

PHILADELPHIA, April 5, 1915.

Mr. H. M. Lippincott,
Editor of The Alumni Register,

Dear Sir:-

Illness has prevented me from sending an earlier answer to your letter of the 26th ult.

The career of the University military organization during the Civil War was very uneventful. It was organized in the Spring of 1861, before I entered college, as an infantry company, but no drills were held during the ensuing year, and it was not revived until the beginning of the college term in 1862.

The next year through the influence and under the direction of Mr. Somers Hayes, who had been First Sergeant, by permission of the college authorities, it was reorganized as a battery of light artillery, and as such was maintained continuously to the end of the Civil War. Captain Hayes was a man of unusual ability as a disciplinarian and full of military enthusiasm. It has always been the opinion of every one who knew him well that he was a born soldier, though I believe that by reason of his youth he was never in active service.

During the college year 1864-65 Thomas Mitchell, who had been First Sergeant, having entered the military service of the country, in which he served with credit in a number of engagements, I became Captain of the Battery.

We were never called into active service as a body, but many members, as well as other college men, entered the service in dif-

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ferent emergency organizations called out on occasions when the Confederates crossed the Potomac and invaded Maryland or Pennsylvania.

At that time the classes were very small. In fact the college department was nothing more than a high grade day school, and distinctly separated from other departments of the University. No medical or law students that I can remember ever belonged to the military company.

I conscientiously disbelieve in making much out of little, or ignoring unpleasant truths in regard to historical matters; and I feel bound to say that in spite of the fact that the Nation was engaged in a life and death struggle for its existence, the military organization during the time I was in college suffered greatly from the utter want of interest on the part of the Trustees of the University and the College Faculty. Any student who became tired of the drills could be permanently excused, so that it was impossible to keep the organization sufficiently full to be a real credit to the University. I know that this was heart breaking to both Captain Hayes and his officers, and afterwards to me and those under me.

I do not think any photograph of the Infantry Company organized in 1862 or of the Battery was ever taken.

Yours very truly,

W. W. Montgomery