

## CHAPTER II.

The Second Maryland passed the winter of 1862-63 at various points in the Valley, notably at Lacey's Springs, Edenburg, Newmarket, Woodstock and Harrisonburg. It was a severe winter, and the men were much exposed, not having any tents, and their only shelter consisted of rude sheds made of brush and leaves, which were designated "shebangs." Notwithstanding this fact, there was comparatively little sickness — not near so much as there had been in the First Maryland the year before, when tents were plentiful. Very many of the men did not even avail themselves of this protection, but simply built a fire and, rolling themselves in their blankets, lay down before it and slept soundly until the reveille awoke them in the morning. Indeed, it was no unusual thing to see several hundred men arise from a covering of a foot of snow that had fallen during the night.

Whilst they were not engaged with the enemy at any time during this period, still their duties were very arduous, as often the command was compelled to make long marches, and some of them through blinding snowstorms. A large quantity of pig iron was stored in the furnaces near Edenburg, and as it was of great value to the Confederate Government General Jones organized expeditions for its removal.

On March 26, 1863, there was an alarm in the camp of the Second Maryland, then encamped near Edenburg, which went to prove the efficiency and discipline of the command. Early in the morning of that day Captain F. A. Bond, entirely upon his own responsibility, attacked and captured a Federal picket near Kernstown. The alarm being given, Captain Bond's little party was quickly pursued by a large body of the enemy's cavalry. A courier was sent back by Major Ridgely Brown, in command of the First Maryland Cavalry, to notify General Jones of their approach. This courier had first to pass the camp of the Second Infantry, where he gave the alarm, and although the men were about camp performing their various duties, in five minutes after the long roll began to beat every man was in his place in line, and the command was on the move to meet the enemy. Of this affair General Jones, in his official report says :

"The courier, passing the camp of the Maryland Infantry, gave information, and Lieutenant-Colonel James R. Herbert and his noble men, without waiting for orders, seized their arms and flew to the protection of our trains in quest of forage about Woodstock. Their conduct on this occasion is worthy of the highest praise."\*

On April 21, 1863, General Jones broke camp at Lacey's Springs, with all his available force, to make an expedition to West Virginia. The object of the

\* For full account of the fight, see cavalry.