

Clipping from the Jedediah Hotchkiss Papers, Roll 58,
Frame 796, Library of Congress, Washington, DC
Thomas M. Boyd was in the 19th VA

"Use the Bayonet, Colonel."

In an article on Stonewall Jackson in the
SOUTHERN BIVOUAC for November Thomas
M. Boyd tells of his appearance on the field
of battle:

I never was close to him on the field of bat-
tle but once; that was on the hill not far from
the Henry House, at the first battle of Manas-
sas. He was extremely pale, but his eyes shined
with an unnatural brilliancy. It was on that
occasion that Colonel Baylor, of Augusta
County, rode hurriedly up to him and said,
"General, my men are armed with the old
flint-lock musket, and not half of them will
fire." He replied, "If you will examine it, you
will find that old musket has the best bayonet in
the world. Use the bayonet, Colonel." In a
short while the Federal troops began to give
way, and it is possible that this circumstance
turned the tide of battle. I have seen the
statement somewhere, that General Bee said
to him, "General, they are beating us back,"
and Jackson's reply was, "We will give them
the bayonet, sir." This may be true, but it is
probable that the remark made to Colonel Bay-
lor was afterward claimed to have been made
to General Bee. I will never forget the ter-
rific fighting that evening about three o'clock—
the roar of artillery, the screaming, bursting
shells, the rattle of small arms. The smoke
blinded me; I stooped low to see how to lead
my men. We were almost exhausted, and burn-
ing with thirst. Beauregard galloped by; this
gave us some hope, and we cheered him and
pressed on. The Federals fought desperately.
At last I saw Jackson, and I felt safe, for his
presence always inspired his men with confi-
dence. That evening he was shot through the
bridle-hand. General Imboden approached,
called his attention to the fact, and suggested
surgical aid. Jackson said, "It is a mere scratch,
sir." His hand was bound up with a sash, he
continuing on the field until the engagement
ceased. He then repaired to the place where
the wounded had been collected. The sur-
geons were busy, of course. One of them see-
ing General Jackson, approached, and offered
his assistance. The General insisted that the
surgeon attend to those who were more seri-
ously hurt than himself, saying he preferred
waiting until the private soldiers were relieved.

War Poetry.

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