



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN AND ITS VICINITY, FROM THE POSITION OF THE ELEVENTH ARMY CORPS.

FROM A SKETCH BY SURGEON J. E. TREXLER, SEVENTY-THIRD PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENT.

Few battles of the Civil War were more important, interesting and picturesque, than those by which Chattanooga was saved. During the summer of 1863, Rosecrans had been facing Bragg's powerful Confederate forces in Southern Tennessee, and finally had been hemmed in at Chattanooga, where Bragg had fortified the heights of Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge overlooking the town, and had nearly cut off communications with the north, so that the Union army was half starved. Grant was ordered to relieve this situation, and late in October was placed in command of the whole region, superseding Rosecrans. Concentrating troops as rapidly as possible, opening roads, etc., occupied him for nearly a month, before he had a complete and well-supplied army of about 60,000 men in and about Chattanooga, commanded (under him) by such generals as Sherman, Thomas, Hooker, W. F. Smith, "Phil" Sheridan, and others of great ability. Chattanooga lies on a small plain in a bend of the Tennessee River, but is surrounded by hills. Across the river towers Lookout Mountain, 2200 feet in height; while behind (east of) the town, was the long wooded elevation called Mission Ridge, five to eight hundred feet in height. Both these heights were strongly fortified, and were defended by more troops than Grant had. The preliminary movements were followed by the capture, by Thomas, on November 23, of the outer works of Mission Ridge. The next morning the attack was renewed by Thomas and Sherman together, whose men charged up the hill, and before night had gained possession of the entire situation, capturing many prisoners and a great quantity of war-material. The most picturesque part of the battle, meanwhile, was taking place on the slopes and crest of Lookout Mountain, where Hooker's men were fighting their way up rugged slopes and overcoming what had seemed an impregnable citadel. The day was misty, and these low-lying mists, combined with battle smoke, hid Hooker's movements from all below, so that this is called "the battle above the clouds." The result was the utter rout of Bragg's great army, and, secondarily, the release of Burnside from his perilous situation at Knoxville, and the forcing of a retreat upon Longstreet.