

works to command the rivers—Fort Henry on the east bank of the Tennessee, and Fort Donelson on the west bank of the Cumberland. They had also fortified the high bluffs at Columbus, on the Mississippi, 20 miles below the mouth of the Ohio, and Bowling Green, on the Big Barren. The general purpose was to establish a military frontier with a strong line of defence from the Alleghany Mountains to the Mississippi.

A fleet of iron-clad gunboats had been prepared by the United States Government for service on the Western rivers, some of them being built new, while others were altered freight-boats.

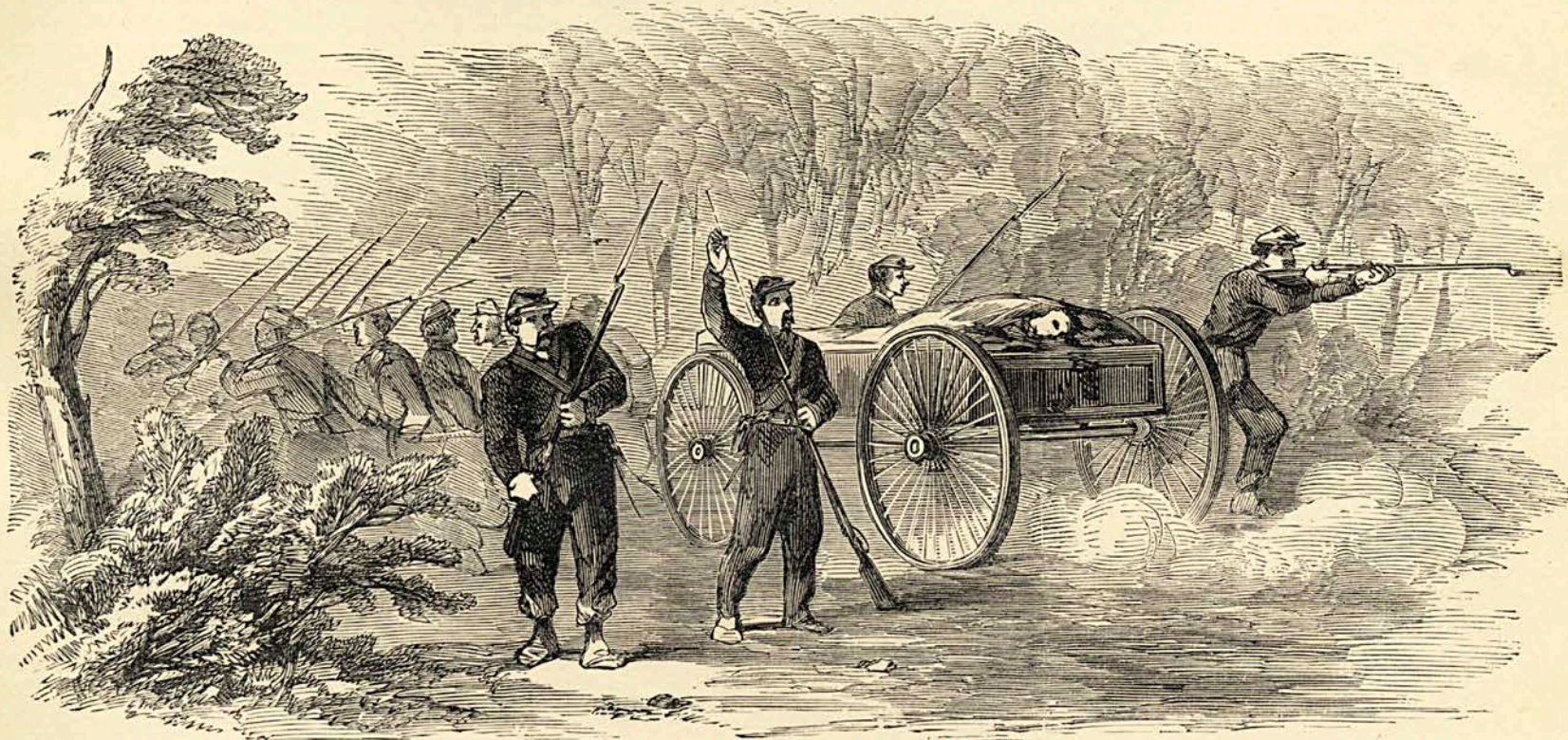
General Grant asked Halleck's permission to capture Fort Henry, and after considerable delay received it on the 30th of January. That work was garrisoned by 3000 men under General Lloyd Tilghman. On the morning of February 2 the fleet of four iron-clad and two wooden gunboats, commanded by Flag-officer Andrew H. Foote, steamed up the Ohio to Paducah, thence up the Tennessee, and by daylight the next morning was within sight of the fort. Grant's land force was to co-operate by an attack in the rear, but it did not arrive in time. The gunboats moved up to within 600 yards, and opened a bombardment, to which the guns of the fort responded, and the firing was kept up for an hour. The "Essex"

and had also a strong water-battery. The land-side was protected by slashed timber and rifle-pits, as well as by the naturally broken ground. The gunboats went down the Tennessee, and up the Cumberland, and with them a portion of Grant's force to be used in attacking the water front. The fort contained about 20,000 men, commanded by General John B. Floyd. Grant's main force left the neighborhood of Fort Henry on the morning of February 12, a portion marching straight on Fort Donelson, while the remainder made a slight detour to the south, to strike the Confederate left. They chose positions around the fort unmolested that afternoon, and the next morning the fighting began. After an artillery duel, an attempt was made to storm the works near the centre of the line, but it was a failure and entailed severe loss. The gunboats and the troops with them had not yet come up, and the attack was suspended for the day. A cold storm set in, with sleet and snow.

Next morning the fleet appeared, landed the troops and supplies three miles below the fort, and then moved up to attack the batteries. It was a desperate fight. The plunging shot from the fort struck the gunboats in their most vulnerable part, and made ugly wounds. But they stood to the work manfully, and had silenced one battery when the steering apparatus of two of the gun-

up field-guns and enfiladed the works, drove out the defenders, and took possession.

Another bitterly cold night followed, but Grant moved up reinforcements to the positions he had gained, while the wounded were looked after. Within the fort another council of war was held. Floyd declared it would not do for him to fall into the hands of the Government, as he was accused of defrauding it while in office. So he turned over the command to General Gideon J. Pillow. But that General said he also had strong reasons for not wanting to be a prisoner, so he turned it over to General Buckner. With as many of their men as could be taken on two small steamers, Floyd and Pillow embarked in the darkness and went up the river to Nashville. The cavalry, under General N. B. Forrest, also escaped, and a considerable number of men from all the commands managed to steal away unobserved. In the morning Buckner hung out a white flag, and sent a letter to Grant, proposing that commissioners be appointed to arrange terms of capitulation. Grant's answer not only made him famous, but gave an impetus and direction to the whole war: "No terms other than an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works." Buckner, in a petulant and ill-considered note, at once sur-



CAPTAIN GEORGE W. WILLSON'S CO. (E, 2D REGT. N. Y. VOLS.) CARRYING THE BODY OF LIEUTENANT GREBLE FROM THE FIELD, AT BIG BETHEL, AMIDST THE FIRE OF THE CONFEDERATE FORCES.

received a shot in her boiler by which many men were wounded or scalded. Otherwise the fleet, though struck many times, was not seriously injured. On the other hand, the fire from the gunboats knocked the sand-bags about, dismounted seven guns, brought down the flagstaff, and, together with the bursting of a rifled gun in the fort, created a panic. All but about 100 of the garrison fled, leaving General Tilghman with the sick and a single company of artillerymen, and after serving a gun with his own hands as long as possible, he surrendered. The regret of the victors at the escape of the garrison was more than counterbalanced by their gratification at the behavior of the gunboats in their first serious trial. After the surrender, three of the gunboats proceeded up Tennessee River to the head of navigation, destroyed the railroad bridge, and captured a large amount of stores.

In consequence of the battle of Mill Springs and the fall of Fort Henry, the Confederate General Simon B. Buckner, who was at Bowling Green with about 10,000 men, abandoned that place and joined his forces to those in Fort Donelson. General Ormsby M. Mitchel, by a forced march, promptly took possession of Bowling Green with National troops; and General Grant immediately made dispositions for the capture of Fort Donelson. This work, situated at a bend of the river, was on high ground, enclosed about 100 acres,

boats was shot away, while a gun on another had burst, and the flag-officer was wounded. The flag-ship had been struck 59 times, and the others from 20 to 40, when they all dropped down the stream and out of the fight. They had lost 54 men killed or wounded. But the naval attack had served to prevent an immediate sortie, and so perhaps ultimately saved the victory for Grant.

That night a council of war was held within the fort, and it was determined to attack the besiegers in the morning with the entire force, in hopes either to defeat them completely or at least to turn back their right wing, and thus open a way for retreat. The fighting began early in the morning. Grant's right wing, all but surprised, was pressed heavily and borne back, the enemy passing through and plundering McClernand's camps. Buckner sallied out and attacked on the left with much less vigor and with no success but as a diversion, and the fighting extended all along the line, while the Confederate cavalry were endeavoring to gain the National rear. Grant was imperturbable through it all, and when he saw that the attack had reached its height, he ordered a counter attack on the right, which was executed by the division of Lew Wallace, while that of C. F. Smith stormed the works on the left. Smith rode beside the color-bearer, and in the face of a murderous fire that struck down 400 men, his troops rushed forward over every obstruction, brought

rendered the fort and his entire command. This numbered about 14,000 men; and 400 that were sent to reinforce him were also captured.

General Pillow estimated the Confederate loss in killed and wounded at 2000. No undisputed figures are attainable on either side. Grant began the siege with about 15,000 men, which reinforcements had increased to 27,000 at the time of the surrender. His losses were about 2000, and many of the wounded had perished of cold. The long, artificial line of defence, from the mountains to the Mississippi, was now swept away, and the Confederates abandoned Nashville.

When the news was flashed through the loyal States, and bulletins were posted up with enumeration of prisoners, guns, and small arms captured, salutes were fired, joy-bells were rung, flags were displayed, and people asked one another, "Who is this Grant, and where did he come from?"—for they saw that a new genius had suddenly risen upon the earth.

Both before and after the defeat and death of General Lyon at Wilson's Creek (August, 1861), there was irregular and predatory warfare in Missouri. Among the minor engagements, one at Lexington in September was notable, where 2800 men, commanded by Colonel James A. Mulligan, gallantly held the place against a Confederate force of more than 14,000, commanded by General Price, until the water-supply was cut off and