



COLONEL THOMAS L. KANE.

Colonel THOMAS L. KANE, the commander of the Kane Rifles, and who figured in the recent battle near Drainesville, is a Philadelphian by birth. His father was the late distinguished Judge of the United States Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The eldest of Judge KANE's sons was Dr. ELISHA K. KANE, the well-known Arctic Explorer. Colonel KANE was born in 1822, and, after pursuing a course of study in one of our Pennsylvania colleges, completed his education in Europe. On his return he was admitted to the bar, a profession which he afterwards relinquished, devoting himself, of late years, more especially to the calling of an engineer. In 1846 he distinguished himself by his adventurous travels in the far West, and towards the close of the Mexican War was employed by President POLK, in conjunction with the late Captain ALLEN, of the United States Army, in raising a battalion of border settlers for the service of the Government.

He subsequently revisited the West, passing a large portion of his time among the various Indian tribes, and was, by the knowledge thus acquired, enabled to render important service to our Government in the pacification of our Indian troubles. In 1858 he was requested by President BUCHANAN to proceed to the Territory of Utah, as a Commissioner, to secure, if possible, a settlement of our difficulty with the Mormons, without a resort to hostilities, which were at that time imminent. His knowledge of this strange people, acquired by his temporary residence among them some years before, had given him great influence with their rulers, and he was enabled successfully to accomplish the object of his mission. His journey from San Francisco across the mountains to Deseret was effected in less time than it had been accomplished by any previous traveler, and this, too, at a season of

the year when the mountain passes were blocked with snow, and the Indians were more than usually troublesome: his only companions were his mule and his rifle. For his services upon this expedition Colonel KANE refused to receive from the Administration any compensation.

In the very outset of our present troubles, he volunteered his services to the Government. He proceeded at once to the counties of Elk and McKean, and raised some three hundred riflemen, who formed the basis of the regiment which he afterwards organized, and which, by the special authority of the State of Pennsylvania, bears the name of the Kane Rifles, as a slight tribute to the energy and patriotism of their commander. In the late action, his gallantry, as our readers know, was conspicuous. But for his judgment, as well in the selection of the ground as in the judicious posting of his men, the loss of life in his regiment would have been far greater.

He was wounded by a shot on the face and his clothing was pierced in more than a dozen places. He insisted, however, on remaining with his men and refused to be put in an ambulance, although General ORD, who is as kind a soldier as he is a brave one, strongly urged him to leave the field; but having at length fainted from loss of blood, he had to be carried back to camp. Throughout the entire affair, Colonel KANE fully justified the confidence reposed in him by General MCCALL, whose admirable arrangement of his forces secured the success of the conflict.

In politics, Colonel KANE belonged to the free-soil wing of the Democratic party, as an adherent of which he was distinguished at the time of its formation. He was, however, one of the first in our present troubles to proclaim his allegiance to the Administration, of all whose measures, since the present rebellion broke out, he has been an earnest supporter.