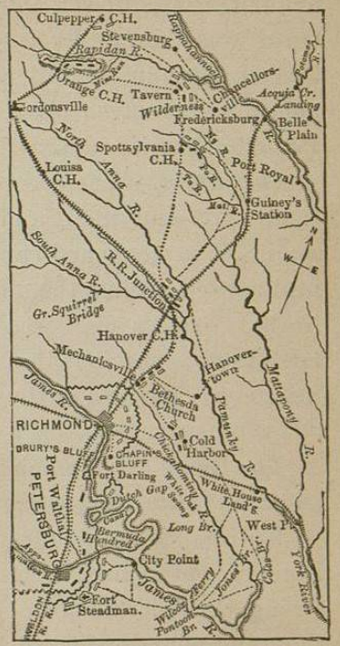
THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

Battle of the Wilderness (May 5, 6).—After crossing the Rapidan, the Union army plunged into the Wilderness. While the columns were toiling along the narrow roads, they were suddenly attacked by the Confederate army.* The dense forest forbade all strategy. There was none of the pomp or glory of war, only its horrible butchery. The ranks simply dashed into the woods. Soon came the patter of shots, the heavy rattle of musketry, and then there streamed back the wreck of the battle—bleeding, mangled forms, borne on stretchers. In those gloomy shades, dense with smoke, this strangest of battles, which no eye could follow, marked only by the shouts and volleys, now advancing, now receding, as either side gained or lost, surged to and fro. The third day, both armies, worn out by this desperate struggle, remained in their intrenchments. Neither side had conquered. It was generally supposed that the Federals would retire back of the Rapidan. Grant thought differently. He quietly gathered up his army and pushed it by the Confederate right flank toward Spottsylvania Court House.

Battle of Spottsylvania (May 8–12).—Lee detected the movement, and hurried a division to head off the Union advance. When Grant reached the spot, he found the Confederate army planted directly across the road, barring his progress. Five days of continuous maneuvering † and fighting ‡ having given no advantage, Grant concluded to try the favorite movement of the year, and turn Lee's right flank again.*

Battle of Cold Harbor (June 3).—Lee, however, moving on the inner and shorter line, reached the NORTH ANNA first. Here some severe fighting occurred, when, Grant moving to flank again, Lee slipped into the intrenchments of Cold Harbor. At daybreak an assault was made. The Union troops, here sinking in the swamp, there entangled in the brushwood, and torn by a pitiless fire, struggled on only to be beaten back with terrible slaughter.† Lee's army, sheltered behind its works, suffered little.‡



GRANT'S CAMPAIGN AROUND RICHMOND.

* This was near the old battle-ground of Chancellorsville, and just a year and two days after that fierce fight.

† During this time, the sharp-shooters on both sides, hidden in the trees, were busy picking off officers. On the 9th, General Sedgwick was superintending the placing of a battery in the front. Seeing a man dodging a ball, he rebuked him, saying, "Pooh! they can't hit an elephant at this distance." At that moment, he was himself struck, and fell dead.

‡ On the morning of the 12th, Hancock's corps, hidden by a dense fog, charged upon the Confederate line, broke the abattis, surrounded a division, and took nearly four thousand prisoners, including two generals. So complete was the surprise, that the officers were captured at breakfast. Lee, however, rallied, and the fighting was so fierce to regain this lost position, that a "tree eighteen inches in diameter was cut in two by the bullets which struck it. Ten thousand men fell on each side. Men in hundreds, killed and wounded together, were piled in hideous heaps, some bodies, which had lain for hours under the concentric fire of the battle, being perforated with wounds. The writhing of the wounded beneath the dead moved these masses at times; while often a lifted arm or quivering limb told of an agony not quenched by the Lethe of death around."

*It was during this fearful battle that Grant sent his famous dispatch, "I purpose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer".

† Lossing asserts that "in twenty minutes, 10,000 Union soldiers were killed or wounded", but Badeau admits only 7,000 in all, and claims that Cold Harbor was but a part "of the unceasing play of the terrible hammer by which Grant was crushing the Confederate army".

‡ Grant had arranged for three co-operative movements to divide the strength of the Confederate army: 1. General Sigel, with ten thousand men, was to advance up the Shenandoah Valley and threaten the railroad communication with Richmond. He was, however, totally routed at *New Market* (May 15). General Hunter, who super-

Attack on Petersburg.—Grant now rapidly pushed his army over the James, and fell upon Petersburg; but here again Lee was ahead, and the works could not be forced. Grant was therefore compelled to throw up intrenchments and sit down in front of the Confederate lines. The campaign now resolved itself into a siege of Richmond, with Petersburg as its advanced post.

The Effect.—The campaign had cost the Union army forty thousand men, and the Confederates thirty thousand.* The weakened capabilities of the South were now fairly pitted against the almost exhaustless resources of the North. Grant's plan was to keep constantly hammering Lee's army, conscious that it was the last hope of the Confederacy. The idea of thus annihilating an army was terrible, yet it seemed the only way of closing the awful struggle.

The Siege of Richmond continued until the spring campaign of 1865. It was marked by two important events:

1. *Mine Explosion* (July 30).—From a hidden ravine in front of Petersburg, a mine had been dug underneath a strong Confederate fort. Just at dawn, the blast of eight thousand pounds of powder was fired. Several cannon, the garrison of three hundred men, and huge masses of earth were thrown high in air. The Federal guns opened fire at once along the entire line. An assaulting column rushed forward, but stopped in the crater produced by the explosion. The Confederates, rallying from their confusion, concentrated from every side, and poured shot and shell upon the struggling mass of men huddled within the demolished fort. To retreat was only less dangerous than to stay, yet many of the soldiers jumped out of this slaughter-pen and ran headlong back to the Union lines. The Federals lost about four thousand men in this ill-starred affair.

2. *Attack upon the Weldon Railroad* (August 18).—By threatening Richmond upon the north, Grant induced Lee to move troops to that city from Petersburg. The opportunity was at once seized, and the Weldon Railroad captured. Lee, aware of the great importance of this means of communication with the South, for several days made desperate attempts for its recovery. They were, however, unsuccessful, and the Union lines were permanently advanced to this point.

Early's Raid.—Hunter's retreat (p. 262) having laid open the Shenandoah Valley, Lee took advantage of it to threaten Washington, hoping thus to draw off Grant from the siege of Richmond. General Early, with twenty thousand men, accordingly hurried along this oft-traveled route. Defeating General Wallace at Monocacy River, he appeared before Fort Stevens, one of the defenses of Washington (July 11). Had he rushed by forced marches, he might have captured the city; but he stopped a day. Re-inforcements having now arrived, he was compelled to retreat. Laden with booty, he rapidly recrossed the Potomac; but, not being pursued, he returned, and sent a party of cavalry into Pennsylvania. They entered Chambersburg, and, on failing to obtain a ran-

seded him, defeated the Confederates at *Piedmont* (June 5), but pushing on to Lynchburg with about twenty thousand men, he found it too strong, and prudently retired into West Virginia. 2. On the night that the Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan, General Butler, with thirty thousand men, ascended the James River, under the protection of gun-boats, and landed at Bermuda Hundred. After some trifling successes, he was checked by Beauregard at Drewry's Bluffs, and driven back into his defenses with considerable loss. Beauregard then threw intrenchments across the narrow strip which connects Bermuda Hundred with the main land, and, as Grant tersely said, "hermetically sealed up" the Union force from any further advance. 3. General Sheridan, while the army was at Spottsylvania, passed in the rear of the Confederate position, destroyed miles of railroad, recaptured four hundred prisoners *en route*, and defeated a cavalry force with the loss of their leader, General J. E. B. Stuart, the best cavalry officer in the South.

* The above statement of the enormous losses of this campaign is based upon the most recent data. Careful authorities, however, have placed the Union loss as high as over seventy thousand, while certain Southern writers put the Confederate as low as nineteen thousand. It is impossible to reconcile the different accounts.

som of $500,000, set fire to the village, and escaped safely back into the Shenandoah.

Sheridan's Campaign.—Sheridan was now put in command of all the troops in this region. He defeated Early at

"TURN, BOYS, TURN; WE'RE GOING BACK."

WINCHESTER and FISHER'S HILL, and in a week destroyed half his army, and sent the rest "whirling up the valley of the Shenandoah".* Early was quickly reinforced, and, returning during Sheridan's absence, surprised his army at CEDAR CREEK (October 19), and drove it in confusion. Sheridan arrived at this critical moment,† reformed his ranks, ordered an advance, and, attacking the Confederates, now busy

* In order to prevent any further raids upon Washington from this direction, Sheridan devastated the valley so thoroughly that it was said that "if a crow wants to fly down the Shenandoah, he must carry his provisions with him".

† Early's attack was made under cover of a dense fog and the darkness of the early morning. General Wright, the Union commander, though wounded, remained on the field and managed to get his troops into a new position, about seven miles in the rear. Sheridan heard the cannonading, while riding from Winchester, nearly twenty miles from Cedar Creek. Knowing the importance of his presence, he put spurs to his coal-black steed, and never drew rein for almost twelve miles, when, his horse covered with foam, he dashed to the new front. As he passed the fugitives

plundering the captured camp, routed them with great slaughter.

The Effect.—This campaign of only a month was one of the most brilliant of the war. Sheridan lost seventeen thousand men, but he virtually destroyed Early's army. This was the last attempt to threaten Washington.

Red River Expedition.*—A joint naval and land expedition, under the command of General Banks, was sent up the Red River in the hope of destroying the Confederate authority in that region and in Texas (map opp. p. 222). Fort de Russy was taken (March 14), whence Banks moved on toward Shreveport. The line of march became extended a distance of nearly thirty miles along a single road. At SABINE CROSS ROADS (April 8), the Confederate forces, under General Dick Taylor, attacked the advance, and a miniature Bull Run retreat ensued. The Union troops, however, rallied at PLEASANT HILL, and the next day, re-inforcements coming up from the rear, they were able to repulse the Confederates. The army thereupon returned to New Orleans,† and Banks was relieved of the command.

along the road, he shouted, "Turn, boys, turn; we're going back." Under the magnetism of his presence, the men followed him back to the fight and victory.

* Troops having been sent from Vicksburg to join the Red River expedition, West Tennessee and Kentucky were left exposed to attack from the Confederates. Forrest, with five thousand men, captured Union City, Tenn., with its garrison of about five hundred troops, occupied Hickman, and advanced rapidly upon Paducah, Ky. This, protected by the gun-boats, maintained so stout a defense, that Forrest retired. Moving south, he next fell upon *Fort Pillow* (April 12). His men crept along under shelter of a ravine until very near, and then charged upon the intrenchments. Rushing into the fort, they raised the cry "No quarter!" "The Confederate officers", says Pollard, "lost control of their men, who were maddened by the sight of negro troops opposing them", and an indiscriminate slaughter followed.

† Porter, who commanded the gun-boats in the Red River, hearing of Banks' retreat, attempted to return with his fleet; but the river fell so rapidly that this became impossible. It was feared that it would be necessary to blow up the vessels to prevent their falling into the enemy's hands, when, by the happy suggestion of Colonel Bailey, formerly a Wisconsin lumber-man, they were saved. He constructed a series of wing-dams below the rapids, and, when the water rose, the boats were safely floated over. This skillful expedient was almost the only relieving feature of the

The Effect. — This campaign was a great Confederate triumph.* Banks lost five thousand men, eighteen guns, and large supplies.

THE WAR ON THE SEA AND THE COAST.

The Expedition against Mobile (August 5) was under the command of Admiral Farragut. That he might oversee the battle more distinctly, he took his position in the rigging of his flag-ship — the Hartford. The vessels, lashed together in pairs for mutual assistance, in an hour fought their way past the Confederate forts, and engaged the iron-clad fleet beyond. After a desperate resistance, the great iron-ram Tennessee was taken, and the other vessels were captured or put to flight. The forts were soon after reduced, and the harbor was thenceforth closed to blockade runners.†

The Expedition against Fort Fisher, which defended the harbor of Wilmington, N. C., was commanded by Commodore Porter. It consisted of seventy vessels and a land force under General Butler. After a fierce bombardment (December 24, 25), Butler decided that the fort could not be taken by assault, and the army returned to Fort Monroe. Commodore Porter, dissatisfied with the result, lay off the place, and asked for a second trial. The same troops, with fifteen hundred additional men, were sent back under General Terry. Protected by a terrible fire from the fleet, a column of sailors and one of soldiers worked their way, by a series of trenches, within two hundred yards of the fort. At the word, the former leaped forward on one side and the latter on another. The sailors were repulsed, but the soldiers burst into the fort. The hand-to-hand fight within lasted for hours. Late at night, the garrison, hemmed in on all sides, surrendered (January 15, 1865). One knows not which to admire the more, the gallantry of the attack or the heroism of the defense. In such a victory is glory, and in such a defeat, no disgrace.

campaign, which was believed by some to have been undertaken simply as a gigantic cotton speculation in behalf of certain parties, who seemed to be more intent on gathering that staple than on conserving the interests of the Union cause. The failure was, therefore, at the North a source of great mortification and reproach.

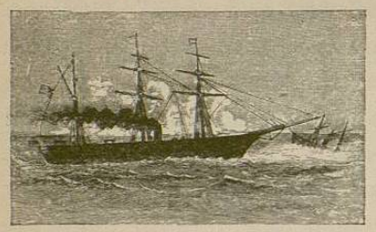
* General Steele, who commanded in Arkansas, had moved from Little Rock to co-operate in this advance; but, on nearing Shreveport, learned of Banks' retreat. He immediately turned around, and, with great difficulty and severe fighting, managed to escape back to Little Rock. This disaster enabled the Confederates to recover half of the State.

† The city of Mobile was not captured until the next year, when Generals Granger's, Steele's, and A. J. Smith's commands were collected for this purpose by Gen. Canby. The forts were gallantly defended by General Maury, but were taken within less than two weeks. The city itself was evacuated April 11. The next day, the Union troops entered, ignorant that Lee had surrendered three days before, and that the Confederacy was dead.

The Blockade was now so effectual that the prices of all imported goods in the Confederate States were fabulous.* Led by the enormous profits of a successful voyage, foreign merchants were constantly seeking to run the gauntlet. Their swift steamers, long, narrow, low, of a mud color, and making no smoke, occasionally escaped the vigilance of the Federal squadron. During the war, it is said, over fifteen hundred blockade runners were taken or destroyed. With the capture of Fort Fisher, the last Confederate port of entry was sealed.

* Flour brought, in Confederate currency, $40 per barrel; calico, $30 per yard; coffee, $50 per pound; French gloves, $150 per pair; and black pepper, $300 per pound. Dried sage, raspberry, and other leaves were substituted for the costly tea. Woolen clothing was scarce, and the army depended largely on captures of the ample Federal stores. Pins were so rare that they were picked up with avidity in the streets. Paper was so expensive that matches could no longer be put in boxes. Sugar, butter, and white bread became luxuries even for the wealthy. Salt being a necessity, was economized to the last degree, old pork and fish barrels being soaked and the water evaporated so that not a grain of salt might be wasted. Women wore garments that were made of cloth carded, woven, spun, and dyed by their own hands. Large thorns were fitted with wax heads and made to serve as hair-pins. Shoes were manufactured with wooden soles, to which the uppers were attached by means of small tacks. As a substitute for the expensive gas, the "Confederate candle" was used. This consisted of a long wick coated with wax and resin, and wound on a little wooden frame, at the top of which was nailed a bit of tin. The end of the wick being passed through a hole in the tin, was lighted and uncoiled as needed.

Confederate Cruisers had now practically driven the American commerce from the ocean. They were not privateers, like those named on p. 222, for they were built in England and manned by British sailors, and were only officered and commissioned by the Confederate government. They sailed to and fro upon the track of American ships, recklessly plundering and burning, or else bonding them for heavy sums.



SINKING THE ALABAMA.

The Alabama was the most noted of these British steamers. Against the urgent remonstrances of the United States Minister at the Court of England, she was allowed to sail, although her mission was well known. An English captain took her to the Azores, where other English vessels brought her arms, ammunition, and the Confederate Captain Semmes with additional men. Putting out to sea, he read his commission and announced his purpose. After capturing over sixty vessels, he sailed to Cherbourg, France. While there, he sent out a challenge to the national ship-of-war KEARSARGE (keer′ sarj). This was accepted, and a battle took place off that harbor. Captain Winslow, of the Kearsarge, so maneuvered that the Alabama was compelled to move round in a circular track, while he trained his guns upon her with fearful effect. On the seventh rotation, the Confederate vessel ran up the white flag and soon after sunk. Captain Winslow rescued a part of the sinking crew, and others were picked up, at his request, by the Deer-hound, an English yacht; but this vessel steamed off to the British coast with those she had saved, among whom was Captain Semmes.

The Sanitary and the Christian Commissions were "splendid examples of organized mercy", furnished by the people of the North. They devised and provided every possible comfort for the sick and wounded, besides distributing religious reading to every soldier in the field. Ambulances, stretchers, hot coffee, postage-stamps, paper and envelopes, prayer-meetings, medicines, Christian burial, — no want of body or soul was overlooked. "Homes" and "Lodges" for men on sick-leave, and for those not yet under or just out of the care of the government, or who had been left by their regiments; "Feeding Stations" for the tired and hungry; and even "Homes for the Wives, Mothers, and Children of Soldiers" who had come to visit their sick or wounded were established. On every flag-of-truce boat, were placed clothing, medicines, and cordials for the prisoners who had been exchanged. With boundless mercy, they cared for all while living, and gave Christian burial and marked graves to the dead. Over seventeen millions of dollars in money and supplies were expended by these two Commissions.

Political Affairs. — At the North, there was much dissatisfaction with the conduct of the war. The debt had become about $2,000,000,000. In July of this year, paper money reached its greatest depreciation, and it required two dollars and ninety cents in greenbacks to buy one dollar in gold. This was the time of Grant's repulse from Cold Harbor and of Early's raid. Yet, in the midst of these discouragements, Abraham Lincoln was renominated by the republican party. George B. McClellan was the democratic candidate; he stood firmly for the prosecution of the war, and the maintenance of the Union, but was not in full sympathy with the policy of the administration. He carried only three States. Lincoln had a popular majority of over four hundred thousand.

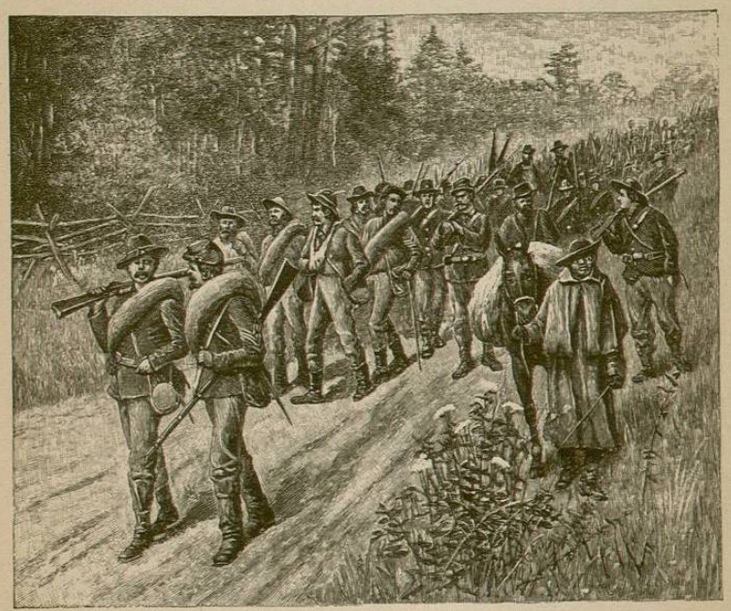
General Review of the Fourth Year of the War.—The Confederates had gained the battles of Olustee,* Sabine Cross Roads, Bermuda Hundred, Spottsylvania, New Market, Cold Harbor, and Monocacy River; they had defeated the expeditions into Florida and the Red River country, the two attacks upon Petersburg, and one against Fort Fisher, and yet held Grant at bay before Richmond. They had, however, lost ground on every side. Of the States east of the Mississippi, only North and South Carolina were fully retained. Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida were overrun by the Union armies. The Federals had gained the battles of Pleasant Hill, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw, Atlanta, Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Cedar Creek, and Nashville. They had captured Fort de Russy, the forts in Mobile harbor, and Fort McAlister, and had taken Atlanta and Savannah. Sherman had swept across Georgia; Sheridan had devastated the Shenandoah, driving its defenders before him; Thomas had annihilated Hood's army; Grant held Lee firmly grasped at Richmond, and the navy swept the entire coast.

1865.

The Situation.—The plan of the campaign was very simple. The end of the war was clearly at hand. Sherman was to move north from Savannah against Johnston, and then join Grant in the final attack upon Lee. Sheridan, with ten thousand troopers, had swept down from the Shenandoah, cut the railroads north of Richmond, and taken his place

* This battle ended an expedition fitted out by General Gillmore, at Hilton Head, S. C., to recover Florida. After some success, his troops, under General Seymour, advanced to *Olustee*, where (February 20) they met a disastrous defeat and were forced to relinquish much they had gained. The men were afterward taken to Virginia to engage in more important work.

in the Union lines before Petersburg. Wilson, with thirteen thousand horsemen, rode at large through Alabama and Georgia, and at Macon held a line of retreat from Virginia westward. Stoneman, with five thousand cavalry from Tennessee, poured through the passes of the Alleghanies and waited in North Carolina for the issue in Virginia.



SHERMAN'S ARMY ON ITS MARCH TO THE SEA.

Sherman's March through the Carolinas.—In the meantime, Sherman had given his troops only a month's rest in Savannah. Early in February, they were put in motion northward. There was no waiting for roads to dry nor for bridges to be built, but the troops swept on like a tornado. Rivers were waded, and "one battle was fought while the water was up to the shoulders of the men". The army, sixty thousand strong, moved in four columns, with a front of