LINCOLN'S ADMINISTRATION.*

(SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT: 1861-1865.)

INAUGURATION.—Rumors of a plan to assassinate Lincoln impelled him to come to Washington secretly. He was inaugurated, March 4, 1861, surrounded by troops, under General Scott.

Condition of the Country.—All was now uncertainty. Southern officers in the army and navy of the United States were daily resigning, and linking their fortunes with the Confederate cause. There was still, however, a

Questions on the Geography of the Fifth Epoch.—Locate the following places noted as battle-fields. (Maps of the Richmond campaigns are on pages 236 and 261.) Philippi. Big Bethel. Boonville (Booneville). Carthage. Rich Mountain. Bull Run. Wilson's Creek. Hatteras Inlet. Lexington, Mo. Ball's Bluff. Belmont. Port Royal. Mill Spring. Fort Henry. Roanoke Island. Fort Donelson. Pea Ridge. New Bern (Newberne). Winchester. Pittsburg Landing. Island No. 10. Fort Pulaski. Fort Jackson. Fort Macon. Beaufort. Yorktown. Williamsburg. Corinth. Mechanicsville. Cedar Mountain. South Mountain. Antietam. Fredericksburg. Holly Springs. Murfreesboro. Galveston. Fort Sumter. Chancellorsville. Vicksburg. Gettysburg. Port Hudson. Chickamauga. Chattanooga. Knoxville. Fort de Russy. Sabine Cross Roads. Fort Pillow. Wilderness. Spottsylvania Court House. Resaca. Dallas. Lost Mountain. Petersburg. Atlanta. Mobile. Fort Gaines. Fort Morgan. Cedar Creek. Fort McAlister. Nashville. Fort Fisher. Columbia. Goldsboro. Fort Steadman. Five Forks. Appomattox Court House.

* Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky, February 12, 1809; died in Washington,

strong Union sentiment at the South. Many prominent men in both sections hoped that war might be averted. The Federal authorities feared to act, lest they should precipitate civil strife. In striking contrast to this indecision, was the marked energy of the new Confederate government. It was gathering troops, voting money and supplies, and rapidly preparing for the issue.

Capture of Fort Sumter (April 14).—Finding that supplies were to be sent to Fort Sumter, General Peter G. T. Beauregard (bō′re gard), who had command of the Confederate troops at Charleston, called upon Major Anderson to surrender. Upon his refusal, fire was opened from all the Confederate forts and batteries.* This "strange contest between seventy men and seven thousand", lasted for thirty-

April 15, 1865. His father was unable to read or write, and his own education consisted of one-year's schooling. Hoping to better his fortune, his father moved to Indiana, the family floating down the Ohio on a raft. When nineteen years of age, the future President hired out at $10 per month as a hand on a flat-boat, and made a trip to New Orleans. On his return, he accompanied the family to Illinois, driving the cattle on the journey. Having reached their destination, he helped them to build a cabin, and to split rails to inclose the farm. He was now, in succession, a flat-boat hand, clerk, captain of a company of volunteers in the Black Hawk War, country store-keeper, postmaster, and surveyor, yet he managed to get a knowledge of law by borrowing books at an office before it closed at night, returning them at its opening in the morning. On being admitted to the bar, he rapidly rose to distinction. At twenty-five, he was sent to the Legislature, and was thrice re-elected. In 1846, he was elected to Congress, and served one term as Representative. In 1858, he was candidate for Senator, a second time, against Stephen A. Douglas. The two rivals stumped the State together, discussing great national questions. The debate, unrivaled for its statesmanship, logic, and wit, won for Lincoln a national reputation, but he lost the election in the Legislature. After his accession to the Presidency, his history, like Washington's, is identified with that of his country. He was a tall, ungainly man, little versed in the refinements of society, but gifted by nature with great common sense, and every-where known as "Honest Abe". Kind, earnest, sympathetic, faithful, democratic, he was anxious only to serve his country. His wan, fatigued face, and his bent form, told of the cares he bore, and the grief he felt. His only relief was when, tossing aside for a moment the heavy load of responsibility, his face would light up with a humorsome smile, while he narrated some incident whose irresistible wit and aptness to the subject at hand, convulsed his hearers, and rendered "Lincoln's stories" household words throughout the nation.

* The first gun of the war was fired at half-past four o'clock Friday morning, April 12, 1861.

four hours, no one being hurt on either side. The barracks having been set on fire by the shells, the garrison, worn out, suffocated, and half-blinded, was forced to capitulate. They were allowed to retire with the honors of war, saluting their flag before hauling it down.

The Effect of this event was electrical. It unified the North and also the South. The war spirit swept over the country like wild-fire. Party lines vanished. The Union men at the South were borne into secession, while the republicans and the democrats at the North combined to support the government. Lincoln issued a requisition for 75,000 troops. It was responded to by 300,000 volunteers, the American flag, the symbol of Revolutionary glory and of national unity, being unfurled throughout the North. The military enthusiasm at the South was equally ardent. Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee, which had before hesitated, joined the Confederacy. Virginia troops seized the United States armory at Harper's Ferry, and the Navy-yard near Norfolk. Richmond, Va., was made the Confederate capital. Troops from the extreme South were rapidly pushed into Virginia, and threatened Washington. The Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, hurrying to the defense of the national capital, was attacked in the streets of Baltimore, and several men were killed.* Thus the first bloodshed in the civil war was on April 19, the anniversary of Lexington and Concord.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

Arlington Heights and Alexandria† were seized (May 24) by the national troops. This protected Washington from

* A Union soldier who was shot in this affray, turned about, saluted the flag, and exclaiming, "All hail the stars and stripes!" fell lifeless.

† Alexandria was occupied by Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth and his Zouaves. After

immediate danger of attack.* Fort Monroe† was now garrisoned by a heavy force under General B. F. Butler.‡ An expedition made, soon after, against BIG BETHEL was singularly mismanaged. On the route, the troops fired into each other by mistake, and, when they came to attack the Confederate defenses, were repulsed with loss.

Western Virginia adhered to the Union, and was ultimately formed into a separate State. The Confederates, however, occupied it in force. The Federals, under General George B. McClellan, afterward commander of the Potomac army, defeated them at PHILIPPI, RICH MOUNTAIN, and CARRICK'S FORD, thus wresting the entire State from their control. Shortly afterward, Governor Wise and General Floyd (President Buchanan's Secretary of War) led a Confederate force into that region; but Floyd was suddenly attacked by General Rosecrans at CARNIFEX FERRY, and, Wise failing to support him, was compelled to retreat. General Robert E. Lee, McClellan's future antagonist on the Potomac, having been repulsed at CHEAT MOUNTAIN, came to the rescue. But nothing decisive being effected, the Confederate government recalled its troops. The only Union victories of this year were achieved in this region (map opp. p. 223).

Battle of Bull Run (July 21).—The Northern people, seeing so many regiments pushed forward to Washington, were impatient for an advance. The cry, "On to Richmond!" be-

the capture, seeing the Confederate flag still flying from the roof of a hotel, he went up and took it down. As he descended, he was shot at the foot of the stairs, by the landlord, Jackson, who in turn fell at the hands of private Brownell.

* Alexandria is on the southern side of the Potomac, seven miles below Washington. Arlington Heights are directly opposite the capital.

† This is located at the entrance of the Chesapeake, and is the most formidable fortification in the United States. It covers nearly seventy acres of ground. The walls are built of granite.

‡ At Hampton, which had been occupied by the Confederates, some negroes were captured who had been employed in building fortifications. Butler declared them "contraband of war", and this gave rise to the popular term "Contraband".

came too strong to be resisted. General Irvin McDowell, in command of the Army of the Potomac, moved to attack the main body of the Confederates, who were strongly posted, under Beauregard, at Bull Run.* After a sharp conflict, the Confederates were driven from the field. They were rallied.

"STONEWALL" JACKSON AT BULL RUN.

however, by General T. J. Jackson† and others, on a plateau in the rear. While the Federal troops were struggling to drive them from this new position, at the crisis of the battle, two brigades, under Kirby Smith and Early, rushing across the fields from Manassas Station,‡ each, successively, struck the Union flank and poured in a cross-fire. The effect

* This is near Manassas Junction, about twenty-seven miles from Alexandria.

† General Bee, as he rallied his men, shouted, "There's Jackson standing like a stone wall." "From that time," says Draper, "the name he had received in a baptism of fire displaced that he had received in a baptism of water, and he was known as 'Stonewall Jackson'."

‡ These troops composed a part of General Johnston's command at Winchester;

was irresistible. McDowell's men fled. As the fugitives converged toward the bridge in the rear, a shell burst among the teamsters' wagons, a caisson was overturned, and the passage choked. The retreat became a panic-stricken rout. Traces were cut, cannon abandoned, horsemen plunged through the struggling mass, and soldiers threw away their guns and ran streaming over the country, many never stopping till they were safe across the Long Bridge at Washington.

The Effect of this defeat was momentous. At first, the Northern people were chagrined and disheartened. Then came a renewed determination. They saw the real character of the war, and no longer dreamed that the South could be subdued by a mere display of military force. They were to fight a brave people—Americans, who were to be conquered only by a desperate struggle. Congress voted $500,000,000 and five hundred thousand men. General McClellan,* upon whom all eyes were turned, on account of his brilliant campaign in Western Virginia, was appointed to the command of the Army of the Potomac.

Ball's Bluff (October 21).—About 2,000 Federals, who had crossed the Potomac at Ball's Bluff on a reconnoitering expedition, were attacked by the Confederates, and forced down the slippery, clayey bluff to the river, fifty to one hundred and fifty feet below. The few old boats in which they came were soon sunk, and, in trying to escape, many were drowned, some were shot, and only about half their number reached the other bank. Colonel Baker, United States Senator from Oregon, was among the killed.*

General Patterson, with 20,000 men, had been left to watch him, and prevent his joining Beauregard. Johnston was too shrewd for his antagonist, and, slipping out of his hands, reached Bull Run just in time to take part in and, as we have already seen, to decide the battle. Johnston's troops being included, the Union and Confederate armies at Bull Run were almost exactly equal, each about 18,000 strong.

* Soon after, General Scott, weighed down by age, retired from active service, and General McClellan became General-in-Chief of all the armies of the United States.

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

This State was largely Union. The Convention had declined to pass an ordinance of secession; yet there was a strong effort made by Governor Jackson to preserve, at least, an armed neutrality. Captain Lyon foiled this attempt. He broke up Camp Jackson, saved the United States arsenal at St. Louis, and defeated Colonel Marmaduke at BOONVILLE. General Sigel (se'gel), however, having been defeated by the Confederates in an engagement at CARTHAGE (July 5), Lyon, now General, found that he must either fight the superior forces of Generals McCulloch and Price, or else abandon that part of the State. He chose the former course. At the head of about five thousand, he attacked more than twice that number at WILSON'S CREEK (August 10). He fell, gallantly leading a charge. His men were defeated. Colonel Mulligan was forced to surrender LEXINGTON† after a brave defense. General John C. Fremont then assumed charge, and drove Price as far south as Springfield. Just as he was preparing for battle, he was replaced by General Hunter, who took the Union army back to St. Louis. Hunter was soon superseded by General Halleck, who crowded Price south to Arkansas. Later in the fall, General Grant made an attack upon a Confederate force which had crossed over from Kentucky‡ and taken post at BELMONT.

* December 20, General E. O. C. Ord, having gone out on a foraging excursion to DRANESVILLE, in a severe skirmish routed the Confederates. This little victory greatly encouraged the people at the North, who had been disheartened by the disastrous affair of Ball's Bluff.

† The Confederates, in their final assault, fought behind a movable breastwork, composed of hemp-bales, which they rolled toward the fort as they advanced.

‡ Kentucky, like Missouri, tried to remain neutral, but was unsuccessful. Soon, both Confederate and Union troops were encamped on her soil, and the State was

THE WAR ON THE SEA AND THE COAST.

Early in the war, Davis issued a proclamation offering to commission privateers.* In reply, Lincoln declared a blockade of the Southern ports. At that time, there was but one efficient vessel on the Northern coast, while the entire navy comprised only forty-two ships; but at the close of the year, the navy numbered two hundred and sixty-four.

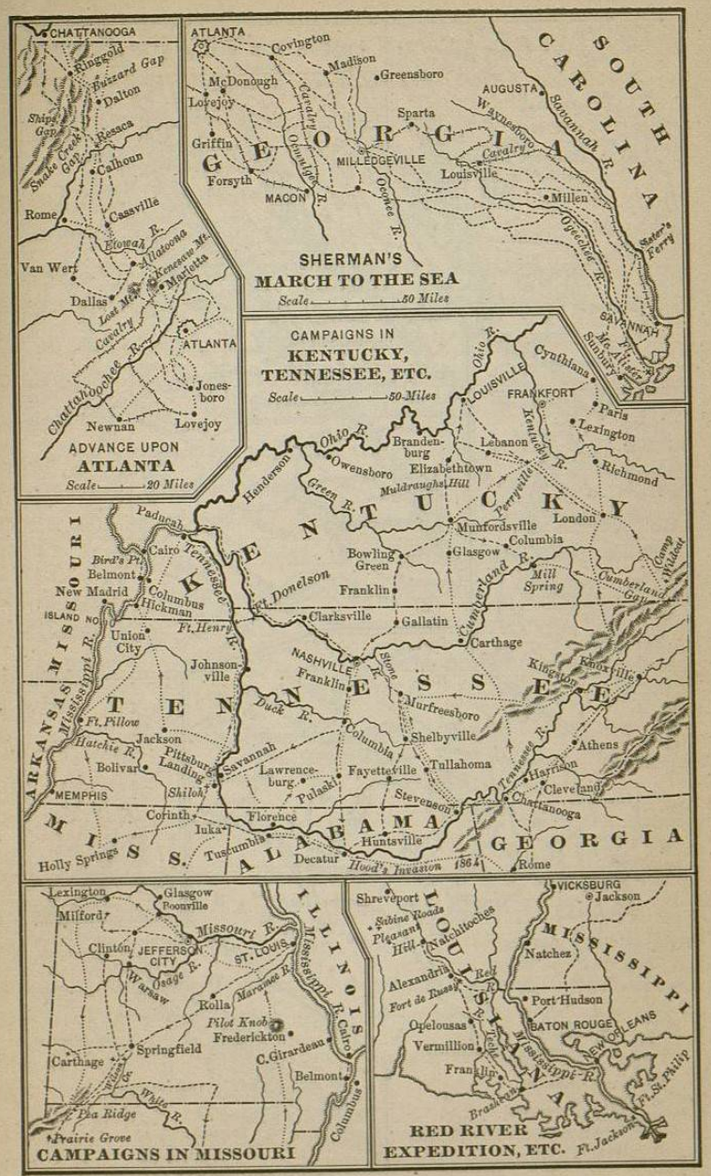
Two joint naval and military expeditions were made during the year. The first captured the forts at HATTERAS INLET, N. C. The second, under Commodore Dupont and General Thomas W. Sherman, took the forts at PORT ROYAL ENTRANCE, S. C.,† and Tybee Island, at the mouth of the Savannah. Port Royal became the great depot for the Union fleet.

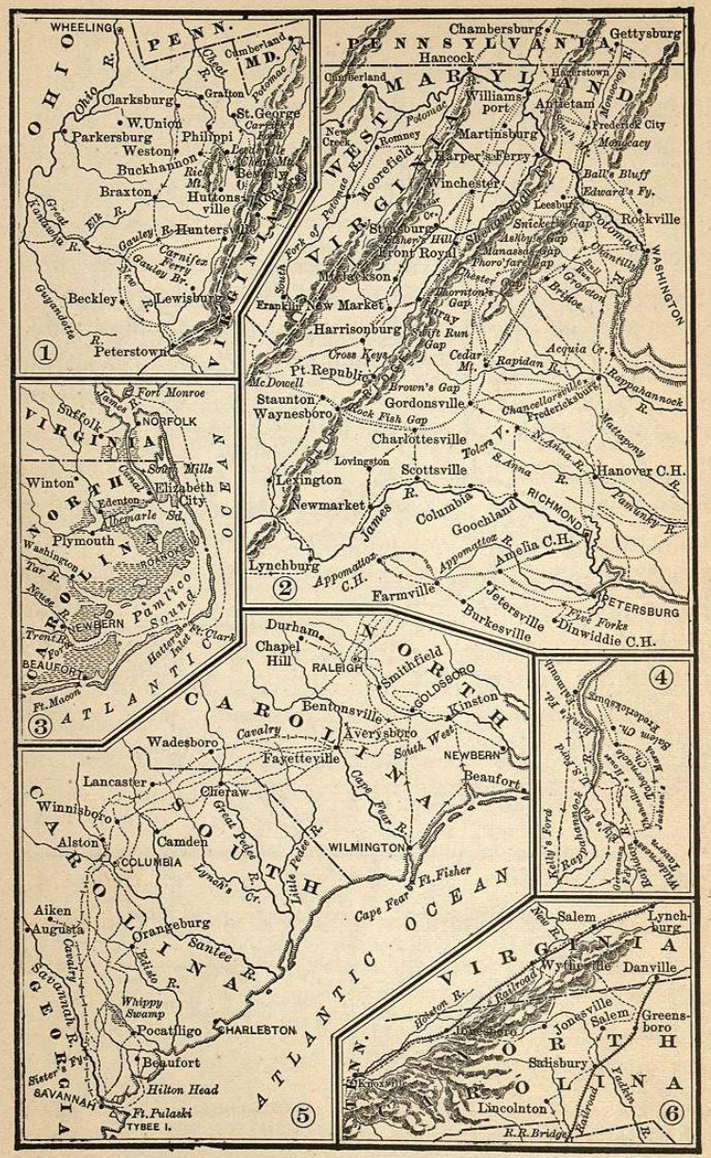
The Trent Affair.—England and France had acknowledged the Confederate States as BELLIGERENTS, thus placing them on the same footing with the United States. The Southern people having, therefore, great hopes of foreign aid, appointed Messrs. Mason and Slidell' commissioners to those countries. Escaping through the blockading squadron, they took passage at Havana on the British steamer Trent. Captain Wilkes, of the United States steamer

ravaged by hostile armies. In all the border States, affairs were in a most lamentable condition. The people were divided in opinion, and enlisted in both armies. As the tide of war surged to and fro, armed bands swept through the country, plundering and murdering those who favored the opposite party.

* The Savannah was the first privateer which got to sea, but this vessel was captured after having taken only a single prize. The Petrel, also from Charleston, bore down upon the United States frigate St. Lawrence, which the captain mistook for a merchant ship; his vessel was sunk by the first broadside of his formidable antagonist. The Sumter, under Captain Semmes, captured and burned a large number of Federal ships, but, at last, it was blockaded in the Bay of Gibraltar by a Union gun-boat, and, being unable to escape, was sold.

† During this engagement, the ships described an ellipse between the forts, each vessel delivering its fire as it slowly sailed by, then passing on, and another taking its place. The line of this ellipse was constantly changed to prevent the Confederates from getting the range of the vessels.





San Jacinto, followed the Trent, took off the Confederate envoys, and brought them back to the United States. This produced intense excitement in England. The United States government, however, promptly disavowed the act and returned the prisoners.

General Review of the First Year of the War.—The Confederates had captured the large arsenals at Harper's Ferry and near Norfolk. They had been successful in the two great battles of the year—Bull Run and Wilson's Creek; also in the minor engagements at Big Bethel, Carthage, Lexington, Belmont, and Ball's Bluff. The Federals had saved Fort Pickens* and Fort Monroe, and captured the forts at Hatteras Inlet and Port Royal. They had gained the victories of Philippi, Rich Mountain, Boonville, Carrick's Ford, Cheat Mountain, Carnifex Ferry, and Dranesville. They had saved to the Union, Missouri, Maryland, and West Virginia. Principally, however, they had thrown the whole South into a state of siege,—the armies on the north and the west by land, and the navy in the east by sea maintaining a vigilant blockade.

1862.

The Situation.—The National army now numbered 500,000; the Confederate, about 350,000. During the first year, there had been random fighting; the war henceforth assumed a general plan. The year's campaign on the part of the North had three main objects: (1) the opening of the Mississippi; (2) the blockade of the Southern ports; and (3) the capture of Richmond.

* This fort was situated near Pensacola. Lieutenant Slemmer, seeing that an attack was about to be made upon him, transferred his men from Fort McRae, an untenable position, to Fort Pickens, an almost impregnable fortification, which he held until re-inforcements arrived.