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.

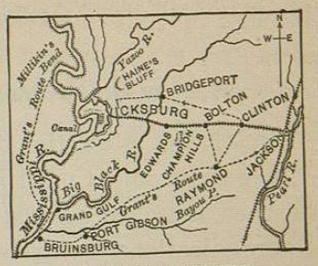
THE WAR IN THE WEST.

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).

weeks, surrendered.* The Mississippi was now open to the Gulf, and the Confederacy cut in twain. One great object of the North was accomplished.

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE AND GEORGIA.

Rosecrans, after the battle of Murfreesboro, made no forward movement until June.† With sixty thousand men, he then marched against Bragg, and, by threatening his communications, compelled him to evacuate Chattanooga‡ (Sept. 8). Rosecrans pushed on in pursuit of Bragg, whom he supposed to be in full retreat. Bragg, however, having received powerful re-inforcements, turned upon his pursuers so suddenly that they narrowly escaped being cut up in detail, while scattered along a line forty miles in length. The Union forces rapidly concentrated, and the two armies met on the Chickamauga.§

Battle of Chickamauga (Sept. 19, 20).—The first-day's fight was indecisive. About noon of the second day, the Federal line became broken from the movement of troops to

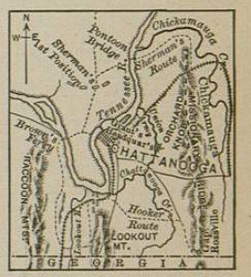
* To escape the fiery tempest which constantly swept over Port Hudson, and to provide for the safety of their magazines, the garrison dug deep recesses in the bluffs, approached by steps cut out of the earth. An eye-witness says: "As we rode along the earth-works inside, after the siege, it was curious to mark the ingenious ways in which they had burrowed holes to shelter themselves from shell and from the intolerable rays of the sun; while at work, they must have looked like so many rabbits popping in and out of their warrens."

† One objection which Rosecrans opposed to a forward movement was his inferiority in cavalry. This was removed in July, when General John H. Morgan, with about four thousand Confederate cavalry, crossed the Ohio at Brandenburg, swept around Cincinnati, and struck the river again near Parkersburg. During his entire route, he was harassed by militia. At this point, he was overtaken by his pursuers, while gun-boats in the river prevented his crossing. Nearly the entire force was captured. Morgan escaped, but was finally taken and confined in the penitentiary at Columbus. Four months afterward, he broke jail and reached Richmond in safety.

‡ General Bragg had here an opportunity to be shut up in Chattanooga, as Pemberton had been in Vicksburg; but, a more acute strategist, he knew the value of an army in the field to be greater than that of any fortified city.

§ In the Indian language, the "River of Death"—an ominous name!

help the left wing, then hard pressed. Longstreet seized the opportunity, pushed a brigade into the gap, and swept the Federal right and center from the field. The rushing crowd of fugitives bore Rosecrans himself away. In this crisis of the battle, all depended on the left, under Thomas. If that yielded, the army would be utterly routed. All through the long afternoon, the entire Confederate army surged against it. But Thomas held fast.* At night, he deliberately withdrew to Chattanooga, picking up five hundred prisoners on the way. The Union army, however, defeated in the field, was now shut up in its intrenchments. Bragg occupied the hills commanding the city, and cut off its communications. The garrison was threatened with starvation.†



VICINITY OF CHATTANOOGA.

Battle of Chattanooga‡ (Nov. 24, 25).—Grant, having been appointed to command the Mississippi Division, hurried to Chattanooga.§ Affairs soon wore a different look. Hooker came with two corps from the Army of the Potomac;‖ and Sherman hastened by forced marches from

* Thomas was thenceforth styled the "Rock of Chickamauga". He was in command of men as brave as himself. Col. George, of the Second Minnesota, being asked, "How long can you hold this pass?" replied, "Until the regiment is mustered out of service."

† "Starvation had destroyed so many of the animals that there were not artillery horses enough to take a battery into action. The number of mules that perished was graphically indicated by one of the soldiers of the Army of the Tennessee: 'The mud was so deep that we could not travel by the road, but we got along pretty well by stepping from mule to mule as they lay dead by the way.'"—*Draper.*

‡ In the Cherokee language, "The Hawk's Nest".

§ Rosecrans was now relieved, and Thomas put in his place. Grant, afraid that Thomas might surrender before he could arrive, telegraphed him to hold fast. The characteristic reply was, "We will hold the town till we starve".

‖ Twenty-three thousand strong, they were carried by rail from the Rapidan, in Virginia, to Stevenson, in Alabama, eleven hundred and ninety-two miles, in seven days. The Confederates did not know of the change of base until Hooker appeared in front.

Iuka, two hundred miles away. Communications were re-established. Thomas made a dash* and seized Orchard Knob (Nov. 23). The following day, Hooker charged the fortifications on Lookout Mountain.† His troops had been ordered to stop on the high ground; but, carried away by the ardor of the attack, they swept over the crest, driving the enemy before them. Through the mist that filled the valley, the anxious watchers below caught only glimpses of this far-famed "battle above the clouds". The next morning, Hooker advanced on the south of Missionary Ridge. Sherman, during the whole time, had been heavily pounding away on the northern flank. Grant, from his position on Orchard Knob, perceiving that the Confederate line in front of him was being weakened to repel these attacks on the flanks, saw that the critical moment had come,‡ and launched Thomas' corps on its center. The orders were to take the rifle-pits at the foot of Missionary Ridge, then halt and re-form; but the men forgot them all, carried the works at

* It was a beautiful day. The men had on their best uniforms, and the bands discoursed the liveliest music. The hills were crowded with spectators. The Confederates on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge could see every movement. Bragg's pickets stood leaning on their muskets watching Thomas' columns drawn up as if on parade. Suddenly, the Union line broke into a double-quick, and the review was turned into a battle.

† The first day, the Confederate left rested on Lookout Mountain, there two thousand four hundred feet high; the right, along Missionary Ridge—so called because, many years ago, Catholic missionaries had Indian schools upon it; and the center, in the valley between. The second day their army simply occupied Missionary Ridge, in the center of their former line, in front of Grant at Orchard Knob.—On Lookout Mountain, Hooker met with so feeble a resistance, that Grant is reported to have declared the so-called "battle above the clouds" to be "all poetry, there having been no action there worthy the name of battle".

‡ The signals for the attack had been arranged: six cannon-shots, fired at intervals of two seconds. The moment arrived. "Strong and steady the order rang out: 'Number one, fire! Number two, fire! Number three, fire!' It seemed to me like the tolling of the clock of destiny. And when at 'Number six, fire!' the roar throbbed out with the flash, you should have seen the dead line, that had been lying behind the works all day, come to resurrection in the twinkling of an eye, and leap like a blade from its scabbard."—*B. F. Taylor.*

the base, and then swept on up the ascent. Grant caught the inspiration, and ordered a grand charge along the whole front. Up they went, over rocks and chasms, all lines broken, the flags far ahead, each surrounded by a group of the bravest. Without firing a shot, and heedless of the

BATTLE OF MISSIONARY RIDGE.

tempest hurled upon them, they surmounted the crest, captured the guns, and turned them on the retreating foe. That night, the Union camp-fires, glistening along the heights about Chattanooga, proclaimed the success of this the most brilliant of Grant's achievements, and the most picturesque of the battles of the war.

The Effects of this campaign were the rout of Bragg's army, the resignation of that general, and the possession of Chattanooga by the Union forces. This post gave control of East Tennessee, and opened the way to the heart of the Confederacy. It became the door-way by which

the Union army gained easy access to Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama.

THE WAR IN EAST TENNESSEE.

While Rosecrans was moving on Chattanooga, Burnside, having been relieved of the command of the Army of the Potomac, was sent into East Tennessee, where he met with great success. In the meantime, the Confederate President, Davis, visited Bragg, and, thinking Chattanooga was sure to be captured, sent Longstreet with his corps to the defense of Tennessee. His men were in a deplorable state — hungry, ragged, and tentless; but, under this indefatigable leader, they shut up Burnside's force in the works at Knoxville. Meanwhile, Grant, in the moment of his splendid triumph at Chattanooga, ordered Sherman's torn, bleeding, barefoot troops over terrible roads one hundred miles to Burnside's relief. Longstreet, in order to anticipate the arrival of these re-inforcements made a desperate assault upon Burnside (November 29), but it was as heroically repulsed. As Sherman's advance-guard reached Knoxville (December 4), Longstreet's troops filed out of their works in retreat.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.

Battle of Chancellorsville (May 2, 3).—Burnside, after the defeat at Fredericksburg, was succeeded by General Hooker (January 26). The departure of Longstreet from his force, leaving Lee only sixty thousand to oppose to the Potomac army of over one hundred thousand, offered a favorable opportunity for an attack. Accordingly, Sedgwick was left to carry the intrenchments at Fredericksburg, while the main body crossed the Rappahannock some miles above, and took position in the Wilderness, near Chancellorsville (map 4, opp. p. 223). Lee, relying on the dense woods to conceal his movements, risked the perilous chance of dividing his army in the presence of a superior enemy. While he kept up a show of fight in front, Jackson, by a detour of fifteen miles, got to the rear with twenty thousand men, and, suddenly bursting out of the dense woods, routed the Union right. That night, Hooker took a new position; but, by constant attacks through the next day, Lee gradually forced the Union line from the field of battle, and captured Chancellor House.* As he was preparing for a final grand charge, word was received that Sedgwick had crossed the Rappahannock, taken Fredericksburg, and had fallen on his rear. Drawing back, he turned against this new antagonist, and, by severe fighting that night and the following day, compelled him to recross the river. Lee then went to seek Hooker, but he was already gone. The Army of the Potomac was soon back on its old camping-ground opposite Fredericksburg.†

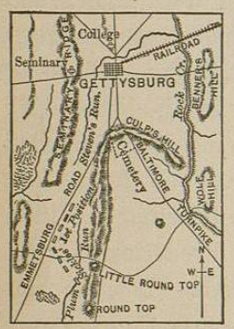
Lee's Second Invasion of the North.—Lee, encouraged by his success, now determined to carry the war into the Northern States, and dictate terms of peace in Philadelphia or New York.‡ With the finest army the South had

* A pillar on the veranda of this house, against which Hooker was leaning, being struck by a cannon-ball, that general was stunned, and for an hour, in the heat of the fight, the Union army was deprived of its commander.

† In this battle, the South was called to mourn the death of Stonewall Jackson, whose magical name was worth to its cause more than an army. In the evening after his successful onslaught upon the flank of the Union line, while riding back to camp from a reconnaissance (re con'nais sance) at the front, he was fired upon by his own men, who mistook his escort for Federal cavalry.

‡ The Union disasters which had happened since the beginning of the year encouraged this hope. Galveston, Texas, had been retaken by General Magruder, whereby not only valuable stores had been acquired, but a sea-port had been opened, and the Union cause in that State depressed. Burnside had been checked in his victorious career in Tennessee (p. 250). The naval attack on Charleston had proved a failure (p. 254). An attempt to capture Fort McAlister had met with no success. Rosecrans had made no progress against Bragg. Banks had not then taken Port Hudson. Vicksburg still kept Grant at bay. The Army of the Potomac had been checked at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, and at one time two hundred sol-

ever sent forth, the flower of her troops, carefully equipped and confident of success, he rapidly moved down the Shenandoah, crossed the Potomac, and advanced to Chambersburg. The Union army followed along the east side of the Blue Ridge and South Mountains. Lee, fearing that Meade, who now commanded the Federals, would strike through some of the passes and cut off his communications with Richmond, turned east to threaten Baltimore, and thus draw off Meade for its defense.



VICINITY OF GETTYSBURG.

Battle of Gettysburg (July 1–3). FIRST DAY. — The Confederate advance unexpectedly met the Union cavalry just westward from Gettysburg, on the Chambersburg road.* Re-inforcements came up on both sides; but the Federal troops were finally forced back, and, becoming entangled in the streets of the village, lost many prisoners. All that night, the troops kept arriving and taking their positions by moonlight, to be ready for the contest which they saw was now close at hand.†

diers per day were deserting its ranks. The term of service of over forty regiments had expired, and the total Union strength was now only eighty thousand. The cost of the war was enormous, and a strong peace party had arisen at the North. The draft was very unpopular. Indeed, during Lee's invasion, a riot broke out in New York to resist it; houses were burned, negroes were pursued in the streets, and, when captured, were beaten, and even hanged; for three days the city was a scene of outrage and violence.

* "Neither general had planned to have the fight at this place; Lee had intended not to fight at all, except a defensive battle, and Meade proposed to make the contest at Pipe Creek, about fifteen miles south-east from Gettysburg. The movement of cavalry which brought on this great battle, was only a screen to conceal the Union army marching toward Meade's desired battle-field." — *Draper*.

† The Union line was upon a fish-hook-shaped ridge about six miles long, with Culp's Hill at the barb, Cemetery Ridge along the side, and Little Round Top and Round Top, two eminences, at the eye. The Confederate line was on Seminary Ridge, at a distance of about a mile and a half. The Union troops lay behind rock

Second Day.—In the afternoon, Longstreet led the first grand charge against the Union left, in order to secure Little Round Top. General Sickles, by mistake, had here taken a position in front of Meade's intended line of battle. The Confederates, far out-flanking, swung around him; but, as they reached the top of the hill, they met a brigade which Warren had sent just in time to defeat this attempt. Sickles was, however, driven back to Cemetery Ridge, where he stood firm. Ewell, in an attack on the Federal right, succeeded in getting a position on Culp's Hill.*

Third Day.—At one o'clock P. M., Lee suddenly opened on Cemetery Ridge with one hundred and fifty guns. For two hours, the air was alive with shells.† Then the cannonade lulled, and out of the woods swept the Confederate double battle-line, over a mile long, and preceded by a cloud of skirmishers. A thrill of admiration ran along the Union ranks, as, silently and with disciplined steadiness, that magnificent column of eighteen thousand men moved up the slope of Cemetery Ridge. A hundred guns tore great gaps in their front. Infantry volleys smote their ranks. The line was broken, yet they pushed forward. They planted their battle-flags on the breastworks. They bayoneted the cannoneers at their guns. They fought, hand to hand, so close that the exploding powder scorched their clothes. Upon this struggling mass, the Federals converged from every side. No human endurance could stand the storm. Out

ledges and stone walls, while the Confederates were largely hidden in the woods. In the valley between, were fields of grain and pastures where cattle were feeding all unconscious of the gathering storm.

* Lee, encouraged by these successes, resolved to continue the fight. The Confederate victories, however, were only apparent. Sickles had been forced into a better position than at first, and the one which Meade had intended he should occupy; while Ewell was driven out of the Union works early the next morning.

† It is customary in battle to demoralize the enemy before a grand infantry charge, by concentrating upon the desired point a tremendous artillery fire.

of that terrible fire, whole companies rushed as prisoners into the Union lines, while the rest fled panic-stricken from the field.*

The Federal loss in the three-days fight was twenty-three thousand; the Confederate was not officially reported, but probably much exceeded that number. Meade slowly followed Lee, who recrossed the Potomac, and took position back of the Rapidan.

The Effect of this battle was to put an end to the idea of a Northern invasion. Lee's veterans who went down in the awful charges of Gettysburg could never be replaced.

THE WAR ON THE SEA AND THE COAST.

Attack on Charleston (April 7).—Such was the confidence felt in the ability of the iron-clads to resist cannon-balls, that Admiral Dupont determined to run the fortifications at the entrance to Charleston, and force his way up to the city. The attempt was a disastrous failure.† General Gillmore then took charge of the Union troops, and, landing on Morris Island,‡ by regular siege approaches and a terrible bombardment, captured Fort Wagner§ and reduced Fort

* At the very moment when the last charge was being repulsed, Pemberton was negotiating for the surrender of Vicksburg to Grant. This was the turning point of the war. From that time, the Confederacy began to wane.

† The Keokuk was sunk, and nearly all the vessels were seriously injured. The officers declared that the strokes of the shots against the iron sides of their ships were as rapid as the ticks of a watch.

‡ In a marsh west of Morris Island, piles were driven in the mud twenty feet deep, and a platform made on which was placed an eight-inch rifled Parrot gun, nicknamed the "Swamp Angel". It threw shells five miles into Charleston, but burst on the thirty-sixth round. The bombardment of the city was afterward continued from the other batteries.

§ Two unsuccessful charges were made on this fort. In one, the 54th regiment, Colonel Shaw, bore a prominent part. It was the first colored regiment organized in the free States. In order to be in season for the assault, it had marched two days through heavy sands and drenching storms. After only five minutes rest, it took its place at the front of the attacking column. The men fought with unflinching gallantry, and planted their flag on the works; but their Colonel, and so many of the officers were shot, that what was left of the regiment was led off by a boy—Lt. Higginson. No measure of the war was more bitterly opposed than the project of arming the slaves. It was denounced at the North, and the Confederate Congress passed a law which threatened with death any white officer captured while in command of negro troops, leaving the men to be dealt with according to the laws of the State in which they were taken. Yet, so willing were the negroes to enlist, and so faithful did they prove themselves in service, that, in December, 1863, over fifty thousand had been enrolled, and before the close of the war that number was quadrupled.

Sumter to a shapeless mass of rubbish. A short time after, a party of sailors from the Union fleet essayed to capture it by night, but its garrison, upstarting from the ruins, drove them back with heavy loss.

General Review of the Third Year of the War.—The Confederates had gained the great battles of Chickamauga and Chancellorsville, seized Galveston, and successfully resisted every attack on Charleston.

The Federals had gained the important battles before Vicksburg, and those at Chattanooga and at Gettysburg. They had captured the garrisons of Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The Mississippi was patrolled by gun-boats, and the Confederate army was entirely cut off from its western supplies. Arkansas, East Tennessee, and large portions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas had been won for the Union.

1864.

The Situation.—In March, General Grant was made Lieutenant-General in command of all the forces of the United States. Heretofore, the different armies had acted independently. They were now to move in concert, and thus prevent the Confederate forces from aiding each other. The strength of the South lay in the armies of Lee in Virginia, and Joseph E. Johnston in Georgia. Grant was to attack the former, Sherman the latter, and both were to keep at work, regardless of season or weather. While the Army

of the Potomac was crossing the Rapidan (May 4), Grant, seated on a log by the road-side, penciled a telegram to Sherman to start.

GRANT WRITING THE TELEGRAM TO SHERMAN.

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE AND GEORGIA.

Advance upon Atlanta.—Sherman, with one hundred thousand men, now moved upon Johnston, who, with nearly fifty thousand, was stationed at Dalton, Ga. (map opp. p. 222). The Confederate commander, foreseeing this advance, had selected a series of almost impregnable positions, one behind the other, all the way to Atlanta. For one hundred miles, there was continued skirmishing among mountains and woods, which presented every opportunity for such a warfare. Both armies were led by profound strategists. Sherman would drive Johnston into a stronghold, and then with consummate skill outflank him, when Johnston with equal

skill would retreat to a new post and prepare to meet his opponent again.* At Dalton, Resaca, Dallas, and Lost and Kenesaw Mountains, bloody battles were fought. Finally, Johnston retired to the intrenchments of Atlanta (July 10).

Capture of Atlanta.—Davis, dissatisfied with this Fabian policy, now put Hood in command. He attacked the Union army three times with tremendous energy, but was repulsed with great slaughter. Sherman, thereupon re-enacting his favorite flank movement, filled his wagons with fifteen-days rations, dexterously shifted his whole army on Hood's line of supplies, and compelled the evacuation of the city.†

The Effect.—This campaign, during four months of fighting and marching, day and night, in its ten pitched battles and scores of lesser engagements, cost the Union army thirty thousand men, and the Confederate, thirty-five thousand. Georgia was the workshop, store-house, granary, and arsenal of the Confederacy. At Atlanta, Rome, and the neighboring towns, were manufactories, foundries, and mills, where

* When either party stopped for a day or two, it fortified its front with an abattis of felled trees and a ditch with a head-log placed on the embankment. The head-log was a tree twelve or fifteen inches in diameter resting on small cross-sticks, thus leaving a space of four or five inches between the log and the dirt, through which the guns could be pointed.

† During this campaign, Sherman's supplies were brought up by a single line of railroad from Nashville, a distance of three hundred miles, and exposed throughout to the attacks of the enemy. Yet so carefully was it garrisoned and so rapidly were bridges built and breaks repaired, that the damages were often mended before the news of the accident reached camp. Sherman said that the whistle of the locomotive was quite frequently heard on the camp-ground before the echoes of the skirmish-fire had died away.

GUARDING A TRAIN.

clothing, wagons, harnesses, powder, balls, and cannon were furnished to all its armies. The South was henceforth cut off from these supplies.

Hood's Invasion of Tennessee.—Sherman now longed to sweep through the Atlantic States. But this was impossible so long as Hood, with an army of forty thousand, was in front, while the cavalry under Forrest was raiding along his railroad communications toward Chattanooga and Nashville. With unconcealed joy, therefore, Sherman learned that Hood was to invade Tennessee.* Relieved of this anxiety, he prepared his army for its celebrated "March to the Sea".

Battle of Nashville (December 15, 16).—Hood crossed the Tennessee, and, after a desperate struggle with Schofield's army, at FRANKLIN, shut up General Thomas within the fortifications at Nashville. For two weeks little was done.† When Thomas was fully ready, he suddenly sallied out on Hood, and in a terrible two-days battle drove the Confederate forces out of their intrenchments into headlong flight. The Union cavalry thundered upon their heels with remorseless energy. The infantry followed closely behind. The entire Confederate army, except the rear-guard, which fought bravely to the last, was dissolved into a rabble of demoralized fugitives, who escaped across the Tennessee.

The Effect.—For the first time in the war, an army was destroyed. The object which Sherman hoped to attain when he moved on Atlanta, was accomplished by Thomas, three hundred miles away. Sherman could now go where he pleased

* Hood's expectation was that Sherman would follow him into Tennessee, and thus Georgia be saved from invasion. Sherman had no such idea. "If Hood will go there", said he, "I will give him rations to go with." Now was presented the singular spectacle of these two armies, which had so lately been engaged in deadly combat, marching from each other as fast as they could go.

† Great disappointment was felt at the North over the retreat to Nashville, and still more at Thomas' delay in that city. Grant ordered him to move, and had actually started to take charge of his troops in person, when he learned of the splendid victory his slow but sure general had achieved. The rock of Chickamauga had become the sledge of Nashville.

with little danger of meeting a foe. The war at the West, so far as any great movements were concerned, was finished.

Sherman's March to the Sea.—Breaking loose from his communications with Nashville, and burning the city of Atlanta, Sherman started (Nov. 16), with sixty thousand men, for the Atlantic coast (map opp. p. 222). The army moved in four columns, with a cloud of cavalry under Kilpatrick,* and skirmishers in front to disguise its route.† The wings destroyed the Georgia Central and Augusta railroads, and the troops foraged on the country as they passed. In five weeks, they had marched three hundred miles, reached the sea,‡ stormed Fort McAlister, and captured Savannah.§

The Effect of this march can hardly be over-estimated. A fertile region, sixty miles wide and three hundred long, was desolated; three hundred miles of railroad were destroyed; the eastern portion of the already-sundered Confederacy was cut in twain; immense supplies of provisions were captured, and the hardships of war brought home to those who had hitherto been exempt from its actual contact.

* The ubiquity of the cavalry movements of the war is remarkable. In February preceding, Kilpatrick, who now opened up the way for Sherman's march through Georgia, made a dash with the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac to rescue the Union prisoners at Richmond. He got within the defenses of the city, but not fully appreciating his success, withdrew, while Colonel Ulric Dahlgren, who headed a co-operating force, through the ignorance or treachery of his guide, lost his route, was surrounded by the enemy, and fell in an attempt to cut his way out. Great damage was done to railroads and canals near Richmond.

† A feint which Sherman made toward Augusta led to a concentration at that city of the cavalry and militia called out to dispute his progress. The real direction of his march was not discovered until he had entered the peninsula between the Savannah and Ogeechee rivers.

‡ The first news received at the North from Sherman was brought by three scouts, who left the Union army just as it was closing in on Savannah. They hid in the rice swamps by day, and paddled down the river by night. Creeping past Fort McAlister undiscovered, they were picked up by the Federal gun-boats.

§ Sherman sent the news of its capture, with 25,000 bales of cotton and 150 cannon, to President Lincoln, as a Christmas present to the nation.