

We are permitted to publish the following extract from a letter written by a member of Co. K, 154th Regt., to a friend in Versailles—Eos J. * * * I am quite sure there was a great lack of generalship in the battle of Chancellorville on the 2d inst., and circumstances point strongly to Gen. Howard as one of the delinquents on that (to us,) unfortunate day. We had been menaced on our right flank all that day, and had been informed that Jackson was there in force, why in the name of God we were not ordered to change our front so as to face him, is more than I can understand. I never cherished the notion of being shot in the back, for in my idea of warfare, it is conclusive evidence that a person shot in this manner is a coward; but there are exceptions to this rule, for in the battle of Saturday there was a whole corps drawn up for the express purpose of being thus shot down. Curse such stupidity! and Gen. Howard was on the ground with us all the time until 3 o'clock, when he left to march the only brigade off the field, that we could rely on for assistance, and then came back to quarters just as our right had been outflanked, surprised, thrown into confusion and were falling in every direction. I do not know but this was "military," but I don't see the point. We as a corps are demoralized, and a disgrace to the army of the Potomac, or at least we are said to be. I, for one, don't relish the name, but I am forced to bear it being one of that body. In speaking of "it," some reports say and truly too, that had it not been for the 1st brigade (Gen. Bushbeck's,) the artillery and all the trains belonging to the corps would have fallen into the enemy's hands, and here let me further state that had it not been for some of the Irish comprising three companies in the 73d Pa., together with the 154th, they had scarcely saved them. Our battalion with the help of those brave sons of Erin, held the ground till every dutch "sour krout" had retreated to the woods or had fallen in the attempt. For my part, I have no confidence in the fighting qualities of the Dutch.

* * * Had that brigade that went out and left us that afternoon, been there to support us, I think the battle would have terminated in our favor, for if we could have held them 15 or 20 minutes we would have been supported by the 12th corps and their heavy artillery, which would have driven them to their holes. * * * The Louisiana Tigers set fire to the woods in which were dead and wounded of both armies, theirs far outnumbering ours. Such barbarity is without a parallel in the history of civilized warfare. Some of these were seen burned to a crisp, others partly burned up, and during Saturday night and Sunday, the sufferers could be heard calling for help, but it was useless, for we could not get to them. To-day is Tuesday and very warm. Our ambulances started to go the battle field to bring off the wounded. It is generally admitted by rebel prisoners that their loss is five to our one. The rebels having all their forces concentrated at Chancellorville and Fredericksburg, and being the attacking party lost heavily in proportion to ourselves. It seems to me that they were fairly whipped, but we did not feel disposed to follow up the victory by leaving our intrenchments, through fear of having our supplies cut off or meeting with disaster, yet it is evident that the rebels were badly crippled and I hope it will result in some permanent good for our cause. * * *

I am almost inclined to think that some of our men suffered themselves to be taken prisoners. Perhaps they thought they would be paroled, and not have to march about and fight any more for awhile. I don't know as I blame them much, for we have been dogged about since we have been in Va., more than all the rest of the troops in the Potomac Army; still, I do not wish to be a prisoner, for I do not get any more than I want to eat here, and I suppose by what the prisoners say, that they don't get half enough to eat. * * *

A. L. ROBBINS.

*Query—Had Sigel led the Germans in this engagement, instead of stump-speaking Schurz, would not the result have been different?—Ed.