

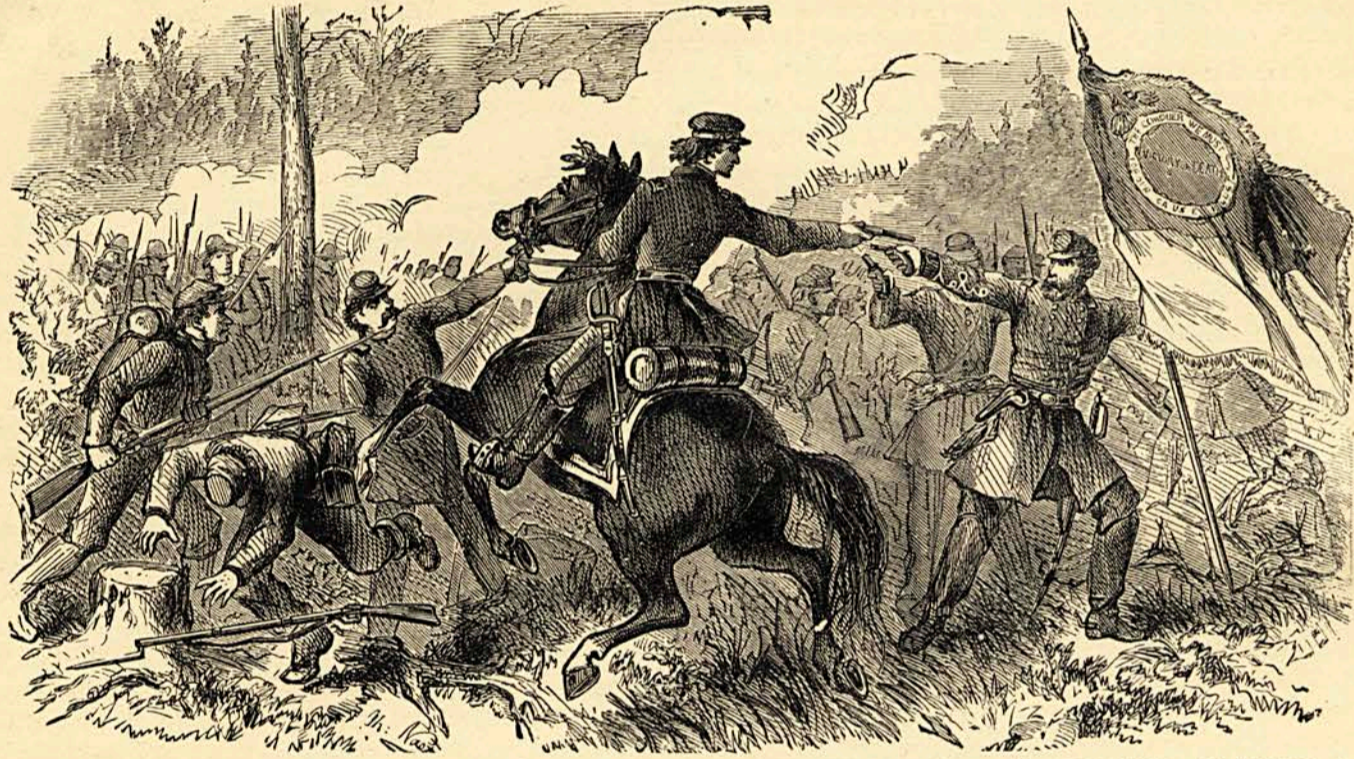
second line of intrenchments, seemed to have opened a way for the destruction of the Confederate army; but the difficulties of the ground and the lateness of the hour made it impracticable to follow up the advantage. After dark, Upton's men withdrew, bringing the prisoners and the captured battle-flags.

On the 11th it rained heavily, and there was no fighting. Grant determined to make a heavier and more persistent assault upon the tempting salient, and moved Hancock's corps by a wood-road, after dark, to a point opposite the apex. The morning of the 12th was foggy, but by 4.30 p. m. it was light enough, and Hancock's men advanced. When they were half-way across the open ground in front of the salient, they burst into a wild cheer and rushed for the works. Here they were met by determined resistance on the part of the half-surprised Confederates, who fought irregularly with clubbed muskets. But Hancock's corps was over the breastworks in a few seconds. Large numbers of Confederates were killed, mostly with the bayonet. So sudden was Hancock's irruption, that he captured General Edward Johnson's entire division of nearly 4000 men, with its commander and General Steuart. Hancock's men had also captured 20 guns, with their horses and caissons, thousands of small arms, and 30 battle-flags. The guns were immediately turned upon the enemy, who was followed through the woods toward Spottsylvania Court House till the pursuers ran up against another line of intrenchments across the base of the salient. At the same time that Hancock assaulted at the apex, Warren and Burnside had assaulted at the sides, but with less success.

Lee poured his men into the salient with a determination to retake it. Hancock's men, when the pressure became too great, fell back slowly to the outer intrenchments, and turning used them as their own. Five times the Confederates attacked these in heavy masses, and five times they were repelled with bloody loss. Before they had been at disadvantage from defending a salient, and now they were at equal disadvantage in assailing a reentrant angle. To add to the slaughter, Hancock had established several batteries on high ground, where they could fire over the heads of his own men and strike the enemy beyond. Here and along the western face of the angle the fighting was kept up all day, and was most desperate and destructive. Field guns were run up close to the works and fired into the masses of Confederate troops within the salient, creating terrible havoc; but in turn the horses and gunners were certain to be shot down. There was hand-to-hand fighting over the breastworks, and finally the men of the two armies were crouching on either side of them, shooting and stabbing through the crevices between the logs. The fighting around the "death-angle," as the soldiers called it, was kept up till past midnight, when the Confederates finally withdrew to their interior line. The dead were not only literally piled in heaps, but their bodies were terribly torn and mangled by the shot. Every tree and bush was cut down or killed by the balls, and in one instance the body of an oak tree nearly two feet

in diameter was completely cut through by bullets. The National losses in the fighting around Spottsylvania, from the 8th to the 21st of May, were 13,600. Somewhat over half of this loss occurred on the 12th. The Confederate loss appears to have been 10,000 on the 12th, and was probably about equal in the aggregate to the National loss. In the National army, besides Sedgwick, Generals T. G. Stevenson and J. C. Rice were killed, and Generals H. G. Wright and Alexander S. Webb, and Colonel Samuel S. Carroll were wounded; the last named being promoted to brigadier-general on the field. Of the Confederates, Generals Daniel and Perrin were killed, Generals R. D. Johnston, McGowan, Ramseur and Walker wounded, and Generals Johnson and Steuart captured.

General Grant had written to Halleck on the 11th: "We have now ended the sixth day of very hard fighting. The result up to this time is much in our favor. But our losses have been heavy, as well as those of the enemy. . . . I am now sending back to Belle Plain all my wagons for a fresh supply of provisions and ammunition, and purpose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer." A week was spent in manœuvring to find a new point of attack that promised success, but without avail, and it was determined to move again by the left flank. The movement was to the North Anna River; again it was a race, and this time the Confederates had the shorter line.



CAPTURE OF COLONEL ISAAC W. AVERY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, BY LIEUTENANT HAMMOND, OF THE U. S. GUNBOAT "HETZEL," WHILE RALLYING HIS PANIC-STRICKEN REGIMENT.
FROM A SKETCH BY F. B. SCHELL.

The distance from Spottsylvania Court House to Richmond is a little more than 50 miles. Grant did not wish to conceal his movement altogether. He was anxious to induce the enemy to fight without the enormous advantage of intrenchments. So he planned to send one corps toward Richmond, hoping that Lee would be tempted to attack it with all his army, whereupon the other corps might follow up sharply and attack the Confederates before they had time to intrench. When the movement was begun, Lee, instead of moving at once in the same direction, sent Ewell's corps to attack the National right. It happened that 6000 raw recruits, under General R. O. Tyler, were on their way to reinforce the Army of the Potomac, and had not quite reached their place in line, when they were struck by Ewell's flank movement. Grant says they maintained their position in a manner worthy of veterans, till they were reinforced by the divisions of Birney and Crawford, and Ewell was then quickly driven back with heavy loss. This was on the 19th of May.

The corps thrown forward as a bait was Hancock's, and it marched on the night of the 20th, easterly to Guinea Station, and then southerly to Milford. Warren's corps followed 12 hours later, and 12 hours later still the corps of Burnside

and Wright. The Confederates had no notion of taking any risk. They made a reconnoissance to their left, to be sure that Grant had not kept a corps at Spottsylvania to fall upon their rear, and then set out by a shorter line than his to interpose themselves once more between him and their capital.

The new position that was taken up was one of the strongest that could have been devised. The Confederate left stretched in a straight line, a mile and a half long, from Little River to the North Anna at Oxford. Here, bending at a right angle, the line followed the North Anna down stream for three-quarters of a mile, thence continuing in a straight line southeastward, to and around Hanover Junction. The North Anna here makes a bend to the south, and on the most southerly point of the bend the Confederate line touched and held it. If we imagine a ring cut in halves, and the halves placed back to back, in contact, and call one the line of Confederate intrenchments and the other the river, we shall have a fair representation of the essential features of the situation. It is evident that any enemy approaching from the north and attempting to envelop this position, would have his own line twice divided by the river, so that his army would be in three parts. The obvious point to assail in such a position would be the apex of the salient line where it touched the river; and Burnside was

ordered to force a passage at that point. But the banks were high and steep, and the passage was covered by artillery. Wright's corps crossed the river above the Confederate position, and destroyed some miles of the Virginia Central Railroad, while Hancock's crossed below, and destroyed a large section of the road to Fredericksburg. By this time they had learned the effective method of not only tearing up the track, but piling up the ties and setting

them on fire, heating the rails and twisting them so that they could not be used again. These operations were not carried out without frequent sharp fighting, which cost each side about 2000 men.

In the night of May 26, which was very dark, the army withdrew to the north bank of the North Anna, and was put in motion again by the left flank. Sheridan's cavalry led the way and guarded the crossings of the Pamunkey. The direction was southeast, and the distance about 30 miles to a point at which the army would cross the Pamunkey and move southwest toward Richmond, the crossing being about 20 miles from that city. But between lie the swamps of the Chickahominy. In the morning of the 28th the cavalry moved out on the most direct road to Richmond, and at Hawes' Shop encountered a strong force of Confederate cavalry, which was dismounted and intrenched. After a bloody fight of some hours' duration, the divisions commanded by Gregg and Custer broke over the intrenchments and forced back the enemy; the other divisions came up promptly, and the position was held. Soon after noon of that day three-fourths of the army had crossed the Pamunkey, and the remaining corps crossed that night. Here were several roads leading to the Confederate capital; but the Confederate