

enough to charge the battery, he would meet with an unexpected reception.

Presently the shot and shell began coming pretty thick, striking the ground some four rods in front of the line. Soon Griffin's battery opened on the rebels, and every shell would burst over the rebels guns. The boys couldn't lie still any longer, but got up, some on their knees, and bolder ones on their feet, to see where our shells would strike—paying no regard whatever to the missiles coming from the rebels, and striking in front and near them. Maj. Larrabee, who was in company with Gen. Smith and staff, near the battery, observing the boys of the Fifth thus evincing their curiosity, and fearing some of them might get hit, galloped up to them, saying: "I told you to lie down, you rascals—*down*, every one of you; the first thing I know some of you will get hurt. It is astonishing how little you care for your lives." The boys lay down, as ordered; but wondered if the major knew he was quite as good a mark on his horse, "Bony," as they were on foot. The Confederates at length retired, and the expedition proved successful.

During the autumn and early winter of 1861-62, Hon. Wm. A. Richardson, then a member of the house of representatives from Illinois, and other War Democrats, made an effort to have Maj. Larrabee promoted to a brigadier-general as up to that time none but Republicans had been appointed to that rank—and, in fact, none from Wisconsin but members of that party, it is believed, during the war. Prompted by this effort, Gen. Hancock wrote to Hon. Simon Cameron, secretary of war, the following commendation:

CAMP GRIFFIN, VA., NOV. 30, 1861.

Sir:—Maj. Chas. H. Larrabee, 5th Wis. Vols., has been under my command for some time (two months). Having had occasion to see a great deal of him in camp, and on detached service in command of troops under my own eye, I can, with great pleasure, state that his habits of thought and action, and his general bearing, point him out as a person eminently fitted to command troops. I have seen no more efficient officer among those who have not had great experience in military matters. It is true, that the talents of Maj. Larrabee are not being used in the volunteer service to the best advantage.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

W. S. HANCOCK, Brig. Gen'l Vols.