



RECEPTION OF THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS OF THE FEDERAL ARMY AT FORTRESS MONROE, VA. CARS CARRYING THEM TO THE HOSPITAL. SURGEONS DRESSING THE WOUNDS.

FROM A SKETCH J. H. SCHELL.

As soon as McClellan began his advance and encountered the enemy at Yorktown, Williamsburg, West Point and in the valley of the Chickahominy, a stream of wounded men began to flow towards Fortress Monroe. They came by boat, by car, by ambulance, and sometimes as stragglers on foot or horseback. Surgeons' quarters and hospitals were established for their reception. Near the landing a large area was laid off, in which to dispose of the wounded on their arrival from the front. Great numbers of surgeons and nurses were gathered to care for the injured. The nation began to learn by experience how to handle thousands of wounded men. It was now seen that war meant battle, and battle meant to kill, or at least to disable. The country became familiar with scenes the like of which had never before been witnessed west of the Atlantic. Flat cars came down the track bearing their freightage of human beings in the prime of life, torn and mangled with shot and shell, with bayonet and saber. Caring for the wounded soon grew to be a vast business in which the sympathies were postponed for the cruel necessities of surgery. Cordials were withheld in order to administer chloroform, and the loving hands of women were kept back until the sharp blades of the surgeon's case had done their work.