EDGEFIELD, S. C., THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1885.

THE LEGION AT MANASSAS.

Eistory.

Gen. Wade Hampton's Narrative of the Troops at Last.

In the Century magazine of May there appeared two interesting articles on the battle of Manassas, and as reference was made in both of these papers to my command, "The Hampton Legion," I think it proper that I should give some memoranda of that

It was the fortune of the Legion. good or evil, as the reader may determine for himself, to be engaged from an early hour in the morning until the close of the battle on the ground where it was fought and won, and this fact gives me I think, the opportunity of knowing more of the details of the fighting on the plateau, Houses, up to the time at which my wound was received, than any surviving officer commanding a regiment.

As all the facts touching the civil war can only be brought out by collating and comparing the experiences of those who took part in it, I venture to give mine, as to this battle especially, as some errors have inadvertently crept into the various accounts of it heretof re given. I hope to be able to show how this occurred and how it could naturally occur, without blame attaching to any one. The two articles to which I refer are those of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and Gen. Imboden, and in these there are, I think, one or two mistakes, not material as far as general results are concerned, but important as touching the part borne by the Legion in that

THE MARCH TO THE BATTLEFIELD. In order to give a full understand ing of the events of that day, as fe as they fell under my observation, must enter somewhat minutely into details, which, I fear, may prove wearisome, though essential. On the morning of July 21, my command af ter having been on the railroad thirty hours, reached Manassas Junction about day light, and I reported at once to Gen. Beauregard, from whom side of the small triadirection of the Stone Bridge, and to hold myself in readiness to support any troops engaged in that quarter.' In pursuance of this order we moved from the Junction about sunrise, under direction of a guide, towards the dicated it will be seen that my op point indicated. The guide, soon after portunities for observing what occur we came within range of the artillery fire, retired without leave and withas great as those of any surviving offi out notice. This was near the Lewis House, and just as we were passing it, is proper to state, however, that I leaving it to our right. I met a counwas wounded at the Henry House, try boy on horseback who informed about 3 30 P. M., and after that saw me that the enemy, in heavy force, nothing more of the action; but it had crossed Bull Run at Sudley Ford and were advancing towards the Warrenton urnpike. My guide having deserted me, and not knowing where the Store Bridge was, I deter mined to movemy command in the direction of a leavy musketry fire which we heart from our left, and which came from the encounter o Evan's brigade wih the Federals near Sudley For. Just at this point, near the Lewis House, I met Col. James Francis Piston, of the 4th regiment, Jackson's rigade, moving his command in opposite direction from ours, to take I suppose, some position to which he had been ordered. Know ing him well, I gave him the informa tion I had received from the boy, and he Legion moved on rapidly toward he firing. We crossed a small branch back of the Lewis House, and following a road through a pine thicket, we struck in flank a column moving on a road into which our road led. Inquiring what troops these were, I was told that they were Bee's brigade,

hour that Bee did. SUPPORTING A BATTERY AT 10 o'CLOCK | WAS alone in its glory."

The Lieutenant-Colonel of the Legion, B. J. Johnston, knew Gen. Bee ride forward to ask the General what turnpike, when he was forced to re position we should take. In a few tire, and remained there for hours af I brought my command up just be-M, and the time is impressed on my this fact caused him to fall into an we kept up a fire that delayed the House, where the firing w memory from the following circum- error, to which I shall allude before enemy's movement across Young's memory from the following circum- error, to which I shall allude before Branch. But for that they might have gained the Henry plateau be-

dressed his wound. In a conversa- fight, but he certainly mistook some tion with Imboden, sometime after other command for mine when he de-Battle--Some Serious Errors Cor- the battle, he told me that this was rected .- The Defence of the Robinson the first man wounded in his battery, time this had happened he replied Justice Rendered the South Carolina that he thought it was somewhat the morning. These details are given reached the battlefield.

GEN. JOHHSTON CCRRECTED.

Now the slight error into which Gen. Johnston has fallen is contained in the following extract on page 104 in his contribution to the May number of the Century :

"Hampton with his Legion reached the valley as the retrograde movement began. Forming it promptly he joined in the action and contributed greatly to the orderly heracter of the fetreat by his courage and admirable soldiership, seconded by the excellent conduct of the gentlemen composing

I have shown that we reached the plateau before Bee crossed the turupike on his way to support Evans, all until their charge upon it, orderand I shall prove by incontrovertible evidence before concluding how long ported no artillery during the fight we remained on the turnpike. Bee except Imboden's at the Robinson may have formed his brigade, as has House, and no Confederate battery been stated that he did, on this pla- was near the Henry House when we teau before he crossed the turnpike; moved on it. As we did so we passed but if he did I saw nothing of the the 18th Virginia lying down, not far sort, and I made it a rule during the from the house, and in the final charge, war to report only what I saw and made on the only two guns of Rickett's knew. Of course the e officers who Battery not disabled and their inhad larger commands than mine had to fantry supports, this regiment joined depend in a large measure on the re- the Legion gallantly. In this charge ports of subordinates, but my obser. the guns were taken. Capt. Rickett in the line of battle along the edge. vation has led me to the conclusion | was wounded, was taken in a blanket | the forest, its right resting on a fenc that much of the confusion and con- by four of the men of Company A, tradiction prevailing as to the events | Hampton Legion, was carried to the and transactions of the war have arisen Lewis House, to which I had been from the fact that officers constantly taken, and was attended by Dr. Dar Henry House. Jackson's right will embraced the whole field in their re- by, of my command. Let me say ports of a battle, instead of confining here, in passing, that his wife soon the Legion when it was on the furi themselves to what fell under their joined him there, remaining with pike, but several hundred yards personal notice. In this sketch of him amid all the dreadful scenes in the rear, there being a ravine, and for the battle of Manassas I propose to cident to a field hospital, and by her some portion of the distance a piece give only such incidents as came un- devotion to him, in my opinion, saved of woods between the two commands membered that the Legion was from an early hour in the morning until which has for its purpose the correcfront of the Robinson House to the right of Jackson's position, a few hundred vards in our rear, thence to the Henry House, about as far distant and thence back to the point first in

have been informed. THE POSITION OF THE LEGION.

was very soon after this hour that

the retreat of the enemy began, as I

red within these lines were certainly

cer who took part in that fight. I

In order to define the limits of the triangle in which my command ope rated I subjoin a rough sketch of that portion of the field, which will give the reader an idea of the positions occupied by us: Nos. 1, 2 and 3 mark the different positions of the Legion, No. 1 being the Robinson House, No. 2 the position taken when we fell back from the turnpike, and No. 3 the Henry House. Imboden's battery is indicated by No. 4, and I think that Capt. Imboden makes a mistake when he cays that his first position war "abou: 100 yards to the northeast of the Henry House," for when I saw him go into action first he was, as I have stated just to the left of the Robinson House, and at all events it was here that the Legion supported his battery. This difference in opinion between us is, however, very immaterial: but he falls into a grave error then hastening to the support of when he says that "for at least s Evans. It is important to bear this half hour after our forces were driven fact in mind, for it proves that the across Young's Branch no Confederate Legion reached the plateau where soldier was visible from our position the battle was fought at the same near the Henry House. The Staunton Artillery, so far as we c uld see

Now the fact is that the Legion which supported his battery as it well and suggested that he should went into action, moved up to the minutes he returned bringing a mes- ter his withdrawal. While in this sage from Bee that a battery was latter position we saw the troops of about to go into action and that he Bee and Evans falling back across advised me to support it. This was the road between us and the Stone Imboden's Battery, which soon after Bridge which was several hundred Rebellion," is a report of Thos. G. came into position, about one hundred yards to our right Many of these men yards to the left of the Robinson were rallied behind Jackson's brigade House and about the same distance which had previously taken position south of the Warrenten turnpike. In on the platean, a few hundred yards chedience to the suggestion of Bee, south of the Robinson House and in given as follows: "Col. Pendleton's, front of the pine forest that extended four pieces; Capt. Imboden's, four hind the battery under partial shelter from the branch in rear of the Lewis pieces; Capt. Alburtis's, four pieces, of the hill upon which it was placed, | House to the field in which the Henry &c. It he had only four guns instead FIGHTING AROUND THE HENRY and where it was gallantly engaging and Robinson houses were situated. of six he is, of course entitled to Rickett's battery, which was station- At that time I was not aware that greater praise for the brilliant service ed on an opposite hill across Young's Jackson had come on the ground, nor he rendered, and which he thus de- dressed a few complimentary branch. We got into position here, I did he know that my command was scribes: think, between 9 and 10 o'clock A. in front of his on the turnpike, and

scribes the following incident .

"To reach my horse, after Jackson House-The Legion Held the Key of and in answer to my queston at what had given me permission to rejoin my battery, I had to pass the infantry of by Gen. Jackson, in letters written Hampton's Legion, who were lying to his wife soon after the fight and I down in supporting distance of our later, probably 10, but it establishes artillery, then in full play, (Colonel the fact that the Legion was near the | Wade Hampton's Legion at this time, Robinson House at an early hour in as I remember, consisted of a regiment of infantry, a battallion of cavin order that I may explain a mistake artillery.) Whilst untying my horse made by Gen. Johnston and Capt. a shell exploded in the midst of Hamp-Imboden as to the time the Legion ton's infantry, killing several and stampeding fifteen or twenty nearest but from the reports of Gens. Johnthe spot, I tried to rally them, but one huge fellow, musket in hand, with bayonet fixed had started on a run. I threw myself in front of him with drawn sword, and threatened to cut him down, whereupon he made a lunge at me," &c., &c.

GEN. IMBODEN'S ERRORS. The General wields now his per onite as well as he once did his sword. but my reasons for thinking that this troops than mine are these: He places laid down near the Henry House: they were not at or near the house at ed by Gen. Beauregard; they supthat battle displayed higher courage then she did in braving the hard But to return to useted.

tion of what are some errors in reference to my command at Manassas. hope that my friend, Gen. Imboden, will not understand me as criticising any of his statements in an unfriend ly spirit, for this is very far from my bject. But many years, filled with perplexing anxieties, grave responsi bilities and hard duties, have passed since we stood together amid the storms of that great battle, and we may both have forgotten many of its incidents, especially those which re late to the movement of each other's command. I am sure, however, that if we could now go together over that historic field we could identify the places where we fought and readily settle all points of difference between us. But he must pardon me if, in the meantime, I place greater reliance on my own memory as the movements and positions of my command than on his, especially as his has been so treacherous in regard to Miss Julia Jackson, who was at that time according to his statement, "still in long dresses." Ladies are proverbially reticent and sensitive in reference to their age, and he will have to make an apology to this charming young lady, who, if other authorities are to be believed, was not born till long after the battle of Manassas! But if the General is not a very accurate historian, he seems to have been a true prophet in regard to that "little daughter" of the immortal Jackson, mention has been made above,

good wishes and the blessings of the Gen. Imboden makes a mistake as to the constitution of the Legion, for there were but six infantry companies in it, and they were the only troops attack on it had been repulsed. of the command present on the 21st this repulse the enemy moved to July. I think, too, but I express my left, and striking the Sudley opinion with great deference, that he has mistaken the constitution of his the turnpike. Here a battery own battery on that occasion. My recollection is that it was composed of four guns, but he, in speaking of it in his article for the Century, says: "Mine, six in number, were all smoothhore six-pounders, brass." On page 569, Series 1, Vol. 21, "War or the Rhett, A. A. Gen., giving a list of the troops of the army of the Shenandoah engaged at Manassas, and in this the "batteries in action" are

"For full three quarters of an hour ing us, he went towards the ound I saw one of Imboden's men present I wish to follow the account fore Jackson and Hampton came up ly a brigadier general, and n

his shoulder by a shell, and I sent position his battery took after its | their disorganized troops. Minutes order that I should move my comhim to my surgeons, Drs. John withdrawal from the Robinson House, count as hours under such circum mand at a double quick to the Henry A Highly Important Contribution to T. Darby and B. W. Taylor, who for I did not see it again during the stances, and trifles often turn the House. We had proceeded but a scale in great battles.

JACKSON'S ARRIVAL AND POSITION BE-HIND THE LEGION-12 o'crock.

alluded to a slight mistake made mention it only to show how h |could naturally fall into it. As I have stated, my command reached the pike. At what hour Gen. Jackson came upon the plateau I do not know, ston and Beauregard, he must have done so about 12 o'clock. Gen. Johnston says that he left Lookout Hill "about 11 o'clock," and when he "deploying his brigade." Gen. Beauregard says: "At 11 30 A. M. Johnston and myself set out for the Jackson deployed his brigade, for he As I have stated, the position talken naturally. by him was in the open plain, af emerging from the place to laid between the Lewis and Hen ry emerging from the pine forest wh houses. When I first saw this brigs soon after 2 o'clock P. M., and on I withdrawal from the turnpike, it was which ran at right angles to its lin and its left extending beyond, bu some distance in the rear of the almost directly behind the right

THE REPULSE OF KEYES The road from Sudley Ford crossed he turngike at the Stone House and led thence near the Henry House Sernalter en derttelren mosdie battery, a demonstration was made by the enemy towards the Robinson House. The Legion was immediated noved up to the turnpike to mee his threatened attack. The position aken was a very strong one, as ditch and fence ran along the nort side of the road, affording very gooprotection to the men. Here we were attacked by quite a heavy force which was repulsed with loss,quote from the report of Col. Erasmus D. Keyes, commanding 1st brig ade, 1st division, U. S. infantry, order to show the result of thi attack, and the hour at which it we made. This is the proof I promi to produce, to show how long Legion held its exposed position the turnpike while no reinforceme

were in sight : "About 2 o'clock P. M. Gen. Tyl ordered me to take a battery on heig n front. The battery was strong posted and supported by infantry s riflemen, sheltered by a building moved forward we came under fire of other large bodies of tenemy posted behind breastwor and on reaching the summit of hill the fire became so hot that. exposure to it of five minutes wo have annihilated my whole line." THE LEGION HOLDS THE TURNPIKE

TIL AFTER 2 P. M.

This describes one atte Legion when it was on the turn near the House. The ditch, of wh who as a bride, has just received the the appearance of "breastworks," indeed served pretty well the pose of them. The report of Ke proves conclusive that the Ler was on the turnpike as late as M., and remained some time after came down to the Stone Hous placed in the road and as it could filade our position perfectly, I drew my comman !, falling. across the ravine and entering field where Jackson's brigade formed. We halted first just of crest of the hill above the spoken of, in front of Jackson Col. Pendleton coming up at the ment with some guus which wished to place on the groun occupied, we fell back to the mentioned, our line being at angles to Jackson's and our lef

Here I saw Gen. Blaurega the first time that day, and couraging words to my men. aides, Samuel Ferguson, st

short distance when Gen. Evans ordered us to move to our right towards a body of woods, from which a fire In a previous portion of this paper had been opened on us; but just at this moment Col. James Chesnut, acting as volunteer aide to Gen. Beauregard, repeated the order extended through Ferguson. We moved as rapidly as possible in the direction indicated, passing obliquely across Robinson House early in the morning, the front of Jackson's brigade and in a few minutes we were fighting around the Henry House, where Bee, Bartow and Fisher had been killed or mortally wounded. Two guns of Rickett's battery, the horses of which had all been killed, were near the crest of be hill abandoned; two other, in the same condition, were a little lower reached the plateau Jackson was down nearer the house, and the remaining two he was stubbornly fight ing just beyond the garden of the house, on or very near the Sudley. immediate field of action, which we road. As we passed the house, and reached, in the rear of the Robi on whilst we were in the garden the dramatic episode occurred with other and Widow Heury's house, about 12 command to "charge bayonets" havo'clock M., and just as the commands ing just been given, I was wounded. the scene of the incident near the of Bee, Bartow and Evans had taken | The command was turned over to Henry House. Now, my men never shelter in a wooded ravine, behind Capt. James Conner, senior captain, the former, stoutly held at that time and I was taken from the field. The by Hampton with his Legion, with Legion followed the retreating enemy had made a stand here after having as far as any of our infantry did and previously been as far forward as the the men had been under constant fire turnpike." These statements fix paet for eight hours. These details are ty accuratively the time at which given in order that an explanation may be offered showing now the misseems to have done so about 12 M. take made by Jackson came about

> JACKSON'S NATURAL ERROR In a letter to Mrs. Jackson, written on the 21 July, he uses the following language: "Whilst great credit is due to other parts of our gallant army, God made my brigade more instrumental than any other in repulsing the main attack," and on August 5 he writes as follows: "I know that the 1st brigade was the first to meet and pass our retreating forces, to push on with no other aid but the smiles of God, to boldly take its position with the artillery that was under my comand, to arrest the victorious foe in s onward progress, to hold him in eck until reinforcements arriv d. finally to charge bayonets, and e." The world recognizes the nguished part borne by Gen.

at Managas and ha enote with at occasion. The same pride that rompts me to do justice to my men, hose conduct and services were as worthy of commendation as those of ny other troops. No soldier can appreciate this feeling more keenly than Stonewall Jackson would have done, and no living soldier could be more earnest in doing justice to his comrades than would have been that dead hero. He has done injustice to my command by his accounts of this batle, and I have not one word of comctly natural, that when Bee rades of the Legion.

ack all of our troops, en in advance of his, had Hence the error into e fell when he stated that his de was "the first to meet and pass our retreating forces," and "the first to arrest the victorious foe in his onward progress. The following extract from the roport of Brig.-Gen. Evans will throw some light upon this point as do indeed the reports of Gens. John ston and Beauregaad. Ger. Evans

TESTIMONY OF GEN. EVANS. "The enemy by this ich large force that our position was no longer tenable, and I ordered my command, now greatly scattered, to fall back, under cover, towards the Lewis House. The commands of Gen. Bee and myself were now completely scattered, when we were timely covered by Hampton's Legion and other reinforcements."

Con. Evans himself passed through nmand while it was on the turnas he was retreating, and I know this was the first Confederate ser the repulse of the enemy on turnpike they moved down the idley road, crossed the pike at the Stone House and struck the left of Jackson's line in front of the Henry House. This explanation of the movements of the enemy-one that I have terity. The harm done to some peonever seen given in any report of the battle- reconciles accounts which proves that while the left of Jackson's tacles in the public schools is a mat line was engaged, the Legion could very well have been fighting in front

IUSTICE TO THE LEGION. These facts are given simply in justice to my old command, in whose reputation and weil-earned glory I On every field they did their whole of special service to those who have duty as soldiers, and on the first they used calomel and other mineral poin of the Potomac, to which the Legion Pills are invaluable.

was attached, had 9,477 on the field. of which number eix hundred and twenty-four were killed and wounded. Of the six hundred men of the Legion one hundred and twenty one fell. They surely deserved the praise Gen. Johnston hestows on them when he speaks of " the excellent conduct of the gentlemen composing the Le-CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE

In this rambling I have gone into details in order to elucidate one or two points which may be of interest to the brave survivors of the Legion, and I have consulted several of them that I might verify my recollections of the incidents of the battle. These gentlemen, amongst whom are Major T. G. Barker, who was the gallant and efficient adjutant general of the command, Dr. B. W. Taylor, one of its surgeons who was in the midst of the fight, and Private Ball, a brave soldier who subsequently became an the statements made as to the positions and movements of the Leg or during the fight. I have endeavored to state only such facts as fell under my own observation, and I have studiously avoided everything that could possibly be construed as a reflection on any of my comrades. I only desire to see the whole truth regarding the conduct of my men brought out. I did not realize at the time of the battle the importance of the service rendered by them, but in the light of the experience taught me by four years of duty in the field, I believe now that the accident which led us to take position on the turnpike had material influence in shaping the fortunes of the day. Our presence there delayed the advance of the enemy for several hours and thus enabled the reinforcements to be brought up, which turned what at one time

seemed to be a defeat into a victory It is certain that but for the detention of the enemy at the turnpike the battle would not have been fought where it was, but might probably have been made at or near the June tion. This is, of course, but specu lation, but an incident that occurred a few days after the fight shows that I am not alone in entertaining this

THE LEGION SAVED THE FIGHT. Some time after the battle Gen. J son and his gallant brigade in the R. Trimble, a graduate of West

Point and subsection our service, who resides now & Baltimore, joined cur ispired then his warm words of praise army. Wishing to study the battlefield, he rode over it a few days after his arrival, in company with several officers. After examining the various positions held by our troops, he said to one of the officers when he came to the place on the pike where the Legion had made its stand, and without knowing what troops had held it, "This is the key to the whole position; the troops who held it saved the fight." This was repeated to me by the officer to whom it had been laint to make against him. I only said, and was afterwards told to me to show that, not knowing of the by the General himself. It was high nce of my command on the turn- praise, which I appreciated greatly, then he took position on the and I put it on record in honor of my in our rear, he supposed, as old, my gallant and my loved con-

Of all the cool things in this world f cheek, the passage cited from the sentence of death passed by a Wyoming Territorial judge upon a condemned murderer is certainly the coolest. After reviewing the trial, he said to the prisoner: "I am by no means satisfied with the evidence in the case, and am not sure whether you killed John Forbes or whether he died by a visitation of God, but my sentence is that you be hanged on the third Friday of June; and should you know of your own innocence you will have the comforting were in thought that it is doubted by some of the wisest thinkers of the age wheth er life is in any circumstances worth

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No man Las a right to read on a moving vehicle if his injured eve sight may be transmitted to his pos ple's eyes by the common practice of reading in the street cars is almost beyond belief. The rapid increase in otherwise seem contradictory, and it the number of children wearing spec ter for immediate scientific inquiry.
The usefulness of a citizen depende largely on accuracy of vision, and of his right, for his line, while nearly the relation between the eyes and the parallel with mine, was four times as brain are the most mysterious phe nomena of human life. A man should see all there is to see, but he does not

Note.—When you arrive in Atlanta call on me. You will find it to your interest to see me before purchasing tick-Not a particle of calomel or any other deleterions substance enters in ASK FOR WALKER feel now the same pride that I felt to the composition of Ayer's Catharwhen I had the honor to lead them | tic Pills. On the contrary, they prove left more than one-fitth of their num- sone as medicines, and feel their inber dead and wounded. The Army jurious effects. In such cases Ayer's Edgefield C. H., S. C.

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