

who poured an effective fire into the flank of the advancing Confederates. At night both sides withdrew from the field. Hancock had lost 2400 men, 1700 of whom were prisoners. The Confederate loss is unknown, but it was severe.

From the time Grant held possession of the Weldon Railroad, and whatever supplies came to the Confederate army by that route had to be hauled 30 miles in wagons. The National army constructed for its own use a railroad in the rear of its long line of intrenchments, running from City Point to the extreme left flank. This road was not particular about grades and curves, but simply followed the natural contour of the ground. Then began what is called the siege of Petersburg.

Partly to check the movements of General Hunter in the Shenandoah Valley, and partly with the hope that an attack on Washington would cause Grant to withdraw from before Richmond and Petersburg, Lee sent Early's corps into the valley. Hunter, being out of ammunition, was

Wallace's left flank. That part of the line was held by Ricketts, who changed front to meet the attack, and was promptly reinforced from Wallace's scanty resources. Two assaults in line of battle were repelled, after some destructive fighting, and Wallace determined still to hold his ground, as he was hourly expecting three additional regiments. But the afternoon wore away without any appearance of assistance, and when he saw preparations for a heavier assault he determined to retreat. While the left was being withdrawn, the right, under General Tyler, was ordered to prevent the remaining Confederate force from crossing at the bridges. The wooden bridge was burned, and the stone bridge was held to the last possible moment, when Tyler also retreated. The missing regiments were met on the road, and there was no pursuit. This action probably saved the city of Washington from pillage and destruction. Wallace lost about 1400 men, half of whom were prisoners. The Confederates admitted a loss of 600.

CHAPTER XXIV.

SHERIDAN IN THE SHENANDOAH.

IT had become plainly evident that something must be done to cancel the whole Shenandoah Valley from the map of the theatre of war. The mountains that flanked it made it a secure lane down which a Confederate force could be sent to the very door of Washington; while the crops that were harvested in its fertile fields were a constant temptation to those who had to provide for the necessities of an army. General Grant took the matter in hand in earnest after Early's raid. His first care was to have the separate military departments in that section consolidated, his next to find a suitable commander, and finally to send an adequate force. He would have been satisfied with General Hunter, the ranking officer there; but Hunter had been badly hampered in his movements by constant interference from Washington, and knowing that he had not the confidence of General Halleck, he asked to be



GALLANT CHARGE OF THE SIXTH UNITED STATES REGULAR CAVALRY UPON THE CONFEDERATE CAVALRY UNDER GENERAL J. E. B. STUART, MAY 9, 1862.

obliged to retire, and Early marched down to the Potomac unopposed, and threatened the national capital.

General Lew Wallace, in command at Baltimore, gathered a body of recruits and went out to meet him, not with the hope of defeating him, but only of delaying him till a sufficient force could be sent from the Army of the Potomac. Ricketts' division of the Sixth Corps followed Wallace. They met the enemy at the Monocacy, 35 miles from Washington, July 9, and took up a position on the left bank of the stream, covering the roads to the capital. Wallace had six field guns and a small force of cavalry, and disposed his line so as to hold the bridges and fords as long as possible.

The Confederates attacked at first in front, and there was bloody fighting at one of the bridges. Then they marched a heavy force down stream, crossed at a ford out of range of the National artillery, and marched up stream again to strike

Early now marched on Washington. But by this time veteran troops were pouring into the defences of the city, and he wisely retreated. A part of his force was struck at Winchester, July 12, by one under General Averell, and defeated losing four guns and 300 men.

Three days later, Early defeated a force under General George Crook, and drove it across the Potomac, after which he sent his cavalry, under Generals McCausland and Bradley T. Johnson, to make a rapid raid into Pennsylvania. McCausland visited Chambersburg, and demanded immediate payment of \$100,000 in gold, or \$500,000 in United States currency, with a threat of burning the town. The money was not forthcoming, the torch was promptly applied, about two-thirds of the buildings were destroyed, and 300 families found themselves shelterless. Early, who ordered the burning, justifies it on the ground that it was in retaliation for the burning of the houses of well-known secessionists in Virginia.

relieved, since he did not wish to embarrass the cause. Grant accepted his offer, and telegraphed for General Sheridan to take command of the new department. Sheridan was on hand promptly, and was placed at the head of about 30,000 troops, including 8000 cavalry:

In his instructions, which were at first written out for Hunter and afterward transferred to Sheridan, Grant said: "In pushing up the Shenandoah Valley, where it is expected you will have to go first or last, it is desirable that nothing should be left to invite the enemy to return. Take all provisions, forage, and stock wanted for the use of your command. Such as cannot be consumed destroy. The people should be informed that so long as an army can subsist among them recurrences of these raids must be expected; and we are determined to stop them at all hazards."

Early, whose main force was on the south bank of the Potomac, above Harper's Ferry, still had a large part of his cavalry in Maryland, where they