REACH THE VAN.

Reach the van! let us set the pace
Time to pale some rival race,
Time to pass, inch by inch,
Where a fellow, overwhelmed Reach the van!

Only one, the brave and true—
Fortune's sunbeam—can hope
To be standing with their feet
Where the van is without escape—
Reach the van!

Laurels, dresses and slaves of state,
Are the prizes Fortune sets
Before the active, manly men
Who in proud success leads on—
Reach the van!

Men who made to shine his night,
Men who made to work for light,
Men who made to dare the death
For a fellow, and yet to cede—
Reach the van!

Hard work, but never so dark
Was a cloud that did not hold
Within its folds a silver spark,
Some to place the beaming gold—
Reach the van!

Public look, then, on your proud,
Who are sure to take the crowd
To success each golden hour—
Be the first in all your sphere—
Reach the van!

—New York Ledger.

COL. M'LANE'S BOYS.

STORY OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

Bloody Battles at Gaines' Mill and Malvern Hill—Be the Pendleton—Defense of Little Round Top—In Advance in the Wilderness and Spotsylvania.

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PENNSYLVANIA lost more men killed in the Civil war in proportion to her sports than any other Union state, and the Eighty-third Pennsylvania lost more men killed in battle than any other regiment in the army. Its ranks were filled on the outset and proved recruited from the sons of the best families in the northwest of the state. Some thing in the way of taking it easy or in the ease was good leadership. Its colonel, John H. McLane, was a soldier by born, who had commanded militia troops for many years, and had served as an officer in the Mexican war. He enlisted a partial squad into its ranks.

The Eighty-third was organized in the fall of 1861, drilled in the camps on the Potomac in the winter of 1861-2 and received its "baptism of fire" in front of Yorktown in May, 1862. The first hard fighting encountered was at Gaines' Mill, June 27, 1862. This was one of the bloodiest of all the war on the Confederate side and one of the most stubborn on the Union side. The Eighty-third was placed in reserve, and that regiment never came on near to its commander to hold it. "Haven't have seen no any such work," said Col. McLane. "I intend to hold it."

Darkness took its finish, after walking over McLane's ranks, but the Pennsylvanians fell on until the same brigadier had rendered a second time. The position on the extreme left of the Union army, when it came on the Chickahominy river. The Confederate attack was made on that part by the troops led by Longstreet. The Union center and right were at the time engaged in a fierce battle with Generals A. P. Hill and Stonewall Jackson, and Longstreet's aim was to push his troops through the Union left and sweep down along the river bank to secure the bridges and cut off all chances of retreat.

The Eighty-third lay in the front line behind breastworks of logs hastily built for the occasion. Three times the charges of the Confederates were repulsed by the combined efforts of the infantry and artillery, and then was discovered on the flank of the right that the line had been cut in twain in right, the enemy was advancing from that direction and the position was untenable for the troops there. This made a crisis in the ranks of officers and men. They had fought from behind breastworks against the attacks on the front, but to continue in the same place was to be surrounded and cut to pieces. Yet, how was a single of hard to lead a partial retreat, but there needs moment the Confederates were well advanced Indian fashion, hoping from tree to tree and firing as they advanced. As long as the Pennsylvania Eighty-third was there, and the enemy's bullets had been but light, but under the new order of things he saw almost not rapidly.

Col. McLane was killed instantly by a rifle ball, and about the same time the wound in command, Maj. Naylor, was killed by a shell. Men fell on all sides and the greatest wounded tried valiantly to handle their muskets and keep up the fight while present. In the end the Confederates saw way and the Eighty-third, led by a captain, had a breathing spell for its formation. The enemy had passed along on their flank, upon the left of the army, and the commander of the regiment proposed to work an onslaught from that direction. He faced its line to the east and formed an open field directly in rear of the breastworks previously occupied. The river line, that at the breastworks, had faced west, the second in the south, north, and the third in the open field, faced east. In a short time some companies were soon attacking behind the Eighty-third in the direction whose Union troops had been at the opening of the fight. Thinking that they might be Rebels coming to their relief, the Eighty-third allowed them to approach.

Above parley the troops proceed to be attacked, and the hell again opened. After some delay, firing the regiment leading the regiment ordered a retreat to the old

MAJ. A. W. STARK.
[Killed at Gaines' Mill.]

breastworks in the rear. There at last, security about fresh, they received fire from the fit barricade to defend it from the pursuing. Twenty-five minutes had gone by in the works during the war of time, the forty-third New York and the Nineteenth Michigan, and, saying the Confederates, who had gained some ground, to let the men retreat by scattering. Hence they attempt to move off in retreat, they would be attacked by overwhelming numbers, but to attack and determine the outcome of the field and the rest of the refugees that gathering would enable the enemy not to reach the Union force. The Eighty-third lost in killed, in wounded and in prisoners. The wounding included some killed and many wounded.

The Pennsylvania had a respite from fighting for three days. On the fourth day, the Gaines' Mill, on July 1, it was again called upon to participate with great gallantry in some time was raging near. The Pennsylvania opened on the advancing enemy and nearly scant their ground under a fire that bitterness the ranks rapidly. The enemy wavered and the battery returned to its position and was soon opened fire. Joined on by the regiment that followed the Confederate received the charge and the enemy became bloody in the extreme.

The Pennsylvania lost so rapidly that this gave home—overwhelmed, and the surviving soldiers took some time from the hands of their dead comrades, of whom there were plenty. The loss of the Eighty-third was 37 killed outright, 131 wounded and 18 missing. The slaughter, with the loss at Gaines' Mill, made a total in four days of 403 out of 324 that entered the fight. The killed and those who died of wounds were 101, or one man in every five. The most fatal of the Eighty-third was at Second Bull Run, Aug. 30, 1862. It then numbered 324 men, and was led by Lieut. Col. R. S. Crocutt. In Meade's division of Fitz John Porter's corps, it took part in the charge upon Stonewall Jackson's position on the Sudley Springs road. The advance was made in double quick across an open field, swept by musketry and artillery. Lieut. Col. Campbell, the major and 1 captain were wounded, 5 lieutenants killed and a death list of 31 called up in a brief struggle. The total in killed and wounded was 97. Campbell had been wounded on the head of the regiment at Malvern Hills, and as its commanding officer had been shot down in the fourth time.

At Antietam the Eighty-third escaped lost, as Fredericksburg it charged up to the stone wall to the relief of the storming column, a very daring movement that cost the ranks dear. At Chancellorsville it was another lucky field for the Eighty-third, but at Gettysburg it found a place of honor at Little Round Top, on July 2.

Col. Strong Vincent, who had promoted McLane in the colonelcy, had the brigade of which his regiment formed part, and assumed the responsibility of taking it upon Round Top when that position was about to fall into the hands of the Confederates.

The Eighty-third was posted in the valley between Round Top and Little Round Top, a post selected by the Confederate leader Hood to reach the coveted hill. In that wild nook, there occurred the desperate fighting of the fall. Col. Vincent stood upon a bolt rock to encourage his troops, and he shouted words of fire to inflame the valor that was unchainable round members from the fallen and entered the ranks. The color bearer placed his flagstaff in the crevice of a boulder and piled his color guard. Down was raging a furious all around and the Confederates, regardless of the terrible slaughter in their front ranks, swarmed on the mountain sides

ON ROCKY RIDGE 107.

Capt. Hazlett, whose battery was adding Vincent's woe, was killed at his gun, and Col. O'Rourke, of the One Hundred and Fortieth New York, was shot down as he led his regiment to their support. Col. Vincent was fell with a mortal wound, but the fight went on until Hood's charge was effectually repulsed.

The loss of the regiment was at the death list being 18. The men had fought and disbanding hostilities, and thus the casualties were comparatively slight.

The Eighty-third entered the Wilderness campaign in the spring of 1864, in Bartlett's brigade, Griffin's division, Warren's (Fifth) corps. Bartlett opened the battle at the Wilderness on May 5, and the regiment lost 38 killed and wounded on that field. At Spotsylvania Bartlett again opened the fight. Warren's corps led the march in the attempt to turn the rebel center. The greatest expected to succeed, but nothing came from Sheridan's cavalry support, but when the Eighty-third attempted to break away the opposing rebel line, and the enemy's line was cut in twain, a breathing spell for re-