

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

A LANCASTER BOY IN THE ANDERSON CAVALRY : Mr. Joseph Eckman, of the St. Charles Furnace, Columbia, has forwarded us a letter, which hereceived from his son, John W. Eckman, a member of Co. I, Anderson Troop, detailing his experiences at the battle of Murfreesboro, and from which we make several interesting extracts. The young soldier took an active part in the movements of the "gallant three hundred," who quailed not in the hour of trial, as did so many of their associates. Mr. Eckman is a graduate of the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania. His letter is dated at Nashville, Jan. 3, and after some introductory remarks, he proceeds with his experiences as follows :

"We arrived here the evening preceding Christmas, and ever since we have been kept very busy. When we left here two-thirds of the regiment positively refused to go further, because we were not properly officered. I was among those that went, and I am confident that I did my duty. I will try to give you a history of our fighting since here. On Christmas day we went foraging, and after filling three hundred wagons, were attacked by cavalry and repulsed them, but had one man killed and several wounded. On the 27th we had pretty sharp skirmishing all day, but with little result, only we kept driving them. On the 29th we had a severe fight with infantry. We made a charge (150 of us only) through a piece of woods, and the rebels, 2000 strong, were posted behind the fence. The only way we could get at them was by riding close to the fence and firing down on them—which we did, and I know my carbine sent a man reeling into eternity. We took several prisoners, but how many we killed I can't say. But we paid dearly for it: both Majors fell—one dead, the other mortally wounded, who has since died; ten others fell dead, and many wounded. We fell back discouraged and disheartened, leaving the dead, and all the wounded who could not get away, in their hands. Two of my mess were wounded, one taken prisoner, a fourth had his horse killed, and two escaped unhurt, I being one of them. That fight brought on the battle of Murfreesboro, which I think will prove one of the severest that has yet occurred.

"The next day we drove the rebels, got our dead, piled them in a six horse team, and brought them to Nashville. On the 31st 1500 of the 3d and 4th Ohio and our Regiment charged on a brigade of cavalry; took their colors, and killed many, took a file of prisoners, and retook 20 of our men which they had captured

the day before. That evening we slept on the battle-field, and the next day we escorted a large-ammunition train to Nashville, and had to fight our way back, as the rebel cavalry got in the rear of our army to destroy baggage trains. We whipped them badly, and came here safe. We are now in a fearful state of disorganization, with no commander, and nothing to eat, but what we buy. The boys that refused to go forward are in confinement. If you hear of any bad behaviour of this Regiment, be assured that I did my whole duty.

"I am not afraid of the rebel cavalry, but if it can be avoided, I do not want to charge on infantry. You cannot imagine how exciting it is to make a charge, every man yelling like an Indian, horses galloping with all their might, each trying to be first. I was the fifth man at the stone fence, as I had a splendid nag. During my brief campaign, I have fired a hundred or more rounds at the rebels."

We are glad to make a record of the brilliant career of this young soldier, who, notwithstanding many apparent discouraging circumstances, went forth to meet the enemy regardless of consequences, but knowing that the first duty of a soldier is obedience. Thus far not a single Lancasterian in the Anderson troop has tarnished the honor of his State or county that we are aware of, and we hope none may.