

United States courts or action of Congress. On the 6th of March, 1862, the President, in a special message to Congress, recommended the adoption of a joint resolution to the effect that the United States ought to co-operate with, and render pecuniary aid to, any State that should enter upon a gradual abolition of slavery; and Congress passed such a resolution by a large majority.

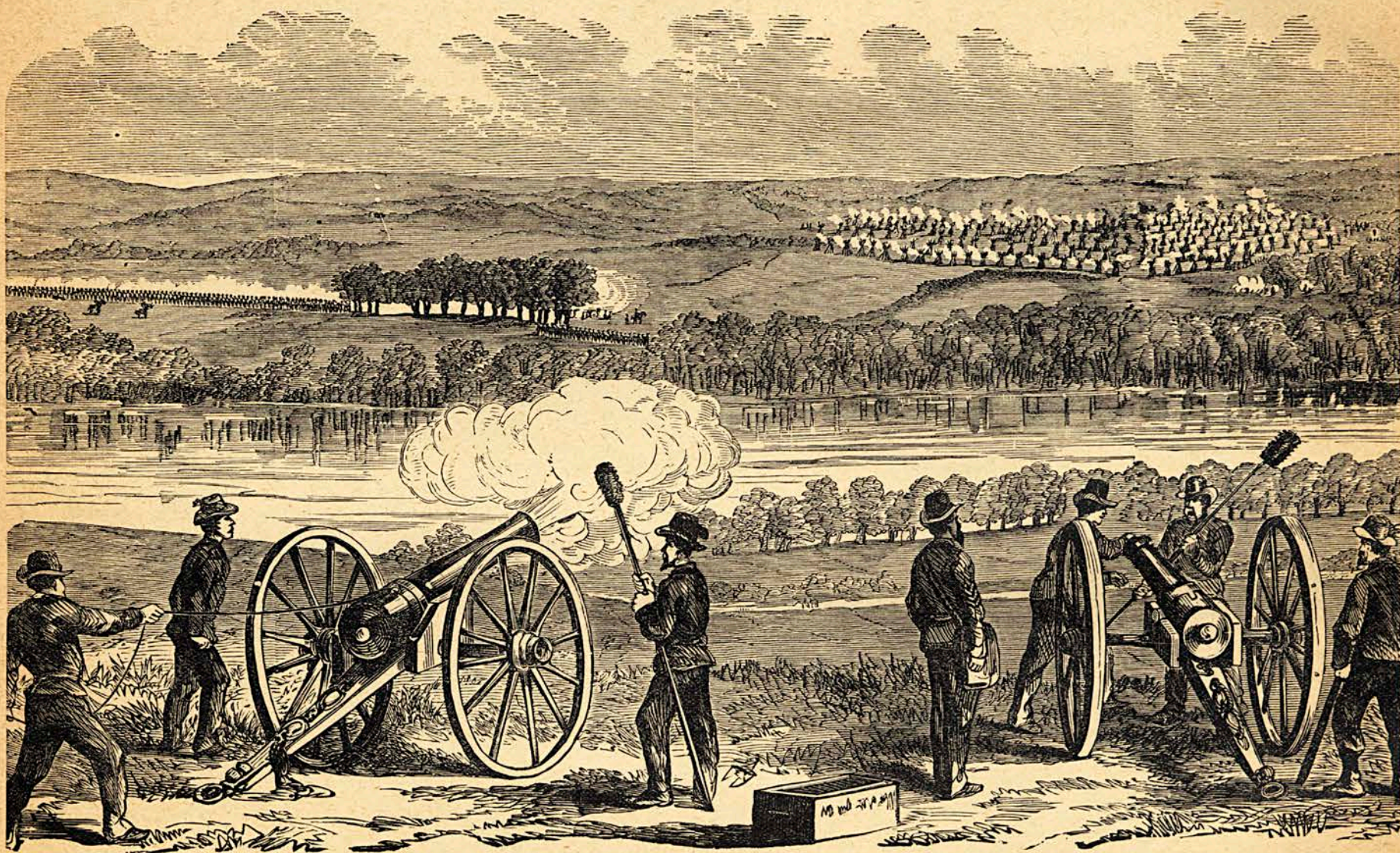
On the 14th of July the President recommended to Congress the passage of a bill for the payment, in United States interest-bearing bonds, to any State that should abolish slavery, of an amount equal to the value of all slaves within its borders according to the census of 1860; and at the same time he asked the Congressional representatives of the border States to use their influence with their constituents to bring about such action in those States. The answer was not very favorable; but Maryland did abolish slavery before the close of the war, in October, 1864.

On July 22, 1862, all the National commanders were ordered to employ as many negroes as could be used advantageously for military and naval purposes, paying them for their labor and

Hunter, so far as they referred to slaves, declaring that he reserved the question of emancipation to himself.

The President was contemplating emancipation as a war measure, and in the summer of 1862 he prepared his preliminary proclamation; but he did not wish to issue it till it could follow a triumph of the National arms. McClellan's success at Antietam, though not the decisive victory that was wanted, appeared to be as good an opportunity as was likely soon to present itself, and five days later (September 22, 1862) the proclamation was issued. It declared that the President would, at the next session, renew his suggestion to Congress of pecuniary aid to the States disposed to abolish slavery gradually or otherwise, and gave notice that on the 1st of January, 1863, he would declare forever free all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people whereof should then be in rebellion against the United States. On that day he issued the final and decisive proclamation, as promised, in which he also announced that black men would be received into the military and naval service of the United States.

obeying the order, he inquired what sort of troops they were that would be sent to him, and how many tents he could have, and said his army could not move without fresh supplies of shoes and clothing. While he was thus paltering, the Confederate General Stuart, who had ridden around his army on the Peninsula, with a small body of cavalry rode entirely around it again, eluding all efforts for his capture. On the 13th the President wrote a long, friendly letter to General McClellan, in which he gave him much excellent advice that he, as a trained soldier, ought not to have needed. Twelve days more of fine weather were frittered away in renewed complaints, and such inquiries as whether the President wished him to move at once or wait for fresh horses, for the General said his horses were fatigued and had sore tongue. Here the President began to show some impatience, and wrote: "Will you pardon me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the battle of Antietam that fatigues anything?" October 26, McClellan began to cross the Potomac; but it was ten days (partly owing to heavy rains) before his army was all on the south side of the river, and meanwhile he had brought up new



Union Troops.

Union Artillery.

Confederate Sharpshooters.

ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN FEDERAL AND CONFEDERATE TROOPS ON THE VIRGINIA SIDE OF THE POTOMAC, OPPOSITE EDWARDS' FERRY, OCTOBER 22, 1861.

CHAPTER XIII.

BURNSIDE'S CAMPAIGN.

keeping a record as to their ownership, "as a basis on which compensation could be made in proper cases."

Many of the Federal generals had assumed that whatever other damage was done to the enemy the slaves' property must be in no wise interfered with. This was set forth with great clearness in a proclamation issued by General McClellan when he first took the field in western Virginia. Some of them, however, had a radically different view. General B. F. Butler, commanding at Fort Monroe, declared in May, 1861, that as the slaves could be made very useful to the enemy, and were being so used, they were contraband of war; and all that came within his lines should be confiscated as such. In August, General Frémont, commanding in Missouri, proclaimed the whole State under martial law, and declared the slaves free. In April, 1862, General Hunter, commanding on the coast of South Carolina, made a similar proclamation concerning the slaves in his District. But President Lincoln countermanded the proclamation of Frémont and

AFTER the battle of the Antietam, Lee withdrew to the neighborhood of Winchester, where he was reinforced till at the end of a month he had about 68,000 men. McClellan followed as far as the Potomac, and ten days after he defeated Lee on the Antietam, he wrote to the President that he intended to stay where he was, and attack the enemy if they attempted to re-cross into Maryland!

On the 1st of October the President visited General McClellan at his headquarters, and made himself acquainted with the condition of the army. Five days later he ordered McClellan to "cross the Potomac, and give battle to the enemy, or drive him south." The dispatch added, "Your army must move now, while the roads are good. If you cross the river between the enemy and Washington, and cover the latter by your operation, you can be reinforced with 30,000 men." Nevertheless, McClellan did not stir. Instead of

questions for discussion and invented new excuses for delay.

McClellan was a sore puzzle to the people of the loyal States. But large numbers of his men still believed in him, and—as is usual in such cases—intensified their personal devotion in proportion as the distrust of the people at large was increased. After crossing the Potomac, he left a corps at Harper's Ferry, and was moving southward on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge, while Lee moved in the same direction on the western side, when, on November 7, the President solved the riddle that had vexed the country, by relieving him of the command. His successor was Ambrose E. Burnside.

At this time the right wing of Lee's army, under Longstreet, was near Culpeper, and the left, under Jackson, was in the Shenandoah Valley. Their separation was such that it would require two days for one to march to the other. McClellan said he intended to endeavor to get between them and either beat them in detail or force them to unite as far south as Gordonsville. Burnside