

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.
Fourth South (from Richmond).
Dear Father, I miles North of
Richmond, Aug. 5 1861.

In reading the letters of your numerous correspondents with regard to the battle at Stone Bridge, I was very sorry all alike to perceive remarks and the prominent part taken by each of them in achieving their great victory. Though I have been glad to see the gallantry and prowess of each very first regiment and battalion which were engaged in that contest, and who sustained for two hours the heavy enemy's onslaught. I allude to the Fourth South (Richmond) under Col. J. H. S. Stone, and the Louisiana Regiment, under Maj. W. A. White's command, and was a possessor of Lambton's Artillery, had been recruited on four or five days previous to the battle, with a few hundred pieces of our own Regt. being sent out watching for the enemy. Being ordered by the firing of our pieces, being fired on by the enemy, our Regt. by some one being spotted ground directly in front of the battery, and covered by the snow of the sharp hill to the left of the front. Soon after the firing of the enemy, our Regt. moved to the opposite side of the hill and fired with its regularity, the long straight cartridges were sent flying over the hill to the eye could see. I lay prone with my rifle and opened at a three cut the skirmishers, and opened a volley upon us, coming with ball and shell around and over the hill to hit our position. Our Regt. remained here with a single firing group between our skirmishers and the enemy, until about eight o'clock, when the Louisiana Regiment, under the command of our position.

At about 10 o'clock we received a message that the enemy had crossed the Run in three places, about three miles above, and were marching down the Run on our left. We were drawing without the knowledge of the army on our front, and which was composed of eight or ten thousand men, we commenced a double march to meet the column which had crossed above, after accomplishing a mile or more, we came in sight of their long line of bayonets glittering in the morning sun. Having advanced a small distance, we saw the Louisiana Regiment on our right and a little advanced from our position. The enemy crossed a commanding hill, four or five hundred yards in front, and opened upon us with a heavy fire of artillery, and grape-shot from the 4th and 5th Regts. Both the Louisiana Regt. and several of our men were killed and wounded. This day, of the 5th of August.

Soon afterwards, we received an order to form under cover of a wood to our right and somewhat cover the enemy. Here we remained for some time, in the edge nearest the enemy, keeping up our fire, and having many of our men killed and wounded. The first reinforcement of which we were aware, came on here, and arrived at 11 or 12 o'clock. It proved to be the 4th Alabama Regiment and some other companies, under command of Col. W. A. White.

With this reinforcement, which has been deservedly spoken of for its gallantry, we remained until the five o'clock hour, when we withdrew. We, however, soon rallied, and returned to the fight, remaining in it through the day. A large portion of our Regiment were in the first charge made upon Sherman's Battery, and many eye-witnesses will agree that the Regiment did, preserve its line, and were the first to place the colors of the Union upon the ground. It was done by Col. Robert Clark, who, I believe, saved several times the day. He finally succeeded in holding them. This success of the 4th Regiment and the Louisiana Regiment, without the loss of a single man, and from any other command, where all our noble captives would be obliged. History will, however, record that we were first on the field, and with about 1,000 men, the first of our Regiment remained at the bridge, in a skirmish line, until 12 o'clock, when the enemy in check for one and a half of two miles.

After the day was over, and having been ordered upon the new horse batteries of the South, our Regiment returned to its former camping ground, near a portion of the battle field, and on the first time that day, passed of a soldier's meal. Our men and baggage had also been sent off, and without a doubt, we were exposed that night to a dreary and dreary, including what we could of sleep, and the loss of our Regiment in killed and wounded was 150 men, out of our Regt. About the greatest loss was our Adjutant General, Sam. Wilks of Anderson, South Carolina. Our army loses no more cheerful and accomplished gentlemen. History and fame will within fifty yards of our encampment, placed by more than a dozen miles.

S. S. C.

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