No. 14

Jefeps

Jackson's Campaigns
As a result of Tecumseh's influence among the Indians of the South-west a large body went on the war-path and made a stand for battle at "Alabamatous Settlement situated on a branch of the Alabama River."

Against them Gen'l Jackson gathered a force of about twenty-five hundred men. He ordered Gen'l Coffee to destroy the settlement.

The latter with nine hundred men crossed the river and approached the village to within a mile and a half whence he organized his force into two columns and endeavored to envelope the enemy. Not succeeding in a surprise, the expedition of a small detachment, retreating before the savages until the eager pursuers were brought under the fire of the main body; then a fierce attack was made upon them.

The Indians retreated to their families and are said to have "fought so long as they could stand or sit." 196 Indians were killed in this engagement and 84 women and children taken prisoners; while there were only 46 casualties in Coffee's command. This battle was fought Nov. 8, 1813. On Nov. 9, 1813, occurred the second battle Talladega, under Gen'l Jackson's direction. The loss of the Indians in this action was 269 killed, while the American's was but 15 killed and 80 wounded.

Nov. 13, while Gen'l Jackson was negotiating with the Villibee Indians, by a misunderstanding some detachments under General Coke and White attacked the Indians' village near the Tallapoosa River. The Indians, having no faith in their chiefs, were attacked and slaughtered without resistance. 60 Indians were killed 256 were captured; the assailants not losing a man.

The Battle of Cossats. A small force of irregular troops under the immediate leadership of Gen'lvl, who massacred some 200 Indians. There was but faint resistance. Floyd's men suffered but little loss, 11 killed, 54 wounded. The 28th Nov., the next battle, "Kecamahoe," was fought by Gen. Claiborne near the Alabama River. He had a mixed force of whites and friendly Indians. The hostiles suffered a complete rout, losing about 30 killed and their villages on 300 houses burned.
Pleasure's loss in this engagement was one killed and six wounded.

The next battle was that of Brockton, Jan 22, 1814. It is difficult to

tell the numbers engaged in this conflict. Gen. Jackson was present in per-

son and fell back to Fort Strother the day after the engagement. The

Indians regarded this action as victory and greatly disturbed his re-

treat. A heavy skirmish at Pontochoppa was a part of this retreat, re-

sulting in a great loss to the pursuers. Gen. Jackson was much incensed

at his losses and at the appearance of defeat. He soon reorganized his

force and sat on another expedition of about three thousand whites

with a body of friendly Indian allies. The 30th of March 1814 he fought

the battles of Tohopaka or Horse-shoe Bend and Tallapoosa.

Jackson's loss in the attack was 202 killed and wounded; the hostile

Creeks lost 287 killed on the field and about 300 more killed while

trying to escape the Tallapoosa; but few, if any of those engaged in the
battle escaped death. It is said that there were about three hundred

women and children taken prisoners. Such is a specimen of Gen. Jackson's

Indian warfare. This last terrible engagement broke the power of the

Indians in the south and southwest. The next time we meet Gen. Jackson

was Dec. 2nd or 3rd 1814 at New Orleans. He gathered such an army as he
could and made ready against a British force already reported as ap-

proaching from the Gulf of Mexico. The latter was commanded by

Sir Edward Packenham and numbered of all arms including over 1000 sea-

men about 8000 men. Jackson's whole command did not exceed

3700 effective men, most of whom were raw levies. The entire con-

flict was embraced between the 10th of Dec., 1814 and the 15th of

Jan 1815. What is usually called the Battle of New Orleans took place

the 8th of Jan., by a British assault on Jackson's prepared lines, in which

the Assailants lost nearly 3000 men and also their General, Sir Edward Packenham, while Jackson's loss was very small as he was fighting from behind breastworks. It appears that the

treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain had been

agreed on nearly a month before this battle but the news did not reach New Orleans till the 13th of Feb.