



THE FEDERAL ARMY, UNDER GENERAL GEORGE B. McCLELLAN, BETWEEN BIG BETHEL AND YORKTOWN, VA., APRIL 6, 1862.—FROM A SKETCH BY E. S. HALL.

In April, 1862, the grand Army of the Potomac, under McClellan's command, began moving toward Richmond, up the Peninsula of Virginia. This army was the "flower" of the Northern States. It consisted of more than 150,000 men, exclusive of the garrisons about Washington and elsewhere, and all were volunteers from New England and the Middle States. They were men, said one who knew them well, who understood and appreciated the merits and value of the questions what the war was meant to answer; who believed they were right, and were ready to support their convictions and defend the Government with their lives. Almost all were intelligent voters, coming from every walk of life. "It represented the bone and sinew of the land, its truest homes and best industries, its humblest, its toiling, its prosperous and its educated classes alike. Its organization and discipline were complete; and the campaign which followed turned it into a corps of veteran soldiers equal to any in the world.