

FROM THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH PENNA. REGIMENT.

Special Correspondence of the Inquirer

CAMP EIGHTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT P. V.,
NEAR FLETCHER'S CHAPEL, Va., Feb. 5, 1863.

Our camp was thrown into a state of excitement yesterday on account of an announcement having been made, from an authentic source, that our regiment was to be consolidated with that of the Eleventh Kansas Iowa Volunteers, under the command of Col. COULTER. This announcement was no less surprising than unwelcome. Col. COULTER is an officer of undoubted military ability, but the Eighty-eighth Regiment's regimental organization, and thereby its high and hard-earned reputation, unexcelled by any in the service, must sink into significance. The excitement consequent upon this announcement had scarcely ceased when an "O. R." came discharging from the service of the United States on account of disability from wounds received at the battle of Antietam, our beloved and highly esteemed commander, Colonel GEORGE W. GILE. At the breaking out of the Rebellion, GEORGE W. GILE, prompted by a love for his country, and a consciousness that the Union should be maintained, entered the service as a private in Colonel MONTGOMERY'S regiment; but ere the regiment had left the city, GILE was commissioned a lieutenant, and before the expiration of the three months' term of service, he was solicited to accept the position of Major of the Eighty-eighth Regiment. At Cedar Mountain, Major GILE, rushing fearlessly to the rescue of the colors of the Forty-sixth Pennsylvania Volunteers, which regiment was in a measure annihilated, returned to his own regiment, and placing the colors in the hands of one of our men, stated that we had two sets of colors to protect, those of the Forty-sixth and our own. The enthusiasm infused was unbounded and can only be appreciated by those present on the occasion. Major GILE was the first to discover the retreat of the Rebels from Cedar Mountain, being officer of the picket, and having occasion to advance near the Rebel lines with a squad of ten infantry and four cavalry, discovered and drove the enemy's pickets back to within gun-shot of their main army. This discovery being made, and reported at headquarters, preparations were immediately made for an advance of our army.

At the battle of Bull Run, on the 30th of July, after the regiment had been in action for half an hour, Lieutenant-Colonel JOSEPH A. McLEANS, then in command of the regiment, fell mortally wounded. Major GILE immediately assumed command, and in the post he held at the battle of Antietam. Here he entered the field with the regiment in column by division, and whilst under a deadly fire of artillery and infantry, deployed the regiment as perfectly and coolly as if on Lattinon dund. Generals who witnessed the movement have been loud in their praise of GILE'S bravery and coolness on this occasion. The regiment had been under a perfect shower of leaden hail for half an hour, when a round ball struck the Major in the left thigh and he fell, and as I suppose, mortally wounded. For brave, soldier-like and officer-like conduct, Governor CURRIE, upon the acceptance of Col. GEORGE P. McLEAN'S resignation, and on the solicitation of General's RICHETTS and LOWERS, commissioned GEORGE W. GILE Colonel of the Eighty-eighth Regiment. The Colonel's wounds, however, proved of too serious a nature to permit his entering the field again at an early day, hence his discharge from the service. I learn the Colonel's discharge was unexpected, as well as desired by him, though he cheerfully submits to the will of the Department, which has, however, cast a lasting gloom over our regiment.

The roads continue in an almost impassable condition, except those over which subsistence is transported. HOOKER'S wise precaution in this Department has kept the army well supplied with provisions.