

retired to the top of the hill for the night. Both officers and men behaved with coolness and deliberation, marching to the front with the steadiness of veterans, and firing very regularly, though under a severe fire of musketry. Col. C. H. Larrabee cannot be too much praised for his coolness and good soldierly behavior during the whole engagement, ever prompt to obey my orders."

The army advanced southward to Nashville and Murfreesborough. Col. Larrabee's old Chickahominy troubles again incapacitated him a portion of the time from service, and we find him at Nashville on sick leave in November. As important operations were anticipated, he too soon repaired to the front; but found himself unequal to the exposures incident to the season, and the unusual activity of the service, and was compelled to retire to Nashville to recuperate. His regiment participated in the battle of Murfreesborough or Stone's River, Gen. Rosecrans commanding the Union forces, and Gen. Bragg the Confederates; and after three days' hard fighting, commencing December 31st, victory crowned the Union arms.

While the great battle was yet in progress, Col. Larrabee wrote, Jan. 1st, 1863, to Hon. Alexander Mitchell: "With an ulcerated throat, and an almost entire loss of voice, I marched with the regiment the first day, in a heavy rain; the night following I could get no sleep, my throat grew rapidly worse, and my voice gave out, I had already turned the command over to Maj. Hibbard; and, the next morning, I summoned courage enough to yield to the advice of my surgeon and officers, and returned to Nashville. I had every confidence that they would do their duty, I had confidence in the skill and self-sacrifice of the major. This confidence has been more than met. I hear nothing but good of the regiment from all sides; but, my friend, not to be with my regiment has been the hardest task I have ever been called upon to perform. You well know that nothing short of entire physical incapacity would have induced me to let the regiment march without me."

At length Col. Larrabee so far recovered as to repair to the front, at Murfreesborough, on the 1st of March. "He was received," writes one of his men, "with three rousing cheers from the boys, and a serenade by the band—than which there is none