



NORTH BATTERY OF THE CONFEDERATES, AT SHIPPING POINT, LOOKING UP THE POTOMAC RIVER.

For nearly a year or until March, 1862, the Confederates maintained a virtual blockade of the lower Potomac. This was accomplished by means of numerous batteries erected in 1861, especially after the Union army had been withdrawn from Manassas to Alexandria. Heavy guns for these batteries were made at the Tredegar Iron Works, in Richmond. They were intended to withstand the attacks of the Union ships. For defence on land, to guard against surprise from the rear, the batteries were inclosed by separate infantry defences, and the entire shore for miles north and south of the entrenchment camps was patrolled by armed men. Several attacks were made upon this line by the Potomac flotilla in the summer and autumn of 1861, but the Confederates could not be dislodged. When the Confederate army retired from Manassas, behind Rappahannock, in March, 1862, the posts on the Potomac were evacuated.