

MCCARTER, COLONEL JAMES MAYLAND, of Preston, Maryland, was born in the city of New York, in July, 1827. His parents were of Scotch-Irish lineage. His father, who died in 1840, was a skilled machinist. His mother was Mary A. (Mayland) McCarter. She died in 1864. They were strict members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and gave to their children the example of saintly lives. Soon after his birth the parents of James removed to Philadelphia, from whence, in 1832, on account of the breaking out of the cholera, they removed to Chester County, Pennsylvania, and afterwards to Montgomery County, same State, settling in Norristown, where Mr. McCarter established himself in his trade, with great credit to himself as a first-class mechanic, continuing therein until his death. Before the age of thirteen James had become a good English scholar, and had some knowledge of mathematics and the classics. At nine years of age he joined the Methodist Church; at fourteen was a licentiate in the ministry, and when fifteen years old began to travel a circuit as an itinerant minister within the bounds of the Philadelphia Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was known for several years after this as the boy preacher. In the spring of 1842 he was admitted on trial in the Philadelphia Annual Conference. In 1849 he was ordained Deacon by the venerable Bishop Hedding, and in 1846 was ordained Elder by Bishop Morris. He was successively stationed, after this, at Smyrna, Delaware; at First Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; at Port Carbon, Pennsylvania; at Asbury, West Philadelphia; at St. Paul's, Philadelphia; at West Chester, Pennsylvania, and in the pastorate of St. Peter's, in the city of Reading, Pennsylvania, in each of which charges he remained, according to their existing itinerant rule, for two years. Colonel McCarter, early in life, opposed slavery in this country, and wrote in several leading papers, able articles against the system. In 1860 he wrote the work entitled *Border Methodism and Border*

complement of serving in his regiment as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Lebanon Infantry, subsequently known as the Ninety-third Pennsylvania Volunteers. In October the regiment went to Washington and was brigaded with General Peck. It accompanied the Army of the Potomac to the Peninsula, and was in the battle of Williamsburg. The regiment was complimented in orders from Generals Peck and Couch, Brigade and Division Commanders. In this action the regiment lost heavily, both of its officers and men. May 31, at the battle of Fair Oaks, his regiment, after three hours' hard fighting on the extreme left, in which one hundred and forty-three officers and men were killed and wounded, and thirty captured, was ordered to the right of the Williamsburg road, and sustained an impetuous attack by the Confederate troops, after Casey's division was driven back. In this action the Colonel lost two horses, killed under him, was wounded by a minié ball slightly, and, at five o'clock in the evening, while endeavoring to put in a fresh line of his own and the fragments of other regiments, was prostrated by a shell, which rendered him unconscious for thirty-six hours. He had been carried, supposed to be mortally wounded, to Savage Station, and thence sent to White House. By the action of an electric battery, under the direction of Surgeon-General King, he was restored to consciousness. This shock was so serious, affecting both body and mind, as to produce the general belief among medical officers that he would be unable to resume the command of his regiment. After being in hospitals at Fortress Monroe and Baltimore, he however again returned to his regiment, and was with it in the seven days' fight before Richmond, closing with the action of Malvern Hill. The Colonel continued to command the Ninety-third, with but a short interval, until after the battle of Gettysburg. He was in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, South Mountain, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, a serious relapse occurring at the latter place