

CHAPTER II.  

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These companies constituted the regiment that was to cover itself with so much glory on that hot and fateful July afternoon at Manassas, but it was subsequently increased by two other companies, I and C (Second), of which mention will be made hereafter.

The regiment numbered some seven hundred men, but only two of the companies were uniformed — those of Murray and Dorsey, from Richmond. The rest were clad in the garb in which they had left home, but it was sadly changed. Sleeping out in the mud and rain had despoiled the citizens' dress, and worn it threadbare, and in many cases it was in tatters. Looking at these men, Sir John Falstaff might have said : " I'll not march through with them, that's flat," but there all resemblance ends between them and the fat knight's motley company. They were yeomen's sons, brave and warm-hearted ; many of them were men of education and refinement ; they never murmured or complained, and they cheerfully responded to the call to their various camp duties.

Lieutenant-Colonel George H. Steuart took virtual command of the camp, and through his unceasing and tireless energy they soon became proficient in company movements.

But at this time a good angel appeared in the camp in the person of a woman — Mrs. Bradley T. Johnson.

Seeing the condition of affairs, this noble and unselfish woman set out for North Carolina, her native State, escorted by Captain Nicholas and Lieutenant George M. E. Shearer, and reached Raleigh in safety after overcoming many difficulties. The morning after her arrival she made her appearance before Governor Ellis and the Council of State, stated the necessities of the Maryland troops, and in a feeling manner appealed to them for assistance. The Governor and Council immediately presented her with five hundred Mississippi rifles and ten thousand rounds of cartridges.

Before Mrs. Johnson left Raleigh a public meeting was called under the auspices of the Honorable W. E. Edwards, Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin, and other distinguished men. In addressing the meeting the Honorable Kenneth Raynor said :

" If great events produce great men, so, in the scene before us, we have proof that great events produce great women. It was one that partook more of the romance than of the realities of life. One of our own daughters, raised in the lap of luxury, blessed with the enjoyment of all the elements of elegance and ease, had quit her peaceful home, followed her husband to the camp, and, leaving him