to Burgess' Mill-pond," as he says on page 953. The space, along the line of the elliptical loop from the Quaker Road to Armstrong's Mill was covered by some of General Heth's

infantry, and our lower lines of envelopment being above the crossing at Armstrong's Mill and the Run between there and Burgess' Mill not being fordable and there being no bridge between these mills, Hampton and Heth had them completely surrounded. They had them in exactly the same situation that Stuart was in at Auburn, only they were entirely surrounded. And Heth had also a force of infantry on their right flank, across the Run, at Burgess' Mill. They were badly surrounded. Developments during the night, as well as the statement of prisoners, showed that the enemy had his line on three sides of our position." 507. Lee had only the Ninth and Sixty-third Regiments of our brigade on the line with Beale's Brigade on the right of the Ninth. The sixty-third was on the Plank Road at the curve, most of it on the left or west of the road a small part on the east side where it joined its right to the left of the Ninth. I was sent with these regiments to place them and know exactly where they were. McGregor's Battery was in the Plank Road between the two parts of the Sixty-third. Fighting had been going on before these dispositions were made, but the fury of it arose about the time they were consummated.

Before the "battle was on" fully Lee had attacked Gregg's rear as Gregg was marching up the Quaker Road to the Plank Road and Hampton had attacked him furiously in front with Butler. While engaged thus, Hampton, on pp. 949 and 953 says: "I saw his cavalry cross the Plank Road into the White Oak Road, and, fearing an advance on the South Side Railroad, I rapidly transferred Butler to the White Oak Road and at once forming line across it, repulsed the enemy. The skirmish line of the enemy was advancing up this road when we reached it. When Butler was withdrawn I ordered Lee to move promptly to the Plank Road to attack them." Gregg's cavalry, with our old friends of the First Maine, were advancing down that road now on their great move. The Ninth and Sixty-third North Carolina Regiments stopped them right there at Wilson's House. And quickly then the battle was on in all its fury. Again, on pages 949 and 953, Hampton says: "Being soon after this informed that our infantry would attack the enemy, I prepared to join in this attack and as soon as musketry told that our troops were engaged Butler was ordered to charge with his whole line. Butler's men charged gallantly across an open field and drove the enemy rapidly towards the Plank Road. In this charge, while leading the men and cheering them by his words and example, Lieutenant Thomas Preston Hampton, Aide-de-Camp, fell mortally wounded and Lieutenant Wade Hampton, who was acting on my staff, received a severe wound. Lee attacked with great spirit, driving the enemy rapidly and handsomely to Bevill's House."

All along the line everywhere the fighting was terrific and furious. The enemy fought with the courage of the best veterans in the Northern Army and that was as fine courage as the world ever saw, and they fought with that courage urged on to fury by the recognized desperation of their situation. The Sixty-third North Carolina and others fought as that Northern courage had assisted in teaching their inborn valor how to fight. And that meant the best fighting the world ever saw. It meant ruin to the "early morning's" defiant foe. All along their lines they were trying to reinforce each other when driven in at one point and another. On page 609, General Gregg says: "The attack of the enemy on the right of the Second Corps toward Hatcher's Run, caused me to dismount all the available regiments of the Second and Third Brigades and push them rapidly to that point of attack." But he needed them back mighty quick. On same page, referring to what

was going on where the Sixty-third was, he says: "Repairing to this point I found the enemy's cavalry dismounted, attacking strongly aided by the fire of four rifled guns. I sent for all of my available regiments. The First Maine came at a run, and at once became heavily engaged. The attack of the enemy was very determined and made in large force but the troops engaged in resisting it, although much inferior in numbers (of course), could not be beaten back, save inch by inch. In response to my request for such other of my regiments as could be spared, Major-General Hancock sent them to me rapidly. These regiments coming up successively as fast as their legs could carry them, entered the fight and at dark the enemy retired." And this is the first time we ever heard that "we retired." McGregor's guns rushed right along up the Plank Road, in line with the Sixty-third Regiment in that work, firing as they, the guns, charged with us. It was actually a charge by artillery. But in face of "the enemy retired," on same page, General Gregg says: "At 10:30 p. m., the division began moving (back) by the road upon which it had advanced in the morning." And thus he "retired" at midnight. On page 235, General Hancock says: "I desired to send infantry to Gregg's assistance, seeing that he was being pressed very vigorously, but I feared a renewal of the attack in my front. * * * About 5 o'clock p. m. I sent to communicate to General Warren or Crawford what had occurred and that unless the Fifth Corps moved up and connected with me, I could not answer for the result. * * * My command had been moving and fighting till after dark, and as a consequence was in considerable disorder." Nevertheless when he got to writing his report he thought he had gained a "victory." For, on page 236, he says: "Reluctant as I was to leave the field, and by doing so lose some of the fruits of my victory, I felt compelled to order a withdrawal rather than risk disaster by awaiting an attack in the morning, only partly prepared." And that is the first time that the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment ever heard that Hancock and Gregg and Crawford gained a "victory" on the Boydton Plank Road 27 October, 1864. On page 457, Major Bingham, of General Hancock's staff, said: "The attack had not succeeded" and General Mott said: "The rebels had turned and doubled up his right flank." On page 647, Lieutenant Garvin, in re-reporting cause of a loss of a caisson, says: "Toward evening I could neither find division nor brigade headquarters. The dismounted cavalry and the infantry, men and officers, were running through my section. I put on a guard and turned them aside. The led horses of the Second Brigade were in the same field with me, and the shelling of the enemy was so severe as to force the led horses of the cavalry into another field. I followed the led horses. * * * Finding nothing but turmoil and frightened infantry, and no brigade headquarters, I went to Captain Harper, who told me to stay in the field. He was not on duty, but had the general's escort with him." I guess that Lieutenant Garvin did not think that his folks had won a "victory."

Now why did not we ruin them, encompassed with it as they were?

Let General Hampton tell it. On page 950, he says: "We had driven the enemy in on all the roads and he was massed on the field around the houses of Bond and Burgess. The night having grown very dark and a heavy rain coming on I was forced to pause in my attack, but I ordered the line held all night, so that we might attack at daylight the next morning." And on page 953, he says: "It was not until 12:30 a. m. that I knew of the withdrawal of our infantry, and I then allowed a portion of my command to leave the line." The enemy had flown. Permitted to do so by "the withdrawal of our infantry."

Intelligent soldiers take in a situation very quickly and there were few men of the Sixty-third who did not feel sure that night that we would "bag them all in the morning." Hampton pursued in the morning and until the victorious enemy "fell back behind his infantry lines." Page 950. On 31 October, 1864, General R. E. Lee wrote Hampton about this great battle: "In a letter to General Hill today I expressed my gratification at the conduct of the troops in general and of the cavalry in particular, desiring him to communicate my thanks to you and your command. I am much pleased to learn from your letter of their admirable behavior." p. 954.

So, on what General Robert E. Lee said, the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment will continue to keep on our old tattered and "furled" battle flag "Boydton Plank Road-Victory."

WARREN'S RAID TO BELFIELD.

On page 24, Vol. 87, under date 7 December, 1864, General Grant writes: "General Warren; with a force of about 22,000 infantry, six batteries, and 4,000 cavalry, started this morning with the view of cutting the Weldon Railroad as far south as Hicksford." All references under this heading will be to Vol. 87, so page alone is given.

Hampton started immediately, the same day, with only Butler's and Lee's Divisions of cavalry to thwart this "view." Page 950. I shall now quote in its entirety what is said in my "Sketches," about this concluding event of 1864, interspersing it with quotations from General Hampton's official report. So that the Sixty-third North Carolina may end the year in generous "charity" with the brigade.

"We struck this rear guard on the Halifax Road, just beyond the Nottaway river. After skirmishing General Hampton withdrew and moved on the enemy's right, making a forced march via Wyatt's bridge to Belfield, and we thus got ahead of the enemy at the latter place."

On page 951, Hampton says: "At 2 a. m. on the 9th, my command was in motion and the head of my column very near Belfield at daylight. I at once made dispositions to defend Hicksford and the railroad bridge over Meherrin, in conjunction with Colonel Garnett, who commanded the post at that point. The enemy moved on slowly and captiously, and he did not make his appearance before Belfield until 3 p. m. The troops of Colonel Garnett assisted by the batteries of Hart and McGregor, opened fire rapidly and with effect on him, driving him back promptly." He ought to have added that the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment, occupying a position between "the troops of Colonel Garnett" in their breastworks on each side of the road, in advance of the works, across the road leading into Hicksford and north of the river, aided "in driving him back promptly." That is the truth of history, as D. B. Coltrane and others, who were in that fight, well know.

It was one of the most terrible nights of cold and rain and sleet our regiment ever saw. The ground and trees next morning were all covered with ice, under whose weight great limbs broke and crashed to the earth along our route. And all that night Colonel W. P.

Roberts, with the Nineteenth North Carolina Regiment, picketed and guarded the Meherrin above Hicksford, while others slept, as well as they could.

And those "troops of Colonel Garnett," who were they? Principally "Junior Reserves"-17-year-old boys from North Carolina and Virginia. Prominent among them, the Seventieth and Seventy-first North Carolina Regiments. And oh! how those boys did fire. They seemed to be taking their "Christmas" then, in fire works at least. They made their lines lurid in the darkness. And a courier had to be sent down to them "to stop their firing."

The next morning I saw those same boys following in the pursuit, some of them almost absolutely barefooted. A scene pitiable I saw among them, too. As I rode past their marching line, I noticed that every other boy had a tin cup in his little hand, holding it as if he feared to spill something. I said: "What have you in that cup?" "Sorghum for two." I could not realize it and again further on I repeated: "What have you in that cup?" "Sorghum for two." The time will come when readers of these pages will not know what "sorghum" was. It was North Carolina made molasses. And I know that this is not the history of the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment. But the Sixty-third North Carolina saw it and its sight was inspiration to us veterans, old and young, to higher heroism. And it is told to show what the homes and the hearts of the South endured in our civil war.

Now to a renewal of the "Sketches." "General Hampton repulsed the Federal troops and saved the railroad bridge at that place. Next morning we found that the enemy had left and were beating a hasty retreat. General Hampton made a detour by way of Three Creeks to strike their flank. We barely struck, on its right flank, their rear guard."

Hampton, page 951, says: "General Lee charged with one regiment, throwing a part of the regiment down and a part up the road. The cavalry of the enemy which was met was driven on rapidly, with loss and in confusion and the infantry of the rear guard was gallantly charged."

And herein will follow other illustrations of the need of these histories. The "Sketches" say: "General Barringer, in person, then charged their rear guard with two squadrons of the First Cavalry, Captain Dewey and Lieutenant Todd, and effectually routed them. Captain Dewey followed and rushed them pell-mell on to their infantry supports and then the infantry were charged and dispersed; but the gallant Dewey finding his force too weak for the heavy odds now against him, was compelled to retire. These two squadrons acted in the most daring manner. They killed and wounded several of the enemy and took a number of prisoners."

Again on page 951, Hampton says: "The pursuit on our part continued during the remainder of the day. At Morris' Mill we drove him from the bridge and pushing on soon met some cavalry, charging and dispersing them. The leading squadron of the Third Cavalry (Forty-first North Carolina) dashed into the main body of the enemy, who were found preparing to go into camp. Finding their whole force there I withdrew to Morris' Mill, two miles back to bivouac."

The "Sketches" say: "The Third Cavalry (Forty-first North Carolina) was now passed to the front and the pursuit vigorously pressed. About 9 o'clock at night, Captain Harding, of Company K, got the enemy's rear guard fairly started and charging them over two miles, forced them back precipitately into their camps. His zeal led him too far and into a furious fire from the enemy's interior guards. But the grave and skillful Captain still pressed forward and, after some hair-breadth escapes, succeeded in extricating his command with a loss of only about a dozen men." Our comrade, Julian S. Carr, was in this charge, to my personal knowledge. That "interior guard" formed an ambush for Captain Harding's troopers. They fired from each side of the road into each flank of those charging Carolinians. I know that Julian S. Carr was in that charge and went as far in it as any man, because I saw and spoke to him then and there and congratulated him on his safety.

On page 952, Hampton says: "I sent one regiment at daylight the next morning to follow to the Nottaway river" * * * and "withdrew my force to Stony Creek."

The "Sketches" say: "Next day, 11 December, our cavalry all returned to camp, except the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment, with which General Barringer followed the enemy until they crossed the Nottaway, when he gave up the pursuit. Thus ended the memorable campaign of 1864."

And, according to the written records, it "ended" with this remarkable coincidence: At White Hall, 6 May, 1864, the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment, with the Nineteenth, was the first regiment, or part of a regiment, of our brigade in battle and 11 December, 1864, it was, alone, the last regiment of that great brigade to leave the field and the foe on the banks of the Nottaway. And, according to my "Sketches," approved by General Barringer and Colonel Cheek, as has been shown, at White Hall "our loss was severe, especially in the Sixty-third, which bore the brunt of the action and had eighteen men killed and wounded." And in saying this nor in anything that I have said, the Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment would not take one laurel from the glory-crowned brows of the Ninth and the Nineteenth and the Forty-first. Their glory is ours and ours is theirs in jointly glorifying the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade.

On page 437, Vol. 1, of these histories, General Barringer has summed up the losses of the brigade for the campaign of 1864. A child's calculation will show that the "losses" of the Sixty-third were just fifty-five more than any other regiment of the brigade.

And in this connection I quote from a letter of Dr. Paul B. Barringer, Chairman of the Faculty of the University of Virginia, and a son of General Barringer, written to the widow of General Barringer from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., 1 June, 1900. Dr. Barringer writes: "It is strange, but a fact, that of all the men of father's brigade buried at this place, the old Sixty-third furnished more than the other three regiments put together."

And here is another remarkable coincidence from the records of the grave and of written history. And these were the dead of the regiments of our brigade in the campaigns

prior to 1863. They were the dead of Middleburg, Upperville, Culpepper, etc., killed in 1863.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1865.

The hard winter of 1864-'5 bore heavily and sorely on the Army of Northern Virginia, but with especial severity on our cavalry. We had to march over thirty miles to picket from our winter quarters near Belfield. Frequent movements of the enemy forced us to make long and hard marches; the country was almost entirely exhausted of both long and short forage, and raids of the enemy kept our communications cut fully a third of the winter. But such was the heroic spirit of the men and such their devotion to duty that they overcame all difficulties and, when the campaign of 1865 opened, the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade numbered 1,788 officers and effective mounted men in camp present for duty." My Sketches and Vol. 95, p. 390.

The general reader can never see the "Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies," to which I have referred so often by citation of volume and page., and instead of making such references now in order that such reader may see for himself the truth from another source than my "Sketches," about the hardships of the winter of 1864-'5, even at the peril of being considered painfully prolix and of being criticised for "not sticking to my text.," I quote from pages 1209-1210, Vol. 96, the following:

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
"February, 8, 1865.

"Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond, Va.:

SIR:-All the disposable force of the right wing of the army has been operating against the enemy beyond Hatcher's Run since Sunday. Yesterday, the most inclement day of the winter, they had to be retained in line of battle, having been in the same condition the two previous days and nights. I regret to be obliged to state that under these circumstances, heightened by assaults and fire of the enemy, some of the men had been without meat for three days and all were suffering from reduced rations and scant clothing, exposed to battle, cold, hail and sleet. I have directed Colonel Cole, Chief Commissary, who reports that he has not a pound of meat at his disposal, to visit Richmond and see if nothing can be done. If some change is not made and the Commissary Department reorganized, I apprehend dire results. The physical strength of the men, if their courage survives, must fail under this treatment. Our cavalry has to be dispersed for want of forage. Fitz. Lee's and Lomax's Divisions are scattered because supplies cannot be transported where their services are required. I had to bring W. H. F. Lee's Division forty miles Sunday night to get him in position. * * *

"With great respect, your obedient servant,
"R. E. LEE,
"General."

The Sixty-third North Carolina Regiment was on that march of "forty miles" that cold "Sunday night," which was 5 February, 1865.

CHAMBERLAIN RUN.

This was the most fearful and fiercest battle we were ever in. In order to intelligently understand it, other regiments must be referred to, of course. And so it has been all through these writings of mine about the regiment. I could not tell "the whole truth" without, often, mentioning other regiments, men and matters. No one regrets more than I do this expansion of my imperfect picture of the Sixty-third. But it would not do to paint one regiment alone, however great, in front of Sheridan's Corps and call it a battle; others must be there, or the one becomes ridiculous. Such a situation of the Sixty-third would also have been awfully unfortunate for it. And, therefore, I pray pardon for what seems irrelevant to this history.

As to the part of the Ninth in the morning fight, Colonel Cheek has so well told what it did that I simply refer to pages 472 and 473 of Vol. 1 of these histories. The word "afternoon" near the top of page 473 should read "forenoon." That is self evident from these two pages as a whole. Now why was "Colonel McNeill repulsed at the ford," in the morning, and what part . did Colonel McNeill and his grand regiment do in that awful tragedy where he died?

At the same time that Colonel Cheek received his orders for the action, Colonel Gaines, of the Nineteenth, and Colonel McNeill received theirs, I heard them given and so did Frank Brown, now living. Colonel Cheek executed his magnificently and so did Gaines and McNeill, as far as it was possible for mortal men to execute them. The Sixty-third was in front. A small detail from the Sixty-third was sent, mounted, to our right as videttes, under Captain S. A. Grier. McNeill and Gaines were told "to dismount their regiments, go to the ford, cross in column of fours, the Sixty-third to deploy in line of battle to the right of and below the ford; the Nineteenth to follow and deploy fast in line of battle to the left and above the ford, completing and connecting the line between Cheek and McNeill and drive the enemy." Those were the orders.

The road crossed that ford at right angles. The water there, "one hundred and fifty yards" below Cheek, was much above "the men's waists," its depth, according to Colonel Cheek, where he was. Of course it was much deeper with us than where the Ninth was, even if it was the ford. So deep, so "impassable by reason of briars and swamp undergrowth" and a bluff to the immediate right of the ford, and on our side of it, and other obstructions of fallen timber on both sides of the stream, that it could not be crossed, for battle, except at the ford. It would swim a horse twenty feet below the ford. Men were shot down in the ford, swept off by the current and actually drowned before their comrades could pull them out. That was the sort of a place the Sixty-third and Nineteenth had to cross under their orders.

Across the stream, from the road up to Cheek's right, was a body of small and large timber extending forward almost to the enemy's entrenchments; immediately to the right

of the road was open ground, sparsely wooded, thirty-five or fifty yards wide up to the enemy's works and then far down the stream was a body of good sized timber. From the stream the ground rose rapidly to the enemy's lines and works, which were about two hundred yards from the stream with their extreme left point being almost opposite to what was to be McNeill's right. McNeill's intended right, across the creek, would overlap their left slightly. From the place where they dismounted, the Sixty-third and Nineteenth moved rapidly towards the ford, a large body of Sheridan's cavalry was on our side of the stream, a fierce fight ensued and they were driven pell-mell across the ford back to their works. In this affair Colonel Gaines lost his right arm. Grandly and gloriously, with Colonel McNeill in the lead, our regiment crossed that ford under a galling, withering fire from Henry rifles, that shot sixteen times each without loading, fired by an entrenched enemy. Every man held his cartridge box high above that seething water with his left hand and his rifle in his right. They crossed, as ordered, "by fours," as regularly as ever a regiment moved on a parade ground. They had learned to parade in battle. As they crossed, McNeill gave the proper orders loud and clear; each company captain, as his company landed, repeated the order and quickly the regiment was in line of battle to the right of the road waiting for the Nineteenth to cross. And just here, as at Balaklava, "somebody blundered." "Blundered" awfully, but with the best intention. To distract the fire from our two regiments, W. H. F. Lee ordered a Virginia regiment to charge across the ford mounted, just when the Nineteenth was steadily, as always, stepping forward to cross. Misunderstanding their orders, only a squadron of the Virginians rushed over and up the incline of the road. The Nineteenth closed right in behind them. Frank Brown, one of Barringer's couriers, with his hat in his right hand, as he almost always rode in battle, till he got within saber distance of the foe, rushed, under Barringer's orders, to McNeill to learn his situation. McNeill was advancing slowly for the Nineteenth to form on his left and the fire was so furious that it was better to advance than to stand. To Brown's enquiry, Colonel McNeill coolly said: "Please tell General Barringer that I am all right and advancing slowly for the Nineteenth to form on my left that we may charge and carry those works. Ask him, please, to hasten the Nineteenth over." About two companies of the Nineteenth crossed behind that squadron, just as grandly as the Sixty-third had. And then that squadron broke and fled back to the narrow ford. Our brigade color-bearer, Churchill, waving his battle flag in his hand, Lieutenant Fred. Foard, General Barringer's Aide, and I rushed at them on the enemy's side of the stream and tried to rally them, and especially to keep them off the Nineteenth. But they were panic-stricken; not even appeals to "look at those North Carolinians crossing here," could halt those horsemen, breaking the line of the Nineteenth and pushing them down into the deep water at the lower side of the ford. The enemy were so exultant over their sight of the fleeing squadron that they advanced and redoubled their already furious fire on McNeill and the ford, where the column of the Nineteenth was now helplessly cut in twain by that mingled mass of mounted men, while McNeill's ammunition was almost exhausted. D. B. Coletrane, standing near him, said: "Colonel, I have only two cartridges; shall I use them or hold them?" "Keep them; you may need them more in a moment," coolly and calmly answered McNeill, in the face of a well recognized and terrifying danger. And there he and his regiment were; fighting, and firing their last shot. And now let Captain C. W. Pear-son speak. In his sketch of Company IT, now before me, he says: "The writer was talking to Colonel McNeill, when he saw a man a little to the right, run from a large pine

to another pine, very soon a puff of smoke came from the tree. I think this shot killed the Colonel, as just at that time he fell, apparently instantly killed, some of the men picked him up and started back, but got only a short distance, when the entire line gave way. In recrossing the creek we had to swim under a heavy fire." And this is why "Colonel McNeill was repulsed at the ford." He was being carried off dead in the arms of his loving men who had fired their last shots into the swarming ranks of an overwhelming, advancing foe.

General Barringer, mounted on his horse, right at the ford, watching and directing all the movements of his men, sent a courier to form the Sixty-third along the top of the bluff down the stream as they came up from the water and to check the advancing foe. They were supplied with ammunition as quickly as possible; to aid in which, the cartridge boxes of our dead were emptied from their dead bodies; some of which I thus emptied myself for this purpose. And under the fire of the Sixty-third, the enemy went back to their works on the ridge, except a few who threw up a V-shaped entrenchment, immediately in front of the ridge works, right across the road-the point of the V being towards Chamberlain Run, as an additional defense.

General Barringer, on pages 439-440, Vol. 1, of these histories, well tells how every generous, humane effort was made to save his men in the afternoon. He ought to have told, I think, that this effort was so long tried with W. H. Lee that Fitzhugh Lee came in person, on his horse all covered with foam, and peremptorily ordered this afternoon attack, delayed only for humanity's sake. The battle in the afternoon was, in all its movements, like that of the morning, except that the Nineteenth crossed the ford first and that Captain John R. Erwin, of Company F, with sword in hand, now led the Sixty-third across and deployed it to the right of the road and to the right of the Nineteenth as magnificently as McNeill had done in the morning. Lockhart, of the Nineteenth, and Erwin, of the Sixty-third, gave their orders to charge at the same moment and grandly, gloriously, with a wild rush and yell they went forward over those works and drove Sheridan's splendid soldiers miles back to Dinwiddie Court House. And as General Barringer says, on page 442, Vol. I, this "was the last marked victory won by our armies." And in winning it the Sixty-third "was a great part."

General Barringer, in his account of this battle, published in the Concord Sun, 18 March, 1881, now before me, says: "Frank Brown, a courier, bore a message to Major Lockhart, just as the latter gave his order to charge. The noble youth, entirely unbidden, dashed to the head of the column and led the charge, the only man on horseback! For a miracle he escaped unhurt and, returning promptly to his post, he shouted, 'We've whipped them! We've whipped them!' "

And there he further writes: "When the brave and generous Lieutenant Lindsey fell, his brother sprang for a moment, to his side. The hero said, 'Turn me on my face; then hurry to the front.' When the Virginia squadron met its fatal repulse and came rushing back, Lieutenant Fred. Foard and Paul Means, with my headquarters color-bearer, Churchill, dashed gallantly to the front, under a tremendous fire and single-handed, received the

shock of the advancing host. Means and Churchill were both wounded and Means' horse was severely shot and Foard's nearly killed."

Lieutenant-Colonel Shaw was killed at the same time Colonel McNeill was. Lieutenant Lindsey was killed. Captain Harris and Lieutenants Nott, Sockwell and Wharton were all severely wounded, and others were killed and wounded whose names I could not get. A great number of privates were killed and wounded and "every man in Company H, except the Captain, was struck by a ball during the day," Captain Pearson writes.

The battle gave immortal lustre to the Sixty-third, but it was at an awful sacrifice and saddened forever many a home.

Colonel McNeill fell with his face to the foe as the hero, who has to die, loves to fall. He was the son of George McNeill and Minerva Ruffin, sister of Chief Justice Ruffin; was born 23 May, 1825; was educated at Harvard and Princeton; was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1847, just 22 years of age. He was not 40 when he fell. The faith and the fight and the loyalty to his God of the old Covenanter was all in him fully. Many a Sunday, in our winter camps, I have seen him standing under the fluttering folds of the Confederate battle flag, with its blood-red field and starry cross, a great crowd of soldiers in slouch hats and gray uniforms sitting on the bare ground in front of him, and heard him preaching to them, as their only salvation, the blood and the cross of Jesus Christ. He was as true to the cross of Christ as he was to the Southern cross. Like Jackson, he led his regiment in prayer and in battle. He was right at the front of the fight, advancing against an advancing foe and "ready" when God's bugle called him. All along war's weary way he had "fought a good fight," he had "kept the faith," and that awful glorious day, near the hill top at Chamberlain Run, to add heaven's lustre to the splendor of his Colonel's stars, he received "a crown of righteousness."

That night Sheridan wrote General Grant: "The enemy's cavalry attacked me about 10 o'clock today. This attack was very handsomely repulsed by General Smith's brigade and the enemy driven across Chamberlain's creek.

The enemy again attacked at Chamberlain creek, and forced Smith's position. At this time Capehart's and Pennington's Brigades, of Custer's Division, came up, and a very handsome fight occurred. The enemy have gained some ground, but we still hold in front of Dinwiddie, and Davies and Devin are coming down the Boydton road to join us." Among the opposing force he names "W. H. IF. Lee's Cavalry commands" and then continues: "The men have behaved splendidly. * * * This force is too strong for us. I will hold out to Dinwiddie Court House until I am compelled to leave." And this was the "rebel cavalry" that Sheridan had reported "the almost total annihilation of" just after Brook Church.

That night, 31 March, General Grant wrote General Sheridan: "The Fifth Corps has been ordered to your support" and "MacKenzie's Cavalry." Vol. 95, pp. 1110 and 1111; 1117 and 1122-1123 and 1299. See also page 628.

We camped on the battlefield that night, right at that awful ford on the side where McNeill fell, until about 3 a. m. 1 April, 1865, when, after learning of the Fifth Corps' movement on our left flank, we recrossed Chamberlain Run and marched to Five Forks, without seeing the enemy.

Mention must be made here of Colonel James L. Gaines, whose splendid career shed lustre on North Carolina. He was a son of Matthew M. and Margaret L. Gaines, of Asheville, N. C. He went to the war as a young private of Company G, Ninth Regiment (First North Carolina Cavalry). 9 June, 1863, we find him Adjutant of that great regiment and, on page 726 of Vol. 44, Colonel Baker, of the Ninth, "thanks Adjutant (Lieutenant J. L.) Gaines for his great coolness and assistance rendered me in reforming my regiment and keeping them in proper order to resist the enemy," at the great battle of Brandy Station. And on page 775 of the same volume, he is by "General Orders," on the "Roll of Honor" for Gettysburg; then "Captain Gaines, Assistant Adjutant-General of Baker's North Carolina Brigade." In this capacity, he remained on the staff of the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade until, for great gallantry in battle, he was made Colonel of the Second North Carolina Cavalry, when W. P. Roberts was made General of Dearing's Brigade. Every man at our brigade headquarters loved him and he was an inspiration to the entire brigade in battle. Gaines' appointment was no disparagement of any officer of the Nineteenth. They all approved it, as far as I know.

FIVE FORKS.

April 1, in a small open field, right on the White Oak road, slight scattering woods on the left and heavier woods on the right, with a great open expanse in front of this little field, far to its right and left, the Sixty-third North Carolina was in some little, low improvised breastworks, the very last on that long, attenuated line of defences, of the Army of Northern Virginia, from Richmond to Petersburg and westward. General Grant had been ever since the night of 7 May, 1864, "turning Lee's right flank." That night near White Hall, Virginia, the Sixty-third North Carolina was on Lee's right flank. 1 April, 1865, was to see that right flank finally turned and the Sixty-third was there, in the post of honor, as it ever had been, to receive the last shivering shock of that long, mighty move. The Forty-first and Nineteenth mounted were in that little field to see us do our part and to do theirs. Pickett's Division joined immediately on to the left of the Sixty-third, also behind their own far longer and stronger breastworks. Just about sundown, sitting on my horse near the left end of the regiment, I saw the mightiest mass of men I ever looked at in battle, in the most perfect lines I ever witnessed, come forward with loud cheers, waving the beautiful Stars and Stripes, and sweep like a storm over Pickett's works about two hundred yards to our left. All Pickett's veterans between us and these storming lines fled in utter rout and confusion down the White Oak road right back of that little field and in full sight of us all. Fred. Foard dismounted one-half of the holders of our led horses and with them, by rallying shouts and threats to shoot Pickett's men, attempted to check the rout, but all in vain. Those great Federal lines in order to envelop our forces to their right and front wheeled grandly to the right as they victoriously stormed Pickett's works and did not come down on us at once. In front of that little field, all over that great open expanse came Custer's great division, like Mamalukos con-verging down on the Sixty-

third, the Nineteenth and the Forty-first North Carolina. The voices of Custer and his officers rang out in clear, clarion tones, orders that every old cavalryman in that little field distinctly heard and knew to mean our utter destruction if executed. Every man in that little field knew that Pickett was routed and that it could be but a short time till that "army with banners" to our left would also come down upon us. But not a man moved in those little, low works. To all appearances they were kneeling dead. A few moments before a courier had ridden up to Captain Erwin, now commanding the regiment, and, in low tones, given him an order. He rose and repeated it so that his entire little line heard it: "Hold your fire till that coming cavalry reaches the edge of the field and till I order it." Those kneeling men were not dead; they were just obeying orders, under the most trying test to a soldier. The Nineteenth and Forty-first had their orders. They sat still in their saddles, every man with his sword or his pistol in his hand. That splendid cavalry under the Stars and Stripes came on grandly; they reached the edge of the field, a great, loud, bass voice, like a speaking trumpet, said "Fire!" An awful volley answered from the rifles of the Sixty-third and then they rattled with one continuous fire. The magnificent riders "in blue" in front of that fire fell from their saddles and recoiled just to come again. As that "order to fire" was given the Nineteenth and Forty-first rode forward into Custer's "serried ranks" as if they really expected to "annihilate" them. The shock of the collision was terrible. Orders rang out on both sides clear-cut and loud. Sabers rang on each other with a cold steel ring that only the bravest veterans can stand. Pistol shots here and there and everywhere emptied saddles and burnt, with powder flashes, faces with death's pallor on them. Each side knew what was at stake, and this saber slashing lasted longer than I ever saw one. A short, stout general in gray, on a big gray horse, was riding here and there in the midst of that frightful fray, with Lieutenant Fred. Foard, two couriers, Brown and Means, and Color-Bearer Churchill, around him, all that were left of his staff; one courier had just gone to the rear with a hand nearly shot off. He was eagerly watching to the front, the right and left. It was nearly dark, he could not see far. Custer's line had not advanced a yard on that little field. The general in gray sent a courier into the woods to the right who quickly told him that he was being flanked there. Just then W. H. F. Lee, alone, rode rapidly into the fray to General Barringer's side. They talked a second. Two couriers were sent up the White Oak Road to see who was that mass of men coming down on our left. They rode within thirty yards of the coming platoons. One courier whispered to the other: "Look at their colors; turn your horse slow and ride off in a walk." They quickly reported: "It is a great body of Federal troops." Lieutenant Foard and the two couriers rode off from Generals Lee and Barringer with orders. The Nineteenth and Forty-first began to retire slowly. The dismounted Sixty-third withdrew with their faces to the foe, firing as they fell back. And as General Barringer writes, on page 442 of Vol. 1, "At Five Forks on 1 April the last hope of the Confederacy went down in darkness and despair." Under Captain Erwin's slow, cool, steady orders the men of the Sixty-third withdrew and lighted up that "darkness" with the flashes of their rifles when the curtain fell there on war's greatest tragedy. Vol. 95, pp. 1264, 1299 and 1300; 1117, 1118, 1105, sketch 830 and 1130-1131.

In my "Sketches" of 1881, fully approved by General Barringer, appear these words: "Only the Second, Third and Fifth Regiments were present in the open field." He, in his sketch of the Ninth, in Vol. 1, indicates that the Third was not in the "open field." He

wrote that sketch on his death bed as his last love-work for the Ninth, and necessarily not with his usual great care.

NIGHT OF 1 APRIL.

God's blessing of night and the valor with which He had endowed us to fight, alone saved the regiment from utter destruction after we left that little field. As it was, we went into camp that night, in good order, near Potts' Station, on the South Side Railroad, just about two miles north of where we had fought and "midway between Ford's and Southerland's Depots."

"THE RETREAT."

To a veteran soldier, who loves his "cause" and his battle flag fluttering "Forward" in the breeze, nothing is so painful as to hear his own drums or his own bugles on the firing line, beating or blowing "The Retreat." He has not heard it often; he does not know that call like he does the other "calls." He and his comrades all along the line throw up their heads and listen eagerly, "What call is that?" That's "The Retreat." Something hits his heart hard; harder than a shot He looks sternly to the front, sadly to the rear, thinks of somebody way off, and obeys. Sunday morning, 2 April, as two of Barringer's couriers were, under orders, moving forward through wide, open fields placing a dismounted skirmish line from the Sixty-third to meet the coming foe, a courier rode up to them and said: "Petersburg has fallen, bring back this line slowly and join in the retreat." We all retired and moved on "the retreat" in perfect order and not at all "with precipitation," as General Deven reports on page 1124, Vol. 95.

And, as General Barringer says, "that night we camped near Namozine Church, covering the extreme rear on that line," and that church is less than seven miles from Potts', so there could not have been much "precipitation" on our part in retiring nor on their part in attacking us.

Now let Captain Charles W. Pearson, Company H, of our regiment, tell what occurred that day in his own attractive words: "The brigade had been dismounted and was throwing up defences. The road and fields soon became filled with retreating men, wagons, ambulances and every description of army hangers-on. We were ordered to remount. The day's formation put the Sixty-third in the rear; so that we were the last to get mounted, in column of squadrons, Harris' squadron, Companies E and H, being in front. Charging and counter-charging was now going on. About the time the regiment was ready to move, a heavy fire was opened on our right flank; the order was given, 'Squadron right wheel, charge!' The movement was well and steadily executed, the charge made by Companies E and H, driving off the enemy. A general retreat now began, the enemy's cavalry making several charges, which were easily repulsed, and ceasing entirely as night came on. We soon came into a large body of old field pines, where the darkness was intense, nobody could be distinguished. The movement forward stopped. Company H was called for and nobly responded, promptly taking a position to cover the rear. The way being opened, we soon found the cause of the delay. In a boggy branch,

some fellow had cut the mules loose from his ambulance and left it in the mud. Captain McGregor was getting his last gun out of the mud, raving like a mad man, swearing that everybody had left him at the mercy of the enemy. As we rode up he was told to be easy, that there was still one command who would stay between him and the enemy. He asked what command. When told the Sixty-third North Carolina, he exclaimed: 'Thank God for that. So long as there are any Tar Heels with me, I am not uneasy. Just give me a little notice and I will melt these guns before they shall have them.' His was the battery attached to W. H. F. Lee's Cavalry Division. This being a favorable position, arrangements were immediately begun to strengthen the position, by building a fence across the road and cutting such timber as was convenient. Early next morning "To Horse" was sounded and we were moved out near Namozine Church, which stood at the cross roads. We could hear the enemy's advance as our pickets were driven in." Vol. 95, pp. 1118, 1124 and 1131.

NAMOZINE CHURCH.

That is the most painful of all the names in the long history of the Sixty-third. Immediately after we reached that church, just about 9 o'clock Monday morning, 3 April, 1865, Generals Fitzhugh Lee, W. H. F. Lee and Barringer, with all their staffs, were sitting on their horses where the Green road and the Cousins road cross each other. General Fitzhugh Lee, commanding all the cavalry, said to General W. H. F. Lee, commanding Beale's Virginia and Barringer's Brigades: "General Lee, you must leave our best brigade here and hold this position to the last. The safety of our army depends upon it, and I will move on in rear of the retreat with the rest of the cavalry." I heard those words. All there heard them and we all knew what they signified-the destruction of the brigade chosen. General W. H. F. Lee instantly turned to General Barringer and said: "General Barringer, you have heard the orders; you must do that duty here." All the other generals and staffs moved off at once. The head of the enemy's column was then in full view. General Barringer immediately began placing the Ninth, Nineteenth and all of the Sixty-third there present for the last battle of the brigade. The Forty-first was not up from its picket duty of the night before, having marched by a different road from the Sixty-third. Captain Rankin, of our regiment, was "back with a detail of forty men from our regiment to get a supply of corn at a farm house near our camp of the night before" and they were all captured except Captain Rankin and very few others.

The Nineteenth North Carolina, mounted by fours, was placed on Cousins' road in the centre, its front slightly to the rear of the Sixty-third's left. The Ninth, mounted in close single line, was placed in the woods to the left of the Nineteenth and slightly to its front. The Sixty-third was dismounted in line on the right, immediately on the Green's road, which here was on a ridge, with left of the regiment right at or almost to the crossing of the two roads. The Sixty-third's led horses, every fourth man holding three horses as he sat on his own, were sent down the road in rear

of the Nineteenth, where also was one of McGregor's guns in position to the left of the road, the last left him. It was probably 400 yards in the Sixty-third's front across an open field to the woods, where the enemy was. The brunt of the fight and the tide of the

battle was to be on our regiment. That is what that disposition meant. Custer's whole division of cavalry was in that body of woods to our front. Wells' Brigade in the advance. In a moment the enemy's mounted line came into the open field and magnificently charged. But they could not stand the fire of our regiment. Again and again they attacked, firing as they came and were driven back. A great flanking column was seen going to the left of the Ninth, firing into it with carbines and pistols. I was sent to Colonel Cheek to ask him how goes the battle and to urge him to stand. His men were firing furiously into the flankers and they getting nearer, as they moved and under the excitement of the battle, were firing right into the faces of the Ninth. Colonel Cheek said: "Present my compliments to General Barringer and tell him that we will hold to the last. But this can not last much longer. Look yonder!" pointing to his left. I reported. General Barringer, Foard and Brown and Churchill were in ten feet of the firing line of the Sixty-third. Cahill, Company F, rose about the centre of the line and said: "Please get me some ammunition. I have fired my last cartridge." He was told: "No ammunition can be brought in here now; borrow some, borrow some, John." He smiled, kneeled down and "borrowed" two cartridges. "The last" had come. General Barringer turned to Brown: "Order that Nineteenth Regiment to charge and you lead it." The charge was hopeless. The "Old First" was breaking. That meant what the falling back of "The Old Guard" meant. The Nineteenth was driven back in confusion as we all knew it must be. General Barringer, in meantime, seeing the inevitable, told me to ride to the left of the Sixty-third and order it to retire. I did so, and ordered Captain S. A. Grier now living, commanding the Fifth Squadron on the extreme left, to withdraw his squadron with the regiment, which was then rising up under General Barringer's orders along the centre and right of the line. As I rode up to Grier he was rapidly walking up and down his squadron, with his pistol in his hand and saying something in a very commanding tone, that he ought not to have said: "Give 'em hell, boys; give 'em hell." He then gave his squadron another command and in a moment the fifth squadron and the other four, all in a straight line, with grand old Captain John R. Erwin at their head were majestically marching "by twos" off their last battlefield, some men firing to their left as they retired. As I rode to the regiment's head Captain Erwin, my beloved old company commander, said: "Paul, where are my led horses?" I said: "They are down this road here." He said: "They have been sent for, but you get them to me as quick as you can." General Barringer, Foard, Churchill and Brown veered off to the left with our regiment and I never got back to them out of the mass of maddened, moving men down that road. Our led horses were taken out safely through that lane; but no man or horse that ever got into it could return. There was a compact, irresistible movement, like a glacier's, only one way. And, besides, to the right of the lane, as we moved, in full, plain view, and not far off came that great flanking column we had seen go to our left as the battle was on. It was the only stampede of Southern soldiers I had ever seen. And it was "the last."

"At the end of the lane, by which the First and Second Regiments with the wounded men and led horses of the Fifth escaped a gallant effort was made to rally the fleeing men and fight the victorious, pursuing cavalry of Custer. This effort was simply an act of desperation and, as was announced, to 'aid the escape of General Barringer and the dismounted men of the Fifth.' The brave men who had fought through the war recognized it as such, and only a few heroic spirits, principally, almost solely from the mounted men

of the Fifth Regiment, heeded the efforts to rally. These formed, faced about and poured their last shots of the war into the head of the column of the pursuing hosts." This I copy from my "Sketches" of 1881.

Just after I started for those led horses, General W. H. F. Lee rode up. How on earth he got there past that left flanking column I have never been able to conceive. He asked me: "Where is General Barringer?" I answered: "He has just gone right in there," pointing. Close to us was McGregor with his last gun, which he had run across the lane on the side next to that left flanking column, pouring his last shots into that column and "raving like a mad man." All of the Sixty-third who passed out that lane went, that day, to Burkeville and Clover Station. I was shot twice at Namozine Church, last time severely, as I went for the led horses and, with other wounded, was sent to hospital at Danville and furloughed for thirty days, which has mercifully been extended to more than thirty years.

General Barringer and Foard and Brown were captured that same day and thus ended Courier Frank Brown's brilliant career as a private soldier of Company H, Sixty-third North Carolina. There never was a braver boy in battle. He had five personal hand-to-hand conflicts after that one at Goodall's Tavern and in each came out hero and victor, as there. I have said much of him because the truth entitled him to it., but also to present him as a fair representative of the men of the Sixty-third North Carolina. There were hundreds of men in the regiment just like Frank Brown. Nobody knew that better than Brown and that aided him to do his own glorious deeds. As to what the ranks from which he came would do in a furious fight around him, he never had any concern to mar the supremacy of his own great soul and courage in battle and this thought immensely aided the glorious grandeur of his own courage and career. As it always does. Vol. 95, pp. 1119, 1131, 1139, and 1301. On which last page General Fitzhugh Lee speaks of our brigade as "that very excel-lent North Carolina brigade."

The Sixty-third made its way out and escaped under the guidance of Captain Erwin, without the loss of a man after marching off the fatal field of Namozine. Captain Pearson says: "We got into a large body of timber which shielded us. By walking all day, all night and all the next day, almost without stopping, we got out, but never rejoined the army." The above narration will explain why Barringer's Brigade had only twenty-three officers and men in the surrender at Appomattox. Captain Erwin died 19 March, 1901. I have a letter before me now written by him to me 28 April, 1900. In it he says: "I took command at Chamberlain Run, after the death of McNeil and Shaw (Harris being wounded in the same fight), and held commmand to the finish. The regiment was at Pannell's bridge on Staunton river, when the news of the surrender reached us. We went to Danville, but without orders, and after we reached there each Captain took command of his company and inquired the nearest way to their respective homes." And this is the quiet, modest conclusion of the history of the Fifth North Carolina Cavalry.

FAREWELL.

Comrades of the Fifth North Carolina Cavalry:

At the request of many of you, I undertook this "love's labor" for our great regiment. As you, who asked it, well know, I shrank from it till the last, too long, in fact, with hope that some other would do the work of this "additional sketch." It is finished as best I could, under the circumstances. I would now be false, utterly false to my own heart if, before leaving it and giving it to you, I did not here express some feelings overwhelming me. Feelings of thanks. In what I have done, I have been greatly aided by Lieutenant Wiley, Baxter Caldwell, John Cahill and others of Company F, who met me in Charlotte, N. C., several times for entire days. My thanks to them are sincere and everlasting.

To my old friend and company-comrade, Denson A. Caldwell, of Concord, always true and faithful and brave, I owe a debt of gratitude that can never end and that words can never tell.

Henry Hobson and Foard and Hodges, of Company H, though in another county, have helped me greatly; and all along, as I have labored, I could feel the touch and contagion of their exalted enthusiasm, and every old soldier knows what that means in time of trial. With all my soul I thank them.

I do not know how I could have gotten along without the Sketch of Company H, written by Captain Pearson. I certainly never could have told of the death of our much loved Colonel McNeill as I have without Captain Pearson's manuscript to his company-comrades. As he measured out his help to me, I now mete out my gratitude to him. He is the son of Giles William Pearson, whose brother was Chief Justice Pearson, and his mother was a daughter of Anderson Ellis, a sister of Governor Ellis; the true blood in his veins produces good, gracious deeds "when he is old" as it always will when properly "trained up." I ask every heart of yours, comrades, to salute Captain Charles W. Pearson, as mine does.

Captain Rankin's sketch of our regiment, unfortunately, never given in for publication in these histories, was used freely and most helpfully, and so was Major Galloway's. I thank both most sincerely. Mr. Coltrane, here in Concord, aided me often and well. As he knows, I am greatly grateful.

Thos. B. Bailey, in arranging a meeting between me and members of Company H, in Mocksville, helped me, as he, with his Christian modesty, can never realize, and I thank him most cordially. "Charlie Haigh" and "Bugler Rose," by long, personal interviews and courtesies in Fayetteville, and by much writing most intelligently and cheerily aided me; and my truest tribute of thanks is always theirs. And a great pile of letters, here too numerous to name, signify the unselfish aid to me and love for our "cause" of many men and women, when "the world" says that such love and aid do not exist. With many, many millions such qualities do not exist. With millions, who "are the salt of the earth," they do. We should try to increase the latter millions.

Senator James D. McNeill, nephew of Colonel McNeill, and his lovely wife, a daughter of Captain James William Strange, of the "Old Nineteenth," by their generous, beautiful hospitality at their home in Fayetteville and the presence there of Colonel McNeill's daughter, Mrs. Kate Roulhac Utley, and the intense interest of all of them in our regiment was a high and helpful inspiration to me in my efforts for you and their valuable information, which I could not have obtained elsewhere, aided me beyond all measure and I thank them as gratefully as they graciously inspired and helped me. The hospitality for some days extended to me by my old collegemate, lion. George M. Rose, nephew of Colonel McNeill, and his charming wife, at their home in Fayetteville, was a most beneficial blessing and assistance in our work and my heart's best benediction is theirs.

Hon. Walter Clark, the self-sacrificing, patriotic editor of these histories, cheered me "forward" by kind words, "when I was sick," and aided me when whole "battalions of trouble" came upon me by getting the publishers of these histories to kindly extend my expired time. And but for him this sketch could not have appeared in this volume, but out of place later on. I will not attempt to write of gratitude to him. I will try to show it by acts hereafter.

And my little wife encouraged and aided me in sickness and depression as only a loving wife can. No words can tell my thanks to her. God bless her always.

But above and over and more than all, there was Another Helper. When, at times, "amid the encircling gloom," difficulties appeared, which are absolutely insurmountable by me alone, "Our Heavenly Father in Heaven" banished them all and a "Kindly Light" led me on and the "spirit of truth guided me in all truth" that I have tried to tell. Every defect of what is told, and there are many, is all mine alone and the result of my imperfect vision to see aright the guidance of my Guide. I am now "a soldier of the cross and shall I fear to own His name? As such soldier I have a command with a glorious promise attached-"In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." In love and in illimitable gratitude I obey. The truest test of every soldier and Christ's only measure and standard of love for Him is obedience.

And now, as my farewell: By my work I have tried to show my love; please pardon all faults of that work with the forgiveness due our common frailty. The picture I have tried to paint of our great regiment is done and it is yours. Would that it were better done. Its many glaring defects, especially of omission, nobody will ever see as I do. Deplorably right now and most sorrowfully I realize, in heart and soul, what Lessing makes "Conti," his great painter, say in "Emilia Galotti," when that painter was presenting his last glorious picture of Emilia Galotti to the prince who loves her. Conti says: "Oh! how unfortunate that we do not paint with our eyes. On the long road from the eye through the arm to the brush how much is lost."

Comrades of the Sixty-third, Good-bye.

PAUL B. MEANS. CONCORD, N. C., 3 OCTOBER, 1901.