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.

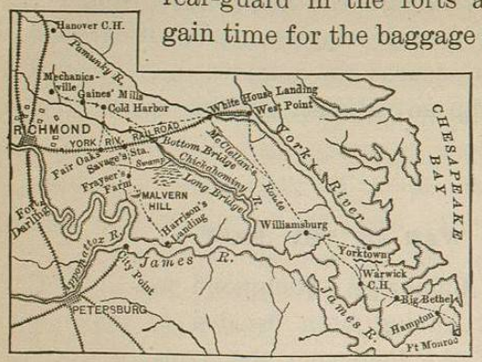
Siege of Yorktown.—At this place, General Magruder, with only five thousand men (exclusive of the garrison of eight thousand at Yorktown), by his masterly skill, maintained so bold a front along a line thirteen miles in length, that McClellan was brought to a stop. Heavy guns were ordered from Washington, 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

When the Confederate movement was discovered, a vigorous pursuit was commenced.

Battle of Williamsburg (May 5).—General Johnston, who commanded the Confederate army, having left a strong rear-guard in the forts at Williamsburg, to gain time for the baggage train, a fierce battle ensued. General Hooker, "Fighting Joe", with his division, maintained the contest for nine hours. Other troops at last arrived on the bloody field, and, Williamsburg, having been evacuated in the night, the pursuit was continued to within seven miles of Richmond.



MAP OF THE PENINSULA.

Richmond Threatened.—There was a great panic in that city, and the Confederate Congress hastily adjourned. Every thing looked like an immediate attack, when McClellan discovered that a Confederate force was at Hanover Court House. This threatened his communications by rail with White House Landing, and also with General McDowell, who, with thirty thousand men, was marching from Fredericksburg to join him. General Fitz John Porter, after a sharp skirmish, captured Hanover Court House. The army looked now hourly for McDowell's aid

Monroe took possession of the city, and gun-boats sailed up James River as far as Fort Darling. Here a plunging fire from the bluff forbade further advance.

* This was General Joseph E. Johnston, who so unexpectedly brought his men to take part in the battle of Bull Run (p. 220). He was wounded in the battle of Seven Pines, but appeared again in two campaigns against Sherman (pp. 256, 272). General Albert Sidney Johnston was killed in the battle of Shiloh (p. 226).

in the approaching great contest. "McClellan's last orders at night were that McDowell's signals were to be watched for and without delay reported to him." But General Johnston was too shrewd to permit this junction. He accordingly ordered General Jackson to move along the Shen an do'ah Valley and threaten Washington.

Jackson in the Shenandoah.—Stonewall Jackson having been re-inforced by General Ewell's division of ten thousand men, hurried down the valley after Banks at Strasburg. The Union troops fell back, and by tremendous exertion—"marching thirty-five miles in a single day"—succeeded in escaping across the Potomac. Great was the consternation in Washington. The President took military possession of the railroads. The governors of the Northern States were called upon to send militia for the defense of the capital. Fremont at Franklin, Banks at Harper's Ferry, and McDowell at Fredericksburg were ordered to capture Jackson. It was high time for this dashing leader to be alarmed. He rapidly retreated, burning the bridges as he passed. Fremont brought him to bay at Cross Keys (June 8), but was hurled off. Shields struck at him at Port Republic, the next day, but was driven back five miles, while Jackson made good his escape from the Shenandoah Valley, having burned the bridges behind him.*

The Effect of this adroit movement was evident. With fifteen thousand men, Jackson had absorbed the attention of three major-generals and sixty thousand men, prevented

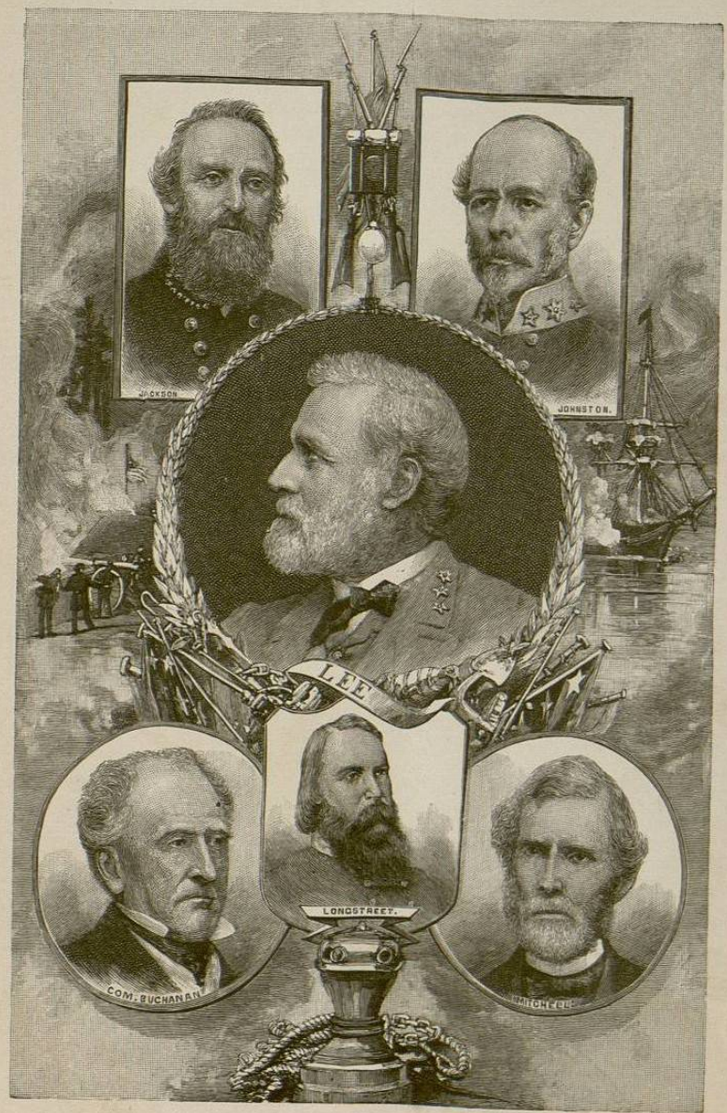
* When the Federal forces took possession of the bridge over the Shenandoah, Jackson and his staff were on the south side, his army being on the north side. It is said that "he rode toward the bridge, and rising in his stirrups, called sternly to the Federal officer commanding the artillery placed to sweep it: 'Who ordered you to post that gun there, sir? Bring it over here!' The bewildered officer bowed, limbered up his piece, and prepared to move. Jackson and his staff seized the lucky moment and dashed across the bridge before the gun could be brought to bear upon them."

McDowell's junction with McClellan, alarmed Washington, and saved Richmond.

Battle of Fair Oaks (May 31, June 1).—While these stirring events were going on in the Shenandoah Valley, McClellan had pushed his left wing across the Chickahominy. But a terrible storm flooded the swamps, turned the roads to mud, and converted the Chickahominy Creek into a broad river. Johnston seized the opportunity to fall with tremendous force upon the exposed wing. At first, the Confederates swept all before them; but General Sumner, throwing his men across the tottering bridges over the Chickahominy, checked the column which was trying to seize the bridges and thus separate the two portions of the army. General Johnston was severely wounded. Night put an end to the contest. In the morning, the Confederates renewed the attack; but the loss of their general was fatal, and they were repulsed in great disorder.

The Union Army Checked.—General Lee,* who now took command of the Confederate army, was anxious to assume the offensive. General Stuart led off (June 12) with a bold cavalry raid, in which he seized and burned supplies along the railroad leading to White House, made the entire circuit

* Robert Edward Lee was born in Stratford, Virginia, 1807; died in Lexington, 1870. His father, Henry Lee, was the celebrated "Light-horse Harry" of Revolutionary fame. Robert early evinced a love for a military life, and during his West Point course was devoted to his studies. In the Mexican war, he was Scott's chief engineer and was thrice brevetted for his services. When Virginia seceded, he threw in his fortunes with his native State, although Scott had intimated his intention of nominating him as his successor. Lee was immediately appointed major-general of the Virginia forces, and was soon after designated to fortify Richmond. His wonderful success in the Seven-Days fight made "Uncle Robert", as he was familiarly called, the most trusted of the Confederate leaders. For three years, he baffled every attempt to take Richmond, which fell only with the government of which it was the capital, and the army and general that were its defense. General Lee was handsome in face and figure, a graceful rider, grave and silent in deportment—just the bearing to captivate a soldier; while his deep piety, truth, sincerity, and honesty won the hearts of all.



Confederate Leaders of the Civil War.

of the Union army, and returned to Richmond in safety. McClellan, also, meditated an advance, and Hooker pushed his pickets within sight of the Richmond steeples. At this moment, there came news of the "same apparition which had frightened Banks" in the Shenandoah. Stonewall Jackson had appeared near Hanover Court House, and threatened the Union communications with White House. There was no longer any thought of moving on Richmond. Hooker was recalled. McClellan resolved to "change his base" of supply from the York River to the James.

The Seven-Days Battles.—The very morning McClellan came to this decision, and before the flank movement began, Lee, massing his strength on his left, fell upon the Union right at MECHANICSVILLE (June 26). Having repulsed this attack, at dawn the troops retired to GAINES' MILL, where, by the most desperate exertions, Porter held the bridges across the Chickahominy until night, and then, burning them, withdrew to the south bank. That night (June 28), Lee detected McClellan's movement, and instantly started columns along the roads that intersected the line of retreat. Magruder struck the Federal rear (June 29) at SAVAGE'S STATION. The Union troops maintained their position till night and then continued the movement. Longstreet and Hill encountered the line of march as it was passing FRAYSER'S FARM (June 30), but could not break it. During the darkness, the Union troops, worn out by the constant marching or fighting and the terrible heat and dust, collected at MALVERN HILL. On an elevated plateau rising in the form of an amphitheatre, on whose sloping sides was arranged tier upon tier of batteries, with gun-boats protecting the left, the broken fragments of the splendid Army of the Potomac made their last stand (July 1). Here Lee received so bloody a check

that he pressed the pursuit no farther. The Union troops retired undisturbed to Harrison's Landing.

The Effect of this campaign was a triumph for the Confederates. The Union retreat had been conducted with skill, the troops had shown great bravery and steadiness, the repulse at Malvern Hill was decided, and Lee had lost fully 20,000 men; yet the siege of Richmond had been raised, 16,000 men killed, wounded, or captured, immense stores taken or destroyed, and the Union army was now cooped up on James River, under the protection of the gun-boats. The discouragement at the North was as great as after the battle of Bull Run. Lincoln called for a levy of three hundred thousand troops.

Campaign against Pope.—Richmond being relieved from present peril, Lee threatened to march his victorious army against Washington. General Pope, who commanded the troops for the defense of that city, was stationed at the Rapidan. General McClellan was directed to transfer his army to Ac quī'a Creek (map, p. 261), and put it under the command of General Pope. Lee, now relieved from all fear for Richmond, immediately massed his troops against Pope to crush him before the Army of the Potomac could arrive.*

Pope being held in check by the main army in front, General Jackson was sent around Pope's right wing, to flank him. Passing through Thoroughfare Gap, he reached the railroad at Bristoe's Station, in the rear of Pope's army (August 26). General Pope, seeing an opportunity while Lee's army was thus divided to cut it up in detail, turned upon Jackson. But the Army of the Potomac not promptly re-inforcing him, his plans failed, and instead of "bagging" Jackson's division, he

* In the meantime, Jackson attacked Banks at *Cedar Mountain* (August 9) and defeated him after a bloody battle; but, unable to maintain his position, fell back on Lee's advancing army. Pope, seeing the fearful odds against which he was to contend, took post behind the Rappahannock.

was compelled, with his slowly-gathering troops, to fight the entire Confederate army on the old battle-field of Bull Run. Exhausted, cut off from supplies, and overwhelmed by numbers, the shattered remains of the Union forces were glad to take refuge within the fortifications of Washington.*

The Effect.—In this brief campaign, the Union army lost heavily in men, munitions, and supplies, while the way to Washington was opened to the Confederates. The Capital had not been in such peril since the war began. Without, was a victorious army; within, were broken battalions and no general.

Invasion of Maryland.—Flushed with success, Lee now crossed the Potomac and entered Maryland,† hoping to secure volunteers and excite an insurrection. McClellan, who had been restored to the command of the Army of the Potomac, reorganized the shapeless mass and set out in pursuit. On the way, he found a copy of Lee's order of march. Learning from this that Lee had divided his forces,‡ and that but a portion remained in his front, he hastened in pursuit. Overtaking the Confederate rear at SOUTH MOUNTAIN, and forcing the passes, the Union army poured into the valley beyond (map opp. p. 223).

Battle of Antietam (September 17).—Lee, perceiving his mistake, fell back across Antietam (an te'tam) Creek and hurried off couriers to hasten the return of his scattered corps. Fortunately for him, McClellan delayed his attack a day, and,

* During the pursuit by Lee's forces, an engagement took place at *Chantilly* (September 1). It cost the Union army two able officers—Generals Stevens and Kearney. The latter, especially, was devotedly loved by his soldiers. On the battle-field, brandishing his sword in his only hand, and taking the reins in his teeth, he had often led them in the most desperate and irresistible charges.

† This was Sept. 5, the very day that Bragg entered Kentucky on his great raid.

‡ Lee had sent Jackson with twenty-five thousand men against *Harper's Ferry*. That redoubtable leader quickly carried the heights which overlook the village, forced Colonel Miles, with eleven thousand men, to surrender, and then hastened back to take part in the approaching contest.

in the meantime, Jackson returned. At early dawn, Hooker fell upon the Confederate left, while Burnside, as soon as affairs looked favorable there, was to carry the bridge and attack their right. The Union army was over eighty thousand strong, and the Confederate but half that number. The Union advance was impetuous, but the Confederate defense was no less obstinate. Hooker was wounded, and his corps swept from the field. Both sides were re-inforced. Burnside advanced, but too late to relieve the pressure on the Union right. Night ended this bloody fight. The morning found neither commander ready to assail his opponent. That night, Lee retired unmolested across the Potomac.* Six weeks after, the Union army crossed into Virginia.

The Effect of this indecisive battle was that of a Union victory. The North was saved from invasion, and Washington from any danger of attack. Lincoln now determined to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring freedom to all the slaves in the seceded States.†

Battle of Fredericksburg.—General dissatisfaction being expressed at the slowness with which McClellan pursued the retreating army, General Burnside was appointed his successor. Crossing the Rappahan'nock on pontoon bridges at Fredericksburg, he attempted (December 13) to storm

* During this invasion, the Confederate soldiers endured every privation; one half were in rags, and thousands barefooted marked their path with crimson. Yet, shoeless, hatless, and ragged, they marched and fought with a heroism like that of the Revolutionary times. But they met their equals at Antietam. Jackson's and Hooker's men fought until both sides were nearly exterminated, and when the broken fragments fell back, the windrows of dead showed where their ranks had stood.

† Lincoln prepared the original draft in the July preceding, when the Union forces were in the midst of reverses. Carpenter repeats President Lincoln's words thus: "I put the draft of the proclamation aside, waiting for a victory. Well, the next news we had was of Pope's disaster at Bull Run. Things looked darker than ever. Finally came the week of the battle of Antietam. I determined to wait no longer. The news came, I think, on Wednesday, that the advantage was on our side. I was then staying at the Soldiers' Home. Here I finished writing the second draft of the proclamation; came up on Saturday; called the Cabinet together to hear it, and it was published the following Monday. *I made a solemn vow before God, that if General Lee was driven back from Maryland I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slaves.*"

the works in the rear of the town. The Confederates, intrenched behind a long stone wall, and on heights crowned with artillery, easily repulsed the repeated assaults of the Union troops. Night mercifully put an end to the fruitless massacre. The Federal loss was over twelve thousand, nearly half of whom fell before the fatal stone wall.* The survivors drew back into the city, and the next night passed quietly across the bridges to their old camping-ground.

General Review of the Second Year of the War.—The Confederates had gained the victories of Jackson in the Shenandoah; of Lee in the Peninsular campaign and those against Pope; Bragg's great raid in Kentucky; and the battles of Cedar Mountain, Chickasaw Bluff, and Fredericksburg.

The Federals had taken Forts Henry, Donelson, Pulaski, Macon, Jackson, St. Philip, and Island No. 10; had opened the Mississippi to Vicksburg; occupied New Orleans, Roanoke Island, New Bern, Yorktown, Norfolk, and Memphis; gained the battles of Pea Ridge, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, South Mountain, Antietam, Iuka, Corinth, and Murfreesboro, and had checked the career of the Merrimac. The marked successes were mainly at the West and along the coast; while in Virginia, as yet, defeats had followed victories so soon as to hide their memory.

* Sheltered behind this stone wall at the base of Marye's Heights, the Confederates poured a withering fire on their assailants. Six brigades of Federals, Hancock's and French's divisions, made the assault with heroic valor, winning much glory even in defeat. Under Hancock, the brigades of Zook, Meagher, and Caldwell achieved equal distinction with cruel losses. Of the charge of Meagher's Irish brigade, the London Times correspondent, an eye-witness, wrote: "Never at Fontenoy, at Albuera, or at Waterloo was more undoubted courage displayed by the sons of Erin than during those six frantic dashes which they directed against the almost impregnable position of their foe. That any mortal men could have carried the position, defended as it was, it seems idle to believe. But the bodies which lie in dense

The Sioux War.—In the midst of this civil strife, the Sioux (soo) Indians became dissatisfied with the Indian traders, and the non-payment of the money due them. Bands of warriors under Little Crow and other chiefs perpetrated horrible massacres in Minnesota, Iowa, and Dakota. Over seven hundred whites were slain, and many thousands driven from their homes. Colonel Sibley routed the savages, and took five hundred prisoners. Thirty-nine were hanged on one scaffold at Mankato, Minn.

1863.

The Situation.—The plan of the war was the same as in the preceding year, but included also the occupation of Tennessee. The Federal army was about seven hundred thousand strong; the Confederate, not more than half that number. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued at the opening of the year.

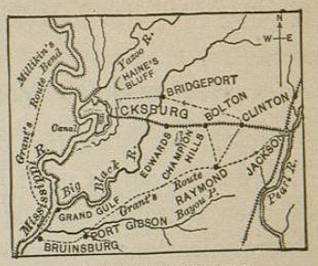
THE WAR IN THE WEST.

The Second Expedition against Vicksburg.—Grant continued his great task of opening the Mississippi. After several weeks of fruitless effort against Vicksburg upon the north, he marched down the west side of the river, while the gun-boats, running the batteries,* passed below the city and

masses within forty yards of the muzzles of Colonel Walton's guns are the best evidence what manner of men they were who pressed on to death with the dauntlessness of a race which has gained glory on a thousand battlefields, and never more richly deserved it than at the foot of Marye's Heights, December 13th, 1862."

* The running of the batteries with transports was considered so hazardous that the officers would not order their crews to take the risk, but called for volunteers. So many privates offered that they were compelled to draw lots. One boy, drawing a lucky number, was offered $100 for his chance, but refused it, and lived to tell the story. The gauntlet of batteries extended eight miles. The first gun-boat crept silently down in the shadow of the trees which lined the bank. The Confederates at Vicksburg discovering the movement, kindled a bonfire which lighted up the whole scene, and made the other vessels a fair target for their gunners.

ferried the army across. Hastening forward, he defeated the Confederate advance under Pemberton, at Port Gibson (May 1). Learning that Gen. Jos. E. Johnston was coming to Pemberton's assistance, he rapidly pushed between them to Jackson, that, while holding back Johnston with his right hand, with his left he might drive Pemberton into Vicksburg, and thus capture his whole army. Pursuing this design, he defeated Johnston at Jackson (May 14), and then, turning to the west, drove Pemberton from his position at Champion Hills (May 16); next, at Big Black River (May 17); and in seventeen days after crossing the Mississippi, shut up Pemberton's army within the works at Vicksburg. Two desperate assaults upon these having failed, the Union troops began to throw up intrenchments. Mines and countermines were now dug. Not one of the garrison could show his head above the works without being picked off by the watchful riflemen. A hat, held above a port-hole, in two minutes was pierced with fifteen balls. Shells reached all parts of the city, and the inhabitants burrowed in caves to escape the iron storm. The garrison, worn out by forty-seven days of toil in the trenches, surrendered on the 4th of July.*



VICINITY OF VICKSBURG.

The Effect.—This campaign cost the Confederates five battles, the cities of Vicksburg and Jackson, thirty-seven thousand prisoners, ten thousand killed and wounded, and immense stores. On the fall of Vicksburg, Port Hudson, which had been besieged by General Banks for many

* This was the day after the fight at Gettysburg (p. 254, note).