



DNA PA 64
74 PA. CIV.



ROBERT H. G. MINTY,
COLONEL 4TH MICHIGAN CAVALRY. BREVET BRIG. GENERAL U. S. VOL.
BREVET MAJ. GENERAL U. S. VOL.

CHAPTER IX.

SITUATION—CAVALRY ORGANIZATION—ADVANCE ON MURFREESBORO—BATTLE OF LAVERGNE—BATTLE OF STONE'S RIVER—BATTLE AT JEFFERSON BRIDGE—FIGHT NEAR LAVERGNE—FIGHT NEAR OVERALLS' CREEK—BATTLE NEAR WILKINSON PIKE—GREAT CAVALRY BATTLE ON DECEMBER 31—GENERAL STANLEY'S CHARGE AGAINST THE REBEL LEFT—MINTY DEFEATS WHEELER—ADVANCE TO WILKINSON CROSS-ROAD—RETREAT OF BRAGG—DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY—FIGHT ON MANCHESTER PIKE—BATTLE AT BEECH GROVE—IN CAMP AT MURFREESBORO—OFFICERS AND MEN HONORABLY MENTIONED—INCIDENTS.

I hear again the battle's roar,
I see the sabers brightly gleaming,
I feel the charger's throb once more,
And note our country's banner streaming.
I see the long, blue line, push back the rebel pickets
Far stretched o'er hill and dale; through break and thickets.
My old heart leaps,
As up the steeps
Rock-crowned and flinty;
I see the dash,
And hear the crash,
Where leads the peerless MINTY.

THE close of the campaign of 1861-62 found the Army of the Cumberland firmly holding Nashville and a large portion of Tennessee; the States of Kentucky and Missouri reclaimed; the Mississippi river freed from obstructions to Vicksburg; the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers open to the navigation of the National gunboats and transports, and the domination of the rebel authority seriously impaired in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi; while more than two thirds of Arkansas was in the possession of the Govern-

The Democratic party in the South still, however, maintained its determined attitude of unrelenting hostility to the National cause, and hatred to the defenders of the flag; but the opposition parties, all through the South, were falling away from the rebel cause. In the great North-Western States, the copperhead element of the Democratic party was compelled, by the success of our arms, to disguise their opposition to the war measures of the Government, under the demand for a "more vigorous prosecution of the war," while the loyal portion of the Democratic party joined their Republican brethren in a hearty support of the National authority, at home and in the field.

A mighty change had, too, taken place in the army on the subject of slavery. In the beginning of the campaign, the all-pervading sentiment, among officers and men, was to uphold the institution; to refuse shelter and support to any and all fugitive slaves, and to assist the master, whether rebel or Union, to reclaim his property; if it ran away. Now, however, the sentiment was that the institution of slavery was at the bottom of the trouble; that the negro slave was a man, with human rights, and that the slave population, being always ready and eager to assist the Federal forces, were entitled to protection at our hands. When, therefore, large numbers of slaves now entered our lines, they were employed, protected, and supported, and we soon found that we hurt the rebels more by taking their slaves from their fields than we did by killing their soldiers in battle. It thus occurred that when the President's Proclamation of Emancipation was promulgated it met with us of the Cumberland a hearty support.

Another marked change had taken place throughout the army. During the preceding campaign, by strict or-

ders, the Union forces were prohibited from taking the private property of citizens, no matter if the owner was in the rebel army or what the necessity for so doing was. Safety-guards were placed over gardens, fields, corn-houses, and mills, as well as over dwelling-houses; and even the fences were spared wherever it was possible to procure wood. Now, by general orders, everything necessary for the subsistence of the army was directed to be seized, by officers in command of foraging details; and the army made to subsist, as far as possible, off the country. Safety-guards became almost unknown, and war with us put on a sterner front.

The rebel authorities, press, and orators had, from the first, falsified so persistently and outrageously that they had exhausted the vocabulary of abuse long before this change "in the conduct of the war" occurred; and, as they soon found that killing foragers was a game two could play at, they had to do, as they finally did in the collapse of their stupendous scheme of atrocious rebellion;—accept the situation, after sending out a whine over the "barbarity of the Yankee invaders."

In the re-organization of the army, the master hand of the new commander was immediately seen; particularly in his recognition of the importance of the cavalry arm of the service, and its proper organization for effective work. Prior to this, we had been attached in squads and battalions to various infantry brigades and divisions; not even a single regiment operating long enough as a unit to become an effective power; while, on sudden emergencies arising, these different detachments would be thrown together, placed under the nearest unemployed infantry colonel or brigadier general, and sent on scouts, or to engage the enemy; without having any opportunity to ac-

quire that *esprit de corps* so necessary to successful military movements.

General Rosecrans now placed the whole cavalry as a corps, under the command of Major General D. S. Stanley; who organized it in two divisions, the First being commanded by Brigadier General McCook and the Second by Brigadier General John B. Turchin.

In this organization, the First brigade, Second Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, was constituted of the Fourth Michigan cavalry, Colonel R. H. G. Minty commanding; Second Indiana cavalry, Colonel McCook commanding; Third Kentucky cavalry, Colonel Ell Massey, commanding; and Seventh Pennsylvania cavalry, Colonel George C. Wynkoop, commanding.

Colonel Wynkoop being absent sick, Colonel McCook of the Second Indiana, was assigned to the command of the brigade, with Captain Woodly, of same regiment, as acting Assistant Adjutant General. The orders constituting the brigade went into effect about the 1st of December, 1862; and on the 8th of December, 1862, under orders of that date, the brigade was officially given the above designation, and Colonel R. H. G. Minty, of the Fourth Michigan cavalry, in the absence of Colonel McCook, first assumed the command.

On the 18th of December, 1862, Colonel McCook assumed command, and the brigade moved on the enemy occupying Franklin, on the Harpath river, eight miles from Nashville. At Bentwood, the enemy's camp post was encountered, and, after a sharp skirmish, driven rapidly, by the Fourth Michigan cavalry, in on their main body at Franklin. The attack on the rebels began as soon as the remaining regiments could be brought up and assigned positions; the Third Kentucky being on the left with instructions to circle around until reaching

the Trinne pike, attack from the east; the Seventh Pennsylvania cavalry to advance on the center on the Nashville pike, and the Fourth Michigan cavalry, moving to the left, to reach the river and attack from the north-west; the Second Indiana cavalry being held in reserve. The Fourth Michigan, armed with repeating rifles, advanced, dismounted, seized the lower fords of the Harpath, then sweeping on a left wheel up the river, drove the enemy steadily before them, until the suburbs of Franklin were reached and occupied.

A strong force of rebels now crossed the river in rear and threatened the capture of the regiment, when the Second Indiana advanced, dismounted, and after a stubborn fight, drove them back and held the fords. The Third Kentucky moved, mounted, to the left, seized the Harpath road and pushed the rebels into the town and over the river eastward of it. The direct attack was then made by the Seventh Pennsylvania, mounted, and the whole rebel force driven from the town and across the river at all points.

The object of the expedition: to cover an extensive foraging operation south and west of Bentwood, having been fully accomplished, the command returned the next day to Nashville; highly complimented by Generals Rosecrans and Stanley.

The rebel force encountered was Wharton's and Martin's brigades of Wheeler's cavalry, supported by at least two pieces of artillery. Their loss is not accurately known, but we buried fifteen and captured seventy-nine, besides a considerable quantity of commissary stores and clothing, five wagons, and destroyed a large quantity of artillery and small arms ammunition. The casualties in the brigade were:

Seventh Pennsylvania,—	killed.	4	wounded.	—	captured.	Total.
Fourth Michigan,	5	"	9	"	2	"
Third Kentucky,	3	"	8	"	4	"
Second Indiana,	2	"	7	"	—	"
Total,	10		28		6	

On the 22d of December, 1862, Colonel McCook's brigade having broken down, he obtained leave of absence to go to Indiana, and Colonel Minty was, permanently, assigned to the command of the brigade.

The whole rebel army, having now been concentrated under General Bragg, at Murfreesboro', General Rosecrans moved from Nashville, on the morning of December 26, to attack it, wherever it might be found.

Bragg's army, at this time, consisted of the flower of the splendid force General Halleck had, the preceding spring, allowed to march away from him at Corinth; now, by constant duty in camp, march, and on the field of battle, brought into the highest discipline of modern veterans, re-inforced by garrisons from all the border cities, and recruits gained by a remorseless conscription, numbered over fifty thousand, infantry and artillery; besides more than ten thousand effective cavalry. So strong indeed, did Bragg feel in this latter arm, that he had, the preceding November, detached Forrest's division, and sent it to the Department of the Mississippi.

The army of General Rosecrans, on the other hand, after leaving the necessary garrisons at Nashville and guards on the lines of communication, numbered less than forty thousand infantry and artillery, and but six thousand eight hundred and forty effective cavalry.

For years it had been considered almost an axiom that cavalry could not be effectively employed, on account of the natural obstacles presented by the topography of the country; hence, it is not strange that, during the first and

second years of the war, the National forces were sadly deficient in this arm. Whatever topographical difficulties may have existed in the East, or along the water-courses of the Mississippi, none such were found in middle Tennessee; yet, at no time, was the National cavalry, either in Tennessee or Georgia, equal in number to that of the rebels; and, generally, it was outnumbered over two to one. This was a serious mistake, resulting in an immense destruction of horses from overwork; and, on several occasions, jeopardized the very existence of the army. The Government could, by the first of January, 1862, have had, in the State of Tennessee, an effective force of fifty thousand cavalry! With half that number, and twenty thousand supporting infantry and artillery, the entire rebel armies could have been driven from the field, captured, and destroyed, in a single campaign.

Colonel Minty marched from Camp Rosecrans, near Nashville, on the morning of December 26, with the Third Kentucky cavalry, the Seventh Pennsylvania cavalry, the Fourth Michigan cavalry, and one company of the Second Indiana cavalry, to the Murfreesboro' pike; reporting to Major General Palmer, commanding the advance division of the army on that road.

Being known that the rebel army had advanced its outposts, he placed the Third Kentucky on the left; and the Seventh Pennsylvania on the right of the road; holding the Fourth Michigan and Second Indiana on the pike. The command then moved forward in columns, each with a strong advance guard.

Some miles from Nashville, he met the rebel pickets, when the advance, re-inforced from their respective columns, was deployed as skirmishers, and steadily drove the rebels back, until Lavergne was reached; there a force of two thousand five hundred cavalry, with four pieces of ar-

tillery, was encountered. A sharp skirmish ensued, with considerable loss on each side; when the colonel brought up two pieces of battery D, First Ohio artillery. With two companies of the Fourth Michigan, dismounted, to support the battery, Minty directed Captain Newell to engage the rebel artillery, which he did with splendid effect, in an hour and a half disabling the rebel battery, when the whole line advancing, the enemy was driven from the field, and the brigade bivouacked for the night on the ground held by them south of Lavergne.

The next morning, strong reconnoissances were made to the front by the Seventh Pennsylvania, under Major John E. Wynkoop, and, on the Jefferson pike, by a battalion of the Fourth Michigan, under Captain Frank M. Mix. The rebel cavalry and skirmishers were driven beyond Stewart's creek, to which point the main army advanced later in the day and evening.

The operations of Captain Mix, with his battalion of the Fourth Michigan, on the Jefferson pike, deserves more than a passing notice. Captain Mix was ordered to report to General Hazen, commanding the advance on the road. Soon after reporting, General Hazen directed him to attack the enemy, and, if possible, gain possession of the bridge crossing Stewart's creek, and about two miles in advance of the general's position, in order to prevent its destruction. The captain pushed forward, and finding himself confronted by a full regiment of the rebel cavalry, he charged them at once, and, in less than fifteen minutes after receiving the order, he had ridden two miles, through and defeated a full regiment, and had possession of the bridge! He was, in a short time, vigorously assailed by Buford's brigade, but held his position, beating off the large rebel force, for almost two hours, when, on the approach of General Hazen's force, Buford retreated.

Captain Mix here had two men wounded and three taken prisoners.

On the 28th, a battalion of the Seventh Pennsylvania, under Captain W. Jennings, relieved Captain Mix, on the Jefferson pike; and the brigade forced the passage of Stewart's Creek, seized and held the hills south of it; and covered the crossing of the army.

On the 29th, the army advanced; the brigade covering the left flank; the Seventh Pennsylvania, under Major Wynkoop on the left, the Third Kentucky, under Colonel Murny on the right, and the Fourth Michigan, under Lieutenant Colonel Dickinson in reserve; the Second Indiana being this day on courier duty. The rebel skirmishers along the whole line resisted stubbornly but were steadily pressed back; until about 3, P. M., their main line of battle was developed in front of Murfreesboro'. This line was found to extend continuously from near the Lebanon pike, on the east side of Stone's river, to the Wilkinson pike, on the west side, being slightly covered by an advanced position, in the center, on the Nashville pike. General Rosecrans formed line of battle in rear of the skirmish line, held by the cavalry; his left resting on Stone's river, a few hundred yards from the point where the railroad crosses the pike; his center extending across both pike and railroad; and his right extending slightly beyond the rebel left across the Wilkinson pike; confronting, and in a measure conforming to, the rebel line, except that no part was yet thrown across the river.

The line being established, the brigade was withdrawn from the front and went into bivouac, immediately in its rear, south of the Murfreesboro' pike. On the 30th, one battalion of the Seventh Pennsylvania and one of the Third Kentucky were placed, as a chain of videttes in rear

of the line of battle ; which, during the day, was slightly advanced ; the duty being to prevent straggling. Minty taking the Fourth Michigan, and the remainder of the Seventh Pennsylvania, moved toward Lavergne : against Wheeler, who had captured a wagon train, on the Jefferson pike, near that place.

He met the rebels in force, and engaged them vigorously, and in a succession of dashing charges, drove them until after dark ; when, joining Wilder's brigade, he camped for the night.

On the morning of December 31st, Minty reported to General Stanley, with the brigade, except the battalions left on vidette duty, in rear of the line of battle, and one hundred and twenty men of the Fourth Michigan, under Lieutenant Colonel Dickinson, left to protect Lieutenant Newall's section of artillery, at Stewart's creek ; and under his orders moved rapidly across the fields, toward the right flank of the army.

The rebel cavalry were met soon after, and driven rapidly over two miles ; when, after crossing Overalls creek, a line of battle was formed, nearly parallel to and about one mile from the Nashville pike ; with the Fourth Michigan, under Captain Mix, dismounted, occupying a piece of woods on the left and in advance. The whole force present was but nine hundred and fifty men : Wheeler, with twenty-five hundred cavalry and many infantry, with four pieces of artillery, now attacked with great determination ; drove back the Fourth Michigan to the line of its support—the First Tennessee—which uncovered the left of the Seventh Pennsylvania, and exposed it to a flank attack. Minty, seeing the danger, dashed forward to the line of the Fourth Michigan and First Tennessee, (dismounted men,) and endeavored to move these commands to the support of the Seventh

When, in the midst of the movement, a line of rebel infantry swept out of the woods, delivered a terrific fire on these two regiments, and, rushing forward on their left, wheeling them back and around as on a wheel, to the left rear ; breaking the Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry to pieces and striking the left flank of the Seventh, now hard pressed by the rebel cavalry in front, forced it to fall back.

The brigade was now being forced back, while fighting stubbornly, step by step, toward the Nashville pike ; while along the whole line, toward the left and center of the army, the continuous roll and roar of the battle, constantly receding toward the pike, and the triumphant shouts of the on-rushing rebels, proclaimed to all the defeat, of, at least, the right wing of the Union army.

The condition of affairs at this time, about 11, A. M., was critical in the extreme ; for should the left wing of the rebel army succeed in gaining possession and holding the pike, Rosecrans' whole army would be doubled up and confined within the low ground extending from the railroad to the river ; and its destruction or capture inevitable.

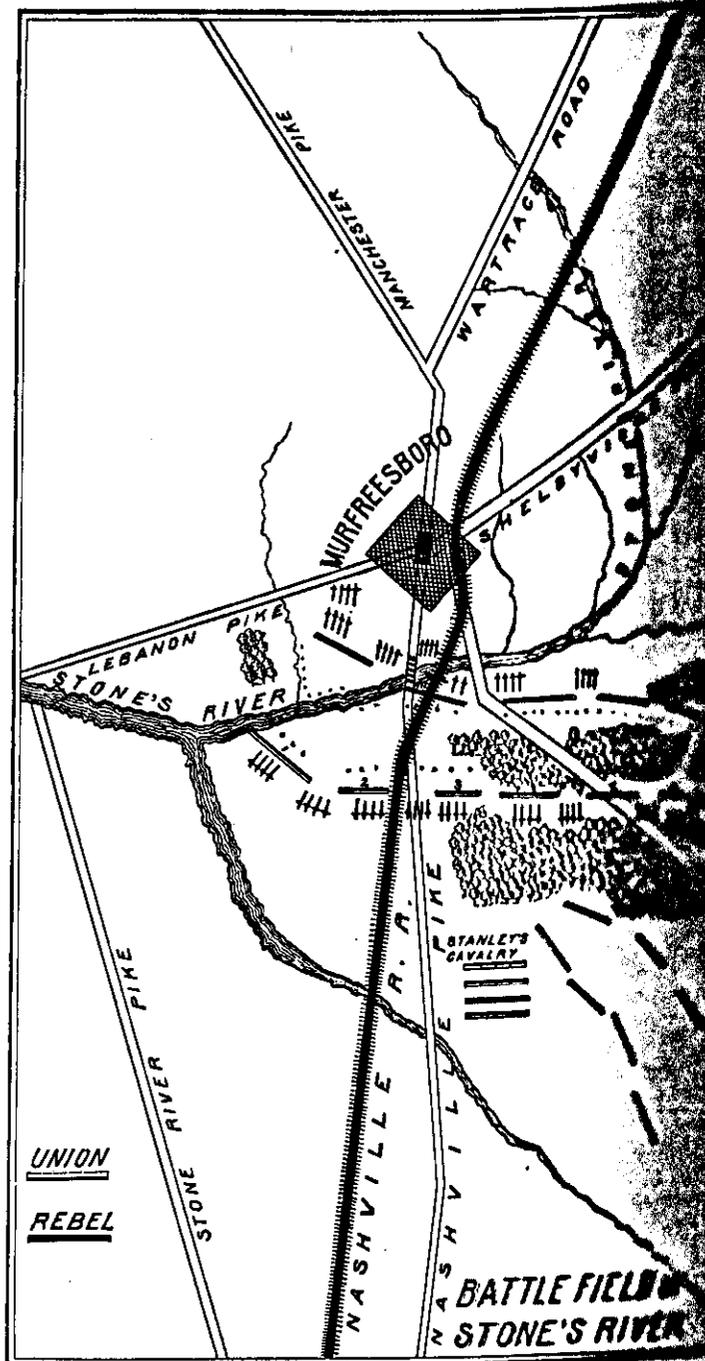
After the brigade had thus been driven, and fighting for nearly two hours, or at about 11, A. M., General Stanley, noticing that the rebel infantry were bearing off towards the left, as though forming part of the main attacking wing, and executing a great right wheel, ordered Minty to hold the rebel cavalry in check, with parts of the Fourth Michigan, Third Kentucky, and First Tennessee, then gathering about one hundred and fifty men of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, companies K and H, of the Fourth Michigan, and all of the Seventh Pennsylvania, at hand ; together with Major Jennings' organized battalion ; formed column, mounted, and charged with drawn sabers directly upon the left flank of the rebel in-

fantry; routing the enemy, taking one stand of colors and creating a wild panic and demoralization for more than three fourths of a mile, into and along their left wing.

It was, as is now known, this charge of the First Brigade and Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, under General Stanley, which first arrested the triumphant sweep of the rebel army, after the defeat and rout of McCook's corps, released the pressure on Sheridan's line, and afforded time for General Rosecrans to re-form his lines, and thus hold his position along the Nashville and Murfreesboro' pike.

At the time of Stanley's charge, Minty, leading in person the Fourth Michigan and First Tennessee, having now mounted, charged with the saber the two thousand five hundred cavalry in his front, drove the first line from the field; then, halting, re-formed his command, under a terrific fire, and again charged their second line, posted on the opposite side of a lane, with two fences between him and them. The rebels waited only until they saw our men passing through the fences, when they broke, scattering in every direction, and were driven from the field in the wildest confusion.

In these engagements, the rebels lost, out of their cavalry, eighty-nine killed and one hundred and five wounded and captured. Of their infantry, the loss cannot be ascertained, as their dead was subsequently gathered and buried, and the wounded could not be taken out when the charging column returned; the ground having also been fought over both before and after the charge, renders all estimate impossible. A sergeant of the Seventh Pennsylvania, however, who, having been on the line of videttes in rear of our line of battle, was captured when McCook was defeated, stated to Colonel Minty, a few days after, that their dead was many officers and



men, that he knew of, from the sabers of the cav-

The best evidence of the completeness of Minty's victory over the rebel cavalry, on this occasion, is found in the fact that Wheeler retreated immediately beyond the Lebanon pike, or completely behind the infantry lines; and there remained during the whole of the three next days subsequent fighting; while Minty held the ground on the left flank of the rebel army during the 1st, 2d, and 3d of January, and on the 4th moved forward and left-flank, and occupied Wilkinson Cross-roads, two miles in rear of the rebel position.

It is not within the limits of this work to present a detailed history of the part taken by other commands in the various battles and campaigns, but a brief account of the most prominent incidents, with the results obtained, is necessary, to an intelligent understanding of the history of the war; hence, the following sketch of the battle of Stone's River is presented:

On the 29th, as before stated, it was the intention of General Rosecrans to throw the left wing. In strong force and massive lines, in echelon along Stone's river, turn the rebel right, drive it back to their center, seize Murfreesboro', cut the line of retreat by rail, and then, advancing his center and right wing, drive Bragg south toward Shelbyville, or south-west toward Columbia.

While the left wing was thus to make and continue the attack, the right wing was to hold its position and resist any assault. The country in front of the left and right wings was generally open; on the extreme left, eastward of the river, somewhat hilly; in front of the center, almost level; while on the right it was a dense cedar thicket,

broken by ravines and sharp rocky ledges from three to ten feet high.

By some oversight, the rebel army having, during the night, strongly massed and extended its left, was permitted to approach to within striking distance without being discovered; and on the morning of the 31st of December, at daylight, struck the extreme right wing under McCook. The brigade on the extreme right which received the first shock, was under the command of Brigadier General Johnson. The on-rush of the rebels met with but little success in position, breaking down brigade after brigade, and occupying position after position, until the whole right wing was driven back to a line but a few hundred yards from, and parallel with, the Nashville pike; the two brigades on the extreme right being badly disorganized, and most of their men and material, with several batteries captured. After the first rush, about 7, A. M., their advance was, with steady and continuous, slower and more cautious; the other brigades of McCook's command, and Wood and Sheridan of the center, having formed, and by most determined heroic fighting, contested every foot of ground, but being pressed on flank and front were driven back toward the pike as before stated, until by 11, A. M., the right formed a sharp angle with the center.

Between 11 and 12, M., General Rosecrans, having strongly re-inforced the right center, and massed his artillery around a slight elevation at the point where the pike crosses the railroad—near where the Battle Monument now stands—opened a terrific fire of canister, at short range, on the dense masses of the rebels pressing over on the right toward the pike; and, after two hours of the hardest fighting ever seen on the continent, repulsed the assault, drove back the enemy, and held his center and left intact. Before, however, this had been

done, and while the triumphant rebels, with exultant shouts, were pressing forward to seize the pike, the charge of the cavalry by General Stanley was delivered, and Wheeler defeated by Minty. The rebels, thus finding their left uncovered, and the rear of their advancing line attacked, halted when almost on the pike, and pressing over toward the center, met a repulse from the fire of the artillery.

Rosecrans immediately gathered the shattered remnants of McCook's corps into the new position parallel with the pike, threw up slight breastworks, and, before night had not only reestablished his broken lines, repulsed the assaults on his center, and rallied his defeated corps, but late in the evening had crossed the river with his left and attacked the enemy's right!

Thus closed the first day of the battle of Stone's river; one of the most extraordinary in the history of wonderful battles: At 7, A. M., attacked, with the right wing in air and unprepared to resist; at 10, A. M., driven in disastrous rout from almost one half of the line; more than one third of his army destroyed; twenty pieces of artillery captured, and the enemy pressing in victorious triumph to seize his only line of retreat; his center assaulted on three sides, and his left enfiladed by the fire of heavy batteries on the opposite side of the river—the capture of his army seemed inevitable! Yet by 3, P. M., we see the conditions entirely changed; the enemy repulsed from the center, shattered, almost annihilated, retreating, disheartened, from the effort to seize the roads in our rear, and the army partaking of the determined spirit of its commander, preparing to assume the offensive, and at dark the left wing thrown successfully across the river, attacking and defeating the rebel right.

Few, indeed, are the generals in the world who would

not even that night have retreated from the field, and thought himself fortunate in saving his army from destruction. It was the good fortune of the Army of the Cumberland, at that time, to be commanded by a general who was not of the retreating kind. He called his subordinates about him, received their reports, listened to their suggestions for the safety of the army, frankly acknowledged the extent of the losses of the day, and, by suing a short address to the army, in which he calmly stated his determination of continuing the battle on the ground, and his opinion that the rebel army was as severely punished as his own, and that Bragg had completely failed in the grand object of his attack, made his disposition to execute the original plan of the battle.

It rained heavily on the 1st and 2d of January, 1862, and both armies had to lay comparatively quiet, though continuous skirmishing, swelling at times into the rear of the battle, was maintained along the whole line. Demonstrations from various points convinced Rosecrans that Bragg dare not again attempt to turn his flank, and that, as soon as the weather permitted, the movement across the river could be pushed to a successful issue.

Accordingly, on the 3d of January, the left was strongly re-inforced, and, advancing, seized the hills north-west of Murfreesboro'. Bragg hastily threw Breckenridge over on his right, and assaulted our left with great fury. The battle raged from 2, P. M., until dark, extending along the whole line. Breckenridge was again and again repulsed, and by night driven back, so that his line, covering Murfreesboro', formed almost a right angle with the general rebel line of battle!

The weather again, on the 4th, prevented active operations. The river, raising rapidly, caused considerable anxiety, lest, by sweeping away the bridges, commanding

the left, in its advanced position, might be cut off; hence Rosecrans ordered the cavalry to Wilkinson's Cross-roads, threatening the Shelbyville pike and the rebel rear from their left. Fortunately the storm did not continue, and on the morning of the 5th the Army of the Cumberland entered Murfreesboro' in triumph, driving out the rebel rear guard, and capturing all their wounded and a large amount of war material. Bragg left all his disabled wagons, some fifteen pieces of artillery, thousands of small arms, and retreated, during the night of the 4th, in the direction of Duck river, with the loss of more than one third of his army in killed, wounded, and captured. Thus, by pluck and determined endurance of the officers and soldiers, and the patient perseverance of General Rosecrans, was, what appeared at first a disastrous defeat, turned into a glorious victory to the National Army.

Minty, on the morning of January 5, marched through Murfreesboro', following the retreating rebel rear guard on the Manchester pike. About two miles out he struck the enemy, at a small creek, who opened with artillery. He deployed, with the Third Kentucky well to the right, the Seventh Pennsylvania to the left, and the Fourth Michigan and First and Second Tennessee in the center; the two latter regiments in column on the road. The country was much broken with dense cedar thickets, through which it was almost impossible to move, but he pressed vigorously forward, driving the rebels from one thicket to another, until near Beach Grove, being strongly re-inforced, the enemy made a determined stand, attacking the Seventh Pennsylvania and First Tennessee with vigor.

The fight lasted nearly two hours; when the advance, having cleared the thicket and reached a more

open country a saber charge was delivered by the Fourth United States cavalry and the Seventh Pennsylvania, the enemy driven completely from the field, one piece of artillery captured, and Bragg's whole rear guard driven into the hills covering the Duck river. The brigade returned to within a mile and a half of Murfreesboro', and went into camp on the Manchester pike, establishing a line of pickets six miles out.

The brigade, not including the Fourth United States, which had not yet been formally attached, lost in the advance from December 26 to January 5, including twenty killed, thirty-seven wounded, and seventy captured; fifty of the captured were from the Seventh Pennsylvania, and were of the Third battalion, which was deployed on duty in rear of the line of battle, and when the right wing was broken on the 31st, were taken prisoners while at their posts of duty.

Minty officially reports that he captured and turned in one hundred and ninety prisoners, and one piece of artillery.

Among those who distinguished themselves in the various engagements during this period, are officially noted: "Colonel Eli Murray, with a handful of men, performed services that would do honor to a full regiment." (Minty's official report.)

"Captain Mix, Fourth Michigan, with about fifty men, not only drove over two hundred of the enemy more than two miles, but held his position against an entire regiment." (*Ibid.*)

"Lieutenant Eldridge, Fourth Michigan, with eighty men, dismounted, attacked the enemy, routed them and captured a wagon full of ammunition." (*Ibid.*)

"Major W. H. Jennings, Seventh Pennsylvania, led

his men, with great gallantry, in the charge on December 31st." (*Ibid.*)

"Captain Garrett and Lieutenant R. M. McCormick, Seventh Pennsylvania, distinguished themselves in the charge on the left of the enemy's infantry." (General Minty's report.)

"First Sergeant Jacob Bedleyon, of Company K, Fourth Michigan, rode by my side during both charges in the engagement on Wednesday, December 31, and displayed great gallantry and coolness." (Minty's report.)

"Bugler Ben. De Fenwick, Second Indiana, and Quartermaster Sergeant Edward T. Owen, Fourth Michigan; when we were driven back, in the early part of the day, * * * brought my horse to the front, thus rendering me great service." (Minty's report.)

"Captain Frank W. Mix, Fourth Michigan, had his horse shot under him during the first charge; he pressed forward on foot, caught a stray horse and led his company in the second charge."

"Many others undoubtedly did as well, but the above name under my immediate notice." (Minty's report.)

