

## SECOND MARYLAND CAVALRY.



IT is impossible to write a history of the Second Maryland Cavalry, for no records concerning it, of its organization, or of its exploits can be found after careful search of the Bureau of War Records in Washington. Harry Gilmor left in his "Four Years in the Saddle" a rattling, head-over-heels, sabre-to-sabre tale of adventure and of exploits which is, in the main, true. Told from the standpoint of an actor in them, sometimes the perspective is a little out of proportion, and shows things in somewhat different relations to each other than other actors in the same scenes saw them; but this is usual and natural in all descriptions of action. Men see things differently, from different points of view.

The Second Maryland Cavalry was Gilmor's Battalion, and Gilmor's Battalion was Harry Gilmor, and no account of one can be given without including the other. It was affectionately known among the men as "the band." It has not left a muster roll — that is, I have not been able to find any.

Kyd Douglas says of Gilmor's commission: "He was just as likely to use it to light a pipe as to have preserved it or taken any care of it."

Early in 1862 (April 21) the Confederate Congress passed "an act to organize bands of partisan rangers," whereby the President was authorized to commission such officers as he may deem proper with authority to form bands of partisan rangers, in companies, or regiments, either as infantry or cavalry.

These partisan rangers, after being regularly received into service, were "to receive the same pay, rations and allowance as regular soldiers. They were to be paid for stores or arms captured from the enemy and delivered to any quartermaster at such places as may be designated by a commanding general."

Under this law many "bands" of partisan rangers were raised, but so irregularly was the service conducted that no records exist of most of them.

The most illustrious were "Mosby's men," who, under their able and gallant leader, taught a new lesson in war, of how efficient irregular troops may be made, for Mosby and his men, never exceeding three hundred in ranks or on rolls, kept thousands of Federal troops guarding the railroads and lines of communication of the army with its base, their bridges or culverts, and chasing the phantom guerrilla through the passes of the Blue Ridge and over the hills of Fauquier or Loudoun.

But "Gilmor's band" did efficient work over in the Valley. Not a wagon