

through the brush into the town, firing as they went, and succeeded in killing six guerrillas while on the run. After passing about a mile beyond the town, they met the main force of the enemy, under command of THORNTON, numbering about 140 men, drawn up in line of battle; but, without halting, the eighteen Colorado boys gave a wild yell, dashed right toward the centre of the line, which immediately gave way, and, after firing a few shots, killing one of the attacking party, and wounding another, they fled in wild confusion, with their pursuers close in their rear, and seven of them were killed before they escaped. Having pursued some three or four miles, our men rejoined their command. After getting possession of the town we found two buildings in flames, fired by THORNTON, in which he had stored a large number of arms and ammunition. The explosion of the powder was heard distinctly several miles distant. He had made Camden Point his headquarters, had all his munitions of war there, and was conscripting the able-bodied citizens throughout that section. A few hours previous to the attack he made a speech, returning thanks for a flag that had been presented to him, and which was captured by our forces, in which he stated that it was folly for the Federate to think of attacking him; that he had captured Camden Point and would hold it; that he would fight in every by-road and hog-path in the country. His speech was scarcely ended before the avengers were upon him, and his band in full flight from the town.

A short time after entering town a man named MCCORMICK rode into our lines, and being recognized as a bushwhacker was immediately arrested. He did not know that THORNTON had been driven out imagined all was right, and tried to pass himself off as one of JENNISON's men.

Once in possession of the town, a sad scene of destruction and pillage commenced, such as we hope never again to witness. Several of the citizens were arrested and taken to headquarters. Houses were burned and pillaged, and the heavens for miles around were lighted with flames. Late into the night the fires continued, and again in the morning were renewed. About two-thirds of the town was destroyed, but the line Seminary buildings were unharmed when we left.

At the time our forces entered the town they were told that there were a number of men hid in the hemp house, then in flames, having been fired by THORNTON, in which he has a number of guns, and it is supposed that three of them were burnt with the building, and the bodies of two of the dead guerrillas were cast into the flames and also consumed. We hear it estimated that over twenty men were killed belonging to the guerrillas, and only one man killed and one wounded on the part of the attacking forces.

The fine residence of Dr. THOMAS, living at the edge of the town, was a smouldering heap of ashes, as we passed in the morning, and it was reported that the Doctor had been taken out and shot. He was an old man, bore a good character, but it was reported that he had visited a sick guerrilla, hence his fate. Previous to the report of his death, a squad of the Fifteenth Kansas were in possession of his house, which they gutted and then fired; and only waiten to get the Doctor to leave a lounge upon which lay his sick wife, to blow his brains out, and we are of the opinion that they accomplished this bloody work before they left. Other citizens in the neighborhood, no doubt shared the same fate.

One OLVIS, formerly of the militia, who had joined the guerrillas at Platte City, was captured, having his leg broken. He recognized one of his captors and called him by name, and received in reply, "OLVIS, you are in d\_\_\_\_\_d bad company." One of the party then held him up, and another placed his carbine close to the prisoner's head, fired, and the soul of OLVIS was in the presence of his Maker.

MCCORMICK, the prisoner named above, was marched into camp and placed under guard. About 8 o'clock a report was circulated that we were attacked, when the guard immediately shot the prisoner, or, as they said, "disposed of him." Col. FORD then addressed the men, and said that, as the guerrillas gave no quarter, he would do the same; that he neither asked any nor gave any, and ordered the men to sleep upon their arms, and not to straggle from their camp.