

whole force sent against it." This was not sheer recklessness on Maj. Larrabee's part, but was simply prompt obedience to military orders.

Having passed the mill-dam on the run, the detachment filed to the left of the redoubt, and entered it without resistance, the work having been abandoned. The remainder of the regiment and other troops, with Wheeler's battery, quickly followed. Lieut. Col. Emery, with five companies of the Fifth, was sent forward as skirmishers. Col. Cobb, with the remainder of the regiment, advanced four hundred yards in support of his skirmish line, and the battery; and the latter began to play upon the rebel stronghold, Fort Magruder. The enemy now sallied out, and advanced upon the skirmishers, who slowly retired. The battery now fell back to the rear, while the skirmishers checked the rebel cavalry. This was about half past four in the afternoon. Col. Cobb was told that the enemy's cavalry was charging down on him, and he immediately, aided by Maj. Larrabee, threw his men into a hollow square. As the cavalry did not appear, the regiment was again formed in battle array, under a most galling fire of the enemy.

Not receiving the reinforcements called for, Gen. Hancock ordered the Wisconsin troops to fall back fighting, to a better position. The enemy, under Gen. Early, and other leaders, pressed on, yelling by way of intimidation, "Bull's Run! Ball's Bluff!" They seemed determined to capture the battery, or die in the attempt. Gradually and slowly the Wisconsin boys fell back, disputing every inch of the ground; and within twenty rods of the Badger regiment, the enemy opened a heavy fire, when Cobb's men began to waver, seeing which, their brave colonel cried out: "Will you leave me and the old flag?" "No! Never!" was shouted on every hand. This checked the enemy for a moment, when the Wisconsin boys fell back, joining the Sixth and Seventh Maine regiments, who united with the Badger troops, in sending volley after volley into the enemy. It seemed like a sheet of flame. At this opportune juncture, the Union batteries opened upon them with grape, when they broke and fled in the wildest confusion. "They run! they run!" broke forth from the heroic Unionists, and cheer upon cheer arose above the din of the con-