

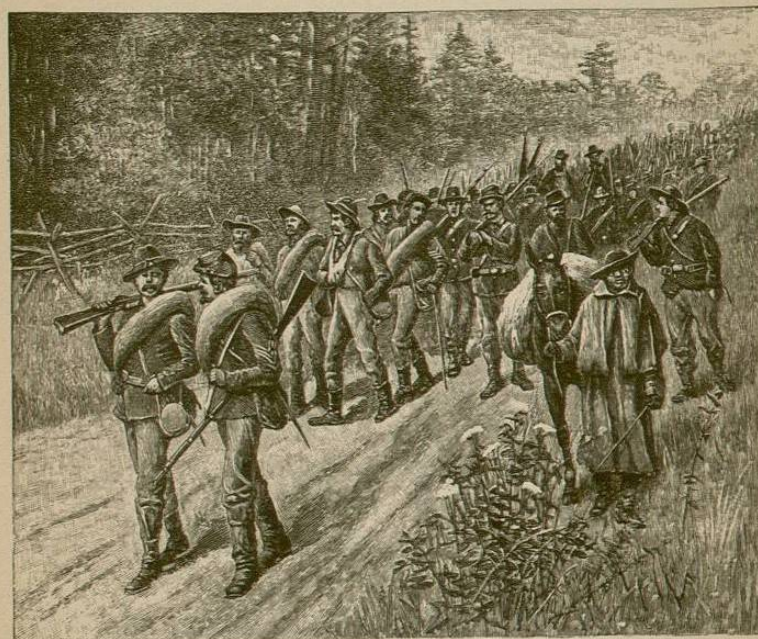
General Review of the Fourth Year of the War.—The Confederates had gained the battles of Olustee,* Sabine Cross Roads, Bermuda Hundred, Spottsylvania, New Market, Cold Harbor, and Monocacy River; they had defeated the expeditions into Florida and the Red River country, the two attacks upon Petersburg, 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

more than fifty miles. Cavalry and foragers swarmed on the flanks. Before them was terror; behind them were ashes.

Columbia was captured (Feb. 17). That night, nearly the entire city was burned to the ground. Charleston, threatened in the rear, was evacuated the next day. In this emergency, Johnston was recalled to the command of the Confederates. He gathered the scattered troops and vigorously opposed Sherman's advance. After fierce engagements at AVERYSBORO and BENTONVILLE, Johnston was driven back. While Johnston was now guarding the route to Raleigh, Sherman pressed forward to Goldsboro, in order to join Schofield, who had made his way thither from Wilmington, and Terry, who had come up from New Bern. Soon, the three armies united, and 100,000 men upheld the flag of the Union along the banks of the Neuse.* Sherman then went to City Point, to arrange with Grant the plan of the final struggle.

Siege of Richmond.—Lee's position was fast becoming desperate. His only hope lay in getting out of Richmond and joining with Johnston. Their united armies might prolong the struggle. Grant was determined to prevent this, and compel Lee to surrender, as he had forced Pemberton to do.

Attack on Fort Steadman (March 25).—Lee decided to attack Grant's line, in order to hide his plan of retreat, and especially in the hope that Grant would send troops from the left to succor the threatened point. In that case, he would slip out, with the main body of his army, by the nearest road southward, which ran close by the Union left. The assault was made on Fort Steadman, but it was a signal failure. Three thousand out of five thousand engaged in the attempt

* The distance traversed by the army in going from Savannah to Goldsboro was about 425 miles. The country was generally wild and swampy. To make the mud roads passable, each column "corduroyed" with rails and logs over a hundred miles, besides building bridges across the many streams and rivers. Yet in fifty days after breaking camp upon the Savannah, the troops bivouacked upon the Neuse.

were lost. To make matters worse, a Union assault followed directly afterward, and a portion of the Confederate outer defenses was captured. Thus Grant's grip was only tightened. He had made no change in the position of his troops, and this sortie neither hastened nor delayed the grand final attack.

Battle of Five Forks (April 1).—This movement began Wednesday morning, March 29. Sheridan with his cavalry—nine thousand sabers, and heavy columns of infantry, pushed out from Grant's left wing, to get around in Lee's rear. Cloaking his plan by a thick screen of cavalry to conceal the movements of his infantry, he threw a heavy force behind the Confederate position at FIVE FORKS.* Assailed in front and rear, the garrison was overwhelmed, and five thousand men were taken prisoners.

The Effect of this brilliant affair was at once to render Lee's position untenable. His right was turned and his rear threatened.

Capture of Petersburg and Richmond (April 2, 3).—The next morning, at four o'clock, the Union army advanced in an overwhelming assault along the whole front. By noon, the Confederate line of intrenchments, before which the Army of the Potomac had lain so long, was broken, and thousands of prisoners were captured. That night, Petersburg and Richmond were evacuated. The next morning, the Union troops took possession of the Confederate capital,† the

* Five Forks is situated twelve miles south-west from Petersburg. (See map opposite p. 223, and of VIth Epoch.)

† Sunday, the day before, the Confederate President, Davis, was at church, when a note was handed him by a messenger. It was from Lee, informing him that the Confederate army was about to leave Richmond. His pallid face and unsteady footsteps, as he passed out, betrayed the news. Pollard says: "Men, women, and children rushed from the churches, passing from lip to lip news of the impending fall of Richmond. . . . It was late in the afternoon when the signs of evacuation became apparent to the incredulous. Suddenly, as if by magic, the streets became filled with men, walking as though for a wager, and behind them excited negroes with trunks,

coveted goal of the Army of the Potomac for four long bloody years.

Lee's Surrender.—Meanwhile, Lee, having only the wreck of that proud array with which he had dealt the Union army so many crushing blows, hurried west, seeking some avenue of escape. Grant urged the pursuit with untiring energy. Sheridan, "with a terrible daring which knew no pause, no rest", hung on his flanks. Food now failed the Confederates, and they could get only the young shoots of trees to eat. If they sought a moment's repose, they were awakened by the clatter of pursuing cavalry. Lee, like a hunted fox, turned hither and thither; but, at last, Sheridan planted himself squarely across the front. Lee ordered a charge. His half-starved troops, with a rallying of their old courage, obeyed. But the cavalry moving aside, as a curtain is drawn, revealed dense bodies of infantry in battle line. The Civil War was about to end in one of its bloodiest tragedies, when the Confederate advance was stopped. General Grant had already sent in a note demanding the surrender of the army. Lee accepted the terms;* and, in the afternoon of April 9, the remains of the Army of Virginia laid

bundles, and luggage of every description. All over the city, it was the same—wagons, trunks, bandboxes, and their owners, a mass of hurrying fugitives filling the streets. Night came, and with it confusion worse confounded. There was no sleep for human eyes in Richmond that night. About the hour of midnight, hundreds of barrels of liquor were rolled into the street, and the heads knocked in, by order of the City Council, to prevent a worse disorder. As the work progressed, some straggling soldiers managed to get hold of a quantity of the liquor. From that moment, law and order ceased to exist." By order of General Ewell, the four principal tobacco warehouses, in different parts of the city, were fired, and soon the flames became unmanageable. "Morning broke upon a scene such as those who witnessed it can never forget. The roar of an immense conflagration sounded in their ears; tongues of flame leaped from street to street; and in this baleful glare were to be seen, as of demons, the figures of busy plunderers, moving, pushing, rioting through the black smoke, bearing away every conceivable sort of plunder."

* The officers and men were allowed to go home on their paroles not to take up arms against the United States until exchanged, and the former to retain their private baggage and horses. After the surrender had been concluded, General Lee said

down their arms near Appomattox Court House, and then turned homeward, no longer Confederate soldiers, but American citizens.

The Effect.—This closed the war. The other Confederate armies promptly surrendered.* Jefferson Davis fled southward, hoping to escape, but was overtaken near Irwinsville, Georgia (May 10), and sent a prisoner to Fort Monroe.

Cost of the War.—In the Union armies, probably three hundred thousand men were killed in battle or died of wounds or disease, while doubtless two hundred thousand more were crippled for life. If the Confederate armies suffered as heavily, the country thus lost one million able-bodied men. The Union debt, when largest (Aug. 31, 1865), was \$2,844,000,000. The Confederate war debts were never paid, as that government was overthrown.

Assassination of Lincoln.—In the midst of the universal rejoicings over the advent of peace, on the evening of April 14 the intelligence was flashed over the country that Lincoln had been assassinated.† While seated with his wife and friends in his box at Ford's Theater, he was shot by John Wilkes Booth,‡ who insanely imagined he

that he had forgotten to mention that many of his soldiers rode their own horses. Grant at once replied that such should keep their horses to aid them in their future work at home. The two armies so fiercely opposed for four years parted with words of sympathy and respect—an assured presage of a day when all the wounds of the cruel war should be fully healed. The Federal authorities state that 28,356 officers and men were paroled at Appomattox C. H., and 22,633 small arms were given up. The Confederate accounts, however, place the men and arms surrendered at a much less number. The total number paroled from all the Confederate armies was 174,223.

* The last fight of the war happened near Brazos Santiago, Texas, May 13. A small expedition sent out to surprise a Confederate camp was overtaken, on its return, by a larger force and defeated with a loss of eighty men.

† A nearly fatal attempt was also made at the same time upon William H. Seward, Secretary of State, who was lying sick in his bed at home.

‡ Booth stealthily entered the box, fastened the door, that he might not be followed, shot the President, then, waving his pistol, shouted, "Sic semper tyrannis" (so be it always to tyrants), and leaped to the stage in front. As he jumped, the American

was ridding his country of a tyrant. The stricken President was carried to a private house near by, where, around his unconscious body, gathered the most prominent men of the nation, who mourned and watched, waiting in vain for some sign of recognition, until the next morning, when he



DEATH OF GENERAL J. E. B. STUART. (See note, page 262.)

died. The funeral was held on the 19th. It was a day of mourning throughout the land. In most of the cities and towns, funeral orations were pronounced. The body was borne to Springfield over the same route along which Lincoln had come as President elect to Washington. The

flag draped before the box—mute avenger of the nation's chief,—caught his spur, and, throwing him heavily, broke his leg. The assassin, however, escaped in the confusion, mounted a horse waiting for him, and fled into Maryland. He was at length overtaken in a barn near Bowling Green, Va., where he stood at bay. The building was fired to drive him out, but, being determined to defend himself against arrest, he was shot by one of the soldiers. The accomplices of Booth were arrested, tried, and convicted. Harold, Payne, Atzerott, and Mrs. Surratt were hanged; Arnold, Mudd, and O'Laughlin were imprisoned for life; and Spangler was sentenced for six years.

procession may be said to have extended the entire distance. The churches, principal buildings, and even the engines and cars were draped in black. Almost every citizen wore the badge of mourning.

States Added during this Epoch.—*West Virginia*, the thirty-fifth State, was admitted to the Union, June 19, 1863. During the Civil War, this portion of Virginia remaining loyal, it was organized as a separate State.

Nevada, the thirty-sixth State, was admitted to the Union, October 31, 1864. Its name was derived from the range of mountains on the west, the Sierra Nevada, a Spanish title, signifying "Snow-covered mountains". It was the third State carved out of the territory acquired by the Mexican war, Texas being the first, and California the second. Its first settlement was at Carson City. It is one of the richest mineral States in the Union.

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