

mand of the Army of the Cumberland, while General Grant was in command of the forces within the military division of the Mississippi, with Sherman at Memphis, Hurlburt at Jackson, Hamilton at Corinth, Dodge at Columbus, and Curtis at Helena. The spirit of the controversy between the contending armies had become intense. President Lincoln had issued a call for 300,000 additional volunteers. By October, 1862, large numbers had been recruited and organized, and Grant had been advised by Halleck that he might expect with reasonable promptness a large addition of new levies to his command.

As early as November 15, 1862, Grant and Sherman held a council at Columbus, Kentucky, where a plan for a future campaign against Vicksburg was arranged. In pursuance of this conference General Grant moved with the troops from Grand Junction, located on the railroad from Memphis to Corinth, on Holly Springs, while Sherman with the troops under his immediate command started from Memphis to join the forces under Grant on the Tallahatchie, and Curtis was directed to threaten Grenada from his base at Helena.

Grant reached Holly Springs November 29, and Sherman arrived at the Tallahatchie three days later, where he learned that the enemy had retreated, but had not forgotten to burn the bridge at Wyatt. A bridge was necessary, and the only available material for re-building it was found in the houses constituting the village. These were rapidly torn down and from such material a new bridge was constructed, over which Sherman and his army crossed. Sherman had taken for headquarters a large timber house owned and occupied by an old farmer. In the evening after dinner, while the staff were smoking their pipes around the wood fire in the big chimney, they would amuse themselves, greatly to the annoyance of the old farmer, by calling General Sherman's attention to the value of the ceiling and roof timbers for use in the new bridge, when the farmer would exclaim: "General, you certainly would not take down your own quarters and sleep out on the lawn in the rain,— you will

all die of colds." To this Sherman would reply: "That bridge must be built if it takes the last house in the town." When Sherman was leaving, many citizens came to him demanding vouchers for the value of their destroyed houses. Sherman replied to them: "Call upon the Southern Confederacy. You let them burn the old bridge and I was forced to build another. To do this I was forced to use your houses, in exchange for which I give to you the bridge. Take good care of it; do not force me to build another." The transformation from village houses to a bridge over which an army might be crossed was so novel that on our military maps, where had been written "Wyatt," we afterwards wrote "Wyatt Bridge."

The weather at this time was unusually bad. Incessant rainstorms had rendered the roads through the alluvial bottom-lands of the Mississippi practically impassable, and the facetious cries of "By the mark twain" and of "No bottom" were often heard as cavalry and artillery frequently sank almost out of sight in the mud.

The campaign against Vicksburg by the way of the Tallahatchie did not succeed, and a new plan of campaign was then determined upon. General Sherman returned to Memphis and sent dispatches to Admiral Porter, who was then at Cairo, asking his coöperation of the river fleet against Vicksburg, and also made requisition upon the chief quartermaster at St. Louis for accommodations for the transportation of 30,000 men. These transportation facilities were promptly furnished, and on December 19, 1862, sixty-seven boats arrived at Memphis and the embarkation of troops immediately commenced. The fleet, under Admiral Porter, had arrived at Memphis the day previous, and was in readiness to coöperate fully and cheerfully with the forces under Grant in the proposed campaign for the capture of Vicksburg.

This army consisted of four divisions, commanded respectively by General Morgan L. Smith, General A. J. Smith, General George W. Morgan, and General Fred. Steele, who joined the

enemy's guns ; for although the attempt was made to carry on the work at night, the light of their fires exposed their positions as soon as they opened the boiler furnace doors.

It was at this time that the governor of one of the northwestern states made us a visit. He became the guest of General Sherman, and was entertained as became his high political station. He expressed to the General his great desire to hear the sound of a shell, and, in order to gratify his ambition, Sherman sent him under escort of Colonel Dayton to the dredge, where his curiosity to hear the whiz of a hostile shell was soon adequately satisfied, and this war governor thereupon fully and cheerfully expressed himself as quite ready to go home.

The army remained for nearly four months at Young's Point with the weather very disagreeable, and the troops, huddled together on the levee, by no means comfortable or very cheerful, although complaints were rarely ever uttered either by officers or men. There seemed to be a feeling pervading the rank and file that they were the vanguard in a campaign which would be successful, and for that reason whatever of hardship was necessary to the supreme purpose of the campaign was borne with a silent heroism which was at least grateful to General Sherman.

Some amusing incidents, however, relieved the monotony of our stay at Young's Point. It was during this time that Admiral Porter constructed a dummy gunboat from a large coal barge. This dummy was rigged up with smokestacks and sloping sides, and all were covered black with a coat of coal tar so that in the obscurity of darkness, or even of moonlight, she looked very much like an ironclad. One dark night some smoke-making combustibles were lighted below the smokestack, the dummy was pushed down the river as near the Vicksburg batteries as it was prudent to go, and was then set adrift in the middle of the steam, and floated silently and majestically down the current of the Father of Waters. As soon as this dummy was discovered the Confederate batteries one after another opened fire as she came in range, but the dummy behaved

admirably and kept steadily on her course without returning a shot. When General Pemberton saw that what he supposed was a real ironclad was likely to run his batteries, he sent a swift messenger down the river to where the ironclad *Indianola*, which had been captured by the Confederates, was being repaired, with orders to blow her up ; but when, later, the trick perpetrated by Porter with his dummy was discovered, Pemberton sent another messenger to countermand the order to destroy the *Indianola*. This messenger, however, was too late, for we heard the explosion which destroyed the *Indianola*. Not long after this event Admiral Farragut came up the river and anchored his fleet below Warrenton. Farragut was short of coal and provisions, and in order to supply him Admiral Porter loaded some barges with coal and provisions and sent them down the river as he had sent the dummy. These barges passed the Vicksburg batteries without notice and their contents were appropriated by Admiral Farragut. The next day a flag of truce was received from Vicksburg with General Cheatham in charge. After the business connected with this flag of truce had been concluded, General Cheatham remarked, "You Yanks make very good dummy gunboats and we wasted lots of powder and shot on one of them, but you must think us green if you expected to fool us a second time by the same trick. We saw your dummies last night, but we don't waste any more powder on such trash." We smiled pleasantly and bade them an affectionate good-bye, permitting them to go away in ignorance of the fact that the second lot of dummies were really engines of destruction, because they carried the sinews of war to the fleet below.

The numerous projects which were tried one after another for the purpose of reaching high ground in the rear of Vicksburg are known to everyone. One of these expeditions consisted of an endeavor to force the gunboats through the bayous up the Yazoo above Haines's Bluff, but when an effort was made to put this plan in execution it was discovered that the

speech in Illinois McClernand was said to have told his audience that "Some men were born to one walk in life, and some to another. Thank God, I [McClernand] was born a warrior insensible to fear."

The siege went on. There were so few engineering officers that Chief Engineer Captain Prime did not attempt to control the approaches, but let each brigade dig as they chose toward the enemy, remarking that they were ready enough to dig in that direction. The engineers were mostly employed in preparing gabions and sap-rollers; in building batteries and in making parallels connecting the numerous zigzags, and in mining.

During the night pickets were advanced beyond the parallels by both parties. When no officers were within hearing the pickets would indulge in a friendly truce, and it was not unusual to hear, "Johnny!" "Hello, Yank!" "Do n't shoot and I'll come out." "Come on." "Any tobacco, Johnny?" "Yes; have you any coffee, Yank?" Our men used to dry their coffee-grounds and exchange them with the "Rebs" for tobacco. "It is n't real strong, Johnny," they would say, "but it will give you some *grounds* for calling that rye drink of yours coffee." They would also exchange newspapers, and every morning we had at headquarters the Vicksburg paper of the day before. Toward the latter part of the siege these newspapers were printed on the back side of cheap wall-paper.

By the end of June the approaches were within a few feet of the enemy's ditch at several points, and General Grant then ordered preparations to be made for a general assault on the 6th of July. The ditches in the immediate vicinity of the enemy were widened and straightened, and long lines of rifle-pits were built with sand-bag embrasures for riflemen to command the enemy's parapet, so that not a man might show himself above the rebel breastworks and live.

Pemberton saw all these preparations, and fearing an assault on the 4th which he felt must be successful, surrendered on the 3d, and the Fourth of July was celebrated by the ceremony of

the surrender,— the army marching with colors flying and bands playing, while on the river the fleets from above and below, with vessels decorated with flags, sailors in holiday dress, and guns firing, were united once again.

As soon as our men were relieved from duty they made friends with their late enemy, separated into squads, and as usual commenced to boil coffee and fry hard-tack and bacon. At noon I rode inside the fortifications of Vicksburg.

The place seemed filled with a gigantic picnic; thousands of little parties were seated here and there on the ground, the "Yanks" playing the host. They were talking and laughing and telling the incidents of the siege, and comparing notes. I stopped several times to listen to some of the Confederate tales of what "You-uns" and "We-uns" did. I heard one "Reb" say, "You outgeneraled us, you did. 'T was General Starvation that outflanked us."

The fall of Vicksburg gave us Port Hudson and opened the Mississippi River from Canada to the Gulf.

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