



THE NAVAL BRIGADE, UNDER LIEUT. PERKINS, CONSTRUCTING THE MARINE BATTERY ON SHUTER'S HILL, TO GUARD ALEXANDRIA, VA., AND TO COMMAND THE FAIRFAX ROAD.

At the beginning of the war sailors flocked to the recruiting stations to enlist in the Union navy, and in a few weeks the Government had more naval crews than it had ships. In order to hasten the work on the defences of Washington, these men were employed in the construction of batteries. They were organized into temporary brigades for the purpose. Lieutenant George H. Perkins, who directed the construction of the battery on Shuter's Hill, had just received his lieutenant's commission. He soon took command of the war ship Cayuga, and at the attack on New Orleans displayed unusual gallantry. Shuter's Hill was a high eminence west of the city of Alexandria, overlooking the main road to Manassas, via Fairfax Court House. A large fort was erected upon it in the summer of 1861, and named Fort Ellsworth, in honor of the gallant zouave who was killed in Alexandria the day the Union forces took possession. The fort was the nearest one of the chain to the scene of his death. On the opposite side of Cameran Run and the Fairfax road, stood another large work named after the lamented General Lyon, the hero of the West.