

heavy piece of ordnance, followed by the explosion of a shell overhead, warned the invaders that they were not to be left in undisturbed possession of Bolivar Heights. Shell after shell came from two or three Federal batteries in rapid succession, and the reconnoissance (for that was all it was), having fulfilled its mission of conveying to the enemy the impression that Jackson intended to cross into Maryland at that point, General Steuart ordered Colonel Johnson to withdraw.

This expedition under command of General Steuart evidently frightened the Federals in Harper's Ferry out of their wits, and carried consternation to the authorities in Washington. It is amusing to read some of the many dispatches forwarded to Stanton by one General R. Saxton, then in command at Harper's Ferry, one or two of which we will quote :

HARPER'S FERRY, June 1, 1862.

*The Honorable E. M. Stanton :*

The enemy moved up in force last evening about 7 o'clock, in a shower of rain, to attack. I opened on them from the position which the troops occupy above the town and from the Dahlgren battery on the mountains. The enemy then retired. Their pickets attacked ours twice last night. A volley from General Hough's breastworks drove them back. We lost one man killed. My men are overworked. Stood by their guns all night in the rain. What has become of Generals Fremont and McDowell ?

R. SAXTON, *Brigadier-General.*

HARPER'S FERRY, May 31, 1862.

*The Honorable E. M. Stanton :*

Telegraph General McDowell to press on with all possible haste. All my pickets driven in last night. Enemy in force in my front, and, I believe, on both flanks. My position is strong. Shall try to hold it.

R. SAXTON, *Brigadier-General.*

Stanton telegraphs Saxton :

WASHINGTON, May 31, 1862.

*Brigadier-General Saxton :*

Report immediately by telegraph the particulars of the disgraceful conduct of Maulsby's Regiment in abandoning their post last night.

EDWIN M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*