

Edgar M. Brown, of South Adams, Mass., who was at that time running a store in connection with the cotton manufactory of Caleb Brown & Sons. On account of the failure of that concern, in 1857, Charles returned to Boston and took a position in the dry-goods jobbing house of Jewetts, Tebbetts & Co., on Franklin St. Here he remained till July, 1862, when, on the 25th of that month, he enlisted as a private for three years, and was assigned to the 2d Mass. Infantry, a regiment which had already gained an enviable reputation in the short year it had been in the field.

Private Thomas joined his regiment in September, 1862, after the battle of Antietam, and afterward participated in the engagements at Fredericksburg and Chancellorville. In May, 1863, after the last battle, he was promoted on the field to a lieutenancy for services rendered in that fight. At the battle of Gettysburg the 2d Mass. rendered valuable service in holding the extreme right of the Union line, and, with the 3d Wisconsin and the 22d Indiana, met and repelled the terrible assaults of the Rebel Gen. D. H. Hill's division; Captain Robeson, of Co. E, was killed early in the action and Lieutenant Thomas commanded the company through the battle. After this engagement his regiment was ordered, with others, to New York, to enforce order in that city, a part of whose citizens were arraying themselves against the execution of the draft then going on; here they remained two weeks, patrolling the city and restoring order, after which they returned to the Army of the Potomac and joined their corps, the 12th, then under General Slocum; soon after, this corps, to which Mr. Thomas belonged, was transferred to the Army of the West, under Gen. W. T. Sherman, where they rendered valuable services up to the close of the war. In