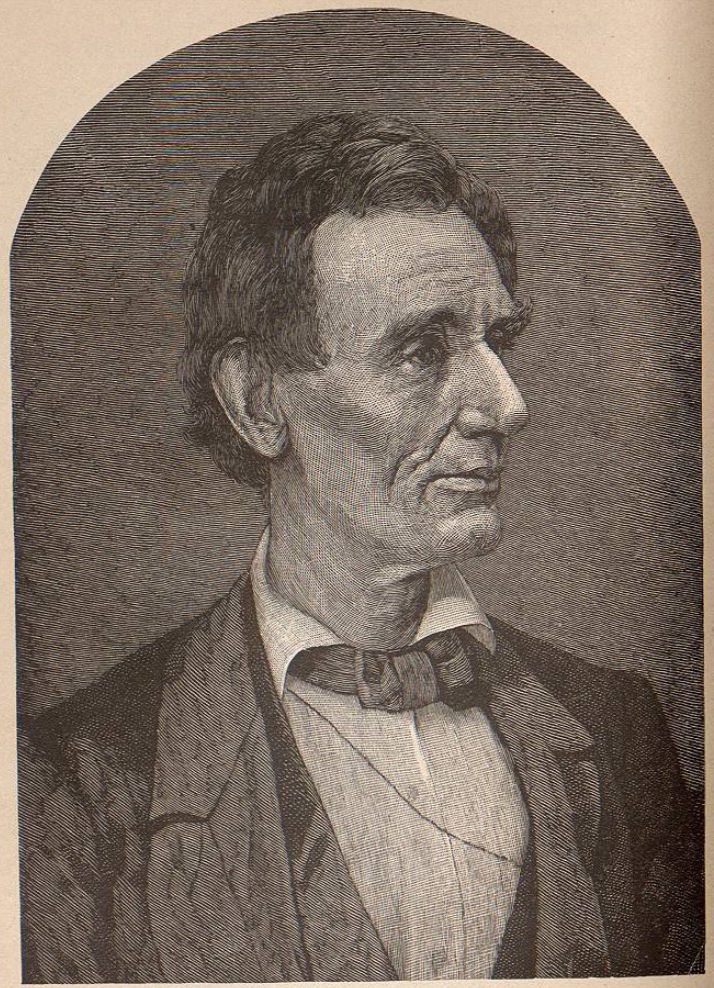


A. Lincoln

THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES.

Lincoln's Administration.

1861–1865.

FIRST YEAR OF THE WAR.

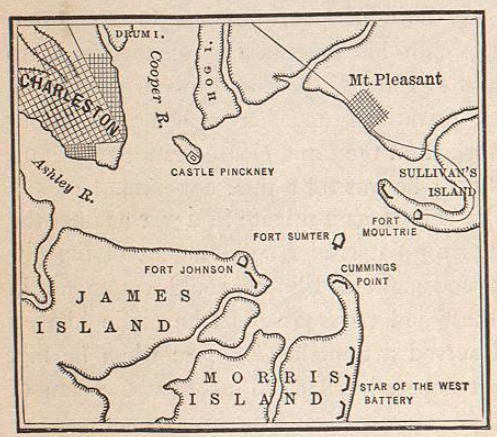
526. Services and Character of the New President. — Abraham Lincoln was born of poor parents, in Kentucky, February 12, 1809. With his parents he removed first to Indiana and afterward to Illinois. Young Lincoln was reared amid the hardships, privations, and heroic energies of our pioneer life. He worked on the farm, cleared land, split rails, as other farm-hands did; he was for a time a boatman on the Mississippi River; he served as a private in a war against the Indians; and he was a great reader and student of the few books that a backwoodsman in Illinois could command in those days. By earnest and constant effort he made himself a lawyer. He had served a term in Congress when he met Douglas in the great debate in 1858. Lincoln was a man of heroic mold. Simple, sincere, fearless, he understood the masses of the people, and they gave him sooner or later their deepest respect and fullest confidence. It is not too much to say that Lincoln saved the Union.

527. The New Administration. — On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated president of the United States. Probably no man ever assumed such an exalted position in more trying circumstances. Seven of the states had cast off all allegiance to the Union. The country was in confusion. There were those who even feared for the life of the president,

and for this reason, he had traveled secretly from Philadelphia to Washington.

The tone of his inaugural address seemed ominous to the seceded states. While he asserted that slavery in the states had nothing to fear from him, at the same time he declared secession impossible, and expressed his intention of occupying all Federal property in the seceded states and collecting revenues in their ports. To the South this meant war.

528. The Question as to Fort Sumter. — The condition of affairs at Fort Sumter demanded immediate action. The alternative of peace or war was thus presented: For the Federal government to withdraw the garrison would be to agree to the South's plan of peaceable secession; for it to send supplies or reinforcements would mean to the South the adoption of the policy of coercion, and would be a practical declaration of war (see §§ 517, 523).



Charleston Harbor.

A few days after the inauguration of President Lincoln, the commissioners appointed by President Davis (§ 521) arrived in Washington and made known their mission. The new administration refused to receive them, as this would be to recognize the Confederate States as a foreign power. However, the commissioners were assured by Secretary of State

Seward, through Judges Nelson and Campbell, of the Supreme Court, that Fort Sumter would soon be evacuated. As the fulfillment of this promise was delayed, intense anxiety was felt as to the course President Lincoln would pursue.

529. The Fall of Fort Sumter. — South Carolina considered both Major Anderson's removal of his troops to Fort Sumter and the attempt of the *Star of the West* to reinforce the garrison as hostile acts. Yet she refrained from any act of aggression, in the hope of a peaceable solution of the difficulty. On April 6 President Lincoln notified Governor Pickens, of South Carolina, of his determination to provision Fort Sumter.[1] By that time a "relief squadron" of eight armed vessels and 2400 men had set sail from New York,


Fort Sumter after Bombardment

[1] Lincoln's cabinet on a final vote stood *two* (Chase and Blair) in favor of sending relief to Fort Sumter and *five* against. Lincoln then decided to act on his own responsibility.

and but for a storm at sea would already have reached Charleston. No time was to be lost. The Confederate authorities ordered General Beauregard by telegraph to take possession of the fort. Major Anderson refused to give it up. On April 12 the Confederates opened fire. An incessant cannonading was kept up by both sides for thirty-four hours. Finally the fort caught fire, and Major Anderson surrendered. The garrison was allowed to retire with the honors of war. While they were firing a salute to the United States flag, a cannon burst, and one soldier was accidentally killed and several wounded, — the only blood spilled in this famous fight. On April 13, 1861, Sumter fell. The great war had begun.

530. Effect of the Fall of Sumter. — *In the North.* For the first time the North realized that the South was in earnest. Those who had hitherto opposed coercion joined with the administration. President Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to enforce the laws of the United States. Many times that number volunteered. The whole North became united. Soon afterwards he declared a blockade of all Southern ports and suspended the writ of *habeas corpus* in certain instances. This was all extra-constitutional, but the urgency of the occasion was held to be sufficient justification.

In the South it was felt that the North had begun the war by sending troops and provisions to garrison Fort Sumter. All opposition was silenced. The invaders must be repelled at any cost. President Davis's call for 35,000 volunteers was met with as great alacrity as was President Lincoln's at the North.

531. In the Border States. — Lincoln's call for troops to force the seceding states back into the Union produced intense excitement in the border states of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Missouri. The governors of most of them refused in emphatic terms to obey

the call, and four states — Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee — soon joined the Confederacy. Kentucky declared that she would neither secede nor join in the war against her sister states of the South. In Missouri the majority of the people were opposed to secession, but the state authorities were in favor of joining the Confederacy, and a bitter civil strife ensued. By acts of the Confederate Congress both Kentucky and Missouri were subsequently admitted into the Confederacy, and these two states were represented in both Federal and Confederate congresses. Maryland was kept in the Union, although a large element of her people sympathized with the South. This sympathy was manifested in Baltimore by an attack made by citizens on some Massachusetts troops who were on their way to Washington. Several were killed on both sides, and here, on April 19, was shed the first blood of the war.

The western portion of Virginia contained many Unionists. During the first year of the war, this section of the state was occupied by Union armies. Forty-eight western counties and a few eastern counties held by Federal troops organized a state government, which, claiming to be the true government of Virginia, provided for a division of the state. (See Constitution, Art. 4, § 3.) Congress ratified this action,[1] and in 1863 admitted the state of West Virginia into the Union.

By June, 1861, the Confederacy embraced eleven states, not including the disputed states of Missouri and Kentucky. The capital was removed from Montgomery to Richmond.

532. Confidence North and South. — The North had about three times as many people as the South had. Besides this tremendous advantage in numbers, the North was far superior in wealth to the South. All the machine shops, factories, foundries, were in the North, so that whatever was needed in

[1] During the debate in Congress, Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, said of this measure, "We know it is not constitutional, but it is necessary."

waging war could soon be provided. Yet the Southern people felt confident that the "Stars and Bars" would be victorious. True, they recognized the advantages that the North possessed; but they reckoned confidently that the world could not long do without Southern cotton. They felt sure that the nations of Europe, whose looms they supplied, would not quietly permit those looms to be hushed. They especially counted on the assistance of France and England.[1] It was believed, too, that the Southern man was a better soldier than the Northerner, because he was accustomed to a rough, outdoor life, and was familiar with the use of firearms. The South was full of daring and enthusiasm, while the North was firm, resolute, and undaunted. Each was fully confident of ultimate success.

533. The South's Line of Defense. — East of the Alleghanies there was a strong line of defense extending from Norfolk around the northern boundaries of Virginia. At Norfolk and on the peninsula guarding the mouth of the James River, was stationed an army under Generals Huger and Magruder. In the northern part of Virginia were two bodies of troops under Generals Joseph E. Johnston and P. G. T. Beauregard. West of the mountains the Confederates, under command of General Albert Sidney Johnston, had a strong line of defense extending through southern Kentucky to Columbus on the Mississippi. Their forces occupied Bowling Green and Mill Spring. Fort Henry, on the Tennessee, and Fort Donelson, on the Cumberland, a distance of twelve miles apart, were two important Confederate strongholds. The Mississippi River was strongly fortified from its mouth to the northern limit of the Confederate States. The coast line of the seceded states from the Rio Grande to the Potomac was strengthened by the erection of new forts. The Confederacy was fortified on all sides. (See double page map.)

[1] Foreign nations, while declining to recognize the Confederate States as an independent nation, promptly recognized them as belligerents, thus giving Confederate cruisers the right to take refuge in foreign harbors.

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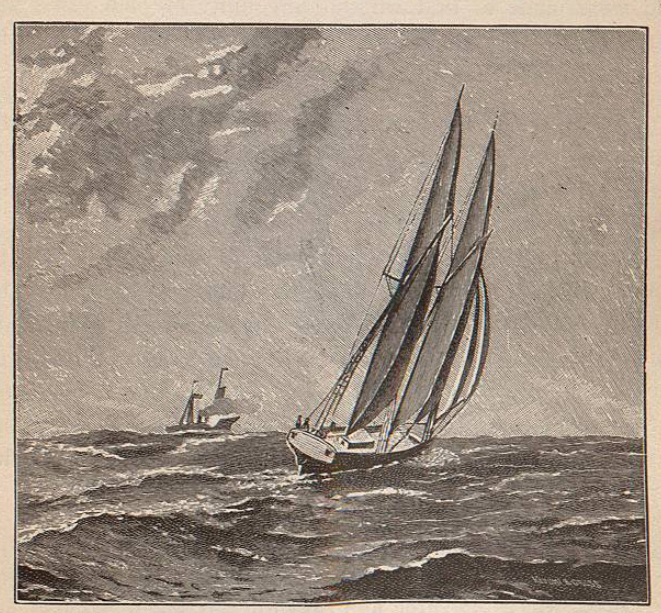
534. Northern Plan of Operation. — Against these four lines of defense, offensive preparations were made. A blockade of Southern ports had been declared. This shut out all commercial intercourse with the foreign world. Although at the time the blockade was declared there were no ships with



Running the Blockade.

which to enforce it, a navy was soon organized which effectually shut up the South to its own resources.

Opposed to the Confederate forces in Northern Virginia, and threatening an attack on Richmond, was the Army of the Potomac, under General Irwin McDowell. Its purpose was to break through the line of defense, and capture the Southern capital. Northern armies under command of General Fremont were concentrated against the line of fortifications west of the Cumberland Mountains.

A very important part of the Northern plan was the opening up of the Mississippi River. Loss of control of this great river would not only deprive the South of an important means of transportation, but also divide the Confederacy. The attacks in these four places were largely independent of each other, and were made at first without any unity of plan. We will uote them as the campaigns in Virginia, in the West, on the Mississippi, and Naval Operations.

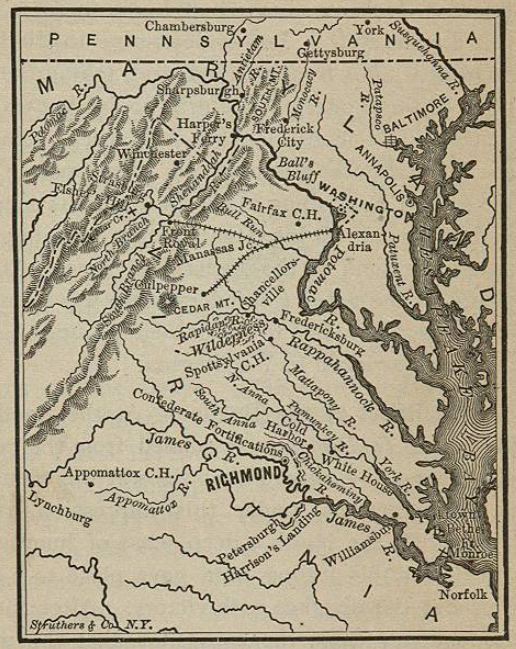
535. In West Virginia. — Three months passed after the fall of Fort Sumter before any movement of importance took place. The only conflicts were minor ones in western Virginia, where small bodies of troops were engaged.

Both sides tried to secure possession of this portion of Virginia. Several battles, mostly unimportant, were fought. The Union army was commanded by General George B. McClellan, who in this campaign won the name of a successful general. In the latter part of the campaign General R. E. Lee commanded the Confederate troops. After several engagements, of which the Federal success at Rich Mountain was the most important, the Union army got complete possession of West Virginia.

536. On to Richmond; Battle of Manassas or Bull Run. — President Lincoln had made his first call for volunteers for three months only. It was felt that something must be done. The cry in the North was, "On to Richmond." General Scott, the hero of the Mexican War, now commander-in-chief of the Union forces, on July 16 ordered General McDowell with his army of 35,000 men to begin the movement from Washington to Richmond. Between the two capitals, about twenty-five miles south of Washington and five miles north of Manassas Junction, flows the little stream of Bull

General Beauregard.

Run, a tributary of the Potomac. South of this stream General Beauregard's army of 18,000 men was posted. In the Shenandoah Valley, west of Beauregard, were the forces of General J. E. Johnston, confronting the Federal General Patterson, whose instructions were to prevent Johnston from joining Beauregard. On July 18 General McDowell came upon the Confederates at Bull Run, and was repulsed in a sharply contested fight. Meanwhile General Johnston eluded Patterson, and united part of his forces with those of Beauregard.[1] On July 21 McDowell crossed Bull Run above the Confederate position, and attacked his enemy upon the left flank. At first the Federals were successful. The troops of General Bee of South Carolina were falling back in disorder when they encountered General T. J. Jackson's brigade, which at the sound of fighting had hurried up from another part of the field. Galloping up to Jackson,



Map of Seat of War in Virginia.

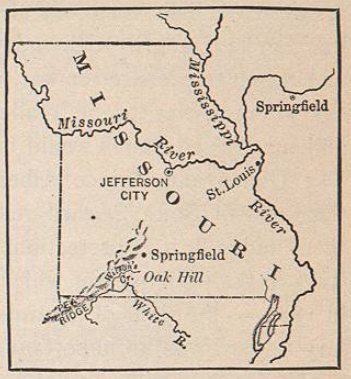
[1] The total Confederate forces at Manassas were probably 30,000 men. About half the total forces on each side were actually engaged.

his voice trembling with emotion, Bee exclaimed: "General, they are beating us back!" Jackson, unmoved by the storm of bursting shells and whistling bullets, calmly replied: "Sir, we will give them the bayonet." Inspired by his words, Bee rushed back to his men, and, pointing with his sword to Jackson, shouted: "Look, there is Jackson standing like a stone wall! Let us determine to die here, and we will conquer." His troops rallied, and, taking their position on the right of the leader thenceforth to be known by the immortal name of "Stonewall Jackson," all swept steadily forward, and the Federal onset was checked. A desperate conflict followed, the gallant Bee falling at the head of his men. At 3 o'clock a detachment of Johnston's army, hurrying from the valley, struck the flank of the Federal advance. At the same time a charge of the entire Confederate line was ordered. The Union troops were unable to hold their ground, but gave way, and fled panic-stricken to Washington.

537. Effect of the Battle. — At the South every one was jubilant. *Te Deums* were echoed from the houses of worship. The impression spread that the war was virtually over; many of the volunteers, under this impression, returned to their homes. In the North a deep sense of humiliation at first prevailed, but this feeling soon gave place to a determination to wipe out the disgrace with victory. After the first feeling of despondency came the conviction that the war was to be a long and desperate struggle. This defeat taught the people of the North that they must prepare for a terrible war, such as the western continent had never seen. Congress voted to call out half a million men. To the North the defeat was a blessing in disguise, while it made the South overconfident.

538. Operations in Missouri. — Governor Jackson, of Missouri, tried to get his state, in which sentiment was divided, to join the Confederacy. His attempt was frustrated by

Nathaniel Lyon, who seized the arsenal at St. Louis to prevent its being used to arm the Confederates, and then broke up the Confederate encampment of Camp Jackson. The governor called for Confederate volunteers, and placed General Sterling Price in command. At first the Confederates were driven back, but being reinforced by troops from Arkansas and Texas, under General Ben McCulloch, they met and defeated the Union army at Wilson's Creek, in which engagement Lyon lost his life. The Confederates were gradually driven southward, and Missouri was held by the Union forces.



Operations in Missouri.

539. Operations on the Coast. — On the sea the South was at a disadvantage. She had no war-ships to break up the blockade. President Davis, in reprisal for the blockade, granted "letters of marque," permitting private vessels sailing under the Confederate flag to prey on the commerce of the United States. A few Confederate vessels were built during the first year, which did immense damage. The two most famous were the *Sumter* and the *Nashville*. Steamers built for swiftness to run the blockade frequently succeeded in carrying out cargoes of cotton and bringing back war supplies and other necessary articles of commerce. During 1861 the Union navy captured the forts of Cape Hatteras and Port Royal, S.C. No important naval engagement took place during this year.

540. The Trent Affair. — The South, as we have already seen (§ 532), hoped for aid from England and France. To endeavor to secure this aid, Mason and Slidell were sent as commissioners to those countries. Running the blockade,

they reached Havana, and there embarked on an English mail steamer, the *Trent*, for England. This steamer was stopped by the United States sloop-of-war *San Jacinto*, commanded by Captain Wilkes, and the commissioners were taken off as prisoners of war. The North was at first delighted with this capture, but England angrily demanded the release of the prisoners, and began to prepare for war. It seemed that the hope of the Confederacy was to be realized, and war between England and the United States would follow. But the war was averted. The Queen and Prince Albert urged pacific measures, and Secretary of State Seward released the prisoners and placed them under British protection. The capture was directly contrary to the principle for which the United States had fought in 1812, — the right of neutrals to be free from search. Secretary Seward won an important diplomatic victory in this transaction, for war with England was averted, and England was committed against the right of search.

541. **Summary of the First Year of the War.** — At Fort Sumter the war began. In Virginia the Confederates were successful, and won a brilliant victory at Bull Run. In Missouri the Confederates gained a victory at Wilson's Creek, but before the end of the year retired to the extreme South, leaving the state in the hands of the Union soldiers. The navy of the United States was very successful, both in shutting up the ports, making the blockade effectual, and in capturing several important forts.

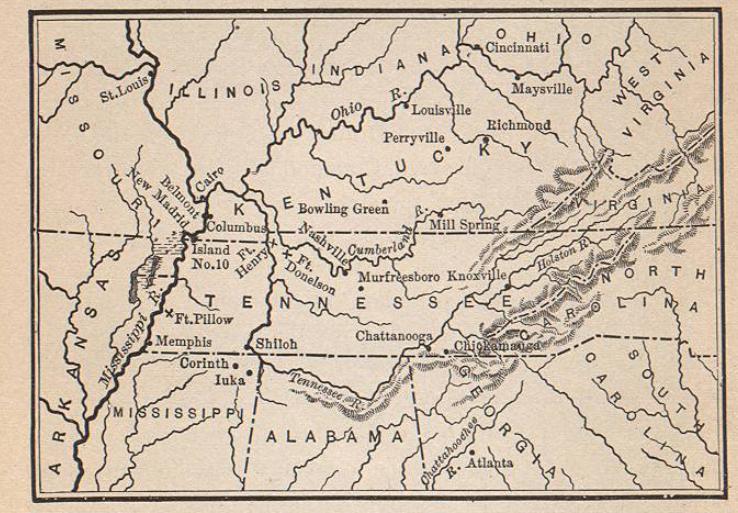
EVENTS OF 1862.

IN THE WEST.

The Confederate line of defense west of the Cumberland Mountains was under the command of the brilliant Texas soldier, Albert Sidney Johnston. This line extended from the Cumberland Mountains through Mill Spring to Columbus on the Mississippi, and included Fort Henry on the Tennessee and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland, the forts being within twelve miles of each other. Arrayed against this line of

defense was General Buell with a force of 100,000 men in central Kentucky, and General Grant with 15,000 men at Cairo, Ill.

542. **Mill Spring.** — In January a division of Buell's army under General George H. Thomas moved against the Confed-



Operations in the West.

erate force at Mill Spring. The gallant General Zollicoffer, commanding the Confederates, was killed in the engagement, and his force was pushed back into Tennessee.

543. **Forts Henry and Donelson.** — The Federals had concentrated forces and gunboats at the mouths of the Tennessee and the Cumberland Rivers, with the intention of using these streams as highways for penetrating Confederate territory. In February General Grant embarked on a fleet of gunboats, commanded by Commodore Foote, and moved up the Tennessee River. When within a few miles of Fort Henry, Grant's force marched out to surround the fort and prevent the escape of the garrison. Commodore Foote moved up the river and stormed the fort from the water side. The little force of 2500