assignments to light and pleasant duty, in votes of thanks; in the punishment of desertions, and in every conceivable way was this favoritism shown. The discipline of her troops was less rigid than among other Confederates, and difficult and dangerous work except in the case of Jackson's old division was assigned to others. This was notably so with the Virginians in Longstreet's corps. After Jackson's death there were three corps, and one of them was commanded by Gen. Ewell who was in ill health and it was thought he would soon retire from active service. Virginia politicians, who generally got what they wanted, wished to have Gen. Pickett succeed him; but in a measure to justify his promotion over the heads of generals who had "borne the heat and burden of the day" some slight military success was thought desirable to give him prestige. So it fell out that on that eventful third of July Generals Lee and Longstreet estimating too highly the destructiveness and the demoralizing effect of long range artillery fire, made a fatal mistake in regard to the morale of the Federal Army.

They doubtless believed that Cemetery Heights would be given up without a struggle. Confiding in this belief Pickett's troops and a part of Hill's Corps were selected with the expectation that they would gain much glory at small cost. That one half the column should have been composed of Pickett's Virginians and the other half of the worst cut up troops in the army can be accounted for by no other reasonable hypothesis, than that it was believed at headquarters that light work lay before them.

Some fifteen or twenty years ago among a series of historical articles which appeared in the "Philadelphia Times" was one by Col. W. W. Wood (at the time of the battle a captain in one of Armistead's regiments) giving an account of the action. There is good reason for believing that the author was not only a brave officer but a truthful man. Along with other statements covering disputed points is the following, "The order to go forward was obeyed with alacrity and cheerfulness for we believed the battle was practically over and that we had nothing to do but march unopposed to Cemetery Heights and occupy them." And again he says, "From the time the charge began up to this moment not a shot had been fired at us, nor had we been able to see because of the density