

impossible to doubt his thorough loyalty, and his determination to find or make a way to bring the war to a successful close as speedily as possible, without the slightest regard to the individual interests of himself or anybody else. He was probably the ablest war minister that ever lived—with the possible exception of Carnot, the man to whom Napoleon said, "I have known you too late."

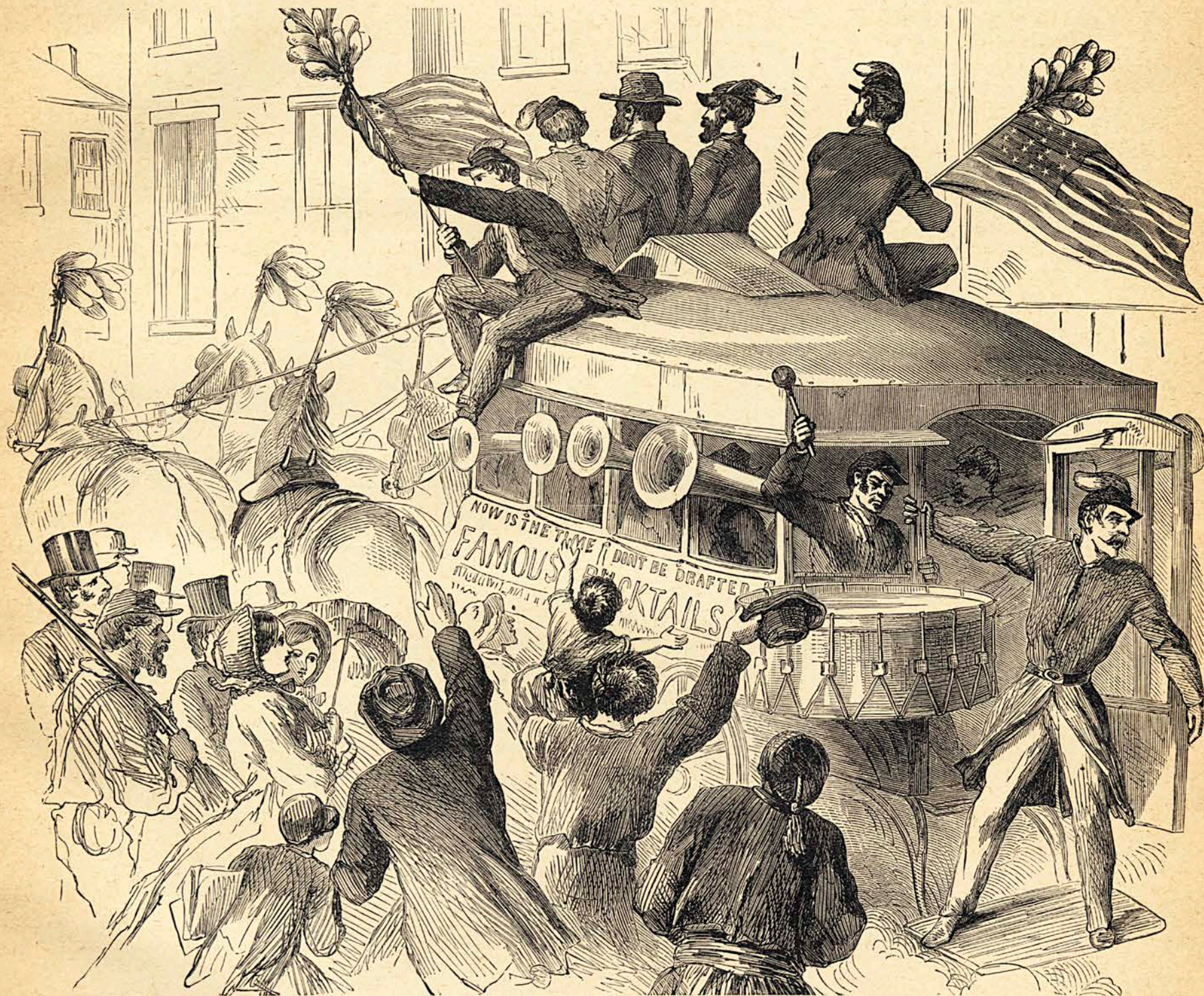
One division of the army embarked on the 17th of March, and the others followed in quick succession. General McClellan reached Fort Monroe on the 2d of April, by which time 58,000 men and 100 guns had arrived, and immediately moved with this force on Yorktown, the place made famous by the surrender of Cornwallis 80 years before. The Confederates had fortified this point, and thrown a line of earthworks across the narrow peninsula to the deep

General Johnston had to contend with the same difficulty that McClellan complained of. He wanted to bring together before Richmond all the troops that were then at Norfolk and in the Carolinas and Georgia, and with the large army thus formed suddenly attack McClellan after he should have marched 75 miles up the peninsula from his base at Fort Monroe. But in a council of war General Lee and the Secretary of War opposed this plan, and Mr. Davis adopted their views and rejected it. Johnston therefore undertook the campaign with the army that he had, which he says consisted of 50,000 effective men.

McClellan spent nearly a month before Yorktown, and when he was ready to open fire with his siege guns, May 3, he found the enemy had quietly departed, leaving "Quaker guns" (wooden logs on wheels) in the embrasures. There was no delay in pursuit, and the National

of them. When the Confederates advanced their left to the attack, they ran upon these redoubts, which their commanding officers knew nothing about, and were repelled with heavy loss. Hancock's 1600 men suddenly burst over the crest of the works, and bore down upon the enemy with fixed bayonets, routing and scattering them. McClellan brought up reinforcements, and in the night the Confederates moved off to join their main army. The National loss had been about 2200, the Confederate about 1800.

General William B. Franklin's division of McDowell's corps had now been sent to McClellan, and immediately after the battle of Williamsburg he moved it on transports to White House, at the head of York River, where it established a base of supplies. As soon as possible, also, the main body of the army was marched to White House, reaching that place on the 16th of



RECRUITING IN PHILADELPHIA FOR THE FAMOUS BUCKTAIL REGIMENT.

water of Warwick River. These works were held by General Magruder with 13,000 effective men.

McClellan, supposing that Johnston's entire army was in the defences of Yorktown, sat down before the place and constructed siege works, approaching the enemy by regular parallels. As the remaining divisions of his army arrived at Fort Monroe, they were added to his besieging force; but McDowell's entire corps and Blenker's division had been detached at the last moment and retained at Washington, from fears on the part of the Administration that the capital was not sufficiently guarded, though McClellan had already left 70,000 men there or within call. The fears were increased by the threatening movements of Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley, where, however, he was defeated by General James Shields near Winchester, March 13.

advance came up with the Confederate rear guard near Williamsburg. Here, May 4, brisk skirmishing began, which gradually became heavier, till reinforcements were hurried up on the one side and sent back on the other, and the skirmish was developed into a battle. The place had been well fortified months before. The action on the morning of the 5th was opened by the divisions of Generals Hooker and William F. Smith. They attacked the strongest of the earthworks, pushed forward the batteries, and silenced it. Hooker was then heavily attacked by infantry, with a constant menace on his left wing. He sustained his position alone nearly all day, though losing 1700 men and five guns, and was at length relieved by the arrival of General Philip Kearney's division. Later in the day, Hancock's brigade made a wide circuit on the right, discovered some unoccupied redoubts, and took possession

May. From this point McClellan moved westward toward Richmond, expecting to be joined by 40,000 men under McDowell, which was to move from Fredericksburg. On reaching the Chickahominy, McClellan threw his left wing across that stream, and sweeping around with his right fought small battles at Mechanicsville and Hanover Junction, by which he cleared the way for McDowell to join him. But at this critical point of time Stonewall Jackson suddenly made another raid down the Shenandoah Valley, and McDowell was called back to go in pursuit of him.

Johnston resolved to strike the detached left wing of the National army, which had advanced to within half a dozen miles of Richmond, and his purpose was seconded by a heavy rain on the night of May 30, which swelled the stream and swept away some of the bridges. The attack,