

and the remainder were driven in great confusion more than two miles back upon their infantry. But, alas ! it was a dearly bought victory, as will be seen.

Whilst in pursuit of the fleeing enemy Ashby observed off to the right, isolated from any support, what appeared to be a regiment of infantry. He conceived the idea of capturing or destroying this force, and upon his return from the pursuit of the cavalymen he reported what he had seen to General Ewell, and urged that General to give him infantry enough to accomplish that object. After much hesitation General Ewell reluctantly granted General Ashby's request, and placed the Second Virginia Brigade at his disposal. It was a very small brigade, under command of General George H. Steuart, and to this brigade the First Maryland had been temporarily attached.

Placing himself at their head, General Ashby moved up the road some distance in the direction of Harrisonburg and then struck off through the woods on his right. At this point, feeling that he should soon be in the presence of the enemy, General Ashby called upon Colonel Johnson for two companies of the First Maryland, which he wished to throw out as skirmishers. Companies D and G, under the command respectively of Captains James R. Herbert and Wilson C. Nicholas, were given him, and with these he continued his advance, closely followed by the Fifty-eighth Virginia. It was not long before the enemy was encountered. The Fifty-eighth was then ordered to the support of the two Maryland companies, so desperately battling with overwhelming odds, and for a few minutes the fighting was very severe, and the little Fifty-eighth was evidently getting the worst of it. In those few minutes the noble Ashby had rendered up his life, after having had his horse killed under him. In the meantime the reserve companies of the First Maryland, under Colonel Johnson, had changed its position from the right to the left, and the men were lying on the ground with the right flank of the regiment toward the enemy. At this critical moment General Ewell rode up to Colonel Johnson and exclaimed : " Charge with the First Maryland, Colonel Johnson, and end this miserable affair ! "

Calling his command to " Attention ! " Colonel Johnson filed it to the right and faced it to the left, so as to bring it directly opposite the enemy, and then charged through the woods. Gallantly the Maryland boys dashed forward with a shout, and as they reached a slight elevation in the ground they received a galling fire from the enemy, who were posted behind a fence that separated the woods from a large open field. Some of the best and bravest of them fell at this fire, and Colonel Johnson was down, struggling to free himself from his horse, which had been killed, shot through the head. He was up in a minute in front of his line, and under a heavy fire this handful of brave men never faltered for a moment, and the next instant the crack of their deadly Mississippi rifles told that they were face to face with the enemy. The battle was of short duration, and