

INCIDENTS OF THE BATTLE FIELD.—A private letter says :

“There were instances of individual bravery, in this battle, not exceeded at Thermopylæ or Marathon. When our volunteers left Bristol, one mother, a Mrs. Pierce, who had two sons among them, said she only wished she had more to send. She afterwards wrote a very pathetic letter which was read to the whole company in the Town Hall on the morning of their departure. One of her sons met with an accident while they were encamped at Providence, and was obliged to return home. The other son was in the battle Sunday. As the regiment stood on the hill, exposed to a galling fire, the color-sergeant, towards whom, of course, most of the shots were directed, rather flinched and stepped behind a tree. Young Pierce seized the standard, rushed in advance and waved it defiantly at the enemy. He came off unscathed.

The following incident is given in a letter from a young officer in the 21 Rhode Island regiment:

“After the battle was fought I went into a grove where the secessionists had been concealed. I found the ground covered with the dead and dying. The sight was one that I pray never to see again. One poor fellow with his leg blown off called me to him and asked me to shake hands with him. He then asked me if I had any ill feelings toward him. I replied ‘No; but I am sorry that brothers should be obliged to slaughter each other in this manner.’ The poor fellow burst into tears, and said he came from Georgia, and that they would have shot him in his own house if he had not come. I saw many heart-rending scenes, too numerous to mention.”