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In the Sketch you sent me with your Subscription Book I was glad to see you do justice to Major Melcher. He was one of the coolest and most ~~valuable~~ faithful of officers, a man to be counted on always. I have not your sketch before me but I have an ^{impression} that the "balance" of things is a little lacking there. When I gave that shout / it was ^{not exactly} ~~hardly~~ a command / Bayonet; I passed rapidly among the groups of men forming ~~the~~ ^{our} shattered line they caught ^{up} the word, and gave me no chance to add "Forward" for the moment as a whole began as soon as they could get their bayonets fixed. Thinking it fully started I went for the color then in the center in our center and the color bearer was beside me advancing when Lieut Melcher came dashing in and right-up to my side. I was then in front of the commanding officer of the advancing front line of rebels. He fired one shot of his pistol at me & I raised my Sabre to fire him the point when he handed me his sword & pistol both at once and called out "We Surrender" I think it was the sight of Melcher & his Squad coming down like Tigers that made him both quit firing at me & surrender his Regiment. I have the sword and pistol now. But I don't think the Regiment actually ~~resisted~~ ^{hesitated} at all. Certainly the color did not. All was wild rush and desperation. You know, our ammunition only what we had picked up from the fields of dead & wounded. But I am perfectly certain about the color going on with me in front of that charge. As I have often talked with the color bearer since & as I have also his distinct memory of the officer firing at me at home & hand quarters, & then surrendering before our men had quite got them. Had not Melcher come on I think this officer would have shot me. 4 bombs were loaded when I took his pistol & very likely his men ^{would} have set such headway they might have swept us all back. It was not a minute the whole so was upon them & c. I want you to know just how it was in that charge & what a critical moment it was when Melcher came up.