

*S. Ketcher*  
*of the*  
*Great Battles in 1861*  
*Ramsay*

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22

SKETCHES  
OF THE  
GREAT BATTLES IN 1861,  
IN THE  
*Confederate States of America.*

SUMTER, BETHEL, MANASSAS, SPRINGFIELD, HATTERAS, LEXINGTON,  
LEESBURG, PORT ROYAL, COLUMBUS OR BELMONT.

ALSO,

SKETCHES OF

JEFFERSON DAVIS AND A. H. STEPHENS.

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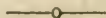
BY T. N. RAMSAY,  
NORTH CAROLINA.

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SALISBURY, N. C.  
J. J. BRUNER, PRINTER.

1861.

## TO THE PUBLIC.



I HAVE prepared the following Sketches of the great Battles in 1861, from the most authentic sources, but I am aware they contain many errors. They were collected at a time when our country was in a state of great excitement, and things have been misrepresented no doubt. It will take many years to reveal all the facts connected with the battles, and correct the errors. I hope whatever is correct will be accepted, and whatever is wrong, will be corrected by some future historian. I submit these Sketches to a generous public, hoping they will look over my errors, as it is my first attempt as a historian. Remember whatever is human is imperfect.

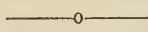
T. N. RAMSAY.

MOUNT MOURNE, N. C., Jan. 1, 1861.

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### SKETCHES OF THE GREAT BATTLES IN 1861.

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### CAUSES OF THE REVOLUTION.

THE YEAR 1861, will be memorable in all time to come, in the history of our country. The great Union of the United States, which was formed by our forefathers, and cemented by their best blood, was dissolved.

A grand Confederation was established in the South, composed of the slave-holding States, and they, thus separated from the Northern States, formed a Republic of their own, under the name of the "CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA." The Union of these States then composed one of the greatest nations of the earth. The United States was known wherever civilization had found its way, as the glorious land of liberty—the asylum for the oppressed, and the home for the stranger. But this happy state of peace and prosperity was brought suddenly to an end, by a sectional spirit which arose in the North in regard to slavery, an institution peculiar only to the Southern States. In 1856, a party was formed in the North, known as the Black Republicans. The principles of this party was an entire abolition of slavery in the United States. John C. Fremont was nominated on their sectional ticket for President, and received a considerable vote, but was defeated.

In 1860, their number had increased to an alarming rate. Three Presidential candidates being in the field opposed to their principles, Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, was elected President of the United States by this party. The principles of the Black Republican party were known to be hostile to slavery, as the leaders of this party had over and over again avowed it to be their intention to abolish it in the United States so soon as they had the power.

This alarming state of affairs caused the South to look to their rights in this matter, and prepare for defence. No other alternative was left for the Southern States but to secede peaceably from the Union and protect their rights and property as freemen. The State of South Carolina taking the lead, passed an ordinance of secession, and declared herself forever separated from the Union of the States. She was soon followed by Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi,

Florida, Louisiana and Texas. These States uniting, formed a Provisional Government under the name of the Confederate States of America. In thus separating from the old government, they claimed nothing more than the public property within their bounds, and simply to be let alone. These States, thus separated, formed a government, and appointed JEFFERSON DAVIS, of Mississippi, President, and ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, of Georgia, Vice President, with a full Cabinet of Officers, and Montgomery, Alabama, was selected as the seat of government. The taking of Fort Sumter, by the authorities of South Carolina, caused Abraham Lincoln, soon after he took his seat, to issue his proclamation calling for 75,000 troops to quell the rebellion in the South, and protect the public property. The Southern States, still in the Union, promptly refused to furnish their quota of troops. North Carolina, Virginia, and Arkansas, each passed an ordinance of secession and joined the Confederate States. The seat of government was then removed from Montgomery to Richmond, Virginia, and vigorous preparations were immediately made for the defence of our young Republic. The mighty events that have since taken place, will form an immortal page in our country's history.

Since these events, the States of Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky, have also joined the Confederacy, making in all thirteen States in our Republic.



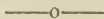
## BOMBARDMENT OF FORT SUMTER, S. C.

THE BATTLE OF FORT SUMTER, where the first gun was fired in defence of our rights, our homes and our firesides, commenced on the morning of the 12th of April, 1861. Fort Sumter is at Charleston, in the State of South Carolina, and was claimed by the United States as their property, after the secession of this State from the old Federal Union. The capture of this Fort by Southern Troops, without the loss of a single man, was the first grand act in the glorious cause of our Independence, and will be handed down to future ages as the beginning of the great Revolution of 1861 in the Southern States of North America. This was only the beginning of victory that has so often since crowned with success our troops in fighting for our rights on our own soil. The forces in the Fort were commanded by Major ROBERT ANDERSON, who held the place in the name, and by the authority of the United States government. The Confederate troops were commanded by Gen. G. T. BEAUREGARD and Col. RIPLEY. The bombardment of Fort Sumter was considered by many at the time as a sham fight, but all are now convinced that such was not the case. Peace had so long reigned over our happy country, that few were fully prepared to realize the awful calamity impending over our once peaceful shores.



But we doubt whether history has ever recorded such a battle where skillful artilleryists on both sides were engaged firing at each other for thirty-three hours without killing or seriously wounding a single man. Maj. ANDERSON'S men were so few in number, that notwithstanding the fort was a scene of desolation inside, they could all be safely stowed away in the casemates, and thus escape the iron hail.

The sand batteries and iron batteries protected the Confederate troops entirely. The only loss of life that occurred during this long engagement happened when Maj. ANDERSON'S men were saluting their flag, previous to leaving the fort. In firing one of their guns, some shell or loose ammunition lying on the parapets caught fire and exploded, killing one man instantly, and mortally wounding three or four others. Two of the wounded men died soon afterwards. The man who was killed first, was buried with military honors by order of Gen. BEAUREGARD. On the 13th, at one o'clock, Fort Sumter, with all the public property in it, was delivered up to Capt. FORGUSON, one of Gen. BEAUREGARD'S aids dispatched to receive it, and raise upon its walls the Confederate flag and ensign of South Carolina. The two flags were raised simultaneously on the ramparts, looking towards Charleston. The surrender of the Fort was claimed by the commander, Gen. BEAUREGARD, in the name of the Confederate States of America. Major ANDERSON demanded on what terms he must surrender. The reply was that Gen. BEAUREGARD was a soldier and a gentleman, and knew how to treat a gallant enemy. He then agreed to surrender the Fort in the name of the Confederate States, and haul down the stars and stripes. The batteries then ceased firing, and the fort was surrendered. Maj. ANDERSON and his men were allowed to take with them their private property when they left the fort. They all went on board a boat sent from New York to convey them there. Thus ended this grand achievement, which is yet to adorn the pages of future history as the first stroke for our glorious independence. The hand of Providence was wonderfully displayed in the preservation of human life in this engagement.



### BATTLE OF BIG BETHEL, VIRGINIA.

THE BATTLE OF BECHEL CHURCH, near Yorktown, in Virginia, was fought on the 10th of June, 1861. This was the first signal victory achieved by Southern arms on the battle field, in the second war of independence.

The Confederate forces in the battle were commanded by Col. MAGRUDER, of Virginia, and Col. D. H. HILL, of North Carolina. The Yankee forces were a part of the famous Gen. PICAUNE BUTLER'S brigade, commanded by his aide-camps, and several Colonels of different regiments under his command.—The Confederate forces were aroused at three o'clock on the morning of the

10th for a general advance upon the enemy's lines, and marched three and a half miles, when they learned that the foe, in large force, was within a few hundred yards of them. Our forces then fell back hastily and in good order upon their entrenchments, and awaited the arrival of the invaders. Lieut. Col. STEWART, of the third Virginia regiment, having under his command about 180 men, was stationed on a hill on the extreme right beyond the creek, and company G of the first North Carolina regiment was also thrown over the stream to protect the howitzer under Capt. Brown. Capt. BRIDGERS of company A, also of first regiment from North Carolina, took post in the dense woods beyond, and to the left of New Market bridge. Major MONTAGUE, with three companies of his battalion, was ordered up from the rear, and took post on the right, beginning at the church, and extending along the entire front on that side. This fine body of men, and the gallant command of Col. STEWART, worked with great rapidity, and in an hour had constructed temporary shelters from the enemy's fire. At nine o'clock in the morning, the heavy columns of the enemy were seen approaching very rapidly, and in good order. But when Major RANDOLPH, from his strong post opened fire on them at a quarter past nine, their organization was completely broke up.— They promptly replied though with their artillery for some time, firing briskly and wildly, and made an attempt to deploy on our right, under cover of some houses and paling. They were promptly driven back by our Artillery, the Life Guards of Virginia, and companies B, C and G, of the first North Carolina regiment. All the attempts that the cowardly Yankees made within musket range, during the engagement, was under cover of woods, houses or fences. A force estimated at 1500 men made an attempt to outflank us and get in the rear of Col. STEWART's small command. He was accordingly directed to fall back, and soon after the whole of our advanced troops were withdrawn. At this critical moment, Col. HILL directed Col. LEE to order Capt. BRIDGERS out of the swamp and take his stand on the nearest advanced work to the enemy. Capt. Ross, company C, of the first North Carolina regiment, was ordered to support Col. STEWART. These two companies crossed over to RANDOLPH's battery under a most galling fire, in a gallant manner. As Col. STEWART had now withdrawn, Capt. Ross was detained at the church near RANDOLPH's battery. Capt. BRIDGERS crossed over and drove the Zouaves out of the advanced howitzer battery, and re-occupied it. It is impossible to over-estimate this heroic exploit of this gallant officer and brave men. It decided the action in our favor that memorable day. In obedience to the order of Col. MAGRUDER, Col. STEWART rushed back, and in spite of the presence of a foe ten times his superior in numbers, resumed in a most heroic manner possession of the first entrenchments. A fresh howitzer was carried across and placed in the battery. Capt. AVERY, company G, first North Carolina, was directed to defend it at all hazards. Our men were now as secure as at the beginning of the fight, and as yet we had not had a single man killed.—

The enemy, finding they were foiled in attempting to turn our right flank, made a final demonstration on our left. A strong column, supposed to consist of detachments from different regiments under the command of Col. WINTHROP, aid to Gen. BUTLER, crossed over the creek and appeared in formidable force on our left. Those in advance had put on our distinctive badge, "a white band around their caps," and cried out repeatedly "don't fire." This ruse was practiced to enable the whole column to get over the creek and form in good order. The enemy now began to cheer most lustily, thinking that our works were open at the gorge, and they could get in by a sudden rush. But companies B and C, of the North Carolina regiment, soon dispelled their illusion by a cool and deliberate, and well directed fire.

Col. MAGRUDER now sent portions of companies G, C and H of the first North Carolina regiment to the support of the left, and now began as cool firing on our side as was ever witnessed. The three field officers were present, and few shots were fired without their permission. Our boys were in high glee, and seemed to enjoy the fight as much as rabbit shooting on the Christmas holydays. But on the other side, Col. WINTHROP, while gallantly urging on his men, was shot through the heart and fell dead on the spot. His men then rushed back with the utmost precipitation. So far as the observation of our men extended, Col. WINTHROP was the only man on the side of the enemy that exhibited any courage during the whole engagement. But the hero was destined to fall there, and with him fell the hopes of his command.

The fight at the angle on our left lasted about twenty minutes longer, and the enemy made no further attempt at assault. The house in front, which had served them as a hiding place, was now fired by a shell from a howitzer, and the out-houses and palings were all soon in a blaze.

As all shelter was now taken from them, they called in their troops and started back for Hampton. It was thought they had left sharp shooters in the woods on our left: the dragoons could not advance until the Southern Stars, Capt. HOKE's company from North Carolina, had fully explored them, then Captain Douthitt with about one hundred dragoons pursued them. The enemy in their haste, threw away canteens, haversacks, overcoats, &c., and even the dead bodies were thrown out of the wagons in their rapid retreat; and for the third time the Yankees won the race over New Market Bridge, as they had twice before retreated over the bridge on previous days. The bridge was torn up behind them, and our dragoons returned to camp. A detachment of fifteen Cadets from the North Carolina Military Institute, at Charlotte, defended the howitzer under the command of Lieut. Hudnal, and acted with great bravery and coolness. The Confederate force only amounted to about 1200 men, and not more than three hundred were actively engaged at any one time.

The enemy could not have had less than about 6000 men engaged: Col.

DURYEA's Zouaves, and the regiments of Colonel CAR, Col. ALLEN, Col. BENE-DICK, and Col. WARDEUR, from Massachusetts, and five companies of PHELPS' regiment from New York. The loss on our side was eleven wounded, only one mortally. The enemy must have lost at least three hundred in killed and wounded, besides a large amount of army stores which were thrown away in the retreat. The Confederates held the field of battle and took care of the spoils.

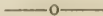
Thus ended the first great fight for freedom on Virginia's soil in the Revolution of 1861. But still more glorious victories has crowned the success of our arms since, on the same soil in a good cause. The enemy, in this battle, had largely the advantage in numbers, but sustained a severe loss, and retreated ingloriously from the field.

What the Confederates lacked in numbers they made up in bravery, and under the guidance and support of an overruling Providence, they were enabled to gain a glorious victory over their enemies. The name of Bethel Church, and the heroic achievements of the sons of the South, on that memorable day, will be handed down to future ages as the first great victory for the cause of freedom and humanity.

The names of MAGRUDER, HILL, STEWART and LEE, with all their brave followers, will emblazon the pages of future history as heroes; not for conquest, but only fighting for their rights and their homes.

The names of the brave heroes who fell in this battle, will be furnished, it is hoped, for publication in some future history of these dark days of revolution and bloodshed in the Confederate States. The two heroes in this battle, MAGRUDER and HILL, have both been promoted to Brigadier Generals since the victory of Bethel.

Bethel is noted in the Holy Scriptures as the place where Jacob saw his vision. So, Bethel in Virginia, is destined to become a household word in the future history of our country. This place will now be pointed out on the maps of our country as a battle ground for all time to come.



## THE BATTLE OF BULL'S RUN AND MANASSAS PLAINS.

THE GREAT BATTLE OF BULL'S RUN NEAR MANASSAS JUNCTION, Virginia, took place on the 18th of July, 1861, and the great Waterloo of America, was fought on Sunday after, the 21st of July, called "The Battle of Manassas Plains," near the same place. The seat of Government for the Confederate States had been removed a short time previous from Montgomery, Alabama, to Richmond, Virginia; and President DAVIS with his Cabinet had established his head quarters there to be near the seat of war. A strong force of troops

from Virginia, and most of the Southern States, were now posted on the Virginia side of the Potomac, for the defence of that State, and to protect their capital. The great object in view, by the authorities at Washington, was to cross over the Potomac, and make a grand attack here—disperse the rebels—march through to Richmond—take President DAVIS and his Cabinet prisoners, and thus make short work of this rebel insurrection in the Southern States. The Yankees were so certain of accomplishing this grand feat, that they had all their wagons labeled “On to Richmond,” and their appetites sharpened up for a big supper there on the night after the battle. But, before the sun had set on the memorable 21st of July, they found that “on to Richmond” was a hard road to travel for them. They met the most signal defeat, of modern times, at least. The loss of the enemy in the skirmish at Bull’s Run creek, on the 18th, is estimated to have been not less than one thousand men, while the Confederate loss was small. The full particulars of this fight cannot be accurately delineated, as the enemy fled in every direction, and the Confederates held the field. The reports of this battle are so nearly connected with that of Manassas Plains, that I have no particular reliable account. It was only a skirmish, which brought on the great fight of the 21st, though the enemy’s loss was heavy.

The Battle of Manassas Plains, or American Waterloo, was fought on the 21st of July, 1861, as before stated. The first gun fired that morning by the enemy was about six o’clock, their batteries opening against our centre as a feint to conceal their movements against our left. This was the commencement of the great battle that ended so disastrously to the boasted hirelings of a corrupt despotism, headed by Abraham Lincoln and his Black Republican advisers. His grand army that made the attack here, was commanded by Generals WINFIELD SCOTT, PATTERSON and McDOWELL; the Confederate forces by Generals JOSEPH E. JOHNSON and G. T. BEAUREGARD.

A short time after the first gun was fired, the two Generals with their staff officers, rode off to the nearest point of elevation convenient to the centre, and there awaited further developments, whilst the iron hail whirled over their heads like a tempest.

It is due to General JOHNSON to say that he planned the battle, assisted by General BEAUREGARD, both as brave and accomplished Generals as the world ever produced. To understand the battle, you must know that our line was faced towards Bull’s Run creek, and immediately back of it, defending the various fords. The line of battle was changed to a direction perpendicular to the one we first assumed. Our line extended over a distance of about eight miles. On Saturday night previous, Gen. JOHNSON assumed command, and nearly the entire night was consumed by both Generals in writing orders to the different Brigades to prepare for a forward movement in the morning. Our troops intended to move by eight o’clock in the morning, but the enemy commenced the attack at six o’clock, before the movement could be made.

The two Generals were still awaiting patiently on the knoll we have mentioned, watching the movements of the enemy, when the rattle of musketry revealed to them the fact that a general battle had commenced. The Generals and staff went flying on the wings of the wind to reach the scene of action, distant about three miles. The country here was a rolling one, thickly interspersed with pine thickets, and the battle ground was an open valley with a hill on each side, some distance apart.

The great struggle at first, when the general engagement commenced, was an alternate movement of regiments. When Gen. McDOWELL's columns reached Sudley's spring, a ford much higher up the Bull Run than it was anticipated they would cross, as the stone bridge was the point we were defending on the extreme left. But the enemy sneaked along, quietly getting in behind us until they were discovered by Gen. EVANS' brigade, who opened fire upon them. In quick succession their regiments deployed into line to their right, whilst ours came up upon our left. The engagement now grew hot and severe. The columns of the enemy numbered at least 25,000 or 30,000 men, while we could only oppose them with about 8000. Slowly, but steadily, the heavy columns marched on, pressing back by the weight of numbers, our gallant little band of heroes, for the purpose of turning our flank and attacking us in the rear.

Gallantly, however, did our army struggle for the right in that mighty conflict, and in despite of odds, regiment after regiment threw itself in the way, disputing the ground inch by inch, regardless of the fact that its predecessor had been cut to pieces or dispersed. A battery of the enemy harrassing our columns severely, the eighth Georgia regiment was ordered to take it, and right well did they do so; but a myriad of Yankees seemed to rise up who had been hitherto concealed from us, and pouring a heavy fire upon our brave columns, they seemed to melt away like snow beneath a summer sun.

Col. GARDNER was here shot down and taken prisoner, but he was afterwards retaken again by our men later in the day. The eighth Georgia regiment was compelled to retreat from their advanced position with half their number killed or wounded. The onset of the enemy was then met by the brigade of Gen. BEE, composed of Mississippi and Georgia regiments, and one regiment from Tennessee. General BEE's could not withstand the tornado of shell and shot sweeping through their ranks, and slowly retreated, fighting bravely all the time. Later in the day, the brave Colonel BARTOW fell near this spot, whilst leading on the seventh Georgia regiment, commanded by Col. GARTRELL. But in the retreat of General BEE's forces, the fourth Alabama regiment suffered severely, all of its field officers were shot down. Col. JONES and Major SCOTT were left on the field. Col. JONES was afterwards retaken by our men during the rout. Our forces now fell back upon the position taken by HAMPTON'S Legion, whose work on that day was clearly shown by the heaps of dead Yankees in front of their line. A momentary check was

now given to the approach of the enemy. They had now retreated to the brow of the hill where the brigade of Gen. JACKSON was lying, and this was the most critical point of the day. Our troops had been fighting for several hours under a scorching sun, without a drop of water, and their heroic conduct could not be excelled; but human endurance has its bounds, and all seemed about to be lost. Our reserves were miles distant yet from the scene of action, whilst the enemy's reserve kept pressing on. The two Generals had remained anxious spectators on the knoll of a hill near the Lewis house. But the time had now come for action, and plunging their spurs into their steeds, pitched into the thickest of the fight, cheering on the brave boys in the mighty conflict. Coming first to the Alabamians who were without a field officer, Gen. JOHNSTON placed the color bearer by his side, and gave them words of encouragement, which had a good effect in urging them on. This was a well-timed movement. Already our line on the hill was giving way, but incited to fresh deeds of heroism, by the appearance of the Generals, apparently bringing reinforcements, they pitched in again with redoubled ardor, and from that time our troops never yielded one inch of ground to the foe.

Gen. BEAUREGARD, riding over to the left, took charge of operations there, displaying reckless bravery in the face of the enemy's fire, his horse was shot under him at this time and killed, but he escaped uninjured himself. The tide of battle thus checked, Gen. JOHNSTON sent his staff to hurry up reserves, and assign them proper positions. The reserves were met two miles back, covered with dust, coming at double quick. On they came, and plunged into the fray with a courage that defied danger. At this important juncture of affairs, Gen. KIRBY SMITH, with a portion of his division, arrived on the ground, and the bright sunshine of victory soon began to appear from behind the murky clouds of gloom before us. Gen. SMITH coming from Winchester, and hearing the roar of battle, did not wait for orders, but disembarked his men, and marched to our assistance. Col. KERSHAW's and Col. CASI's regiments arrived upon the ground at the same moment. With these 4000 men General SMITH presently took the extreme left, and turned the tide of battle.

The enemy had so far turned our flank as to get entirely behind us, and about 4000 were marching to attack us in the rear. Seeing this, Gen. SMITH determined to cut them off, and would have done so, but for his misfortune in being shot through the neck with a grape shot just as Col. KERSHAW was within twenty yards of him for the purpose of receiving orders. His plan was not carried out, and they were thus enabled to join the main body, hotly pursued by our men.

Gen. JACKSON's brigade had been for hours sustaining with unflinching courage a most terrific fire. The General had his horse shot under him, and a finger off his left hand, but cool as a cucumber, he still urged his boys to be steady, and steady they were, when they charged the Zouaves and other regiments.

The regiment of Col. PRYSTON behaved admirably in this bloody strife, as their long list of killed and wounded will testify; but all deserve praise for their heroic bravery on that memorable day. It is a fact, worthy of mention here, that in all the vicissitudes of the battle, the enemy at no time took any of our pieces of artillery, and they thundered away all the time doing great execution, and sending death and dismay into the ranks of the Yankees. The scene of carnage was beyond description. Here a pile of dead and dying men, crippled and dead horses all in one heap; and over the surface of the hitherto peaceful fields, the awful surge of strife and destruction was adding victims still to the long list already slain. There was a constant struggle during the day over the enemy's batteries. Time and again, were they captured by our men, and very often retaken by the enemy. The most excited man, perhaps, on the battle field, was the Rev. Capt. REPERT, of the Virginia Grays, who claimed the honor of taking Sherman's battery. Of his brave company, nearly one hundred strong, he had only eighteen uninjured. Col. PENLETON, from Lexington, Virginia, was very busy during the day, and did much to check the advancing enemy. He is also a minister, and the inquiry among the prisoners, after the battle was, "who the devil commanded the battery on the left that killed so many of our men." The reply was, "it was a *saint*, named PENLETON. About five o'clock our anxious minds were relieved by the cessation of cannonading from the enemy's side, whilst our guns still thundered long and loud. Then we knew we had gained the day. A long line of dust towards Centreville proclaimed that the *stripes* had been plentifully administered to the Lincoln vandals, and the *stars and bars* waived triumphantly over the bloody fields of Manassas. A long line of fugitives were seen flying across the fields, and our cavalry in hot pursuit.

The history of this pursuit might well be written in words of blood, for more men were killed then and there than had fallen in all the battle before. Our infantry hurried on as rapidly as possible, while our batteries gave a parting fire in the rear. The amount of plunder thrown away in the flight, is almost incredible. Every thing that would incommode speedy travelling was thrown away. Guns, knapsacks, overcoats and canteens lay thick on their track. It is impossible to give a correct account of the full amount captured from the enemy in their hasty retreat. It is estimated that at least 12,000 stand of small arms were taken; sixty-three pieces of artillery, some of the very best of cannon; with powder enough to supply our whole army for another big battle, with an immense amount of army stores, wagons, horses, &c.

Many hundred brave Southern boys now sport splendid blue overcoats which the Yankees threw away, and had not time to call and get them again on the evening of the 21st of July. About the beginning of the retreat, Gen. Johnston gathered several hundred men from different regiments and requested Col. Thomas to take a certain position he pointed out. While nobly performing this service, this gallant officer fell pierced through the heart.



The gallant and brave Col. C. F. Fisher, of the sixth North Carolina regiment, also fell shot through the head by a minie ball while bravely leading on his regiment into the hottest of the fight. His death is believed to have been instantaneous. No one noticed his fall at the time, his brave boys fought on to the last without missing his presence, as he had taken his place as a private, gun in hand, in the beginning of the fight. His presence was missed from his regiment after the battle, and search was made for him, when his lifeless body was found as above stated.

This brave man was cut off in the beginning of his career of usefulness as a soldier, with a spirit as indomitable as it is the lot of mortal man to possess. But Col. Fisher is no more; his cold remains sleep silently in the grave yard at Salisbury, in his native State. North Carolina will be ever proud of such a son, and the friends of the South will honor the memory of the hero who sacrificed his life in his country's cause. We hope an appropriate monument will soon mark the last resting place of this intrepid patriot of the Revolution of 1861. The sixth North Carolina regiment of Col. Fisher, also suffered considerably; sixty-nine were killed and wounded. Lieut. Col. Lightfoot was slightly wounded.

The Oglethorp Light Infantry, belonging to the eighth Georgia regiment, were severely cut up. They were composed of the first young men of Savannah, and were under the command of General Bartow. The brave Bartow, while gallantly leading on his favorite regiment, and cheering his brave boys into the hottest of the fight, was shot through the heart, and fell dead from his horse. Thus perished a brave and heroic man, possessing as noble a soul as ever beached. He was a pure patriot, an able statesman, a heroic soldier, and his name and his memory will fill an immortal page in his country's history.

But it is not my purpose to pay a tribute to the memory of all those brave heroes who fell on the battle fields of their country, but merely to give a sketch as I pass on. I leave it to abler pens than mine to do them justice. Though many of our bravest men fell in this battle, yet the glorious victory gained over the enemies of our rights, and our firesides, will serve, to some extent, to mitigate their loss.

The laurels won by Southern boys on the plains of Manassas, on the 21st of July, will fill a bright page in the future history of our young Republic.

There is no earthly doubt that our army was overcome several times between the hours of 12 and 3 o'clock, but still they held on, and gained the day in spite of defeat. With all their preparation, the grand army of the enemy met certain destruction, when victory seemed to be perched upon their standard. The whole plan of attack had been accurately mapped out from Washington to Manassas, no doubt by Gen. Scott himself.

Our success can only be attributed to the hand of Providence, and the bravery of our men. One of the Yankee officers who was taken prisoner

remarked, "we broke your regiments all to pieces, yet we couldn't whip you." Our men went on fighting on their own hook, when thus broken up. The mortality on both sides was immense, but ours was small compared with that of the enemy. The returns on our side will show about 600 killed, and 2500 wounded. On the side of the enemy, 1500 were killed and left on the field, and 4500 wounded. It is supposed that a large number of killed and wounded were conveyed from the field in the beginning of the fight by the Yankees.

The artillery captured on the field, had splendid horses attached to them, caparisoned in the best style. Sixty-two of them were brought in together next morning. In the rout, however, some of the artillerists cut loose their horses, and left their cannon by the way.

Such a rout as was given to the hirelings of Abe Lincoln and Granny Scott on this glorious Sabbath day by Southern boys, is without a parallel in modern times. The whole road for miles was literally covered with blankets, hats, guns and knapsacks, dead men and horses. Several wagons were loaded with timber for the purpose of making bridges across Bull Run creek—all was left.

Few men in the grand army will ever again tread the soil of Manassas Plains, without a trepidation of heart as they reflect on the hasty retreat they made on that day from Southern boys. I may here mention one little incident which will go far to illustrate the spirit and coolness of the Southern boys on this trying occasion. A young man from one of the Southern States during the battle, found a dead rabbit; he secured his prize, and having a relish for something fresh, carried his rabbit with him through the entire chase, laying it down while loading and firing, but still taking care to pick it up again. This, and many other incidents, will hereafter be recorded in connection with the battle of Manassas Plains.

This battle ground is near what is now called Manassas Junction, where the two Rail Roads connect, about thirty or forty miles from Washington City. The Junction was formerly called Tudor Hall, a small country Post Office, but lately a considerable village has grown up there, and since the great battle, it has been improving very rapidly. Gen. Johnston, the hero of the battle of Manassas, now resides in this place. He has built a splendid residence for himself and family, and done much to improve the place. To look around and see the improvements going on, one would think that peace reigned in this country, but the heavy roar of cannon in the distance, and implements of destruction that are placed near, soon warn you that a mighty strife is still going on.

The Plains of Manassas have become classic in the history of our country; here a mighty battle was fought, and a glorious victory gained by Southern arms. Many strangers have visited this field of strife since the 21st of July, 1861. The awful destruction is plainly to be seen yet—heaps of dead horses

are still lying there with the flesh on their bones, as no buzzard, or any carion birds have ever been seen on this battle ground since the battle. This is certified to be a fact by all who have visited the place since the battle. I have never heard of any bird being seen there since except one blue bird.—Various reasons have been assigned for the absence of these birds, but perhaps the smell of powder was so strong, for some time after the battle, as to frighten them entirely away. This portion of Virginia had been settled many years previous, and was in a high state of cultivation in many places, but it presents nothing now but desolation and ruin. The fertile farms are now a barren waste—the happy homes deserted—the fences all broken down, and in many places, the rails burned up.

The scenes around Manassas present to us the awful calamity of war. Many of our brave friends now sleep on those plains—that sleep which knows no waking in time. I stop here and wait for some one better prepared to give a more full account of this great battle. It will be known in future as the second Waterloo, fought, not for conquest, but only in defence of our rights on our own soil. Manassas Plains is destined, in all time to come, to be as famous in history as Bunker's Hill, Yorktown, or New Orleans. Some of the heroic patriots, who fought so bravely in those great battles, had sons and grandsons at Manassas on the 21st of July, 1861. The whole particulars of this battle will form a large book of history, when all shall have been known; and should we ever be so fortunate as to get a correct account on the part of the enemy, it will show, no doubt, some amusing incidents of Yankee traveling, from a scene of danger to the city of refuge.



## BATTLE OF OAK HILL OR SPRINGFIELD, MO.

This hard fought battle took place near Springfield, in the Southern portion of Missouri, in Greene county.

The Confederate forces were commanded by Gen. Ben. McCulloh and Gen. Price. The Federal troops by General Lyons and Gen. Siegle. Gen. Lyons attacked our encampment on the morning of the 19th of August, at break of day, with 14000 men and 18 pieces of heavy artillery, having received large reinforcements within a few days previous. The attack was made simultaneously at four different points, Gen. Lyon on the West, Gen. Siegle on the South, and Gen. Sturgis on the North, and another column on the East, commanded by Gen. Swceney.

Our troops were taken somewhat by surprise, but in hot haste formed for battle. The forces engaged were about equal on both sides, but the enemy had largely the advantage in position and artillery. The awful harvest of death now commenced. The cannonading was most terrible and the slaughter on both sides immense. In quick succession our host marshalled for the

dreadful conflict, and bared their breasts to the storms of battle. The Louisianians, Texans, Arkansians and Missourians rivaled each other on this great and bloody day. For six long hours the palm of victory remained undecided. Seven times was Lyon repulsed from the Western heights by the Missouri and Arkansas troops, and seven times regained his position. Gen. Lyon had a strong force of regulars posted with Totten's battery, around his person.—The Missouri troops at the North, the Louisiana troops at the South, and Gen. Weightman's brigade of Missouri forces at the East, including his fine battery of artillery, having been victorious at each point, rallied to the heights on the West, to support Gen. Slack's division, which had borne the brunt of the fight up to this time for five or six hours unsupported.

Gen. Price and Gen. Slack were both actively engaged in gallantly urging forward the columns, when Gen. Slack was severely wounded and taken from the field. Gen. Price was also slightly wounded, but not disabled. He continued to lead his wing on most gallantly. Gen. Weightman now filed his column in on the right of Col. Hughes' State regiment, which lost a great many men in the engagement. Gen. Weightman fell here mortally wounded near Totten's battery; he was covered all over with wounds. Meanwhile, the enemy's batteries were captured by the State and Confederate forces, and routed in every direction, except on the heights West, where Gen. Lyon commanded in person, and made his last most desperate struggle. Gen. Parsons now advanced with his battery of four pieces, and poured a most terrific fire into the enemy's right, while Woodruff's Arkansas battery moved down to the left. At this important point of time, Gen. McCulloch came up and directing Gen. Slack's division to charge Totten's battery in front, and the Arkansas troops on the right flank. This was, perhaps, the most terrific storm of grape and musketry ever poured out upon the ranks of an American army. On both sides the men were mowed down like the ripe harvest before a devouring fire. The regiment of Col. Hughes' State troops, and Col. McIntosh's Arkansas regiment, suffered severely. Here Gen. Lyon was killed. Totten's battery driven from the heights, and his whole force scattered in flight. This ended the bloody strife of this memorable day. The Southrons here gained a decided victory. They held the field of battle—captured thirteen of the enemy's best cannon, carriages, ammunition, and several stand of colors, and a large quantity of good arms. Gen. Lyon's dead body was given up to his chief surgeon. The command of the enemy's forces now devolved on Gen. Siegel, and he commenced a retreat towards Springfield, hotly pursued by the Confederates. He made no delay at Springfield, but passed on at full speed, and left the Confederates in possession of the battle field and town, with all the booty.

This was one of the bloodiest battles of the campaign. Our troops were surprised by treachery, and hurried into the fight unprepared. But they rallied to the call of McCulloch and Price, and fought with a desperation that

knows no defeat. The loss on our side was heavy, but nothing in comparison to that of the enemy.

Gen. Ben. McCulloch, the hero of this bloody battle, is a native of North Carolina; he was born in Halifax county, where many of his relatives still reside. He emigrated to the West when quite a young man, and there among the dangers and vicissitudes of a pioneer life, he has become a noted warrior. Spending a great part of his life in the wild woods of Texas among the Indians, he has seen many a hard fight as a ranger. The war hoop of the savages has no terror for him. When this unholy war broke out, he marched to the rescue of his Country in Missouri, and met General Lyon at Springfield on the 10th of August, 1861, and defeated him, and gained one of the greatest victories on record. Though the Confederates gained the day in this battle, yet, it was a dear bought victory, many brave Southern patriots falling in defence of their rights. The State of Missouri had been overrun by the vandals, her peaceful citizens insulted—their homes desecrated, and their property destroyed by their enemies. But they met their foes face to face at Springfield, determined to avenge their wrongs. The memorable day will tell to future ages how nobly they discharged their duty. Many of the brave sons of Arkansas and Texas fell there, and gave their lives a sacrifice in defence of Missouri. But many of the enemy, who marched proudly there for conquest and to trample upon the rights of freemen, were doomed to meet a bloody death at Springfield.

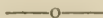
Gen. Lyon fought in this battle with desperate valor, and was killed while making a third heroic effort to rally his men. He met a better fate than he deserved in thus falling on a field of battle. He was the pet of the Lincoln dynasty in Missouri, and had plotted assassination and butchery upon women and children, it is said. If true, he deserved torture, and a more lingering and shameful death. The retreat of the Federals after his death, through the town, was at the point of the bayonet—the pursuers walking on dead bodies the whole length of the street.

The enemy continued their retreat in great haste—making a march of thirty-three miles during the night—they were pursued by Texas and Arkansas Cavalry for a great distance, mowing them down as they went. McCulloch and Price displayed all the energies of great officers in this engagement. They were seconded by as brave men as ever fought for freedom. Their army was composed of brave Missourians, who had already felt the hand of despotism, and they sustained the heaviest loss in the battle. The Arkansas and Texas troops were composed of the most wealthy citizens of these States,—men worth thousands of dollars had not a change of clothes or a single cent in their pockets, who had gone forth to crush despotism, and to assert the freedom of white men on their own soil.

The forces on both sides were about equal in numbers, about 14,000 men. The battle lasted about six hours, and the enemy was repulsed and driven

from the field with the loss of six pieces of artillery, several hundred stand of small arms, 800 killed, 1000 wounded, and 300 taken prisoners, with the loss of several prominent officers. Our loss was 265 killed, 800 wounded, and thirty missing.

I can only give an imperfect sketch of this great battle. There can be no doubt, but it was a bloody one, and that the Southerners fought with desperation and gained day. But the full particulars will come to light at some future day. Oak Hill, near Springfield, will be associated with the names of the heroes who fell there in defence of their homes and property.



### CAPTURE OF CAPE HATTERAS, N. C.

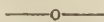
A fleet of 15 vessels sailed from Old Point on the 26th of August, 1861, with about 12,000 Yankees on board, and arrived in Hatteras Inlet on the 27th, and commenced the bombardment of the two forts, Hatteras and Clark, that had been hastily thrown up by the Confederates for the defence of the place. Hatteras Inlet is situated on what is called the North Banks, six miles South of Cape Hatteras and about eighteen miles North of Ocracoke Inlet. Hatteras, which is connected with Hyde county, though separated from it by Pamlico Sound, and is thirty miles distant by water from Washington, N. C., and about the same distance from Newbern. At the time the Federal fleet arrived in Hatteras, Col. Martin had just taken the command, Major Andrews, of Goldsboro', commanding the Batteries. The Forts had only twelve Guns badly mounted, eight at Fort Hatteras and four at Fort Clark. The Guns were very badly mounted and incapable of being managed to any advantage. At the time of the attack only a few men were stationed there. Col. Martin dispatched a messenger to Beacon Island for four other companies of his command, which arrived on Wednesday evening. The Washington Grays, Capt. Sparrow; the Tar River Boys, Capt. Johnston; and the Hertford Light Infantry, Capt. Sharp. With this small force the commanders determined to give the enemy battle, though their works were known to be in a poor condition for defence, but they were determined to defend it to the last extremity. The attack commenced about 9 o'clock, and continued until sun down, with most terrific fury, our little Batteries gallantly replying to their fire all day. At night, the fleet seemed to haul off, but the bombardment was renewed with ten-fold vigor next morning at 8 o'clock. Every means of defence for our men was soon demolished.

The guns of the enemy hurled shell and shot in the very midst of our men, but still our brave boys returned the fire as best they could.

All possibility of retreat was cut off on Wednesday night by the landing of twelve or 1500 men about a mile north of the forts, which cut off all hope of escape for our men by way of the Banks. The superiority of the enemy's

guns enabled them to keep out of the reach of our guns. The little steamer, *General Hill*, had arrived with ammunition and a few additional men, but it was too late to afford relief to our men, as the guns were entirely too small to reach the enemy at the distance they stood off. On Wednesday the damage done to our force was small, but on Thursday it was severe. The firing continued until 11 o'clock, when our brave boys were compelled to surrender Fort Hatteras—Fort Clark had previously been taken. The loss on our side was seven killed and twenty-eight wounded—Lieuts. Murdock and Knight were wounded and carried away on Wednesday, and a few others escaped also. About 850 men were taken prisoners, with many of our best officers, Commodore Barrow, Cols. Buford, Martin and Johnston, Majors Andrews and Gilliam. Many of the brave officers and men taken prisoners in this engagement were the first young men in the Eastern counties of North Carolina, and their loss is severely lamented by many friends in their native State. The Yankee forces, in this engagement, were under the command of the famous Picayune Butler, of yankee celebrity; and great rejoicing was had in the North at his first victory in capturing these forts on the coast of North Carolina. The wounded soldiers on our side reported that about 11 o'clock our magazines were exploded by a shell from the enemy, which scattered death and destruction all around. It is to this unfortunate casualty that the capture of the fort is attributed.

The unfinished condition of the forts, and the guns being too small to reach the enemy, were great disadvantages to our side. It was not a want of bravery in our men, nor lack of skill in the officers in command, that this unfortunate affair took place. Cape Hatteras is still in possession of the Federals, and a Yankee force is still stationed there, and no doubt have a most unpleasant situation, as they are cut off entirely from the main land, and situated on a dreary barren spot composed chiefly of sand. The north wind sweeps across the Island with a fury and keenness in winter that no garments will afford adequate protection from. During the summer months the musquitoes abound with a blood thirsty spirit that gives no peace to those who are compelled to stay there. The greatest difficulty to surmount is the want of fresh water, so important for drinking and culinary purposes—every drop our troops used was carried from Newbern. So the Yankees have not gained much by taking Cape Hatteras. Some of the prisoners taken have since been released and sent home.



## BATTLE OF LEXINGTON, MISSOURI.

The battle of Lexington, Missouri, was a glorious victory on our side. According to the account given by the enemy, they lost in killed and wounded and taken prisoners 3,500 men, with 3000 horses, arms, artillery, ammuni-

tion and camp equipage to an immense amount. This was the second great battle in Missouri, in which the Confederates were victorious after a hard struggle. The City of Lexington is about 120 miles from Jefferson City, situated on a high bluff on the South side of the Missouri River, and contains about 12,000 inhabitants, and was well fortified and in possession of a Federal force commanded by Gen. Mulligan. The siege commenced on the 14th of September, 1861, by General Price, commander of the Confederate force. General Price informed Gen. Mulligan, the commander of the Yankee works, that he would give him until the 16th, in the afternoon, to surrender the town and works or take the alternate of battle. The first, he refused to do, and was compelled to accept the latter.

The Yankee force consisted of 8,500 men, Col. Mulligan's Irish Brigade from Chicago, Illinois, Col. Marshal's Cavalry; Col. Peabody's, Major Beck's, and other Regiments from Illinois. The officers of these regiments were men of great military experience; several of them were graduates of West Point, and had under their command a splendid army of well disciplined men. The siege continued fifty-nine hours, and the enemy were without water, with only three barrels of vinegar to allay their thirst. Their breast work extended nearly around their camp, but a portion next to the river was left open. It was here the hardest fighting took place. The Confederates finding this place to be open, procured a large number of hemp bales and rolled them in advance of them, and under this cover, gradually secured this space, and thus got in the rear of the enemy, cutting off their water, and completely surrounding them. Thus Gen. Mulligan, with all his strong fortifications, was forced to surrender. But previous to the surrender, he proposed to General Price to take a position on a level, in open ground, and take a fair fight. This offer, General Price refused to accept, and forced him to surrender. The Confederate loss was small in comparison to that of the enemy, though it was a hard-fought battle. They were compelled to make the attack without anything to protect them. An immense amount of gold, about \$250,000, fell into the hands of the Confederates. It had been taken from the Bank and buried in the camp ground by order of Gen. Mulligan. The Confederates soon found its burial place and raised it.

It is said that Mulligan wept like a child when he found himself compelled to surrender his grand army with all their valuable stores and camp equipage. The morning after the surrender, the men were all ferried over the river and released on parole, but the officers were retained as prisoners. The first regiment of Illinois Cavalry were badly cut up—their horses and all their arms were retained by Gen. Price. This was a hard-fought battle. The brave Missourians led on by the intrepid Price, when they mounted the breast works, mad with joy, soon gave the invaders to know that Liberty or death was their motto.

The name of this, the second battle of Lexington, fought for Liberty, will



remain on the pages of future history, as one among the greatest battles in this Revolution. The name of Price and his heroic followers, will stand side by side with the long list of patriotic heroes, who have enlisted in the glorious cause of defending their homes from the invasion of the vandal hirlings of a corrupt and wicked government. The brave sons of Missouri and Arkansas, that now sleep the long sleep of death on that glorious field of strife, will be remembered by their comrades and friends for their brave deeds of self-sacrifice, and fame will record the name of Price, and his gallant followers, high on its grand pages, among the many noble patriots, who have won laurels of undying glory in the cause of Southern Independence.



### BATTLE OF LEESBURG, VIRGINIA, FOUGHT OCTOBER 21st, 1861.

This was undoubtedly the great battle of the campaign. Bethel, Manassas, Springfield, Lexington and others, were great; but in some particulars, Leesburg outstrips them all. This action was hotly contested, for a whole day, against fearful odds in favor of the enemy. Another superior advantage the enemy had, it was fought on our side without the aid of artillery and without any entrenchments, while they had both these advantages. Much is due to the skill of Gen. Evans, the commander, and consummate daring and bravery of our men.

A report reached Gen. Evans on Monday morning, that the enemy, in large force, were crossing the river at Edward's Ferry. The 13th Mississippi Regiment was sent down from Leesburg to keep them in check, and our General believing that the heaviest portion of the enemy's forces would cross at that point, also sent the 18th Mississippi regiment there. It turned out, however, that another place was chosen some two miles higher up the river, where the channel is from 175 to 200 yards wide and not fordable.

The enemy, however, crossed in skiffs and flat boats, and the first engagement in this great battle commenced here between the 8th Virginia regiment and the advanced columns of the enemy. The skirmishing was very sharp for some time, and the 18th Mississippi hearing the firing, marched in double quick time to the scene of action, the 13th still remaining at the ferry.

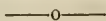
The grand and closing fight of the day took place about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the enemy made a desperate stand on the river. In a clear space, between two growths of thick forests, our three regiments, the 8th Virginia, and 17th and 18th Mississippi had the enemy partially surrounded, forming a kind of semi-circle trap, from which the victim had no way of escape, except by the river, or through the woods, on the right and left. The latter alternative was adopted by some, who were afterwards captured. The fighting now became terrible. The contending forces were in close proximity to each other and engaged hand to hand in the deadly strife.

Not only bullets and bayonets were used, but also bowie knives, with fearful effect upon the enemy. The latter finding they were overpowered, made an effort to reach their boats, which many succeeded in doing, but the rush was so great that several boats were sunk, and the panic-stricken Yankees, in large numbers, found a watery grave. They only escaped the deadly weapons of the heroic Southern boys, who were defending their rights, and their homes from invasion, to sink beneath the waves of the river. We have no means of ascertaining how many reached the Island, but we know that hundreds failed in the attempt. Those who were left on shore, laid down their arms and surrendered, and thus terminated the bloody battle of Leesburg.—The entire casualty on our side is given by General Beauregard to President Davis, based on Gen. Evans' report, which states our loss to be 27 killed and 120 wounded. The Federal loss is set down by the same high authority, to be 1200 killed, wounded and captured.

The fighting on our side is described as being terrific. In the thickest of the fight, the Mississippi troops, throwing aside their muskets, knapsacks, and even hats, charged upon the Yankees with their bowie knives, making the attack with yells of rage and excitement. The enemy made two distinct attacks upon our lines. At one time in the action, for the space of about twenty minutes, the battle raged with the two opposing forces within thirty feet of each other. The enemy attempted to reach us with their bayonets at two different times. But each time they were held in check by the steady fire of our troops. When our turn came to charge bayonets, they rushed upon the enemy with a fury that swept them into the most indescribable disorder, and panic-stricken, they fled in the utmost confusion. Gen. Evans and his brave troops have added another brilliant victory on Virginia's soil. The Yankees have been unsuccessful in every attempt along the Potomac. At Bethel, Manassas and Leesburg, they have met with signal defeat, and thus far gained nothing towards putting down rebellion in the old Dominion. It is true, they have been victorious in some small skirmishes in Western Virginia, but there too, they are held now by the Confederates from advancing.

Gen. Winfield Scott finding his native State too noble to submit to the will of such a truant son, after the warm reception they gave him on the plains of Manassas on the 21st of July, resigned his Commission as Commander, and Gen. McClellan is now commander.

Gen. Scott will never again be owned by Virginia as her son—his name and his memory will be held in disgrace by all true Southern men to the latest ages of posterity in the Confederate States of North America.



## BATTLE OF PORT ROYAL, SOUTH CAROLINA.

The capture of Port Royal, S. C., by a large Federal fleet, commanded by Commodore Dupont, took place on the 7th of November, 1861. A large fleet, consisting of thirty-six steamers, appeared in sight of the fort, and commenc-

ed moving slowly towards our batteries on Thursday morning, about 8 o'clock. The long roll was immediately beat, and in three minutes every man was at his post. One of the largest steamers, supposed to be the Minnesota, was rapidly steaming in, followed by three other smaller ones. When within full range, and nearly abreast our batteries, the order was given to open fire with our 32 pounder Rifle Gun. Unfortunately, the shell exploded within a hundred yards of the beach, and did no damage to the enemy. A heavy fire was then opened with our heaviest guns. The steamers returned the fire briskly, and the engagement now became general. The light breeze blowing on shore at the time, was favorable to the fleet; the smoke from their guns being driven directly in the face of our troops in the battery, at Fort Walker. The huge volume of smoke thus poured forth, at times, completely concealed the near approach of the vessels from the view of our men in the forts. The manœuvring of the vessels was admitted by some of our best naval officers to have been grandly executed. As quickly as our batteries obtained the range of the enemy's vessels to bear effectually on them, they changed their position, and our artillerist were compelled to get the range of their guns by practice again. About half past nine, the entire fleet was observed to move slowly, and in a few minutes, ten or twelve of the largest of the fleet had opened fire on both Fort Walker and Beauregard, delivering their broadsides alternately.

The firing on both forts was very heavy, with one continued shower of shell and shot falling into the Forts and knocking down men in every direction. Some have estimated that as many as fifty shells burst inside the fort in a minute. But unfortunately for our men, at an early period in the action, the large ten inched columbiad, in Fort Walker, became altogether unmanageable, and could not be used again during the action. The storm of iron hail that came hissing through the air from the fleet, after this accident, is beyond description. Providentially, however, up to 12 o'clock, not a man, on our side, had been killed, though many hair-breadth escapes had been noticed. But against such fearful odds, it was plain that our brave men in the Forts, could not hold out. The enemy had largely the advantage in heavy guns, and were rapidly closing in upon us. Our brave Southern heroes fought with desperate bravery, but the shells and shot began to mow down their comrades on every side. The vessels were closing in on all sides with superior guns and vast numbers. Our guns and works were both severely damaged, and there was no other alternative but to retreat. But when the order was given, the heroes were unwilling to give it up, and many endeavored to secure their small arms, which had been buried in the sand during the action. A positive order was given to leave them behind, some sixty or seventy, however, were brought away.

There were 217 men in the forts, of whom 130 belonged to the German Artillery of Charleston. There was eleven killed and fifteen wounded inside

the fort, ten of the former and eleven of the latter belonged to the German Artillery. The total loss on our side was 100 men killed and wounded. Colonel Werner of Charleston, was commander of the Forts in this severe engagement.

Gen. Ripley arrived about 10 o'clock, and took the command. Commodore Tatnall's fleet was present, aiding to the full extent of its powers, and all are loud in praising the daring of its heroic commander. The Lincoln fleet was under the command of S. F. Dupont, flag officer, and he had a very large fleet of War Steamers, well supplied with men and heavy guns, which played so severely on the Forts with shot and shell, as to force our gallant little band to leave their batteries after a heroic defence, and abandon them to the enemy.

The troops were withdrawn by their brave commanders, to await the landing of the invaders, as there was no possible chance of holding it any longer. Port Royal is about 75 miles South-west of Charleston, on the sea shore, and at the time of its attack was poorly fortified, and was neither supplied with men nor guns sufficient for its defence. The heroic little band stationed there, fought with all the bravery and skill human nature is capable of displaying, but were overpowered by a superior force, and compelled to give up.

The enemy in capturing this place got a considerable supply of army stores, cotton, negroes and other property, amounting, in value, to a large sum of money. This large fleet was sent out South for the express purpose, no doubt, of capturing our strongest forts. But a terrible storm, at sea, soon after they sailed, scattered this great armada and wrecked some of their vessels. One large vessel, belonging to this grand armada, ran ashore on the coast of North Carolina, and all the Yankees on board were taken prisoners by Col. Z. B. Vance's regiment. Thus, it seems, the hand of Providence was against the invaders in this grand enterprize.

The invaders still have possession of Port Royal, and several small skirmishes have since taken place between them and the Confederate troops stationed near, to watch their movements. Port Royal was considered by the enemy, no doubt, as a weak place, which was the reason of the attack at that point.

They passed by Charleston and captured this small port just because it was poorly fortified. But they have not gained much ground in South Carolina by this conquest. To read the glowing accounts in the Northern reports of Commodore Dupont's conquest, one would suppose he had got possession of the entire coast. But this was a dear bought victory to the Yankees, and to hold possession of it long, will be equally as costly to the Lincoln dynasty at Washington.

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### BATTLE OF BELMONT, NEAR COLUMBUS, KY.

This, the first great battle in Kentucky for freedom, took place on the 7th of November, 1861. The State of Kentucky had not seceded from the fed-

eral Union, but maintained that she could occupy a kind of neutral ground and take neither side, as she was a border State, her citizens believing that she would be made the battle ground between the two contending parties. Many of the people of Kentucky were with the South in sympathy, but stood back dreading the fatal consequences to their State. The President of the United States warned them in his message that he would not acknowledge a state of neutrality. The Governor of the State had forbid either party from invading his State. But President Lincoln, regardless of this, invaded the State to keep down rebellion. The citizens resisted, and here the great struggle begun.—The State and Confederate forces were under the command of Gen. Leonidas Polk, and met the invaders at Columbus, commanded by Gen. Grant.

A bloody battle ensued. There can be no doubt but the best troops of Lincoln's army in the West, were in this great fight. General Polk commanded as noble a body of Kentucky soldiers as ever marched to the battle field. The Kentucky boys have achieved the soldiers highest fame in all the great battles of the past in our country. The loss of the enemy is estimated at 258 killed and left on the field; carried 100 away on boats, 150 killed on the boats as they were embarking, making a total killed 578. About 100 prisoners were taken, with a large number wounded and taken to the hospital. An incident of heroic conduct is related in connection with the first heavy charge that our columns made upon the enemy. When the two opposing columns were face to face, Col. Walker's regiment was opposed to the 7th Iowa regiment, David Volner, a private in Walker's regiment, told a comrade he intended to capture the stars and stripes from the enemy, or die in the attempt. As the two columns came near each other, young Volner and a man by the name of Lynch, both rushed for the colors. Volner grasped it first and waived it over his head in triumph. At this moment he and Lynch were both shot dead. Capt. Armstrong now rushed forward to secure the prize, and fell dead also grasping it. The colors were secured, but three brave Kentuckians lost their lives in the attempt. Our loss in this great battle was small, and we gained a decided victory. The enemy fled from the field, and rushed for their boats. Our men pursued them about two miles, but were ordered back when they gained their boats.

An officer was detached with 80 men to scour the woods and pick up the wounded. That officer reported that he found none but Federal's; but they were in such numbers that he could only take back a few, and return again for others. In one corn field the dead and wounded lay thick as stumps in a new field. Some think this field contained as many as 200 men dead and wounded. They were most of the 6th Iowa regiment. The Lieut. Colonel and three captains were killed. Thus the vandals met a signal defeat in their first attempt to subjugate the noble State of Kentucky.

## SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

IT MAY be interesting to many to have a short sketch of the life of President Davis, as he is now elected President of the Confederate States for six years: a high position that he will no doubt fill with distinction, as his life has been one distinguished both as a soldier and a statesman.

Few men have led a life more filled with stirring or eventful incidents than Jefferson Davis. He was born in the State of Kentucky in the year 1806.— His father removed to Mississippi, then a Territory, when Jefferson was quite a youth, and was trained up a pioneer in the wilds of that savage region. Jefferson was appointed by President Monroe a cadet at West Point in 1822. He graduated with first honors in 1828, as brevet second lieutenant, and by his own request, was placed in active service, being assigned to the command of Col. Zachary Taylor, who was stationed at West Point. Col. Taylor was soon called to the West, and in the frontier wars of that time, young Davis distinguished himself in so marked a manner that when a new regiment of dragoons was formed, he at once obtained a commission as first lieutenant, as a reward for his bravery.

During this time a romantic attachment sprang up between him and his prisoner, the famous chief, Black Hawk, in which the latter forgot his animosity to the United States in his admiration of Lieutenant Davis; and not until the death of the chief, was the bond of amity severed between these two brave men. In 1835, Jefferson Davis settled quietly down upon a cotton plantation in Mississippi, and forsook the dangerous life of a soldier to become a farmer, and married a daughter of Gen. Zachary Taylor. He then devoted himself to a systematic course of political and scientific training, and soon became a noted politician. In 1843, he took the stump for James K. Polk in Mississippi, and in 1845 having attracted no little attention in his own State by his ability, was elected to Congress.

Ten days after he took his seat in Congress, he made his first great speech before that distinguished body of statesmen. But soon the Mexican war broke out, and a regiment of volunteers having been formed in Mississippi, he was chosen Colonel. He resigned his seat in Congress, and instantly repaired with his command to join the brigade of Gen. Taylor. At Monterey and Buena Vista, Col. Davis and his noble regiment achieved the soldiers highest fame. Twice by his coolness and bravery, he saved the day at Buena Vista. Wherever the fire was the hottest, or the dangers the greatest, there Col. Davis and the Mississippi rifles were to be found. He was badly wounded in the early part of the action at Buena Vista, but sat on his horse steadily, till the day was won, and refused to leave the field till all was safe. He served with great distinction through all the bloody scenes of Mexico, and returned home only when peace was made, covered with laurels.

In 1848, he was appointed to fill the vacancy in the U. S. Senate occasioned by the death of Gen. Speight, and in 1850, he was elected to that body almost unanimously for the term of six years. In 1851, he resigned his seat in the Senate to become the States' Rights candidate for Governor, but was defeated by Governor Foote. In 1852, he was called to a seat in the Cabinet of President Pierce, and was Secretary of War during his administration. In 1857, he was again elected to the United States Senate from Mississippi for six years, which office he held until his resignation on the secession of his State from the Union.

Personally, President Davis is the last man who would be selected for what has been called a Southern "fire eater." He is a pleasant, quiet looking man, with a precise manner and soldierly carriage, which is somewhat forbidding to a stranger at first sight. But he is naturally a man of genial temper, and pleasant disposition.

His social qualities will endear him to all who associate with him. As a public speaker, he is clear, forcible and argumentative; his voice is clear and firm without tremor, and, at times, when warmed up in debate, he is very eloquent. He is a man every way fitted for the distinguished station he now occupies. When the Southern States seceded from the old Union in February, 1861, he was appointed by a Convention of delegates as a Provisional President for one year only. He filled this high position with such ability, that he gave entire satisfaction to all parties, and on the 5th day of November, 1861, he was unanimously elected by the people without opposition, President of the Confederate States for six years, according to the Constitution adopted by these States. No man, since the days of the great Washington, has been so highly honored as Jefferson Davis, as to be elected to this high office without opposition. President Davis has a fame as extensive as the pages of history can spread over the civilized world as a soldier. His name as a statesman is soon destined to become a household word in every land, wherever the name of the Confederate States are known. Our young Republic is now enrolled among the nations of the earth as a government, and the name of Jefferson Davis will ever stand as the first President of the Republic. Mr. Davis, with his Cabinet, now reside in Richmond, Virginia, where Congress holds its sessions. Richmond will, perhaps, be the permanent seat of government for the Confederate States.

No doubt Gen. Scott confidently expected, when he made his grand attack at Manassas, to march right through to Richmond, and take President Davis a prisoner, and thus end the rebellion; but old "fuss and feathers" met with a dreadful defeat on the 21st of July, and never saw Richmond. He has resigned his commission in disgrace, and Jefferson Davis still remains in the Presidential chair in Richmond.

## HON. A. H. STEPHENS.

As I have given a short sketch of the life President Davis, I will also mention a few particulars concerning one associated with him in the administration of our national affairs. The Hon. Alexander Hamilton Stephens, Vice President elect of the Confederate States, is a native of Georgia. This distinguished gentleman has long been known throughout the old Union as one of the most prominent Southern politicians and eloquent orators.

His father, Andrew B. Stephens, was a planter of moderate means, and his mother was a sister to the famous compiler of *Grier's Almanac*. She died when Alexander was an infant, leaving him with four brothers and one sister, of whom only one brother now survives. Hon. A. H. Stephens was born in February, 1812. When in his 14th year, his father died, and the old homestead being sold, his share of the entire estate was about five hundred dollars. Assisted by friends, he entered the University of Georgia in 1828, and in 1832 graduated at the head of his class. In 1834, he commenced the study of the law, and in less than 12 months was engaged in one of the most important suits of the State.

His eloquence has ever had a powerful effect upon juries, enforcing as it does arguments of admirable simplicity and legal weight. From 1837 to 1840, he was a member of the Georgia Legislature. In 1843, he was elected to Congress. He was a champion of the great Whig party in the days of Clay and Webster; but since its dissolution, he has acted with the friends of the South, and such has been the upright and patriotic policy he has pursued, that no one in the present era of faction, has dared to whisper an acquisition against him. He has filled the Vice President's chair ever since the establishment of our government, and had the distinctive honor to be elected on the same ticket with President Davis for six years in November last.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Stephens served on many important committees. He effected the passage of the Kansas Nebraska bill through the house at a time when its warmest friends despaired of success. By his patriotic course in the Congress of the United States, in times gone by, he excited the ire of many Southern men, but he has always succeeded in coming out with flying colors; and his recent election to the second office within the gift of the Southern people, is a mark of respect of their profound regard for him as a man and a statesman. Mr. Stevens is one of the most distinguished orators of the present day, though he does not look like one who can command the attention of an audience on any topic. His health, from childhood, has been very feeble, being afflicted with a liver disease which gives him the appearance of a consumptive, though his lungs are sound.

Mr. Stephens has never weighed over 96 pounds in his life, and to see his dwarf-like figure bent over his desk, you would never suppose him to be the John Randolph of the present day, more dreaded as an adversary, or prized



as an ally in debate than any man, perhaps, of the times. When speaking, he has at first a shrill, sharp voice, but as he warms up with his subject, the clear tones and powerful sentences roll out with a sonorousness that finds its way to every corner of an immense hall. He is witty, rhetorical and solid, and has a dash of keen satire that puts an edge on every speech to his adversaries. He is a careful student; but no trace of study is perceptible while speaking. He dashes along in a flow of facts and arguments in such eloquent language, that it almost bewilders common minds. He possesses an host of warm friends who are proud of his regard, his enlightened christian virtue and inflexible integrity of character.

Such is a brief sketch of the life and character of Alexander H. Stephens, the Vice President elect of the Southern Confederacy. The selection of such men as Jefferson Davis, for President, and Alexander H. Stephens, for Vice President of the Confederate States of America, will go far towards the accomplishment of this great end. Jefferson Davis is a statesman of great power, combining in a high degree the various qualifications necessary for his new position. He is a statesman efficient in action, cool in judgment, firm in purpose, and conscientious in his opinion. He is by no means the fire-eater he has been represented to be, in the Northern press. As a military man, he has no equal in our country, and we are not sure that he has any superior for the first office in the gift of any people on this continent. The mild, but firm course pursued by these great statesmen, since the establishment of the Southern Confederacy, has given entire satisfaction to the people comprising this great Republic. I have only given a few particulars concerning the career of these great statesmen. They will occupy an important place in the future history of our nation.

With such patriotic statesmen as Davis and Stephens, at the head of our government, we have nothing to fear on their part. With such a military chieftain as Jefferson Davis, to command the grand army of the South, and lead them on to victory, Abraham Lincoln can never conquer. Davis has seen too many bloody fields of strife to be frightened by the boasting hirelings of the Lincoln dynasty. When the South is conquered, Davis and two thirds of the freemen of these Confederate States will have filled a soldier's bloody grave; and the sun of liberty shall have forever set in the sunny land of the South.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

I have now given my readers a short sketch of some of the mighty events which have taken place in our Country during the memorable year, 1861. These sketches are short and imperfect, but I hope they contain many facts that are not generally known by our own countrymen. I did not expect to make anything worthy of the name of a book of history, but merely to collect a few facts and put them together as a book of reference. Perhaps very few are aware how difficult it is to collect much that can be relied on, as true,

concerning these great battles, which have so lately taken place in our Country. There are so many different accounts given by different persons—one contradicting another. It is almost impossible for two persons to see anything just alike. Time alone will reveal the facts. That the battles of 1861, were great, no one will deny. The Southerners gained some of the most signal victories of modern times. The justice of our cause gave our troops a daring spirit of bravery, that never surrenders while life remains.

The hand of an overruling Providence was with us in our struggle, and whenever He supports a cause, no earthly power can prevail against it. The Republic of the Confederate States is now a fixed fact, and she is destined soon to take her place among the nations of the earth as a sovereign and independent government. Our Republic will shortly be recognized by European powers, if not already done.

She has sent Mason and Slidell as Ministers to the Courts of France and Great Britain, and we have every reason to believe they will be received and accredited as such at these Courts. So soon as this event takes place, our independence will be acknowledged, and the name of the Confederate States of America will be enrolled among the independent nations of the earth.

I must close these sketches with the year 1861. Should they meet the approbation of the public and prove of any value as a book of reference, on which to found a more general and correct history of our struggle, I shall begin with the year 1862, to prepare other sketches of the mighty events that may transpire during the gloomy days and bloody scenes, of it, may be, a more memorable year than the one we have just passed through.

I fondly hope, before the close of another year, our independence may be established, and peace restored to our now bleeding Country. Then shall the brave soldiers, who have gone forth to defend their rights, return to the bosom of their families and quiet homes, there to enjoy that peace and prosperity of freemen, under a wise and well regulated government. May this happy day be not far distant.

“Then welcome soldier, welcome home,  
Here’s a father’s hand to press thee—  
Here’s a mother’s heart to bless thee—  
Here’s a brother’s will to twine  
Joys fraternal close with thine;  
A wife or sister’s earnest love,  
Equalled only but by that above;  
Welcome soldier, welcome home,  
Here to spend thy days to come.”

THE END.

## A CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD

*Of some of the most important events since the 6th Nov. 1860.*

Nov. 6th.—Abraham Lincoln elected President of the United States by a sectional vote—receiving no votes in the Southern States—and every vote in the North, save three in New Jersey.

Nov. 19th.—A detachment of State troops sent to guard the Arsenal at Charleston, South Carolina.

Dec. 20th.—South Carolina passed the Ordinance of Secession by a Convention of delegates. The same day Caleb Cushing was sent by the President to South Carolina on a confidential mission.

Dec. 26th.—Major Anderson, commander of the United States troops moved all his forces from Fort Moultrie to Sumter, with his munitions of war.

Dec. 27th.—The State troops of South Carolina took possession of Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney.

1861, Jan. 9th.—The State of Mississippi passed an Ordinance of Secession.

Jan. 11th.—The State of Alabama passed an Ordinance of Secession.

Jan. 19th.—Georgia passed an Ordinance of Secession.

Jan. 25th.—Louisiana passed an Ordinance of Secession.

Jan. 31st.—The Mint and Custom House of New Orleans taken by the State troops.

Feb. 1st.—Texas Convention passed an Ordinance of Secession.

Feb. 4th.—This will ever be a memorable day in the future history of our Country. The Confederate Congress met at Montgomery, Alabama, and on the same day a peace Congress met at Washington, but failed to accomplish anything for the South.

Feb. 8th.—The States of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Louisiana, formed a Provisional Government and adopted the Constitution.

Feb. 9th.—Jefferson Davis and A. H. Stephens elected by delegates as President and Vice-President of the Confederate States.

Feb. 18th.—President Davis inaugurated at Montgomery, Alabama.

Feb. 23rd.—The people of Texas ratify the Ordinance of Secession.

March 2nd.—Texas admitted among the Confederate States.

March 4th.—Abraham Lincoln inaugurated President of the United States.

March 11th.—A permanent Constitution of the Confederate States adopted.

April 12th.—Bombardment of Fort Sumter.

April 14th.—Major Anderson evacuated Sumter by permission of General Beauregard. Also, Lincoln issued his proclamation, calling for 75,000 troops to crush the rebellion in the South.

April 17th.—Virginia Convention in secret session, passed an ordinance of Secession, subject to ratification by the people.

May 6th.—The State of Arkansas passed an Ordinance of Secession and joined the Confederacy.

May 7th.—Virginia admitted into the Confederacy.

May 20th.—The State of North Carolina passed an Ordinance of Secession and joined the Confederacy.

May 21st.—The seat of government removed from Montgomery to Richmond, Virginia.

May 24th.—The heroic Jackson shot Colonel Ellsworth of the New York Zouaves, in defence of his rights and property in his own house, at Alexandria, Virginia.

June 10th.—The great battle of Bethel, Virginia, was fought and a victory gained by the Confederates.

June 13th.—A day of fasting and prayer, by the recommendation of President Davis, in the Confederate States.

June 15th.—Gen. Joseph E. Johnston evacuated Harper's Ferry.

" 16th.—Skirmish at Vienna, Virginia.

" 18th.—Skirmish at New Creek Depot.

" 25th.—The people of Tennessee by an act of Legislature declare themselves out of the Union.

July 12th.—Skirmish at Rich Mountain, Virginia.

" 13th.—Gen. Garnett killed at Carrick's Ford, Virginia.

" 18th.—Skirmish at Searcy's Creek, Virginia.

" 18th.—Battle of Bull Run, Virginia.

" 20th.—Confederate Congress met at Richmond.

" 21st.—Grand Battle of Manassas Plains, Virginia.

" 22d.—The routed enemy continue their hasty retreat in terror through Alexandria towards Washington.

July 28th.—Day of thanksgiving in gratitude for the victory of Manassas.

Aug. 19th.—Grand Battle of Oak Hill near Springfield, Missouri, where the Yankee, Lyon, was killed.

Aug. 20th.—An act passed in Congress admitting Missouri into the Confederacy.

Aug. 27th.—Bombardment of the Forts at Hatteras Inlet on the coast of North Carolina.

Sept. 20th.—Col. Mulligan with 3,500 federal troops surrendered to Gen. Price, at Lexington, Mo., after a siege of several days.

Oct. 9th.—Battle of Santa Rosa Island.

Oct. 21st.—Great battle of Leesburg, Virginia, where Gen. Evans of the Confederates gained a great victory, and Col. Baker on the enemy's side, was slain, and nearly all his command killed or taken prisoners.

Oct. 29th.—The Federal Armada sailed from Fortress Monroe on the Southern expedition under the command of flag officer, S. F. Dupont.

Nov. 1st.—A heavy storm wrecks a large number of their vessels.

Nov. 6th.—Jefferson Davis and A. H. Stephens elected by the people President and Vice President for six years, without opposition.

Nov. 7th.—The bombardment and capture of the Forts of Port Royal, S. Carolina. Also, the battle of Belmont, near Columbus, Ky., where the Confederates under Generals Polk and Pillow, routed the enemy.

Nov. 8th.—The Confederate Ministers, Mason and Slidell, sent to represent our Government in France and England, were seized on board the British mail steamer, Trent, by Capt. Wilkes of the United States, and confined as prisoner, in Fort Warren, by order of the Lincoln government.

Nov. 9th.—Railroad bridges burned in Tennessee by the enemy.

" 15th.—Day of Fasting and Prayer appointed by the President.

" 20th.—A Provisional Government formed in Kentucky.

" 22d and 23d.—Bombardment at Pensacola, Florida.

" 25th.—Missouri admitted into the Confederacy.

Dec. 13th.—Battle of Alleghany Mountain, Virginia.

" 14th.—Great fire in Charleston, South Carolina.

" 20th.—The battle of Drainsville, Virginia.

" 21st.—Alfred Ely, member of Lincoln's Congress, taken prisoner in Virginia, was exchanged for C. J. Faulkner, of Virginia.

Dec. 29th.—A running fight near Newport, between Capt. Lynch of the Confederate Navy and several gun boats of the enemy. Capt. Lynch escaped without injury to Seawell's Point batteries.







