

Nineteenth Corps, while Crook with the Eighth Corps should make a detour and come in on the enemy's left flank. The ground was so broken that the manœuvres were necessarily slow, and it was almost sunset when Crook reached Early's flank. He then came out of the woods so suddenly and silently that the Confederates were simply astounded. Their works were taken in reverse, and their dismounted cavalry was literally overrun. The forward movement of the troops in front was prompt, and everywhere Sheridan and his lieutenants were with the men, repeating the command to push forward constantly, without stopping for anything. The result was a complete rout of the Confederates, who fled in confusion up the valley, leaving 16 guns behind. But Sheridan's plan for their capture was foiled because his cavalry, meeting a stout resistance from Early's cavalry, failed to get through to their rear. In this battle, which was fought on the 22d of September, the National loss was about 400, the Confederate about 1400.

For the next three days the retreat was continued. Early went to Port Republic to meet reinforcements, and there stopped. Sheridan halted his infantry at Harrisonburg, but sent his

burg, and put his army into camp there, while he was summoned to Washington for conference, leaving General Wright in command. Early, finding nothing in the valley for his men and horses to eat, was obliged to advance and capture provisions from the stores of his enemy, or retreat and give up the ground. He chose to assume the offensive, and in the night of the 18th moved silently around the left of the National line. In the misty dawn of the 19th the Confederates burst upon the flank held by Crook's corps, with such vehemence that it was at once thrown into confusion. They were among the tents before anybody knew they were coming, and many of Crook's men were shot or stabbed before they could fairly awake. The Nineteenth Corps was also routed, but the Sixth stood firm, and the Confederates themselves became somewhat demoralized by the eagerness of the men to plunder. Wright's Sixth Corps covered the retreat; and when Sheridan, hearing of the battle and riding with all speed from Winchester, met the stream of fugitives, he deployed some cavalry to stop them, and inspired his men with a short and oft-repeated oration, which is reported as "Face the other way, boys! We are going back

whether there were not some possibility of a satisfactory peace without further fighting. In each section there was a party, or at least there were people, who believed that such a peace was possible, and the loud expression of this opinion led to several efforts at negotiation, as it also shaped the policy of a great political party.

The first Presidential convention of the year met at Cleveland, Ohio, on the last day of May, in response to a call addressed "to the radical men of the nation." The platform declared, among other things, "that the rebellion must be suppressed by force of arms, and without compromise; that the rebellion has destroyed slavery, and the Federal Constitution should be amended to prohibit its re-establishment. General John C. Frémont was nominated for the Presidency, and General John Cochrane for the Vice-Presidency.

The Republican National Convention met in Baltimore on the 7th of June. The platform, reported by Henry J. Raymond, one of the ablest of American journalists, was probably written largely if not entirely by him. Its most significant passages were these:

"That we approve the determination of the Government of the United States not to compromise with the



REPULSE OF THE CONFEDERATE TROOPS ON JAMES ISLAND, S. C., IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THE PICKETS OF GENERAL WRIGHT'S DIVISION.

FROM A SKETCH BY AN OFFICER.

cavalry still further up the valley. The column under Torbert reached Staunton, where it destroyed a large quantity of arms, ammunition, and provisions, and then tore up the track of the Virginia Central Railroad eastward to Waynesboro, and pulled down the iron bridge over the stream at that point. Here it was attacked in force, and retired. Grant wanted the movement continued to Charlottesville; but Sheridan found serious difficulties in his lack of supplies and transportation so far from his base. On the 5th of October the march down the valley was begun. The infantry went first, and the cavalry followed, being stretched entirely across the valley, burning and destroying, as it went, everything except the dwellings.

Early, being reinforced, now turned and pursued Sheridan. At Tom's Brook, on the 7th, the National cavalry under Torbert, Merritt and Custer engaged the Confederate cavalry under Rosser and Lamont. After a spirited engagement, Rosser was driven back 25 miles, and Torbert captured over 300 prisoners, 11 guns, and a large number of wagons—or, as was said in the report, "Everything they had on wheels."

Sheridan halted at Cedar Creek, north of Stras-

to our camps! We are going to lick them out of their boots!" This actually turned the tide, a new line was quickly formed and intrenched, and when Early attacked it he met with a costly repulse. In the afternoon Sheridan advanced to attack in turn, sending his irresistible cavalry around both flanks, and after some fighting the whole Confederate line was broken up and driven in confusion, with the cavalry close upon its heels. All the guns lost in the morning were retaken, and 24 besides. In this double battle the Confederate loss was about 3100; the National 5764, of whom 1700 were prisoners taken in the morning. The campaign in the valley was now practically ended.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

THE length of time that the war had continued, the drain upon the resources of both belligerents, and especially the rapidity and destructiveness of the battles in the summer of 1864, had naturally suggested the question

rebels, nor to offer them any terms of peace except such as may be based upon an unconditional surrender of their hostility and a return to their full allegiance to the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

"That as slavery was the cause and now constitutes the strength of this rebellion, and as it must be always and everywhere hostile to the principles of republican government, justice and the national safety demand its utter and complete extirpation from the soil of the Republic. . . .

"That we approve and applaud the practical wisdom, the unselfish patriotism, and unswerving fidelity to the Constitution and the principles of American liberty, with which Abraham Lincoln has discharged, under circumstances of unparalleled difficulty, the great duties and responsibilities of the Presidential office.

On the first ballot all the delegations voted for Mr. Lincoln, except that from Missouri, whose vote was given to General Grant. Andrew Johnson was nominated for Vice-President.

The Democratic National Convention, called to meet in Chicago, did not convene till nearly three months after the Republican, August 29. In the meantime the hard fighting around Richmond and on Sherman's road to Atlanta, the fruits of which were not yet evident, the appearance of Confederate forces at the gates of Washington, and the delay of Sheridan's movements in the Shenandoah Valley, had produced a more gloomy