

General Loring tells the slaves they have been giving information to the Yankees, and threatens to hang them for so doing. Cuffie has to take the dilemma by both horns.

MACK.

THE RETREAT FROM THE KANAWHA VALLEY.

We are permitted to publish the following interesting letter from an officer of the 34th O. V. I.:

GENERAL U. S. A. HOSPITAL,
GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, Sept. 15th, 1862.

One year ago, to-day, I left Camp Dennison and Cincinnati for Western Virginia.— Little did I then think that the first anniversary of that day would be spent in such a place as this. But here I am, and thankful, too, that I was so fortunate, for many of my comrades fare worse. I have a head not quite so sound as it was five days ago, but if you will agree to make allowances for this, I will give you as correct a description as I can, (together with what I have picked up from those who saw what I did not,) of what was done at Fayetteville, Va., on the 10th of September, and for a few days following.

Fayetteville was occupied last winter by the 23d and 30th Ohio regiments, and under Col. Scammon, had extensive fortifications erected on three different hills, within supporting distance, and the two advanced ones so constructed as to be commanded by the third and largest one. The 34th (1st Ohio Zouaves) and 37th Ohio regiments, with a squad of the 2d Virginia cavalry, occupied the town. Numerous rumors had been in circulation for days, to the effect that the enemy were coming, but we had long since learned to place little confidence in these, and although vigilant guard was kept at all times, no one dreamed of an attack at this time.

At about nine o'clock in the evening, the advance picket on the Raleigh road was driven in, and at the same time word came of an attack on our train at Laurel Creek, five miles out on Gauley Bridge road. Lieut. Colonel Franklin, with four companies of Zouaves, was immediately ordered out to Laurel Creek, by different roads, two companies on each.

Four howitzers were placed in the largest redoubt, and commanded by Lieut. Anderson, of Co. K, 34th. Two large cannon were planted in the earthwork farthest out on the Raleigh road. The six remaining companies of the 34th regiment were drawn up in line of battle, in the rear of the inner redoubt. Two companies of the 37th were sent out on the Raleigh road to skirmish with the enemy; two companies deployed along the south side of the town to guard our left; three companies placed in the middle redoubt, and the remaining three companies held in reserve. Our advanced lines on the Raleigh road were first attacked by cavalry in strong force; a sharp fight ensued, with little loss on our side, but many of the enemy's saddles were emptied.

Our boys fell back slowly, obstinately disputing every rod of ground, until the enemy had come within reach of our outer earth-work. They then planted a battery in and behind a dwelling occupied by a Union family, about six hundred yards from us and opened fire on our ranks. Their guns were vastly superior to ours in calibre and force, and had it not been for the protection

one men had, they would have suffered severely. Cannonading and brisk skirmishing continued until one o'clock. The rebels threw a large force of sharpshooters into a large house about a hundred and fifty yards from our battery, when they knocked off the weatherboarding with their guns and began to work on our cannon. This was soon ended by our throwing a shell into said institution and setting it on fire. That single shell must have killed ten or fifteen rebels.

Soon after this the villains showed themselves in the woods and on the hill on the North side of town. The force here must have been two thousand—one regiment of Georgia sharpshooters and one battalion of Mississippi Tigers. Our howitzers opened on the woods they occupied with good effect.

The enemy made a great effort to gain the middle redoubt and charged upon it no less than five times, once even gaining the parapet; but, as our boys say, "it was no use," for the gallant 37th now had no idea of giving up their position, and each charge was effectually repulsed, and with great loss to the enemy. Our flag was shot down repeatedly, and completely riddled with bullets—Once the color-bearer saw his flag fall. He sprang to the top of the embankment, waved it several times, and then planted it in its place, and returned amid a shower of the enemy's bullets.

At about one o'clock our trains were started out on the road towards Gauley Bridge, the ambulances in front. They had not proceeded a quarter of a mile from the town when a heavy fire was opened on them from the woods on the left. Many of the sick in the ambulances were killed and wounded, horses shot, and teamsters badly scared.

This demonstration of the enemy on our right brought the 34th into action. They were marched down the road on the run, and then "by the left flank" up the hill and at 'em. Our boys were soon brought under a very hot fire, but they played the Zouave, firing and loading, lying and then jumping up and advancing a few paces, and hiding themselves again, would let the rebels have another volley. They thus fought for an hour and a half, when it was plainly to be seen that the rebels had too great an advantage over us, being entirely covered by woods. Our forces were therefore withdrawn back to the road, and took up position on the east side, out of line of the enemy, while the little howitzers kept up a continued play on the infested woods.

It was during this last engagement that most of the men killed and wounded on our side were struck. Seven out of eleven officers of the line went down, two killed and one mortally wounded, and not less than eighty out of four hundred enlisted men killed and wounded. Col. Toland had two horses shot from under him. Indeed, it was throughout a very lively time. Cannonading and skirmishing continued on until dark. Lieut. Col. Franklin, after reconnoitering the country out to Laurel Creek, and driving back about 70 bush-whackers, made his way back to camp, where he arrived after dark, his command dusty, thirsty and tired, but all anxious to avenge the death of so many of their comrades, who they now for the first time found had fallen during the day.

All slept on their arms, lying down in ranks. At midnight two companies, I and

K, were ordered to reconnoiter the woods. Company K was deployed, and advanced up the hill. When they had come to within about forty paces of the woods, a heavy fire was opened on them, and many of our boys were wounded and two or three killed. It was here that I got my portion. A Mississippi rifle ball cut a very respectable furrow across my head, which laid me insensible for an hour. From this time I don't know much about what was done, but was told the next morning, when our troops came out, they were compelled to bear a hot fire from the woods during the whole time of passing out. But, as I understand, the tide turned here, and ever since. Although our men retreated, they took occasion at every good place to give their pursuers a warm reception, and without any loss on our side, killed great numbers of them.

The sick and wounded were brought down the river in small boats and in ambulances. It was dusty in the road and hot on the river, but we were glad to get through; and not a man but what hailed the Ohio shore with pleasure. We are pleasantly situated here, and generally in good spirits. Some of the poor fellows will not get well, but the wounds are not generally very serious.

Col. Lightburn has fought the enemy in Seigel's style, and with great success. He has punished their vastly superior numbers at every point, brought off about all our stores, and retreated no faster than convenience dictated.

Col. Lieber, of the 37th, deserves great credit, and a big general's commission, for the manner in which he commanded the two regiments at Fayette, as does Col. Lightburn for his conduct later in the fight down the Valley.

Reports just came in that 640 wagons are safe at Ripley, Va., and Colonel Lightburn faces the enemy. Yours truly, E.

A SPLENDID CHANCE.

A FLYING BATTERY is about to be formed for Gen. Jenkins' Cavalry Brigade, to be officered by experienced artillerymen, and to be equipped in the most superb style. The Battery is to consist of two three-inch rifled guns, two twelve pound howitzers, (light, such as the Richmond Howitzer Battalion has,) and two mountain rifled guns, to be packed, when necessary, on horses.—Fleet, active horses for the pieces are now being purchased by the Quartermaster of Jenkins' Brigade, and all necessary steps for the procurement of a complete outfit are being taken. Applicants for membership will be required to undergo a medical examination, and must be young, active and intelligent. The cannoners will be mounted, and must furnish their own horses, which will be valued and paid for.

While it is expected to recruit the men from among the mounted companies now forming in this section, transfers can doubtless be procured for a few enterprising men from the regiments and battalions.

The service is a brilliant one, full of exciting incident. No half-asleep men need apply! A Recruiting Sergeant may be found for the present at the ORDNANCE OFFICE in Charleston.