

**IN MEMORIAM, H.  
L. A.: OB. MAY VI.,  
A. D. MDCCCLXIV**

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In Memoriam, H. L. A.: Ob. May VI., A. D. MDCCCLXIV by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

**IN MEMORIAM, H.  
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IN MEMORIAM

*Henry Livermore Abbott.*

H. L. A.

OB. MAY VI., A. D. MDCCC LXIV.

Quis desiderio sit pudor aut modus  
Tam cari capitis?

BOSTON:  
PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION,  
1864.

THE following appreciative and most kind account of the military life and services of Major Abbott, was written by a brother-officer of the Twentieth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, who knew the subject of it well, and was in the position and had the knowledge and experience to weigh his services, and to estimate them at their true value. It has been considered not unseemly by his family, that this account should be printed, for distribution among those to whom his memory will always be very dear. Nor will it be improper to add, to what has been told so well by his friend and brother-officer, a few other facts connected with his short life.

Major Abbott was the second son of J. G. and Caroline Abbott, and was born in Lowell, January 21, A. D. 1842. He was graduated at Harvard College in the Class of 1860. At the breaking out of the Rebellion, in April, 1861, he was studying law, having commenced the study immediately upon his graduation from college. At the time Major Abbott joined the Fourth Battalion of Infantry, his elder brother, Edward Gardner Abbott, raised a full company, of which he was appointed captain, and a younger brother, afterwards Captain Fletcher M. Abbott, second lieutenant, for the Second Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers. The company was the first of that regiment

which went into camp. Both the eldest and youngest brother remained with the Second, sharing all its fortunes and hardships, till the battle of Cedar Mountain, August 9, 1862, when the eldest, then the first captain in the regiment, was killed. The youngest brother remained with his regiment until after the battle of the Antietam, when he received an appointment upon the staff of General William Dwight, and served through the campaign in Louisiana in the winter and spring of 1863, and also through the whole of the siege of Port Hudson till its surrender. He alone remains of the three brothers who entered the service at the same time.

The difference in age between Edward and Henry was less than sixteen months. They grew up together, were schoolmates, class- and room-mates at college, and companions after graduation in the same law office; they also entered the military service at the same time, and fell on fields not many miles apart, their deaths separated in time by less than twenty-one months. Their bodies were recovered, and lie side by side in their native city. Seldom have brothers been more united in their lives or loved each other more tenderly; each worthy of the other, and each the idol of all at home, they were not long separated in their deaths.

Boston, June 10, 1864.

## HENRY LIVERMORE ABBOTT.

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HENRY LIVERMORE ABBOTT, Major of the Twentieth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, fell, mortally wounded, in the Battle of the Wilderness, on Friday, May 6, 1864, at the age of twenty-two years.

It is common, in these troubled days, to read the announcement of the death of soldiers; but the blow seems heaviest when it strikes down those who are in the morning of life. Very many of the young men of gentlest nurture and brightest promise have gone, in the past three years, from their pleasant homes in Boston, and done good service in the field. There are some among them whose merit in their new profession has been so remarkable, that, when the dark hand is laid upon any one of them, we may



pause, even in the midst of the excitement of such a period as that through which we are passing, to contemplate his virtues, and to express our admiration of the noble development to which the discipline of the war has led.

It is the fortune of war that its laurels are gathered for the most part by general officers. This is more sure to be the case in proportion as the armies on foot are larger. In our immense armies, regimental officers of the infantry volunteer service have little chance of becoming widely known. No brevets are granted to them, and promotion among them takes place according to seniority. Junior officers of the engineer corps and the artillery are often raised to the rank of general at a single step, but the most meritorious officers of the volunteer infantry must usually rise, slowly and painfully, to the rank of colonel, before they can hope for an opportunity of extending their usefulness and their reputation by able management of something more than a regimental command.

It is a striking illustration of the truth of this

rule, that Major Abbott, after nearly three years of the hardest service, in all of which he had displayed almost unequalled excellence as an officer, and the most brilliant bravery in the field, had risen no higher when he fell. He had been in so many pitched battles, and it so often chanced that he found himself in the very centre of the central struggle, that it is safe to say that there are few soldiers living, of whatever rank, who have seen more or harder fighting than he. Always equal, and more than equal, to his position, he rose steadily, and his comrades rejoiced at every promotion he received; but it is a long way from a second lieutenantancy to the command of a regiment, and, in such a regiment as his, few vacancies occur except from death or disabling wounds.

In the spring of 1861, he joined the Fourth Battalion of Infantry, M. V. M., as a private, and served with it, for one month, at Fort Independence, Boston Harbor. In July of the same year, he was commissioned as second lieutenant, upon the recommendation of Captain Bartlett, and at-

tached to his company of the Twentieth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers. While the regiment was in camp at Readville, Massachusetts, his rapid progress in learning his duties, and his extreme assiduity in performing them, attracted the most favorable notice of his superior officers. It was observed particularly that he was patient and untiring in his efforts to impress upon his men a sense of the importance and dignity of the duties of sentinels. From the commencement to the close of his military career, his high estimate of this honorable function of the soldier was one of his distinguishing characteristics.

He went with his regiment to the field in September, 1861, and on the march and in camp did faithfully all that fell to him to do. He was present at the Battle of Ball's Bluff, and bore himself manfully all through that trying day. He was one of the five officers who assisted Captain Bartlett in the difficult and dangerous exploit, of causing a crazy boat to make sixteen trips across the Potomac, and thereby saving eighty men from captivity.