

CHAPTER XX.

THE COLORS POINT TO THE SOUTH.

SHERMAN moved the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps by slow and easy marches on the south of the Coosa back to the neighborhood of Smyrna camp-ground, and the Fourteenth Corps to Kingston, whither he repaired in person on the 2d of November. From that point he directed all surplus artillery, all baggage not needed for the contemplated march, all the sick and wounded, refugees and other encumbrances to be sent back to Chattanooga, and the three corps above-mentioned, as well as Kilpatrick's cavalry, and the Twentieth Corps, then at Atlanta, to be put in the most efficient condition possible for the long and difficult march before them. This operation consumed the time until the 11th of November, when, every thing being ready, General Corse, who still remained at Rome, was directed to destroy the bridges there, as well as all foundries, mills, shops, warehouses, and other property that could be useful to the enemy, and to move to Kingston. At the same time the railway in and about Atlanta, and between the Etowah and the Chattahoochee, was ordered to be utterly destroyed. General Steedman was also instructed to gather up the garrisons from Kingston northward, and to draw back to Chattanooga, taking with him all public property and all railway stock, and to take up the rails from Resaca back, preserving them, that they might be replaced whenever future interests should demand it. The railway between the Etowah and the Oostanaula was left untouched, in view of General Grant's instructions, and because Sherman thought it more than probable that

General Thomas would find it necessary to reoccupy the country as far forward as the line of the Etowah, which, by reason of its rivers and other natural features, possesses an enduring military importance, since from it all parts of Georgia and Alabama can be reached by armies marching down the valleys of the Coosa and Chattahoochee.

On the 11th of November, Sherman sent his last dispatch to General Halleck, at Washington, and, on the 12th, his army stood detached and cut off from all communication with the rear.

For the purpose of the great march, it had been divided into two wings: the right, commanded by Major-General Oliver O. Howard, comprising the Fifteenth Corps, under Major-General P. J. Osterhaus, and the Seventeenth Corps, under Major-General Frank P. Blair, Jr., who had now rejoined the army; the left, under Major-General Henry W. Slocum, consisting of the Fourteenth Corps of brevet Major-General Jefferson C. Davis, and the Twentieth Corps, to which Brigadier-General A. S. Williams was assigned. The aggregate force of infantry was sixty thousand; the cavalry division, under Brigadier-General Judson Kilpatrick, numbered fifty-five hundred men; and there was one field-gun to every thousand men.

The Fifteenth Corps consisted of the divisions of Brigadier-Generals Charles R. Woods, William B. Hazen, John E. Smith, and John M. Corse. Hazen's second division, though greatly changed in all its parts by time and hard service, was substantially the same division which Sherman organized at Paducah and commanded at Shiloh, and whose history we have followed in these pages, successively under the leadership of David Stuart, Morgan L. Smith, and Blair.

The Seventeenth Corps comprised three divisions, under Major-General John A. Mower and Brigadier-Generals Miles D. Leggett and Giles A. Smith, besides the detachments above mentioned.

The Fourteenth Corps was composed of three divisions, led by Brigadier-Generals William P. Carlin, James D. Morgan, and Absalom Baird.

The Twentieth Corps, which it will be remembered was formed by consolidating the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps from the Army of the Potomac, included the divisions of Brigadier-Generals Norman J. Jackson, John W. Geary, and William T. Ward.

Kilpatrick's division of cavalry consisted of two brigades, commanded by Colonels Eli H. Murray, Third Kentucky Cavalry, and Smith D. Atkins, Ninety-second Illinois Mounted Infantry.

This whole force moved rapidly, and on the 14th of November was once more grouped about Atlanta.

Here let us pause to glance at such of the more prominent actors in the approaching scenes, as we have not already sketched.

Oliver O. Howard was born in Leeds, in Kennebec County, Maine, on the 8th of November, 1830, the eldest of three children of parents in independent but moderate circumstances. He worked on his father's farm until his tenth year, when his father died, leaving him to the care of his uncle, the Honorable John Otis, of Hallowell. He enjoyed the advantages of a good common-school education until, at the age of sixteen, he entered Bowdoin College, at Brunswick, Maine. Upon finishing the collegiate course, after some hesitation he decided to avail himself of the opportunity just then offered of completing his education at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He accordingly entered that institution in 1850, and graduated in 1854, ranking fourth in the order of general standing of his class. He was appointed brevet second lieutenant in the Ordnance Department, and two years later served in a campaign against the Indians in Florida, as chief ordnance officer of the department. The 1st of July, 1855, by regular promotion, he became second lieutenant and on the 1st July, 1857, first lieutenant of ordnance, and held the latter rank at the opening of the war, when he was stationed at West Point as assistant professor of mathematics. At an early date his services were offered to the governor of Maine, who, on the 28th of May, 1861, commissioned him as colonel of the

Third Maine Volunteers, the first three years' regiment that left the State.

At the battle of Bull Run he commanded a brigade as senior colonel, and on the 3d of September, 1861, was commissioned brigadier-general of volunteers, and was soon afterwards assigned to the command of a brigade of Sumner's division of the Army of the Potomac, which, in March, 1862, became a part of Sumner's second army corps, Brigadier-General Israel B. Richardson succeeding to the command of the division. General Howard was with the Army of the Potomac on the Peninsula until the battle of Fair Oaks, where he lost his right arm while leading his brigade in a charge against the enemy. Two bullets entered the arm, one near the wrist and the other at the elbow; but he did not leave the field until, on being wounded the second time, his strength gave out, and he was obliged to go to the rear, and submit to an amputation. After an absence of two months, he returned to the army in season to be with his corps at the second battle of Bull Run, and on the retreat from Centreville he commanded the rear-guard. At the battle of Antietam, when General Sedgwick was wounded, and compelled to quit the field, General Howard succeeded him in command of his division of Sumner's corps.

At the battle of Fredericksburg this division formed the right of the line, and lost heavily.

On the 29th November, 1862, he was appointed major-general of volunteers, and on the 1st April, 1863, took command of the Eleventh Army Corps, relieving General Sigel. He led his corps at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He took a gallant part in the capture of Lookout Mountain and the battle of Mission Ridge, and accompanied Sherman in his march to the relief of Burnside at Knoxville. His services in the Atlanta campaign, in command of the Fourth Army Corps, and, after McPherson's death, at the head of the Army of the Tennessee, have already been fully illustrated in these pages.

Thoroughly educated, an accomplished scholar, a true gentleman, and a brave soldier, General Howard is eminently calculated to inspire the confidence of his superiors, the respect

and obedience of his followers, the affection and esteem of all with whom he may be associated. Quiet and unassuming in his deportment; a fervent and devoted Christian, not only in his belief but in his daily life; conscientious to a degree in the performance of the smallest duty; careless of exposing his person in battle, to an extent that would be attributable to rashness or fatalism if it were not known to spring from religion; strictly honorable in all things; warm in his sympathies and cordial in his friendships, Howard presents a rare combination of qualities, no less grand than simple, equally to be imitated for their virtue and loved for their humanity.

Judson Kilpatrick was born in New Jersey, in 1838. In June, 1856, as a reward for his political services in the support of the re-election of the member of Congress from the district wherein he resided, he was selected by that gentleman to represent the district at West Point. In April, 1861, he graduated fifteenth in his class, and was immediately appointed a second-lieutenant in the First Regiment of Artillery, but soon afterwards received permission from the War Department to accept a captaincy in the Fifth Regiment of New York Volunteers, generally known as Duryea's Zouaves, and served with that regiment in the skirmish or battle, in June, at Big Bethel, where he was slightly wounded.

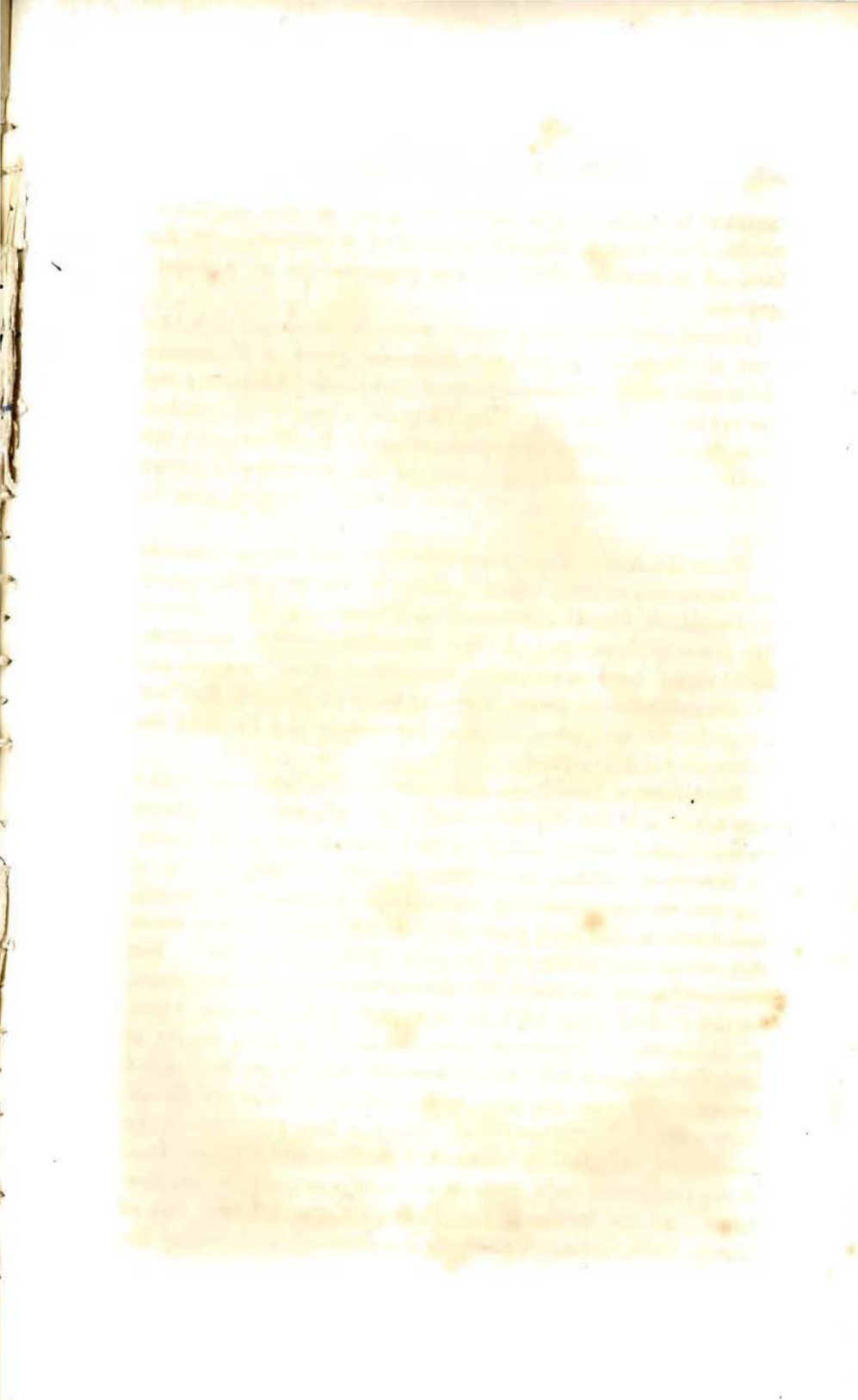
In the fall, Kilpatrick succeeded in obtaining a commission as lieutenant-colonel of the Second Regiment of New York Cavalry, or "Harris Light Cavalry," commanded by Colonel J. Mansfield Davies. Participating in command of that regiment, and afterwards at the head of a brigade of Gregg's division, in nearly all the principal operations of the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac, under Generals McClellan, Burnside, and Hooker, in May, 1863, he was promoted to be a brigadier-general for gallant and distinguished services in the battle of Brandy Station, and was soon afterwards, on the appointment of General Meade to relieve Hooker, placed in command of Stahl's division, which, with the divisions of Buford and Gregg, now constituted Pleasonton's cavalry corps. This command he continued to hold until, on the failure of the ill-

considered raid for the relief of the Union prisoners at Richmond, wherein he and the brave young Dahlgren were jointly engaged, he was relieved and ordered to report to General Sherman, who readily discovered in Kilpatrick those sterling qualities which, though marred and partially concealed by an extravagant craving for admiration and a ceaseless straining after dramatic effect, nevertheless constituted him, when his judgment was properly strengthened and developed by contact with a master mind, and his love of daily popularity strongly restrained by a master will, a valuable and deserving cavalry commander.

Frank P. Blair, Jr., the son of Francis P. Blair, Sr., of Montgomery County, Maryland, was born in Lexington, Kentucky, on the 19th of February, 1821. After completing his education at Princeton College, he applied himself to the study of the law in his native town, and after being admitted to the bar, removed to St. Louis, and commenced practice in 1843. He served in Mexico, during the war with that country in 1846-47, as a lieutenant of volunteers, and returned to St. Louis after the peace, resumed the practice of his profession, and entered into politics with the activity characteristic of his family, supporting Mr. Van Buren for the Presidency in 1848, on the Buffalo platform. Becoming from that time identified with the free-soil party, opposed to the extension of slavery into the territories, he was elected to the Legislature of Missouri in 1852, as a delegate from St. Louis, and re-elected in 1854. At the expiration of his second term, in 1856, as the candidate of the Republican party, he was chosen representative in Congress from the St. Louis district, and has been successively re-elected as such in the years 1858, 1860, and 1862.

From the spring of 1861 until he left his seat in Congress, he was chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs in the House of Representatives.

On the breaking out of the rebellion, he raised the First Infantry Regiment of Missouri Volunteers, and on the 7th of August, having in the mean time attended the special session of Congress in his civil capacity, and immediately afterwards



returned to Missouri and raised a brigade, he was appointed by the President a brigadier-general of volunteers. On the 29th of November, 1862, he was promoted to be a major-general.

General Blair's military record while in command of a brigade at Chickasaw Bayou and Arkansas Post; of Sherman's old division of the Fifteenth Corps in the siege of Vicksburg and the capture of Jackson; of the Fifteenth Corps in its marches from Iuka to Chattanooga, and thence to Knoxville, and the battle of Missionary Ridge; and of the Seventeenth Corps in the Atlanta campaign, we have already followed, step by step.

When the Army of the Tennessee went into winter-quarters at Huntsville, in 1863, General Blair, at the personal request of President Lincoln, returned to Washington, and resumed his place in Congress. At the reopening of active operations he hastened back to the army, and was assigned the command of the Seventeenth Army Corps, in place of General McPherson, who had succeeded General Sherman at the head of the Army of the Tennessee.

Peter Joseph Osterhaus was a native of Prussia, and held a commission in the Prussian army, but afterwards emigrated to the United States, and took up his residence at St. Louis, in Missouri. During the winter of 1860, in anticipation of the war, he organized and commanded a company of militia, and subsequently took part with it in the capture of the secession camp near the city by General Lyon, in May, 1861. His company being mustered into the service of the United States, on the 17th of July, 1861, he took part, under General Lyon, in the battle of Booneville; on the 2d of August fought at Dug Springs, in Southwestern Missouri, and on the 10th of the same month was engaged in the battle of Wilson's Creek, during which Lyon was killed. He was then promoted to be colonel of the Twelfth Missouri Volunteers, and at the head of that regiment took part in the brief campaign under Fremont. At the battle of Pea Ridge, on the 7th and 8th of March, 1862, Colonel Osterhaus commanded with ability the



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Wm. Slocum
Major Genl

first brigade of General Sigel's division, and was wounded and compelled to leave the field. He, however, soon rejoined his regiment and took part in the arduous march of General Curtis' troops through Arkansas to Helena, where the forces arrived in July, 1862. On the 9th of June, 1862, he was promoted to be a brigadier-general of volunteers, and in that capacity took part, as we have already seen, in command of a brigade, in Sherman's attempt on Vicksburg, in December, 1862, at the head of a division of the Thirteenth Army Corps, in the capture of Arkansas Post, the siege of Vicksburg, where he was again wounded, and subsequently in Sherman's capture of the town of Jackson. From that time, as the commander of the first division of the Fifteenth Army Corps, his history has been fully traced in these pages. It may be said of General Osterhaus, that no officer of foreign birth and education so successfully exercised, during the late war, commands of equal extent and responsibility.

Henry Wadsworth Slocum was born in Syracuse, in Onondaga County, in the State of New York. Entering the Military Academy at West Point as a cadet in June, 1848, he graduated four years later, seventh in the general standing of his class, and on the 1st of July, 1852, was commissioned a brevet second-lieutenant and attached to the First Regiment of Artillery. In the following year he attained, by regular promotion, to a full second-lieutenancy in the same regiment, and in March, 1855, became a first-lieutenant. On the 31st of October, 1856, he resigned his commission in the army, settled in his native place, and embarked in the practice of the law as a profession, at the same time taking an active part in political affairs. His resignation was accepted in the height of the excitement attending the contest of 1856 between Buchanan and Breckinridge and Fremont and Dayton, as opposing candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the United States. Slocum became a warm supporter of the principles and nominees of the Republican party, then just organized, and continued from that time to act with it.

On the outbreak of the war, Slocum applied for a commission as captain of artillery in the regular army, that being the highest grade for which, as he then considered, his experience qualified him; but failing to receive the appointment, he shortly afterwards yielded to the current of events, and accepted the colonelcy of the Twenty-seventh Regiment of New York Volunteers, raised in Onondaga County. This regiment was among the first troops sent from the State for three years, or during the war. At the battle of Bull Run it formed a part of Franklin's brigade of Hunter's division, and did good service. In the organization of the Army of the Potomac, in the fall of 1861, by General McClellan, Franklin received the command of a division on the left of the line, in front of Alexandria, and Colonel Slocum, being promoted to be a brigadier-general of volunteers, succeeded to the command of Franklin's brigade. In March, 1862, when the army was divided into army corps, Franklin's division became a part of McDowell's first corps, and remained with it on the lines of the Potomac and the Rappahannock, but in April was sent to join the main army before Yorktown.

Arriving there just before the conclusion of the siege, General Franklin was presently placed by General McClellan in command of the Sixth Provisional Army Corps, afterwards regularly constituted the Sixth Army Corps, consisting of W. F. Smith's division detached from Keyes' fourth corps and of Franklin's own, to the command of which Slocum succeeded. The division took part on the Peninsula in the battles of West Point, Goldings' Farm, Gaines' Mill, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, Glendale, and Malvern Hill. For his services in this campaign Slocum was promoted to be a major-general from the 4th of July, 1862. In the Maryland campaign, in the fall of the same year, Slocum led the division with great distinction in the battles of South Mountain and Antietam. After the latter he was selected, in consideration of the high qualities he had displayed, for the command of the Twelfth Army Corps, made vacant by the fall of General Mansfield, and continued to command it with ability and gallantry.

throughout the campaigns of Burnside, Hooker, and Meade of 1862 and 1863, including the three great battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. At Chancellorsville, Slocum, by his bold and rapid change of front, saved the army from the disastrous consequences that might have followed the rout of the Eleventh Corps. In the fall of 1863, when the Eleventh and Twelfth corps, united under Hooker, were sent to Nashville to re-enforce Thomas' army at Chattanooga, General Slocum, preferring not to serve again under General Hooker, was, at his own request, relieved from command of the corps and ordered to Vicksburg. Here he fell under the keen eye and appreciating judgment of General Sherman, and was wisely selected by him for the command of the Twentieth Corps, when Hooker, indignant in his turn at the promotion of Howard, quitted the Army of the Cumberland.*

On the 9th of November, at Kingston, Sherman issued the following orders for the government of his subordinate commanders :—

“I. The habitual order of march will be, whenever practicable, by four roads, as nearly parallel as possible, and converging at points hereafter to be indicated in orders. The cavalry, Brigadier-General Kilpatrick commanding, will receive special orders from the commander-in-chief.

“II. There will be no general trains of supplies, but each corps will have its ammunition and provision train, distributed habitually as follows: Behind each regiment should follow one wagon and one ambulance; behind each brigade should follow a due proportion of ammunition wagons, provision wagons, and ambulances. In case of danger, each army corps commander should change this order of march by having his advance and rear brigade unencumbered by wheels. The separate columns will start habitually at seven A. M., and

* General Slocum, having been nominated by the Democratic party of New York for Secretary of State, resigned his commission in the army.

make about fifteen miles per day, unless otherwise fixed in orders.

"III. The army will forage liberally on the country during the march. To this end, each brigade commander will organize a good and sufficient foraging party, under the command of one or more discreet officers, who will gather near the route travelled corn or forage of any kind, meat of any kind, vegetables, corn-meat, or whatever is needed by the command; aiming at all times to keep in the wagon trains at least ten days' provisions for the command and three days' forage. Soldiers must not enter the dwellings of the inhabitants, or commit any trespass: during the halt or at camp they may be permitted to gather turnips, potatoes, and other vegetables, and drive in stock in front of their camps. To regular foraging parties must be intrusted the gathering of provisions and forage at any distance from the road travelled.

"V. To army commanders is intrusted the power to destroy mills, houses, cotton-gins, etc., and for them this general principle is laid down: In districts and neighborhoods where the army is unmolested, no destruction of such property should be permitted; but should guerrillas or bushwhackers molest our march, or should the inhabitants burn bridges, obstruct roads, or otherwise manifest local hostility, then army corps commanders should order and enforce a devastation more or less relentless according to the measure of such hostility.

"VI. As for horses, mules, wagons, etc., belonging to the inhabitants, the cavalry and artillery may appropriate freely and without limit, discriminating, however, between the rich, who are usually hostile, and the poor or industrious, usually neutral or friendly. Foraging parties may also take mules or horses to replace the jaded animals of their trains, or to serve as pack-mules for the regiments or brigades. In all foraging, of whatever kind, the parties engaged will refrain from abusive or threatening language, and may, when the officer in command thinks proper, give written certificates of the facts, but no receipts; and they will endeavor to leave with each family a reasonable portion for their maintenance.

→ "VII. Negroes who are able-bodied, and can be of service to the several columns, may be taken along; but each army commander will bear in mind that the question of supplies is a very important one, and that his first duty is to see to those who bear arms.

"VIII. The organization at once of a good pioneer battalion for each corps, composed, if possible, of negroes, should be attended to. This battalion should follow the advance guard, should repair roads, and double them if possible, so that the columns will not be delayed after reaching bad places. Also, army commanders should study the habit of giving the artillery and wagons the road, and marching their troops on one side; and also instruct their troops to assist wagons at steep hills or bad crossings of streams.

"IX. Captain O. M. Poe, chief engineer, will assign to each wing of the army a pontoon-train, fully equipped and organized, and the commanders thereof will see to its being properly protected at all times."

Captain Poe had thoroughly destroyed Atlanta, save its mere dwelling-houses and churches; General Corse had done the same with regard to Rome; and the right wing, with General Kilpatrick's cavalry, was put in motion in the direction of Jonesboro' and McDonough, with orders to make a strong feint on Macon, to cross the Ocmulgee about Planters' Mills, and rendezvous in the neighborhood of Gordon in seven days, exclusive of the day of march. On the same day, General Slocum was to move with Williams' twentieth corps, by Decatur and Stone Mountain, with orders to tear up the railroad from Social Circle to Madison, to burn the large and important railway bridge across the Oconee, east of Madison, and turn south and reach Milledgeville on the seventh day, exclusive of the day of march. Sherman in person left Atlanta on the 16th, in company with Jefferson C. Davis' fourteenth corps, marching by Lithonia, Covington, and Shady Dale, directly on Milledgeville. All the troops were provided with good wagon-trains, loaded with ammunition, and supplies

approximating forty days' bread, sugar, and coffee, a double allowance of salt for the same period, and beef-cattle equal to forty days' supplies. The wagons were also supplied with about three days' forage in grain. All the commanders were instructed, by a judicious system of foraging, to maintain this order of things as long as possible, living chiefly, if not solely, upon the country, which was known to abound in corn, sweet potatoes, and meats. The first object was, of course, to place the army in the very heart of Georgia, interposing between Macon and Augusta, and obliging the enemy to divide his forces, in order to defend not only those points, but also Millen, Savannah, and Charleston.

Howard, with the right wing, marched from Whitehall on the 15th of November, dividing his army into two columns. The right-hand column, consisting of Osterhaus' fifteenth corps, General Howard's headquarters train, and the cattle-herds, marched by Rough and Ready, turning to the left towards McDonough when about five miles from Jonesboro'. The left-hand column, comprising Blair's seventeenth corps, the bridge train, and First Missouri Engineer Regiment, Kilpatrick's supply train and the First Alabama Cavalry leading the advance, marched on McDonough by the direct road. Kilpatrick, who accompanied the right wing during this stage of the campaign, met the enemy's cavalry skirmishers near East Point, and drove them before him to the crossing of Flint River; and Osterhaus also met them near Rough and Ready, and again near Stockbridge.

On the 16th, Howard marched to the vicinity of McDonough by three routes. At the crossing of the Cotton River, Osterhaus once more met the enemy's cavalry, who retreated rapidly, setting fire to the bridge. Some mounted infantry in advance drove them off in time to put out the fire, and save every thing but the planking, and the bridge was immediately repaired, having detained the column but forty minutes. Kilpatrick crossed the Flint River at the bridge near Jonesboro', at 7 A. M. Finding the enemy had left that place, he followed them to Lovejoy's, where they occupied a strong position,

having two brigades of cavalry and two pieces of artillery, and holding the old rebel works. Dismounting Murray's brigade, Kilpatrick charged the works, and carried them, driving back the enemy, whose artillery was subsequently overtaken by Atkins' brigade, charged, and captured. Kilpatrick drove the enemy beyond Bear Station, capturing over fifty prisoners, and then moved to the left, and encamped on the Griffin and McDonough road.

On the 17th the right wing moved to Jackson and its vicinity in three columns, Osterhaus encamping near Indian Springs, Blair at Hendrick's Mill, and Kilpatrick at Towaligo Creek. Some cavalry of the enemy crossed the creek, burning the bridges.

The nearest division was pushed to Hatting's or Planters' Factory, on the Ocmulgee River, early next morning, and a part of it crossed over by the ferry. The bridge-train arrived at about 10 A. M., was laid, and the troops commenced crossing at 1 P. M. During that day and night, Blair's seventeenth corps, John E. Smith's division of the Fifteenth Corps, and all the cavalry had crossed. The hill on the east side was steep, and the heavy rain during the night rendered the the ascent extremely difficult.

On the morning of the 19th, regiments were detailed in each division to assist the trains in getting up the hill. Osterhaus, with the Fifteenth Corps, following the cavalry, took country roads to Hillsborough. Blair, with the Seventeenth Corps, moved in the vicinity of Hillsborough, by way of Monticello. The roads now becoming very heavy, the progress was slow. The two bridges at the point of crossing were filled with troops and trains all day, yet the crossing was not completed by the rear-guard until the following morning.

On the 20th, the right wing moved on Gordon in two columns, Kilpatrick, with his cavalry, taking the Clinton road and the river road towards Macon, Osterhaus moving towards Clinton, and Blair by way of Blountsville. The head of the right column encamped at Clinton, and the left near

Fortville. Kilpatrick waited at Clinton until the arrival of the head of the infantry column at 12 m., when he moved out towards Macon, on the left-hand road met the enemy's cavalry about four miles from Macon, drove them in, and charged their works, defended by infantry and artillery. The head of his column got inside the works, but could not hold them. He succeeded in reaching the railway, and destroyed about one mile of the track. The road was struck in two or three other places by the cavalry, and a train of cars burned. It rained hard during the entire night.

On the 21st, the cavalry took up an advance position covering all the roads debouching from Macon. Blair continued his march direct on Gordon, reaching that place with his leading division. Osterhaus' column was subdivided; two divisions, with small trains, taking the road towards Irwinton, and the rest, with headquarters, bridge-train, and cattle, the direct Gordon road. The centre and left column met at a point six miles from Gordon, called Pitt's Mill, where the centre took a parallel road into Gordon. The division of General Giles A. Smith reached Gordon the same day.

On the 22d the troops and trains were closed up towards Gordon, excepting Woods' division of the Fifteenth Corps, which was directed to take up a strong position on the Irwinton road, and demonstrate towards Macon. The demonstration was made by General Walcott's brigade, in conjunction with the cavalry on the different roads. The rebel cavalry, in force, made a charge early in the morning, capturing one of our cavalry picket-posts. After a sharp engagement the enemy were driven from the field in confusion, Walcott's infantry deployed as skirmishers taking part in the repulse. In the afternoon, Walcott had taken up a position two miles in advance of his division, towards Macon, having two pieces of artillery, and had thrown up rail barricades, when he was attacked by a large body of infantry, accompanied by a battery of four guns. The assault was made with great vigor, but was met and completely repulsed. The action continued for some three hours. Walcott was assisted by a regiment of cavalry on

either flank. General Woods was present during the action, and General Osterhaus part of the time. In this affair, General Walcott was wounded. On arriving at Gordon, General Howard directed General Blair to send forward the First Alabama Cavalry and Giles A. Smith's division eight or ten miles towards the Oconee bridge, with instructions to move forward at once, and, if possible, to secure that bridge and plank it over for infantry to cross. Corse's fourth division of the Fifteenth Corps, with the bridge-train, having found the roads almost impassable, did not reach the vicinity of Clinton until night.

On the morning of the 23d, the right wing was in and near Gordon, Woods' and Corse's divisions of the Fifteenth Corps occupying that place, Hazen's division of the Fifteenth Corps marching on Irwinton, and Blair moving along the Macon and Savannah railway, engaged in destroying it.

Let us now turn to the left wing under Slocum and follow its movements down to the same period.

Williams' twentieth corps marched out of Atlanta on the morning of the 15th of November, on the Decatur road, and encamped that night near the Augusta railway, south of Stone Mountain. On the 16th it marched to Rock Bridge, on the 17th to Cornish Creek, and on the 18th to within three miles of Madison. There Geary's division was detached and sent, without wagons or baggage, to destroy the Georgia Central railway bridge over the Oconee; while Jackson's and Ward's divisions, with the trains, taking the Milledgeville road, moved the same day to a point four miles beyond Madison, on the 20th to Eatonton, and on the 21st to Little River, a branch of the Oconee. There Geary rejoined the corps, which on the 22d crossed Little River on a pontoon bridge and moved forward to the suburbs of Milledgeville, Jackson's and Geary's divisions encamping on the east and Ward's on the left bank of the Oconee, near the bridge on the Augusta road; while the Third Wisconsin and One Hundred and Seventh New York regiments, under Colonel Hawley, were placed in the town as a garrison.

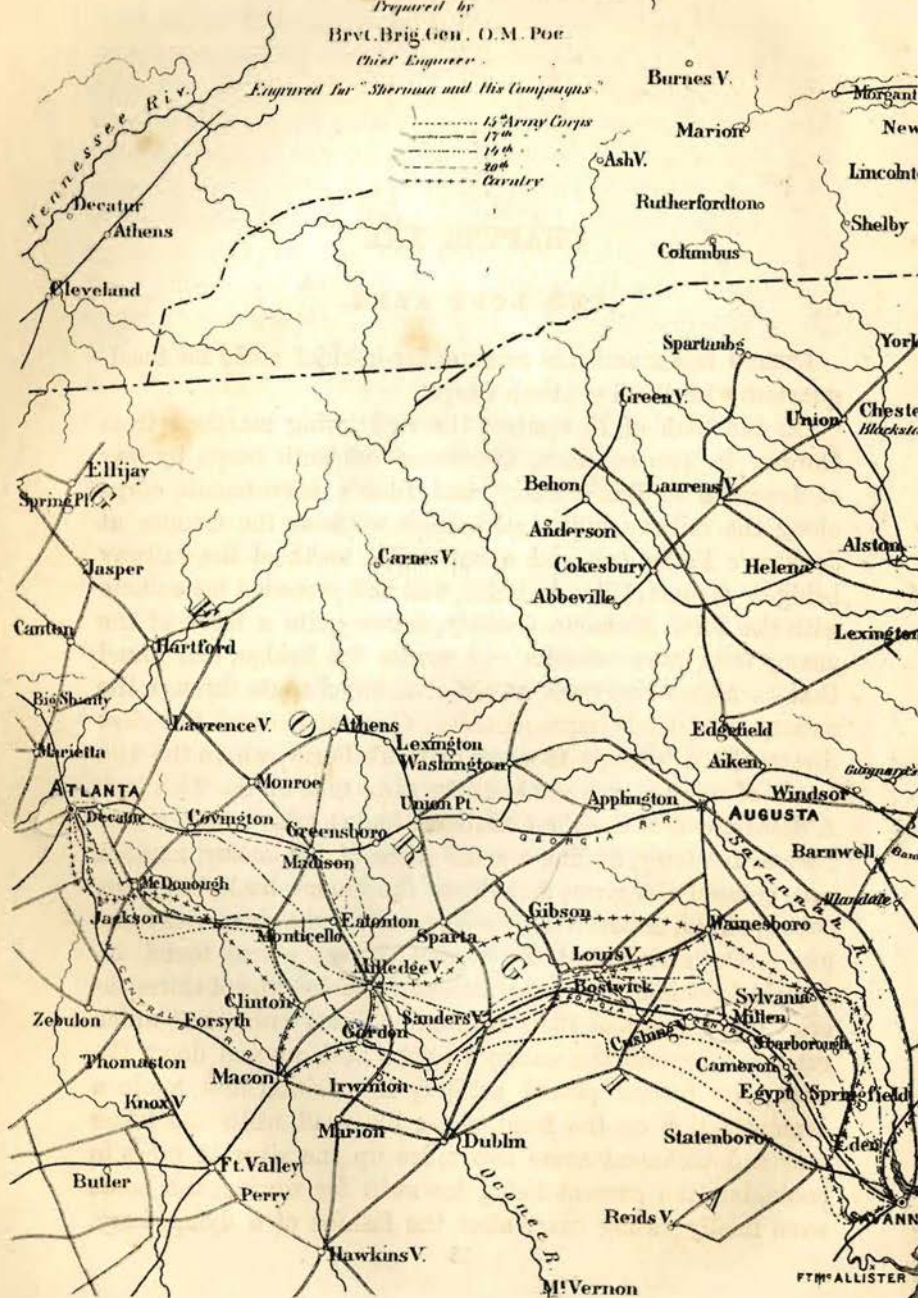
Jefferson C. Davis' fourteenth army corps moved from At-

FROM ATLANTA TO THE SEA

Prepared by
Brvt. Brig Gen. O. M. Poe
Chief Engineer

Engraved for "Sherman and his Campaigns"

----- 1st Army Corps
----- 17th
----- 19th
----- 20th
----- Cavalry



CHAPTER XXI.

THE LOST ARMY.

DURING this march the commander-in-chief made his headquarters with the Twentieth Corps.

On the 24th of November, the right wing marched from Gordon in two columns, Osterhaus' fifteenth corps by way of Irwinton to Ball's Ferry, and Blair's seventeenth corps along the railway, with instructions to cross the Oconee at Jackson's Ferry, two and a half miles north of the railway bridge. General Giles A. Smith, who had preceded his column with the First Alabama Cavalry, drove quite a force of the enemy from two stockades and across the bridge, and found that Jackson's Ferry was an old abandoned route through the swamp, completely impracticable. General Howard therefore directed Blair's corps to move to Ball's Ferry, where the two heads of column arrived about the same time on the 25th inst. A detachment of the First Alabama had the day before reconnoitred the ferry, finding a small force of the enemy, made a raft, crossed the river, and drove the enemy back, but were, subsequently, themselves forced to recross the river with some loss. On arriving at the river the enemy was found entrenched behind barricades, with an extended line of skirmishers. Osterhaus and Blair confronted them with a line which extended beyond the enemy's flanks both up and down the river; the former placed artillery in position and made a demonstration on the front, along the road, while the latter sent a detachment some two miles up the river to cross in boats, but the current being too swift for rowing, the boats were finally swung over, after the fashion of a flying ferry.

After working through the bayous and swamps till near morning the detachment reached the road in the rear of the enemy's position; but the enemy had retreated. The Oconee at this place is narrow, but the current is very swift, and there are some two miles of swampy ground on the right bank. The immediate approach to the ferry on the left bank is, however, very good. The bridges were laid so that the troops commenced crossing in two columns about noon, and by night Corse's and Woods' divisions reach Irwin's Cross-roads, about ten miles east of the ferry, and the remainder of the Fifteenth Corps crossed on the 26th, during which day the Seventeenth Corps took up a position near the fork of the road leading to Station No. 14, and General Blair detached a division to destroy the railway from the Oconee to a point north of Irwin's Cross-roads, and General Osterhaus caused the destruction to be continued thence as far east as Station No. 13.

Slocum marched from Milledgeville on the 24th, the Fourteenth Corps taking the right, by Black Spring, Fair Play, and Long's Bridge, and the Twentieth Corps the more direct road by Hebron; and both corps entered Sandersville by parallel roads, almost simultaneously, on the morning of the 26th. The advanced guard of Wheeler's cavalry was encountered near the town, and skirmished with, but offered no serious opposition.

The two wings being now abreast of each other, General Slocum was ordered to tear up and destroy the Georgia Central Railroad, from Tennille Station, No. 13, to Station No. 10, near the crossing of Ogeechee; one of his corps substantially following the railway, the other the more circuitous route to the left by Louisville, in support of Kilpatrick's cavalry.

Sherman himself now changed his headquarters to the right wing, and accompanied Blair's seventeenth corps on the south of the railway, till abreast of Barton Station, or No. 9½; General Howard, in person, with the Fifteenth Corps, keeping further to the right, and about one day's march ahead, ready to turn against the flank of any enemy who should oppose his progress.

On the 27th, Osterhaus' corps was divided into two columns. The left, consisting of Woods' and Corse's divisions, marched from Irwin's Cross-roads, by the Louisville road, to its intersection with the road leading from Sandersville to Johnson, and thence to the latter place. The right, consisting of Hazen's and John E. Smith's divisions, was to follow the next morning, by plantation roads, to Johnson.

On the 28th the right column of the Fifteenth Corps encamped at Wrightsville, the left column at Riddleville. Blair marched with the Seventeenth Corps from Irwin's, on the Louisville road, and turning into cross-roads on the Sandersville and Savannah road, at the intersection, encamped abreast of Riddleville.

On the 29th the two lower columns nearly formed a junction; the advance, under General Woods, encamping near Summer-ville, and the rest along the lower Savannah road and near Sunderland's Mill, about Sebastopol, or seven miles to the rear of General Woods. The Seventeenth Corps encamped on the upper Savannah road, abreast of Station No. 10, on the Georgia Central railway. The country was covered with open pine woods and wire-grass. Numerous swamps were found along the Ochospee River and its tributaries, and there were very few clearings or plantations. Quite a number of mules and horses were captured in the swamps, the citizens having run them off in the hope of escaping the Union army and Wheeler's cavalry, both equally dreaded.

Let us now turn to the left wing. On the afternoon of the 26th of November, Jackson's and Geary's divisions of Williams' twentieth corps were moved down to Tennille Station, leaving Ward's division to cover the train. The First Michigan Engineers reported for duty with the corps.

On the 27th, 28th, and 29th, the Central railway, and all the wagon-bridges over Williamson's Swamp Creek, were destroyed from Tennille Station to the Ogeechee River, including the long railway bridge over that stream, by Jackson's and Geary's divisions, and the Michigan Engineers. Ward's division marched with the trains, by way of Davisboro', across the

Ogeechee and Rocky Comfort rivers, and encamped near Louisville.

On the 30th, Jackson and Geary moved up the Ogeechee to Coward's Bridge, which was found partly destroyed, but easily repaired, and the whole corps encamped about three miles south of Louisville.

Meanwhile, on the 27th of November, the trains of the Fourteenth Corps, under escort of Carlin's division, moved by the way of Davisboro' upon Louisville, while Baird's and Morgan's divisions, unencumbered, moved on the Finn's Bridge road; thus protecting the left flank from any demonstrations the enemy's cavalry might make from that direction upon the trains.

These two divisions, united under the command of Brigadier-General Baird, marching on a road between the Ogeechee River and Rocky Comfort Creek, reached Louisville early in the afternoon of the 28th, immediately laid a pontoon bridge across the creek, and commenced the passage of troops. Owing to the movements of Ward's division of the Twentieth Corps with the trains, occupying the main road from Davisboro' to Louisville, Carlin's division and the trains of the Fourteenth Corps moving on that road were only able to reach the Ogeechee about three o'clock, P. M. The Fifty-eighth Indiana Pontoniers, under Colonel G. P. Buell, under the personal supervision of General Slocum, immediately commenced laying their bridges, and repairing the roads destroyed by the enemy, and before night the troops and trains were passing both streams into their camps around Louisville.

The road, running as it does here through an immense cypress swamp, required considerable labor to put and keep it in condition for the passage of trains, and it was not until noon the next day that the entire column succeeded in getting into camp. Early on the morning of the 29th, a report was received from General Kilpatrick that he was about ten miles from Louisville, on the road leading direct to Buckhead Bridge, hard pressed by Wheeler.

Kilpatrick, having received his instructions from General Sherman, had also started from Milledgeville on the 25th, and marching by Sparta, crossed the Ogeechee River at the shoals, and thence continuing his course by Spread Oak, Woodburn, and St. Clair, struck the railway on the 27th at Waynesboro'; the advance, under Captain Estes, assistant-adjutant-general, having destroyed a portion of the track, and partly burned the railway bridge over Briar Creek the day previous. During the march, Kilpatrick's flanks and rear had been repeatedly attacked by Wheeler's cavalry, but without delaying the movement. Passing through Waynesboro', Kilpatrick encamped his division in line of battle on the railway, three miles south of the town. Several attacks were made during the night upon Colonel Murray's line, but they were easily repulsed, and did not prevent the destruction of the track, one battalion being detailed from each regiment for that purpose. Here Kilpatrick learned that our prisoners had been removed from Millen two days previous, and the great object of his movement in that direction being thus frustrated, after destroying sufficient track to prevent transportation on the road for a few days, he deemed it prudent to retire to the support of the infantry. Accordingly, Colonel Atkins' brigade was ordered to move out to the intersection of the Waynesboro' and Louisville road, and there take up position, while Colonel Murray should move past him and take up position in his rear, and so on in succession retire from any force that might be sent in pursuit. By some misunderstanding, Colonel Atkins moved on without halting as directed, and the consequence was, that two regiments, the Eighth Indiana, Colonel Jones, and Ninth Michigan Cavalry, Colonel Acker, together with General Kilpatrick himself and all his staff, were cut off and partly surrounded. But these two regiments, by their splendid fighting, led by Kilpatrick, broke through the rebel lines, and slowly fell back, repulsing every attack of the enemy, until the main column was again reached. The cavalry moved on, crossed Buckhead Creek, burned the bridge, and halted two miles from the creek, where information soon reached Kil-

patrick that Wheeler was crossing with his entire force. Parties sent out having ascertained this report to be true, Kilpatrick took up a strong position, and constructed a long line of barricades, with his flanks thrown well to the rear. These dispositions were scarcely completed ere the enemy came in sight and made a most desperate charge, but was handsomely repulsed at all points, and with but slight loss. The cavalry moved on a few miles further, and encamped at the first place where forage could be obtained, the enemy making no further attempts to follow.

Immediately on receipt of General Kilpatrick's message, General Jefferson C. Davis sent a brigade of Baird's division of his corps, under Colonel Morton C. Hunter, to the support of the cavalry; but Wheeler having been already repulsed in the thorough manner just narrated, these re-enforcements were not needed.

During the 29th Kilpatrick came in and took position near the Fourteenth Corps, on the east bank of Big Creek.

Having successfully, and almost without opposition, passed the last of the three large rivers, the Ocmulgee, the Ocorree, and the Ogeechee, that crossed its path and formed the strong natural lines of defence against its movements, Sherman's army now lay with its left wing and the cavalry on the east bank of the latter stream, its right in close communication with it on the other side, and on the morrow would begin the easy and unbroken descent to the sea.

CHAPTER XXII.

TO THE SEA.

WE shall first follow the movements of the right wing down the Ogeechee. Osterhaus, with the Fifteenth Corps, kept the right, and Blair, with the Seventeenth Corps, still accompanied by General Sherman, the left.

On the 30th of November, 1864, Woods' and Corse's divisions, of the Fifteenth Corps, pushed on through Summer-ville northward, till they reached the upper Savannah road, and encamped near Deep Creek. Blair moved forward to Barton, or Station No. 9½; he rebuilt the partially destroyed wagon bridge, laid a pontoon bridge, and crossed the Ogeechee at that point.

On the 1st of December, the three columns moved as follows: the lower one, consisting of Hazen's and John E. Smith's divisions, on the Statesborough road; the middle column, comprising Woods' and Corse's divisions, upon the Savannah road; and Blair's seventeenth corps, constituting the left, along the Georgia Central railway, destroying it as it marched. The two right columns encamped opposite Station No. 8, General Woods securing and repairing the wagon bridge across the Ogeechee at that point; and a small force crossed over, made, break in the railway, and destroyed the depot. The Seventeenth Corps succeeded in reaching Station No. 9.

On the 2d the column preserved the same order of march. General Blair reached Millen, having completely destroyed the railway up to that point, including the depot and a large quantity of lumber, ties, etc. The middle column encamped

near Clifton's Ferry, having thrown a bridge over the Ogeechee at that point, and sent a brigade of Corse's division to assist the Seventeenth Corps in breaking up the railway. Scull's Creek, a wide stream, too deep to be forded, was carefully bridged in two places. Scouting parties hurried on to Scarborough, a little below, and seized a mail with Savannah papers of that day.

On the 3d, the Fifteenth Corps remained in position, excepting that two brigades of Corse's division crossed the river, and aided the Seventeenth Corps in destroying the railway from Millen to Scarborough. The Seventeenth Corps came up abreast, encamping near Scarborough, or Station No. 7.

On the 4th the central column, Woods and Corse, marched to Wilson's Creek; the left, Blair and part of Corse's division, reached Station No. 5½, having continued the destruction of the railway up to that point; and the right, Hazen and John E. Smith, proceeded as far as Statesborough. Hazen's division, leading, encountered a small body of the enemy's cavalry, said to be four hundred strong, and had a successful skirmish with them. The road being boggy, Hazen was obliged to corduroy several long stretches during the day.

On the 5th the two columns of the Fifteenth Corps moved along their respective roads to a position nearly opposite Guyton, or Station No. 3. General Howard, who was with the central column, hearing that some resistance was offered to General Blair near Ogeechee Church, caused a feint of crossing the Ogeechee to be made at Flat Ford. Some men were thrown over in boats, but no bridge was laid. General Sherman detained General Blair near Station No. 4½, for the left wing to come up.

On the 6th, reconnoissances were made towards Wright's Bridge and Jenks' Bridge at Eden Station with a view of saving them, if possible. Colonel Williamson's brigade of General Woods' division reached the former in time to save much of the timber, but all the planking and several of the trestles were already burned. He, however, constructed a foot-bridge and crossed over a small force which he pushed forward towards the

railway. A small detachment went as far as the Twenty-Mile Station and returned, skirmishing all the way. Colonel Oliver's brigade, of Hazen's division, made the reconnoissance to Jenks' Bridge, but found it destroyed. General Howard sent an officer, Lieutenant Harney, with a select party to strike the Gulf railway, but he found the bridge across the Cannouchee burned and the approaches were guarded by rebels, so that he was compelled to return without doing the work.

On the 7th, Woods remained at Wright's Bridge, except one brigade of infantry, that crossed the foot-bridge and marched down the east bank of the Ogeechee towards Eden Station. On the arrival of the pontoons at Jenks' Bridge, Captain C. B. Reese, chief-engineer of the Army of the Tennessee, finding the enemy on the other bank, threw over a regiment of Colonel Oliver's brigade and cleared the way. The bridge was immediately laid. General Corse's division had arrived by this time. One brigade, General Rice commanding, crossed over, met the enemy's skirmishers some five hundred yards beyond, drove them in, and in a very handsome manner routed a battalion of rebels behind rail-piles, capturing seventeen prisoners, and killing and wounding several more. The brigade lost two killed and two or three wounded. It then formed a junction with a brigade of Woods' division from Wright's Bridge, at Eden Station. Hazen's division moved on to Black Creek, sending forward Colonel Oliver's brigade to the Cannouchee. The rest of the Fifteenth Corps encamped near Jenks' Bridge. The Seventeenth Corps encamped in the vicinity of Guyton, or Station No. 3, ceasing to destroy the railway after leaving Ogeechee Church.

On the 8th of December, as the enemy was reported in some force near the twelve-mile post, having a line of works in his front, General Howard resolved to turn his position by sending two divisions of the Fifteenth Corps down the west bank of the Ogeechee to force a crossing of the Cannouchee, and throw forward sufficient detachments to break the Gulf railway, and, if possible secure King's Bridge over the Ogeechee, about a mile above the railway, and also to reconnoitre with one

division between the Big and Little Ogeechee rivers. The movement on the right bank began first, led by General Osterhaus in person, with Woods' and Hazen's divisions. General Howard himself accompanied General Corse, who found a good ridge road down the left bank of the main Ogeechee, and came upon some carefully constructed but abandoned works three miles and a half from Eden, or Station No. 2. The road was obstructed with felled trees at several points, but the impediments were so quickly removed by the pioneers that the column did not halt. On reaching the Savannah Canal, the bridge over it was found to have been burned, but a new one was made in less than half an hour. The Ogeechee bridge, near the mouth of the canal, at Dillen's Ferry, was found practicable for a pontoon bridge. General Corse sent forward a reconnoissance, which discovered the enemy in force at the junction of this road and the King's Bridge and Savannah road. General Osterhaus effected a crossing of the Cannouchee with two brigades, as directed. The Seventeenth Corps, meanwhile, moved up abreast of Eden, or Station No. 2, having much corduroying to do and many obstructions to clear away. After reaching the canal, General Howard returned to Station No. 2, and communicated with General Sherman in person, who directed him to allow General Blair to continue on the Louisville road.

The next day, December 9th, the Seventeenth Corps came upon the enemy in rifle-pits, three and a half miles from Station No. 2. General Blair drove the rebels from them, but soon came upon an intrenched line with guns in position. At this place the road led through a swamp densely covered with the wood and undergrowth peculiar to this region, and apparently impassable; but General Blair moved three lines of battle, preceded by a skirmish line, along on the right and left of the road for some two or three miles, occasionally in water knee-deep, drove the enemy from every position where he made a stand, and encamped for the night near Pooler, or Station No. 1. The detached brigades of the Fifteenth Corps succeeded in reaching the Savannah and

Gulf railway at different points, and destroying it. The third division, General John E. Smith, closed up on Corse's at the canal. As soon as he was within supporting distance, General Corse moved forward towards Savannah. He encountered about six hundred rebel infantry with two pieces of artillery near the cross-roads. His advance brigade quickly dislodged them, capturing one piece of artillery and several prisoners. He followed them up across the Little Ogeechee, and by General Howard's direction took up a strong position about twelve miles from Savannah, and thence sent out a detachment to break the Gulf railway. His advance crossed the Little Ogeechee, and halted about eight miles from the city. King's Bridge had been burned by the rebels. All the enemy's force was withdrawn from Osterhaus' front in the morning, except the independent garrison at Fort McAllister, situated on the right bank and near the mouth of the Ogeechee. During the day that section of the pontoon-bridge which had been with General Blair's column, was sent to Dillen's Ferry, near Fort Argyle, and laid across the Ogeechee, thus substantially uniting the two right columns of Howard's army.

To return to the left wing.

Williams' twentieth corps marched from Louisville on the 1st of December. From that time to the 8th, its line of march was down the Peninsula between the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers, following the Louisville and Savannah road, encamping on the 1st on Baker's Creek; on the 2d at Buckhead Church, on the 3d at Horse Creek; on the 4th at Little Ogeechee; on the 5th at Sylvania Cross-roads; on the 6th near Cowpens Creek; on the 7th on Jack's Branch, near Springfield; and on the 8th near Eden Cross-roads. As the coast neared, the surface of the country became flat and swampy. Large ponds or pools were met every mile or so, and the creeks spread out into several miry branches. The roads between the creeks and ponds, though apparently of sand, and of substantial character, proved to be upon a thin crust, which was soon cut through by the long trains into the deep quicksand, thus

requiring miles of corduroy. At several of the swamps, the enemy had attempted to obstruct the march by felling timber.

On the 9th the direction of march was changed to the east, taking the road from Eden to Monteith Post-office, on the Charleston railway. At the large Monteith swamp, the enemy, besides obstructing the road for nearly a mile by felling trees, had built two small earthworks, and with a single gun and about four hundred infantry made a show of stopping the march of the corps. Jackson's division being in advance, was ordered to throw out several regiments on each flank, while a brigade in the centre should make a feint, to engage attention and enable the pioneers to clear the obstructions. As soon as a portion of Robinson's brigade, under Colonel West, Thirty-first Wisconsin Volunteers, could cross the swamp the enemy fled, leaving behind a considerable quantity of new clothing and accoutrements. Jackson's loss was one man killed and four wounded.

On the morning of the 10th, the corps moved down to Monteith Station, on the Charleston railway, and after destroying some miles of the road, marched to a point near the five-mile post, on the Augusta and Savannah railway. Here, meeting the enemy's strong line of defences behind swamps and artificial ponds, the corps was ordered to encamp for the night. During the afternoon a party of foragers, with some cavalry, succeeded in capturing, near the foot of Argyle Island, a rebel dispatch-boat called the *Ida*, having on board Colonel Clinch, of General Hardee's staff, with dispatches for the rebel gunboats on the river above. The boat was unfortunately set on fire and burned.

On the 30th of November, Carlin's division of Jefferson C. Davis' fourteenth corps marched to Sebastopol, with a view to uncovering the crossing of the Ogeechee by other troops advancing in that direction. The next day, in the general advance of the army upon Millen, Davis was ordered to cross Buckhead Creek, at some point between Waynesboro' and Birdsville, for which place the Twentieth Corps was moving.

Baird's division, with Kilpatrick's cavalry, was ordered to move in the direction of Waynesboro', and after crossing Buckhead Creek, to move down the east bank of that stream and take position near Reynolds, not far from Buckhead bridge.

Morgan's division, in charge of the whole corps train, moved on the direct road to the bridge, and encamped ten miles from Louisville.

On the 2d of December, Baird and Kilpatrick completed the movement just indicated, Carlin's division joined the column from the direction of Sebastopol, and the whole corps went into camp at the crossing of the Birdsville and Waynesboro' roads, about two miles from the bridge.

The change in the direction of march of the Twentieth Corps to the Louisville and Springfield road again caused a deflection in the line of march of the Fourteenth Corps; and on the morning of the 3d, pontoon bridges were laid across the creek, at a point about five miles higher up the stream, and the troops and trains began crossing at half-past ten o'clock. Jacksonboro' had by this time been designated, by General Sherman, as the next objective point for the concentration of the corps; and General Davis ordered Baird and Kilpatrick to move from Reynolds, in the direction of Waynesboro', with a view to leading the enemy to believe that the next advance would be upon Augusta. Carlin and Morgan, after a hard day's work upon the roads, went into camp at Lumpkin's Station, where the Jacksonboro' road crosses the Augusta and Savannah railway. Baird and Kilpatrick took position near Thomas' Station, where the enemy was found in considerable force.

On the 4th, Carlin's and Morgan's division, with the three corps trains, after destroying three miles of railway, moved in the direction of Jacksonboro', and encamped thirteen miles beyond Lumpkin's Station. Baird and Kilpatrick, after some fighting with Wheeler's cavalry, drove the enemy from Waynesboro', and across Brier Creek. Baird, in the mean time, destroyed three miles of railway near Thomas' Station.

On the 5th, after a hard day's march over country roads,

which required much repairing, the whole corps, with Kilpatrick's cavalry, encamped in the vicinity of Jacksonboro', the advance being at Buck Creek Post-office, on the Savannah road.

During the night, the bridge across Beaver-dam Creek, at Jacksonboro', which had been destroyed, was rebuilt by Colonel Buell, of the Fifty-eighth Indiana, and his pontoniers; and early on the morning of the 6th, the whole column marched on the river-road, and went into camp at and in advance of Hudson's Ferry, on the Savannah River, making an average march of about twenty miles.

On the 7th, the column moved in the same order of march, Baird and Kilpatrick, with Colonel Atkins' brigade, unencumbered by the trains, covering the rear. Morgan's division, with the pontoon train, reached Ebenezer Creek late in the evening, and began cutting away the fallen timber which obstructed the roadway through the immense swamp which skirts the creeks on both sides at this point. Notwithstanding an exceedingly hard day's march, the pontoniers, under Colonel Buell, set to work at once to reconstruct the bridge, and by noon the next day the column commenced crossing this formidable defile; but in spite of the immense amount of labor expended upon the road and bridge, to make them passable, much was still required to maintain them in condition, and it was not until daylight on the 9th that the rear of the column had completed the crossing.

During the 8th, the enemy's cavalry made several attempts to drive in the rear pickets of the Fourteenth Corps, but did not succeed. The loss in the corps during these attacks was but slight, although at times the skirmishing was quite animated.

On the morning of the 9th, the crossing of Ebenezer Creek being now completed, as already stated, the corps marched from its camp at Ebenezer Church to Cuyler's plantation, where General Morgan, who was in the advance, found the enemy occupying a strongly-erected field-work, and disposed to dispute his advance. Morgan immediately placed two field-pieces in position and opened fire upon the work. His

infantry was soon deployed for an attack, but the near approach of night, and the impossibility of assaulting the position, through the impassable swamp in the front, caused General Davis to defer the attack until morning, when it was discovered the enemy had abandoned his position.

On the 10th, Morgan's and Carlin's divisions, with trains, moved to the Ten-mile House, and went into camp, giving the road to the Twentieth Corps, advancing from Monteith and intersecting the Augusta road. Baird's division was left to cover the rear, and tear up the railway track in the vicinity of the crossing of the Savannah River, and if possible to destroy the bridge at that point.

To preserve the historical sequence, it is necessary to glance separately at the movements of the cavalry division under Kilpatrick, already briefly touched upon so far as they were directly connected with the operations of the several corps.

On the 2d of December, as has been seen, Kilpatrick moved from the vicinity of Louisville, on the Waynesboro' road, supported by Baird's division of the Fifteenth Corps, to cover the movement of several columns on Millen. A small force of the enemy was encountered and dispersed by the Eighth Indiana, Colonel Jones, and the Fifth Kentucky, Colonel Baldwin, nine miles from Waynesboro', not without a severe skirmish. On reaching Rocky Creek, the enemy was found in considerable force on the opposite bank. Baird's division came up, and a force of both cavalry and infantry crossed the creek and simultaneously charged the enemy, who rapidly retreated towards Waynesboro' and Augusta, closely pursued for some distance by the cavalry.

On the 3d, Kilpatrick marched to Thomas' Station and encamped for the night, having made such disposition of his forces as to protect Baird's division, then deployed along the railway and engaged in its destruction. Wheeler, who had been encamped between Waynesboro' and Brier Creek, moved in the early part of the evening to Waynesboro', and, with a portion of his command, made a vigorous

attack upon one of Colonel Atkins' regiments, stationed upon the railway, three miles south of the town. This attack was easily repulsed, as were several others, made during the night. Having received orders that day from General Sherman to make a strong reconnoissance in the direction of Waynesboro', and to engage Wheeler whenever he might be met, Kilpatrick directed his brigade commanders to send the surplus animals and all non-combatants to the wagon-trains, and notify them that in the morning he would move to engage, defeat, and rout the rebel cavalry encamped at Waynesboro'.

At daylight on the 4th the cavalry moved out of camp, Atkins' brigade leading the advance. The enemy's skirmish line was met, quickly driven in, and finally retired upon his main line, consisting of dismounted cavalry, strongly posted behind long lines of barricades, with their flanks well secured. Colonel Atkins was directed to move forward and take the barricades; but the enemy was found to be more strongly posted than was anticipated, and the first attempt was a failure. The Ninety-second Illinois Mounted Infantry was dismounted; the Tenth Ohio and Ninth Michigan Cavalry, in columns of fours, by battalions, were sent in on the right, and the Ninth Ohio Cavalry was placed in the same order on the left; the Tenth Wisconsin battery, Captain Beebe, was brought up to within less than six hundred yards, and opened upon the barricades, and the enemy's artillery, in all five pieces, was forced to withdraw. At this moment, all being ready, the charge was sounded; the whole line moved forward in splendid order, and never halted for one moment until the barricades were gained and the enemy routed. A few hundred yards beyond, the enemy made several counter-charges, to save his dismounted men and check Kilpatrick's rapid advance. At one time he had nearly succeeded, when the Eighth Ohio Cavalry, Colonel Heath, which had been sent out on Kilpatrick's right, charged the enemy in flank and rear, and forced them to give way at all points, and rapidly to fall back to the town of Waynesboro'. Here the enemy was found occupying a second line of barricades, with artillery, as before, and his flanks

so far extended that it was useless to attempt to turn them. Kilpatrick therefore determined to break his centre. Colonel Murray, having the advance, was directed to make a disposition accordingly. The Eighth Indiana, Colonel Jones, was dismounted and pushed forward as skirmishers; the Ninth Pennsylvania, Colonel Jordan, in columns of fours, by battalions, had the left; the Third Kentucky, Lieutenant-Colonel King, the centre; the Fifth Kentucky, Colonel Baldwin, and Second Kentucky, Captain Foreman, the right. The advance was sounded, and in less than twenty minutes the enemy was driven from his position, the town gained, and Wheeler's entire force completely routed. The Fifth Ohio, Fifth Kentucky, and a portion of the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, followed in close pursuit to Brier Creek, a distance of eight miles from the point from where the first attack was made. After burning the bridges above and below the railway bridge, as well as the latter, the cavalry marched to Alexander, on the Waynesboro' and Jacksonboro' road, and encamped for the night.

On the 5th, Kilpatrick marched from Alexander to Jacksonboro', covering the rear of the Fourteenth Army Corps, as already stated.

On the 6th, Colonel Murray's brigade marched to Springfield, moving in rear of the Twentieth Corps, and Colonel Atkins' brigade moved to Hudson Ferry.

On the 7th, when near Sister's Ferry, the Ninth Michigan, Colonel Acker, acting as rear-guard of Colonel Atkins' brigade, received and repulsed an attack made by Ferguson's brigade of Confederate cavalry.

On the 8th, Atkins' brigade crossed Ebenezer Creek, and the whole division united on the Monteith road, ten miles south of Springfield. From this point the cavalry moved in rear of the Seventeenth Corps, covering the rear of the other corps by detachments.

Thus, on the 10th of December, 1864, the enemy's forces under Hardee were driven within the immediate defences of Savannah, and Sherman's entire army having leisurely marched over three hundred miles in twenty-four days with trifling

opposition through the vitals of the enemy's country, subsisting upon his stock-yards and granaries, was massed in front of the city, entirely across the peninsula lying between the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers, and occupying all the lines of railway communication and supply.

CHAPTER XXIII.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT.

THE defensive works constructed by the enemy to cover the rear of Savannah, and now garrisoned by the Confederate forces under Lieutenant-General Hardee, followed substantially a swampy creek which empties into the Savannah River about three miles above the city, across to the head of a corresponding stream flowing into the Little Ogeechee. These streams proved singularly favorable to the enemy as a cover, being very marshy and bordered by rice-fields, which were flooded either by the tide-water or by inland ponds, the gates to which were controlled and covered by his heavy artillery. The only approaches to the city were by five narrow causeways, namely, the two railways, and the Augusta, the Louisville, and the Ogeechee roads, all of which were commanded by the enemy's heavy ordnance.

To assault an enemy of unknown strength at such a disadvantage appeared to Sherman unwise, especially as he had brought his army, almost unscathed, so great a distance, and could surely attain the same result by the operation of time. He therefore instructed his army commanders closely to invest the city from the north and west, and to reconnoitre well the ground in their respective fronts, while he gave his personal attention to opening communications with the fleet, which was known to be waiting in Tybee, Wassaw, and Ossabaw sounds, in accordance with the preconcerted plan. Williams' twentieth corps held the left of the Union line, resting on the Savannah River, near Williamson's plantation; Jefferson C. Davis' fourteenth corps was on its right, extending from the Augusta railway, near its junction with the Charles-

ton railway, to Lawton's plantation, beyond the canal; Blair's seventeenth corps next, and Osterhaus' fifteenth corps on the extreme right, with its flank resting on the Gulf railway, at Station No. 1. General Kilpatrick was instructed to cross the Ogeechee by a pontoon bridge, to reconnoitre Fort McAllister, and to proceed to St. Catherine's Sound, in the direction of Sunbury or Kilkenny Bluff, and open communication with the fleet. General Howard had previously sent Captain Duncan, one of his best scouts, down the Ogeechee in a canoe for a like purpose; but it was also necessary to have the ships and their contents, and the Ogeechee River, close to the rear of the camps, as the proper avenue of supply.

The enemy had burned King's Bridge, over the Ogeechee, just below the mouth of the Cannouchee; but although a thousand feet long, it was reconstructed in an incredibly short time, and in the most substantial manner, by the Fifty-eighth Indiana, Colonel Buell, under the direction of Captain C. B. Reese, of the Engineer Corps; and on the 13th of December, Hazen's division of Osterhaus' fifteenth corps crossed the bridge, gained the west bank of the Ogeechee, and marched down the river with orders to carry by assault Fort McAllister, a strong inclosed redoubt, manned by two companies of artillery and three of infantry, numbering in all about two hundred men, and mounting twenty-three barbette guns and one mortar.

On the morning of the 13th of December, General Sherman and General Howard went to Dr. Cheves' rice-mill, whence Fort McAllister was in full view. At the rice-mill a section of De Grass' battery was firing occasionally at the fort opposite, three miles and a half distant, as a diversion, having for its principal object, however, to attract the attention of the fleet. During the day the two commanders watched the fort and the bay, endeavoring to catch glimpses of the division moving upon the work, and of vessels belonging to the fleet. About noon, the rebel artillery at McAllister opened inland, firing occasionally from three or four different guns. By their glasses the generals could observe Hazen's skirmishers firing on the fort; and about the same time a movable smoke, like that from a

steamer, attracted their attention near the mouth of the Ogeechee.

Signal communication was established with General Hazen, who gave notice that he had invested the fort, and also that he observed the steamer. General Sherman signalled him from the top of the mill that it was important to carry the fort by assault that day.

The steamer had approached near enough to draw the fire of the fort when her signal-flag was descried. Captain McClintock, of the Signal Corps, aided by Lieutenant Sampson, speedily communicated with the vessel, and ascertained that she was a tug, sent by General Foster and Admiral Dahlgren for the purpose of communicating with the army. The signal-officer of the steamer inquired, "Is McAllister ours?"

Just at that moment a brisk firing was observed at the fort. Hazen had sounded the charge, and instantly his brave division had rushed through the torpedoes and abattis which obstructed the approach to the fort, and gaining the parapet, after a hand-to-hand struggle of a few moments' duration, the garrison had surrendered.

From their position at the rice-mill, Sherman and Howard could see the men discharge their pieces in the air, and hear their shout of triumph as they took possession of the fort and raised the old flag over their conquest.

Hazen's loss in killed and wounded was about ninety men, while the garrison lost between forty and fifty, killed and wounded; and the remainder, about one hundred and fifty in number, were captured, together with twenty-two pieces of artillery and a large quantity of ammunition.

The substantial fruit of this victory, however, was to be found in the fact that communication with the sea was established, and the prompt receipt of supplies secured.

As soon as he saw the Union colors planted upon the walls of the fort, Sherman ordered a boat, and, accompanied by General Howard, went down to the fort, and there met General Hazen, who had not yet communicated with the steamer, nor indeed seen her, as the view was interrupted by some trees.

Determined to communicate that night with the fleet, Sherman got into another boat, and caused himself to be rowed down the Ogeechee, until he met the navy tug-boat *Dandelion*, commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Williamson, who informed him that Captain Duncan, who, it will be remembered, was sent down the river a few days previously by General Howard, had safely reached Major-General Foster and Rear-Admiral Dahlgren, commanding the land and naval forces on the South Atlantic coast, and that these officers were hourly expected to arrive in Ossabaw Sound, where the *Dandelion* was then lying.

At midnight, Sherman wrote brief notes to General Foster and the admiral, and a dispatch to the secretary of war, recounting the main facts of the campaign, and the present situation.

"The weather has been fine," he said to Mr. Stanton, "and supplies were abundant. Our march was most agreeable, and we were not at all molested by guerrillas. . . . We have not lost a wagon on the trip, but have gathered in a large supply of negroes, mules, horses, etc., and our trains are in far better condition than when we started. My first duty will be to clear the army of surplus negroes, mules, and horses. . . . The quick work made with McAllister, and the opening of communication with our fleet, and the consequent independence for supplies, dissipates all their boasted threats to head me off and starve the army. I regard Savannah as already gained."

He then returned to Fort McAllister, and before daylight was overtaken by Major Strong, of General Foster's staff, with intelligence that General Foster had arrived in the Ogeechee, near Fort McAllister, and was very anxious to meet General Sherman on board his boat. Sherman accordingly returned with the major, and met General Foster on board the steamer *Nemaha*; and, after consultation, determined to proceed with him down the sound, in hopes of meeting Admiral Dahlgren, which, however, they did not do until about noon, in Wassaw Sound. General Sherman there went on board the admiral's flagship, the *Harvest Moon*, after having arranged with General Foster to send from Hilton Head some siege ordnance and boats suitable for navigating the Ogeechee River. Ad-

miral Dahlgren furnished all the data concerning his fleet and the numerous forts that guarded the inland channels between the sea and Savannah; and Sherman explained to him how completely Savannah was invested at all points, save only the plank-road on the South Carolina shore, known as the "Union Causeway," which he thought he could reach from his left flank across the Savannah River. The general also informed the admiral that if he would simply engage the attention of the forts along Wilmington Channel, at Beaulieu and Rosedew, the army could carry the defences of Savannah by assault as soon as the heavy ordnance arrived from Hilton Head.

On the 15th, Sherman returned to the lines in the rear of Savannah.

Having received and carefully considered all the reports of division commanders, he determined to assault the lines of the enemy as soon as the heavy ordnance should arrive from Port Royal, first making a formal demand for surrender. On the 17th, a number of thirty-pounder Parrott guns having reached King's Bridge, Sherman proceeded in person to the headquarters of Major-General Slocum, on the Augusta road, and dispatched thence into Savannah, by flag of truce, a formal demand for the surrender of the place, accompanied by a copy of Hood's threat, at Dalton, to take no prisoners, and on the following day received an answer from General Hardee conveying his refusal to accede thereto. In his reply, General Hardee pointed out that the investment was still incomplete.

In the mean time, further reconnoissances from the left flank had demonstrated that it was impracticable and unwise to push any considerable force across the Savannah River, since the enemy held the river opposite the city with iron-clad gunboats, and could destroy any pontoons laid down between Hutchinson's Island and the South Carolina shore, and thereby isolate any force sent over from that flank. Sherman, therefore, ordered General Slocum to get into position the siege-guns, and make all the preparations necessary to assault, and to report the earliest moment when he could be ready.

General Foster had already established a division of troops

on the peninsula or neck between the Coosawhatchie and Tullifinney rivers, at the head of Broad River, whence he could reach the railway with his artillery. Sherman himself went to Port Royal, and made arrangements to re-enforce that command by one or more divisions, so as to enable it to assault and carry the railway, and thence turn towards Savannah until it should occupy the causeway. He made the voyage on board Admiral Dahlgren's flag-ship, the *Harvest Moon*, which put to sea the night of the 20th; but the wind was high, and increased during the night, so that the pilot considered Ossabaw Bar impassable, and ran into Tybee, whence the steamer proceeded through the inland channels into Wassaw Sound, and thence through Romney Marsh. But the ebb-tide having caught the *Harvest Moon*, so that she was unable to make the passage, Admiral Dahlgren took the general in his barge, and pulling in the direction of Vernon River, the army-tug *Red Legs* was there met, bearing a message from Captain Dayton, assistant-adjutant-general, dated that morning, the 21st, to the effect that the troops were already in possession of the enemy's lines, and were advancing without opposition into Savannah. Admiral Dahlgren proceeded up the Vernon River in his barge, while General Sherman went on board the tug, in which he proceeded to Fort McAllister, and thence to the rice-mill, whence he had viewed the assault, and on the morning of the 22d rode into the city of Savannah.

After firing heavily from his iron-clads and the batteries along the lines, all the afternoon, and late into the evening of the 20th, Hardee had evacuated the city during that night, on a pontoon bridge, and marched towards Charleston on the causeway road. The night being very dark, and a strong westerly wind blowing, although the sounds of movement were heard in Geary's front, it was impossible to make out its direction or object, and when the pickets of that division advanced early on the morning of the 21st the evacuation had been completed, and nothing remained but to occupy the city.

Immediately on his arrival, Sherman dispatched the follow-

ing brief note to President Lincoln, announcing this happy termination of the campaign:—

“I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with one hundred and fifty heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about twenty-five thousand bales of cotton.”

The number of pieces of artillery captured, as subsequently ascertained by actual inspection and count, was one hundred and sixty-seven.

Thus, as the result of this great campaign, was gained the possession of what had from the outset been its chief object.

Its present value was mainly as a base for future operations.

The army marched over three hundred miles in twenty-four days, directly through the heart of Georgia, and reached the sea with its subsistence trains almost unbroken. In the entire command, five officers and fifty-eight men were killed, thirteen officers and two hundred and thirty-two men wounded, and one officer and two hundred and fifty-eight men missing; making a total list of casualties of but nineteen commissioned officers and five hundred and forty-eight enlisted men, or five hundred and sixty-seven of all ranks. Seventy-seven officers, and twelve hundred and sixty-one men of the Confederate army, or thirteen hundred and thirty-eight in all, were made prisoners. Ten thousand negroes left the plantations of their former masters and accompanied the column when it reached Savannah, without taking note of thousands more who joined the army, but from various causes had to leave it at different points. Over twenty thousand bales of cotton were burned, besides the twenty-five thousand captured at Savannah. Thirteen thousand head of beef-cattle, nine million five hundred thousand pounds of corn, and ten million five hundred thousand of fodder, were taken from the country and issued to the troops and animals. The men lived mainly on the sheep hogs, turkeys, geese, chickens, sweet potatoes, and rice, gathered by the foragers from the plantations along the route of each day's

march. Sixty thousand men, taking merely of the surplus which fell in their way as they marched rapidly on the main roads, subsisted for three weeks in the very country where the Union prisoners at Andersonville were starved to death or idiotcy. Five thousand horses and four thousand mules were impressed for the cavalry and trains. Three hundred and twenty miles of railway were destroyed, and the last remaining links of communication between the Confederate armies in Virginia and the West effectually severed, by burning every tie, twisting every rail while heated red-hot over the flaming piles of ties, and laying in ruin every depot, engine-house, repair-shop, water-tank, and turn-table.

From the time that the army left Atlanta, until its arrival before Savannah, not one word of intelligence was received by the Government or people, except through the Confederate newspapers, of its whereabouts, movements, or fate; and it was not until Sherman had emerged from the region lying between Augusta and Macon, and reached Millen, that the authorities and the press of the Confederacy were able to make up their minds as to the direction of his march.

Marching in four columns, on a front of thirty miles, each column masked in all directions by clouds of skirmishers Sherman was enabled to continue till the last to menace so many points, each in such force that it was impossible for the enemy to decide whether Augusta, Macon, or Savannah were his immediate objective; the Gulf or the Atlantic his destination; the Flint, the Oconee, the Ogeechee, or the Savannah his route; or what his ulterior design.

Immediately upon receipt of Sherman's laconic message, President Lincoln replied:—

“EXECUTIVE MANSION,
“WASHINGTON, D C., Dec. 26, 1864.

“MY DEAR GENERAL SHERMAN:

“Many, many thanks for your Christmas gift,—the capture of Savannah.

“When you were about to leave Atlanta for the Atlantic

coast, I was *anxious*, if not fearful; but feeling you were the better judge, and remembering that 'nothing risked nothing gained,' I did not interfere. Now, the undertaking being a success, the honor is all yours, for I believe none of us went further than to acquiesce. And taking the work of General Thomas into the count, as it should be taken, it is indeed a great success.

"Not only does it afford the obvious and immediate military advantages, but in showing to the world that your army could be divided, putting the stronger part to an important new service, and yet leaving enough to vanquish the old opposing forces of the whole--Hood's army--it brings those who sat in darkness to see a great light.

"But what next? I suppose it will be safe if I leave General Grant and yourself to decide.

"Please make my grateful acknowledgments to your whole army, officers and men.

"Yours very truly,

"A. LINCOLN."

In concluding his official report, Sherman thus speaks of the services rendered by his subordinate commanders, and of the character of his army:—

"Generals Howard and Slocum are gentlemen of singular capacity and intelligence, thorough soldiers and patriots, working day and night, not for themselves, but for their country and their men. General Kilpatrick, who commanded the cavalry of this army, has handled it with spirit and dash to my entire satisfaction, and kept a superior force of the enemy's cavalry from even approaching our infantry columns or wagon-trains. All the division and brigade commanders merit my personal and official thanks, and I shall spare no efforts to secure them commissions equal to the rank they have exercised so well.

"As to the rank and file, they seem so full of confidence in themselves, that I doubt if they want a compliment from me ;

but I must do them the justice to say that, whether called on to fight, to march, to wade streams, to make roads, clear out obstructions, build bridges, make 'corduroy,' or tear up railroads, they have done it with alacrity and a degree of cheerfulness unsurpassed. A little loose in foraging, they 'did some things they ought not to have done,' yet on the whole they have supplied the wants of the army with as little violence as could be expected, and as little loss as I calculated. Some of these foraging parties had encounters with the enemy which would, in ordinary times, rank as respectable battles.

"The behavior of our troops in Savannah has been so manly, so quiet, so perfect, that I take it as the best evidence of discipline and true courage. Never was a hostile city, filled with women and children, occupied by a large army with less disorder, or more system, order, and good government. The same general and generous spirit of confidence and good feeling pervades the army which it has ever afforded me especial pleasure to report on former occasions."

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE END OF HOOD.

IN order fully to comprehend how it was possible for a campaign so vast in its magnitude, so decisive in its results, to be conducted to a successful termination with only nominal opposition, it is necessary to recur to the position of Hood's army, which we left at Florence in the early part of November, confronted by the Union army under Thomas, then concentrated at Pulaski, under the immediate command of Major-General Schofield.

It will be remembered that, in view of the numerical inferiority of his army, comprising the Fourth and Twenty-third Corps, Hatch's division, and Croxton's and Capron's brigades of cavalry, amounting to less than thirty thousand men of all arms, General Thomas had decided to maintain a defensive attitude, until the arrival of A. J. Smith with two divisions of the Sixteenth Corps from Missouri and the remnant of dismounted cavalry should enable him to assume the offensive, with equal strength, against Hood's forces, consisting of the three old corps of the Confederate army of the Tennessee, under Lee, Stewart, and Cheatham, estimated at thirty thousand strong, and Forrest's cavalry, supposed to number twelve thousand. In preparation for his great invasion of Middle Tennessee, with the declared intention of remaining there, Hood had caused the Mobile and Ohio railway to be repaired, and occupied Corinth, so that his supplies could now be brought from Selma and Montgomery by rail to that point, and thence to Cherokee Station, on the Memphis and Charleston railway.

On the afternoon of the 12th of November the last telegram was received from General Sherman, and all railway and telegraphic communication with his army ceased. From that time until the 17th of November was an anxious period for Thomas, uncertain whether he should have to pursue Hood in an endeavor on his part to follow Sherman, or defend Tennessee against invasion; but on that day Cheatham's corps crossed to the south side of the Tennessee, and suspense was at an end. Hood could not follow Sherman now if he would, for Sherman was already two days' march from Atlanta on his way to the sea.

On the 19th of November, Hood began his advance, on parallel roads from Florence towards Waynesboro'.

General Schofield commenced removing the public property from Pulaski preparatory to falling back towards Columbia.

Two divisions of Stanley's fourth corps had already reached Lynnvile, fifteen miles north of Pulaski, to cover the passage of the wagons and protect the railway. Capron's brigade of cavalry was at Mount Pleasant, covering the approach to Columbia from that direction; and in addition to the regular garrison, there was at Columbia a brigade of Ruger's division of the Twenty-third Corps. The two remaining brigades of Ruger's division, then at Johnsonville, were ordered to move, one by railway around through Nashville to Columbia, the other by road *via* Waverley to Centreville, and occupy the crossings of Duck River near Columbia, Williamsport, Gordon's Ferry, and Centreville. About five thousand men belonging to Sherman's column had collected at Chattanooga, comprising convalescents and furloughed men returning to their regiments. These men had been organized into brigades, to be made available at such points as they might be needed. Thomas had also been re-enforced by twenty new one-year regiments, most of which, however, were absorbed in replacing old regiments whose terms of service had expired.

On the 23d, in accordance with directions previously given him, General R. S. Granger commenced withdrawing the garrisons from Athens, Decatur, and Huntsville, Alabama, and

moved off towards Stevenson, sending five new regiments of that force to Murfreesboro', and retaining at Stevenson the original troops of his command. This movement was rapidly made by rail, and without opposition on the part of the enemy.

The same night General Schofield evacuated Pulaski, and reached Columbia on the 24th. The commanding officer at Johnsonville was directed to evacuate that post and retire to Clarksville. During the 24th and 25th, the enemy skirmished with General Schofield's troops at Columbia, and on the morning of the 26th his infantry came up and pressed Schofield's line strongly during that day and the 27th, but without assaulting. As the enemy's movements showed an undoubted intention to cross, General Schofield withdrew to the north bank of Duck River, during the night of the 27th. Two divisions of the Twenty-third Corps were placed in line in front of the town, holding all the crossings in its vicinity; while Stanley's fourth corps, posted in reserve on the Franklin pike, was held in readiness to repel any vigorous attempt the enemy should make to force a passage; and the cavalry, under Wilson, held the crossings above those guarded by the infantry.

About 2 A. M. on the 29th, the enemy succeeded in pressing back General Wilson's cavalry, and effected a crossing on the Lewisburg pike: at a later hour part of his infantry crossed at Huey's Mills, six miles above Columbia. Communication with the cavalry having been interrupted, and the line of retreat towards Franklin being threatened, General Schofield made preparations to withdraw to Franklin. General Stanley, with one division of his Fourth Corps, was sent to Spring Hill, fifteen miles north of Columbia, to cover the trains and hold the road open for the passage of the main force; and dispositions were made, preparatory to a withdrawal, to meet any attack coming from the direction of Huey's Mills. General Stanley reached Spring Hill just in time to drive off the enemy's cavalry and save the trains; but he was afterwards attacked by the enemy's infantry and cavalry combined, who nearly succeeded in dislodging him from the position. Although not attacked from the direction of Huey's Mills, General Schofield was

busily occupied all day at Columbia resisting the enemy's attempts to cross Duck River, which he successfully accomplished, repulsing the enemy many times with heavy loss. Giving directions for the withdrawal of the troops as soon as covered by the darkness, at a late hour in the afternoon General Schofield, with Ruger's division, started to the relief of General Stanley at Spring Hill, and when near that place came upon the enemy's cavalry, bivouacking within eight hundred yards of the road, but easily drove them off. Posting a brigade to hold the pike at this point, General Schofield, with Ruger's division, pushed on to Thompson's Station, three miles beyond, where he found the enemy's camp-fires still burning, a cavalry force having occupied the place at dark, but subsequently disappeared. The withdrawal of the main force in front of Columbia was safely effected after dark on the 29th; Spring Hill was passed without molestation about midnight, and, making a night march of twenty-five miles, the whole command got into position at Franklin at an early hour on the morning of the 30th, the cavalry moving on the Lewisburg pike, on the right or east of the infantry.

At Franklin, General Schofield formed line of battle on the southern edge of the town, and hastened the crossing of the trains to the north side of Harpeth River.

The enemy followed closely after General Schofield's rear-guard in the retreat to Franklin, and repeatedly assaulted his works until ten o'clock at night; but Schofield's position was excellently chosen, with both flanks resting on the river, and his men firmly held their ground, and repulsed every attack along the whole line. Our loss was one hundred and eighty-nine killed, one thousand and thirty-three wounded, and one thousand one hundred and four missing, making an aggregate of two thousand three hundred and twenty-six. Seven hundred and two prisoners were captured, and thirty-three stands of colors. Major-General Stanley was severely wounded while engaged in rallying a portion of his command which had been temporarily overpowered by an overwhelming attack of the enemy. The enemy lost seventeen hundred and fifty killed,

three thousand eight hundred wounded, and seven hundred and two prisoners, making an aggregate loss to Hood's army of six thousand two hundred and fifty-two, among which number were six general officers killed, six wounded, and one captured.

On the evacuation of Columbia, General Thomas sent orders to General Milroy, at Tullahoma, to abandon that post and retire to Murfreesboro', joining forces with General Rousseau at the latter place, but to maintain the garrison at the block-house at Elk River bridge. Nashville was placed in a state of defence, and the fortifications manned by the garrison, re-enforced by a volunteer force which had been previously organized into a division under brevet Brigadier-General J. L. Donaldson, from the employes of the quartermaster's and commissary departments. This latter force, aided by railway employes, the whole under the direction of Brigadier-General Tower, worked assiduously to construct additional defences. Major-General Steedman, with the five thousand men isolated from General Sherman's column, and a brigade of colored troops, started from Chattanooga by rail on the 29th November, and reached Cowan on the morning of the 30th, where orders were sent him to proceed direct to Nashville. At an early hour on the morning of the 30th the advance of Major-General A. J. Smith's command arrived at Nashville by transports from St. Louis. Thus, General Thomas had now an infantry force nearly equal to that of the enemy, though still outnumbered in effective cavalry; but as soon as a few thousand of the latter arm could be mounted he would be in a condition to take the field offensively and dispute the possession of Tennessee with Hood's army.

Not willing to risk a renewal of the battle on the morrow, and having accomplished the object of the day's operations, namely, to cover the withdrawal of his trains, General Schofield, by direction of General Thomas, fell back during the night to Nashville, and formed line of battle on the surrounding heights on the 1st of December, connecting with the rest of the army, A. J. Smith's corps occupying the right, resting

on the Cumberland River, below the city ; the Fourth Corps, temporarily commanded by Brigadier-General Thomas J. Wood, in consequence of General Stanley's wound, the centre ; and Schofield's twenty-third corps the left, extending to the Nolensville pike. The cavalry under General Wilson took post on the left of Schofield, thus securing the interval between that flank and the river above the city.

General Steedman's troops reached Nashville on the evening of the 1st, and on the 3d, when the cavalry was moved to the north side of the river at Edgefield, occupied the space on the left of the line vacated by its withdrawal.

On the morning of the 4th, after skirmishing during the two preceding days, the enemy succeeded in gaining a position with its salient on the summit of Montgomery Hill, within six hundred yards of the Union centre, his main line occupying the high ground on the southeast side of Brown's Creek, and extending from the Nolensville pike, on the enemy's extreme right, across the Franklin and Granny White's roads, in a westerly direction to the hills south and southwest of Richland Creek, and down that creek to the Hillsboro' road, with cavalry extending from both flanks to the river.

Between this time and the 7th of December, the enemy, with one division each from Cheatham's and Lee's corps, and two thousand five hundred of Forrest's cavalry, attempted to take the blockhouse at the railway crossing of Overall's Creek, and Fort Rosecrans at Murfreesboro', but were repulsed with loss by Generals Milroy and Rousseau, commanding the garrisons.

Buford's Confederate cavalry entered Murfreesboro', but was speedily driven out by a regiment of infantry and a section of artillery, and on retiring moved northward to Lebanon and along the south bank of the Cumberland, threatening to cross to the north side of the river and interrupt the railway communication with Louisville, at that time the only source of supplies for Thomas' army, the river below Nashville being blockaded by batteries along the shore. The gunboats under Lieutenant-Commanding Le Roy Fitch patrolled the Cumber-

land above and below Nashville, and prevented the enemy from crossing. General Wilson sent a cavalry force to Gallatin to guard the country in that vicinity.

The position of Hood's army around Nashville remained unchanged, and nothing of importance occurred from the 3d to the 15th of December, both armies being ice-bound during the latter part of the time. In the mean while Thomas was preparing to take the offensive without delay; the cavalry was being remounted and new transportation furnished.

On the 14th, Thomas called together his corps commanders, announced his intention of attacking on the morrow, should the weather prove propitious, and explained his plan of operations. A. J. Smith, holding the right, was to form on the Harding road and make a vigorous attack on the enemy's left, supported by three divisions of Wilson's cavalry, ready to assail the enemy as occasion might serve. Wood, with the Fourth Corps, leaving a strong skirmish line on Laurens' Hill, was to form on the Hillsboro' road, supporting Smith's left, and act against the left and rear of the enemy's advanced post on Montgomery Hill. Schofield was to be in reserve, covering Wood's left. Steedman's troops from Chattanooga, the regular garrison of Nashville, under Brigadier-General Miller, and the quartermaster's employes, under Brevet Brigadier-General Donaldson, were to hold the interior line constituting the immediate defences of the city, the whole under command of Major-General Steedman.

On the appointed day, every thing being favorable, the army was formed and ready at an early hour to carry out this plan. The formation of the troops was partially concealed from the enemy by the broken nature of the ground, as also by a dense fog, which only lifted towards noon. The enemy was apparently totally unaware of any intention on the part of Thomas to attack his position, and especially did not seem to expect any movement against his left.

General Steedman had, on the previous evening, made a heavy demonstration against the enemy's right, east of the Nolensville pike, succeeding in attracting the enemy's attention

to that part of his line and inducing him to draw re-enforcements from his centre and left. As soon as Steedman had completed this movement, Smith and Wilson moved out along the Harding pike, and commenced the grand movement of the day by wheeling to the left and advancing against the enemy's position across the Harding and Hillsboro' roads. Johnson's division of cavalry was sent at the same time to look after a battery of the enemy's on the Cumberland River, at Bell's Landing, eight miles below Nashville. The remainder of General Wilson's command, Hatch's division leading and Knipe in reserve, moving on the right of A. J. Smith, first struck the enemy along Richland Creek, near Harding's house, and rapidly drove him back, capturing a number of prisoners; and continuing to advance, while slightly swinging to the left, came upon a redoubt containing four guns, which was splendidly carried by assault at one P. M. by a portion of Hatch's division, dismounted, and the captured guns turned upon the enemy. A second redoubt, stronger than the first, was next assailed and carried by the same troops that captured the first position, taking four more guns and about three hundred prisoners. McArthur's division of A. J. Smith's corps, on the left of the cavalry, participated in both of the above assaults, and reached the position nearly simultaneously.

Finding General Smith had not taken as much distance to the right as he had expected, General Thomas directed General Schofield to move his Twenty-third Corps to the right of General Smith, thereby enabling the cavalry to operate more freely in the enemy's rear. This was rapidly accomplished by General Schofield, and his troops participated in the closing operations of the day.

The Fourth Corps formed on the left of A. J. Smith's corps, and as soon as the latter had struck the enemy's flank, assaulted and carried Montgomery Hill, Hood's most advanced position, at one P. M., capturing a considerable number of prisoners. Connecting with Garrard's division, forming the left of Smith's troops, the Fourth Corps continued to advance, carried the enemy's entire line in its front by assault, and

captured several pieces of artillery, about five hundred prisoners, and several stands of colors. The enemy was driven out of his original line of works and forced back to a new position along the base of Harpeth Hills, still holding his line of retreat to Franklin by the main road through Brentwood and by the Granny White road.

At nightfall, General Thomas readjusted his line parallel to and east of the Hillsboro' road; Schofield's command on the right, Smith's in the centre, and Wood's on the left, with the cavalry on the right of Schofield; Steedman holding the position he had gained early in the morning.

During the day sixteen pieces of artillery and twelve hundred prisoners were captured. The enemy was forced back at all points with heavy loss, while the Union casualties were unusually light. The behavior of Thomas' troops was unsurpassed for steadiness and alacrity in every movement.

The boastful invasion of Tennessee was ended. In the morning nothing would remain for Hood but flight.

The whole command bivouacked in line of battle during the night on the ground occupied at dark, while preparations were made to renew the battle at an early hour on the morrow.

At six A. M. on the 10th, Wood's corps pressed back the enemy's skirmishers across the Franklin road to the eastward of it, and then swinging slightly to the right, advanced due south from Nashville, driving the enemy before him until he came upon a new main line of works constructed during the night, on Overton's Hill, about five miles south of the city and east of the Franklin road. General Steedman moved out from Nashville by the Nolensville pike, and formed his command on the left of General Wood, effectually securing the latter's left flank, and made preparations to co-operate in the movements of the day. A. J. Smith's corps moved on the right of the Fourth Corps, and establishing connection with it, completed the new line of battle. General Schofield's troops remained in the position taken up by them at dark on the day previous, facing eastward and towards the enemy's left flank,

the line of the corps running perpendicular to that of Smith's corps. General Wilson's cavalry, which had rested for the night at the six-mile post on the Hillsboro' road, was dismounted and formed on the right of Schofield's command, and by noon of the 16th had succeeded in gaining the enemy's rear, and stretched across the Granny White pike, one of the two outlets towards Franklin.

As soon as these dispositions were completed, and having visited the different commands, General Thomas gave directions that the movement against the enemy's left flank should be continued. The entire line approached to within six hundred yards of the enemy at all points. His centre was weak as compared with his right at Overton's Hill, or his left on the hills bordering the Granny White road; but still General Thomas had hopes of gaining his rear and cutting off his retreat from Franklin.

About three P. M., Post's brigade of Wood's corps, supported by Streight's brigade, was ordered by General Wood to assault Overton's Hill. This intention was communicated to General Steedman, who ordered the brigade of colored troops commanded by Colonel Morgan, Fourteenth United States colored troops, to co-operate. The ground on which the two assaulting columns formed being open and exposed to the enemy's view, he was enabled to draw re-enforcements from his left and centre to the threatened points. The assault was made, and received by the enemy with a tremendous fire of grape, canister, and musketry, the Union troops moving steadily onward up the hill until near the crest, when the reserves of the enemy rose and poured into the assaulting column a most destructive fire, causing it first to waver and then to fall back, leaving dead and wounded, black and white indiscriminately mingled, lying amid the abattis. General Wood at once reformed his command in the position it had previously occupied, preparatory to a renewal of the assault.

Immediately following the effort of the Fourth Corps, Generals Smith's and Schofield's commands moved against the enemy's works in their respective fronts, carrying all before

them, breaking his lines in a dozen places, and capturing all of his artillery and thousands of prisoners, among the latter four general officers. The Union loss was scarcely mentionable. All of the enemy that did escape were pursued over the top of Brentwood and Harpeth Hills. General Wilson's cavalry dismounted, attacked the enemy simultaneously with Schofield and Smith, striking him in reverse, and gaining firm possession of the Granny White pike, thus cut off his retreat by that route. Wood's and Steedman's troops hearing the shouts of victory coming from the right, rushed impetuously forward to renew the assault on Overton's Hill, and although meeting a very heavy fire, the onset was irresistible. The artillery and innumerable prisoners fell into our hands. The enemy, hopelessly broken, fled in confusion through the Brentwood pass, the Fourth Corps in a close pursuit for several miles, when darkness closed the scene, and the troops rested from their labors.

As the Fourth Corps pursued the enemy on the Franklin pike, General Wilson hastily mounted Knipe's and Hatch's divisions, and directed them to pursue along the Granny White pike and endeavor to reach Franklin in advance of the enemy. After proceeding about a mile they came upon the enemy's cavalry under Chalmers, posted across the road and behind barricades. The position was charged and carried by the Twelfth Tennessee Cavalry, Colonel Spalding, scattering the enemy in all directions, and capturing quite a number of prisoners, among them Brigadier-General E. W. Rucker.

During the two days' operations there were four thousand four hundred and sixty-two prisoners captured, including two hundred and eighty-seven officers of all grades from that of major-general, fifty-three pieces of artillery, and thousands of small-arms. The enemy abandoned on the field all of his dead and wounded.

Wilson's cavalry, closely followed by Woods' corps, and by easy marches by Smith and Schofield, pursued the flying and demoralized remnants of Hood's army across the Harpeth River, Rutherford's Creek, and Duck River, all much swollen

by heavy rains and very difficult to cross, and only discontinued the pursuit on the 29th of December, when it was ascertained by General Thomas that, aided by these obstructions to our movement, and by the vigorous resistance of his rear-guard under Forrest, Hood had successfully recrossed the Tennessee at Bainbridge.

"With the exception of his rear-guard," says Thomas, "his army had become a disheartened and disorganized rabble of half-armed and barefooted men, who sought every opportunity to fall out by the wayside and desert their cause, to put an end to their sufferings."

Thus ended Hood. A week before, the victorious columns of the army he had set out to destroy entered Savannah. Sherman's army passed on to future and final victories: Hood's, as an organized force, disappears from history.

When Jefferson Davis ordered Hood to destroy the railways leading north and invade Tennessee, and assured his followers that in thirty days the Yankee invader would be driven out of Georgia, he had counted, with a mind obscured by long concentrated hate, upon Sherman's being compelled to follow Hood. "If Hood will go into Tennessee," Sherman had exclaimed, halting at the last stage of his northward march, "I will give him his rations." And so saying, he changed front to the rear and marched down to the sea. He knew that Davis had thus thrown away the last chance of success, the last hope even of prolonging the war, and for the phantom of an invasion had exchanged the controlling advantage of interior lines.

In order that the Union arms should profit by this advantage, however, it was an essential condition that Hood should be held in check. To this end Sherman left behind him an equal army and Major-General Thomas. Slowly and doggedly retiring with inferior numbers, while waiting for the re-enforcements which were to render them equal to the force of the enemy, and drawing Hood after him far beyond the barrier of the Tennessee, Thomas saved his concentration by Schofield's masterly battle of Franklin, and gathering up his force

and completing his preparations with such deliberation that it seemed to many the hour for action would never come, in the full time he hurled his irresistible blow squarely against the weak front of the enemy and crushed it. Then the machinery so carefully studied and thoroughly organized seized the fragments and ground them to irrecoverable atoms.

CHAPTER XXV.

SAVANNAH.

WHILE in Savannah, General Sherman received a visit from the Secretary of War, Mr. Stanton, and had the satisfaction of obtaining the promotions he had recommended on his subordinate commanders.

General Sherman placed General Geary in temporary command of the city of Savannah, and directing him to restore and preserve order and quiet, adopted at the same time a policy of conciliation and justice which soon bore its fruits in the altered tone of the former adherents of the Confederate cause. The mayor, R. D. Arnold, who but a short time before had called upon the inhabitants to arm and go to the trenches to defend their city against the invader, now invoked the citizens to recognize the existing condition of affairs and to yield a ready obedience to the actual authorities. The mayor was continued in the exercise of his functions, so far as they were exclusively connected with persons not in the military or naval service.

A large public meeting of the citizens was held, at which Mayor Arnold's views were substantially adopted and Governor Brown requested to take measures for restoring the State to the Union. A National Bank was established, and active measures taken to resume trade with the North and foreign nations so soon as the military restrictions should be removed. Divine service was resumed in the churches, and soon Savannah was more tranquil than it had been at any time since its capture was first threatened in 1862.

On the 14th of January, General Sherman issued the following orders in regard to internal trade, the conduct of the citizens, and the outrages of the Confederate guerrillas :—

“It being represented that the Confederate army and armed bands of robbers, acting professedly under the authority of the Confederate government, are harassing the people of Georgia and endeavoring to intimidate them in the efforts they are making to secure to themselves provisions, clothing, security to life and property, and the restoration of law and good government in the State, it is hereby ordered and made public :—

“I. That the farmers of Georgia may bring into Savannah, Fernandina or Jacksonville, Florida, marketing such as beef, pork, mutton, vegetables of any kind, fish, etc., as well as cotton in small quantities, and sell the same in open market, except the cotton, which must be sold by or through the treasury agents, and may invest the proceeds in family stores, such as bacon and flour, in any reasonable quantities, groceries, shoes, and clothing, and articles not contraband of war, and carry the same back to their families. No trade-stores will be attempted in the interior, or stocks of goods sold for them, but families may club together for mutual assistance and protection in coming and going.

“II. The people are encouraged to meet together in peaceful assemblages to discuss measures looking to their safety and good government, and the restoration of State and national authority, and will be protected by the national army when so doing ; and all peaceable inhabitants who satisfy the commanding officers that they are earnestly laboring to that end, must not only be left undisturbed in property and person, but must be protected as far as possible consistent with the military operations. If any farmer or peaceful inhabitant is molested by the enemy, viz., the Confederate army of guerrillas, because of his friendship to the National Government, the perpetrator, if caught, will be summarily punished, or his family made to suffer for the outrage ; but if the crime cannot be traced to the

actual party, then retaliation will be made on the adherents to the cause of the rebellion. Should a Union man be murdered, then a rebel selected by lot will be shot ; or if a Union family be persecuted on account of the cause, a rebel family will be banished to a foreign land. In aggravated cases, retaliation will extend as high as five for one. All commanding officers will act promptly in such cases, and report their action after the retaliation is done."

A large delegation of colored men called upon the Secretary of War, Mr. Stanton, to represent their views as to the condition and requirements of their race. Twenty of the number were clergymen of various denominations. In the presence of General Sherman and the acting adjutant-general of the army, Brevet Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, the secretary put a number of questions to them, in order to develop the extent of their knowledge and comprehension of their legal and moral rights and duties under the existing state of affairs. These questions were answered with great clearness and force by the Reverend Garrison Frazier, one of the number. General Sherman having left the room for the purpose, the secretary inquired their opinion of him. Mr. Frazier replied :—

"We looked upon General Sherman prior to his arrival as a man in the providence of God specially set apart to accomplish this work, and we unanimously feel inexpressible gratitude to him, looking upon him as a man that should be honored for the faithful performance of his duty. Some of us called on him immediately upon his arrival, and it is probable he would not meet the secretary with more courtesy than he met us. His conduct and deportment towards us characterized him as a friend and a gentleman. We have confidence in General Sherman, and think whatever concerns us could not be under better management."

Immediately afterwards, with the approval of the secretary, General Sherman issued the following orders, devoting the

abandoned sea-islands and rice-fields to the exclusive use of the freedmen :—

“I. The islands from Charleston south, the abandoned rice-fields along the rivers for thirty miles back from the sea, and the country bordering the St. John’s River, Florida, are reserved and set apart for the settlement of the negroes now made free by the acts of war and the proclamation of the President of the United States.

“II. At Beaufort, Hilton Head, Savannah, Fernandina, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville the blacks may remain in their chosen or accustomed vocations ; but on the islands, and in the settlements hereafter to be established, no white person whatever, unless military officers and soldiers detailed for duty, will be permitted to reside, and the sole and exclusive management of affairs will be left to the freed people themselves, subject only to the United States military authority, and the acts of Congress. By the laws of war and orders of the President of the United States, the negro is free, and must be dealt with as such. He cannot be subjected to conscription or forced into military service, save by the written orders of the highest military authority of the department, under such regulations as the President or Congress may prescribe ; domestic servants, blacksmiths, carpenters, and other mechanics will be free to select their own work and residence ; but the young and able-bodied negroes must be encouraged to enlist as soldiers in the service of the United States, to contribute their share towards maintaining their own freedom, and securing their rights as citizens of the United States.

“Negroes so enlisted will be organized into companies, battalions, and regiments under the orders of the United States military authorities, and will be paid, fed, and clothed according to law. The bounties paid on enlistment may, with the consent of the recruit, go to assist his family and settlement in procuring agricultural implements, seed, tools, boats, clothing, and other articles necessary for their livelihood.

“III. Whenever three respectable negroes, heads of families,

shall desire to settle on lands, and shall have selected for that purpose an island or a locality clearly defined within the limits above designated, the inspector of settlements and plantations will himself, or by such subordinate officer as he may appoint, give them a license to settle such island or district, and afford them such assistance as he can to enable them to establish a peaceable agricultural settlement. The three parties named will subdivide the land, under the supervision of the inspector, among themselves and such others as may choose to settle near them, so that each family shall have a plot of not more than forty acres of tillable ground, and, when it borders on some water-channel, with not more than eight hundred feet water-front, in the possession of which land the military authorities will afford them protection until such time as they can protect themselves, or until Congress shall regulate their title.

"The quartermaster may, on the requisition of the inspector of settlements and plantations, place at the disposal of the inspector one or more of the captured steamers to ply between the settlements and one or more of the commercial points heretofore named in orders, to afford the settlers the opportunity to supply their necessary wants, and to sell the products of their land and labor.

"IV. Whenever a negro has enlisted in the military service of the United States, he may locate his family in any one of the settlements at pleasure, and acquire a homestead and all other rights and privileges of a settler as though present in person.

"In like manner, negroes may settle their families and engage on board the gunboats, or in fishing, or in the navigation of the inland waters, without losing any claim to land or other advantages derived from this system. But no one, unless an actual settler as above defined, or unless absent on Government service, will be entitled to claim any right to land or property in any settlement by virtue of these orders.

"V. In order to carry out this system of settlement, a general officer will be detailed as inspector of settlements and

plantations, whose duty it shall be to visit the settlements to regulate their police and general management, and who will furnish personally to each head of a family, subject to the approval of the President of the United States, a possessory title in writing, giving, as near as possible, the description of boundaries, and who shall adjust all claims or conflicts that may arise under the same, subject to the like approval, treating such titles altogether as possessory. The same general officer will also be charged with the enlistment and organization of the negro recruits, and protecting their interests while absent from their settlements, and will be governed by the rules and regulations prescribed by the War Department for such purposes."

On the 26th of December, he issued the following orders in regard to the government of the city of Savannah during its occupancy by the army :—

"The city of Savannah and surrounding country will be held as a military post and adapted to future military uses, but as it contains a population of some twenty thousand people who must be provided for, and as other citizens may come, it is proper to lay down certain general principles, that all within its military jurisdiction may understand their relative duties and obligations.

"I. During war, the military is superior to civil authority, and where interests clash, the civil must give way : yet, where there is no conflict, every encouragement should be given to well-disposed and peaceful inhabitants to resume their usual pursuits. Families should be disturbed as little as possible in their residences, and tradesmen allowed the free use of their shops, tools, etc. Churches, schools, all places of amusement and recreation, should be encouraged, and streets and roads made perfectly safe to persons in their usual pursuits. Passes should not be exacted within the line of outer pickets ; but if any person shall abuse these privileges by communicating with the enemy, or doing any act of hostility to the

Government of the United States, he or she will be punished with the utmost rigor of the law.

"Commerce with the outer world will be resumed to an extent commensurate with the wants of the citizens, governed by the restrictions and rules of the Treasury Department.

"II. The chief quartermaster and commissary of the army may give suitable employment to the people, white and black, or transport them to such points as they choose, where employment may be had, and may extend temporary relief in the way of provisions and vacant houses to the worthy and needy, until such time as they can help themselves. They will select, first, the buildings for the necessary uses of the army; next, a sufficient number of stores to be turned over to the treasury agent for trade-stores. All vacant storehouses or dwellings, and all buildings belonging to absent rebels, will be construed and used as belonging to the United States until such times as their titles can be settled by the courts of the United States.

"III. The mayor and city council of Savannah will continue and exercise their functions as such, and will, in concert with the commanding officer of the post and chief quartermaster, see that the fire companies are kept in organization, the streets cleaned and lighted, and keep up a good understanding between the citizens and soldiers. They will ascertain and report to the chief commissary of subsistence, as soon as possible, the names and number of worthy families that need assistance and support.

"The mayor will forthwith give public notice that the time has come when all must choose their course, namely, to remain within our lines and conduct themselves as good citizens, or depart in peace. He will ascertain the names of all who choose to leave Savannah, and report their names and residence to the chief quartermaster, that measures may be taken to transport them beyond the lines.

"IV. Not more than two newspapers will be published in Savannah, and their editors and proprietors will be held to the strictest accountability, and will be punished severely, in

person and property, for any libellous publication, mischievous matter, premature news, exaggerated statements, or any comments whatever upon the acts of the constituted authorities: they will be held accountable even for such articles though copied from other papers."

On the 15th of January, Sherman established the following trade regulations for Savannah:—

"The Department of the South having been placed within the sphere of this command, and it being highly desirable that a uniform policy prevail touching commerce and intercourse with the inhabitants of the South, the following general rules and principles will be adhered to, unless modified by law or the orders of the War Department:

"I. Commerce with foreign nations cannot be permitted or undertaken until the national authority is established to an extent that will give the necessary courts and officers to control and manage such matters. Trade will be confined to a mere barter and sale proportioned to the necessary wants of the army, and of the inhabitants dependent on it for the necessaries of life; and even that trade must be kept subject to strict military control or surveillance.

"II. Trade-stores will be permitted at Beaufort, Hilton Head, Savannah, Fernandina, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville, in all articles of food and clothing, groceries, ladies' and children's goods generally, and articles not contraband of war.

"III. To trade is a privilege, and no person will be allowed to buy and sell for profit unless he be a citizen of the United States, and subscribe to any legal oath or obligation that is or may be prescribed by law; and at points threatened by an enemy, the officer commanding may further exact as a condition, that the trader shall himself engage to serve in some military capacity, to aid in defence of the place.

"IV. Persons desiring to trade will apply to the commanding officer of the post, and obtain his written consent, specify-

ing the kind, nature, and extent of the trade, and when he requires importations from Northern cities, he will, in like manner, apply for his permit. The commanding officer of the post may appoint some good officer to supervise these matters, who will frequently inspect the stores, and when there is not sufficient competition, will fix the prices of sale. These stores will, in like manner, be subject to the supervision of the commanding general of the Department of the South, by himself or an inspector-general.

“V. In order that purchases may be made with economy, the commanding officer of each post will make reports of his action in regard to trade, with the names of traders, amounts of goods desired for sale, etc., to the commanding general of the department, who will, in like manner, make full report to the secretary of the United States treasury, to the end that he may instruct the collectors of ports, from which shipments are expected, as to the necessary permits and clearances. It being utterly impracticable that a general commanding military operations should give his personal attention to such matters, it is desirable that as much power as possible should be delegated to post commanders, and they should be held to the strictest account that no trade is permitted injurious to the military interests of the United States.

“VI. Sales of cotton will be restricted absolutely to the United States treasury agents, and no title in cotton or bill of sale will be respected until after the cotton is sold at New York. Country people having small lots of cotton are permitted to bring the same in to be exchanged for food and clothing for their families. The quartermaster will set aside a store or warehouse, to which each wagon bearing cotton will, after entering the military lines, proceed direct, where an agent of the Treasury Department will receive and weigh the same, and pay for it the price fixed in the eighth section of the Act of Congress, approved July 2, 1864—namely, three-fourths the value of cotton as quoted in the New York market; and the secretary of the treasury is hereby requested to make appointments of agents to carry out the provisions

of said act at the posts of Hilton Head, Savannah, Fernandina, and Jacksonville.

"VII. In order that the duties hereby imposed on commanding officers of posts may not be neglected or slighted by the changes incident to rank and changes of troops, the commanding general of the Department of the South will appoint a special officer to command at each of said posts, with a small garrison, not to be changed without his order; and when other troops, commanded by a senior, are added or arrive, the command of the post will not change, but the additional troops will be encamped near by and act according to special instructions."

In reply to a gentleman who addressed him a note asking his views as to the present relations of Georgia to the Federal Government, Sherman wrote, on the 8th of January :

"DEAR SIR—Yours of the 3d instant is received, and in answer to your inquiries, I beg to state I am merely a military commander, and act only in that capacity; nor can I give any assurances or pledges affecting civil matters in the future. They will be adjusted by Congress when Georgia is again represented there as of old.

"Georgia is not out of the Union, and therefore the talk of 'reconstruction' appears to me inappropriate. Some of the people have been and still are in a state of revolt; and as long as they remain armed and organized, the United States must pursue them with armies, and deal with them according to military law. But as soon as they break up their armed organizations and return to their homes, I take it they will be dealt with by the civil courts. Some of the rebels in Georgia, in my judgment, deserve death, because they have committed murder, and other crimes, which are punished with death by all civilized governments on earth. I think this was the course indicated by General Washington, in reference to the Whisky Insurrection, and a like principle seemed to be recognized at the time of the Burr conspiracy.

"As to the Union of the States under our Government, we have the high authority of General Washington, who bade us be jealous and careful of it; and the still more emphatic words of General Jackson, 'The Federal Union, it must and shall be preserved.' Certainly, Georgians cannot question the authority of such men, and should not suspect our motives, who are simply fulfilling their commands. Wherever necessary, force has been used to carry out that end; and you may rest assured that the Union will be preserved, cost what it may. And if you are sensible men you will conform to this order of things or else migrate to some other country. There is no other alternative open to the people of Georgia.

"My opinion is, that no negotiations are necessary, nor commissioners, nor conventions, nor any thing of the kind. Whenever the people of Georgia quit rebelling against their Government and elect members of Congress and Senators, and these go and take their seats, then the State of Georgia will have resumed her functions in the Union.

"These are merely my opinions, but in confirmation of them, as I think, the people of Georgia may well consider the following words referring to the people of the rebellious States, which I quote from the recent annual message of President Lincoln to Congress at its present session:—

"'They can at any moment have peace simply by laying down their arms and submitting to the national authority under the Constitution. After so much, the Government would not, if it could, maintain war against them. The loyal people would not sustain or allow it. If questions should remain, we would adjust them by the peaceful means of legislation, conference, courts, and votes. Operating only in constitutional and lawful channels, some certain and other possible questions are and would be beyond the executive power to adjust; as, for instance, the admission of members into Congress, and whatever might require the appropriation of money.'

"The President then alludes to the general pardon and amnesty offered for more than a year past, upon specified and

more liberal terms, to all except certain designated classes, even these being 'still within contemplation of special clemency,' and adds:

"It is still so open to all, but the time may come when public duty shall demand that it be closed, and that in lieu more vigorous measures than heretofore shall be adopted."

"It seems to me that it is time for the people of Georgia to act for themselves, and return, in time, to their duty to the Government of their fathers."

This letter, which was immediately made public through the local newspapers, was shown by General Sherman, before its publication, to the secretary of war, who read and returned it, simply remarking that, like all the general's letters, it was sufficiently emphatic, and not likely to be misunderstood. The views contained in it afterwards assumed a special importance, arising out of this circumstance.

To the secretary of war he wrote on the 2d of January, 1865:—

"SIR—I have just received from Lieutenant-General Grant a copy of that part of your telegram to him of 26th December, relating to cotton, a copy of which has been immediately furnished to General Eaton, my chief quartermaster, who will be strictly governed by it.

"I had already been approached by all the consuls and half the people of Savannah on this cotton question, and my invariable answer has been that all the cotton in Savannah was prize of war, and belonged to the United States, and nobody should recover a bale of it with my consent; and that as cotton had been one of the chief causes of this war, it should help pay its expenses; that all cotton became tainted with treason from the hour the first act of hostility was committed against the United States, some time in December, 1860, and that no bill of sale subsequent to that date could convey title.

"My orders were, that an officer of the quartermaster's department, United States army, might furnish the holder,

agent, or attorney a mere certificate of the fact of seizure, with description of the bales, marks, etc. ; the cotton then to be turned over to the agent of the Treasury Department, to be shipped to New York for sale. But since the receipt of your dispatch, I have ordered General Eaton to make the shipment himself to the quartermaster at New York, where you can dispose of it at pleasure. I do not think the Treasury Department ought to bother itself with the prizes or captures of war.

"Mr. Barclay, former consul at New York—representing Mr. Molyneux, former consul, but absent since a long time—called on me in person with reference to cotton claims by English subjects. He seemed amazed when I told him I should pay no respect to consular certificates, and that in no event would I treat an English subject with more favor than one of our own deluded citizens ; and that for my part I was unwilling to fight for cotton for the benefit of Englishmen openly engaged in smuggling arms and munitions of war to kill us ; that, on the contrary, it would afford me great satisfaction to conduct my army to Nassau and wipe out that nest of pirates. I explained to him, however, that I was not a diplomatic agent of the General Government of the United States ; but that my opinion so frankly expressed was that of a soldier, which it would be well for him to heed. It appeared also that he owned a plantation on the line of investment to Savannah, which, of course, is destroyed, and for which he expected me to give him some certificate entitling him to indemnification, which I declined emphatically.

"I have adopted in Savannah rules concerning property, severe but just, founded upon the laws of nations and the practice of civilized governments ; and am clearly of opinion that we should claim all the belligerent rights over conquered countries, that the people may realize the truth that war is no child's play.

"I embrace in this a copy of a letter dated December 31, 1864, in answer to one from Solomon Cohen, a rich lawyer, to General Blair, his personal friend, as follows :—

* 'MAJOR-GENERAL F. P. BLAIR, *commanding Seventeenth Army Corps* :

" 'GENERAL—Your note, inclosing Mr. Cohen's of this date, is received, and I answer frankly, through you, his inquiries.

" 'First—No one can practise law as an attorney in the United States without acknowledging the supremacy of our Government. If I am not in error, an attorney is as much an officer of the court as the clerk, and it would be a novel thing in a Government to have a court to administer law that denied the supremacy of the Government itself.

" 'Second—No one will be allowed the privileges of a merchant—or rather, to trade is a privilege which no one should seek of the Government, without in like manner acknowledging its supremacy.

" 'Third—If Mr. Cohen remains in Savannah as a denizen, his property, real and personal, will not be disturbed, unless its temporary use be necessary for the military authorities of the city. The title to property will not be disturbed in any event, until adjudicated by the courts of the United States.

" 'Fourth—If Mr. Cohen leaves Savannah under my Special Order, No. 143, it is a public announcement that he 'adheres to the enemies of the United States,' and all his property becomes forfeited to the United States. But as a matter of favor, he will be allowed to carry with him clothing and furniture for the use of himself, family, and servants, and will be transported within the enemy's lines—but not by way of Port Royal.

" 'These rules will apply to all parties, and from them no exception will be made.

" 'I have the honor to be, general, your obedient servant,

" 'W. T. SHERMAN,

" 'Major-General.'

"This letter was in answer to specific inquiries ; it is clear and specific, and covers all the points, and should I leave before my orders are executed, I will endeavor to impress upon my successor, General Foster, their wisdom and propriety.

"I hope the course I have taken in these matters will meet your approbation, and that the President will not refund to parties claiming cotton or other property without the strongest evidence of loyalty and friendship on the part of the claimant, or unless some other positive end is to be gained."

And again on the 19th :—

"SIR—When you left Savannah a few days ago, you forgot the map which General Geary had prepared for you, showing the route by which his division entered the city of Savannah—

being the first troops to occupy that city. I now send it to you. I avail myself of the opportunity also to inclose you copies of all my official orders touching trade and intercourse with the people of Georgia, as well as for the establishment of the negro settlements. Delegations of the people of Georgia continue to come, and I am satisfied a little judicious handling, and by a little respect being paid to their prejudices, we can create a schism in Jeff. Davis' dominions. All that I have conversed with realize the truth that slavery, as an institution, is defunct, and the only questions that remain are, what disposition shall be made of the negroes themselves. I confess myself unable to offer a complete solution for these questions, and prefer to leave it to the slower operations of time. We have given the initiative, and can afford to wait the working of the experiment.

"As to trade matters, I also think it is to our interest to keep the people somewhat dependent on the articles of commerce to which they have been hitherto accustomed. General Grover is now here, and will, I think, be able to manage this matter judiciously, and may gradually relax and invite cotton to come in in large quantities.

"But at first we should manifest no undue anxiety on that score, for the rebels would at once make use of it as a power against us. We should assume a tone of perfect contempt for cotton and every thing else, in comparison with the great object of the war—the restoration of the Union, with all its rights and powers. If the rebels burn cotton as a war measure, they simply play into our hands, by taking away the only product of value they now have to exchange in foreign ports for war-ships and munitions. By such a course, also, they alienate the feelings of the large class of small farmers, that look to their little parcels of cotton to exchange for food and clothing for their families. I hope the Government will not manifest too much anxiety to obtain cotton in large quantities, and especially that the President will not indorse the contracts for the purchase of large quantities of cotton. Several contracts, involving from six to ten thousand bales, in-

dorsed by Mr. Lincoln, have been shown me, but were not in such a form as to amount to an order for me to facilitate their execution.

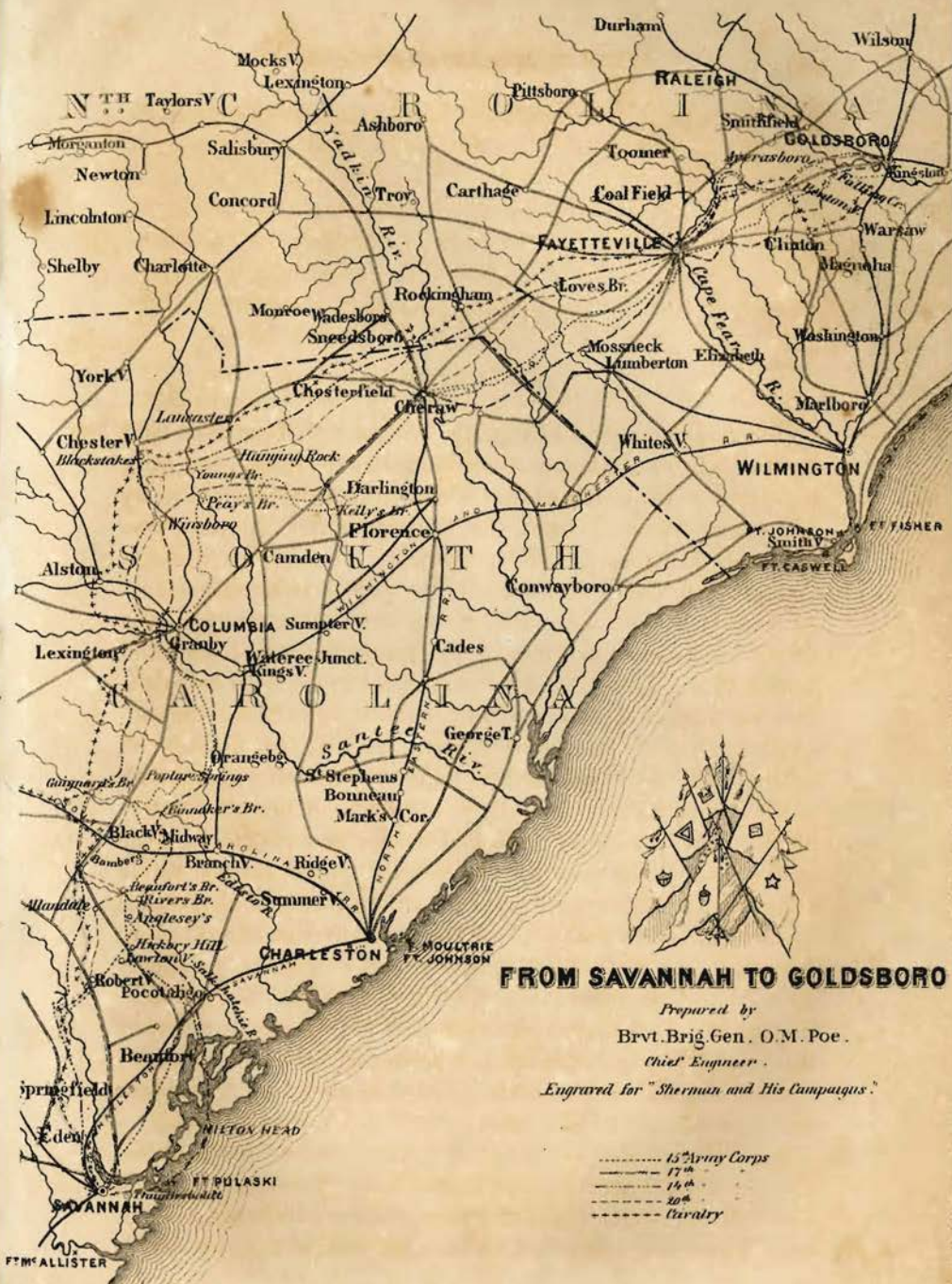
"As to Treasury trade-agents, and agents to take charge of confiscated and abandoned property, whose salaries depend on their fees, I can only say that, as a general rule, they are mischievous and disturbing elements to a military government, and it is almost impossible for us to study the law and regulations so as to understand fully their powers and duties. I rather think the quartermaster's department of the army could better fulfil all their duties, and accomplish all that is aimed at by the law. Yet, on this subject, I will leave Generals Foster and Grover to do the best they can."

CHAPTER XXVI.

NORTHWARD.

Hood's army being effectually broken up, Tennessee and Kentucky being secure, and no considerable force occupying the Atlantic slope except Lee's army, held at Petersburg by Lieutenant-General Grant, the next move for Sherman was obviously Northward. His proposal for the march through Georgia had looked forward another step to this contingency. At Savannah, he was accordingly met by instructions from the lieutenant-general to embark his army on transports and hasten to the James River to participate in the final combination for the destruction of the main army of the rebellion. Upon Sherman's earnest representations of the difficulty of moving sixty thousand infantry and ten thousand cavalry, with their due proportion of artillery, so great a distance by water; of the great length of time that would be consumed in the operation; of the comparative immunity the enemy would enjoy in his intermediate combinations; and finally, on his assurance that he could place his army at the desired point sooner, in better condition, and with more injury to the enemy by marching overland; General Grant consented to this modification and gave the necessary orders to Sherman to act upon it, and to the other commanders concerned to co-operate with him in the manner we shall presently perceive. All the details were left entirely to Sherman.

A division of Emory's nineteenth corps, under Brevet Major-General Cuvier Grover, was drawn from Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah, and sent to Savannah as a garrison, and General Grover was appointed to the command of the city. This





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John A. Logan
Maj. Gen.

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division, and the troops previously serving in the Department of the South, were placed under the command of Major-General Foster, the department commander, to whom General Sherman imparted the plan of campaign, instructing him to follow its successful progress by occupying Charleston and any other points along the coast that circumstances might render important. This enabled Sherman to take with him the entire army with which he had made the campaign through Georgia.

Sherman determined to make but one stride from Savannah to Goldsboro', North Carolina.

A month was consumed in preparations. By the 15th of January, 1865, all was ready, and the movement began.

In the mean time, Major-General John A. Logan returned from the North and resumed the command of the Fifteenth Corps, relieving General Osterhaus.

John Alexander Logan, the eldest son by an American wife of Doctor John Logan, a native of Ireland who emigrated to Illinois in 1823, was born near Murphysboro', in Jackson County, Illinois, on the 9th of February, 1826. His parents had eleven children. Until his fourteenth year, in consequence of the unsettled condition of the State, he enjoyed few of the advantages of education. At the breaking out of the war with Mexico, in 1846, he entered the army as a second-lieutenant in the First Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, and served with credit until the peace. In 1848, being then twenty-two years of age, he returned to his native State, and commenced the study of the law. In November, 1849, he was elected clerk of his native county, and held the position until 1850. In that year he attended a course of law studies at Louisville, and in 1851 received his diploma. Upon his return home he at once commenced the practice of his profession, with his maternal uncle, Judge Alexander M. Jenkins. The practical character of Logan's mind, and his pleasant manners, connected with his rare abilities as a ready speaker, soon gained for him great popularity among the voters of his county. Success quickly followed. In 1852 he was elected prosecuting attorney of the third judicial district, and estab-

lished his residence at Benton, in Franklin County ; and in the autumn of the same year was elected to the State Legislature, to represent Franklin and Jackson counties. On the 27th November, 1855, he married, at Shawneetown, Miss Mary Cunningham, daughter of John W. Cunningham. In May, 1856, he was appointed presidential elector for the Ninth Congressional District on the Democratic ticket, and in that capacity cast his vote for James Buchanan for President, and John C. Breckinridge for Vice-President, and the following November was re-elected to the Legislature. In 1858, as the candidate of the Democratic party, he carried the Ninth Congressional District for Congress by a large majority over his Republican opponent. In 1860 he was re-elected as the nominee of the Douglas wing of the same party.

While occupying his seat in the House of Representatives, the battle of Bull Run was fought, and Logan took part in it as a volunteer, shouldering a musket in the ranks of Colonel Israel B. Richardson's Second Michigan regiment. In September, 1861, he returned home, and by his energy, aided by his popularity, succeeded in two weeks in raising the Thirty-first Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, whereof he was appointed colonel on the 18th of that month. On the 7th of November he led his regiment, then forming a part of McClernand's brigade, with conspicuous gallantry in the battle of Belmont, where he had his horse shot under him. At Fort Donelson he was severely wounded by a musket-ball in the left arm and shoulder, and was twice wounded in the thigh ; but remained on the field, exhorting his men, until removed by the surgeon. On the 5th of March, 1862, he was promoted to be a brigadier-general of volunteers ; and returning to the field in April, shortly after the battle of Shiloh, held command of a brigade of McClernand's division in the siege of Corinth. Succeeding to the command of a division, he participated in General Grant's campaign in Northern Mississippi in the winter of 1862-'63, and was rewarded for his services therein by a commission as major-general, dating from the 29th of November, 1862. Upon the organization of McPherson's seventeenth army corps,

in December, 1862, General Logan was assigned to the command of its third division, which he led with marked ability and bravery throughout the campaign of Vicksburg. After the surrender of that stronghold, he obtained a leave of absence, visited the North, and made a series of stirring and effective speeches in aid of the cause of the war-party in the then pending elections, and in bitter denunciation of the peace agitators, or "Copperheads." On the 27th of October, 1863, he was assigned to the command of the Fifteenth Army Corps, rendered vacant by the promotion of General Sherman to the command of the Army of the Tennessee, and the temporary retirement of General Frank P. Blair to take part in political affairs. His military services since that time have already been traced in these pages. Suddenly called by the calamitous death of its gallant leader to the command of the Army of the Tennessee, at a critical moment in the battle of the 22d of July, 1864, Logan threw himself with fire into the action, re-established his broken line, and dashing along the front, exclaiming, "McPherson and revenge!" hurled his excited troops against the enemy and swept them from the field with terrible slaughter.

His warm, impulsive character gives him a powerful hold on the affections of his men, and a high courage and indomitable spirit enable him to lead them to victory.

Logan is the most notable illustration of the success that has attended the efforts of those officers who, entering the army from civil life, have been content, instead of grasping at once at the highest honors, to learn the duties of their new profession in the subordinate grades, and to rise step by step according to their talents and experience. Beginning as a colonel of volunteers, for which position his Mexican services qualified him, he successively rose through the command of a brigade and division to that of Sherman's old corps, and being temporarily placed at the head of a separate army, discharged the high responsibilities of that post, at an important period, with signal ability. While others, more ambitious but less patient or less deserving, fell from the height which, in a

moment of laxity and want of knowledge they had been permitted to attain, Logan mounted steadily.

Only less remarkable is the case of Major-General Blair; but Logan abandoned politics at the outbreak of the war and refused to be a candidate for any civil office, while Blair adhered to his position as a member of the lower House, and continued to discharge its duties until Congress interfered by a direct legislative prohibition.

Howard, with Blair's seventeenth corps, embarked on transports at Thunderbolt, proceeded to Beaufort, South Carolina, and there disembarking, struck the Charleston and Savannah railway near Pocotaligo station, and effected a lodgment, Leggett's division driving away the enemy, and established a secure depot of supplies at the mouth of Pocotaligo Creek, within easy water communication by the Broad River, having the main depot at Hilton Head. Logan's fifteenth corps moved partly by land and partly by water; Woods' and Hazen's divisions following the Seventeenth Corps to Beaufort; John E. Smith's marching by the coast road; and Corse's, cut off by the freshets, being compelled to move with the left wing.

Slocum, with the left wing and Kilpatrick's cavalry, was to move on Coosawhatchie, South Carolina, on the Charleston and Savannah railway, and Robertville, on the Columbia road. A good pontoon bridge had been thrown across the Savannah River, opposite the city, and the Union causeway, leading through low rice-fields, had been repaired and corduroyed; but before the time fixed for the movement arrived, the river became swollen by heavy rains, so that the pontoons were swept away, and the causeway was four feet under water.

General A. S. Williams, with Jackson's and Geary's divisions of the Twentieth Corps, crossed the Savannah at Purysburg, and marched to Hardeeville, on the Charleston railway, where they were in communication with Howard at Pocotaligo; but the rains presently cut these divisions off from the rest of the left wing at Savannah, which was compelled by the freshet to seek a crossing higher up at Sister's Ferry, opposite which

point, on the Carolina side, the two divisions indicated accordingly directed their course; while Slocum, with Jefferson C. Davis' fourteenth corps, Geary's division of the Twentieth Corps, and Corse's division of the Fifteenth Corps, temporarily separated from the right wing by the flood, marched up on the Georgia side, leaving Savannah on the 26th January. The gunboat Pontiac, Lieutenant-Commander S. B. Luce, was detailed by Admiral Dahlgren to move up to the ferry in advance of the troops, and cover the passage. When Slocum at length reached the river, he found the bottom three miles in width, so that it was only on the 7th of February, and with great difficulty and labor, that the crossing was completed, and the wing concentrated and in full march for the Charleston and Augusta railway. Williams, with Jackson's and Ward's divisions of the Twentieth Corps, reached the railway at Graham's Station, fourteen miles west of Branchville, on the 8th of February, and Slocum, with Davis' fourteenth corps and Geary's division, arrived at Blackville, seven miles further west, on the 10th. Kilpatrick's cavalry, which was the first of this wing to cross at Sister's Ferry, immediately took the advance on Blackville, by Barnwell, and kept the extreme left flank from this time forward.

To return to the right wing. On the 19th of January, all his preparations being complete, and all his orders for the march published, Sherman instructed his chief quartermaster and chief commissary, Brevet Brigadier-Generals L. C. Easton and Amos Beckwith, to fill their depots at Sister's Ferry and Pocotaligo, and then to quit the army, go to Morehead City, North Carolina, and stand ready to forward supplies thence to Goldsboro' about the 15th of March.

On the 22d of January, Sherman embarked at Savannah for Hilton Head, where he held a conference with Admiral Dahlgren, United States navy, and Major-General Foster, commanding the Department of the South, and next proceeded to Beaufort, riding out thence on the 24th to Pocotaligo, where the Seventeenth Corps was encamped. On the 25th a demonstration was made against the Combahee Ferry and railroad

bridge across the Salkehatchie, to amuse the enemy, who had evidently adopted that river as his defensive line against Sherman's supposed objective, the city of Charleston. The general reconnoitred the line in person, and saw that the heavy rains had swollen the river so that water stood in the swamps for a breadth of more than a mile, at a depth of from one to twenty feet. As he had no intention of approaching Charleston, a comparatively small force was able, by making a semblance of preparations to cross, to keep in their front a considerable force of the enemy disposed to contest the advance on Charleston. On the 27th, Sherman rode to the camp of General Hatch's division of Foster's command, on the Tullifinny and Coosawhatchie rivers, and directed those places to be evacuated. Hatch's division was then moved to Pocotaligo, to keep up the feints already begun, until the right wing should move higher up and cross the Salkehatchie about River's or Broxton's Bridge. By the 29th of January, three divisions of the Fifteenth Corps—Woods', Hazen's, and John E. Smith's—had closed up at Pocotaligo, and the right wing had loaded its wagons and was ready to start. Sherman therefore directed General Howard to move the Seventeenth Corps along the Salkehatchie to River's Bridge, and the Fifteenth Corps by Hickory Hill, Loper's Cross-roads, Anglesey Post-office, and Beaufort's Bridge, while Hatch's division was ordered to remain at Pocotaligo, feigning on the Salkehatchie railway bridge and ferry, until the movement should have turned the enemy's position, and forced him to fall back behind the Edisto.

Blair's seventeenth and Logan's fifteenth corps drew out of camp on the 31st of January, but the real march began on the 1st of February. All the roads northward had for weeks been held by Wheeler's cavalry, who had, by details of negro laborers, felled trees, burned bridges, and made obstructions to impede our march. But so well organized were the pioneer battalions, and so strong and intelligent our men, that felled trees were removed and bridges rebuilt by the heads of columns before the rear could close up. On the 2d of February,

Logan's fifteenth corps reached Loper's Cross-roads, and Blair's seventeenth corps was at River's Bridge. From Loper's Cross-roads Sherman communicated with General Slocum, who was then still struggling with the floods of the Savannah River at Sister's Ferry, and instructed him to overtake the right wing on the South Carolina railway. General Howard, with the right wing, was directed to cross the Salkehatchie, and push rapidly for the South Carolina railway at or near Midway. The enemy held the line of the Salkehatchie in force, having infantry and artillery intrenched at River's and Beaufort's bridges. Blair, with the Seventeenth Corps, was ordered to carry River's bridge, and Logan, with the Fifteenth Corps, Beaufort's bridge. The former position was carried promptly and skilfully by Mower's and Corse's divisions of the Seventeenth Corps; the latter under Giles A. Smith, on the 3d of February, by crossing the swamp, nearly three miles wide, with water varying from knee to shoulder deep. The weather was bitter cold. Generals Mower and Smith led their divisions in person, on foot, waded the swamp, made a lodgment below the bridge, and turned on the rebel brigade which guarded it, driving it in confusion and disorder towards Branchville. Our casualties were one officer and seventeen men killed, and seventy men wounded, who were sent to Pocotaligo. The line of the Salkehatchie being thus broken, the enemy retreated at once behind the Edisto at Branchville, and the whole army was pushed rapidly to the South Carolina railway. Blair's corps and General Howard in person, at Midway, seven miles west of Branchville; Logan's corps at Bamberg, three miles further west; and at Graham's Station, Blair's seventeenth corps, by threatening Branchville, forced the enemy to burn the railway bridge and Walker's bridge below, across the Edisto. The whole army was at once set to work to destroy railway track. From the 7th to the 10th of February this work was thoroughly prosecuted by the Seventeenth Corps from the Edisto up to Bamberg, and by the Fifteenth Corps from Bamberg up to Blackville. In the mean time, General Kilpatrick had brought his cavalry rapidly by Barnwell to

Blackville, and had turned towards Aiken, with orders to threaten Augusta, but not to draw needlessly into a serious battle. This he skilfully accomplished, skirmishing heavily with Wheeler's cavalry, first at Blackville and afterwards at Williston and Aiken. The left wing being now up, the Twentieth Corps at Graham's Station and the Fourteenth at Blackville, the destruction of the railway was continued by that wing from Blackville up to Windsor. All the army was thus on the railway from Midway to Johnson's Station, thereby dividing the enemy's forces, which still remained at Branchville and Charleston, on the one hand, and Aiken and Augusta, on the other.

The enemy was all this time uncertain as to Sherman's destination or immediate objective. He might turn on Charleston, Augusta, or Columbia, and at neither, nor at all combined, had the Confederates an army able to oppose him. Hardee was at Charleston, with a force estimated at fifteen thousand men, compelled to hold the place until it should be untenable, or the object of maintaining it should have passed. Wheeler, with that portion of his cavalry so frequently met and defeated by Kilpatrick during the Georgia campaign, was at and near Columbia, strengthened by Wade Hampton's division from Lee's army. Augusta was occupied by the Georgia militia. Meanwhile, the remnants of the Confederate Army of the Tennessee were being hurried East; but the road from Mississippi was a long one, stripped of food for a great portion of the route, the railways generally useless, and the bridges destroyed. To use the figurative expression of the soldiers, "A crow could not fly from Atlanta to Savannah without a haversack."

CHAPTER XXVII.

THROUGH SOUTH CAROLINA.

LEAVING the left wing to complete the work of destroying the Charleston and Savannah railway west of Branchville, Sherman himself, with the right wing, moved on Orangeburg, situated thirteen miles north of Branchville, on the State road, between Charleston and Columbia, near its intersection with the railway connecting the latter with Branchville. Until this point should be reached and passed, the direction of Sherman's movement would not be fully developed, for he still continued to menace Charleston, Augusta, and Columbia; and the position of the left wing might equally satisfy the conditions of either theory, as well as the supposition that he might move by his right by Florence or Cheraw directly on Wilmington or Fayetteville.

Blair's seventeenth corps crossed the South Fork of the Edisto River at Binnaker's Bridge, and moved straight on Orangeburg; while Logan, with the Fifteenth Corps, crossed at Holman's Bridge, and moved to Poplar Springs in support.

On the 12th of February, the Seventeenth Corps found the enemy intrenched in front of the Orangeburg Bridge, but swept him away by a dash, and followed him, forcing him across the bridge, which was partially burned. Behind the bridge was a battery in position, covered by a cotton and earth parapet, with wings as far as could be seen. General Blair held Giles A. Smith's division close up to the Edisto, and moved the other two to a point about two miles below, where he crossed Force's division by a pontoon bridge, holding Mower's in support. As soon as Force emerged from the swamp the

enemy gave ground, and Giles A. Smith's division gained the bridge, crossed over, and occupied the enemy's parapet. He soon repaired the bridge, and by four p. m. the whole corps was in Orangeburg, and had begun the work of destruction on the railway. Blair was ordered to destroy this railway effectually up to Lewisville, and to push the enemy across the Congaree, and force him to burn the bridges, which he did on the 14th.

Hardee now perceiving Sherman's immediate objective, evacuated Charleston, retreating on Florence, parallel to the line of march just passed over by Sherman's army, and General Gillmore's troops entered and occupied the city on the 18th.

Blair's seventeenth corps followed the State road, and Logan's fifteenth corps crossed the North Edisto from Poplar Springs at Schilling's Bridge, above the mouth of Cawcaw Swamp Creek, and took a country road which entered the State road at Zeigler's.

On the 15th, the Fifteenth Corps found the enemy in a strong position at the bridge across Congaree Creek, with a *tête-de-pont* on the south side, and a well-constructed fort on the north side, commanding the bridge with artillery. The ground in front was very bad, level and clear, with a fresh deposit of mud from a recent overflow. General Charles R. Woods, who commanded the landing division, succeeded, however, in turning the flank of the *tête-de-pont* by sending Stone's brigade through a cypress swamp to the left; and following up the retreating enemy promptly, got possession of the bridge and the fort beyond. The bridge had been partially damaged by fire, and had to be repaired for the passage of artillery, so that night closed in before the head of the column could reach the bridge across Congaree River in front of Columbia. That night the enemy shelled the camps of the right wing from a battery on the east side of the Congaree above Granby.

Early on the morning of the 16th the head of the column reached the bank of the Congaree, opposite Columbia, but too late to save the fine bridge which spanned the river at that point, and which was burned by the enemy. While waiting

for the pontoons to come to the front, people could be seen running about the streets of Columbia, and occasionally small bodies of cavalry, but no masses. A single gun of Captain De Grass' battery was fired at their cavalry squads, but General Sherman checked his firing, limiting him to a few shots directed at the unfinished State House walls, and a few shells at the railway depot, to scatter the people engaged in carrying away sacks of corn and meal. There was no white flag or manifestation of surrender. Sherman directed General Howard to cross the Saluda at the Factory, three miles above the city, and afterwards Broad River, so as to approach Columbia from the north.

Slocum, with the left wing, crossed the South Edisto on the 15th of February, at New and Guignard's bridges, and moved to a position on the Orangeburg and Edgefield road, there to await the result of the movement of the right wing upon the former place; Howard having entered Orangeburg on the 12th, and being then in march on Columbia. On the 14th Slocum crossed the North Edisto, the Twentieth Corps at Jones' Bridge, the Fourteenth Corps at Horsey's Bridge, and Kilpatrick at Gunter's Bridge; and, all three columns uniting at and below Lexington, the advance appeared at the Saluda, within an hour after the head of Howard's column reached the river on the 16th.

General Howard effected a crossing of the Saluda, near the Factory, on the 16th, skirmishing with cavalry, and the same night threw a flying-bridge across Broad River, about three miles above Columbia, by which he crossed over Stone's Bridge Woods' division of the Fifteenth Corps. Under cover of this force a pontoon bridge was laid on the morning of the 17th. Sherman was in person at this bridge, and at eleven A. M. learned that the mayor of Columbia had come out in a carriage and made a formal surrender of the city to Colonel Stone, Twenty-fifth Iowa regiment, commanding the third brigade of Woods' division of the Fifteenth Corps. About the same time, a small party of the Seventeenth Corps had crossed the Congaree in a skiff, and entered Columbia from a point immediately west of the city.

In anticipation of the occupation of the city, Sherman had given written orders to General Howard touching the conduct of the troops. These instructions were, to destroy absolutely all arsenals and public property not needed for our own use, as all railways, depots, and machinery useful in war to an enemy, but to spare all dwellings, colleges, schools, asylums, and harmless private property. Sherman was the first to cross the pontoon bridge, and, in company with General Howard, rode into the city. The day was clear, but a perfect tempest of wind was raging. The brigade of Colonel Stone was already in the city, and was properly posted. Citizens and soldiers were on the streets, and general good order prevailed. General Wade Hampton, who commanded the Confederate rear-guard of cavalry, had, in anticipation of the capture of Columbia, ordered that cotton, public and private, should be moved into the streets and fired; to prevent the Yankee invaders from benefiting by its use. Bales were piled every where, the rope and bagging cut, and tufts of cotton were blown about in the wind, lodged in the trees and against houses, so as to resemble a snow-storm. Some of these piles of cotton were burning, especially one in the very heart of the city, near the courthouse, but the fire was partially subdued by the labor of the Union soldiers.

During the day, Logan, with the Fifteenth Corps, passed through Columbia and out on the Camden road. The Seventeenth Corps did not enter the town at all.

Before a single public building had been fired by orders, the smouldering fires, lighted by Hampton's men, were rekindled by the wind, and communicated to the buildings around. About dark, the flames began to spread, and got beyond the control of the brigade on duty within the city. The whole of Woods' division was brought in, but it was found impossible to check the progress of the fire, which, by midnight, had become unmanageable, and raged until about four A. M., when, the wind subsiding, it was got under control. Sherman himself was up nearly all night, and with Generals Howard, Logan, Hazen, Woods, and others, labored hard to save houses and

protect families thus suddenly deprived of shelter and of bedding and wearing apparel. In his official report, Sherman says :—

“I disclaim on the part of my army any agency in this fire, but, on the contrary, claim that we saved what of Columbia remains unconsumed. And, without hesitation, I charge General Wade Hampton with having burned his own city of Columbia, not with a malicious intent, or as the manifestation of a silly ‘Roman stoicism,’ but from folly and want of sense, in filling it with lint, cotton, and tinder. Our officers and men on duty worked well to extinguish the flames ; but others not on duty, including the officers who had long been imprisoned there, rescued by us, may have assisted in spreading the fire after it had once begun, and may have indulged in unconcealed joy to see the ruin of the capital of South Carolina.”

During the 18th and 19th, the arsenal, railway depots, machine-shops, foundries, and other buildings were properly destroyed by detailed working parties, and the railway-track torn up and destroyed to Ringsville, and the Wateree or Catawba Bridge in the direction of Winnsboro’.

On the 16th, as soon as the head of Slocum’s column appeared within two miles of Columbia, as already stated, Sherman directed him to march by the left again directly upon Winnsboro’. Accordingly, Slocum crossed the Saluda at Hart’s Ferry, and on the 17th, marching by Oakville and Rockville, reached the Broad River, near Alston. Encamping there on the 18th, on the 19th the left wing crossed the Broad, entered Alston, and began breaking up the railways near that place. The Spartansburg railway was destroyed for fourteen miles to the northward of Alston, as far as and including the bridge over the Broad River. On the 20th, Slocum crossed Little River and reached Winnsboro’ on the 21st.

Sherman, with the right wing, having destroyed all that remained of Columbia likely to be of any use for military purposes, marched on the 20th directly on Winnsboro’, the Fifteenth Corps moving along the railway and destroying it,

and the Seventeenth Corps on a parallel road. On the 21st, Howard reached Winnsboro'.

The movements of the cavalry acting separately on the extreme left flank of the army, and concealing as well as covering the movements of the infantry columns, must now be brought down to the same period. Kilpatrick, as we have already seen in following the march of the infantry, reached Robertville on the 3d of February, and thence marched on the 4th to Lawtonville, on the 5th to Allandale, and on the 6th, having demonstrated well towards Augusta, driving a brigade of the enemy's cavalry before him, turned short to the right and crossed the Salkehatchie just below Barnwell.

The enemy, about three hundred strong, occupied a well-chosen position, behind earthworks on the opposite side of the river, commanding the bridge, which was already on fire; but the Ninth Ohio Cavalry, Colonel Hamilton, and the Ninety-second Illinois Mounted Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Van Buskirk, dashed through the swamp, the men wading in the water up to their arm-pits, crossed the stream on trees felled by the pioneers, and under cover of a rapid fire of artillery, gallantly carried the works, driving the enemy in confusion towards the town of Barnwell. Only a portion of the bridge being destroyed, the fire was extinguished, and it was quickly repaired, and Kilpatrick entered the town of Barnwell at four p. m.

On the morning of the 7th, he struck the Charleston and Atlanta railway at Blackville, driving a brigade of Wheeler's cavalry from the town. The advance was engaged alone with the enemy at this point, in a very spirited affair, wherein Colonel Jordan, Captain Estes, assistant-adjutant-general, and Captain Northrope greatly distinguished themselves.

Here the cavalry rested, destroying track during the 7th and 8th, and on the evening of the 8th moved up the railway in the direction of Augusta, as far as Williston Station. After posting pickets on the various roads leading from the town, and before going into camp, an attack was made on Spencer's brigade, holding the direct road to Augusta. Kilpatrick directed Colonel Spencer at once to move out with his brigade, feel

the enemy and ascertain his strength. A spirited fight ensued, in which six regiments of Allen's division of Wheeler's cavalry, namely, the First, Third, Seventh, Ninth, Twelfth, and Fifty-first Alabama, were totally routed. Colonel Spencer conducted the fight unaided, and displayed skill and gallantry. One officer and many men of the enemy were killed, a large number wounded, several prisoners were taken, and five battle-flags captured. Colonel Spencer pressed the pursuit so closely, for a distance of seven or eight miles, that the enemy was finally forced to leave the road and scatter through the woods and swamps, in order to escape. At Williston, Kilpatrick remained till ten A. M. next day, one-third of his entire command being employed in tearing up the track, three miles of which were effectually destroyed, together with the depot and two cars.

On the 9th of February, he moved along the railway to Windsor, and thence to Johnson's Station, destroying portions of the track up to that point.

The cavalry had moved from Blackville in such a manner, and Kilpatrick had so manœuvred, as to create the impression on the minds of the enemy in Augusta, that his movement was the advance of the main army directly on that place. On the morning of the 11th, it was found that this feint was a complete success. Wheeler having left the Edisto unguarded and uncovered Columbia, had, by marching day and night, reached Aiken at daylight that morning with his entire command. To make certain of this, Atkins' brigade was directed to move from Johnson's Station, and reconnoitre in the direction of Aiken. His advance entered the town without opposition, and a moment afterwards, being furiously attacked by Wheeler's entire force, fell back, gallantly fighting and disputing every foot of ground to the position of the main body at Johnson's, thus giving Kilpatrick sufficient time to make all necessary arrangements to check Wheeler's further advance. At eleven A. M., Wheeler, with one brigade, feigned upon Kilpatrick's left flank, and charged, mounted, with his entire command, but was handsomely repulsed with a loss on his part of thirty-one killed, one hundred and sixty wounded, and sixty taken

prisoners. Wheeler made no further attack, but fell back to his former position at Aiken.

Kilpatrick remained at Johnson's, destroying the railway and constantly demonstrating towards Augusta, till the night of the 12th, when he left Wheeler's front, crossed the South Fork of the Edisto at Guignard's Bridge, and encamped four miles beyond, picketing the river as high up as Pine Log Bridge.

On the 14th, the cavalry encamped on the south bank of the North Edisto, crossed on the 15th, and moved well in on the left of Davis' fourteenth corps, and marching parallel with it, struck the Lexington and Augusta road, northward of and nine miles from the former place. Only fifteen hundred of Wheeler's cavalry had then passed over the road in the direction of Columbia, the majority of his command being intercepted by Kilpatrick's movement, as Cheatham's corps was by that of the infantry.

On the 17th, Kilpatrick crossed the Saluda River, moved north, and found that Wheeler had already crossed and was moving for the railway bridge over the Broad River at Alston's.

All day on the 18th, Kilpatrick marched parallel to Cheatham's corps, moving on Newberry, and at some points not over three miles distant from it, a bad stream alone preventing him from striking the enemy in flank. Kilpatrick struck the railway at Pomaria Station, destroyed a portion of the track, the depot, and several bridges between that point and Broad River, and reached Alston's Station, on Broad River, on the evening of the 18th.

On the 19th he crossed the Broad River, and on the evening of the 20th reached Monticello, and found that Wheeler had already crossed the river and was moving on Chesterfield.

Winnsboro', where Sherman's infantry was now massed, is situated on the Charlotte and South Carolina railway, seventy miles south of Charlotte, North Carolina, and thirty-nine miles north of Columbia. Monticello is nearly opposite, between Winnsboro' and the Broad River. The movement of the entire army so far in this direction served to support the theory

that Sherman was aiming to reach Virginia by the inland route, by way of Charlotte.

In the mean while, Beauregard had been relieved from the chief command of the Confederate forces operating against Sherman, and the Confederate Congress, stung into activity by the presence of an unexpected and alarming danger threatening to overwhelm their cause, had wrung from Jefferson Davis the reappointment of General Johnston to the supreme control of all the troops west of the Chattahoochee River and south of Virginia. Johnston had taken up a position at Charlotte, concentrating there the forces with which Beauregard had evacuated Columbia and the local garrisons and militia of North Carolina, re-enforced to some extent from Lee's army, and was awaiting the arrival of the remnants of the Confederate Army of the Tennessee. The remains of Cheatham's corps had reached Branchville as Sherman pushed rapidly past that place and on to Orangeburg, and had been cut off from Johnston by the direction of Sherman's march and the burning of the bridges over the Saluda.

With an army so greatly inferior, not only in numbers, but now also in spirit and *morale*, Johnston's task was an exceedingly difficult one. The abandonment of Columbia was the turning point of the campaign. That gained, Sherman could choose his line of march and feint on Charlotte while moving on Fayetteville or Wilmington, or march on the former place while feigning on the latter, at his pleasure. That lost, the Confederate commander must choose Charlotte or Goldsboro' as his defensive point. They are too far distant to warrant the attempt to defend both. If he chose Goldsboro', he would not only seriously expose his rear and flank to a movement from the direction of Newbern or the Roanoke, but Sherman would be able to march quietly through Charlotte to the James. If, on the contrary, he decided to defend Charlotte, the defence of Goldsboro' and the seaboard must be left to chance. An army too weak to hold Columbia against an enemy moving from Georgia on North Carolina would almost necessarily loose the whole country

south of the Roanoke. Davis took no steps to restore the campaign until Columbia was abandoned. Then the campaign was lost.

Sherman pushed his advantage to the utmost. On the 22d of February, Slocum continued his march towards Charlotte, thoroughly destroyed the railway as far as Blackstock, or Blackstakes Station, fifteen miles from Winnsboro' and fifty-five from Charlotte, and then facing to the right, marched for the Wateree or Catawba River, and reached it that night at Rocky Mount. During the night a pontoon bridge was laid across the Catawba, and Williams' twentieth corps crossed on the morning and afternoon of the 23d, followed in the night by Kilpatrick's cavalry, which moved rapidly on Lancaster, distant about forty miles from Charlotte, with the object of keeping alive the idea entertained by the Confederates that the army was moving on the latter place. On the evening of the 23d, a heavy rain began to fall, lasting until the 26th, and swelling the rivers so that the pontoons were carried away, and it was impossible for the troops to cross, and rendering the roads almost impracticable. Williams' twentieth corps reached Hanging Rock on the 26th, and there waited until the 1st of March for Jefferson C. Davis to come up with the Fourteenth Corps, which had been left on the left bank of the Catawba by the flood and the consequent destruction of the pontoon bridge.

Howard's right wing having destroyed the railway up to Winnsboro', marched thence on the 22d of February, crossed the Catawba at Peay's Ferry, and moved on Cheraw, Blair's seventeenth corps on the right, by Tiller's and Kelly's bridges over Lynch's Creek, and Logan's fifteenth corps taking the direct road on the left by way of Young's Bridge. A detachment of Logan's fifteenth corps, by a detour to the right, entered Camden on the 28th of February, and burned the bridges over the Catawba, and the depot of the Camden Branch railway. A small force of mounted men, under Captain Duncan, sent out to break the Wilmington and Manchester railway, was met by Butler's division of Confederate cavalry,

at Mount Clio, and after a sharp skirmish returned unsuccessful. At Lynch's Creek, Sherman halted the right wing for three days to give time for Slocum with the left wing to come up.

From Monticello, the cavalry moved to Blackstock, or Blackstakes, on the Columbia and Charlotte railway, and demonstrated strongly in the direction of Chester until the main army had secured the passage of the Catawba, then drew off across that river, moved to Lancaster, and again demonstrated in the direction of Charlotte. Wheeler and Hampton had now combined their forces well in Kilpatrick's front, but by demonstrations, feints, and well-planned devices, were deceived as to his real movements for several days; and it was not until the main army had crossed Lynch's Creek and reached the Great Pedee that they discovered their mistake.

Williams' twentieth corps having waited at Hanging Rock from the 26th to the 28th of February, for Davis' fourteenth corps to come up, on the 1st of March the left wing, united, moved to Horton's Ferry on Lynch's Creek; and on the 2d, the Twentieth Corps entered Chesterfield, skirmishing with Butler's division of the enemy's cavalry.

At noon, on the 3d, Blair's seventeenth corps entered Cheraw, capturing twenty-five pieces of artillery and a large quantity of ammunition and material, which had been removed from Charleston when that city was evacuated. The guns and stores were destroyed, and the trestles and bridges of the Cheraw and Darlington railway burned as far as the latter place; but a mounted force sent out to destroy the communication between Florence and Charleston encountered a superior body of the enemy, comprising both cavalry and infantry, and was compelled to return without accomplishing its chief object. Logan's fifteenth corps met with great difficulties in crossing Lynch's and Black creeks, four days being occupied in the passage of the former stream, which rose to such an extent immediately after Corse's division, leading, reached the east bank, that the other three divisions could not have followed at once without swimming the animals more than three-quarters of a mile. Upon the occupation of Cheraw

by Blair the enemy retreated beyond the Great Pedee River, and burned the bridge over that stream.

On the 5th of March, the army began to cross the Great Pedee, the right wing at Cheraw, the left wing and the cavalry at Sneedsboro'.

On the 6th, both wings were massed on the east bank of the Great Pedee, and the army began its movement directly on Fayetteville; Blair's seventeenth corps leading the right wing, and Davis' fourteenth corps taking the right of the left wing, and moving by Love's Bridge over the Lumber River, so as to be the first to enter the town, while Kilpatrick's cavalry was kept well out on the left flank.

From the time of leaving Cheraw and Chesterfield, the heavy rains, which had previously so greatly obstructed the movements of the army, continued without intermission until Fayetteville was reached. The numerous small streams became swollen by the floods and very difficult to pass, and the loose soil was soon worked, by the passage of troops and trains, into a quicksand of unknown depth, in which the animals became hopelessly mired, and many were even lost. The days were spent by the soldiers in wearily dragging through the mud; the nights, in corduroying to make a way for the trains.

Davis, with the Fourteenth Corps, reached Love's Bridge over the Lumber River on the 7th of March, crossed, marched to within twenty miles of Fayetteville on the 9th, ten miles nearer on the 10th, and on the 11th entered the town.

Blair's seventeenth corps reached Laurel Hill on the 8th, Gilchrist's Bridge over the Lumber on the 9th, and marched into Fayetteville on the 12th.

As the army approached this point both wings moved more cautiously, expecting Hardee to make a fight in front of the town, and to defend the crossing of the Cape Fear River; but, undoubtedly in consequence of his inferiority in numbers, he retired without offering any serious opposition, retreated beyond the river, and burned the bridge after him.

Kilpatrick, having sent out a part of his command to Mon-

roe and Wadesboro', crossed the Great Pedee on the night of the 6th of March, and occupied Rockingham on the 7th, after a skirmish with Butler's division of Hampton's Confederate cavalry.

On the 8th, Kilpatrick crossed the Lumber River at Love's Bridge, and at Solemn Grove came upon the rear of Hardee, who was then in full retreat on Fayetteville, on the Charlotte road. Learning from prisoners that Hampton's cavalry was still in the rear of Hardee's troops, but rapidly moving in the same direction, Kilpatrick now determined to intercept him.

Hampton was marching upon two roads; the Morgantown road, and one three miles further to the north and parallel with it. Directly south and east from Solemn Grove, Kilpatrick posted upon each road a brigade of cavalry; and learning that there was a road still further north, upon which the enemy's troops might move, he made a rapid night's march with Colonel Spencer's brigade, increased by four hundred dismounted men and one section of artillery, and took post at a point where the road last mentioned intersects the Morgantown road. During the early part of the evening, Kilpatrick with his staff had left General Atkins and joined Colonel Spencer, and actually ridden through one division of Hampton's cavalry, which by eleven o'clock had flanked General Atkins, and was encamped within three miles of Colonel Spencer. Kilpatrick's escort, consisting of fifteen men and one officer, was captured, but the general himself escaped with his staff.

General Atkins and Colonel Jordan discovered, about nine o'clock, that while Hampton was amusing them in front, he was passing with his main force on a road to the right. These officers at once made every effort to reach Kilpatrick before daylight, but failed to do so owing to the bad roads and almost incessant skirmishing with the enemy, who were marching parallel with them, and at some points scarcely a mile distant.

Hampton had marched all day, and rested his men about three miles from Colonel Jordan's position. At two o'clock in the morning, just before daylight, he suddenly and furiously charged Kilpatrick's position with Horner's, Allen's, and

Butler's divisions. Hampton led the centre division, Butler's, and in an instant had driven back the Union troops, taken possession of the headquarters, and captured all the artillery, and Kilpatrick's whole command was in full flight. Colonel Spencer and a large portion of the general's staff were taken prisoners.

Kilpatrick succeeded in escaping on foot and gaining the cavalry camp, a few hundred yards in the rear, where he found the men fighting with the Confederate cavalry for their camp and animals. Finally they were forced back five hundred yards further to an impassable swamp, and there, while the enemy, eager for plunder, was engaged in pillaging the captured camp, Kilpatrick rallied them. Inspired by his example, and led by the general in person, on foot, they advanced upon the enemy, retook their camp, and, encouraged by this success, charged the enemy in the act of harnessing the battery horses and plundering the headquarters, retook the artillery, turned it upon the enemy, hardly twenty paces distant, and finally forced them out of the camp with great slaughter. Kilpatrick then immediately re-established his line, and for an hour and a half foiled every attempt of Hampton to retake it. At about eight o'clock, General Mitchell, with a brigade of infantry, came within musket range, having rapidly marched across the country from the plank-road to the assistance of the cavalry, and at once moved into position and remained there until half-past one o'clock, rendering every assistance possible, though the battle was now over.

In this engagement Kilpatrick lost four officers and fifteen men killed, sixty-one men wounded, and one hundred and three of all ranks taken prisoners.

On the 11th of March the cavalry moved into Fayetteville, in advance of the Fourteenth Corps, and on the 12th the entire army was massed at that place.

From Laurel Hill, on the 8th of March, Sherman had dispatched a brief note, by two picked couriers, through the enemy's country, down the Cape Fear River to Wilmington, to apprise the commander of the Union forces on the North

Carolina coast of his progress. "We are all well," it said, "and have done finely. Details are, for obvious reasons, omitted." Both of these scouts reached Wilmington safely, and on the 14th of March these glad tidings, the very first received from the army since it swung loose from Savannah and Beaufort, were spread before the country in an official bulletin from the secretary of war.

On the 12th, the army-tug Davidson, Captain Ainsworth, and the gunboat Eolus, Lieutenant-Commander Young, of the navy, reached Fayetteville from Wilmington, with full intelligence of the important events that had transpired in other quarters, in the eventful six weeks during which Sherman's army was burrowing through the Carolinas. The same day the Davidson carried back to Wilmington detailed information of the movements and condition of the army, and full instructions concerning Sherman's future plans, to General Terry, who had captured Wilmington, and now commanded there, and to General Schofield, who was at Newbern.

While in South Carolina the troops exercised scarcely any restraint with respect to the property of the inhabitants; plundering and destroying without stint. They regarded the people of this State, as a body, and practically without exception, as life-long enemies of the Union, and conceived that upon the army devolved the duty of punishing them for their sins. So general and deeply-seated was this impression, on the part of officers and men, that it was often impossible for their commanders to control the manifestation of it; but from the moment of entering North Carolina the whole demeanor of the army changed, and the men yielded with alacrity to the customary restraints of discipline.

During the campaign General Wheeler addressed the following communication to General Howard, on the subject of destroying houses and cotton:—

"GRAHAMS, S. C., February 7, 1865.

"GENERAL—I have the honor to propose that, if the troops of your army be required to discontinue burning the houses of our citizens, I will discontinue burning cotton.

"As an earnest of the good faith in which my proposition is tendered, I leave at this place about three hundred bales of cotton unburned, worth, in New York, over a quarter of a million, and in our currency, one and a half millions. I trust my having commenced will cause you to use your influence to insure the acceptance of the proposition by your whole army.

"I trust that you will not deem it improper for me to ask that you will require the troops under your command to discontinue the wanton destruction of property not necessary for their sustenance.

"Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

"J. WHEELER,

"Major-General C. S. A.

"Major-General O. O. HOWARD,

"United States Army, Commanding, etc."

To this General Sherman chose to reply himself, in the following characteristic terms :—

"HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the field, February 8, 1865.

"GENERAL—Yours, addressed to General Howard, is received by me.

"I hope you will burn all cotton, and save us the trouble. We don't want it; and it has proven a curse to our country. All you don't burn I will.

"As to private houses, occupied by peaceful families, my orders are not to molest or disturb them, and I think my orders are obeyed. Vacant houses, being of no use to anybody, I care little about, as the owners have thought them of no use to themselves. I don't want them destroyed, but do not take much care to preserve them.

"I am, with respect, yours truly, etc.

"Major-General J. WHEELER,

Commanding Cavalry Corps Confederate Army."

On the 24th of February, after some sharp, but ineffectual, correspondence between Kilpatrick and Wheeler, in regard to the murder of the Union prisoners and foragers, Sherman wrote to General Wade Hampton:—

“GENERAL—It is officially reported to me that our foraging parties are murdered, after being captured, and labelled, ‘Death to all Foragers.’ One instance is that of a lieutenant and seven men near Chester, and another of twenty, near a ravine eighty rods from the main road, and three miles from Easterville. I have ordered a similar number of prisoners in our hands to be disposed of in like manner. I hold about one thousand prisoners captured in various ways, and can stand it as long as you, but I hardly think these murders are committed with your knowledge, and would suggest that you give notice to your people at large that every life taken by them simply results in the death of one of your confederates.

“Of course, you cannot question my right to forage in an enemy’s country. It is a war right, as old as history. The manner of exercising it varies with circumstances, and if the country will supply my requisitions, I will forbid all foraging; but I find no civil authorities who can respond to calls for forage or provisions, and therefore must collect directly of the people.

“I have no doubt this is the occasion of much misbehavior on the part of our men, but I cannot permit an enemy to judge or punish with wholesale murder. Personally, I regret the bitter feelings engendered by this war, but they were to be expected, and I simply allege that those who struck the first blow, and made war inevitable, ought not, in fairness, to reproach us for the natural consequences. I merely assert our war-right to forage, and my resolve to protect my foragers to the extent of life for life.

“I am, with respect, your obedient servant.”

To this General Hampton replied at great length, and with acrimony, denying his knowledge of any such murders, and

instead of investigating the circumstances, declaring his fixed intention of executing two federal prisoners, preferably commissioned officers, for every one put to death by Sherman. As a beginning, he stated that he should hold fifty-six Union prisoners as hostages for the safety of the twenty-eight Confederates ordered to be executed by Sherman.

✓ "The army," Sherman wrote to the lieutenant-general, "is in splendid health, condition, and spirit, although we have had foul weather, and roads that would have stopped travel to almost any other body of men I ever heard of. Our march was substantially what I designed. . . . I could leave here to-morrow, but want to clean my columns of the vast crowd of refugees and negroes that encumber me. . . . I hope you have not been uneasy about us, and that the fruits of this march will be appreciated."

CHAPTER XXVIII.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

As soon as Sherman had reached Savannah, reported the condition of his army, developed his plans, and received the assent of General Grant to his proposal to march through the Carolinas, instead of moving by water directly to the support of the armies before Richmond, as had been originally intended and ordered, the lieutenant-general proceeded to put in motion the parallel combination necessary to insure the success of the campaign.

Sherman's objective being Goldsboro', the first step to be taken obviously was to secure possession of Wilmington, and the control of the Cape Fear River, so that supplies might, if needful, be sent up that stream, and likewise in order that no formidable and strongly fortified garrison might be left to menace the flank and rear of the moving column.

In anticipation of the occasion for such an operation, and desiring to secure control of the mouth of the Cape Fear River, at a time when attention was less strongly directed in that quarter than would be the case when the execution of his plans should be more fully developed, General Grant had, in December, sent a large force from the Army of the James, under Major-General Godfrey Weitzel, and the Navy Department had dispatched a powerful fleet, under Rear-Admiral David D. Porter, to co-operate in the reduction, first of Fort Fisher and its adjacent works on Federal Point, and afterwards of Wilmington.

Major-General Benjamin F. Butler, the commander of the

Army of the James, accompanied the land forces, and assumed control of their movements. After numerous delays and misunderstandings, the navy opened a furious bombardment on the afternoon of the 24th of December, 1864, and kept it up until nightfall, and all Christmas-day, at the rate of about one shot in every two seconds. During the afternoon of the 25th, under cover of this fire, a portion of the troops landed and made a reconnoissance of the Confederate works ; but a storm coming up, General Butler, after consulting with General Weitzel, and ascertaining that the opinion of that officer coincided with his own, ordered the troops already landed to re-embark, and, on the 27th, withdrew his command on the transport fleet and returned to the James River. Admiral Porter, however, decided to remain and continue the naval operations as opportunity might offer.

General Grant immediately selected Major-General Alfred Howe Terry to command the expedition, and directed him to renew the attempt without delay, while the enemy were evidently counting on its abandonment. The choice was an excellent one. General Terry was a young, brave, and accomplished officer, who had entered the army in the earliest period of the war as colonel of the Tenth Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers ; and by active service, zeal, fidelity, and gallantry, had, step by step, won his promotion to his present position, for which, by study and careful attention to duty, he had taken pains to qualify himself. The troops placed under his orders for the present movement, including those which had taken part in the previous failure, consisted of a division of thirty-three hundred picked men from Ord's twenty-fourth army corps, under Brigadier-General Adelbert Ames ; a division of like strength from Weitzel's twenty-fifth corps, under Brigadier-General Charles J. Paine ; a brigade fourteen hundred strong, also from Ord's corps, commanded by Colonel J. C. Abbott, of the Seventh New Hampshire ; and two detached batteries of light artillery.

The expedition sailed from Hampton Roads on the 6th of January, 1865, but, owing to a severe storm, followed by con-

tinuous unfavorable weather, did not reach its destination off Federal Point and begin the disembarkation until the morning of the 13th. By three o'clock that afternoon, however, through a heavy surf, eight thousand men, with three days' rations in their haversacks and forty rounds of ball cartridges in their boxes, had been landed on the beach above the fort, under cover of the admirable disposition and effective fire of Admiral Porter's fleet, and every thing was in readiness for an attack. After some time lost in endeavoring to find a suitable point for the establishment, across the peninsula whereon Fort Fisher is situated, of a line of defence against reinforcements seeking to aid the garrison from the direction of Wilmington, by two o'clock on the 14th, Paine, with his own division and two brigades of Ames' division, reached a favorable position for that purpose, and by eight o'clock had thrown up a secure line of intrenchments. During the day the enemy's works were thoroughly reconnoitred, and General Terry determined on his plan of attack for the morrow. Into this Admiral Porter entered heartily.

Accordingly, at eight o'clock on the morning of the 15th of January, all the fleet, except one division left to support the line of defence across the neck, went into action, and opened a powerful and accurate fire upon the fort. Withdrawing the two brigades of Ames' division, and leaving Paine to hold this defensive line with his own division and Abbott's brigade, at twenty-five minutes past three o'clock in the afternoon Terry gave the order for Ames to move to the assault of the western front. Simultaneously, by a concerted signal, the direction of the fire of the navy was changed, and Curtis' brigade of Ames' division sprang to the assault, while a battalion of marines and seamen, under Commander Breese of the navy, rushed forward to storm the northeast bastion. The naval assault was soon repulsed with heavy loss, but, aided by a well-directed and effective flank fire of the fleet, continued against the fort up to six o'clock P. M., Ames, afterwards re-enforced by Abbott's brigade and the Twenty-seventh United States Colored regiment, of Paine's division, succeeded in effecting an entrance

into the work, and, fighting hand to hand across the embankments, from traverse to traverse, over nine in succession, by nine o'clock at night the last opposition of the enemy died out, the entire work was in undisputed possession of General Terry and his gallant troops, and the garrison were prisoners.

Hoke's division of the Confederate army came down from Wilmington during the fight, and observed Paine's line, but did not attack it.

On the 16th and 17th of January, the enemy blew up Fort Caswell, and abandoned it and the extensive works on Smith's Island, at Smithville and Reeve's Point. These points were immediately occupied by General Terry, and the fleet took up position in the river and along the coast, to defend his flanks.

Thus the mouth of Cape Fear River was in the secure possession of the combined land and naval forces under General Terry and Admiral Porter. The next step was to take Wilmington.

In the mean while, other troops were moving in the same direction from the far west. As soon as the crushing defeat of Hood, and the substantial destruction of the offensive power of his army by Thomas, had liberated a portion of the Union armies defending Tennessee and Kentucky for active operation in other quarters, the lieutenant-general had detached Schofield with his Twenty-third Corps, and ordered him to Annapolis. The order to this effect was received by General Schofield on the 14th of January, at Clifton, on the Tennessee River, where water transportation had been collected to move the command to Eastport, in accordance with previous plans, and on the following day the movement began.

The troops moved with their artillery and horses, but without wagons, by steam transports to Cincinnati, Ohio, and thence by railway to Washington and Alexandria, Virginia; a second order from Washington having, in the mean time, changed the destination from Annapolis. Although in mid-winter, and the weather unusually severe, even for that season, the movement was effected without delay, accident, or suffer-

ing on the part of the troops, and by the 31st of January the whole command had arrived at Washington and Alexandria.

At the latter place great and unavoidable delay was caused by the freezing of the Potomac, which rendered its navigation impossible much of the time for several weeks. Meanwhile General Schofield went to Fort Monroe, met General Grant, and proceeded with him to the mouth of Cape Fear River to consult with Admiral Porter and General Terry relative to future operations. On their return to Washington an order was issued from the War Department creating the Department of North Carolina, and assigning General Schofield to its command, and he now received General Grant's instructions charging him with the conduct of the campaign in that department, and indicating its plan and objects.

As soon as it became possible to navigate the Potomac, Schofield started from Alexandria with Major-General Cox's division of the Twenty-third Corps, reached the mouth of Cape Fear River on the 9th of February, and landed upon the peninsula near Fort Fisher.

The enemy still occupied Fort Anderson on the west bank of the river, with a collateral line running to a large swamp about three-quarters of a mile distant, and a line opposite Fort Anderson running across the peninsula from Cape Fear River to Masonboro' Sound. This position was impregnable against direct attack, and could be turned only by crossing Masonboro' Sound above the enemy's left, or passing around the swamp which covered his right.

The force which General Schofield then had was evidently too small for so extended a movement as either of these; but time being all-important, he determined to make the attempt without waiting for the arrival of reinforcements.

On the 11th of February, he pushed forward General Terry's line, supported by General Cox's division, drove in the enemy's pickets, and intrenched in a new position, close enough to the enemy's line to compel him to hold the latter in force. He then made preparations to send a fleet of navy boats and pontoons by sea to a point on the beach above the enemy's posi-

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tion, while a force composed of Cox's division of the Twenty-third Corps and Ames' division of the Twenty-fourth Corps, was to march along the beach in the night to the point where the boats were to land, haul them across into the sound, and cross the latter to the main-land in rear of Hoke's position at Wilmington.

The weather, however, became so stormy as to render the execution of this plan impossible. On the night of February 14th, Schofield attempted to move the pontoons upon their wagons along the beach with the troops, but the unusually high tides caused by the heavy sea-wind made it impracticable to reach the point of crossing before daylight in the morning, when the movement would be discovered by the enemy before a crossing of the sound could be secured. Hence, after a hard night's work, the attempt was abandoned, and Schofield turned attention to the enemy's right, where the difficulties of both land and sea would not have to be jointly encountered.

Cox's and Ames' divisions were crossed over to Smithville, where they were joined by Colonel Moore's brigade of Couch's division of the Twenty-third Corps, which had just debarked, and advanced along the main Wilmington road until they encountered the enemy's position at Fort Anderson and the adjacent works. Here two brigades were intrenched to occupy the enemy, while General Cox, with his other two brigades and Ames' division, marched around the swamp covering the enemy's right, to strike the Wilmington road in rear of Fort Anderson. The distance to be travelled was about fifteen miles.

The enemy, warned by his cavalry of General Cox's movement, hastily abandoned his works on both sides of the river during the night of the 19th of February, and fell back behind Town Creek on the west, and to a corresponding position, covered by swamps, on the east. Thus, with but trifling loss and without serious opposition, General Schofield gained the main defences of Cape Fear River and of Wilmington, with ten pieces of heavy ordnance and a large amount of ammunition.

On the following day General Cox pursued the enemy to Town Creek, behind which he was found intrenched, having destroyed the only bridge across that stream. General Terry also encountered the enemy in his new position, and in force superior to his own. Ames' division was recrossed to the east bank, and joined Terry during the night of the 19th.

On the 20th, General Cox crossed Town Creek below the enemy's position, by the use of a single flat-boat found in the stream; and, by wading through swamps, reached the enemy's flank and rear, attacked and routed him, capturing two pieces of artillery, three hundred and seventy-five prisoners, besides the killed and wounded, and dispersed the remainder. During the night General Cox rebuilt the bridge, crossed his artillery, and the next morning pushed on towards Wilmington without opposition. General Terry was unable to make any further advance, but occupied the attention of all of Hoke's force, so that he could not send any to replace that which Cox had destroyed.

On the 21st, General Cox secured a portion of the enemy's pontoon bridge across Brunswick River, which they had attempted to destroy, placed a portion of his troops on Eagle Island, and threatened to cross the Cape Fear above Wilmington. The enemy at once set fire to their steamers, cotton, and military and naval stores, and abandoned the town of Wilmington. General Terry's troops entered it without opposition early in the morning of the 22d of February, and pursued the enemy across Northeast River.

The total loss of General Schofield's troops in the operations from February 11th to the capture of Wilmington was about two hundred officers and men, killed and wounded. Fifty-one pieces of heavy ordnance, fifteen light pieces, and a large amount of ammunition fell into the hands of the captors.

The next thing to be done was to take and hold Goldsboro'. The instructions given to General Schofield by the lieutenant-general contemplated, in the event of a failure to reach that place, the occupation of some point as far as possible from the coast on the railway lines connecting it with Goldsboro', and

the reconstruction of the railways leading to the rear. Either Wilmington or Newbern would be the base according to circumstances. The object was twofold: Firstly, to render material assistance to Sherman, if necessary, in his northward march; Secondly, to open a secure base of supplies for him on line of that march.

Having no rolling-stock at Wilmington, and being nearly destitute of wagon transportation, Schofield was compelled to operate from Newbern alone for the capture of Goldsboro'. He had already sent thither about five thousand troops belonging to Sherman's army, and directed Brigadier-General Innis N. Palmer, commanding the garrison, to move, with as little delay as practicable, with all his available force towards Kinston, to cover the workmen engaged in repairing the railway. As soon as Wilmington was secured, Ruger's division of the Twenty-third Corps, which was then arriving at Cape Fear inlet, was also sent by sea to Morehead City, to re-enforce the column moving from Newbern.

On the 25th, finding that General Palmer, instead of moving promptly, had come to Wilmington to consult in regard to details and difficulties, General Schofield ordered Major-General Cox to take command at Newbern, and push forward at once.

Couch's division of the Twenty-third Corps, which had nearly completed its debarkation when Wilmington was captured, was brought to that place, and with Cox's, temporarily commanded by Brigadier-General Reilly, was prepared as rapidly as possible to join the column moving from Newbern by a land march. These arrangements were made because of the scarcity of both land and sea transportation. It was not until March 6th that wagons enough became available, including those belonging to General Terry's command, to move the two divisions from Wilmington to Kinston.

On the 6th, General Couch set out with his own and Cox's divisions of the Twenty-third Corps, and marched by Onslow and Richland's for Kinston.

On the same day General Schofield went by sea to More-

head City, and joined General Cox beyond Newbern on the 8th. General Cox had advanced to Wise's Forks, about one and a half miles below Southwest Creek, and the railway was in rapid progress.

The force in front of General Cox, which, from the best information at hand, was supposed to consist of Hoke's division and a small body of reserves, had fallen back behind Southwest Creek, and General Cox had sent two regiments, under Colonel Upham, Fifteenth Connecticut Volunteers, to secure the crossing of the creek on the Dover road. The enemy, having been re-enforced by a portion of the old Confederate Army of Tennessee, recrossed the creek some distance above the Dover road, came down in rear of Colonel Upham's position, and surprised and captured nearly his entire command, numbering about seven hundred men. The enemy then advanced, and endeavored to penetrate between Carter's and Palmer's divisions, respectively occupying the Dover road and the railway, but was checked by Ruger's division of the Twenty-third Corps, which was just arriving upon the field. There was no further engagement during the day beyond light skirmishing, and the loss on either side, with the exception of the prisoners captured with Colonel Upham, were insignificant.

It being evident that the enemy's force was at least equal to that of General Cox, and that reinforcements were reaching them as rapidly as they could be brought by rail, General Schofield directed General Cox to put his troops in position, intrench them securely, and await the arrival of General Couch.

On the 9th of March, the enemy pressed Schofield's line strongly, and felt for its flanks. Heavy skirmishing was kept up during the day, but no assault was made.

On the 10th, the enemy having been largely re-enforced, and doubtless learning of the approach of General Couch's column, made a heavy attack upon General Cox's left and centre, but was decisively repulsed, and with heavy loss. Both attacks were met mainly by Ruger's division of the Twenty-third Corps, a portion of which had been rapidly transferred from

the centre to the left to meet the attack there, and then returned to the centre in time to repel the attempt on that portion of the line. The enemy retreated in confusion from the field, leaving his killed and wounded, as well as a large number of arms and intrenching tools, and during the night fell back across the Neuse, and burned the bridge over that river. The loss of Schofield's army in this engagement was about three hundred killed and wounded.

On the 11th, without further opposition, General Couch arrived with his two divisions of the Twenty-third Corps, and effected a junction with the forces under General Cox.

Having no pontoon train, Schofield was unable to cross the Neuse until the bridge could be repaired, or the pontoons, which had just arrived from the North, could be brought by railway from Morehead City. The crossing was effected without opposition on the 14th, the enemy having abandoned Kinston, and moved rapidly towards Smithfield to join the force under Johnston, who was then actively engaged in concentrating all his available force to oppose Schofield's advance from Fayetteville.

General Schofield showed equal energy in pushing his advance straight on its destination in spite of obstacles, and skill in resisting the attempt of the enemy to break up his concentration on Kinston. The junction at that place, in the presence of the enemy, though behind the Neuse, of two columns moving simultaneously from Wilmington and Newbern was not only justified but demanded, at once by the lack of transportation for a preparatory concentration at Newbern, and by the necessity for avoiding a moment's delay; but it was an operation of exceeding delicacy, and in the hands of a commander less skilful in his designs, less mature in judgment, less prompt in decision, or less complete in execution, might have produced the most unfavorable results. The manner in which it was accomplished proved the wisdom displayed by the lieutenant-general in the selection of General Schofield for this important command.

CHAPTER XXIX.

TO GOLDSBORO'.

THE 12th, 13th, and 14th of March were passed by Sherman's army at Fayetteville, in totally destroying the United States arsenal and the extensive machinery which had formerly belonged to the old United States armory at Harper's Ferry, and which had been removed thence after the attempted destruction of the works by fire in April, 1861, and used since that time in the manufacture and repair of arms for the Confederate troops. Every building was knocked down and burned, and every piece of machinery utterly broken up and ruined, by the First Regiment Michigan Engineers, under the immediate supervision of Colonel O. M. Poe, chief-engineer of the Military Division. Much valuable property of great use to an enemy was here destroyed, or cast into the river.

Up to this period, Sherman had perfectly succeeded in interposing his superior army between the scattered parts of the enemy. But the fragments that had left Columbia under Beauregard had been re-enforced by Cheatham's corps from the West and the garrison of Augusta, and ample time had been given to move them to Sherman's front and flank about Raleigh. Hardee had also succeeded in getting across Cape Fear River, and could therefore complete the junction with Hoke. These forces, when once united, would constitute an army, probably superior to Sherman's in cavalry and formidable enough in artillery and infantry to justify him in extreme caution in taking the last step necessary to complete the march. Sherman accordingly sent orders to Schofield to move immediately, with all his available force, directly on Goldsboro',

aiming to reach that place nearly simultaneously with the main army on the 20th of March. While the work of destruction was going on at Fayetteville, two pontoon bridges were laid across Cape Fear River, one opposite the town, the other three miles below it.

General Kilpatrick was ordered to move up the plank-road to and beyond Averysboro'. He was to be followed by four divisions of Slocum's left wing, with as few wagons as possible; the rest of the train, under escort of the two remaining divisions of that wing, to take a shorter and more direct road to Goldsboro'. In like manner, General Howard was ordered to send his trains, under good escort, well to the right, toward Faison's Depot and Goldsboro', and to hold four divisions light, ready to go to the aid of the left wing if attacked while in motion.

The weather continued very bad, and the roads had become a mere quagmire. Almost every foot of them had to be corduroyed to admit the passage of wheels. Still, time was so important, that punctually, according to orders, the columns moved out from Cape Fear River on Wednesday, the 15th of March.

General Sherman himself accompanied General Slocum, who, preceded by Kilpatrick's cavalry, moved up the river or plank-road that day to Kyle's Landing, Kilpatrick skirmishing heavily with the enemy's rear-guard about three miles beyond, near Taylor's Hole Creek. At General Kilpatrick's request, General Slocum sent forward a brigade of infantry to hold a line of barricades.

Next morning, the 16th, the column advanced in the same order, and developed the enemy, with artillery, infantry, and cavalry, in an intrenched position in front of the point where the road branches off towards Goldsboro' through Bentonville.

Hardee, in retreating from Fayetteville, had halted in the narrow swampy neck between Cape Fear and South rivers, in the hope of holding Sherman there, in order to save time for the concentration of Johnston's armies at some point to his rear, such as Raleigh, Smithfield, or Goldsboro'. Hardee's force



J. M. Patrick's
Bt. Major Gen. U.S.A.

C. B. Richardson, Publisher.

was now estimated by General Sherman at twenty thousand men. It was necessary to dislodge him, that the advancing army might have the use of the Goldsboro' road, as also to keep up the feint on Raleigh as long as possible. General Slocum was therefore ordered to press and carry the position, only difficult by reason of the nature of the ground, which was so soft that horses would sink everywhere, and even men could hardly make their way over the common pine-barren.

Williams' twentieth corps had the lead, and Ward's division the advance. This was deployed, and the skirmish line developed the position of Rhett's brigade of Confederate Heavy Artillery, armed as infantry, posted across the road behind a light parapet, with a battery of guns enfilading the approach across a cleared field. General Williams sent Case's brigade by a circuit to his left, turned this line, and by a quick charge broke Rhett's brigade, which rapidly retreated to a second line better constructed and more strongly held. Winnegar's battery of artillery, well posted, under the immediate direction of Major Reynolds, chief of artillery of Williams' corps, did good execution on the retreating brigade, and, on advancing Ward's division of the Twentieth Corps over this ground, General Williams captured three guns and two hundred and seventeen prisoners, of whom sixty-eight were wounded and left in a neighboring house with a rebel officer four men, and five days' rations. As Ward's division advanced, the enemy developed a second and stronger line, when Jackson's division was deployed forward on the right of Ward, and the two divisions of Jefferson C. Davis' fourteenth corps on the left, well towards the Cape Fear River. At the same time, Kilpatrick, who was acting in concert with General Williams, was ordered to draw back his cavalry, and mass it on the extreme right, and, in concert with Jackson's right, to feel forward for the Goldsboro' road. He got a brigade on the road, but it was furiously attacked by McLaws' rebel division, and though it fought well and hard, was compelled to return to the flank of the infantry. The whole line advanced late in the afternoon, drove the enemy well within his intrenched line, and pressed

him so hard, that next morning he was gone, having retreated in a very stormy night over the worst of roads.

The aggregate loss of the left wing, in the battle of Averysboro', was twelve officers and sixty-five men killed, and four hundred and seventy-seven wounded.

Ward's division followed to and through Averysboro', developing the fact that Hardee had retreated, not on Raleigh, but on Smithfield. Sherman had the night before directed Kilpatrick to cross South River at a mill-dam to the right rear, and move up on the east side towards Elevation.

Leaving Ward's division to keep up a show of pursuit, Slocum's column was turned to the right, built a bridge across the swollen South River, and took the Goldsboro' road, Kilpatrick crossing to the north in the direction of Elevation, with orders to move eastward, watching that flank. In the mean time, the wagon-trains and guards, as also Howard's column, were wallowing along the miry roads towards Bentonville and Goldsboro'. The enemy's infantry, as before stated, had retreated on Smithfield, and his cavalry retired across Sherman's front in the same direction, burning the bridges over Mill Creek.

Sherman continued with the head of Slocum's column, and encamped, on the night of the 18th, with him on the Goldsboro' road, twenty-seven miles from Goldsboro' and about five miles from Bentonville, at a point where the road from Clinton to Smithfield crosses the Goldsboro' road. Howard was at Lee's Store, only two miles south of that place, and both columns had pickets thrown three miles forward to the point where the two roads unite and become common to Goldsboro'.

Every indication conduced to the belief that the enemy would make no further opposition to Sherman's progress, and would not attempt to strike him in flank while in motion. Accordingly, directing Howard to move his right wing by the new Goldsboro' road, by way of Falling Creek Church, Sherman in person joined Howard's column, with a view to open communication with General Schofield, coming up from Newbern, and Terry from Wilmington. He found General Howard's

column well strung out, owing to the very bad roads, and did not overtake him in person until he had reached Falling Creek Church, with one regiment thrown forward to the cross-roads near Cox's Bridge across the Neuse. The general had reached a distance of about six miles from General Slocum when he heard artillery in that direction, but was soon made easy by one of his staff-officers overtaking him, explaining that Carlin's division of the Fourteenth Corps, leading, had encountered Dibbrell's division of rebel cavalry, which it was easily driving. But soon other staff-officers came up, reporting that Slocum had developed near Bentonville the whole of the rebel army under General Johnston himself. Sherman immediately sent orders to Slocum to call up the two divisions guarding his wagon-trains, and Hazen's division of the Fifteenth Corps, still back near Lee's Store; and to fight defensively until Blair's corps, then near Mount Olive Station, with the three remaining divisions of the Fifteenth Corps, came up on Johnston's left rear from the direction of Cox's Bridge.

In the mean time, while on the road, Sherman received a courier from General Schofield, who reported himself in possession of Kinston, somewhat delayed by want of provisions, but able to march so as to make Goldsboro' on the 21st. A dispatch also arrived from General Terry, who was at or near Faison's Depot.

Sherman at once sent orders to Schofield to push for Goldsboro', and to make dispositions to cross Little River in the direction of Smithfield as far as Millard; to General Terry to move to Cox's Bridge, lay a pontoon bridge, and establish a crossing; and to General Blair to make a night march to Falling Creek Church; and at daylight, the right wing, under General Howard, less the necessary wagon guards, was put in rapid motion on Bentonville. General Slocum's head of column had advanced from its camp of March 18th, and first encountered Dibbrell's cavalry, but soon found his progress impeded by infantry and artillery. The enemy attacked his advance guard, gaining a temporary advantage, and took

three guns and caissons from Carlin's division of Davis' fourteenth corps, driving the two leading brigades back on the main body. As soon as General Slocum realized that he had in his front the whole Confederate army, he promptly deployed the two divisions of Davis' fourteenth corps, and rapidly brought up on their left the two divisions of Williams' twentieth corps. These he arranged on the defensive, and hastily prepared a line of barricades. General Kilpatrick also came up at the sound of artillery, and massed on the left. In this position, the left wing received six distinct assaults by the combined forces of Hoke, Hardee, and Cheatham, under the immediate command of General Johnston himself, without giving an inch of ground, and doing good execution on the enemy's ranks, especially with artillery, whereof the enemy had little or none.

Johnston had moved by night from Smithfield with great rapidity, and without unnecessary wheels, intending to overwhelm Sherman's left flank before it could be relieved by its co-operating columns. But Sherman had all along expected just such a movement, and was prepared for it.

During the night of the 19th, General Slocum got up his wagon-train with its guard of two divisions, and Hazen's division of the Fifteenth Corps, which re-enforcement enabled him to make his position impregnable. The right wing found the Confederate cavalry watching its approach, but unable to offer any serious opposition until the head of column encountered a considerable body behind a barricade at the forks of the road near Bentonville, about three miles east of the battlefield of the day before. This force was, however, quickly dislodged, and the intersection of the roads secured. On moving forward the Fifteenth Corps, General Logan found that the enemy had thrown back his left flank, and had constructed a line of parapet connecting with that towards General Slocum, in the general form of a bastion, having its salient on the main Goldsboro' road, interposed between General Slocum on the west and General Howard on the east, while the flanks rested on Mill Creek, covering the road back to Smithfield.

Sherman instructed General Howard to proceed with due caution until he should have made a strong connection on his left with General Slocum. This he soon accomplished, and, by four P. M. of the 20th, a complete and strong line of battle confronted the enemy in his intrenched position, and General Johnson, instead of catching Sherman's army in detail, as he had designed, was himself on the defensive, with Mill Creek in his rear, spanned by but a single bridge. Nevertheless, Sherman having no object to accomplish by a battle, unless at an advantage, continued to press steadily forward with skirmishers alone, using artillery freely on the wooded space held by the enemy, and feeling strongly the flanks of his position, which were as usual covered by the endless swamps of this region of country. He also ordered all empty wagons to be sent at once to Kinston for supplies, and all other impediments to be grouped near the Neuse, south of Goldsboro', holding the main army in close contact with the enemy, ready to fight him if he should venture outside of his parapets and obstructions.

Immediately upon the occupation of Kinston, General Schofield put a large force of troops to work upon the railway, in aid of the Construction Corps under Colonel W. W. Wright, rebuilt the wagon-bridge over the Neuse, and brought forward supplies, preparatory to a further advance.

Schofield moved from Kinston on the morning of the 20th, and entered Goldsboro' with but slight opposition on the evening of the 21st.

The portion of his command which had remained at Wilmington, under Major-General Terry, moved thence on the 15th of March, reached Faison's Depot on the 20th, and in compliance with the orders just cited, moved from that point to Cox's Bridge, and secured a crossing of the Neuse on the 22d.

Thus, the main army, under Sherman in person, being at Bentonville in the situation described, General Schofield occupying Goldsboro', and General Terry holding the Neuse River, ten miles above, the three armies were in actual connec

tion, holding both banks of the Neuse and having free communication with the sea, by the river and the double line of railway to Newbern and Wilmington, and the great object of the campaign was accomplished.

On the 21st of March, a steady rain prevailed, during which Mower's division of Blair's seventeenth corps, on the extreme right of the main army, worked well to the right around the enemy's flank, and nearly reached the bridge across Mill Creek, the only line of retreat open to the enemy. Of course, there was extreme danger that the enemy would turn on him all his reserve, and, it might be, let go his parapets to overwhelm Mower. Accordingly, Sherman at once ordered a general attack by the skirmish line from left to right. Quite a noisy battle ensued, during which General Mower was enabled to regain his connection with his own corps by moving to his left rear. He had developed a weakness in the enemy's position of which advantage might have been taken; but that night the enemy retreated on Smithfield, leaving his pickets to be taken prisoners, with many dead unburied, and wounded in his field hospitals.

At daybreak of the 22d, pursuit was made two miles beyond Mill Creek, but checked by Sherman's order.

Slocum's left wing lost at Bentonville nine officers and one hundred and forty-five men killed, fifty-one officers and eight hundred and sixteen men wounded, and three officers and two hundred and twenty-three men missing—taken prisoners by the enemy; total, twelve hundred and forty-seven.

Howard's right wing lost two officers and thirty-five men killed, twelve officers and two hundred and eighty-nine men wounded, and one officer and sixty men missing; total, three hundred and ninety-nine.

Kilpatrick's cavalry was held in reserve. His loss was trifling. The aggregate loss of the army at Bentonville was sixteen hundred and forty-six.

Two hundred and sixty-seven of the Confederates were buried on the field by the two wings, and sixteen hundred and twenty-five made prisoners.

Leaving General Howard with the right wing and Kilpatrick's cavalry at Bentonville during the 22d, to bury the dead and remove the wounded, on the following day all the armies moved to the camps assigned them about Goldsboro', there to receive the clothing and supplies of which they stood in need. Sherman went in person on the 22d to Cox's Bridge to meet General Terry, and on the following day rode into Goldsboro', where he found General Schofield and his army. The left wing came in during the same day and next morning, and the right wing followed on the 24th, on which day the cavalry moved to Mount Olive Station and General Terry back to Faison's.

In the mean time the Railway Construction Corps, under the superintendence of the indefatigable Colonel Wright, had been actively at work repairing the railways leading to Wilmington and Newbern. As early as the 25th of March, only four days after the occupation of Goldsboro', the latter line was finished and the first train of cars came in, and the ample supplies provided at Morehead City, by the forethought of General Grant, began to come forward to the army.

Sherman, in his official report of the campaign, thus sums up its results :—

"I cannot, even with any degree of precision, recapitulate the vast amount of injury done the enemy, or the quantity of guns and materials of war captured and destroyed. In general terms, we have traversed the country from Savannah to Goldsboro', with an average breadth of forty miles, consuming all the forage, cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, cured meats, corn-meal, etc. The public enemy, instead of drawing supplies from that region to feed his armies, will be compelled to send provisions from other quarters to feed the inhabitants. A map herewith, prepared by my chief engineer, Colonel Poe, with the routes of the four corps and cavalry, will show at a glance the country traversed. Of course the abandonment to us by the enemy of the whole sea-coast from Savannah to Newbern, North Carolina, with its forts, dock-yards, gun-

boats, etc., was a necessary incident to our occupation and destruction of the inland routes of travel and supply. But the real object of this march was to place this army in a position easy of supply, whence it could take an appropriate part in the spring and summer campaigns of 1865. This was completely accomplished on the 21st of March by the junction of the three armies and occupation of Goldsboro'.

"In conclusion, I beg to express, in the most emphatic manner, my entire satisfaction with the tone and temper of the whole army. Nothing seems to dampen their energy, zeal, or cheerfulness. It is impossible to conceive a march involving more labor and exposure, yet I cannot recall an instance of bad temper by the way, or hearing an expression of doubt as to our perfect success in the end. I believe that this cheerfulness and harmony of action reflects upon all concerned quite as much real honor and fame as 'battles gained' or 'cities won,' and I therefore commend all, generals, staff, officers, and men, for these high qualities, in addition to the more soldierly ones of obedience to orders and the alacrity they have always manifested when danger summoned them 'to the front.'"

We have already remarked that the failure to defend Columbia was the turning point of the campaign, and necessarily involved its loss, since it enabled Sherman to move either on Charlotte or Fayetteville at his pleasure, and compelled Johnston to sacrifice one of these lines to the defence of the other. In like manner, the inability to cripple Sherman's army in detail, and thus prevent his occupation of Goldsboro', carried with it the impossibility of preventing his junction with the Army of the Potomac. For, should Johnston attempt to oppose Sherman in his progress to the Roanoke, on the Weldon road, he must necessarily expose himself to the danger of having his right turned and being compelled to fight a battle between the Neuse and the Roanoke, with his back to the sea. Should he retire behind the Roanoke to dispute its passage, his rear would be at the mercy of Grant,

and with a large river and a powerful enemy in his front, he must then choose whether to abandon the attempt or submit to be hemmed in without supplies. Again, if Johnston should decide to refuse his left and retire on Raleigh or on the south bank of the Neuse, he would, by that very act, abandon all hope of being able to restrain the accomplishment of his adversary's purpose. The last alternative, though ineffectual to oppose Sherman, was the best of the three, being the only one that did not point to immediate destruction, and it was the one which General Johnston promptly and very properly adopted.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE LAST STROKE.

SHERMAN immediately began to prepare for the new campaign.

On the 24th of March, the day after his arrival at Goldsboro', he issued the following orders for the reorganization and supply of the army as the first step in that direction :—

“I. Major-General Schofield, commanding the Department of North Carolina, will, out of the troops of his command, organize a force equivalent to two corps, or five divisions, and proceed to equip them in the most complete manner for field service. This force, while operating with the other armies in the field, will be styled the ‘Centre.’ For the present, General Schofield will post his command to hold Goldsboro', and cover the railroad back to Wilmington and Morehead City. He will also aid the railroad department with details, to enable it to finish, in the shortest possible time, the two roads, and equip them for service.

“II. Colonel W. W. Wright, of the railroad department, will use extraordinary means, night and day, to complete the two railroads from Goldsboro' back to Morehead City and Wilmington, and to equip them to the capacity of three hundred tons per day of freight.

“He may pay any price for labor, call for details of soldiers, and draw rolling-stock from Savannah, Charleston, or any point within this command, and all commanding officers and quartermasters will give preference to the shipment of such stock over any other work whatever, not involving life. The

work of these railroads is limited and restricted to the transportation in the order following: 'Army stores'—1. Ammunition; 2. Food for men; 3. Clothing for men; 4. Grain for animals; 5. Camp and garrison equipage; 6. Hay and long forage.

"Until there is an accumulation of supplies at Goldsboro', enough to fill the wagons of the army, no officer, soldier, or citizen, or any private stores whatever, will be carried on the up trip, unless it be mail matter, and officers or couriers bearing orders for army headquarters, nor these to exceed one carload per day. All else must march or use horses and wagons, from the salt-water to Goldsboro', until the army is thoroughly clothed and equipped. Return cars may load according to the discretion of the quartermaster in charge, provided there be no delay.

"To facilitate the completion of these roads, Colonel Poe will cause the First Michigan Engineers to work back towards Newbern. General Howard will cause to be built the railroad over the Neuse, near Goldsboro'; General Slocum, the wagon-road bridge on the Mount Olive road, and General Schofield the railroad-bridge over Northeast Branch, near Wilmington, leaving Colonel Wright with his working parties to look after the laying or ballasting the track, and getting the cars in motion.

"III. The chief quartermaster and commissary of the army in the field, Generals Easton and Beckwith, will repair at once to Goldsboro', and there control the movement of supplies according to the necessities of the army and orders issued at these headquarters. All estimates and requisitions will be addressed accordingly.

"IV. The right wing of the army will group to the front and right of Goldsboro', looking north; the left wing, in front and left of Goldsboro'; the centre to Goldsboro', with detachments to cover the railroads to the rear. The cavalry will be posted at or near Mount Olive Station. All will send foraging-parties into the country, being careful to have them strong enough and well guarded."

Slocum's left wing now adopted the title of the Army of Georgia, and Major-General Joseph A. Mower succeeded General Williams in the command of the Twentieth Corps.

The centre, under Schofield, composed of the Tenth and Twenty-third Army Corps, respectively commanded by Major-General Alfred H. Terry and Jacob D. Cox, perpetuated the use of the name of the Army of the Ohio, hitherto belonging only to the latter organization. Terry's tenth corps consisted of the divisions of Brigadier and Brevet Major-General Adelbert Ames and Brigadier-General Charles J. Paine. Cox's twenty-third corps comprised the divisions of Brigadier-Generals Darius N. Couch, Thomas H. Ruger, and John T. Reilly.

The right wing, under Howard, still retained its original designation as the Army of the Tennessee, and was composed, as during the preceding campaign, of Logan's fifteenth and Blair's seventeenth army corps.

Having given the directions just quoted, Sherman turned over the chief command of his army to Major-General Schofield, the next in rank, and hastened to City Point, to have an interview with Lieutenant-General Grant, for the purpose of arranging the time and manner of their co-operation during the coming campaign. He arrived at General Grant's headquarters on the evening of the 27th of March, and there met President Lincoln, for the first time since the year 1861, General Grant himself, and Generals Meade and Ord, commanding the Armies of the Potomac and James. After a long and full conference as to the campaign just closed, and the final operations now proposed, General Sherman received his instructions from General Grant, and set out on the naval dispatch-boat *Bat*, to return, by way of Hatteras Inlet and Newbern, to his headquarters at Goldsboro', where he arrived on the night of the 30th of March.

General Sherman had informed General Grant that the 10th of April would be the earliest date at which he could be ready to move, and all things were now arranged accordingly.

The troops were still busy in repairing the wear and tear of their recent hard march from Savannah, and in replenishing

clothing and stores necessary for a further progress. Owing to a mistake in the railway department in sending locomotives and cars of the five-foot guage, the army was now limited to the use of the few locomotives and cars of the four-foot eight-and-a-half-inch guage already in North Carolina, with such of the old stock as was captured by Major-General Terry at Wilmington and on his way up to Goldsboro'. Yet such judicious use was made of them, and such industry displayed in the railway management by Generals Easton and Beckwith, Colonel Wright and Mr. Van Dyne, his assistant, that by the 10th of April all the men were clad, the wagons reloaded, and a sufficient amount of forage accumulated for the proposed march.

On the 5th of April, Sherman issued the following orders for the guidance of his army and corps commanders, and heads of staff departments :—

“The next grand objective is to place this army with its full equipment north of Roanoke River, facing west, with a base of supplies at Norfolk and at Wynton, or Murfreesboro' on the Chowan, and in full communication with the Army of the Potomac, about Petersburg, and also to do the enemy as much harm as possible *en route*.

“I. To accomplish this result, the following general plan will be followed, or modified only by written orders from these headquarters, should events require a change :—

“1st. On Monday, the 10th of April, all preparations are presumed to be completed, and the outlying detachments will be called in, or given directions to meet on the next march. All preparations will also be completed to place the railway stock back of Kinston on the one road, and below the Northeast Branch on the other.

“2d. On Tuesday, the 11th, the columns will draw out on their lines of march, say about seven miles, and close up.

“3d. On Wednesday, the march will begin in earnest, and will be kept up at the rate say of about twelve miles a day, or according to the amount of resistance. All the columns will

dress to the left, which is the exposed flank, and commanders will study always to find roads by which they can, if necessary, perform a general left wheel; the wagons to be escorted on to some place of security on the direct route of march.

"Foraging and other details may continue as heretofore, only more caution and prudence should be observed, and foragers should not go in advance of the *advance* guard, but look more to our right-rear for corn, bacon, and meal.

"II. The left wing, Major-General Slocum commanding, will aim straight for the railway bridge near Smithfield, thence along up the Neuse River to the railway bridge over Neuse River, northeast of Raleigh (Powell's), thence to Warrenton, the general point of concentration. The centre, Major-General Schofield commanding, will move to Whitley's Mill, ready to support the left until it is past Smithfield, when it will follow up, substantially, Little River to Rolesville, ready at all times to march to the support of the left, after passing Tar River, *en route* to Warrenton.

"The right wing, Major-General Howard commanding, preceded by the cavalry, will move rapidly on Pikeville and Folk's Bridge, ready to make a junction with the other armies in case the enemy offers battle this side of Neuse River about Smithfield, thence, in case of no serious opposition on the left, will work up towards Earpsboro', Andrews' Bridge, and Warrenton.

"The cavalry, General Kilpatrick commanding, leaving its encumbrances with the right wing, will push as though straight for Weldon, until the enemy is across Tar River and that bridge burned; then it will deflect towards Nashville and Warrenton, keeping up a general communication with general headquarters.

"III. As soon as the army starts, the chief quartermaster and commissary will prepare a supply of stores at some point in Pamlico and Albemarle sounds, ready to be conveyed to Kinston, or Wynton and Murfreesboro', according to developments. As soon as they have satisfactory information that the army is north of the Roanoke, they will forthwith establish a depot at Wynton with a sub-depot at Murfreesboro'.

"Major-General Schofield will hold, as heretofore, Wilmington, with the bridge across Northeast Branch as an outpost, Newbern and Kinston as its outpost, and will be prepared to hold Wynton and Murfreesboro' as soon as the time arrives for that move. The navy has instructions from Admiral Porter to co-operate, and any commanding officer is authorized to call on the navy for assistance and co-operation, always in writing, setting forth the reasons,—of which, of necessity, the naval commander is the judge.

"IV. The general-in-chief will be with the centre habitually, but may in person shift to either flank where his presence may be needed, leaving a staff-officer to receive reports. He requires absolutely a report of each army or grand detachment each night, whether any thing material has occurred or not : *often* the absence of an enemy is a very important fact in military prognostication."

In the mean time, Major-General George Stoneman, in command of a division of cavalry, operating from East Tennessee in connection with Major-General Thomas, in pursuance of Sherman's previous orders, had reached the railway about Greensboro', N. C., had utterly destroyed it, and had pushed along it to Salisbury, destroying in his march bridges, culverts, depots, and all kinds of rebel supplies, and had extended the breach in the railway down to the Catawba Bridge. This was fatal to the hostile armies of Lee and Johnston, who depended on that road for supplies, and as their ultimate line of retreat.

Brevet Major-General J. H. Wilson, in command of the cavalry corps organized by himself, under the orders issued by Sherman before turning south from his pursuit of Hood into Tennessee, had started from the neighborhood of Decatur and Florence, Alabama, and moved straight into the heart of Alabama, on a route prescribed for General Thomas after he had defeated General Hood at Nashville, Tennessee. But the road being too heavy for infantry, and General Thomas being already greatly weakened by detachments

for service in other quarters, he had devolved the duty on that most energetic young cavalry officer, General Wilson, who, imbued with the proper spirit, thus struck one of the best blows of the war at the waning strength of the Confederacy. His route by Tuscaloosa, Selma, Montgomery, Columbus, and Macon, being one never before traversed by the Union troops, afforded him ample supplies for men and animals as long as his column was in motion.

Meanwhile, Grant was intently watching Lee, seeking to fathom his course under the new combinations now being developed. If Lee should remain behind his lines at Petersburg, in the passive defensive attitude he had for so many months successfully maintained, his defeat and destruction would be almost mathematically certain the moment Sherman should cross the Roanoke; and this, as we have shown, Johnston was powerless to prevent. On the other hand, the Confederate general might summon Johnston, by forced marches, to his aid, while Sherman was refitting and getting ready to move, and then, with the two armies united, strike Grant a vigorous blow; but the two armies united would not possess sufficient strength to overpower Grant's army, behind its secure intrenchments: and before even the semblance of a siege could be undertaken, even supposing the Confederates to possess the means for such a task, Sherman would arrive, and the game would be lost, for the only remaining Confederate forces would find themselves in a *cul-de-sac*, without present means of subsisting so large a number of men, and without a possibility of escape. Lee's best alternative was undoubtedly to be sought in a junction with Johnston at Raleigh or on the north bank of the Neuse, and a vigorous blow for Sherman's destruction before Grant could follow.

It was for the first signs of the adoption of such a course that Grant now looked with sleepless eyes. There was but one way to meet it—to strike the evacuating column in air, in the first moment of retreat, and force it to a battle. Accordingly, on the last day of March, thinking he saw the symptoms of such a movement, Grant struck. After a series of battles,

among the most determined and sanguinary of the entire war, on the 3d of April his line crushed Lee's shell at all points, and by the next morning Petersburg and Richmond were evacuated; Lee, with the remnants of his army, was in full flight, his men scattering like chaff before the wind; and the officers of the Confederate government were individual fugitives, vainly seeking the protecting wing of the remains of their armies.

The news of the battles about Petersburg reached Sherman at Goldsboro', on the 6th of April. Up to that time his purpose was, as we have already seen, to move rapidly northward, feigning on Raleigh, and striking straight for Burkesville, thereby interposing between Johnston and Lee. But the problem was now greatly changed, and, in the expressive language of Lieutenant-General Grant in his instructions to Sherman, the Confederate armies of Lee and Johnston became the strategic points. General Grant was fully able to take care of the former, and Sherman's task was to destroy or capture the latter.

Johnston at that time had his army well in hand about Smithfield. Sherman estimated his infantry and artillery at thirty-five thousand, and his cavalry from six to ten thousand. Thus deeming his adversary superior in cavalry, General Kilpatrick was held in reserve at Mount Olive, with orders to recruit his horses, and be ready to make a sudden and rapid march on the 10th of April.

At daybreak on the day appointed all the heads of columns were in motion against the enemy;—Major-General Slocum taking the two direct roads for Smithfield; Major-General Howard making a circuit by the right, and feigning up the Weldon road to disconcert the enemy's cavalry; and Generals Terry and Kilpatrick moving on the west side of the Neuse River, aiming to reach the rear of the enemy between Smithfield and Raleigh. General Schofield followed General Slocum in support. All the columns met, within six miles of Goldsboro', more or less cavalry, behind the usual rail barricades, which were swept before them, and by ten A. M. of the

11th Davis' fourteenth corps entered Smithfield, closely followed by Mower's twentieth corps.

Johnston had rapidly retreated across the Neuse River, and having his railway to lighten up his trains, could fall back faster than Sherman could pursue. The rains had also set in, making the resort to corduroy absolutely necessary for the passage even of ambulances. The enemy had burned the bridge at Smithfield, and as soon as possible General Slocum got his pontoons up, and crossed over a division of the Fourteenth Corps.

"Then," says Sherman, "we heard of the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, which was announced to the armies in orders, and created universal joy. Not one officer or soldier of my army but expressed a pride and satisfaction that it fell to the lot of the Armies of the Potomac and James so gloriously to overwhelm and capture the entire army that had held them in check so long; and their success gave us new impulse to finish up our task."

Without a moment's hesitation, Sherman gave orders to drop all trains, and the army marched rapidly in pursuit to and through Raleigh, reaching that place at half-past seven A. M. on the 13th, in a heavy rain.

The next day the cavalry pushed on through the rain to Durham's Station, Logan's fifteenth corps following as far as Morrisville Station, and Blair's seventeenth corps to John's Station. On the supposition that Johnston was tied to his railway, as a line of retreat by Hillsboro', Greenboro', Salisbury, and Charlotte, Sherman had turned the other columns across the bend in that road towards Ashboro'. Kilpatrick was ordered to keep up a show of pursuit towards the Company's Shops, in Alancaster County; Howard to turn the left by Hackney's Crossroads, Pittsburg, St. Lawrence, and Ashboro'; Slocum to cross Cape Fear River at Avon's Ferry and move rapidly by Carthage, Caledonia, and Cox's Mills; while Schofield was to hold Raleigh and the road back, with spare force to follow by an intermediate route.

By the 15th, though the rains were incessant, and the roads

almost impracticable, Major-General Slocum had Jefferson C. Davis' fourteenth corps near Martha's Vineyard, with a pontoon bridge laid across Cape Fear River at Avon's Ferry, and Mower's twentieth corps in support; and Major-General Howard had Logan's fifteenth and Blair's seventeenth corps stretched out on the roads towards Pittsboro'; while General Kilpatrick held Durham's Station and Capitol Hill University.

Johnston's army was retreating rapidly on the roads from Hillsboro' to Greensboro', he himself being at Greensboro'.

Thus matters stood when General Sherman received a communication from General Johnston that arrested all hostile movements for the time being.