Mr. Editor,

If you think it may conduce to any good in preventing blunders bringing needless loss & suffering, you may publish the follow Sad Tale.

Fourteen Months ago the winter had a noble promising son of 17 years whose heart burned to step forth in defense of his injured country: He was always modest, respectful & obedient. He did not ask to be allowed to go to the army then, holding himself in reserve to fill an infirm father’s place if he should have to go. His school being closed he was told he might go if he wished. Gladly he buckled on his armor and went to Yorktown. He fell in the battle at Coal Harbor or Gam’s mill on 27th June.

The following testimonials show his character & the estimation in which he was held. An uncle writes of them, __ “with noble mind and heart he are promise of being the noblest of his lime. All reports I have heard of him are in his praise.” His grand Father writes: “dutiful, prompt, faithful and kind, __ a Christian! __ almost a model son! I believe if we take his age into the account, with the natural temper of mind to turn every thing into amusement & pastime, and ‘to turn the very dust into gold,’ __ to bring good out of apparent evil, __ his like will scarcely by found.”

After the battle of ‘Seven Pines,’ his Col. writes to his aunt, “Your nephew Henry B. is a noble boy. He endures hardships and fatigued with great resolution and behaves with coolness in the fight.”

After the battle in which he fell his Lieut. writes; “Today I am such at heart, grieving over the loss of our gallant dead. No one since the commandment of our struggle for independence has fallen who deserves the need of praise more than out lost Henry. He was of all boys the noblest that I ever saw, & to say that I loved him as I should your son is not sufficient.” “He was one of the most gallant soldiers that ever lived. Ever buoyant & hopeful, he inspired the same feelings in others”

This is not all, but enough. Such a son we had & were proud of. We had high hopes of him. We lost him by an unpardonable blunder, (to our human view.)
He was wounded in the right hand & disabled for service. On his retiring to the rear with other wounded, as ordered, a Conf. Reg. supposed to the 61st Ga. fired a volley in his, the 6th Reg. They slew my boy; thus needlessly crushing our hearts and hopes!

We hope to meet him again, “in the resurrection of the just!”

Yours truly

M.H.B.

(M. H. Bunn)