

SIXTEENTH REGIMENT INFANTRY.

**"Come for your country! For all dear things, come,
Come to the roll of the rallying drum!"**

The 16th, originally known as "Stockton's Independent Regiment," was organized at Camp Backus, Detroit, by Colonel T. W. B. Stockton of Flint, under direct authority from the Secretary of War, and took the field as such, the officers being for some time without commissions, but finally, in order to make their status legal, it was found necessary to have commissions from the State of Michigan for them, which they received. Numerical designation of the 16th Infantry was given the regiment at the same time.

This regiment, in command of Colonel Stockton, left for the field in Virginia on the 16th of September, 1861, with an aggregate of 761 officers and men on its rolls.

Before it left, the ladies of Detroit, through Mrs. Charles H. Dunks, gave the 16th, while in Camp Backus, a superb flag of the finest blue silk, inscribed thereon, "Stockton's Independent Regiment," with the State arms on one side, and on the reverse the arms of the United States, finely executed, on which was the motto, "Stand by the Union."

FIELD AND STAFF.

The Field and Staff of the regiment was made up of Colonel Thomas B. W. Stockton, Flint. Lieutenant Colonel, John V. Reuhle, Detroit. Major, Norval E. Welch, Ann Arbor. Surgeon, Isaac Wixam, Fentonville. Assistant Surgeon, William H. Butler, Buffalo, N. Y. Chaplain, William H. Brockway, Albion. Adjutant, Thomas E. Morris, East Saginaw. Quartermaster, Miner S. Newell, Flint.

The companies of the regiment were, as mustered into the United States service:

- A. Captain, Thomas S. Barry, Detroit. First Lieutenant, George H. Swan, Detroit. Second Lieutenant, George Prentiss, Detroit.
- B. Captain, Henry H. Sibley, Ionia. First Lieutenant, Guy W. Fuller, Ionia. Second Lieutenant, Morris B. Wells, Ionia.
- C. Captain, Thomas C. Carr, Flint. First Lieutenant, Miner S. Newell, Flint. Second Lieutenant, Randolph W. Ransom, Flint.
- D. Captain, Benjamin F. Fisher, East Saginaw. First Lieutenant, Theodore S. Mahan, Adrian. Second Lieutenant, Gilbert R. Chandler, East Saginaw.
- E. Captain, Robert T. Elliott, Detroit. First Lieutenant, Patrick McLaughlin, Detroit. Second Lieutenant, Charles H. Salter, Detroit.
- F. Captain, James Defoe, Plymouth. First Lieutenant, William B. Roe, Plymouth. Second Lieutenant, Solomon P. Brockway, Albion.
- G. Captain, George Myers, Detroit. First Lieutenant, Jacob Webber, Lansing. Second Lieutenant, Frank Eddy, Flint.
- H. Captain, Stephen Martin, Detroit. First Lieutenant, Thomas F. Hughes, Detroit. Second Lieutenant, John Long, Detroit.

I. Captain, Judd M. Mott, Alburg, Vt. First Lieutenant, Benjamin F. Partridge, Bay City. Second Lieutenant, _____.

K. Captain, Gustave Kast, Detroit. First Lieutenant, Lewis Webster, East Saginaw. Second Lieutenant, Edward Hill, Detroit.

In February, 1862, a company was mustered into service at Detroit, with Kin S. Dygert as captain, known as "Dygert's Sharpshooters," which was designated on the rolls and records as the first independent company attached to the 16th, serving with the regiment until the close of the war.

The regiment encamped at Hall's Hill, Va., during the winter of 1861-2, and in command of Colonel Stockton moved to the Peninsula under McClellan in March following, and belonged to the 3d brigade, 1st division (then Porter's), 5th corps, in which it served during the entire war.

The 16th shared in the siege of Yorktown in April, and participated in the severe engagements at Hanover Court House May 27th, and at Gaines's Mills, June 27th.

Colonel Partridge (then a captain), in a brief account of the services of his regiment at Gaines's Mills, says:

"The regiment was formed in reserve about 8 A. M., and lay in that position under a heavy fire from the enemy's works until about 2 P. M., when he made a desperate charge several columns deep upon our lines. The 16th was now called upon to resist the charge, and went in at a double-quick under a very destructive fire from the rebel batteries, and drove them back to their former position. * * * In this action we lost many brave officers and men."

In this affair Colonel Stockton, commanding the 16th, had his horse shot, and being much debilitated, was taken prisoner and carried to Richmond, where he was held in prison until August 12th following.

The regiment, then commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Welch, was also in the engagement on July 1st at Malvern Hill. In August immediately following the Peninsula campaign it joined Pope's army at Fredericksburg, and in command of Major Barry fought at Bull Run August 30th. General Pope in his report, says of Porter's corps, in which the 16th was serving:

"The enemy's heavy reinforcements having reached him on Friday afternoon and night, he began to mass on his right for the purpose of crushing our left, and occupying the road to Centerville in our rear. His heaviest assault was made about five o'clock in the afternoon, when, after overwhelming Fitz John Porter and driving his forces back on the center and left, mass after mass of his forces was pushed against our left."

Its casualties at Gaines's Mills were: Captain Thomas C. Carr, Lieutenants Richard Williams, and Byron McGraw, with 46 men killed, six officers and 110 wounded, and two officers and 53 men missing. At Malvern Hill, two men killed, one officer and 36 men wounded, with three missing. At Bull run (or Manassas), Captain R. W. Ransom, Lieutenants Michael Chittick and John Ruby, together with 13 men killed, four officers and 59 men wounded, with 17 missing.

The regiment, again in command of Lieutenant Colonel Welch, then entered upon the Maryland campaign under McClellan, and at the battle of Antietam was posted in support of the line of artillery, though not actually engaged.

Following are extracts from a report of Colonel Stockton, covering briefly operations of his regiment up to October 31st, 1862, and including the Maryland campaign:

"On the 10th of March, 1862, the 16th, with the division to which it was attached, left Hall's Hill, Va., where it had been stationed all winter, for Fairfax Court House to join the

Army of the Potomac, then moving towards Manassas. On its arrival at Fairfax it was ordered to Alexandria, and embarked there on the 21st for Fortress Monroe, and landed there on the 23d. After some weeks time the army moved forward towards Yorktown, where it arrived on the 5th of April. Here strong works were found and apparently large numbers of the enemy. Heavy cannonading was kept up for some days, and finally the place was regularly besieged. The 16th participated throughout, and on its evacuation was embarked for 'West Point,' at the head of York river. Thence, with the rest of the division, it marched to the Chickahominy in front of Richmond, arriving on the 26th April, and again participating in all the duties preparatory to crossing said river and attack on Richmond.

"On the 27th of May our division made a reconnoissance in force to Hanover Court House, some twenty-four miles, and had a severe fight with the enemy there, returning to our camp the second day after.

"On the 26th of June our whole force on the east side of the Chickahominy was ordered out to meet the enemy said to be advancing on our right flank. The battle of Mechanicsville was fought on this day, but Porter's division was not in it. The whole division was under arms and bivouacked near there on the night of the 26th. Early next morning the whole force fell back to the locality selected to meet the enemy, and where the bloody but disastrous battle of the 27th took place.

"It was here, at the repulse of my brigade, just at dark, that my regiment had to fall back, and (mostly owing to my debilitated health, and my horse having been shot) that I was taken prisoner and carried to Richmond, where I remained until released on the 12th of August.

"In the meantime my regiment fell back to Harrison's Landing on James river, having, before arriving there, again participated in a number of battles, especially that at Malvern Hill.

"On the 14th of August my regiment moved with the army by land to Newport News, from whence it shipped to Aquia creek, marched to Fredericksburg, joined General Pope's army, was present and much cut up at Manassas, from thence retreated to Alexandria, where I again joined and took command of it on the 7th instant.

"General Butterfield being sick, I was assigned the command of this brigade, which was ordered to march on the 12th with the rest of the division to join General McClellan's army near Frederick, Maryland, to aid in driving the enemy's army from that State.

"We did not get up until the 16th, when we found the army near Sharpsburg, where the grand battle of the 17th was fought, in which we defeated the enemy after a long and bloody struggle. Our division was assigned the part of protecting or supporting the line of artillery, being drawn up in line, and posted immediately in rear. Our arms proving successful, we were not called upon that day, as we would had our batteries been attacked.

"On the 19th our division took the advance and pushed the enemy to the banks of the Potomac, but he made good his retreat just below Shepardstown. In fact they had consummated this the night previous. We are still here with the rest of the division, expecting orders daily to advance.

"I will further add that on the 20th our pickets here crossed the river and reported no signs of the enemy. A large body of cavalry with a portion of General Sykes's division, and the 1st brigade (Colonel Barnes commanding), and the 3d brigade (under my command) of Morrell's division, were ordered to cross and make a reconnoissance. The cavalry and the first two brigades had crossed, and I had just crossed with a portion of my brigade when the enemy were discovered advancing in large force, evidently intending to overwhelm us before other troops could be thrown over to our assistance. We were all ordered back at once, which was safely done as far as all were concerned except the 118th Pennsylvania, a new and inexperienced regiment, which was in the rear. It lost some few men, mostly wounded."

Leaving Harper's Ferry on November 1st, with the 1st brigade, on the 23d the regiment arrived at Falmouth, crossing the Rappahannock on the 12th of December in command of Lieutenant Colonel Welch, Colonel Stockton being in command of the brigade. On the 13th it participated with the army of the Potomac in the battle of Fredericksburg, losing three killed, thirty wounded, and eight missing.

Colonel Stockton says in his report:

"Our division, to which the 1st, 4th, and 16th Michigan belong, marched from our present camps on the morning of the 11th, and remained bivouacked opposite Fredericksburg, with other corps until the afternoon of the 13th when the attack having been begun, we crossed the Rappahannock by brigades, the 3d being under my command, into the town,

and were drawn up at 4 P. M. in line of battle just in rear, exposed even then to the shells and rifles of the enemy, which killed and wounded many of my brigade. The enemy were posted on the hills some 2,500 yards distant, an open and undulating plain intervening.

"Just before sundown (the 1st and 2d brigades preceding) the order to advance was given, with instructions 'to reach, take, and hold a ridge or hill some 500 yards in front of the enemy's works.' My whole line went briskly forward, and when we had reached an intervening crest, about half way, we became entirely exposed to view; the rebels opened upon us one of the most terrific showers of shell and musketry I have ever experienced. My whole line returned the fire and steadily advanced. It was here that our greatest loss occurred, but under all this there was no faltering, no hesitation, and we were soon at the ridge we were ordered to take, the enemy retreating to their rifle-pits and shelter behind a stone wall immediately under their batteries. The ridge scarcely afforded us any shelter, except by lying down. Soon after dark the firing on both sides ceased for the night and all was silence, except the groans and moans of the wounded and dying. During the night we sent in our wounded, but the dead were left as they lay, we having no means of burying them then. Orders were received during the night that we must hold this position until 10 A. M. next day, when the 9th army corps, under General Willcox, would make a general attack, when we would be either retired or instructed to 'go in.'

"As soon as the day dawned the rebels opened fire from a gun on our extreme left with shell. It only fired three shots when, from some unknown cause, it ceased and did not fire another cannon all day, greatly to our relief and safety, for had they continued they surely would have shelled us out; the first shell exploded immediately over us, wounding a number; the other two did not explode, but struck within twenty feet. The enemy's riflemen, however, were ever on the watch, and if a man exposed himself he was instantly fired at. They had complete range, and no one could leave or approach us. Thus we all, both officers and men, passed the whole day, lying down in the mud close under the ridge, returning the rebel fire only occasionally, for our orders were 'not to fire or bring on an engagement until the contemplated attack should commence,' and it was deemed prudent, as I afterwards learned, not to make any further attempts; we had to await darkness before we could move or return, which we did at 10 P. M., when I sent in all my wounded, buried all the dead, and then marched into town, where we bivouacked in the streets. Remained there all the 15th, when it was determined to evacuate; my command was then sent back and relieved about 12 o'clock at night. This was done to deceive the enemy. About 3 A. M. my command silently withdrew. All this time our forces were recrossing the river, and when all were over my brigade at double quick brought up the rear, got safely over, and the pontoon bridges were withdrawn—all done before the enemy suspected the maneuver, and without losing a man. We returned to our former camping ground, where we now are."

The regiment crossed the Rappahannock and the Rapidan, and from the 2d to the 5th of May, 1863, was engaged in the battle of Chancellorsville, with a loss of one killed and six wounded.

Captain Edward Hill, of the regiment, in a communication says:

"In this affair, on the morning of the 3d, when the 11th corps had been paralyzed, broken up, and scattered by Stonewall Jackson's troops, and the 5th corps then under Mead, were being hurried into position to, if possible, stay the rout, Mead ordered General Griffin, commanding the 1st division, to seize and hold a small eminence to the right of the Chancellorsville House, towards which the victorious troops of Jackson were pushing in large force and with great rapidity. Griffin, with an alacrity to obey for which he was ever noted, and with a thorough knowledge of the fidelity and metal of his men, selected for this duty from the 2d and 3d brigades the 4th and 16th Michigan Infantry Regiments. In five minutes their line of battle lay across the ridge. In a moment more Mead's headquarters flag was borne past Griffin's front. 'Have you placed the regiments in position, General?' says Mead, hurriedly and anxiously. 'I have,' says Griffin. 'Are they troops on whom you can depend?' questioned Mead. 'General,' says Griffin, '*they are Michigan men.*' 'But,' said Mead, 'will they hold their ground?' 'Yes, General,' said Griffin, emphatically, '*they'll hold it against hell;*' and they did. Behind that battle line the shattered remains of the 11th corps sought refuge and shelter, and at its threshold their bloodthirsty pursuers found a wall of fire, beyond which they did not pass."

Marching with the army in June, on the 21st it was engaged at Middleburg, in command of Colonel Welch, capturing from the enemy a piece of artillery,

with 19 officers and men, with a loss on the part of the regiment of 9 wounded, including Captain Judd M. Mott, mortally, who died June 28th following.

Extracts from reports covering the affair at Middleburg, Colonel Welch says:

"In reporting the part the 16th Michigan Infantry bore in support of the cavalry on the 21st instant, I have the honor to state that the regiment under my command led the brigade under command of Colonel Strong Vincent, 83d Pennsylvania Volunteers, on the march to Middleburg, breaking camp at 3 A. M. After taking the position assigned to us about a mile beyond Middleburg, I was ordered to throw out two companies as skirmishers, using Company A, Captain Swan, on the right, and a company of sharpshooters, Lieutenant Burns, from the left of the regiment for that purpose, and advanced them three or four hundred yards, at the same time connecting my regiment per order, with a small squadron of cavalry on the left of the main road. At this time the fire from a battery the enemy had planted on the right of the road on a hill some twelve or fifteen yards to the front was annoying the cavalry in the rear and our battery; we were ordered forward that our skirmishers might pick off the gunners and silence it if possible. The regiment advanced rapidly through the woods a quarter of a mile, when, coming to an open field in full sight of the battery and the enemy's line of skirmishers who were strongly posted behind a stone fence, it halted. Throwing the right of the line of skirmishers well forward into a house and some out-buildings, the enemy's skirmishers were soon dislodged and commenced falling back, at which moment the whole line was advanced and the regiment ordered forward at double-quick to gain a stone wall about four hundred yards from the enemy's battery. It was here that Captain Judd M. Mott fell, severely if not mortally wounded, gallantly leading his company, cheering his men forward by word and deed, and doing his whole duty. As soon as our advance in line of battle was discovered by the enemy they attempted to save their battery, but were only partially successful, as they left one piece, a Blakesly rifled gun, with two horses attached, capsized, one horse wounded, the other not. Lieutenant Powers, Company A, with Sergeant Keene, were first at the gun, but passed on, pressing the enemy's skirmishers in great confusion. Lieutenant Cook, Company A, liberated the unwounded horse and sent him to the rear by Private John Nevlew, Company A, and shot the wounded one. Lieutenant Cook had just finished liberating the horse and was standing by the gun when a squad of cavalry rode up, also four or five cavalry officers, and all rode away again before Lieutenant Cook left the gun. I am thus explicit because I understand the capture of the gun is claimed by the cavalry, who were certainly half a mile in the rear of the line of skirmishers and over a quarter of a mile in rear of the regiment.

"The regiment immediately advanced, deployed in line, following its skirmishers, varying its march by supporting at intervals sections of Tidball's battery, and at other times ahead of the artillery, connecting as far as practicable upon the right and left with the 20th Maine and 44th New York Volunteers. Company A being out of ammunition, was relieved by company B, Captain Fuller and Lieutenant Graham.

"Upon arriving at Goose Creek we found the enemy's skirmishers strongly posted on the opposite bank, behind stone walls and other protection. Captain Fuller sent for a company of cavalry to charge the position, but they were driven back with some loss and confusion. Captain Fuller then charged the bridge and position with his company, capturing four prisoners and killing three, besides wounding some that made their escape; a little farther on capturing two more with two wounded officers, Captain T. J. Gordon, Company B, and Lieutenant Peter H. Thorp, Company H, 13th Virginia Cavalry, and two attendants, privates of same regiment. Company B was here relieved by company G, Lieutenant Eddy, being out of ammunition. Especial credit is due to the sharpshooters' company attached to the regiment. Their fire was murderously accurate, killing and wounding a great many. The first officer killed by them was a Captain J. W. Houston, 1st North Carolina Cavalry, a member of the North Carolina legislature, the regular nominee for the Confederate congress from his district, and a prominent politician. The company only ceased to be effective when its ammunition was gone.

"The regiment advanced to within a mile of Upperville with skirmishers deployed, when they were withdrawn and joined the regiment. It was then ordered to be ready to support a battery now standing in column. This ended the active operations of the day as far as we were engaged and about six o'clock were ordered to the rear, about three miles from Upperville, into bivouac, returning to camp on the afternoon of the 22d.

"In directing my line of skirmishers Adjutant B. W. Jacklin was of great assistance, and displayed marked ability and bravery. Captain Fuller is deserving of much praise for the gallant manner in which he conducted the skirmish line and pushed the enemy at every point where he could reach them. Every officer I had did his duty well."

Colonel Strong Vincent, 83d Pennsylvania, then commanding the 3d brigade, says in a report to the division commander:

"I have the honor to report that, in obedience to orders from the general commanding the division, I moved to Middleburg during the morning of Sunday, and at 7 A. M., under the direction of General Pleasanton, commanding the expedition, took the position on the left of the cavalry of General Gregg's column, on the Ashby Gap road.

"The dismounted men of the enemy were in position on the south side of the road, behind a series of stone walls running at right angles with it, the cavalry in the fields, and a battery of six guns placed near the road on the left. A belt of woods, some 200 yards, marked their position.

"Under orders from General Pleasanton to advance at least one regiment of infantry, I directed Lieutenant Colonel Welch, commanding 16th Michigan, to push his regiment forward and dislodge their carbineers.

"At the farther end of the woods his skirmishers opened fire briskly.

"Again General Pleasanton directed the infantry to advance in greater force, and I sent in the 44th New York, Colonel Rice commanding, and the 20th Maine, Lieutenant Colonel Connor commanding (Lieutenant Colonel Chamberlain and Major Gilmore being absent, sick), with directions to press the enemy hard and to pick off the gunners from his battery. At the same time I directed Captain Woodward, commanding 83d Pennsylvania, to move rapidly through the woods to our left, keeping his force concealed, and the instant he had passed the stone wall to emerge and take the enemy in flank and rear. The movement was entirely successful. Finding their position turned, the enemy fled in confusion, and the 16th Michigan, under the lead of Lieutenant Colonel Welch, advanced at the double quick on the right, and gallantly compelled them to abandon one piece of their battery—a fine Blakely gun.

"Moving in conjunction with the cavalry, we drove them from this position to other stone walls immediately in rear, dislodging them at each attack, until we pushed them across Crummel's Run. Here they made a sharp resistance, and opened an artillery fire, from which we suffered. Our artillery responded to them, and here, as throughout the day, abundantly evinced our superiority.

"Fording the stream, my skirmishers, in conjunction with those of the cavalry, soon flanked their stone wall line again and had them on the run. Thus the fight continued with the same tactics on the part of the enemy, the same orders from General Pleasanton to dislodge them, and the same success in driving them for a distance of nearly four miles. At Goose Creek they again took advantage of a stone wall commanding the defile and bridge through which we must pass, and opened a volley on the head of a column of cavalry just preparing to charge.

"Under directions from General Pleasanton to clear the position, I ordered the 83d Pennsylvania to carry the bridge on the run, and the skirmishers of my entire line to ford the stream and turn the enemy's flank. The skirmishers of the 83d Pennsylvania pushed into the stream, and the line of the 16th Michigan, led by Captain Fuller, gallantly rushed over the bridge and up to the stone wall under a severe fire, dislodging the enemy, and capturing a number of prisoners, officers and men. The enemy fled in confusion, followed by our cavalry, who drove them repeatedly from one position to another from this point into and beyond Upperville. The charges of the cavalry, a sight I had never before witnessed, was truly inspiring, and the triumphant strains of the bands as squadron after squadron hurled the enemy in his flight up the hills and towards the Gap gave us a feeling of regret that we, too, were not mounted and could not join in the chase. As fast as the tired condition of my men would permit, we proceeded to Upperville and took position, under General Pleasanton's directions, in support of the artillery until 6 P. M., when we were relieved by Colonel Tilton, commanding 1st brigade.

"General Pleasanton then left it to my choice whether I should return to Middleburg that night or camp at a prudent distance in rear of Upperville. I determined upon the latter course, and at noon of Monday reported with my command to the general commanding at Middleburg.

"Among the casualties, I regret to say, is Captain Mott, of the 16th Michigan, who was severely if not fatally wounded in the gallant charge of that regiment upon the battery."

A special correspondent of the New York Herald says:

"General Meade has highly complimented Colonel Vincent's brigade for the handsome and gallant manner in which the troops deported themselves in the recent reconnoissance to Ashby's Gap. Not a saber was drawn by the cavalry until arriving four miles beyond Middleburg. The infantry dislodged the enemy from behind stone wall fences, drove them from the bridge crossing Goose Creek, and captured the Blakely gun. As far as

Upperville our infantry led the cavalry, when, exhausted after their thirteen miles' march, much of it on double quick, and being out of ammunition, the cavalry were obliged to lend a helping hand.

"A company of the 4th cavalry attempted to take the bridge referred to, but a volley from the enemy sent them back in confusion.

"Give me the horses to mount twenty-five men and I'll take the bridge," said Captain Fuller of Michigan (16th Michigan).

"Can't do it," was the response he received.

"Then I'll take the bridge any way," he replied; and he did take it, killing three men and capturing nine prisoners. Lieutenant Colonel Welch was among the first to reach the enemy's battery, when his men seized the Blakely gun. He was recklessly brave throughout.

"When Colonel Vincent gave the order to charge on the battery it was not in precise military phrase, but 'stop that damned battery howling,'—an order of such terse meaning and intelligibility as to be looked for from such a man."

The 16th, in command of Colonel Welch, who had been promoted to the colonelcy, to rank from May 18th, vice Stockton, resigned, now entered upon the Pennsylvania campaign, and by a series of forced marches, with its brigade and division reached Gettysburg on July 1st, and on the 2d, 3d, and 4th participated in that great engagement in which the 5th corps took so prominent a part, the regiment losing Lieutenants Butler, Brown, William H. Borden, and Wallace Jewett and twenty-one men killed, with thirty-four wounded and two missing.

"On to the Round Top! cried Sykes to his men;
On to the Round Top! was echoed again;
On to the Round Top! said noble Steve Weed;
Now comes the hour for Southron to bleed."

In the struggle for the possession of Little Round Top Vincent's brigade became heavily engaged. It was composed of the 16th Michigan, 44th New York, 83d Pennsylvania, and 20th Maine. The importance of securing a position on this hill was evident to commanders in both armies, and several commands had been ordered forward to take possession and hold it, when soon a severe struggle ensued. Vincent's brigade with Hazlett's battery, with the 100th Ohio and 40th New York supporting, rushed to the peak of the hill. The rugged, rocky face of the eminence rendered the advance of artillery almost impracticable, but by an almost superhuman effort the cannon were dragged up by hand and hurriedly placed in battery behind breastworks of stones thrown together on the spur of the moment, affording but a feeble and unreliable defense. The possession of this point was taken in the very nick of time, for Hood's Texans were then climbing up its craggy sides, hand over hand as it were, clutching rocks and roots, forcing their way upward against showers of leaden bullets and bristling bayonets. It was a deadly strife, with hand to hand encounters, clashing bayonets, clubbed muskets, and rough stones dug in desperation from the face of the rough hillside. This almost unparalleled struggle was heroically ended by a gallant charge of the Union troops which swept the rebels from the hill, and Round Top was saved.

From the "American Conflict" is taken the following:

"Sickle's new position was commanded by the rebel batteries posted on Seminary ridge in his front, scarcely half a mile distant, while magnificent lines of battle, a mile and a half long swept up to his front and flanks, crushing him back with heavy loss, and struggling desperately to seize Round Top at his left. Mead regarded this hill as vital to the maintenance of our position, and had already ordered Sikes to advance the 5th corps with all possible haste to save and hold it. A fierce and bloody struggle ensued, for the enemy had nearly carried the hill before Sikes reached it, while Humphreys, who, with

one of Sikes's divisions, had been posted in the morning on Sickles's right, was in turn assailed in front and flank and driven back with a loss of 2,000 out of 5,000 men.

The fighting at this point was of a most terrific and bloody character, in which the 16th had a full share.

A special correspondent of the New York Tribune mentions the brigade as follows:

"While this main battle, involving two-thirds of both armies, had for its object the possession of Sickles's false line, an episodic combat had taken place upon the scythe-handle itself, more limited but more furious. When, at the beginning of the fight, the Texan line overlapped the left of Sickles's, and burst across the Devil's Den, there were no Union soldiers on either of the Round Tops, only a group of signal-men and General Warren, the Chief Engineer, on the Smaller Knob. The rebel column looked up amazed. No troops peered over to oppose them. Lonely and frightened, the little bunch of signal-men flung their mysterious messages through the blue air. But the natural grimness of the gnarled mountain seemed of itself to intimidate the arrested Texans. Like a fortress dismantled it rose, piled high with natural masonries, and on its granite ramparts oaks of a hundred years waved darkly. The signal colors were no more than tulips, as they blew to and fro on its deserted profile. Its flanks were wild ravines, like the lairs of satyrs and goblins. Before this northern hill the tangle-haired Texans shrank an instant, looking up through powdery countenances. Then, with a yell, they moved up among the bowlders and quarries, threw their sharpshooters into shelves of outcropping shale and hollow rhomboids of gneiss and green stone, and at the crest of Little Round Top, their artillery, far behind, hailed showers of shell and ball.

"It was a terrible instant. With the Round Top lost, the Union position would be a scythe without a handle, a man one-armed and one-footed; the destruction of the whole army was positive. Already the signal flags were folded; the signal men were retreating.

"'Stay!' cried Warren, 'you are the army now. Wave your flags, as if they stood in line of battle, and you ten were ten thousand.'

"They shook down defiance—that handful of impotent telegraphers—and raised a cheer out of their forlornness that was like a dying comedian's laugh.

"For a moment the Texans wavered; they closed up column and advanced more slowly, anticipating a desperate defense.

"Just then music burst through one of the gorges, and the tread of men came in from the rear. They wore blue uniforms. They were marching to the peach orchard to reinforce Birney. Warren galloped down, his dark Indian face almost bloodless. 'I must have a brigade,' he said. 'I take the responsibility of detaching you, General Vincent! Out yonder we may be repulsed; here we should be destroyed.'

"The brigade of Vincent faced left and ran up the hill with a will. The plain, morass gorge, and farther woodside as they looked over, was full of advancing, deploying, flanking columns of gray. A huzza they flung over their bristling bayonets as they boldly advanced down the declivity, and simultaneous volleys poured upward and downward. Hazlett, the gunner, came also at Warren's command. His battery would not budge on the rock-strewn height. The horses could not keep their balance up the almost vertical places, with the dead weight of 30-pounders below them. Pioneers with frenzied blows leveled the oak trees; they charged the bowlders and blew them to pieces; they made a roadway as speedily as a housewife sweeps a stair. Then to every gun lines of men put their sinews and shoulders. Lever and shovel cleared the path. A flying battery indeed, it went hawking into the clouds, and when it screamed from its eyrie, the line of battle flags waved like the pinions of its young. Warren was away for reinforcements. Vincent shouted, 'Aim, men! We must hold fast here though we all perish.'

"'Aye! Aye!' came in the niche between the volleys.

"Now the strong mountain groaned to see the blood they split down his face. He grew into a volcano, palpitating, smoking, running over with fire. Great seams of blaze zig-zagged down his cheeks. His eyes were shot through with shells. Into the oaken tangles of his hair men climbed like battle-panthers, and, mortally shot in their perches, leaped out with a yell of rage.

"Steadily, deadly, murderously, the Texans, column after column, wound up the ledges. Vincent's ammunition was falling. His men robbed the cartridge boxes of their slain comrades. They rolled the bowlders down, and half way to the base stabbed and parried with cold steel. Side swords were crossed. Heads opened to scabbard outs. The devilish things that were done half way to heaven on that scarred knob will haunt it a thousand years. The hot battery quaked over all through its natural granite embrasures. Line after line driven back, new columns of yelling savages leaped upward.

"Men of Maine, Michiganders, New Yorkers, Pennsylvanians hurled them back. From a series of charges the enemy's attack resolved into a volleying rest, lying upon their faces. A cry ran through the Union line almost plaintive in its poverty:

"'The ammunition is out.'

"Then said young Chamberlain, of Maine, a boy-faced college professor:

"'Men! our only hope is in the steel; charge with me!'

"Like the swooping out of the clouds of a flock of blackbirds, gold-daggered, upon the files of corn, the lumbermen and watermen of Maine whistled down the precipices, the rebel lines were swallowed, as if the ground had opened, into the gorges behind the Devil's Den, and Round Top was saved to the Union, of which it became the keystone, indeed, on this decisive day of blood.

"Standing now on Round Top, who can revive all the strong or beautiful episodes that were written on the scorched parchment of this landscape; the tenderness, the atrocities, the forgivenesses, the lonely agonies, the crying on deaf men to help and blind men to have mercy. A hundred and fifty thousand fighting men represent the population of the greatest city. Set this city afire, loosen the jails and dens of it, make fiends howl in the flames for lust or fly in despair, send charity and heroism upon bold and noble errands, and you have superficial battle. What noble hearts ceased to beat at Gettysburg and got no fame; what awful crimes were committed and got no infamy. Dropped into the century and the republic, the good and the evil that fell that day were but as the poisons and the sweets that ripen in the purple apple."

July 5th the regiment engaged in the pursuit of the enemy, arriving at Williamsport, Md., on the 11th. It crossed the Potomac at Berlin on the 17th, and on the 23d was at the battle of Wapping Heights, though not actually engaged. Participating in the movements of the army in October, on the 10th it crossed the Rappahannock, recrossed on the 11th, and as skirmishers advanced to Brandy Heights, but did not become engaged. Falling back with the army, on the 23d it marched to Auburn, where it remained until November 1st. The total number of miles marched by this regiment, from station to station, between November 1st, 1862, and November 1st, 1863, exclusive of marches on picket duty and reconnoissances of minor importance, was eight hundred.

The 16th remained in camp near Three Mile Station, on the Orange and Alexander railroad, until the 7th of November, when it again moved forward with the army. During the movement to the Rappahannock the regiment, in command of Major Elliott, participated in the capture of the enemy's works on the left bank of that stream, losing three in wounded.

A correspondent says:

"In the engagement of the 5th and 6th corps at Kelly's Ford, the regiment, with its brigade, in which was the 1st and 4th Michigan, took a part. While the affair was in progress, a portion of the regiment, in command of Captain Hill, saw that a favorable moment had arrived for a charge upon a fortified point in its front. But he was without orders, and to attempt it under such circumstances was hazardous, and what was still more serious his men were nearly without ammunition. But still the favorable moment was not to be lost, and he, determined to trust to the cold steel and bravery of his men, ordered an advance. The men 'charged with a yell,' and some of them with such a yell as only Wolverines could give.

"Hearing this, the batteries ceased firing, and the contest became purely a hand-to-hand fight. The brave men of the 6th corps, who had advanced on the right, easily scaled the works at that point, and had scarcely entered before the skirmishers of the 5th corps as bravely entered on the left. Our men once in the fort, the contest was soon over. The enemy broke and fled in all directions by which they could reach the river, firing random shots as they went, which took effect alike on friend and foe. Many plunged into the water and were shot while attempting to cross to the south bank of the river. Others, upon reaching the river, threw down their arms and surrendered.

"The loss of the 16th was only three wounded; the 1st and 4th suffered no loss."

It subsequently encamped at Kelly's Ford, where it remained until the 26th November when, in command of Colonel Welch, it participated in the move-

ment across the Rapidan to Mine Run, serving as guard to the wagon train. On the 1st of December it recrossed the Rappahannock, and on the 2d went into camp. Having reënlisted 294, the regiment was again mustered into service on the 24th of December, and on the 2d of January, 1864, it started for Michigan, arriving at Detroit on the 9th. It was here furloughed for 30 days. On the 9th of February the regiment reported at the rendezvous at Saginaw City, and on the 17th left for the Army of the Potomac, being assigned to the same brigade, division, and corps, and in which it served during the entire war. It went into winter quarters near Bealton Station, where it remained until the 1st of May, when it marched to Brandy Station. Engaging in the campaign of this year, on the 4th the regiment, in command of Major R. T. Elliott, crossed the Rapidan at Germania Ford. On the 5th it was detailed to guard the wagon train at Wyckoff Ford. On the 6th and 7th the regiment participated in the battle of the Wilderness, without loss on the 6th, but on the second day losing 35 in killed and wounded. On the morning of the 8th the regiment proceeded by a forced march to Spottsylvania C. H. During the evening of the 8th, while attempting to cross an almost impassable swamp, a portion of the regiment was attacked, the enemy making an attempt to capture that portion engaged, but the rebels were thrown into confusion by its fire, during which a charge was made and a rebel colonel and a large number of men were taken prisoners. The loss to the regiment was small, and was mainly in prisoners, who were subsequently recaptured by our cavalry. It was engaged at Po river on the 10th and at Spottsylvania on the 18th. The regiment remained in the neighborhood of the Spottsylvania C. H. until the 21st, when it moved with its corps toward the North Anna river. On the morning of the 22d, while acting as advance guard for its corps, the regiment encountered the rear guard of the enemy near Polecat creek. Four companies were deployed as skirmishers, who, advancing, drove the enemy from their position and captured a large number of prisoners. On the 23d it forded the North Anna river. The enemy having attacked and caused a portion of the line to retire the 16th with other forces were ordered to regain possession of the ground. The movement, although made under a very heavy fire, was successful, the enemy being driven back with great loss. On the 24th the regiment moved to a point on the Virginia Central railroad, and on the 25th to near Little river. Recrossing the North Anna on the 26th and 27th, it proceeded by forced marches toward the Pamunky river, which it crossed at Hanover town on the morning of the 28th, and went into line of battle on the South Creek, throwing up a line of breastworks. On the following morning the regiment moved to near Tolopotomy Creek. On the 30th it again moved forward. During the afternoon, the army having become engaged, the regiment was ordered into position on the left of the line. Though exposed in an open field to a raking fire, the men stood their ground with great pertinacity, protecting themselves by throwing up earthworks with their hands, bayonets, and tin plates. Major Robert T. Elliott, while leading the regiment, was here killed, when Captain Geo. H. Swan assumed command. The enemy was finally driven back and the regiment held the ground during the night.

Report of Colonel N. E. Welch :

"The regiment formed line under a heavy fire and threw out skirmishers exposed in an open field to a destructive, raking fire. The men stood their ground with great coolness, and protected themselves by heaping up earth with their hands, bayonets, and plates. Here it was that the brave Major R. T. Elliott was struck down while engaged in disposing his men for greater safety."

On May 3d, 1864, a company of sharpshooters was mustered into the service at Detroit under Captain George Jardine, which was designated and assigned to the 16th as the second company of sharpshooters of that regiment.

On the 1st of June following the 16th drove the enemy from the rifle pits which it succeeded in holding against all efforts to retake them. On the 2d, 3d, and 4th, the regiment was engaged near the vicinity of Bethesda Church. On the 5th it moved to near Cold Harbor, and on the 6th to Dispatch Station. June 13th, while in command of Captain Guy W. Fuller, it crossed the Chickahominy at Long Bridge, en route for the James river, which it crossed on the 16th, arriving in front of Petersburg on the following day. From this time to the 15th of August, when it was placed in reserve, the regiment, being again in command of Colonel Welch, was employed in the trenches in front of Petersburg. It participated in the movement on the 18th of August on the Weldon railroad, and remained in this vicinity, constructing and occupying a portion of the line of defenses.

From the Red Book of Michigan:

"At Peeble's Farm, or Poplar Grove Church, the regiment also became most signally distinguished. At 3 o'clock A. M., September 30, the 5th corps moved to the left until it reached near an old church in the woods, where sharp skirmishing began. The 3d brigade was got into line for a charge—the 83d Pennsylvania, temporarily in command of Major B. F. Partridge, of the 16th Michigan; 32d Massachusetts, commanded by Colonel Edmunds, and the 16th Michigan, commanded by the lamented Welch, advancing on the works on Peeble's Farm, the 16th Michigan having the center, striking the angle of the fort first, climbing the works, and engaging the enemy in a hand to hand fight for some time, while the other regiments came in on the right and left, and thus carried the works, taking all the rebels who defended them and capturing the guns, but losing in the 16th Michigan 10 killed and 42 wounded, including the commander, Colonel Welch, who was instantly killed while going over the enemy's works, sword in hand, leading on his regiment in that dashing charge.

"Major Partridge received a bullet through his neck and two other wounds while gallantly leading the 83d Pennsylvania to the attack on the works."

The loss of the 16th in this affair was 10 killed and 42 wounded.

Following the death of Colonel Welch Major Partridge assumed command of the regiment, retaining it until the muster out of service.

A correspondent writes as follows:

"'A more magnificent charge was never made by any corps in any war,' said General Warren, speaking of the charge made to-day by General Griffin's division upon a redoubt and line of formidable breastworks fronting upon our headquarters. The place is called Peeble's Farm, from this being the name of the owner and late occupant of a large deserted house near by, five miles from Petersburg and about the same distance from the Danville railroad. 'Was it not a splendid charge?' I have heard scores ask. The natural tendency of General Warren to speak in terms of glowing exultation of the brilliant and daring achievements of his troops, or any portion of them, cannot in this case be set down as exaggeration. Every one who saw the charge, or who has expressed an opinion on it, —and there are none who have not passed an opinion,—speak in the highest terms of the dash, courage, and impetuosity of the men engaged. There were two charges made, and subsequently some fighting. I will recite the events in the order of their occurrence. The story is not lengthy, for in each case the rout was short and decisive.

"At 9 A. M. the 1st and 2d divisions of the corps, Colonel Hoffman's brigade of the 3d division, and several batteries took up their line of march. The other troops of General Crawford's division and most of the corps batteries, together with a division of the 9th corps, remained to hold the works and forts at our old position, the latter troops, as well as the batteries, being under General Crawford's command. Arriving at the edge of a piece of woods, fronting which was an open space, beyond Peeble's house was seen a redoubt and a line of the enemy's entrenchments. The enemy's pickets, meantime, had fallen back before our advancing column to the redoubt. The enemy opened with six pieces of artillery. To this redoubt and the earthworks in the distance was not over 600 yards, and a line of battle was formed.

"It was determined to charge this redoubt and the works. The charge was made solely by General Griffin's division. General Ayres's division was on the right of General Griffin's, and Colonel Hoffman's brigade on the right of the former division; but the latter troops did not charge. The 18th Massachusetts battalion, Captain Bert commanding, was first sent forward as skirmishers, but found too weak, and was subsequently strengthened by the 155th Pennsylvania, Colonel Rinson, and the 1st Michigan, Major Hopper commanding. The order being given to charge, the skirmish battle lines soon advanced across the open ground. The charging column pressed steadily, earnestly, persistently forward. Rebel shell and bullets had no dismaying effect.

"A commission to him who first mounts the parapet of that redoubt," shouted Colonel Welch, of the 16th Michigan, to his men. 'Follow me!' He led his regiment. He was the first to mount the parapet, when he waved his sword. In an instant a rebel bullet penetrated his brain, and he lay dead. The men followed simultaneously and mounted the works at different points, the colors of some half dozen regiments floating triumphantly where a few moments before rebel colors had flaunted their traitorous folds to the breeze. It is no wonder that there should be different claimants for the honor of being the first to plant the Stars and Stripes on the works! All behaved magnificently, and all are deserving of life and honor. Nearly one hundred prisoners were captured, and one cannon. The enemy got off his remaining guns, but not all his horses.

"We have taken the enemy's first line of works; can you take the second?" shouted General Griffin. 'Yes, yes,' was the responsive shout from a thousand throats, and they did take the second line, as bravely as they took the first. In the second line was a second redoubt. Brave heroes had fallen, but a splendid victory, a double victory, had been won. It was all the work of a few minutes, a work requiring less time than I have taken to write it. The second line was on the farther edge of the open field, and beyond were woods. Through the latter woods the beaten enemy fled in haste. Two brigades of Heth's division were in the force opposing us. No artillery was used on our side. Both lines of earthworks were very strong, and the redoubts were substantially put up. The 9th corps troops were shortly after placed in front of the 5th corps.

"Desultory firing was kept up between the opposing pickets until about 5 P. M., when the enemy charged on the 9th corps, causing them to fall back in confusion. Quickly the 5th corps rushed to the rescue of the 9th, and sent the enemy back beyond the ground he had recovered. Night and darkness and rain ended the day's conflict. But it has been a day of splendid successes, and our troops—as well they may be—are jubilant over their victory.

"Major Partridge, 16th Michigan, but commanding the 83d Pennsylvania, had an exceedingly narrow escape. He was hit on the chin by a minie ball, which struck the neck, just glancing the jugular vein, and then entering the shoulder and passing out at the back.

"There is deep and universal regret at the loss of Colonel Welch. A more popular and vigilant officer was not in the division. Not twenty-seven years of age, a most promising career in the future seemed opening before him. He came out as major of the regiment. Impulsive, patriotic, and fearless, he was brave to rashness, and this was his great and only fault. After completing his education he became a student at law, which profession he had just entered upon with the most brilliant prospects of success before him, when, like thousands of the brilliant young men of our country, he entered the army to fight in defense of his country. At one time he was private secretary to Lewis Cass. His body will be embalmed and sent home. Captain Finley, commissary, his classmate and fellow-townsmen, will convey his remains to his friends in Michigan."

On the 27th of October, 1864, the regiment took part in the movement on the Boydton Plank road, but did not become actively engaged. On the 28th it constituted a portion of the rear guard in the retrograde movement to the position near Poplar Grove Church, near which point it was encamped on the 31st of October.

During the month of November the regiment lay in the trenches near that place, and in December accompanied its corps on the raid to Bellfield, where it assisted in destroying about sixteen miles of railroad. It was in the trenches before Petersburg during the month of January, 1865, and on February 6th and 7th, while in command of Colonel Partridge, was engaged with the enemy at the battle of Dabney's Mills, or Hatcher's Run, where it lost heavily, on March 25th at Hatcher's Run, at White Oak Swamp on the 29th, at Quaker

Road on the 31st, and at Five Forks on April 1st, and following Lee's army until its surrender; on the 5th it was engaged with the enemy at Amelia Court House, on the 6th at High Bridge, at Appomattox Court House on the 9th, and after the surrender it marched to Sutherland's Station, where it was located during the remainder of the month. In May the regiment marched to Washington, D. C., arriving there on the 12th, where, on the 23d, it participated in the grand review of the army of the Potomac. Remaining in camp near Washington until June 16th, it was ordered to Louisville, Ky., where it arrived on the 21st, crossing the river to Jeffersonville, Indiana, and was there mustered out of service July 8th, and left on the 10th, in command of Colonel Partridge, for Michigan, arriving on the 12th at Jackson, and on the 25th was paid off and disbanded.

The regiment while in service took part in engagements at siege of Yorktown, Va., April 4 to May 4, 1862; Hanover Court House, Va., May 27, 1862; Mechanicsville, Va., June 26, 1862; Gaines's Mills, Va., June 27, 1862; White Oak Swamp, Va., June 30, 1862; Turkey Bend, Va., June 30, 1862; Malvern Hill, Va., July 1, 1862; Harrison's Landing, Va., July 2, 1862; Ely's Ford, Va., August 29, 1862; Bull Run, 2d, Va., August 30, 1862; Antietam, Md., September 17, 1862; Shepardstown Ford, Va., September 19, 1862; Snicker's Gap, Va., November 4, 1862; Fredericksburg, Va., December 13, 1862; U. S. Ford, Va., January 1, 1863; Chancellorsville, Va., April 30, May 2 to 5, 1863; Middleburg, Va., June 21, 1863; Gettysburg, Pa., July 1, 2, and 3, 1863; Williamsport, Md., July 12, 1863; Wapping Heights, Va., July 21, 22, 1863; Culpepper, Va., October 12, 13, 1863; Brandy Station, Va., October 13, 1863; Bristo Station, Va., October 14, 1863; Rappahannock Station, Va., November 7, 1863; Cross Roads, Va., November 26, 1863; Mine Run, Va., November 26, 27, and 29, 1863; Wilderness, Va., May 5 to 7, 1864; Laurel Hill, Va., May 8, 1864; Po River, Va., May 10, 1864; Spottsylvania, Va., May 18, 1864; Ny River, Va., May 21, 1864; North Anna, Va., May 23, 1864; Noel's Turn, Va., May 26, 1864; Hanover, Va., May 29, 1864; Tolo-potomy, Va., May 30, 1864; Magnolia Swamp, Va., June 1, 1864; Bethesda Church, Va., June 2, 3, and 4, 1864; Cold Harbor, Va., June 7, 1864; Gaines's Creek, Va., June 5, 1864; Petersburg, Va., June 18, 1864; Petersburg and Norfolk railroad, July 30, 1864; Weldon railroad, Va., August 19, 20, and 21, 1864; Peeble's Farm, Va., September 30, 1864; Hatcher's Run, Va., October 27, 1864; Dabney's Mills, or Hatcher's Run, Va., February 6 and 7, 1865; Hatcher's Run, Va., March 25, 1865; White Oak Road, Va., March 29, 1865; Quaker Road, Va., March 31, 1865; Five Forks, Va., April 1, 1865; Amelia Court House, Va., April 5, 1865; High Bridge, Va., April 6, 1865; Appomattox Court House, Va., April 9, 1865; siege of Petersburg, Va., from June 17, 1864, to April 3, 1865.

The regiment had borne on the rolls 2,318 officers and men, losing 343. Killed in action, 10 officers and 155 men; died of wounds, 2 officers and 48 men; of disease, 128 men.

"The blended rage of shot and shell,
Though from the blackened portals torn,
Has not such havoc bought a name
Immortal on the rolls of fame?"

NOTES.—At the second battle of Bull Run the 16th was heavily engaged and exposed to a severe fire of shell and solid shot. In the afternoon it charged on a rebel battery, in face of volleys of musketry and artillery fire of grape and canister. The infantry of

the enemy being protected by a railroad embankment, it was found impossible to dislodge them, and a retreat became necessary. Under this fire many officers and men had been killed or wounded, and several color-bearers had been shot down. The regiment was being closely pressed by the enemy, and the regimental colors much in danger. At one time, when a color-bearer had been shot down, and the color falling to the ground, Captain Stephen Martin, at great risk, took possession of it and placed it in the hands of another bearer, with instructions to save them at the risk of his life.

The retreat was continued, a heavy force of the enemy following and delivering a murderous fire, especially directed on the color; the attention of Captain Martin was again directed to its safety, and under a shower of rifle bullets he, with the color-bearer, succeeded in placing the flag beyond the reach of danger.

The saving of this flag by Captain Martin was acknowledged by Colonel Welch, commanding the regiment, in a complimentary letter, and he was entrusted with its delivery to the Governor of the State.

A PRISON IN RICHMOND, VA., }
August 2d, 1862. }

General Jno. Robertson, Adjutant General, State of Michigan.

GENERAL,—Lest you have not received the few lines that I wrote you soon after my capture, on June 27th, I send this to report that after that bloody fight in which we were defeated, I was taken prisoner, and have been here ever since, with some 120 other officers.

I have not received any official information from my regiment since, and cannot, therefore, make any report of the actual loss since the 27th, nor even a full one of that. I had been on the sick list for over a week before the battle, and only took command of my regiment after it got on the field. Captain Case was killed, Lieutenant Williams mortally wounded, Lieutenant McGraw lost a leg and died in hospital, Captains Mott and Fisher wounded and taken prisoners; they are here with me, and well. Captain Myers and Lieutenants Eddy and Chandler were wounded and got off.

There are about one hundred of my men prisoners here, some forty of them wounded. A few of them have died. Probably in killed, wounded, and prisoners my regiment lost over 200.

The regiment was in the battle of Malvern Hill on the 30th of June, and I hear suffered again, but I have no certain information. As the cartel for a general exchange has been made, and nearly all of the wounded gone, the officers hope to follow very soon. As soon as that is done I will send you a full report, with names for promotion.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

T. B. W. STOCKTON,
Colonel 16th Michigan Infantry.

At the battle of Fredericksburg, after fighting all day and part of the night, a Michigan regiment lay down on their arms and were soon asleep. Their ammunition wagon coming up late, the mules hungry and thirsty, being halted near the sleeping place of the colonel, gave several of their peculiar howls, which suddenly awoke the colonel, who, much provoked at being thus so unceremoniously disturbed, and in his bewildered condition thinking that the noise was made by the musicians of the regiment at band practice, called to his adjutant, saying, "*Put these devilish buglers under arrest and send them to the rear; they will jeopardize the safety of the whole army.*"

John Steele, a private in Company K, 16th Michigan, having his right arm shot off at Middleburg, Captain Hill said to him a few minutes after: "John, you cannot carry a musket any more." John replied with tears in his eyes: "No, Captain, but I can carry the colors can't I?"

While the 16th Michigan was engaged at Cold Harbor a Maryland regiment broke while under fire, and when falling back was checked and held by the 16th. The colonel of the regiment struggled to rally it, but without success, when he hurriedly advanced to Colonel Partridge, and with tears streaming down his manly face, exclaimed: "Colonel, would to God that I commanded a Michigan regiment!" He had hardly said these words when a rifle bullet passed through his body, killing him instantly.

The following anecdote is told with all due respect to the cause therein alluded to, and also for the colonel and chaplain referred to, and is only recited as an extreme example of how tenacious and jealous commanders of regiments become of the standing of their commands.

One of the Michigan regiments in the Army of the Potomac was brigaded with a Pennsylvania regiment into which their chaplain had infused considerable of religious feeling. Several had been baptized; this feeling also prevailed to some extent in other regiments of the brigade, but had not taken effect in the Michigan regiment. The chaplain referred to, having the welfare of the Michigan regiment at heart, conceived the idea of calling on the colonel, a soldier from his youth and every inch a man, gruff but brave, not sudden and quick in quarrel, nor full of strange oaths, but bearded, like the Pard; gaining reputation even in the cannon's mouth. Consequently the chaplain waited upon him, calling at his tent and finding him, stated that several members of other regiments of the brigade had recently experienced religion, and in his own regiment he had baptized fifteen the previous day; remarking also that he was very desirous of a like result in the Michigan regiment, but unless the Colonel made some effort in that direction the regiment would be left behind in the matter. The colonel, a little nettled at what he considered over-zeal of the chaplain, and especially at the idea of having his regiment suspected even of being slow or behind in any respect, started to his feet, called the sergeant major, and hurriedly said: "Give my compliments to the adjutant and direct him to detail immediately with orders to report to the chaplain here, *twenty* men for baptism; my regiment shall not be beat in *any way* by any regiment in the brigade." The chaplain gave him one serious look and left quick.