

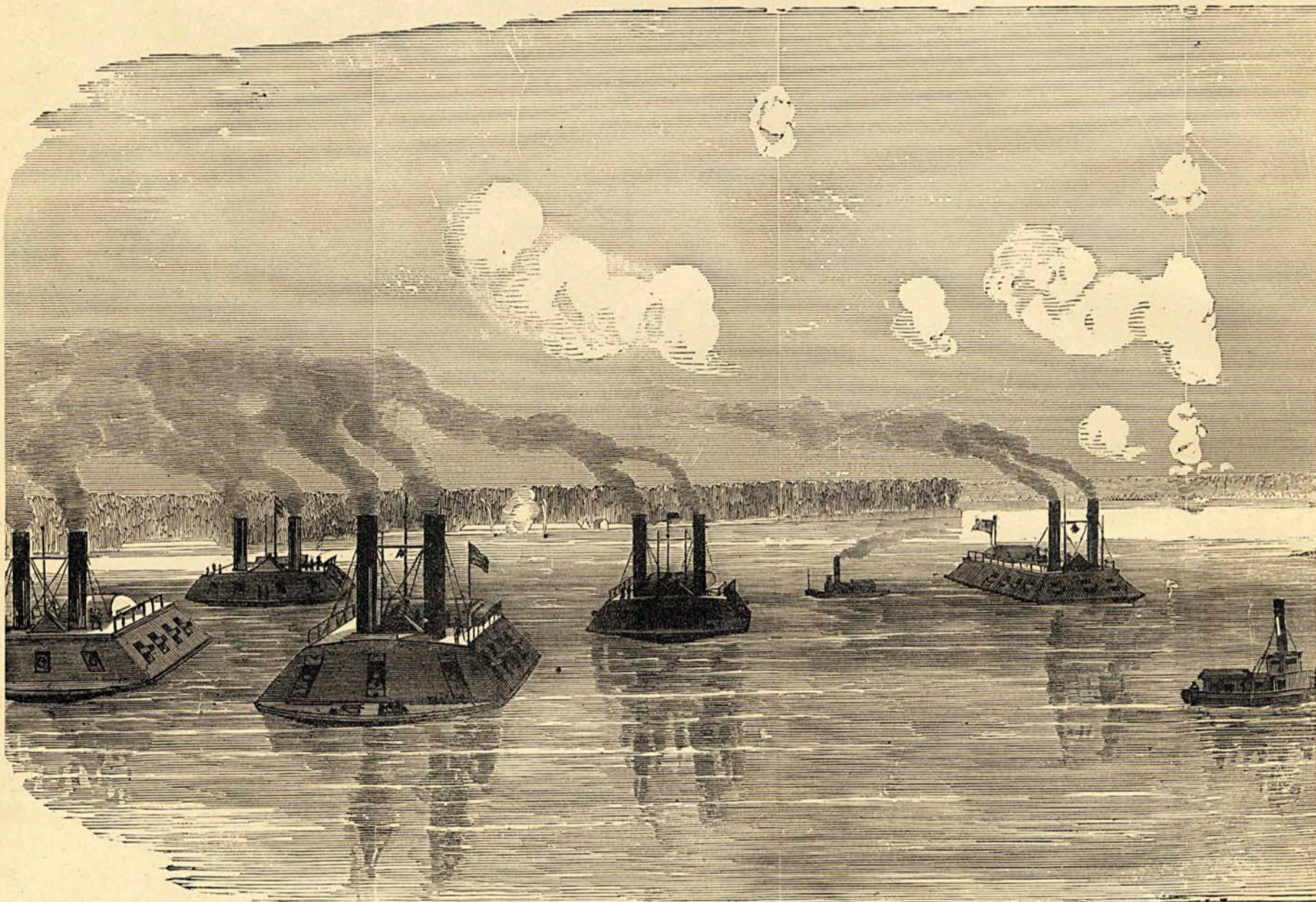
must always hold fast to its communications. He determined to let go of the railroad north of Kenesaw, take ten days' provisions in wagons, and move his whole army southward to seize the road below Marietta. This would compel Johnston either to fall back farther toward Atlanta, or come out and fight him in his intrenchments—which, as both commanders well knew, was almost certain destruction to the assaulting party. In the night of July 2, McPherson's troops marched southward, passing behind the lines held by Thomas and Schofield. This was the same manœuvre as that by which Grant had carried his army to its successive positions between the Wilderness and James River.

Johnston promptly abandoned his strong position at Kenesaw, and fell back to the Chattahoochee; but he did not attempt to cross the stream at once. Intrenchments had been prepared for him on the north bank, and here he stopped. Sherman, expecting to catch his enemy in the confusion of crossing a stream, pressed on

reached, and on the day that Sherman crossed it something else took place, which, in the opinion of many military critics, was even more disastrous to the fortunes of the Confederacy. This was the supersession of the careful and skillful Johnston by General John B. Hood, an impetuous and sometimes reckless fighter, but no strategist.

Within 24 hours the National army learned that its antagonist had a new commander, and it was easily inferred that a new policy might be looked for. Sherman warned his army to be constantly prepared for sallies of the enemy, and his prediction did not wait long for fulfilment. On the 20th, at noonday, as his army was slowly closing in upon the city, the Confederates left the intrenchments along the line of Peachtree Creek, and made a heavy assault upon Thomas, who held the right of the National line. The weight of the blow fell mainly upon Hooker's corps, and the attack was so furious and reckless that in many places friend and foe were intermingled, fighting hand to hand. A heavy column of Confederates

the Confederates with steady courage from noon till night. Seven heavy assaults were made, resulting in seven bloody repulses, guns were taken and retaken, and finally a counter attack was made on the Confederate flank by Wood's division, assisted by 20 guns that fired over the heads of Wood's men as they advanced, which drove back the enemy, who retired slowly to their defences, carrying with them some of the captured guns. The National loss in this battle was 3521 men and ten guns. The total Confederate loss is unknown, but it was very heavy; General Logan reported 3220 dead in front of his lines, and 2000 prisoners, half of whom were wounded. The most grievous loss to Sherman was General McPherson, who rode off into the woods at the first sounds of battle, almost alone. His horse soon came back bleeding and riderless, and an hour later the General's body was brought to headquarters. General Oliver O. Howard, who had lost an arm at Fair Oaks and was now in command of the Fourth Corps, was promoted to Mc-



NIGHT ATTACK ON ISLAND NO. 10 BY THE FEDERAL
FROM A SKETCH

rapidly with his whole army, and ran up against what he says was one of the strongest pieces of field fortification he has ever seen. A thousand slaves had been at work on it for a month. But Sherman occupied ground that overlooked it, and held the river for miles above and below, and was thus able to cross over and turn the position. On the 9th of July Schofield's army crossed above the Confederate position, laying two pontoon bridges, and intrenched on the left bank. Johnston, thus compelled to surrender the stream, crossed that night with his entire army, and burned the bridges behind him. Sherman was almost as cautious in the pursuit as Johnston was in the retreat; and he not only chose an upper crossing, farther from Atlanta, but spent a week in preparations to prevent disaster, before he threw over his entire army. This he did on the 17th, and the next day moved it by a grand right wheel toward Atlanta.

The Chattahoochee was the last great obstruction before the fortifications of the Gate City were

attempted to fall upon an exposed flank of the Fourth Corps; but Thomas promptly brought several batteries to play upon it, and at the end of two hours the enemy was driven back to his intrenchments, leaving hundreds of dead on the field. Hooker also lost heavily, because his men fought without cover of any kind. A day or two later the Confederates fell back to the immediate defences of the city.

Sherman's left, which crossed the line of the railroad to Augusta, was without proper protection, and on the 22d Hood moved out with a part of his army and attacked it. He marched by a road parallel with the railroad, and the contour of the ground and the forests hid him until his men burst in upon the rear of Sherman's extreme left, seized a battery that was moving through the woods, and took possession of some of the camps. But McPherson's veterans quickly formed to meet the attack. That flank of the army was "refused"—turned back at a right angle with the main line—and met the onsets of

Pherson's place in command of the Army of the Tennessee; whereupon General Hooker, commanding the Twentieth Corps, who believed that the promotion properly belonged to him, asked to be relieved, and left the army. His corps was given to General Henry W. Slocum.

Sherman now repeated his former manœuvre, of moving by the right flank to strike the enemy's communications. The Army of the Tennessee was withdrawn from the left on the 27th, and marched to the extreme right, with the intention of extending the flank far enough to cross the railroad south of Atlanta. The movement was but partially performed when Hood made a heavy attack on that flank, and for four or five hours on the 28th there was bloody fighting. Logan's men hastily threw up a slight breastwork, from which they repelled six charges in quick succession, and later in the day several other charges by the Confederates broke against the immovable lines of the Fifteenth Corps. Meanwhile Sherman sent Jefferson C. Davis' division to make a detour