

direction, for some feasible approach to the flanks of his enemy. On the eastern side of the Mississippi there had once been an opening, known as Yazoo Pass, but it had been closed by a levee. Grant blew up the levee, and tried this approach. But the Confederates had information of every movement, and took prompt measures to thwart it. The banks of the streams where his boats had to pass were heavily wooded, and great trees were felled across the channel. Worse than this, after the boats had passed in and removed many of the obstructions, it was found that the enemy were felling trees across the channel behind them. Earthworks also were thrown up at the point where the Yallahusha and Tallahatchie unite to form the Yazoo, and heavily manned. Reinforcements arrived under General Isaac F. Quinby, who assumed command, and began operations for crossing the Yallahusha and rendering the Confederate fortification useless, when he was recalled by Grant, who had found that the necessary light-draft boats for carrying his whole force through to that point could not be had.

One more attempt in this direction was made before the effort to flank Vicksburg on the north was given up. It was proposed to ascend the Yazoo a short distance from its mouth, turn into Steel's bayou, ascend this, and get into Big Sunflower River, and then descend that stream into the Yazoo above Haines' Bluff. Porter and Sherman took the lead in this expedition, and encountered all the difficulties of the Yazoo Pass project. Porter at one time was on the point of abandoning his boats; but finally all were extricated, though some of them had to back out through the narrow pass for 30 miles.

In March, Farragut with his flagship and one gunboat had run by the batteries at Port Hudson, but the remainder of his fleet had failed to pass. Several boats had run by the batteries at Vicksburg; and Grant now turned his attention to a project for moving an army by transports through bayous west of the Mississippi to a point below the city, where Porter, after running by the batteries with his iron-clads, was to meet him and ferry the troops across to the eastern bank. The use of the bayous was finally given up, and the army marched by the roads. The fleet ran by the batteries on the night of April 16.

Bridges had to be built over bayous, and a suitable place discovered for crossing the Mississippi. Grant moved his transports down stream under cover of darkness, and at daylight on the 30th began the crossing at Bruinsburg. McClelland's corps was in the advance, and marched on Port Gibson that night. At dawn the enemy was found in a strong position three miles west of that place. There was sharp fighting all day, the Confederate force numbering about 8000, and contesting every foot of the ground; but the line was finally disrupted, and at nightfall they made an orderly retreat, burning bridges behind them. The National loss had been 849 men; the Confederate about 1000.

The fortifications at Grand Gulf were abandoned, Porter took possession of them, and Grant established his base there. A bridge had to be rebuilt at Port Gibson, and then Crocker's division pushed on in pursuit of the retreating Confederates, came up with them at Willow Springs, and drove them across the Big Black at Hankinson's Ferry. There was a slight delay, for Sherman's corps and the supplies to arrive, and then Grant pressed on resolutely with his whole army. He had with him about 41,000 men, subsequently increased to 45,000; and Pemberton at this time had about 50,000.

Grant moved northeasterly, toward Jackson, and on the 12th of May found a hostile force near Raymond. It numbered but 3000, and was soon

swept away, though not until it had lost 500 men and inflicted a loss of 432. Believing there was a considerable force at Jackson, Grant marched on that place, and the next conflict occurred there, May 14. General Joseph E. Johnston had just been ordered by the Confederate Government to take command of all the forces in Mississippi, and arrived at Jackson in the evening of the 13th, finding there about 12,000 men subject to his orders. Pemberton was at Edwards Station, 30 miles westward, and Grant was between them. Johnston telegraphed to Richmond that he was too late, but took what measures he could for defence. It rained heavily that night, and the next morning, when the corps of Sherman and McPherson marched against the city, they traveled roads that were a foot under water. McPherson came up on the west, and Sherman on the southwest and south. The enemy was met two miles out, and driven in with heavy skirmishing. While manœuvring was going on before the intrenchments, the Union commanders seeking for a suitable point to assault, it was discovered that the

pressed, called for help, Logan was drawn back to his assistance, and the road uncovered. A little later Pemberton was in full retreat toward the crossing of the Big Black River, leaving his dead and wounded and 30 guns on the field. Grant's loss in the action was 2441. Pemberton's was over 3000 killed and wounded, besides nearly as many captured.

The enemy was next found at the Big Black River, where he had placed his main line on the high land west of the stream, and stationed his advance (or, properly speaking, his rear guard) along the edge of a bayou that ran through the low ground on the east. This position was attacked vigorously on the 17th, and when Lawler's brigade flanked it on the right, the whole line gave way, and Pemberton resumed his retreat, burning the bridge behind him and leaving his men in the lowland to their fate. Some swam the river, some were drowned, and 1750 were made prisoners. Eighteen guns were captured here. The National loss was 279.

Sherman now came up with his corps, and Grant ordered the building of three bridges. Sherman's troops made a fourth bridge farther up the stream, and that night he and Grant sat on a log and watched the long procession of blue-coated men with gleaming muskets marching across the swaying structure by the light of pitchpine torches. All the bridges were finished by morning, and that day, the 18th, the entire army was west of the river.

Pemberton marched straight into Vicksburg, which had a long line of defences on the land side as well as on the water front, and shut himself up there. Grant, invested the place on the 19th. Sherman, holding the right of the line, was at Haines' Bluff. Here, on the Yazoo, Grant established a new base for supplies. McPherson's corps was next to Sherman's on the left, and McClelland's next, reaching to the river below the city. An assault in the afternoon of the 19th gained the National troops some advantage in the advancement of the line to better ground. Grant's army had been living for three weeks on five days' rations, with what they could pick up in the country they passed through, and his first care was to construct roads in the rear of his line, so that supplies could be brought up from the Yazoo rapidly and regularly. He had now about 30,000 men, the line of defences before him was eight miles long, and he expected an attack from Johnston in the rear. At ten o'clock on the 22d, therefore he ordered a grand assault. But though the men at

several points reached the breastworks and planted their battle-flags on them, it was found impossible to take them. McClelland falsely reported that he had carried two forts at his end of the line, and asked for reinforcements, which were sent to him, and a renewal of the assault was made to help him. This caused additional loss of life, and shortly afterward that general was relieved of his command, which was given to General E. O. C. Ord.

After this assault, which had cost him nearly 2500 men, Grant settled down to a siege by regular approaches. The work went on day by day, with the usual incidents. There was mining and counter-mining, and two large mines were exploded under angles of the works, but without any practical result. The great guns were booming night and day, throwing thousands of shells into the city. Caves were dug in the banks where the streets had been cut through the clayey hills, and in these the people found refuge from the shells. All the while the besiegers were digging away, bringing their trenches closer to the defences, till the soldiers of the hostile lines bandied jests across the narrow intervening space. At the end of 47 days the works arrived at the point where a



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enemy was evacuating the place, and Grant and his men went in at once and hoisted the National colors. They had lost 290 men in the skirmishing; the enemy 845, mostly captured. Seventeen guns were taken, but the Confederates burned most of their stores.

Leaving Sherman at Jackson to destroy the railroad and the factories that were turning out goods for the Confederacy, which he did very thoroughly, Grant ordered all his other forces to concentrate at Bolton, 20 miles west. Marching thence westward, keeping the corps well together, and ordering Sherman to send forward an ammunition-train—Grant found Pemberton with 23,000 men waiting to receive him at Champion's Hill, on high ground well selected for defence, which covered the three roads leading westward. The battle, May 15, lasted four hours, and was the bloodiest of the campaign. The brunt of it, on the National side, was borne by the divisions of Hovey, Logan, and Crocker; and Hovey lost more than one-third of his men. Logan's division pushed forward on the right, passed Pemberton's left flank, and held the only road by which the enemy could retreat. But this was not known to the Union commander, and when Hovey, hard