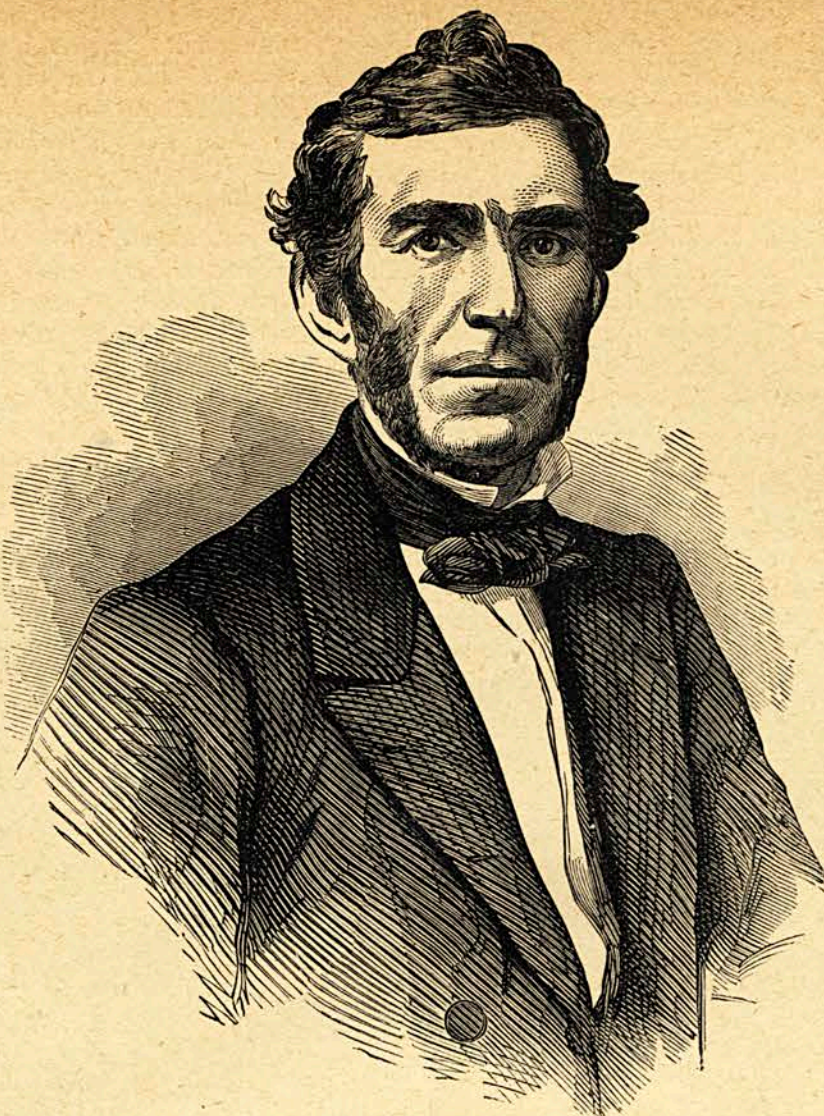


victory might rest with the little army on the hills, and in all probability it would, if they had had such intrenchments as the men afterward learned how to construct very quickly; but their breastworks were only such as could be made from hastily felled trees, a few rails, and heaps of knapsacks. The Confederates had the advantage of thick woods in which to form and advance. As they emerged and came on in heavy masses, with the Confederate yell, they were answered by the Union cheer. Volley responded to volley, guns were taken and re-taken, and cannoniers that remained after the infantry supports retired were shot down; but it was not till sunset that the National line was fairly disrupted, at the left centre, when the whole gave way and slowly retired. Two regiments were captured, and 22 guns fell into the hands of the enemy. In the night Porter crossed the river with his remaining force, and destroyed the bridges. This was called by the Confederates the battle of the Chickahominy; but it takes its better known name from two mills (Gaines') near the scene of action. The total National loss was 6000 men. The Confederate loss was never properly ascertained, which renders it probable that it was much larger. This action is sometimes called the first battle of Cold Harbor.

Lee and Jackson believed that they had been fighting the whole of McClellan's forces, and another mistake that they made secured the safety of that army. They took it for granted that the National Commander, driven from his base at White House, would retreat down the peninsula, taking the same route by which he had come. Consequently they remained with their large force on the left bank of the Chickahominy, and even advanced some distance down the stream, which gave McClellan 24 hours of precious time to get through the swamp roads with his immense trains. He had 5000



BRAXTON BRAGG.

loaded wagons, and 2500 head of cattle. General Silas Casey's division, in charge of the stores at White House, loaded all they could upon transports, and destroyed the remainder. Trains of cars filled with supplies were put under full speed and run off the tracks into the river. Hundreds of tons of ammunition, and millions of rations, were burned or otherwise destroyed.

When General Magruder, who had been left in the defences of Richmond, found that the National army was retreating to the James, he moved out

and struck the rear guard at Allen's farm. His men made three assaults, and were three times repelled.

The National troops fell back to Savage's Station, where later in the day Magruder attacked them again. But there was an ample force to oppose him, and it stood unmoved by his successive charges. About sunset he advanced his whole line with a desperate rush in the face of a continuous fire; but it was of no avail, and half an hour later his own line was broken by a counter-charge that closed the battle. He admitted a loss of 4000 men. Sumner and Franklin, at a cost of 3000, had thus maintained the approach to the single road through White Oak Swamp, by which they were to follow the body of the army that had already passed.

Jackson, after spending a day in building bridges, crossed the Chickahominy, and attempted to follow McClellan's rear guard through White Oak Swamp; but when he got to the other side he found a necessary bridge destroyed and National batteries commanding its site, so that it was impossible for his forces to emerge from the swamp. But meanwhile Hill and Longstreet had crossed the river farther up stream, marched around the swamp, and struck the retreating army near Charles City Cross-Roads on the 30th. There was terrific fighting all the afternoon. There were brave charges and bloody repulses, masses

of men moving up steadily in the face of batteries that tore great gaps through them at every discharge, crossed bayonets, and clubbed muskets. Only on that part of the line held by McCall did the Confederates, with all their daring, succeed in breaking through. McCall, in his report, describes the successful charge: "A most determined charge was made on Randol's battery by a full brigade, advancing in wedge shape, without order, but in perfect recklessness. Somewhat similar charges had been previously made



THE FEDERAL WAR STEAMER "SOUTH CAROLINA" SHELLING THE BATTERIES AT GALVESTON, TEXAS, AUGUST 5, 1861.