

August. After Manassas they were detailed to guard the prisoners in Richmond who had been captured in that battle, until they were ordered to join the First Maryland at Fairfax Station. The company was composed of young men principally from Charles County, Maryland, and it was officered as follows :

Captain, Michael S. Robertson ; First Lieutenant, Hugh Mitchell ; Second Lieutenant, Hezekiah H. Bean ; Third Lieutenant, Eugene Diggs.

During its stay at Fairfax Station, the regiment was frequently called upon to perform duties of an important and a hazardous character. General J. E. B. Stuart had formed an attachment for it, and when he needed the support of infantry he usually asked for the services of the First Maryland. It thus came about that it took part in the capture of Mason's Hill, and that after that fight Companies G and I, respectively commanded by Captains Wilson C. Nicholas and Michael S. Robertson, were detailed to aid in the capture of Upton's and Munson's Hills. In the fight at Upton's Hill Private Fountain, of Company I, was killed, and Lieutenant Hugh Mitchell, of the same company, was wounded.

Near the close of the fall of 1861 the enemy became restive. The small force of cavalry and infantry which held Munson's and Mason's Hills was withdrawn, and it and all outlying bodies were ordered to Centreville, which place was being strongly fortified by Generals Johnston and Beauregard in anticipation of the enemy's advance in force at an early day.

It was Juliet who said to Romeo : " Parting is such sweet sorrow that I could say ' Good night ' until tomorrow," but it was not thus that the boys of the First Maryland felt when they broke camp at Fairfax Station to march to Centreville. There were pleasant associations connected with their stay at the former place. Life-long friendships had been formed, kindnesses had been showered upon them, and so the last reveille seemed to have a note of discord in its music, and the summons to " Fall in ! " was not responded to with that alacrity which always characterized men " so dauntless in war " as the sons of Maryland. It was on this camp, too, which they were leaving, that Mrs. Bradley T. Johnson and those lovely maidens, Constance, Jennie and Hettie Carey, used to throw the sunlight of their smiles. They cheered and ministered to the sick ; they looked after the comforts of those who were hale and hearty, and the charm of their sweet and gracious presence turned gloom into sunshine, and shone like an oasis on the dreariness of camp life. Many of the men whom they were wont to cheer have passed away ; some died on the battle-field, others in the quiet of home ; but they could never have forgotten those gentle women. And as for the survivors of that camp, men who are now growing old, there is not one who does not still remember those autumn evenings when the stirring music of " The Bonnie Blue Flag," " Maryland, My Maryland," and " Away Down South in Dixie," floated through the camp, upborne by the rich voices of these noble women and the