

Major Woodward has kindly furnished a copy of his Address for publication, in response to resolutions offered by Major B. C. McLure, viz.:

Resolved, that the hearty thanks of this Association be tendered to Major Thomas W. Woodward for his able historical address that has so vividly carried us back to the times that tried men's souls.

Resolved, that the Address be printed in pamphlet form for preservation by us and our descendants; and that the Charleston News and Courier be requested to publish the Address among its "War Stories."

ADDRESS.

Brother Survivors: The 20th of December, 1860, had come and gone. The Ordinance of Secession had been ratified, and South Carolina was preparing to put her house in order for the storm which might soon assail her. Of the causes which led to this action, and of her right so to act under the law of the land, I shall not treat on this occasion. These have been written of by abler pens than mine, and spoken of in far more eloquent and convincing language than I could command. If there were nothing more, it would be enough for all fair-minded men throughout the world to state that, like the followers of Washington, we thought we were right. But even this is unnecessary; for who is he, unbiassed by prejudice, that witnessed your deeds of devotion and heroism, or that has counted the odds which you encountered, or who has read of the trials and suffering which you so cheerfully endured for the Lost Cause, that dare say these were not the acts of a high-minded, honorable people, guided by conscientious convictions, and battling for their liberties and their principles? I will leave these matters to the unprejudiced historian of the future, and will at once address myself to the subject assigned me by your Executive Committee "The Sixth South Carolina Regiment, from its Formation to the Battle of Dranesville."

A call had been made for troops, and Chester and Fairfield were asked to furnish a battalion each, of five companies, which, when formed, were to be united into a regiment under such officers as should be selected by the ballots of the command, and with the usual staff appointed by the colonel. The regiment was to be numbered according to the date of its reception into the service of the State; and being the sixth formed and accepted, we were designated the Sixth Regiment. Chester furnished the Chester Blues, under McLure the Calhoun Guards, under Secrest; the Chester Guards, under Hardin; the Catawba Guards, under Straight; and the Pickens Guards, under Moore. Fairfield furnished the Fairfield Fencibles, under Rion; the Boyce Guards, under Shedd; the Buckhead Guards, under Means; the Little River Guards, under Brice; and the Cedar Creek Rifles, under Harrison. The regimental organization was completed by the election of J. H. Rion to the colonelcy A. J. Secrest to the lieutenant colonelcy, and T. W. Woodward to the majority. Our staff consisted of Julius Mills, Adjutant; J. J. McLure, Quartermaster; Isaac H. Means, Commissary.; the venerable and eminent John Douglass, Surgeon; J. D. Palmer, Assistant Surgeon; C. B. Betts, Chaplain; W. B. Creight, Sergeant-Major; W. S. Rabb, Quartermaster-Sergeant; and J. Newton Wylie, Commissary-Sergeant. After the election of Rion to the colonelcy, First Lieutenant Bratton was promoted to the captaincy of the Fencibles, and Lieutenant Walker

succeeded Secret in the command of the Calhoun Guards. The Regiment being thus organized, the commander sent the following letter to the President of the Confederate States:

HEADQUARTERS 6th REGIMENT, S. C. V.,
WINNSBORO, S. C., 20th March, 1861.
Hon. Jeff. Davis, President of the Confederate States:

The Regiment which I have the honor to command was raised especially for the defence of South Carolina; but the same spirit of patriotism which actuated this Regiment to volunteer in the defence of their State has caused them to authorize me to tender their services in defence of our common country, the Confederate States, in the following contingency, to wit: That in the event of a conflict of arms becoming imminent, volunteers from this State are needed for active service in the field. In this contingency we tender our services to you for twelve months, provided that the Governor of the State will consent to our transfer to the volunteer service of the Confederate States.

This Regiment is composed of ten uniformed companies, eight infantry of the line and two rifle companies--with an average strength of eighty-five (85) men each.

Very respectfully, JAS. H. RION, Colonel¹.

We were afterwards ordered to Charleston, and arrived on the night of the 11th of April, 1861, preceding the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Distinctly do you recall the thrilling scenes of that ever-memorable morning--how we were awakened by the boom of the first gun from Fort Johnson; how you rushed out, formed your companies, and clamored for your arms, which were here for the first time issued to the command, and then the march to the battery, where we remained silent but eager spectators of the conflict which was going on around the harbor.

¹ To show President Davis, appreciation of this tender, and his recollection of events connected with the war, I give a copy of a letter written in reference to an invitation from the Executive Committee to attend the reunion at which I delivered my address:

Col. Jas. H. Rion: Beauvoir, Harrison Co., Miss., 2d August, 1883.

My Dear Sir: Please accept my sincere thanks for your kind letter inviting me to the reunion of the 6th Regiment, S. C. V., C. S. P. A. It would give me great pleasure to meet the survivors of the Regiment which so promptly tendered its services to the Confederate States as to be in advance of any requisition upon South Carolina; and it would specially gratify me to take you by the hand, whose gallantry at the battalion of Drury's Bluff attracted my official notice and personal compliment on the field.

The state of my health will not permit me to be with you as invited, but you will please assure your associates or my grateful remembrance and best wishes for their prosperity and happiness. For yourself, please accept the high regard and esteem with which I am faithfully yours,

Jefferson DAVIS.