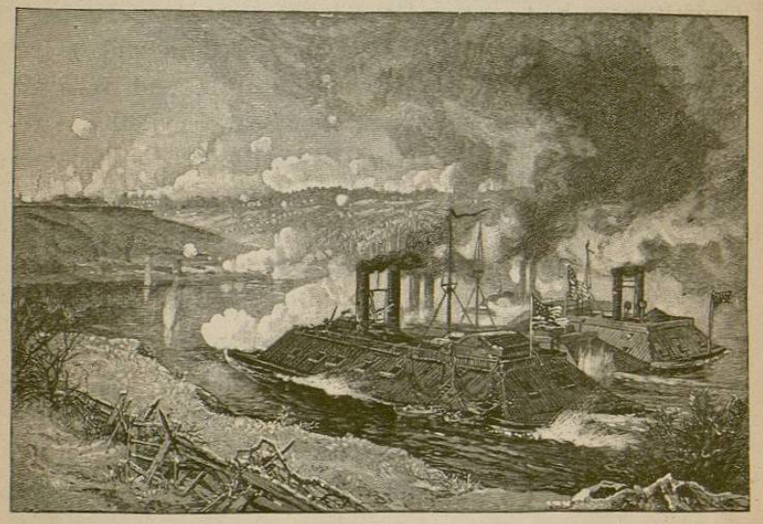
THE WAR IN THE WEST.

The Confederates here held a line of defense with strongly fortified posts at Columbus, Fort Henry, Fort Don'elson, Bowling Green, Mill Spring, and Cumberland Gap. It was determined to pierce this line near the center, along the



THE ATTACK ON FORT DONELSON.

Tennessee River. This would compel the evacuation of Columbus, which was deemed impregnable, and open the way to Nashville (map opp. p. 222).

Capture of Forts Henry and Donelson.—Accordingly, General Grant with his army, and Commodore Foote with his gun-boats, moved from Cairo (kā'ro) upon Fort Henry.* A bombardment (Feb. 6) from the gun-boats reduced the place in about an hour. The land troops were to cut off

* As a part of the general movement, in January, General Thomas had advanced against MILL SPRING, and, on the 19th, driven out the Confederate force at that place, with the loss of General Zollicoffer, a favorite Southern leader.

the retreat; but as they did not arrive in time, the garrison escaped to Fort Donelson. The fleet now went back to the Ohio, and ascended the Cumberland, while Grant crossed to co-operate in an attack on Fort Donelson. The fight lasted three days.* The fleet was repulsed by the fire from the fort, and Commodore Foote seriously wounded. Grant, having been re-inforced till he had nearly thirty thousand men, defeated the Confederates in a desperate attempt to cut their way out, and captured a part of their intrenchments. As he was about to make the final assault, the fort was surrendered † (Feb. 16), with about fifteen thousand men.

Effect of these Victories.—As was expected, Columbus and Bowling Green were evacuated, while General Buell at once occupied Nashville. The Confederates fell back to Corinth, the great railroad center for Mississippi and Tennessee, where their forces were gradually collected under the command of Generals Albert Sidney Johnston, and Beauregard. The Union army ascended the Tennessee to Pittsburg Landing. Grant was placed in command, and General Buell ordered to re-inforce him.

The next movement was to capture the Memphis and Charleston railroad, thus cutting off Memphis, and securing another section of the Mississippi River.

Battle of Shiloh (April 6, 7).—The Confederates determined to rout Grant's army before the arrival of Buell.

* For four nights of inclement winter weather, amid snow and sleet, with no tents, shelter, fire, and many with no blankets, these hardy western troops maintained their position. The wounded suffered intensely, and numbers of them froze to death as they lay on the icy ground.

† When General Buckner, commander of the fort, wrote to General Grant, offering capitulation, Grant replied that no terms would be received except an "unconditional surrender", and that he "proposed to move immediately upon their works". These expressions have been much quoted, and U. S. Grant has often been said to signify "Unconditional Surrender Grant".

On Sunday morning, at daylight, moving out of the woods in line of battle, they suddenly fell on the Union camps.* On the one side were the Southern dash, daring, and vigor; on the other, the Northern firmness and determination. The Federals slowly yielded, but for twelve hours obstinately disputed every inch of the way. At last, pushed to the very brink of the river, Grant massed his artillery, and gathered about it the fragments of regiments for the final stand. The Confederates, to meet them, had to cross a deep ravine, where, struggling through the mud and water, they melted away under the fire of cannon and musketry from above, and the shells from the gun-boats below. Few reached the slippery bank beyond. At the same time, Buell's advance came shouting on the field. The tide of battle was already stayed. The Confederates fell back. They possessed, however, the substantial fruits of victory. They had taken the Union camps, three thousand prisoners, thirty flags, and immense stores; but they had lost their commander, General Albert Sidney Johnston, who fell in the heat of the action (map opp. p. 222).

The next morning, the tide turned. Buell's army had come, and fresh troops were poured on the wearied Confederates. Beauregard, obstinately resisting, was driven from the field. He retreated, however, in good order, and, unmolested, returned to Corinth.

* Whether or not this attack was a surprise, has been one of the mooted questions of the war. Le Comte de Paris says, "The surprise was complete and unquestionable; the Union commanders sought in vain to excuse themselves"; and it was currently stated at the time that so unexpected was the attack that many of the "men were bayoneted in their beds". On the other hand, General Sherman asserts that his "troops were in line of battle and ready" before the engagement began, and he personally assures the writer that after the battle he offered in vain a reward for the body of any person killed by a bayonet-wound. General Grant, also, denies that the attack was a surprise to him, and declares that so well satisfied was he with the result of the first day's struggle, that at night he gave orders for a forward movement early in the morning.

Federal Leaders of the Civil War.

General Halleck now assumed command, and by slow stages followed the Confederates. Beauregard, finding himself outnumbered, evacuated Corinth, and Halleck took possession (May 30).

Island No. 10.—The Confederates, on retreating from Columbus, fell back to Island No. 10.* There they were bombarded by Commodore Foote for three weeks with little effect. General Pope, crossing the Mississippi† in the midst of a fearful rain-storm, took the batteries on the opposite bank, and prepared to attack the fortifications in the rear. The garrison, seven thousand strong, surrendered (April 7) the very day of the conflict at Shiloh.

The Effects of the desperate battle at Shiloh were now fully apparent.‡ The Union gun-boats moved down the river and (May 10) defeated the Confederate iron-clad fleet. On the evacuation of Corinth, Fort Pillow was abandoned. The gun-boats, proceeding, destroyed the Confederate flotilla in front of Memphis, took possession of that city, and secured the Memphis and Charleston railroad. Kentucky and Western Tennessee had been wrenched from the Confederacy. The Union army§ now held a line running from

* The islands in the Mississippi are numbered in order from the mouth of the Ohio to New Orleans.

† Pope, with his army, was on the Missouri side of the river. He could not cross, as the Confederate batteries were planted on the opposite shore. A canal was therefore dug through Donaldson's Point. It was twelve miles long and fifty feet wide. Part of the distance was among heavy timber, where the trees had to be cut off four feet below the surface of the water. Yet the work was accomplished in nineteen days. Through this canal, steam-boats and barges were safely transferred below the newly-made island, while the two largest gun-boats ran the batteries. Under their protection, Pope crossed the river.

DONALDSON'S POINT, AND ISLAND NO. 10.

‡ Besides the results here named, the concentration of troops at Corinth had absorbed the troops from the South. Thus New Orleans, as we shall see hereafter, fell an easy prey to Farragut (p. 231).

§ Gen. Halleck having been called to Washington as General-in-Chief of the armies of the United States, General Grant was appointed to the command of this army.

Memphis through Corinth, nearly to Chat ta noo'ga, toward which point General Buell was steadily pushing his troops.

We shall next consider the efforts made by the Confederates to break through this line of investment. At this time, they were concentrated under Bragg at Chattanooga, Price at I u'ka, and Van Dorn at Holly Springs.

Bragg's Expedition.—The first movement was made by General Bragg, who, by rapid marches, hastened toward Louisville. General Buell fell back to Nashville, where he found out his enemy's plan. Now commenced a race between them to reach the Ohio River. Buell came out one day ahead. He was heavily re-inforced to the number of one hundred thousand men. Bragg* then fell back, Buell slowly following. At PERRYVILLE (October 8), Bragg fiercely turned upon Buell, and a desperate battle was fought. In the darkness, however, Bragg retreated, and finally escaped, though his wagon train extended a distance of forty miles. At this juncture (October 30), General Buell was superseded by General Rosecrans.

Battles of Iuka and Corinth (September 19, October 4).—Every one of Grant's veterans who could possibly be spared had been sent north to help Buell. Price and Van Dorn, taking advantage of the opportunity, were maneuvering to get possession of Corinth. Grant, thinking that he could capture Price and then get back to Corinth before Van Dorn could reach it from Holly Springs, ordered Rosecrans to move upon Iuka. Through some mistake, Rosecrans failed to occupy Price's line of retreat, and, after a severe conflict (September 19), the latter escaped. Thereupon,

* At Frankfort, Bragg was joined by the part of his army under Kirby Smith, who had marched from Knoxville, routed a Union force under General Manson at Richmond, Ky., inflicting a heavy loss, and had then moved north as far as Cynthiana. There he threatened to attack Cincinnati, but was repelled by the extensive preparation made by General Lew Wallace.

the two Confederate generals joined their forces, and attacked Rosecrans in his intrenchments at Corinth. The Confederates exhibited brilliant courage,* but were defeated and pursued forty miles with heavy loss.

Battle of Murfreesboro (December 31, January 2).—Rosecrans, on assuming command of Buell's army, concentrated his forces at Nashville. Thence he marched to meet Bragg, who, with a heavy column moving north on a second grand expedition, had already reached Murfreesboro (map opp. p. 222). Both generals had formed the same plan † for the approaching contest. As the Union left was crossing Stone River to attack the Confederate right, the strong Confederate left fell heavily on the weak Union right. At first, the onset was irresistible. But General Sheridan was there, and by his consummate valor held the ground until Rosecrans could recall his left, replant his batteries, and establish a new line. Upon this fresh front, the Confederates charged four times, but were driven back. Two days after, Bragg renewed the attack, but, being unsuccessful, retreated. This was one of the bloodiest contests of the war, the loss being about one fourth of the number engaged.

The Effect of this Battle.—The attempt of the Confederates to recover Kentucky was now abandoned. The way was

* The Texas and Missouri troops made a heroic charge upon Fort Robinett. They advanced to within fifty yards of the intrenchments, received a shower of grape and canister without flinching, and were driven back only when the Ohio brigade poured a volley of musketry into their ranks. They were then rallied by Colonel Rogers, of the Second Texas, who led them up through the abattis, when, with the colors in his hand, he sprung upon the embankment and cheered on his men. An instant more and he fell, with five brave fellows who had dared to leap to his side. The Union troops admiringly buried his remains, and neatly rounded off the little mound where they laid the hero to rest.

† This coincidence reminds one of the battle of Camden (p. 133). The plan was to mass the strength on the left, and with that to fall upon and crush the enemy's right. The advantage clearly lay with the army which struck first. Bragg secured the initiative, and Rosecrans' only course was to give up all thought of an attack and endeavor to save his right and center from a rout.

open for another Union advance on Chattanooga. Bragg's force was reduced from an offensive to a defensive attitude.

First Vicksburg Expedition.—While Rosecrans was repelling this advance of Bragg, an expedition against Vicksburg had been planned by Grant. He was to move along the Mississippi Central Railroad, while Sherman was to descend the river from Memphis with the gun-boats under Porter. In the meantime, however, by a brilliant cavalry dash, Van Dorn destroyed Grant's depot of supplies at Holly Springs. This spoiled the whole plan. Sherman, ignorant of what had happened, pushed on, landed up the Ya zoo' River, and made an attack at Chickasaw Bayou (bī' o͞o), north of Vicksburg. After suffering a bloody repulse, and learning of Grant's misfortune, he fell back. The capture of Arkansas Post (Jan. 11, 1863), by a combined army and naval force, closed the campaign of 1862 on the Mississippi River.

The War in Missouri.—In February, General Curtis pushed General Price out of Missouri into Arkansas. The Confederates, by great exertion, increased their army to twenty thousand,—General Van Dorn now taking command. General Curtis, in a desperate battle, totally defeated him at PEA RIDGE* (March 7, 8). During the rest of the war, no important battles were fought in this State.†

THE WAR ON THE SEA AND THE COAST.

Capture of New Orleans (April 25).—The effort to open the Mississippi was not confined to the north. Early in

* Some four or five thousand Indians had joined the Confederate army, and took part in this battle. "They were difficult to manage", says Pollard, "in the deafening roar of the artillery, which drowned their loudest war-whoops. They were amazed at the sight of guns which ran around on wheels; annoyed by the falling of the trees behind which they took shelter; and, in a word, their main service was in consuming rations."

† The next year, Quantrell, a noted guerrilla, with three hundred men, entered Lawrence, Kansas, plundered the bank, burned houses, and murdered one hundred and forty persons. Before a sufficient force could be gathered, he escaped.

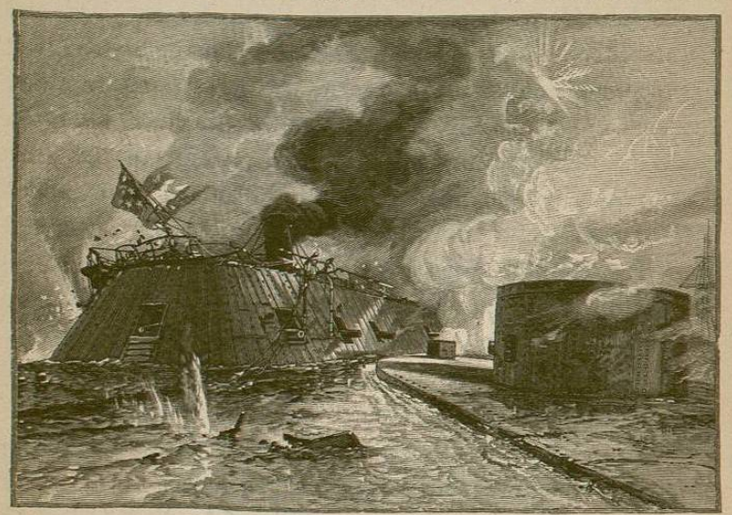
the spring, Captain Far'ra gut, with a fleet of over forty vessels, carrying a land force under General Butler, attempted the capture of New Orleans, which commands the mouth of the river. The mortar-boats,* anchored along the bank under the shelter of the woods, threw thirteen-inch shells into Forts Jackson and St. Philip for six days and nights; in all, 16,800 shells. Farragut then boldly resolved to carry the fleet past the defenses of New Orleans. A chain supported on hulks and stretched across the river closed the channel. An opening to admit the passage of the gun-boats† having been cut through this obstruction, at about three o'clock in the morning (April 24) they advanced, and poured grape and canister into the forts at short range, receiving in return heavy volleys from the forts and batteries on shore. After running a fearful gauntlet of shot, shell, and the flames of fire-rafts, they next encountered the Confederate fleet of twelve armed steamers, including the steam-battery Louisiana and the iron-plated ram Manassas. In the desperate struggle, nearly all the Confederate flotilla were destroyed. The fleet then steamed up to New Orleans,‡

* To conceal the vessels, they were dressed out with leafy branches, which, except by close observation, rendered them undistinguishable from the green woods. The direction had been accurately calculated. so that the gunners did not need to see the points toward which they were to aim. So severe was the bombardment, that "windows at the Balize (bä leez'), thirty miles distant, were broken. Fish, stunned by the explosion, lay floating on the surface of the water."

† The vessels were made partly iron-clad by looping chain cables in two layers over their sides, and their engines were protected by bags of sand, coal, etc.

‡ Steamers, ships, vast quantities of cotton, etc., were now burned to prevent their falling into the Federal hands. Pollard says: "No sooner had the Federal fleet turned the point and come within sight of the city, than the work of destruction commenced. Vast columns of smoke darkened the face of heaven and obscured the noon-day sun; for five miles along the levee (lĕv'ee) fierce flames darted through the lurid atmosphere. Great ships and steamers wrapped in fire floated down the river, threatening the Federal vessels with destruction. Fifteen thousand bales of cotton, worth one million and a half of dollars, were consumed. About a dozen large river steam-boats, twelve or fifteen ships, a great floating battery, several unfinished gun-boats, the immense ram Mississippi, and the docks on the other side of the river were all embraced in the fiery sacrifice."

which lay helpless under the Union guns. The forts, being now threatened in the rear by the army, soon surrendered. Captain Farragut afterward ascended the river, took possession of Bat'on Rouge (rōōzh) and Natchez, and, running the batteries at Vicksburg, joined the Union fleet above.



BATTLE BETWEEN THE MONITOR AND MERRIMAC.

Burnside's Expedition against Roanoke Island* was an important step toward the enforcement of the blockade. The Confederate forts were captured, and the ships destroyed. Newbern — an excellent sea-port, Elizabeth City, and, finally, Fort Macon, at the entrance to Beaufort (bō′furt) harbor, were taken. Thus the coast of upper North Carolina, with its intricate network of water communication, fell into the Union hands.

* Roanoke Island, the scene of Raleigh's colonization scheme, was the key to the rear defenses of Norfolk. "It unlocked two sounds, eight rivers, four canals, and two railroads." It controlled largely the transmission of supplies to that region, afforded an excellent harbor and a convenient rendezvous for ships, and exposed a large country to attack.

Florida and Georgia Expeditions.—After its capture in the autumn of 1861, Port Royal became the base of operations against Florida and Georgia. Fernandina, Fort Clinch, Jacksonville, Darien, and St. Augustine were taken. Fort Pulaski, also, was reduced after a severe bombardment, and thus the port of Savannah was closed. At the end of the year, every city of the Atlantic sea-coast, except Savannah, Charleston, and Wilmington, was held by the Federal armies.

The Merrimac and the Monitor.—About noon, March 8, the long-dreaded iron-clad Merrimac,* convoyed by a fleet of small vessels, steamed into Hampton Roads. Steering directly for the sloop-of-war Cumberland, whose terrific broadsides glanced harmlessly "like so many peas" from the Merrimac's iron roof, she struck her squarely with her iron beak, making a hole large enough for a man to enter. The Cumberland, with all on board, went down.† Warned by the fate of the Cumberland, the captain of the frigate Congress ran his vessel ashore, but the Merrimac, taking a position astern, fired shells into the frigate till the helpless crew were forced to surrender. At sunset, the Merrimac returned to Norfolk, awaiting, the next day, an easy victory over the rest of the Union fleet. All was delight and anticipation among the Confederates; all was dismay and dismal foreboding among the Federals.

* When the United States navy-yard at Portsmouth, near Norfolk, Va., was given up, the steam-frigate Merrimac, the finest in the service, was scuttled. The Confederates afterward raised this vessel, razeed the deck, and added an iron prow and a sloping iron-plated roof. To deflect hostile balls, and also to prevent boarding, the iron roof was thickly coated with tallow and plumbago. The ship was commanded by Commodore Franklin Buchanan, a superior naval officer. (See "Confederate Leaders," opposite p. 238.) The Federals knew that the Merrimac was fitting for battle, and her coming was eagerly expected.

† As the Cumberland sunk, the crew continued to work their guns until the vessel plunged beneath the sea. Her flag was never struck, but floated above the water from the mast-head after she had gone down.—A curious fact is told con-

That night, the Monitor* arrived in harbor, and immediately prepared to meet her giant adversary. Early in the morning, the Merrimac appeared, moving toward the steam-frigate Minnesota. Suddenly, from under her lee, the little Monitor darted out, and hurled at the monster two one hundred and sixty-six pound balls. Startled by the appearance of this unexpected and queer-looking antagonist, the Merrimac poured in a broadside, such as the night before had destroyed the Congress, but the balls rattled harmlessly off the Monitor's turret, or broke and fell in pieces on the deck. Then began the battle of the iron ships. It was the first of the kind in the world. Close against each other, iron rasping on iron, they exchanged their heaviest volleys. Five times the Merrimac tried to run down the Monitor, but her huge beak only grated over the iron deck, while the Monitor glided out unharmed. Despairing of doing any thing with her doughty little antagonist, the Merrimac now steamed back to Norfolk.†

The Effect of this contest can hardly be overestimated. Had the Merrimac triumphed, aided by other iron vessels

cerning this engagement. A large number of Confederates collected on the shore opposite Newport News, in order to witness the battle; but, to their amazement, they could not hear a sound of it. They could see the flash and smoke of each discharge, but the strong wind bore off entirely the noise of the cannonade. It was as if the spectators were gazing at the *picture* of a battle instead of the *reality*. Read articles on the "First Fight of the Iron-clads", in the *Century*, March, 1885.

* This "Yankee cheese-box", as it was nicknamed at the time, was the invention of Captain Ericsson. It was a hull, with the deck a few inches above the water, and in the center a curious round tower made to revolve slowly by steam-power, thus turning in any direction the two guns it contained. The upper part of the hull, which was exposed to the enemy's fire, projected several feet beyond the lower part, and was made of thick white oak, covered with iron plating five inches thick on the sides and one inch on deck.

† As the Merrimac drew off, she hurled a last shot, which, striking the Monitor's pilot-house, broke a bar of iron nine by twelve inches, seriously injuring the eyes of the gallant commander, Lieutenant Worden, who was at that moment looking out through a narrow slit and directing the movements of his ship.

then being prepared by the Confederacy, she might have destroyed the rest of the Union fleet in Hampton Roads, reduced Fort Monroe, prevented the Peninsular Campaign (see below), sailed along the coast and broken up the blockade, swept through the shipping at New York, opened the way for foreign supplies, made an egress for cotton, and perhaps secured the acknowledgment of the Confederacy by European nations. On this battle hinged the fate of the war.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.

The Peninsular Campaign.—Richmond was here the objective point. It having been decided to make the advance by way of the Peninsula, the Army of the Potomac was carried in transports down* the river from Washington. Landing at Fort Monroe about one hundred thousand strong (April 4), they slowly marched toward Yorktown.

Siege of Yorktown.—At this place, General Magruder, with only five thousand men (exclusive of the garrison of eight thousand at Yorktown), by his masterly skill, maintained so bold a front along a line thirteen miles in length, that McClellan was brought to a stop. Heavy guns were ordered from Washington, and a siege was begun. The garrison had been re-inforced, but, having delayed McClellan a month, it withdrew just as he was ready to open fire.†

* Previous to this (March 10), McClellan made an advance toward Manassas, where the Confederates had remained intrenched since McDowell's defeat. The fortifications, which were evacuated on his approach, were found to be quite insignificant, and to be mounted partly with "Quaker guns", *i.e.*, logs shaped and painted to imitate artillery.

† On the evacuation of Yorktown—the Confederate forces being concentrated for the defense of Richmond—Norfolk was abandoned, the Navy-yard burned, and the Merrimac, the pride of the South, blown up. United States troops from Fort