

that he was cut off, and seriously in danger in his rear. Hastily mounting his troops, he moved at a trot down the Peninsula toward the Pamunkey, and crossed the Chickahominy at Meadow Bridge before dark, and went into camp. Colonel Johnson encamped on the other side.

At daylight next morning Colonel Johnson crossed his small force over the river, and came up with Kilpatrick's rear guard near Old Church, which was immediately attacked, and several prisoners taken. Still taking every precaution not to expose to the enemy the smallness of his force, Johnson continued to harrass him, and drove his rear guard through Old Church in confusion. Here, thinking himself seriously menaced, Kilpatrick formed line of battle. It was too ridiculous — three thousand men in battle array to fight sixty men ! Moving a regiment in his rear, he compelled Johnson to fall back half a mile, but as soon as this returned to the main body he again renewed his attacks upon the unhappy rear guard.

In this way they moved down the Peninsula some miles, when a scout informed Colonel Johnson that a column of the enemy was moving down the road immediately in his rear. He was thus between two forces. Dismounting his men, and deploying them in the woods on each side of the road, he awaited their approach. Upon perceiving him, they made a charge and went through his thin line, not, however, without losing forty-five men and horses.

This proved to be a remnant of Dahlgren's marauders, four hundred strong, laden with plunder, much of which was abandoned in their flight, and fell into Johnson's hands, and many articles of value were by him afterward returned to the rightful owners.

From their statement, it appeared that Dahlgren, not receiving an answer to the dispatch sent to Kilpatrick, and which was fortunately intercepted by Johnson, as already seen, started with a hundred men to find him, but failed to get across the Pamunkey at Dabney's Ferry, owing to the destruction of the boats, as has been stated, and in his endeavors to escape through King and Queen County had been intercepted by Lieutenant James Pollard, of Company H, Ninth Virginia Cavalry, who had gotten together eight or ten of his men, and a company of boys under Captain R. H. Bagby. In the fight that ensued Dahlgren was killed and most of his command captured.

Kilpatrick, finding the expedition a failure and believing himself pressed by a superior force, although but sixty sabres were at his heels, made for the lower ferries of the Pamunkey, but failed to cross for the same reason that Dahlgren had, and finally reached Tunstall's Station and joined the forces under Butler, having been followed the whole way by the Maryland cavalry.

Colonel J. Thomas Scharf, in his "History of Maryland," gives the following