

From the Seat of War:
For the Beacon.
Greensboro, Va., July 20, 1861.
Our Maker—Dear Sir—All those
you have heard all about the conflicts
between the two armies in Virginia—
You have read learned, perhaps, what
the 5th Regiment of Alabama, "open-
ing the ball" at Fort M. Smith, near
Bristow Court House. Our pickets
engaged their advanced guard on the
17th of July, four miles in advance of
the camp. The Regiment soon march-
ed to our breast-works, not yet finish-
ed, expecting to meet them every mo-
ment. Company B, scouting under
the gallant Capt. Shelly, was sent to
the aid of the guards. These parties
exchanged many times with the Rebels,
and retreated behind our fortifications,
leaving sufficient little injury. We were
already ordered to retreat, and finding
that the troops who supported us, right
and left, had gone, the order was exe-
cuted. We marched in quick time
down the Wadlock Road, in the direc-
tion of Centerville, and crossed Mc-
Lane's Ford, on the Bull's Run Creek,
about 2 o'clock, P. M. *Pretty hard*
march. We remained that night in this
place, where we all slept that night
without tents, and many of us without
blankets. Upon this march, Colonel
Hodes promoted Mr. W. J. Kausobly,
of the "Greensboro Guards," to a po-
sition in the "Color-bearers staff," for
having performed some deed of brave-
ry—willing, I think, as many as the
Yankees. On Thursday we were hold-
ing our position near this place, and
until four the sharp firing in the "Re-
bel fight" at Mitchell's Ford. On Sun-
day, the 21st of July, we marched upon
the field just as the enemy was in full
retreat. We were first ordered to flank
them, but some mistake made in keep-
ing the Rebels, caused us to proceed
rapidly to the scene of action. "If Gen-
l. Powell's Brigade had been permitted to
open a heavy fire upon the disordered
columns of the flying enemy, the route
would have been complete. We will
not regret this, however, as our brave
army had gained glory enough for one
day.
The 4th Alabama Regiment suffered
severely in that contest; yet they set-
tled nobly, retiring after the fight officers
had been all killed or wounded. I learn
that Col. Jones has fled after the bat-
tle. Maj. Scott is not seriously injur-
ed. In the language of President Da-
vis, "This was a glorious but dear-
ly bought victory." Many noble sons of
the South fell on the 21st of July—a
day long to be remembered in the
Southern Confederacy.
I have just seen the Fifth Regiment, or,
as the Yankees call it, the "Bloody
Fifth," has been for the last few weeks
subject to advances and retreats without
ever yet being brought into actual ac-
tion. We have learned, since our re-
treat, that Lincoln's troops, instead of
having captured the 5th Ala. Regiment
with the loss of twenty-seven men—
a glorious victory, that
The "Greensboro Guards" are pre-
sently well at present. Mrs. Gels Kerr,
who has shown us so many favors, has
just arrived in camp. She is from
Chillicothe Court House, where she at-
tends our sick.
Yours truly,
M. S. RAMSEY."

5th AL Ramsey



Clipped By:

hjs21

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