

All our marches were conducted with the most perfect order; so were most of the retreats. The retreat, for instance, from Bowling Green was a most masterly one: it was one of the most splendid movements. To those who do not understand the beauty of the different movements that constitute a masterly retreat, these remarks may appear out of place, but experience has proved to me that a properly conducted retreat should rank almost next to a victory.*

I have not entered into the horrors of a battle-field after a battle, for two reasons. First, I think it one of too awful and solemn a nature to write upon, as even the least that could be written of such scenes as I have witnessed would appear to be written with a view to sensation. Secondly, I leave it to abler pens. I will only state that I noticed one thing particularly, which was that the last words of almost every man I saw fall were, "Oh my God!" And I cannot say that even in one instance (and I saw many brave fellows die) did I ever hear any of the curses and revengeful epithets I find the Confederates are accused of uttering against the Federals in a dying agony. I think there has been much exaggeration on this head; and that on both sides the feeling of

* On the subject of Retreats, Lieut. Col. Bruce Hamley says the following, in his work called "The Operations of War:" "When a retreat becomes inevitable, it is well to conceal the design by partial attacks. The second line relieves the first, which withdraws by alternate battalions, or wings of battalions. The artillery should withdraw by parts not less than batteries, as alternate guns, or half batteries would not command sufficient width of front to open fire after withdrawing, without risk to those that had remained to cover the movement. A rear-guard of the freshest troops available is organised as soon as possible, and the victorious army, which cannot long move in order of battle, but must form columns to pursue, is checked till it can again deploy; the rear-guard performs the functions already described as proper to it; at the first defensible line the retreat is stopped, and the army restored to order, and, as much as possible, to confidence, and again confronts the enemy. Such is the history of a well conducted retreat."—*L.S.*