

mingled with the other ballots in the boxes), showed about 119,000 for Lincoln, and about 34,000 for McClellan.

If there is any one act of the American people that above all others, in the sober pages of history, reflects credit upon them for correct judgment, determined purpose, courage in present difficulties, and care for future interests, that act, it seems to me, was the re-election of President Lincoln.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE MARCH TO THE SEA.

BEFORE Sherman's army had been a week in Atlanta, he determined to send away all the inhabitants of the city, giving each the choice whether to go south or north, and furnishing transportation for a certain distance. His reason for this measure is given briefly in his

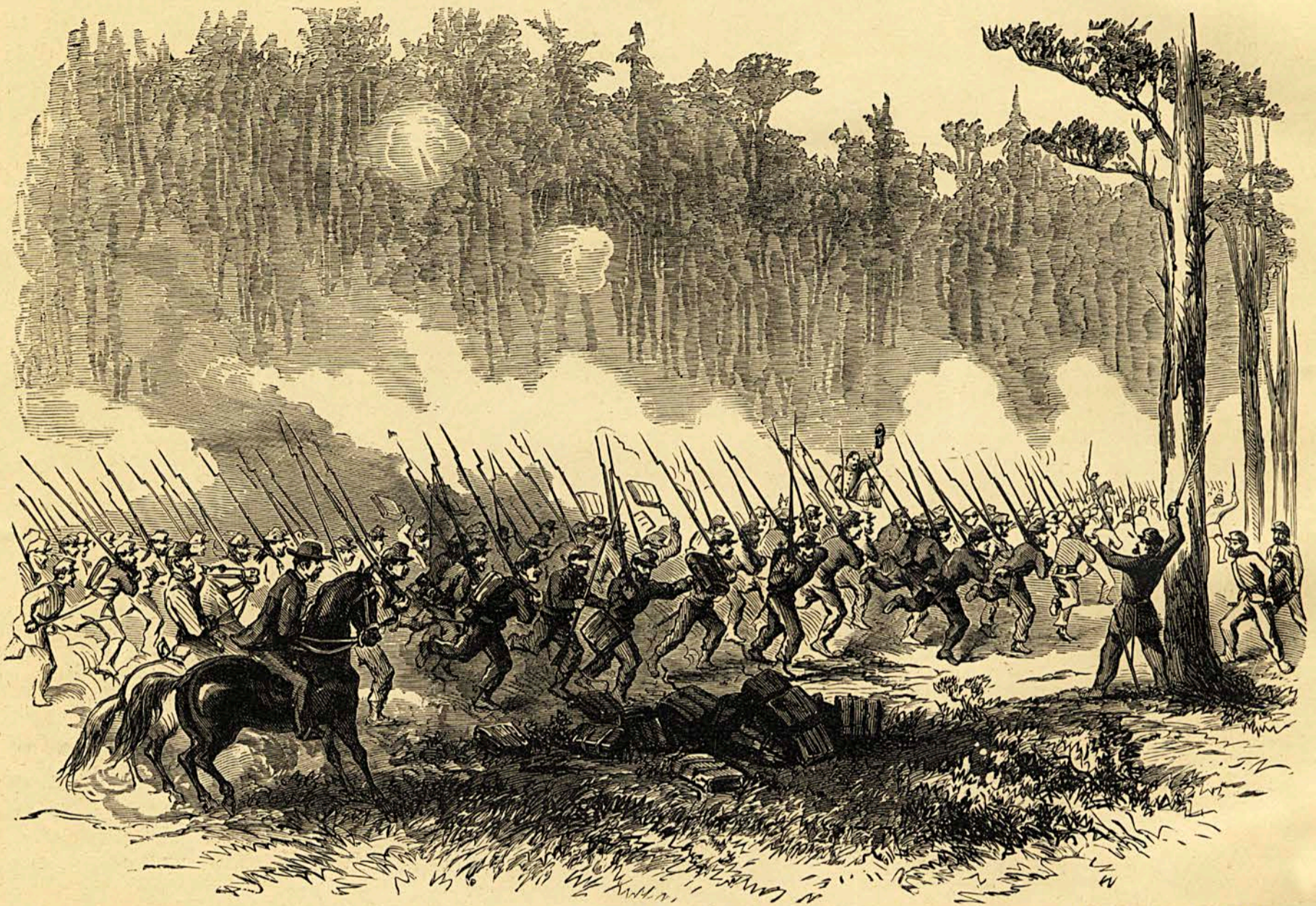
the corn and fodder that he took; but if not, he would devastate the State through its whole length and breadth.

In North Carolina there had been a strong movement for peace this year, the only difference of opinion being as to the method in which peace should be sought. The Governor, Zebulon B. Vance, as a candidate for re-election, represented those who held that the State should only act in co-operation with the other States that were engaged with her in the war. At the election in August, Vance received 54,000 votes, against 20,000 for his opponent.

Georgia did not secede from the Confederacy, but Hood did attack the communications. At every important point on the railroad there was a strong guard, and at the bridges there were block-houses with small but well-appointed garrisons. About the 1st of October Hood crossed the Chattahoochee, going northward to strike the railroad. Sherman hurried after him, and on the

and taking 411 prisoners, which would indicate a total loss of about 1600.

General Thomas had been sent to Nashville with two divisions, General Slocum was left in Atlanta with the Twentieth Corps, and with the remainder of his forces Sherman pursued Hood through the country between Rome and Chattanooga and westward of that region. But he could not bring the Confederates to battle, and had little expectation of overtaking them. He thinks he conceived of the march to the sea some time in September; the first definite proposal of it was in a telegram to General Thomas, on the 9th of October, in which he said: "I want to destroy all the road below Chattanooga, including Atlanta, and to make for the sea-coast. We can not defend this long line of road." In various despatches between that date and the 2d of November, Sherman proposed the great march to Grant and to the President. Grant thought Hood's army should be destroyed first, but finally said: "I do



THE FIRST NEW JERSEY BRIGADE, GENERAL TAYLOR, DETACHING ITSELF FROM GENERAL SLOCUM'S DIVISION AND RUSHING TO THE SUPPORT OF KEARNEY, WHO HAD BEEN DRIVEN BACK, AT CHARLES CITY ROAD, JUNE 30, 1862.

FROM A SKETCH BY WM. WAUD.

own words: "I was resolved to make Atlanta a pure military garrison or depot, with no civil population to influence military measures."

Among the considerations that influenced General Sherman's action at that time, two appear to have been paramount—one a hope, the other a fear. The fear was that some portion of Hood's army would make a serious break in his communications by destroying portions of the long single-track railroad over which he drew all his supplies from Chattanooga. The hope was that Georgia, seeing any further prosecution of the war to be useless, would withdraw her troops from the Confederate armies and practically secede from the Confederacy. Some color was given to this by the fact that Governor Joseph E. Brown had recalled the Georgia militia from Hood's army.

Sherman sent word to Governor Brown that if Georgia's troops were withdrawn from the Confederate service, he would pass across the State as harmlessly as possible, and pay for all

5th looked down from Kenesaw Mountain upon the fires that were burning the ties and heating the rails of a dozen miles of his road. Anticipating an attack on Allatoona, which was held by a small brigade under command of Lieutenant-Colonel John T. Tourtellotte, he signaled over the heads of the enemy a message to Allatoona conveying an order for General John M. Corse, then at Rome, to go to the relief of Tourtellotte with a strong force. Corse obeyed promptly, arriving at midnight. In the morning the garrison, now nearly 2000 strong, was summoned to surrender immediately, to avoid a needless effusion of blood. General Corse answered, "We are prepared for the needless effusion of blood whenever it is agreeable to you," and at once his men were attacked from all sides. They were driven into their redoubts, and there made so determined a resistance that after five hours of desperate fighting the Confederates withdrew, leaving their dead and wounded on the field. Corse had lost 707 men, reported burying 231 of the enemy's dead

not see that you can withdraw from where you are, to follow Hood, without giving up all we have gained in territory. I say, then, go on as you propose." This was on the understanding, suggested by Sherman, that Thomas would be left with force enough to take care of Hood. Sherman sent him the Fourth and Twenty-third Corps, commanded by Generals Stanley and Schofield, and further reinforced him with troops that had been garrisoning various places on the railroad, while he also received two divisions from Missouri and some recruits from the North.

Sherman rapidly sent north all his sick and disabled men, and all baggage that could be spared. Commissioners came and took the votes of the soldiers for the Presidential election, and departed. Paymasters came and paid off the troops, and went back again. Wagon trains were put in trim and loaded for a march. As the last trains whirled over the road to Chattanooga, the track was destroyed, the bridges burned, the wires torn down, and all the troops that had not been ordered to