



EMBARKING TROOPS AT BIRD'S POINT, MO., TO REINFORCE THE FEDERAL ARMY UNDER GENERAL PRENTISS.—FROM A SKETCH BY HENRY LOVIE.

General B. M. Prentiss assumed command of the Northern District of Missouri in September, 1861, and immediately established a line of camps along the Hannibal and Missouri River Railroad. No organized force of Confederates existed north of the Missouri River at that time, but numerous bands of partisans raided the country, seizing the property of loyal citizens and obstructing the movements of the Union Army. A large force of troops joined Prentiss during the fall, and several important actions were fought by him, all ending in the defeat of the guerrillas. Many of the soldiers of the department accompanied General Prentiss to the field of Shiloh, where his division displayed unusual gallantry in resisting the assaults of superior numbers.