



ADMIRAL PORTER'S FLOTILLA RUNNING PAST THE BATTERIES OF VICKSBURG, MISS., ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 16, 1863.—CONFEDERATES BURNING BEACONS ON THE BLUFF TO DIRECT THEIR FIRE.

Previous to April, 1863, Union gunboats had several times passed the Confederate batteries at Vicksburg. Porter's flotilla comprised, besides six gunboats, several river steamers intended for use below to ferry troops across the river. They were protected by cotton bales and barges of coal lashed alongside.