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Less than 100 miles from Huntsville and 80 miles from Madison County occurred one of the significant battles of the Civil War. Stones River, in percentage of killed and wounded to those fighting there, ranks with any of them, with the carnage producing 24,000 casualties on both sides. Thus the battle should really be remembered for the ineptitude on the part of both high commands. Bragg and Rosecrans, Confederate and Union Commanders, respectively, were later to lose what reputation was left to them after Murfreesboro, at Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

The author, a Tennessean and author of the highly acclaimed Shiloh--In Hell Before Night, has produced a first-rate study of the battle. Like the late Bell Wiley, he has utilized letters, diaries and memoirs very well, providing the reader with a feel for what misery the common soldier had to endure during the events leading to the battle as well as the engagement itself.

I would like to suggest a trip for our own membership. Everyone read this book and then tour Stones River National Battlefield, maintained by the National Park Service. This could easily be done in a day and the park service would provide us with a guide. Let me know. But do read this book.

THE EDITOR