

REPORT OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST MAJOR GENERAL STERLING PRICE, IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1864.

(Continued from page 154, Vol. XII. No. 2.)

AT this time I received orders from Major General Curtis to make the movement which I had already commenced. Thus reassured, I moved forward as rapidly as the thick undergrowth and broken ground would permit, until I came to the edge of an open field and formed a junction with Colonel Hogan's regiment, which had been sent forward from a different direction. A heavy fire was here opened on us from a corn-field, which stretched from our right front, and which seemed filled with skirmishers, and from a large brick house in an orchard just beyond, in which a party of sharpshooters were stationed. In a few minutes several of our men had fallen and the fire was incessant and close.

I immediately ordered the right of the brigade forward, and drove the enemy from the corn-field and house, while the left of the line kept straight forward through a stubble-field on their flank.

About half a mile to the front the cavalry and artillery came out the road on our left, and we joined the line, relieving Jennison's cavalry from its position, in support of McLain's battery.

We then commenced driving the enemy steadily before us, and from there till his retreat became a rout, it was as much as my dismounted men could do to keep up with the artillery. As soon as the heaviest of the action was over I sent details back to bring up the horses, and pushed forward with my dismounted men and artillery.

Lieutenant W. B. Clark's detachment of Company E, Fourteenth Kansas cavalry, and Captain John Wilson's company of independent cavalry scouts, became detached from my brigade early in the morning, and acted as body guard for Major General Blunt, charging to the support of a howitzer which General Blunt and staff with the gun de-

tachment were protecting with their pistols from a portion of the enemy who were advancing to capture it, and participating also in the gallant charge on the enemy's rear, posted behind the stone wall at the mouth of the lane. In this last charge the detachment lost six horses and two men killed, besides having several men slightly wounded.

I pushed on to Santa Fe, reaching there about sunset, and stopped to feed, getting the first forage my horses had eaten since we left the Blue. The men had eaten nothing for two days, and were still without rations, their transportation being yet at Kansas City.

I had three or four head of cattle hunted up and killed, by Colonel Hogan's regiment, the Nineteenth Kansas state militia, which were eaten without bread or salt. The residue of my brigade had nothing.

At daylight next morning, the 24th, we started and marched the whole day and far into the night, still fasting. When the head of the column (Major General Pleasanton's division) went into camp at the Marias-des-Cygnes my brigade brought up the rear of the column, and receiving no orders, stood by our horses' heads in the rain all night, or until the roar of artillery announced that the battle was begun. Most of my militia had fallen out in the terrible march of the day before, from fatigue and want of food, leaving me only my batteries, the Sixth regiment, Colonel Montgomery, and Eve's battalion, and being satisfied that there would be some heavy fighting at the front before my brigade could cross the river, I hurried forward to see if my individual services could be of any avail, leaving the brigade in charge of my adjutant lieutenant, L. J. Beam, Fifteenth Kansas cavalry.

I crossed the river on the skirmish line of General Pleasanton's division, and during the exciting events of the 25th acted as volunteer aid-de-camp on the staff of Major General Curtis, rendering all the assistance I could to the other members of his staff in hurrying forward troops and holding them steady, under the terrific fire of the enemy.

In this capacity I participated in all the battles of the 25th, and was with the pursuit to Shanghai, Missouri, from

which point I was sent back to Fort Scott to superintend the forwarding of supplies to the army in its continued pursuit of the enemy.

It has been impossible for me to obtain reports from my subordinate commanders, and I cannot therefore make a correct return of casualties. From the best information I can gather, the entire losses of the brigade, killed, wounded, and prisoners, will not exceed one hundred, of which seventy-five were taken from Colonel McCain's regiment at one time. About forty horses were also lost.

Among the severely wounded is Captain Aitken, of the Bourbon county battalion, who was shot through the thigh while gallantly leading his command in the action of Westport.

The officers, without a single exception, discharged their duty faithfully and well, while the men behaved much better than could have been expected, considering their want of training and discipline.

I desire to make special mention of Colonels Montgomery, Hogan, Colton, and Eves, Major Smith, of the Nineteenth, and Lieutenant Colonel Morris and Major Wiley, of the Tenth Kansas state militia, for gallantry and good conduct.

Colonel C. C. Willets offered his services to me before starting from this place, and acted as chief of staff until after the battle of Westport, affording me much valuable assistance in that capacity. Finding him quite ill on our arrival at Santa Fe, I ordered him to Paola for rest and medical treatment, from which point he joined Colonel Moonlight's brigade on its march to this place.

The labors and services of Captain Geo. J. Clark, Fourteenth Kansas cavalry, although acting ordnance officer of the Army of the Border, came more immediately under my personal observation than that of perhaps any other officer, and it affords me honorable pleasure to bear testimony to his untiring labors day and night in that behalf, from the time he left until he returned to Fort Scott. All the time he could spare from this duty was given to me, and as a staff officer

of my brigade he rendered great assistance, being cool and observant under fire, and industrious and energetic in arranging troops.

To Lieutenant S. J. Beam, Fifteenth Kansas cavalry, acting assistant adjutant general, I am more indebted than to any other officer for labor, energy, and active forethought. Always at his post and always at work, he is as brave in action as he is laborious in the office. Of clear head and sound judgment, skillful and thoughtful, thoroughly versed in the duties of his profession, and having his knowledge always at his command, he could discharge with dignity and distinction the duties of almost any position.

Sergeant Major Repstein, Sergeant A. C. Greenleaf, and Orderly Dudley Van Valkenburgh, of the Third Wisconsin cavalry, were transformed into staff officers, from the necessities of the case, and discharged their various duties with alacrity, judgment, and skill.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. W. BLAIR,

*Fourteenth Kansas Cavalry, Commanding Third Brigade,
First Division, Army of the Border.*

[Unofficial.]

HEADQUARTERS, FORT SCOTT, KANSAS, }
November 26, 1864. }

MAJOR:—I send you my official report of the part the "Tads" took in the recent invasion, or at least those under my command. It is addressed to Captain Hampton, of General Blunt's staff, which I suppose is "*de regueur*," as I was in the First division.

I have endeavored to make a plain, connected statement of the events, so far as my command was connected with them, and trust it may be satisfactory to you and the general. This militia command was an undesirable and laborious one, but I did the best I could with the material.

I am, major, with high respect,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES W. BLAIR.

MAJOR C. S. CHARLOT, *Assistant Adjutant General.*

Report of Colonel J. H. Ford, Colonel Second Colorado Cavalry, Fourth Brigade, First Division, Army of the Border.

FORT RILEY, KANSAS,
December, 1864. }

CAPTAIN GEO. S. HAMPTON, *Assistant Adjutant General First Division, Army of the Border* — *Captain*:—I have the honor to make to the Major General Commanding First Division, Army of the Border, the following Report of my regiment and the Fourth brigade, First Division, Army of the Border.

While serving in the District Central Missouri Department of the Missouri on the 29th September, I was ordered to report to Major General Curtis, commanding department of Kansas. He ordered me to concentrate my regiment at Pleasant Hill, but leave some troops to protect Kansas City and Independence, temporarily, until General Brown, commanding District Central Missouri, could send other troops. I accordingly left Major Pritchard with two companies at Kansas City and two at Independence, while with eight companies I took position at Pleasant Hill, as an advance of the Army of the Border. I daily sent out large scouts east, north, and south-east.

Fearing that the enemy might pass between Independence and Pleasant Hill towards Hickman's mills, which was altogether the best route for him to take on account of water and forage, and thus get into Kansas without my being able to keep in his front, to check him and give prompt information.

On the 11th inst. I proceeded to Hickman's Mills, sending Captain Elmer and fifty men to make a circuit by the way of Lone Jack, Snid Bar, and Little Blue, to the same place, I also sent Captain Evans up the Independence road to come in by Raytown. They both reported the next day nothing of importance.

On the 15th Major Smith and thirty men went to Independence, distant eighteen miles, and found the town evacuated by the troops, and the rebels reported twelve hundred

strong a short distance away. He immediately returned, and with two hundred men started out after dark to reconnoitre.

On the 14th, Major General commanding First division ordered me to establish my head-quarters at Independence, and scout well from thence.

On the 15th, Major Smith returned. After passing through Independence, he proceeded about twenty-nine miles on the Lexington road, and making a circuit towards Snid Bar and Lone Jack, returned by Hickman's Mills, but saw no enemy.

Lieutenant Colonel Walker with his regiment (Sixteenth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry) reported for duty to me, per instructions received from department head-quarters on the same day.

At 2 A. M. on the 17th inst., Major Smith, with two hundred Second Colorado cavalry, and one hundred Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, started toward Lexington, to go, if possible, to the town, and learn what he could. During the day I received a telegram from Major General Curtis, that Major General Deitzler, Kansas State Militia, was sending three regiments Kansas State Militia to report to me and directing to report to General Deitzler by letter, and also to him (General Curtis), direct.

On the 17th, the Fourth, Twelfth, and Nineteenth regiments Kansas State Militia arrived at Independence and reported to me for duty.

On the 10th, Major Smith returned from Lexington. He reported he chased a few stragling bushwhackers out of that town, killing two. He remained some hours in the town and learned that several hundred rebels and guerillas had been in the place but a short time before, and that Shelby was camped with two or three thousand men about six miles east. I regret exceedingly to have to state that the brigade books and papers were lost in the evacuation of Independence on the 21st inst., so that the able report of Major Smith cannot be forwarded with this.

On the 19th, the Fourth and Nineteenth regiments Kansas State Militia were relieved from duty in my brigade and ordered to report to Colonel C. W. Blair at the crossing of the Big Blue, and McLain's Second Colorado battery was ordered to report to me, it arriving about 6 o'clock, p. m., on the evening of the 20th.

On the morning of the 21st, I received orders to march with the Second Colorado cavalry, Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, and First Colorado battery to the support of Colonel Moonlight, commanding Second brigade, First division, who was reported as engaging the enemy at the crossing of the Little Blue, on the Lexington road, leaving the Twelfth Kansas Militia at Independence.

The strength of my brigade was as follows :

Second Colorado cavalry, three hundred and eighty-four men, Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, four hundred men, Second Colorado battery, one hundred and sixteen men ; five three inch rifled guns and one mountain howitzer. Total, nine hundred men and six guns.

Left Independence at 10 o'clock, a. m., and reached Colonel Moonlight's rear near the Little Blue (distance eight miles) in about one hour. I then received orders to place the Sixteenth Kansas cavalry on the left of Colonel Moonlight's brigade, and the battery near the centre of the line, and the Second Colorado cavalry on the right. We immediately dismounted and advanced into the bluffs, and became at once engaged, the enemy having crossed the stream before our arrival.

We held our ground, advancing slightly, for some time, and at one time drove the enemy in great confusion, but their force being too overwhelmingly large, they threw a large body to our right which compelled the right to give slowly back. The brigade was then ordered to fall back slowly to their horses, the battery receiving orders from division head-quarters, direct.

After mounting, I received orders to cover the retreat of the army to Independence, with the Second Colorado cavalry and the Sixteenth Kansas, assisted by a portion of the

Eleventh Kansas cavalry, which I did by forming half my command in line across the road on some favorable spot and while that was engaging the enemy, formed the remainder of the force in a similar manner in their rear, and when the first line became too hotly engaged, marched it back by companies to the rear of the second line. I thus kept checking the enemy, giving the army time to pass through Independence safely, not reaching there myself until nearly sundown, when I was ordered to march my command across the Big Blue on the Kansas City road (distant six miles), and go into camp for the night. I reached camp at nine P. M., the horses getting little or no forage, and the men likewise, to a great extent, without food.

The troops of my brigade behaved splendidly throughout the whole day, and covered the retreat with the coolness of veterans.

I have to mourn the loss of Major J. Nelson Smith (who was commander of the Second Colorado cavalry) and Francis S. Gould, Esq. (volunteer Aid upon the brigade staff) the former being killed instantly, and the latter mortally wounded. They were brave, gallant men, and could ill be spared.

Early in the morning of the 22d the Sixteenth Kansas cavalry was ordered to the support of Colonel Jennison, commanding First brigade, First division, at Byrom's Ford, and did not report to me again during the day. McLain's battery was placed in position on the right of Colonel Moonlight's brigade, on the brow of the bluffs immediately west of the Blue, the Second Colorado cavalry and the Twelfth Kansas State Militia were formed in line on the left of the Second brigade, with the exception of six companies of the Second Colorado cavalry, which I was ordered to take across the Blue as skirmishers.

This battallion remained skirmishing with the enemy until late in the afternoon, taking some prisoners, and did not report back to the brigade until the next morning. About 2 P. M. I received orders to march my brigade immediately to Westport (seven miles distant), which place I

reached by the gallop in an hour, with the Second Colorado cavalry, Twelfth Kansas State Militia, and McLain's battery. I then received orders to form on the hill towards Kansas City, where the brigade remained in line during the night, with the exception of the battery, which was ordered to Kansas City, but reported back again by daylight of the 23d. The men brought corn to their horses and rested alternately, but did not unsaddle.

Early on the morning of the 23d, I was ordered with my brigade through Westport. I formed a portion of the Second Colorado cavalry and Sixteenth Kansas on the hill immediately south of Brush Creek, with one section of the battery, but soon after advanced to the edge of the prairie, and took up position across the road, to the left of Colonel Jenison's brigade, the section of the battery being placed in the road. For a while the firing was exclusively artillery, but the rebels advancing, the whole line was soon engaged and kept up a very steady and galling fire for two hours or more. The enemy was repeatedly repulsed, and one very bold and dashing charge made by them down the road upon the battery was very handsomely repulsed by portions of the Sixteenth Kansas cavalry and Second Colorado cavalry, the counter charge being led in person by Lieutenant Colonel Walker, commander Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, and in which charge he received a very severe wound in the foot. Finally, in the face of a very heavy fire from the First brigade, the enemy forced a very large column into a small copse to the right of my brigade and commenced a flank fire upon me. Not having force enough to dislodge the enemy from their new position, I fell back towards Brush Creek, forming line upon each ridge, until I received orders to form north of the creek, the battery meanwhile having been placed in a commanding position on the hill. After forming on the bottom, I sent part of the Second Colorado cavalry on foot as skirmishers through the woods. The Twelfth Kansas State Militia were also sent into the woods on foot, doing good service. The footmen kept steadily driving the enemy until the advance of the whole division was

ordered, when our old position was regained, and after a short fight the enemy was completely routed and fled precipitately from the field.

Every one advanced as speedily as possible, continuing the pursuit until dark. Colonel Jennison, with portions of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Kansas cavalry and Second Colorado cavalry in the extreme advance, ran on to the main body of the enemy and kept up a rapid fire upon them from his line of skirmishers, but the enemy opening a battery of rifled guns upon him, he, of course, fell back, having no guns to respond with.

The brigade went into camp for the night at Little Santa Fe, with the exception of the force with Colonel Jennison, which camped about a mile in advance of division.

As soon as the brigade was reorganized on the morning of the 24th, I started on the line road in pursuit of the rebel army, having the advance for the day. I sent three companies forward as an advance, which did not return to the brigade until the morning of the 26th, at Fort Scott. For an account of their services while absent see enclosure marked "F."

Reached Westport at dark, where a halt was made, giving the men time to kill and eat a beef. After forming the brigade in line, I was ordered to wait until Major General Pleasanton's division passed to the front.

Started again about 2 o'clock, A. M., of the 25th, and halted until daylight about three miles north of Trading Post, Kansas. Distance traveled, about sixty miles. After feeding the horses I took up the line of march, being in the rear of the First brigade, which position I kept during the day.

After following the enemy's trail seven or eight miles beyond where they left Fort Scott road, I received orders to proceed to Fort Scott, reaching there about 11 o'clock, P. M., and camped for the night. Total distance traveled during the day, probably sixty-five miles.

At Fort Scott, on the morning of the 26th inst. I reorganized my brigade, a great many of the horses having

given out in the last two days. I left one section of the battery there, putting eight horses to the guns and caissons which I took with me, again commenced the pursuit about noon, the time being consumed in drawing horses for the battery from Major Hunt, Chief of artillery, Army of the Border.

From this time until the afternoon of the 28th, we continued marching night and day, with but short halts and small feeds, following, at all times, the trail of the enemy.

About 10 o'clock A. M., my brigade being in the advance, we discovered the enemy's rear in the edge of the woods, north of Shoal Creek. I sent two companies of the Sixteenth Kansas cavalry into the woods as skirmishers, who soon reported that the party was about two hundred strong, and retreating fast. I then pressed rapidly forward, and upon reaching Granby, ascertained that they had just passed through, and that Price's whole army was doubtless at New-tonia, distant five miles. The advance soon reported that the enemy's train was in sight and but few men visible. I hurried forward at a gallop and when within two miles of the town saw the rear of the rebel train entering the woods beyond the town, on the Cassville road. The battery was immediately planted on the bluffs and commenced throwing shell, while the Sixteenth Kansas cavalry and the Second Colorado cavalry were formed in two lines and ordered to charge down towards the enemy's train, the charge being led by the Major General commanding First division, in person. We advanced at a rapid gallop with skirmishers in front until we came upon the main body of the enemy, who were formed three lines deep, and their front line dismounted.

The action was commenced in earnest, and for three hours, with less than nine hundred men (my brigade consisting of less than six hundred men) we contended with an enemy of ten times our number, and closed the day by driving them from the field, leaving their dead and wounded in our hands.

During the hottest of the engagement the enemy threw a large body of men upon our left, their fire telling fearfully

upon our small force, but the left, commanded by Major Ketner (commanding Sixteenth Kansas cavalry), never wavered or flinched, but answered shot for shot.

The brigade remained upon the field until 9 o'clock, P. M., when it went into camp in the town of Newtonia.

During the 29th inst. the brigade marched with the division to Neosho, returning to Newtonia the next day, October 30th.

On the 31st inst., after issuing rations and amunition to the command, I started forward again on the enemy's trail, the footmen of my brigade marching with the transportation, under command of Lieutenant M. Hennion, Second Colorado cavalry. My brigade numbered at this time not more than four hundred and fifty or five hundred men, so many horses having given out from excessive and long continued marches, without sufficient forage and water.

On the 4th inst. we arrived at Fayetteville, relieving that place from the determined attacks of the rebel General Fagan, commanding division in General Price's army.

About noon on the 8th inst. arrived on the banks of the Arkansas river, fifteen miles above Fort Smith, as the rear of the rebel army was disappearing in the woods beyond. The battery was placed upon the north side of the river and shelled the opposite woods, with what success is not known.

The brigade was disbanded on the 9th inst., per special field orders First division, Army of the Border, dated November 9th, 1864, and I was ordered with my regiment (Second Colorado cavalry), to report for escort duty, to Major General S. R. Curtis, commanding department of Kansas.

Total distance traveled by the Fourth brigade from October 16th, when it was organized, until November 9th, the date of special field orders disbanding the brigade, must be over four hundred miles.

The casualties of the brigade cannot be exactly ascertained, but are reported by subordinate commanders as follows:—

Killed and wounded.

Second Colorado cavalry,	-	-	-	70
Sixteenth Kansas	"	-	-	67
Second Colorado battery,	-	-	-	5
Total,	-	-	-	<u>142</u>

The campaign just closed was the most severe upon men and horses that any of the troops comprising my brigade were ever engaged in, as regards marching, scarcity of food, forage, and water, inclement weather, etc., yet *all*, both men and officers, endured unflinchingly hardships and privations, and on all occasions behaved with the coolness of veterans when under fire.

Where all did well it is difficult to particularise, but I cannot forbear to mention Lieutenant Colonel Walker, of the Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, who, though painfully wounded at the battle of Westport, continued in the saddle until the brigade reached Fort Scott.

Major Ketner, of the Sixteenth, also displayed at all times great coolness and gallantry, being always in the thickest of the fight, and having, at Newtonia, two horses shot from under him, and in fact all the officers and men of the Sixteenth did splendidly throughout the whole campaign.

Major Jesse L. Pritchard, commanding the Second Colorado cavalry, behaved with conspicuous bravery and coolness at all times and especially at the battle of Newtonia, where he ably obeyed all my orders, and held the line unflinchingly after the carbine ammunition had been expended.

Captain W. H. Green, who commanded the (Second) Colorado cavalry, from the death of Major Smith (during the battle of Little Blue), until the morning of the 24th, when Major Pritchard took command, did excellent service, and is deserving of great praise.

Credit is due to Captain W. D. McLain for the skillful manner in which he manœuvred his battery, and prompt obedience to all my orders.

I must not omit to mention Colonel Treat of the Sixteenth Kansas State Militia, who assisted and cooperated with me very heartily, and at the battle of Westport did good service with his regiment dismounted.

To my staff officers I am greatly indebted for the promptness with which my orders were promulgated, and for their utter disregard to all personal safety and comfort.

Adjutant Robert S. Roe, A. A. A. G., and Lieutenant Wm. Wise, and J. Fenton Seymour, aids-de-camp, were especially valuable to me, as I could at all times rely upon their coolness, judgment, and experience in directing movements that were made not under my personal observation.

Surgeon I. J. Pollock and his assistants, Akin and Vance, were also untiring in their efforts at attending to the wounded of the brigade.

For the minutes of the campaign, I would respectfully invite your attention to the following enclosures, viz :

Report of Lieutenant Colonel Walker, commanding Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, marked "A."

Report of Major James Ketner, commanding Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, marked "B."

Report of Captain W. H. Green, commanding Second Colorado cavalry, marked "C."

Report of Major Jesse L. Pritchard, commanding Second Colorado cavalry, marked "D."

Report of Captain W. D. McLain, commanding Independent Colorado battery, marked "E."

Report of Captain E. W. Kingsbury, commanding Second battalion, Colorado cavalry, marked "F."

In closing my report I have to thank the Major General commanding the First division, Army of the Border, for the many favors bestowed upon me and my brigade.

I have the honor to be, captain,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[Signed.]

J. W. H. FORD,

*Colonel Second Colorado cavalry, commanding Fourth
Brigade First Division, Army of the Border.*

Official copy,

GEO. S. HAMPTON, *Captain and A. A. G.*

Report of Charles W. Blair of the Events of the 25th of October, 1864.

HEADQUARTERS SUB DISTRICT, No. 2, SOUTH KANSAS, }
FORT SCOTT, KANSAS, January 1, 1865. }

MAJOR GENERAL S. R. CURTIS, *Commanding Department of Kansas, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas*—*Sir*:—As volunteer Aid de Camp on your staff, I have the honor to transmit herewith, according to your direction, a brief report of events of the 25th of October last, all of which I *saw*, and part of which I *was*.

On the march of the night before, from Westport down, my brigade occupied the rear of the column, and when the column halted, and no word was sent to the rear to bivouac, I supposed that the advance had come to the timber of the Marias des Cygnes, and was clearing the obstructions which all thought the enemy would create to oppose our forward movement. Accordingly, we waited patiently, standing by our horses' heads, without fire, food or forage.

Towards morning, becoming chilled by the rain and cold night air, I mounted my horse, and, accompanied by an orderly, rode forward in search of fire; about midway up the column, I found a fire, and had scarcely succeeded in warming my benumbed limbs, when the sound of artillery called my attention to the front. I immediately started forward, and as soon as it was light enough to distinguish objects, I saw by the broken and slippery condition of the roads that it was impossible for the rear to get over the river till a late hour in the morning; and sending my orderly back with directions to Lieutenant Beam, my Assistant Adjutant General, to keep the brigade closed up to the main column, I hurried to the front to see if I could be of any service in some other capacity—at the same time if a general battle was imminent, in which all our troops would be engaged, I would have the advantage of observing the ground before the arrival of my force, and be ready to take command of them in action.

Ascending the high mound overlooking the stream, I saw the skirmish line about mid-way from its base to the timber, pushing steadily to the front. I immediately started

forward to overtake them (having been joined in the meantime by Sergeant-Major Repstein, of my brigade), and just as I entered the timber, I was met by Major R. H. Hunt, chief of artillery on your staff, who announced that there were neither enemy nor obstructions on the north bank of the river. Pushing forward, I perceived the skirmishers just as they received the fire of the enemy's skirmish line on the south bank.

The skirmish line here waited till the advance regiment came up, which I think was the First Arkansas Cavalry; with it came also Colonel S. J. Crawford, of your volunteer staff, and Captain R. J. Hinton, Aid de Camp, serving on the staff of Major General Blunt.

On crossing the river, we found, to our surprise, no obstructions save two trees, which had been felled in the road, and which were rapidly removed by the advancing troops.

Emerging from the timber, I observed a body of men about a half a mile distant on our left flank, drawn up in line in front of a farm fence. Some discussion arose as to whether this was an enemy or a portion of our own troops who might have crossed below the main ford. I informed the officer who seemed to be in command, that I was satisfied there was no ford so close below the main one, and called his attention to the further fact that the line displayed no guidons, a sure sign, in my estimation, that they were the enemy. The question was settled by the charge being sounded, and half way to the enemy's line we flushed his skirmishers concealed in the high grass under the brow of a gentle declivity, who fired a hasty volley and retreated on the main line, which moved off by the left flank at full speed, our flying squadrons in rapid pursuit.

The line of battle was formed, facing the west, and about one and a half miles further on, another line was formed, facing the north, strengthened by two rifled guns and one small smooth bore, the right of the line resting on the skirt of timber which ran up a small ravine from the main river, and the left on a knoll, on the summit of which was a log cabin.

Here the artillery played pretty fiercely, but they fired mostly with solid shot, seeming to reserve their shell, as if it were scarce, although the screaming of the shell through the air was by no means unfrequent.

At this point (Colonel Crawford and Captain Hinton still being with me), I sent Sergeant-Major Repstein back with instructions to find the officer in charge of the First artillery, and request him to hurry forward with his guns. Finding that the artillery did not arrive as soon as we hoped, and fearing the enemy would not stand much longer, we undertook conjointly to bring about a charge in the hope of capturing the guns.

The regiment that had first crossed the river (the Second Arkansas) advanced gallantly to the charge on our right, but was not promptly supported by the regiment on our left, which was a Missouri militia regiment, and consequently were compelled to forego the design.

At this time, Major Hunt came to the front and galloped up to the commanding officer of the Arkansas regiment, and told him that "the general expected him to capture those guns."

"I would have done so five minutes ago, sir, if I had been properly supported," was the reply.

"I will see that you are supported," said the major, and turned off to bring up the regiment on the left. As it came up on line, both regiments charged in gallant style, other troops coming close on their rear, and the enemy broke to the rear before coming to close quarters, leaving their small gun on the field, which we took; but the delay enabled them, by rapidly limbering to the rear, to save their Parrott guns, which were the prizes we really aimed at.

After a short delay, and moving on some distance, we saw another line of battle formed upon a high eminence, apparently about two miles off, but as we approached it, after firing a few shots from their rifled guns, they moved off rapidly again to the rear.

I here fell in with Major Weed, of your staff, and Sur-

geon Walgematte, and we advanced in front of the left of our line.

On an eminence in rear of where this last line of battle was formed, we came across an abandoned wagon, the first I had seen since the burning one just south of their camp. Finding a lot of books, letters and wafers of various kinds in the wagon, we stopped a few minutes to make a hasty examination of the contents, and on resuming our forward movement, I observed that the brigade on our right was some distance past us, although we were in the advance of the one on our end of the line. Arriving on the table land which forms the summit level between the Marias des Cygnes and Osage, we again saw the enemy's line, and this time it was evident he was in full force, although his whole line was not visible, his right being behind the brow of the hill which descended into Mine Creek. Meanwhile, the gallant brigade on our right was steadily advancing, with skirmishers well out, though brought to a check, apparently unsupported, in the face of this overwhelming force. The artillery was playing with great rapidity and considerable effect. I looked at the enemy's line, close, seried and vomiting fire. I looked at the dauntless little brigade which was unflinching and steadfast in its front, and then turned to the rear, and it seemed a fearful distance to the head of the supporting column.

I called Major Weed's attention to the situation, and he galloped to the rear to hurry forward reinforcements, as it was evident that here the battle was to be fought, and the desperate issue joined on which the fate of the south tier of Kansas at least depended.

Advancing alone, to see, if possible, how far their right extended behind the cover of the hill, the bursting in the air, and the tearing of the earth soon satisfied me that they were firing canister at an enemy they supposed was advancing on their right and hidden from view by the acclivity immediately in their front. This conviction on their part, I am satisfied, saved the brigade on our right, as a rapid and vigorous advance at that time would either have overwhelmed or utterly put it to rout.

I moved to the right to get out of the sweep of the canister, and then advanced till their extreme right was developed to view, and then rode rapidly to the rear, with a tolerable full understanding of the situation. Meeting Colonel Crawford but a short distance back, I explained matters to him very hastily, told him they had commenced canister firing, and urged him to go back and hurry up the troops, as he was acquainted with most of the brigade officers of General Pleasanton's division, and I had no acquaintance whatever with any of them.

He agreed to do so, and again started to the rear. I then moved off to the brigade on our right, and when I arrived there, found it engaged at long range, and halted for our other troops to come up on line.

The enemy's artillery was playing on the line with fearful effect, and we had nothing but musketry to reply; but the men were steady and self-possessed and perfectly easy under the fire.

I don't know how long it was before the other brigade came up. To me it seemed a long time, and I had ridden from this brigade back towards the enemy's right once or twice before it came up. When it did come on line, the whole command advanced to short range, and for a time the fire was incessant and terrific. Both lines seemed like walls of adamant—one could not advance, the other would not recede. The crash of musketry, the scream of shell, the hissing sound of canister and balls mingled with the shouts of the soldiers and the cries of the wounded, set off too by the walls of fire in front, and girdles of steel behind which marked both lines, formed a scene more easily remembered than described.

During this terrible conflict I passed along the whole line and met your gallant staff officers everywhere counselling, encouraging, exhorting and commanding, and the tenor of the whole was *charge!*

It was evident that our only safety was in a successful charge, by which we might capture the guns. At length, the movement commenced, slowly at first, but increasing in velocity until it swept on, resistless as an avalanche—a

rush, a scramble and all was over—the guns were captured, the enemy broken and flying to the rear, while our victorious squadrons were in almost breathless pursuit.

So rapidly was this accomplished that when our left pushed forward into a field on the south side of the ravine the shell from our own artillery was crashing right into their midst. I was to the right of this, but so close that I could not see the result, and also saw Captain Hinton of General Blunt's staff in the midst of our victorious line.

Pushing rapidly forward I witnessed the capture of Major General Marmaduke by Corporal James Dembery, of Company "C," Third Iowa Cavalry.

Marmaduke was endeavoring to rally his men, and Dembery was galloping towards him, occasionally firing at him. Marmaduke evidently mistook him for one of his own men, and started towards him, reproving him for firing on his friends—at least I so judged from what I could see and hear—and so the boy afterwards told me. The boy stopped and coolly waited until Marmaduke got within twenty or thirty yards of him, then covered him with his carbine and ordered him to dismount and surrender or he would fire. Marmaduke dismounted and his horse galloped off.

Seeing that I was an officer, the boy offered to turn him over to me, but I declined being bothered with a prisoner. General Marmaduke then said: "Sir, you are an officer; I claim protection at your hands. I am a general officer—General Marmaduke." I then took charge of him, and informed him that I would protect him until delivered to you as a prisoner of war, at which he seemed very much relieved. The boy then spoke up and said, "Colonel, remember I took him prisoner. I am James Dembery, Corporal of Company 'C,' Third Iowa Cavalry." I told the boy, who was severely wounded in the right forearm, but still grasped his pistol with vigor and energy, to come along also, and he should have the honor of being introduced to you as the captor of Marmaduke. On the way, General Marmaduke complained of being dismounted, and Dembery promptly apologized, saying, "If I had known you

were a general officer, I should have allowed you to remain on horseback." Marmaduke then informed me that he was very faint and weak, and could not walk much further. Meeting a soldier with a lead horse, I took charge of him and mounted the prisoner. Soon after this, I met Major McKinny, of your staff, and proffered to turn the prisoner over to him, but he was too intent on getting to the front, to be troubled with him. On my way back I saw one or two general officers, but preferred delivering my prisoner to the commanding general of the Army of the Border, and you will remember that I accordingly placed him in your own hands, at the same time introducing his captor and giving his full name, company and regiment. This is the true unvarnished story of the capture of General Marmaduke, about which there has been so much misrepresentation in the newspapers. Having rid myself of this responsibility, I again hurried to the front, when I overtook the advance; I found it halted at the foot of the precipitous mounds descending into the Osage Valley. Leaving Colonel Cloud, of your staff, here, Captain Hinton and myself pushed forward on to the skirmish line, away in the advance, almost as far as we could see over the smooth prairie, and on arriving there, we could plainly see the rebel column moving straight in the direction of Fort Scott. At the same time, a small column was effecting a junction with it, which came from a point to our right, higher up the Osage, and which was, most probably, the force now engaged by Colonel Moonlight near Fort Lincoln. The column in our front moved off and disappeared from sight, while our own line still remained stationary in our rear. I picked up an orderly from the skirmish line who belonged to the Second Kansas Cavalry, and sent him back to Colonel Cloud with a message, requesting him to get General Pleasanton to move forward, as I feared for Fort Scott, and at the same time got a citizen, who had come forward with us, to make a detour to the right and try to reach Fort Scott with a verbal message to the commanding officer to hold out to the last, if the enemy struck him, as we were immediately upon his rear. Minutes passed and still our line did not move.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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