

Article

No 1

Subject
The Georgia Campaign of 1864
Sherman's Campaign of 1864

IV Adairsville

Inches
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Patent

No 1

*Subject
of the present application of No 1
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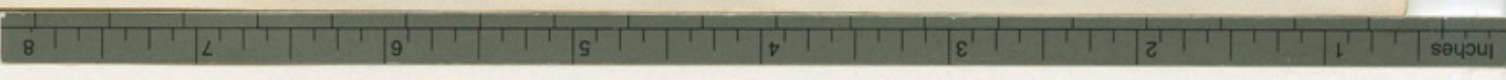
SHERMAN'S CAMPAIGN OF 1864.

IV.-ADAIRSVILLE.

It ^{not} is a little wonderful how time condenses history. It diminish-
es in its proportions like ranges of mountains ~~as you recede from~~ ^{from which you are receding.}
~~them.~~ Our great conflict is called The War, and to some extent,
especially among those concerned in it who are still living, its
actors are ^{still} known and recognized by name; yet a little observation
will show that the doings of the leaders have already faded from
the public mind. Certainly, new conflicts among the nations will
little by little drive ours more and more into obscurity.
Eventually something like ~~this~~ ^{the following} will probably be ~~the record of~~ ^{the condensation}
~~history:~~ ^{Jefferson} From 1861 to 1865 an effort was made by ~~one~~ ^{one} J. Davis
^{associated with him} and others to divide the States and form a Southern Confederacy.
War resulted, and the national government, under the leadership
of President Lincoln, aided by his general-in chief, U.S. Grant,
after a severe struggle, was victorious. Thus the national Union
was maintained.
These thoughts ^{have arisen from} ~~arose on my~~ observing the very little compass
which our next battle, Adairsville, has secured, even in the report
of our beloved chieftain, General Sherman. It is ~~less than~~ ^{but} a
paragraph, namely: "Near Adairsville we again found signs of the
rebel army, and of a purpose to fight, and about sunset of that
day (the 17th of May, 1864) General Newton's division, in the
advance, had a pretty sharp encounter with his rear-guard, but
the next morning he was gone".
^{Sherman} ~~The General~~ in his "Memoirs" ^{was} ~~is~~ not quite so brief. He ^{gave} ~~gives~~
the date as the 17th of May, and represents that our head of
column encountered the rear-guard of the Confederate army near
Adairsville and "towards evening".

IV.-ADAMSVILLE.

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 as in its proportions like ranges of mountains as you look at
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 War resulted, and the national government, under the leadership
 of President Lincoln, aided by his general-in-chief, U.S. Grant,
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 These thoughts arose on my observing the very little compass
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 of our beloved chief, General Sherman. It is less than a
 paragraph, namely: "When Adamsville we again found signs of the
 rebel army, and of a purpose to fight, and about sunset of that
 day (the 17th of May, 1862) General Newton's division, in the
 advance, had a pretty sharp encounter with his rear-guard, but
 the next morning he was gone."
 The general in his "Memoirs" is not quite so brief. He gives
 the date as the 17th of May, and remarks that our head of
 column encountered the rear-guard of the Confederates near
 Adamsville the "morning evening".



He himself was with the advance, and from the highest ground was endeavoring to catch glimpses of his enemy. The General believes that the party grouped about himself drew the ^{first} fire of an enemy's battery: "a shell passed through the group of staff-officers and burst just beyond, which scattered us promptly".

^{Event} This seems a little meagre to us who were there and more immediately engaged. Of course it was not a very ^{great battle - not a} general engagement. It began with Newton's division on our side, and doubtless with Johnston's rear-guard on his side, but considerably more than those two divisions were drawn ^{into a severe conflict} under fire before the darkness shut down upon us and stopped ^{further} ~~the~~ ^{proceedings.}

By observing the notes of General Johnston, the Confederate commander, we see that "the Southern army crossed the Oostanaula about midnight (15th - 16th of May)". It then went ^{on} to Calhoun, ^{but} seven miles distant. "The 17th it marched eight miles to Adairsville by 8 o'clock A.M.: remained there till next morning?" the 18th. This ^{was} ~~is~~ the order of events as I believed at the time, and then reported, that Johnston had taken a strong position at Adairsville, had partially intrenched ~~is~~ ^{the place}, and that his whole army was present while the ^{our evening entertainment} ~~action~~ was going on.

Adairsville was ~~only~~ a small village situated amid quite extensive cultivated fields, where wheat, corn, and cotton were ^{habitually} raised in considerable quantity. The village had at one time numbered perhaps two hundred souls. It had a manufactory of arms, machine-shops, a few stores, and at least one ^{moderate} ~~fair~~ hotel. The ground Johnston had selected from which to hold us in check, and it might ^{to} be ^{invite} a general action, was a large farm, where the ^{cotton-} gins and presses showed that cotton was the main product. ~~One writer,~~ ^{whom we met at Resaca thought,} Captain Conyngham, ~~thinks,~~ ^{the} but I do not deem the opinion well founded, that the stubborn ^{battle} ~~fight~~ made by Johnston at Adairsville



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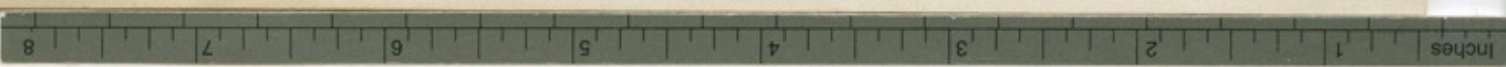


was to guard his artillery and trains that he was obliged to load upon the cars at the depot. He further ^{has} ~~gives~~ ^{given} but two corps (Hood's and Hardee's) which were deployed and intrenched against our advance. ^{He probably} ~~Probably he~~ obtained this information from the prisoners which fell into our hands, information not necessarily complete. ^{considering} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{is} always reliable.

Now that we have located the field of Adairsville with the entire Confederate force in position, in rear of that town, facing northward, ^{at least} having the infantry and artillery of Hood and Hardee in place, and, I may add, covered by a strong skirmish line, and also the ^{entire} ~~complete~~ corps of Polk in reserve, let us return to ^{turn back the dial &} ~~General~~ Sherman's army as it ^{was crossing} ~~crosses~~ the Oostanaula and see what it did and what resulted from its ^{doings} ~~doings~~.

Instantly when my report at Resaca that Newton occupied the enemy's abandoned trenches at dawn of the 16th of May reached ~~General~~ Sherman, he ordered pursuit. One division of our cavalry, under Garrard, had scouted off towards Rome, so now the infantry division of General Jeff. C. Davis was hurried down the valley, ^{Oostanaula} keeping on the right bank of the river, to support the cavalry, and, if possible, seize Rome and hold it. Two bridges were already laid and in good order at Lay's Ferry. Sweeny's division ^{have previously seen} as we ~~were~~ was across the river, so that at once McPherson began his movement, -i.e., to cross ^{over} the remainder of his command, the Sixteenth Corps, under Dodge, having the advance, and Logan with the Fifteenth ~~corps~~ following closely, and then to ^{push} ~~move~~ on southward endeavoring to overtake the retreating foe.

A few miles out, not far from Calhoun, McPherson's skirmishers encountered the Confederates. A sharp skirmish ^{sporadically} followed, in which the Second Brigade, Second Division, of Dodge's Corps, came ^{the} ~~was~~ ^{suddenly developed} under fire. In a few minutes that command had lost fifty-two men,



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Sherman's army as it crosses the Goosecreek and see what it did
and what resulted from its advance. *He further gives but two corps*
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encountered the Confederates. A sharp skirmish followed, in
which the Second Brigade, Second Division, of Dodge's Corps, came
under fire. In a few minutes that command had lost fifty-two men



and among the mortally wounded was Colonel Burke, of the Sixty-sixth Illinois. ^{our record} The colonel ^{lay on till} ^{when he died} died the next day; thus, ~~the record~~ says: "giving the sacrifice of a valuable life to his country".

Confederate Johnston did not delay long in front of McPherson, ^{he was there} and yet ^{for} sufficient time to cause McPherson to develop his lines, go into position, and get ready for action.

The ^{expected affair} ~~combat~~ did not come off. Finding the enemy gone from his front the next morning, ^{McPherson} ~~he~~ continued his movement down the river road to a point, McGuire's Cross Roads, which is about due west of Adairsville and perhaps ten or eleven miles ^{distant} ~~from that town.~~

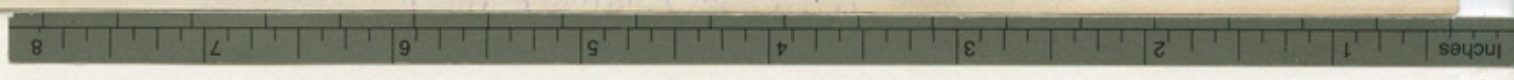
General Thomas ^{McPherson} ~~was~~ about the same time as McPherson, a little east of ~~him~~, with the Fourth and Fourteenth Corps, took up ^a ~~the~~ direct pursuit. The railroad bridge over the Oostanaula had been partly burned, but a rough floating bridge was quickly made from the timbers and planking at hand. My Corps, the Fourth, led in this pursuit, ^{just after} We also, ^{skirmish} ~~about as soon as~~ McPherson ~~was~~, began to ^{therefore} ~~skirmish~~ with Johnston's rear-guard, making, during the 16th but ~~very~~ slow progress.

A Confederate newspaper correspondent speaking of the Southern army, represented that "the Yankees followed our army closely and pressed us all day (this was ^{the same} ~~the~~ 16th), but Stewart's division has kept them at bay so far. This evening there was sharp fighting on our right, but I have not learned what it was caused from. Our present position is around Calhoun, but the chances are that we will continue our retreat to Adairsville to-morrow".

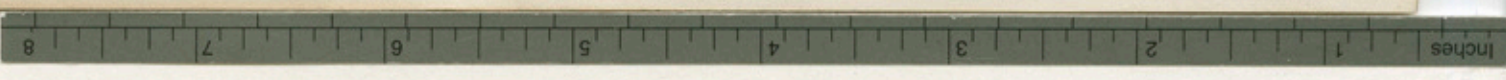
^{helps to show} This ~~shows~~ that Confederate Stewart's division constituted Johnston's rear-guard which we were so closely following.

The severe skirmish of the evening was a brief one between Stanley's division and Johnston's line at Calhoun.

Early the next day (the 17th) our column, passing the enemy's empty works at Calhoun, continued the march.



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sixth Illinois. The colonel died the next day; thus, the record
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Newton's division on the lead started at half-past five, followed by Stanley's. Newton followed the wagon-road, while Wood a little farther to the right came up abreast along the railroad. *Adairville* *It was near Newton.*

~~Our~~ progress was continually interrupted. Confederate Stewart's rear-guard ^{-division} in its checks and stops ^{both sides with} employed all arms of the service.

At intervals this rear-guard at chosen places would ^{set up & defend} form two or three barricaded lines, barricading with railroad-ties, fence-rails, logs, or poles at hand. These temporary covers were usually ^{up near} put ~~in~~ the edge of timber, so as to force us to cross an open field in their front, and we ^{were forced to} ~~would~~ encounter ^{these traps} them about every half or three-quarters of a mile. Of course this manoeuvring forced us every time to deploy at least a brigade, and also to ^{shoot &} send out a flanking force strong enough to ^{spring the trap &} take care of itself.

As we neared Adairville the resistance increased. General Wood ^{across the railway} kept extending his skirmish line and strengthening it till it abutted against the enemy's main line west of Adairville.

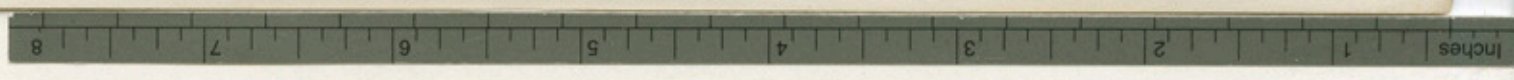
^{East of Wood} General Newton did the same, deploying farther and farther to the left ~~and~~ doubling ~~his~~ his advance line. It was four o'clock in the afternoon when Newton's men, ^{brought out} pushing into a grove of trees, ~~developed~~ ~~from~~ the Confederates ~~in~~ a heavy fire. It was a little later than this when General Sherman came up with his staff and escort and ^{to the} ~~went~~ to the highest ground. ^{riding} ~~There he~~ ^{was} was observing the field ^{with his glass} when he drew the fire of a battery.

I also ^{recall another} ~~remember~~ a little episode which occurred about this time.

The skirmishing had grown into ^{on both sides} a brisk and rapid firing just as I ^{was approaching} ~~came up to~~ General Newton and his staff. Our group so large attracted attention. A hostile battery of several guns was turned upon ^{our} ~~the~~ ground. The shells began to burst over our heads at our right and left at ^{rather for comfort} ~~very~~ close proximity. One of them disabled the horse of Colonel T.J.Morgan and put Colonel Fullerton, my adjutant-general, ^{who was mounted upon his feet} ~~also on foot~~;



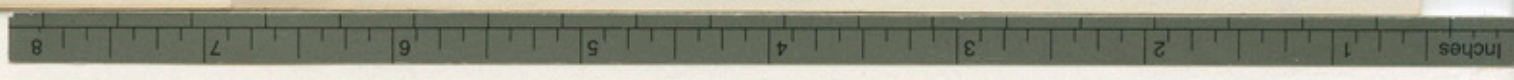
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half or three-quarters of a mile. Of course this maneuvering
forced us every time to deploy at least a brigade, and also to
send out a flanking force strong enough to take care of itself.
As we neared Abbeville the resistance increased. General Wood
kept extending his skirmish line and strengthening it till it
abated against the enemy's main line west of Abbeville.
General Newton did the same, deploying farther and farther to the
left and doubling up his advance line. It was four o'clock in the
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ed from the Confederates to a heavy fire. It was a little
later than this when General Sherman came up with his staff and
stood and rode to the highest ground, and was observing the field
when he saw the fire of a battery.
I also remember a little episode which occurred about this time.
The skirmishing had grown into a brisk and rapid firing just as I
came up to General Newton and his staff. A hostile battery of
several guns was turned upon this ground. The shells began to
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One of them disabled the horse of Colonel T. J. Morgan and put Col-
onel Feltzer, my adjutant-general, also on foot;



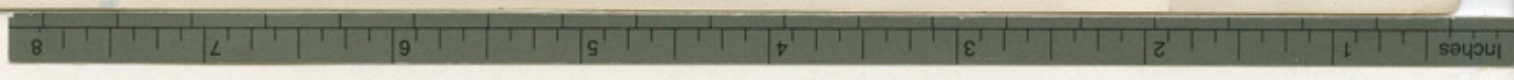
two orderlies' horses, ~~besides~~, were disabled, and ^{still} another horse belonging to the ^{headquarter} cavalry-company which was attached to headquarters was crippled. ^{One piece of} ~~the~~ shell ^{in air} slightly wounded Captain Bliss, of General Newton's staff, carrying away the badge of rank from his shoulder. ^{It} It being now evident, as there was fighting along the front of two divisions, - that is, along their skirmish lines, which had been increased and reinforced, - evident that the Confederates had made a stand ^{strong at Adairsville} and were prepared for battle; so I made haste to bring up my reserves for ~~an~~ ^{here a decided} assault. It always ^{however equipped & supplied} requires ~~some~~ time to get an attacking column in readiness ^{for action.} ~~to~~ ^{Quite promptly} ~~the~~ ^{however} ~~column~~ ^{as soon as the} were ~~ready~~ in motion; but ~~as soon as the~~ ^{was inaugurated} ~~by~~ its vigorous movement, General Thomas ^{near by his side} said to me that it was too near night to take the offensive. He instructed me further to ^{do what was needed to} simply hold my position, and postpone, ^(that is if the confederates would agree) if possible, any general engagement till daylight the next morning.

^{war-} My notes here say, "Yet a real engagement was going on, since both parties continued to reinforce the skirmish lines until they (the lines) were tantamount to a line of battle". One battery of artillery drew another into action. Our batteries ^{one after another} were quickly brought up, and fired with their usual spirit and vigor. The sun went down upon this noisy, unusual, and bloody conflict, where ^{could they have had their way,} probably both parties were really disposed to wait till the morning. It was however, nine o'clock at night and very dark before we could disengage. ^{continued into the night but} Then the rattling musketry, with an occasional boom of a battery, gradually diminished to a fitful and irregular fire of nervous men on the picket-line. The losses, I am sorry to record, in my corps resulting from this affair at Adairsville were at least two hundred killed and wounded.

During the night the Fourteenth Corps came into close support, and McPherson moved from McGuire's so much towards Adairsville as



orderlies, horses, packers, and another horse
belonging to the cavalry company which was attached to headquarters
were captured. The shell slightly wounded Captain Bliss,
of General Newton's staff, carrying away the badge of rank from
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federates had made a stand and were prepared for battle; so I
made haste to bring up my reserves for an assault. It always
requires some time to get an attacking column in readiness.
I was ~~not~~ in position; but about the time my commands
began their vigorous movement, General Thomas said to me that it was
to our right to take the offensive. He instructed me further to
simply hold my position, and postpone, if possible, any general
engagement till daylight the next morning.
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fire of nervous men on the picket-line. The losses, I am sorry
to record, in my corps resulting from this affair at Abbeville
were at least two hundred killed and wounded.
During the night the fourteenth Corps came into close support,
and McPherson moved from McArthur's camp towards Abbeville as



to connect with Thomas's right flank. But no general action here! For the next morning at dawn the 18th of May we found that Johnston had made another clean retreat. The reason for it we will find by taking the map and following the movement of Sherman's left column.

This column was Schofield's troops reinforced by Hooker's Twentieth Corps. ~~General Sherman~~ ^{had} sent ~~this corps~~ ^{Hooker} to follow Schofield over the ferries ^{that ran} across the branches of the Oostanaula above us, because our new bridge at Resaca had not sufficient capacity, and probably ^{to give} ~~more~~ ^{greater} strength to his flanking force. ^{for all} ~~under Schofield.~~ ^{left-most}

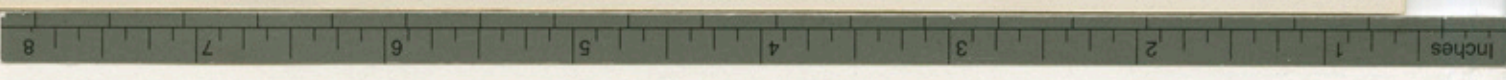
The left column setting out at the same hour with us was obliged to make a wide detour eastward and to cross two rivers instead of one, ^{to wit:} the Connasauga and the Coosawattee.

Schofield laid his bridges at Fite's and Field's Crossings. I believe that Stoneman's cavalry ^{there with Schofield and also} including that of Edwin McCook and Kilpatrick ~~and other parts of his command~~, were able to ford

the rivers. As soon as practicable the left formed two columns, ^{consisting of} Cox's Corps ²³⁰ with ~~Sherman's~~ ^{the} cavalry, ^{for} maintaining the left one ^{Schofield's} on the outer flank, and Hooker's coming up between my corps and ~~the~~.

Johnston ^{heard} ~~found~~ ^{heard} them, during the night, by reports from his active Schofield were cavalry scouts, that Hooker and beyond his right and aiming for Cassville, thus threatening his main crossing of the next river, the Etowah ~~at Allatoona~~ ^{the Allatoona bridge} ^{He knew too} and that McPherson, as we noticed, had already turned his position on the other flank, and was resting

for the night between McGuire's Cross-roads and Adairsville; and ^{he also had tidings} ~~found~~ that a division of cavalry, supported by infantry, was much farther west in the immediate vicinity of Rome, a town still farther south, and that this column was likely to carry the weak forts there by assault, and so swoop up his foundries and important mills.



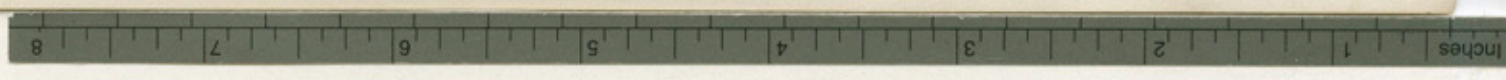
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tenth Corps. General Sherman sent this corps to follow Scho-
field over the terrain across the branches of the Gooseneck
above us, because our new bridge at Kansas had not sufficient ca-
pacity, and probably to give more strength to his flanking force
under Schofield.

The left column setting out at the same hour with us was obliged
to make a wide detour eastward and to cross two rivers instead of
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and Kipstick and other parts of his command, were also to ford
the river. As soon as practicable the left formed two columns,
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on the outer flank, and Hooker coming up between my corps and his.

Johnson found, then, during the night, by reports from his native
Schofield was
cavalry scouts, that Hooker and beyond his right and aiming for
Gainesville, thus threatening his main crossing of the next river,
the town of Alliance, - and that Johnson as we noticed had
already turned his position on the other flank, and was resting
for the night between McGuire's Cross-roads and Gainesville; and
further, that a division of cavalry, supported by infantry, was
much farther west in the immediate vicinity of home, a town still
farther north, and that this column was likely to carry the work
forth there by assault, and so sweep up his flanks and impor-
tant miles.



8.

Surely things were not favorable for a long delay at Adairsville. Certainly, unless the Confederate commander was prepared to take the immediate offensive against Thomas at dawn in the morning, his Confederate army would be before many hours in a bad predicament. No wonder that he drew off before the prospectively fatal day had dawned.

Judging by Confederate accounts, I am inclined to think that there ~~had been thus far~~ ^{was} ^{complete} report of losses on the part of the enemy.

General Johnston intimates that, as they fought mainly behind breastworks at Resaca, the loss of the Confederates compared with ours was not large. ^{we know,}

One who was present remarks ~~thus~~: "A rebel regiment was captured by Howard, and a few vagabond pickets were picked up in various places".

Another declares that, besides the wounded, "prisoners (Confederate) at the hour I write, 9 A.M. (16th May), are being brought in by hundreds", and further, the number of prisoners and deserters, including many officers of the ^{Confederate} line and staff, were in the neighborhood of four thousand at the close of the battle of Adairsville.

^{show of success}
All this gave us increased courage and hope.

It should be noticed that our railroad man, Colonel Wright, repairing ^{was} ~~the~~ the railways, putting down new bridges with incredible rapidity.

I had hardly left Dalton before his trains with bread, provender, and ammunition, were already in that little town. By the 16th of May, early in the morning, while Skirmishing was still going on with the rear-guard of ~~the~~ ^{Johnston} ~~the~~ across the Oostanaula, the scream of our locomotive's whistle was heard behind us at Resaca.

^{too}
The telegraph ^{was} never much delayed. Captain or Major VanDusen repaired the old broken line, and kept us constantly in communication with our depots and with Washington. So that when, on the

surely things were not favorable for a long delay at Asheville.
Certainly, unless the Confederate commander was prepared to take
the immediate offensive against Thomas at dawn in the morning, his
Confederate army would be before many hours in a bad predicament.
No wonder that he drew off before the prospectively fatal day had
dawned.

judging by Confederate accounts, I am inclined to think that there
had been thus far no report of losses on the part of the enemy.
General Johnston intimates that, as they fought mainly behind
works at Fosses, the loss of the Confederates compared with
ours was not large.
One who was present remarks that: "A rebel regiment was captured
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places."

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repaired the old broken line, and kept us constantly in communi-
tion with our depot and with Washington. So that when, on the



morning of the 18th, we were destroying the Georgia State Arsenal at Adairsville, and visiting the wounded that the Confederates had, the night before, left behind, and picking up a few stragglers in gray coats, we received word from our commissaries at Resaca that there was now at that sub-depot, at our call, abundance of coffee, hard bread, and bacon.

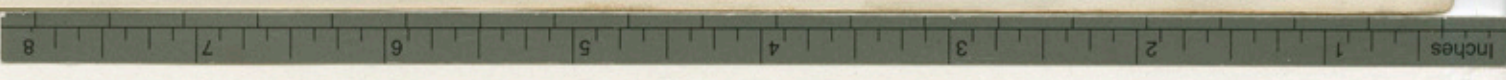
This was the third battle field between the 10th and the 19th of May which I had passed over. It was indeed inspiring to our men to gain so much ground and make such rapid progress. Though we confess the cost was very great. For our hospitals were fast filling up with poor fellows who could accompany us no farther, and we were leaving our dead at every railroad station.

It is they that have been gathered into that large army which have since filled up the National Cemetery at Chattanooga.

Thus we notice from Tunnel Hill to Adairsville, Sherman, in less than ten days, had experienced pretty hard fighting, but he had also overcome extraordinary natural obstacles which, according to writers in the Southern press, had been relied upon as impregnable against any enemy's approach, supported and defended as they were by the brave hosts of Joe Johnston behind them, - obstacles such as Tunnel Hill, Taylor's Ridge, Snake Creek Gap, and the Oostanaula with its tributaries. True, the Confederate army was not yet much reduced in numbers, yet the spirit of the men, though not broken, was sensibly affected by Johnston's constant retreat.

On our side the officers and men at that period were happy, full of energy and confidence. The "door of Georgia", so much talked of as an impregnable barrier, referred to Dalton and its natural defenses. This "door" was now forced, and was ever after to remain wide open. General Johnston was becoming every day more and more conservative and cautious. He continued to stand ever on

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the defensive, while, under Sherman, Thomas, Schofield, McPherson, and their corps commanders, ^{and} our more numerous men were pressing against his front and to the right and left of his army with Napoleonic boldness. They had thus far experienced hardly a check, as, like heavy waves, these forces were rolling on towards the sea.



Now near Adairsville in a little nook to the right of the road, as we were marching toward Kingston, we caught sight of a group of young ladies standing on the green, they appeared somewhat nervous and excited on our approach.

I accosted the one who was most self-posses and who had stepped out in front of her companions.

Young lady can you tell me who residence this is?

She answered curtly, "it belongs to Captain Howard".

Ah, Captain Howard! that is my name; my name is Howard, perhaps we are connections?

She instantly replied, " we have no relations whatever North, sir!"

I then asked, is Captain Howard at home?

She replied, "no".

Where might he be?"Captain Howard is with the Confederate Army where he ought to be".

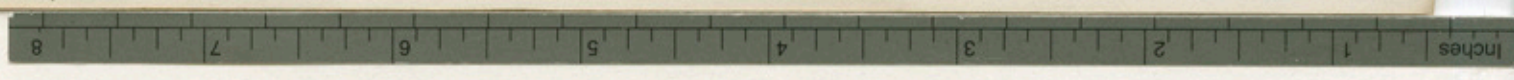
Ah, indeed, I am sorry that one of our name is in the Rebel Army.

Where is that Army?

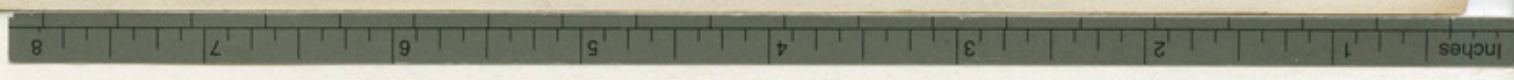
"I don't know anything about the Confederate movements. I told you sir, that I had no relations North".

Well then the blood of all the Howards does not run in your veins?

At this time turning to a staff-officer and within the hearing of the group of young ladies, I remarked as the sound of skirmishing reached our ears "that house will make an excellent field-hospital". The speaker and her companions were frightened at this and ran to the house and appeared shortly after on the upper porch,



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Soon a middle-aged lady came hastily toward me before we had left the premises and besought me not to take her house for a hospital, I replied that I had been treated very cavalierly by the young people, and that my courtesy met only with rebuff!!

Oh sir, she said "you must not mind those girls, they talk flip-pantly".

Fortunately for the family there was nothing but a slight skirmish in their neighborhood, and the lovely house and other buildings near at hand so prettily enconced, beyond the green, ^{deeply} in the grove of trees, were not used for the dreaded army purposes.

I have since heard that this Georgia family has remembered my visit, has spoken highly of me, probably more highly than I deserved. Possibly, the prejudice has given way to time and change so that these nanesakes of Georgia might not now be willing to sever themselves from all connection with the multitudinous Howard family.

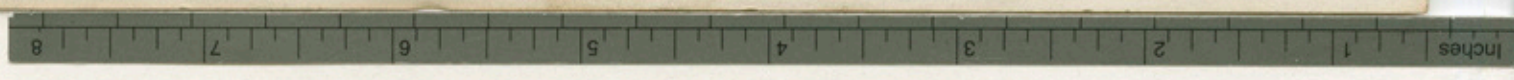
After leaving this place we proceeded to Kingston, where General Sherman had already established his headquarters and where they were to remain during the few days rest after Johnston's Confederate forces had crossed the Etowah.

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SHERMAN'S CAMPAIGN OF 1864.

IV.-ADAIRSVILLE.

It is a little wonderful how time condenses history. It diminishes in its proportions like ranges of mountains as you recede from them. Our great conflict is still called The War, and to some extent, especially among those concerned in it who are still living, its actors are known and recognized by name; yet a very little observation will show that the doings of the leaders have already faded from the public mind. Certainly, new conflicts among the nations will little by little drive ours more and more into obscurity. Eventually something like this will probably be the record of history: From 1861 to 1865 an effort was made by one Jeff Davis and others to divide the States and form a Southern Confederacy. War resulted, and the national government, under the leadership of President Lincoln, aided by his general-in-chief, U. S. Grant, after a severe struggle, was victorious. Thus the national Union was maintained.

These thoughts arose on my observing the very little compass which our next battle, Adairsville, has secured, even in the report of our beloved chieftain, General Sherman. It is less than a paragraph, namely: "Near Adairsville we again found signs of the rebel army, and of a purpose to fight, and about sunset of that day (the 17th of May, 1864) General Newton's division, in the advance, had a pretty sharp encounter with his rear-guard, but the next morning he was gone".

The General in his "Memoirs" is not quite so brief. He gives the date as the 17th of May, and represents that our head of column encountered the rear-guard of the Confederate army near Adairsville and "towards evening".

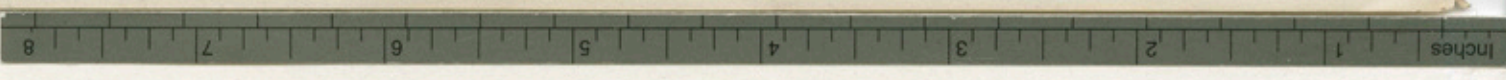
SHERMAN'S CAMPAIGN OF 1864

IV. - ADVANCE

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He himself was with the advance, and from the highest ground was endeavoring to catch glimpses of his enemy. The General believes that the party grouped about him ^{self} drew the fire of an enemy's battery: "a shell passed through the group of staff-officers and burst just beyond, which scattered us promptly".

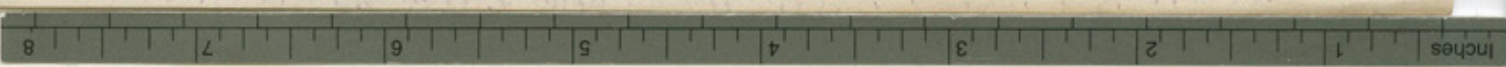
This seems a little meagre to us who were there and more immediately engaged. Of course it was not a very general engagement.

It began with Newton's division on our side, and doubtless with Johnston's rear-guard on his side, but considerably more than those two divisions were drawn under fire before the darkness shut down upon us and stopped the conflict.

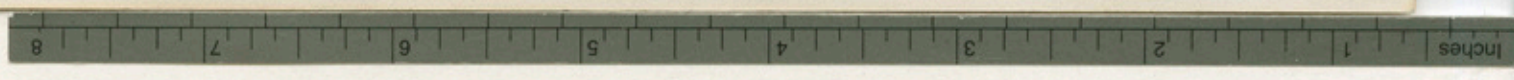
By observing the notes of General Johnston, the Confederate commander, we see that "the Southern army crossed the Oostanaula about midnight (15th-16th of May)". It ^{then} ^{on} went to Calhoun, seven miles distant. "The 17th it marched eight miles to Adairsville by 8 o' clock A. M.: remained there till next morning?" the 18th.

^{The order of events} This is, as I believed at the time, and then reported, that Johnston had taken a strong position at Adairsville, had partially intrenched it, and that his whole army was present while the action was going on.

Adairsville was only a small village ^{situated} amid quite extensive cultivated fields, where wheat, corn, and cotton were raised in considerable quantity. The village had ^{at one time} numbered perhaps two hundred souls. It had a manufactory of arms, machine-shops, a few stores, and at least one fair hotel. The ground Johnston had selected from which to hold us in check, and ^{it might be} ~~perhaps~~ invite a general action, was a large farm, where the gins and presses showed that cotton was the main product. One writer, Captain Conyngham, thinks, but I do not deem the opinion well founded, that the stubborn ^{fight made} by Johnston at Adairsville ^{was} to guard his artillery and trains that he was obliged to load upon the cars



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at the depot. He further gives [^]two corps (Hood's and Hardee's) which were deployed and intrenched against our advance.

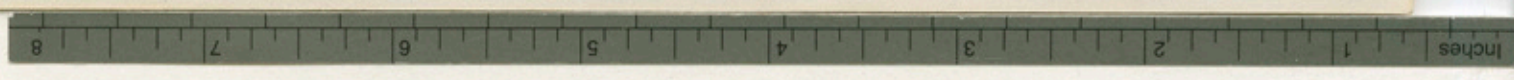
Doubtless he obtained this information from the prisoners which fell into our hands, *information not necessarily complete.*

Now that ~~we~~ have located the field of Adairsville with the Confederate ^{force} ~~army~~ in position, in rear of that town, facing northward ^{entire} ~~^~~ having the infantry and artillery of Hood and Hardee in place, and, I may add, covered by a strong skirmish line, and also the complete corps of Polk in reserve, let us return to General Sherman's army as it crosses the Oostanaula and see what it did ~~and~~ and what resulted from its action.

Instantly when ~~my~~ report at Resaca that Newton occupied the enemy's abandoned trenches at dawn of the 16th of May reached General Sherman, he ordered pursuit. One division of our cavalry, under Garrard, had scouted off towards Rome, so now the infantry division of General Jeff. C. Davis was hurried down the valley, keeping on the right bank of the river, to support the cavalry, and, if possible, seize Rome and hold it. Two bridges were already in ^{good} order at Lay's Ferry. Sweeny's division ^{as we saw} was across the river, [^] so that at once McPherson began his movement, -i.e., to cross the remainder of his command, the Sixteenth Corps, under Dodge, having the advance, and Logan with the Fifteenth Corps following closely, *and then to move on southward endeavoring to overtake the retreating foe.*

A few miles out, not far from Calhoun, McPherson's skirmishers encountered the Confederates. A sharp skirmish followed, in which the ^{Second} Brigade, Second Division, of Dodge's corps, came under fire. In a few minutes that command had lost fifty-two men, and among the mortally wounded was Colonel Burke, of the Sixty-sixth Illinois. The colonel died the next day; thus, the record says, "giving the sacrifice of a valuable life to his country".

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Confederate Johnston did not delay long in front of McPherson, and yet for sufficient time ~~for~~ ^{to cause} McPherson to develop his lines,

~~and~~ go into position, and get ready for action. The combat did not come off.

^ Finding the enemy gone from his front ~~the~~ next morning he continued his movement down the river road to a point, McGuire's Cross Roads, ^{which is} about due west of Adairsville and perhaps ten or eleven miles from that town.

^ at about the same time as McPherson, a little east of him, General Thomas with the Fourth and Fourteenth Corps, took up the direct pursuit. The railroad bridge ^{over the Costanauca} had been partly burned, but a rough floating bridge was quickly made from the timbers

and planking at hand. My Corps, the Fourth, led in the pursuit.

We also, about as soon as McPherson did, began to skirmish with Johnston's rear-guard, making, during the 16th ^{but} very slow progress.

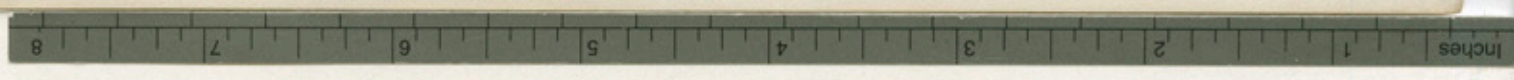
A Confederate newspaper correspondent speaking of the Southern army, represented that "the Yankees followed our army closely and pressed us all day (this was the 16th), but Stewart's division has kept them at bay so far. This evening there was sharp fighting on our right, but I have not learned what it was caused from. Our present position is around Calhoun, but the chances are that we will continue our retreat to Adairsville to-morrow".

This shows that Confederate Stewart's division constituted Johnston's rear-guard ^{which we were so closely following.}

The severe skirmish of the evening was a brief one between Stanley's division and Johnston's line at Calhoun. Early the next day (the 17th) our column, passing the enemy's empty works, ^{at Calhoun} continued the march. Newton's division on the lead started at

half-past five, followed by Stanley's. Newton followed the wagon-road, while Wood ^{came up abreast along the railroad.} ^{so} a little farther to the right. Our progress was continually interrupted.

^ ^{in its cheeks & stops} Confederate Stewart's rear-guard employed all arms of the service.



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at chosen places

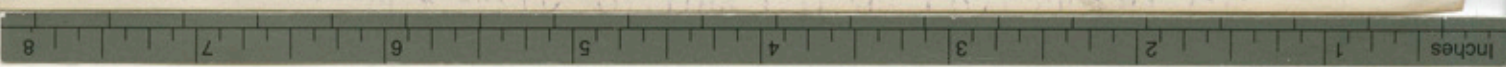
At intervals this rear-guard would form two or three barricaded lines, barricading with railroad-ties, fence-rails, logs, or poles at hand. These temporary covers were usually put in the edge of timber, so as to force us to cross an open field in their front, and we would encounter them about every half or three-quarters of a mile. Of course this manoeuvring forced us to deploy at least a brigade, and also to send out a flanking force strong enough to take care of itself.

everytime

As we neared Adairsville the resistance increased. General Wood kept extending his skirmish line and strengthening it till it abutted against the enemy's main line west of Adairsville.

General Newton did the same, developing farther and farther to the left and doubling up his advance line. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when Newton's men, rushing into a grove of trees, developed from the Confederates a heavy fire. It was a little later than this when General Sherman came up with his staff and escort and rode to the highest ground, *and was observing the field when* ~~where~~ he drew the fire of a battrey.

I also remember a little episode which occurred about this time. The skirmishing had grown into a brisk and rapid firing just as I came up to General Newton and his staff. A hostile battery of several guns was turned upon this ground. The shells began to burst over our heads or at our right and left at very close proximity. One of them disabled the horse of Colonel T. J. Morgan and put Colonel Fullerton, my adjutant-general, also on foot; two orderlies' horses, besides, were disabled, and another horse belonging to the cavalry company which was attached to headquarters was crippled. The same shell slightly wounded Captain Bliss, of General Newton's staff, carrying away the badge of rank from

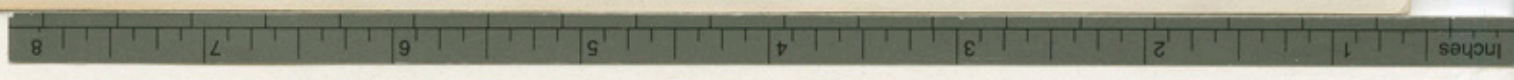


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later than this when General Sherman came up with his staff and
escort and rode to the highest ground, where he drew the fire
of a battery.

I also remember a little episode which occurred about this time.
The skirmishing had grown into a brisk and rapid firing just as I
came up to General Newton and his staff. A hostile battery of
several guns was turned upon this ground. The shells began to
burst over our heads or at our right and left at very close prox-
imity. One of them disabled the horse of Colonel T. J. Morgan and
put Colonel Pulister, my adjutant-general, also on foot; two
orderlies, horses besides were disabled, and another horse be-
longing to the cavalry company which was attached to headquarters
was crippled. The same shell slightly wounded Captain Bliss,
of General Newton's staff, carrying away the badge of rank from

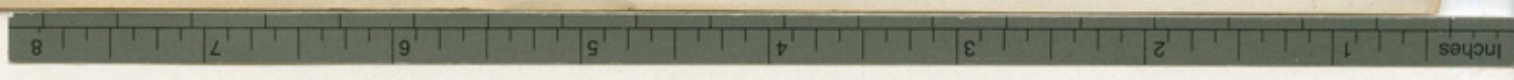


his shoulder. It being now evident, as there was fighting along the front of two divisions, - that is, along their skirmish lines, which had been increased and reinforced, - ^{evident} that the Confederates had made a stand and were prepared for battle; ^{so} I made haste to bring up my reserves for an assault. ^{Some} It always required time to get an attacking column in readiness. ^{Soon we were ready for motion; but} About the time my command began its vigorous movement, General Thomas said to me that it was too near night to take the offensive. He instructed me further to simply hold my position, and postpone, if possible, any general engagement till daylight the next morning.

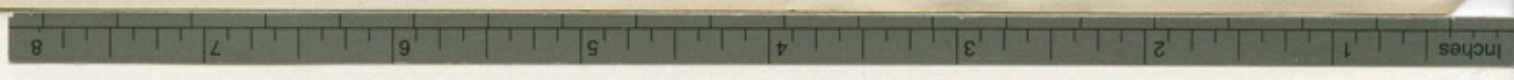
My notes here say, "Yet a real engagement was going on, since both parties continued to reinforce the skirmish lines until they (the lines) were tantamount to a line of battle". One battery of artillery drew another into action. Our batteries were quickly brought up, and fired with their usual spirit and vigor. The sun went down upon this noisy, ^{unusual} ~~strange~~, and bloody conflict, where probably both parties were really disposed to wait till the morning. ^{however,} It was [^] nine o'clock at night and very dark before we could disengage, then the rattling musketry, with an occasional boom of a battery, gradually diminished to a fitful and irregular fire of nervous men on the picket-line. ^{I am sorry to record,} The losses in my corps resulting from this affair at Adairsville were at least two hundred killed and wounded.

During the night the Fourteenth Corps came into close support, and McPherson moved from McGuire's so much towards Adairsville as to connect with Thomas's right flank. ^{But no general action here! For} The next morning ^{at dawn} we found that Johnston had made another clean retreat. The reason for it we will find by taking the map and following the movement of Sherman's left column.

^{This column} ~~It~~ was Schofield's troops reinforced by Hooker's Twentieth Corps.



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General Sherman sent this corps to follow Schofield over the ferries across the branches of the Oostanaula above us, because our new bridge at Resaca had ^{not} sufficient capacity, and probably to give more strength to his flanking force under Schofield.

The ^{left} column ^{setting out at the same hour with us} was obliged to make a wide detour eastward and to cross two rivers instead of one, - the Connasauga and the Coosawattee.

Schofield laid his bridges at Fite's and Field's Crossings.

I believe that Stoneman's ¹cavalry, including that of Edwin McCook and Kilpatrick and other parts of his command, ^{were able to} ford the rivers.

As soon as practicable the left formed two columns, Cox's corps, ^{one on the outer} with Stoneman's cavalry, maintaining the left flank, and Hooker coming up between my corps and his.

Johnston found, then, during the night, by reports from his active cavalry scouts, that Hooker and Schofield were beyond his right ~~flank~~ and aiming for Cassville, thus threatening his main crossing

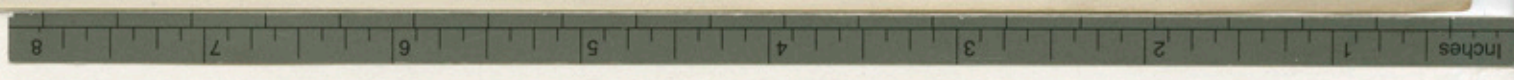
of the next river, - the Etowah at Allatoona, - and that McPherson ^{as we noticed} had already turned his position ^{on} the other flank, and was resting for the night between McGuire's Cross-Roads and Adairsville;

and further, that a division of cavalry, supported by infantry, ^{much farther west} was in the immediate vicinity of Rome, a town still farther south, ^{that this column was} and likely to carry the weak forts ^{there}, by assault, and so swoop up

his foundries and important mills. ^{surely} ~~Certainly~~ ^{Things were not favorable} for a long delay at Adairsville.

Certainly, unless the Confederate commander was prepared to take the immediate offensive against Thomas at dawn in the morning, his Confederate army would be before many hours in a bad predicament. No wonder that he drew off before the prospectively fatal day had dawned.

Judging by Confederate accounts, I am inclined to think that there had been thus far no report of losses on the part of the enemy.



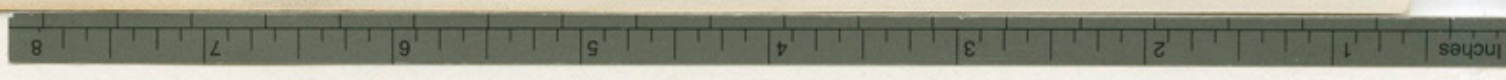
General Sherman sent this corps to follow Schofield over the river across the branches of the Germanias above us, passing our new bridge at Hesse's had sufficient capacity, and probably to give more strength to his flanking force under Schofield. The column was obliged to make a wide detour eastward and to cross two rivers instead of one, - the Germanias and the Goose-water.

Schofield laid his bridge at Hesse's and Hesse's crossings. I believe that Sherman's cavalry, including that of Edwin McCook and Kilpatrick and other parts of his command, formed the river. As soon as practicable the left formed two columns, Cox's corps, with Sherman's cavalry, maintaining the left flank, and Hooker coming up between my corps and his.

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General Johnston intimates that, as they fought mainly behind breastworks at Resaca, the loss of the Confederates compared with ours was not large.

One who was present remarks thus: "A rebel regiment was captured by Howard, and a few vagabond pickets were picked up in various places".

Another declares that, besides the wounded, "prisoners (Confederate) at the hour I write, 9A. M. (16th May), are being brought in by hundreds", and further, the number of prisoners and deserters, including many officers of the line and staff, were in the neighborhood of four thousand at the close of the battle of Adairsville.

all this gave us increased courage & hope.

It should be noticed that our railroad man, Colonel Wright, repaired the railways, putting down new bridges with incredible rapidity. I had hardly left Dalton before his trains with bread, provender, and ammunition, were already in that little town.

By the 16th of May, early in the morning, while skirmishing was still going on with the rear-guard of the enemy across the Oostan-aula, the scream of our locomotive's whistle was heard behind us at Resaca.

The telegraph was never much delayed. Captain or Major VanDusen repaired the old ^{line} line, and kept us constantly in communication with our depots and with Washington. So that when, on the morning of the 18th, we were destroying the Georgia State Arsenal at Adairsville, and visiting the wounded that the Confederates had left behind the night before, and picking up a few stragglers in gray coats, we received word from our commissaries at Resaca that there was now at that sub-depot, at our call, abundance of coffee, hard bread, and bacon.

This was the third battle field between the 10th and the 19th of May which I had passed over. It was indeed inspiring to our



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This was the third battle field between the 10th and the 18th of
May which I had passed over. It was indeed inspiring to our



men to gain so much ground and make such rapid progress.

Though we confess the cost was very great. For our hospitals were fast filling up with poor fellows who could accompany us no farther, and we were leaving our dead at every railway station.

It is they that have been gathered into that large army which have since filled up the National Cemetery at Chattanooga.

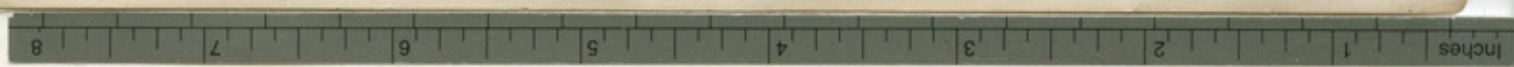
Thus we notice from Tunnel Hill to Adairsville, Sherman, in less than ten days, had experienced pretty hard fighting, but he had ^{also} overcome extraordinary natural obstacles which, according to writers in the Southern press, had been relied upon as impregnable against any enemy's approach, supported and defended as they were by the brave hosts of Joe Johnston behind them,- obstacles such as Tunnel Hill, Taylor's Ridge, Snake Creek Gap, and the Oostan-aula with its tributaries. True, the Confederate army was not yet much reduced in numbers, yet the spirit of the men, though not broken, was sensibly affected by Johnston's constant retreat.

On our side, the officers and men ^{at that period} were happy, full of energy and confidence. The "door of Georgia", so much talked of as an impregnable barrier, referred to Dalton and its natural defenses.

This "door" was now forced, and was ever after to remain wide open. General Johnston was becoming every day more and more

conservative and cautious. ^{He continued to} ~~stand~~ standing ever on the defensive, while, under Sherman, Thomas, Schofield, McPherson, and their corps commanders, our more numerous men were pressing against his front and to the right and left of his army with Napoleonic

boldness. ^{They had thus far} ~~and~~ experienced ~~it~~ hardly a check, as, like heavy waves, these forces were rolling on towards the sea.



IV. - Adairsville.

1st Copy

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Now near Adairsville in a little nook to the right of the road, as we were marching toward Kingston, we caught sight of a group of young ladies standing on the green, they appeared somewhat nervous and excited on our approach. I accosted the one who was most

self-possessed and who had stepped out in front of her companions.

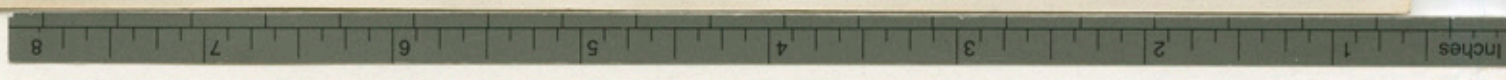
Young lady can you tell me whose residence this is? She answered curtly, "it belongs to Captain Howard. Ah, Captain Howard! that is my name; my name is Howard, perhaps we are connections?" she instantly replied, "we have no relations whatever North, sir."

I then asked, is Captain Howard at home? she replied, "no".

Where might he be? "Captain Howard is with the Confederate Army where he ought to be." Ah, indeed, I am sorry that one of our name is in the Rebel Army. Where is that Army? "I don't know anything about the Confederate movements." I told you ~~that~~, that we had no relations North." Well then the blood of all the Howards does not run in your veins.

At this time turning to a staff-officer and within the hearing of the group of young ladies I remarked as the sound of skirmishing reached our ears "that house will make an excellent field-hospital". The speaker and her companions were frightened at this and ran to the house and appeared shortly after on the upper porch. Soon a middle-aged lady came hastily toward me before we had left the premises and besought me not to take her house for a hospital, I replied that I had been treated very cavalierly

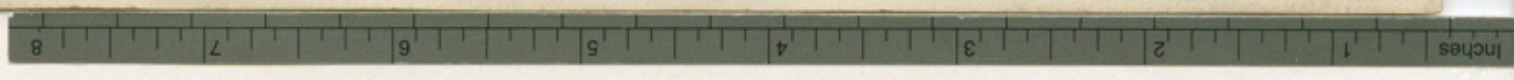
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a hospital, I replied that I had been traversed very rarely



by the young people, and that my courtesy met only with rebuff. Oh sir, she said you must not mind those girls they talk flip-
pantly. Fortunately for the family there was nothing but a slight skirmish in their neighborhood, and the lovely house and other buildings near at hand so prettily *enconced*. beyond the green, in the grove of trees, were not used for the dreaded army purposes. I have since heard that this Georgia family has remembered my visit, has spoken highly of me, probably more highly than I deserved. Possibly, the prejudice has given way to time and change so that these namesakes of Georgia might not now be willing to sever themselves from all connection with the multitudinous Howard family.

After leaving this place we proceeded to Kingston, where General Sherman had already established his headquarters and where they were to remain during the few days rest after Johnston's Confederate forces had crossed the Etowah.

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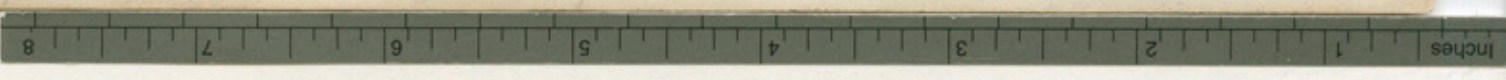
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Now near Adairsville ^{in a little nook} to the right of the road, as we were marching ^{toward Kingston} we caught sight of a group of young ladies on ^{standing} the ^{green} porch ^{they} ^{appeared} somewhat nervous and excited on our approach. I ~~accited~~ ^{accited} the one who was first self passed and who had stepped out in front of her companions. ~~Whose residence is this?~~ Young lady can you tell me whose residence this is? She answered curtly it belongs to Cap. Howard. ~~My name is Howard~~ Ah, Capt. Howard! that is my name; my name is Howard. Perhaps we are connections? She instantly replied, we have no relatives whatever North Sir. I then asked, Is Cap. Howard at home? she replied No. Where might he be? Capt. Brown is with the Confederate army where he ought to be. Ah, indeed, I am sorry that one of our name is in the Rebel Army. Where is that Army? I don't know anything about the Confederate movements. I told you Sir, that we have no relations North. Well then, the blood of all the Howards does not run in your veins.

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and among the mortally wounded was Colonel Burke, of the Sixty-sixth Illinois. The Colonel died the next day; thus, the record says, "giving the sacrifice of a valuable life to his country". Confederate Johnston did not delay long in front of McPherson, and yet for sufficient time to cause McPherson to develop his lines, go into position, and get ready for act on. The combat did not come off. Finding the enemy gone from his front the next morning, he continued his movement down the river road to a point, McGuire's Cross Roads, which is about due west of Adairsville and perhaps ten or eleven miles from that town.

General Thomas

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