



BURNING RAILWAY STATIONS, WAREHOUSES AND SUPPLIES AT CORINTH, MISS.—RETREAT OF THE CONFEDERATE AND ENTRY OF THE FEDERAL ARMY.

FROM A SKETCH BY HENRY LOVIE.

The evacuation of Corinth by the Confederate army, under General Beauregard, was conducted with such secrecy that the Union commanders were completely outgeneraled. Their armies invested the position on the north and west, and were about to begin the work of bombardment and assault. The Confederate soldiers were rationed for a three days' march, and told that they were to go out and attack the enemy. When drawn up in line the night of May 29, they were led to the rear and hurried away southward. Immense stores of supplies and ammunition had been gathered at Corinth, and there were removed by steam railway trains, which were constantly passing in and out during the night. On the arrival of each incoming train the soldiers set up enthusiastic cheering, which was interpreted in the Union camps as an evidence that reinforcements were pouring into the enemy's trenches. It was inferred from this that the Confederates would attack the besiegers immediately. On the contrary, some of the Union soldiers, who were experienced railroad men, put their ears to the tracks which ran through their lines, and reported that the incoming trains were empty and those going out were loaded. This they interpreted to mean that Beauregard was evacuating the stronghold. At 6 a. m. on the 30th loud explosions in the town, followed by the outburst of flames in various quarters, revealed the true state of affairs. Within an hour the Union pickets entered the lines and found the Confederate trenches and cantonments deserted.