

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Full Account of the Affair at Murfreesboro.

Gallant Conduct of the Michigan Troops.

The following complete account of the affair at Murfreesboro has been furnished by Rev. Dr. Duffield:

Having received many different letters from different persons, and several from Gen. W.W. Duffield, and his brother, Adjt. H.M. Duffield, relating to the affair at Murfreesboro, on the morning of the 13th July, I forward to you the following statement of facts, for the information of the very many interested and sympathizing friends who are continually making inquiries as to the reliability of the rumors in circulation. The reports published in New York, Cincinnati and other papers, were loose reports from correspondents and others in Nashville, thirty miles distant from Murfreesboro. The telegraphic dispatches of Gen. Larned to D.B. Duffield, Esq., and of Major Fox to Gov. Blair, were the only reliable accounts published that at first gave definite information. The letter of Sergeant Thomas, and one or two other soldiers of the Ninth since, though short and imperfect, are fully corroborative of the fact that, so far from the conduct of the Ninth Michigan Regiment being discreditable, as the *New York Times* was led to believe, it has fully sustained the fame of Michigan soldiers, and that of the Ninth Regiment especially. The letters from Murfreesboro all agree in their statements, and together furnish a history of much interest. Gen. Duffield, who had for several months been in command of the Kentucky troops, by order of General Buell, having been relieved by the appointment of Gen. Boyle by the Secretary of War, to the same duty, was ordered by Gen. Buell to resume command of the Twenty-third Brigade in Tennessee. During the absence of Gen. D. from his brigade, Colonel Lester was in command of the Third Minnesota, and succeeded him as Colonel commanding. Lieutenant Colonel Parkhurst was in command of the Ninth Michigan, and acted as Provost Marshal of Murfreesboro. Gen. Duffield was ordered to concentrate the brigade – which during his absence had undergone great changes – at McMinnville, forty-five miles east-southeast of Murfreesboro. Gen. D. and his brother, Acting Assistant Adjutant, left Louisville immediately, on being ordered to the Twenty-third Brigade in Tennessee, and, traveling with expedition, did not reach Murfreesboro until Saturday P.M., the 12th of July. Brigadier General Crittenden had arrived two days previously, newly appointed, to take command of the post at Murfreesboro. Gen. Duffield was not yet in command of the brigade, when on the next A.M. (13th), at daybreak, the attack was made by Gen. Forrest, leading an entire brigade of 3,000 cavalry, comprising Lieutenant Colonel Walker's Texan Rangers, Colonel Wharton's Georgia regiment, Colonel Lawton's Tennessee regiment, and Colonel Saunders' Alabama regiment. The Ninth Michigan Regiment had been divided into squads some time before Gen. D.'s arrival. Four companies were stationed at Tullahoma, forty miles southeast of Murfreesboro. Five companies were encamped three-quarters of a mile east of Murfreesboro, and company B was in the city as provost guard. Colonel Lester, with the Third Minnesota, and two sections of Hewitt's Battery, encamped two miles west of Murfreesboro, the distance between the regiment and the Ninth being three miles. At daylight on the morning of the 13th, that portion of the Ninth east of the city was awakened by the noise of wagons and cavalry, dashing at full speed on the macadamized road, leading to the city. The pickets, which were of the Third Minnesota, were surprised and captured; but the alarm was given, and the command to form in line obeyed in the camp of the Ninth with the utmost dispatch. General D. had but time to form the men on the parade ground in a square, to meet the attack of some 800 Texan Rangers, who rushed upon

them like a hurricane. But about 175 men, half in undress, had sprung into line, and so fierce was the attack that they were forced back to the centre of the camp, retreating steadily, and holding the ground as long as possible with great tenacity. At this point they succeeded in checking the attack. The Adjutant had noticed that General D. was wounded, and turning pale from loss of blood. On asking if he should help him off the field, he replied, "No! no yet" and ordered him to hasten to the support of company A, who were bearing the brunt of a desperate charge. Continuing with them until the enemy began to give way, he returned to look after General D., who had just entered a tent to bind up his wounds, two of which he had received in the charge. He reached him just in time to save him from falling, as he reeled, fainting from loss of blood, and, with the assistance of Lieutenant Marble, Sergeant Thomas, and others, carried him off the field. As the rebels were flying, they conveyed him to the house of Major Manny, on whose grounds the Ninth were encamped, where he was cared for, after which, he was unable to take any part in the subsequent movements. The rout of the Rangers was so complete, after twenty minutes' desperate hand-to-hand fighting, that their flight became disorderly and total, the soldiers of the Ninth following them up and regaining their lost ground and firing on the flying rebels within shot. Indeed, so great was the panic, that the rout was not checked until they had retreated five miles toward Readyville. So sudden was the attack, that neither General, field, nor staff officers had any opportunity of mounting, but served during the entire action on foot. The other four regiments of rebels dashed through the city, intending to surprise the Third Minnesota and Hewitt's Battery. In this, however, they were defeated by the vigorous reception given them by company B, Ninth Michigan provost guard, and the pickets under the command of Lieutenant Wiggins, who maintained a steady and galling fire upon them until the building was fired and they were forced to surrender. The Third Minnesota and two sections of Hewitt's Battery, being apprised of the attack, moved out of camp, in order to place the battery in position, which the rebels having detected, dashed in and set fire to their camps, consuming them both.

But an attack was made on the Third Minnesota, which was repulsed by the fire of the left wing. Meantime, the five companies of the Ninth Michigan took position behind a low, palisade fence. Having taken the precaution to erect barricades of baled hay, they awaited another attack. In this position, three hours after the first, they repulsed another attack. After the surrender of other portions of the brigade, and the stock of ammunition being exhausted, they were obliged to surrender. The same fate befell the Third Minnesota, and Hewitt's Battery; and for a similar reason, it is said, General Duffield was visited by General Forrest, as he lay on his bed – the house of Major Manny – and was made prisoner, but paroled, until regularly exchanged. The Adjutant, also, was captured, but paroled, at the request of his brother some of the citizens, that he might assist the General, his wounds being considered mortal. The Ninth lost twenty-three killed, and eighty-one wounded. Among the killed was Lieutenant Chase, of company H, from Jackson. Lieutenant Barrows, of Macomb county, and Gaffney, of Niles, were wounded, the former in the shoulder, the latter in the thigh. The Third Minnesota had one killed and one wounded, and one man lost an arm by the premature discharge of their own piece. All the officers of the Ninth, with one exception, behaved remarkably well, as did all the men. Captain Chas. Delano [DeLand], of Jackson, distinguished himself by coolness, courage, and fearless exposure of person; and at the head of his company, led the last charge, which repulsed the enemy, and drove him from the camp. Company A, under the command of Lieutenant Barrows, maintained their ground with most dogged resolution and tenacity. The wounded officers are paroled; the others have gone to Chattanooga, under escort. All the privates are paroled, and left for Nashville. The pluck and bravery of the Ninth astonished the rebels. The Adjutant of the Texan Rangers told Adjutant Duffield that the officers would be well treated, as they were brave men, and deserved it. General Duffield, at last accounts, was in a fair way of recovering, and hopes to be able to return to his family in two or three weeks.
