

Another letter-writer, speaking at the time, of the battle of Williamsburg, said: "Of Maj. Larrabee, I have so often written, that you will scarcely need to be told, that he was everywhere, inspiring every one with his indomitable energy and perseverance." The *Milwaukee Sentinel* stated, that "correspondents writing of the gallant charge of Hancock's brigade, pay the Wisconsin Fifth marked compliments, and speak especially of the coolness and courage of Col. Cobb and Maj. Larrabee." The Wisconsin boys gained not these undying laurels without a heavy sacrifice—nine killed and seventy wounded.

Gen. McClellan, in his report, speaks of Gen. Hancock having been "confronted by a superior force. Feigning to retreat slowly, he awaited their onset, and then turned upon them, and after some terrific volleys of musketry, he charged them with the bayonet, routing and dispersing their whole force. *This was one of the most brilliant engagements of the war.*"

Two days after the action, Gen. McClellan, accompanied by Gens. Smith and Hancock, visited the regiment at dress parade, and addressed the boys familiarly: "My lads, I have come to thank you for the bravery and discipline which you displayed the other day. On that day, you won laurels of which you may well be proud—not only you, but the army, the State, and the country to which you belong. Through you, we won the day, and 'Williamsburg' shall be inscribed upon your banner. I cannot thank you too much, and I am sure the reputation your gallantry has already achieved, will always be maintained." Gen. McClellan then paid a similar compliment to the Seventh Maine, and Thirty-Third New York regiments, proclaiming that the word "Williamsburg" should also be emblazoned on their banners. He also declared that Gen. Hancock's conduct in securing the victory was "SUPERB," which carries with it the highest possible compliment to the Fifth Wisconsin, its officers and men, and their heroic associates on that memorable battle-field.

Military reputation is but too often a target for the envious. Speaking of the battle of Williamsburg, Dr. Castleman, in his work, observes: "I have heard it stated, that Maj. Larrabee was not at his post during the fight. It is due to the major to state