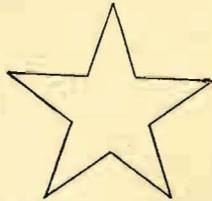


the railway bridge every facility for loading stores to be transported to Atlanta.⁷⁷

The enemy's intrenchments and fortifications of Atlanta were found to be as desired by the enemy well near impregnable. They extended entirely around the city in a circle of about one mile and-a-half outside the limits. There were also outer intrenchments which a storming party must needs force before a close siege could begin. These works requiring a far larger force to defend than Sherman could spare, Slocum constructed interior defenses of sufficient extent and strength.

General Sherman took up temporary headquarters in Atlanta at the residence of the lately deceased Masonic Grand Master of Georgia, by consent of his widow, Mrs. Welch. The band of music of the 33rd Massachusetts Regiment of Slocum's men soon extended its compliments to Sherman in a serenade. The music pleased the general so much that he suggested to the band the propriety of a concert in the principal theatre building for the benefit of Mrs. Welch, a worthy woman, who had been impoverished by the war. The band was prompt to act accordingly. Some of the officers with well-trained voices readily joined in the effort, as did different Atlanta ladies, friends of Mrs. Welch, and a good entertainment was produced. It embraced much choice music, including classic and popular compositions; Gounod's Soldiers' Chorus from Faust being one of the newest numbers. Then a play was put on the stage. The theatre had a great run till the very last night before the march through Georgia began, when the receipts of the evening were \$667. The season lasted four weeks (seventeen nights) and the band's receipts amounted to \$8,000 in all. It gave \$2,000 to Mrs. Welch, and out of the balance in hand it had enough to pay its members the amount due from the officers to the end of their three years' enlistment.⁷⁸ A soldiers' variety troupe also gave a number of entertainments with cheaper admittance fees.

Badge of the



XXth Army Corps

CHAPTER XXXV

AT ATLANTA. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CAMPAIGN

General Sherman withdrew his IVth and XIVth Army Corps September 5th from the immediate neighborhood of Atlanta, to positions along the railways east and north. General Slocum remained in full command of the city and the country several miles around.

The Confederate General Hood soon began depredations on the Union line of communication, and Sherman moved after him, leaving only Slocum to defend Atlanta and the Chattahoochee, thus showing unbounded confidence in Slocum's watchfulness and ability.

Correspondence soon began between Sherman and Grant regarding the further movement against the enemy from Atlanta, Sherman favoring expedition through Georgia to the south or east. The enemy, however, was constantly breaking his communication with Chattanooga, delaying, and imperiling his supplies. He had considered advancement upon Macon, Georgia, 103 miles from Atlanta, and even to Augusta a distance of 175 miles. He felt assured that he could find daily food as he advanced but, being without railway communication with a Union depot of supplies, with the enemy surrounding him, he was fearful of being delayed so that supplies might not be constantly forthcoming. He wrote to Grant September 10th that, if he (Grant) could manage to send gunboats up the Savannah River to Augusta, or up the Chattahoochee as far as Columbus, 'I can sweep the whole State of Georgia.'

Trains began running through to Atlanta the 10th, and this day special field orders announced that, by agreement between Generals Sherman and Hood, a truce was declared to exist for ten full days, between September 12th-22nd, at the station of the Macon railroad known as Rough and Ready, and the country around and about within a circle of two miles radius, together with the roads leading to and from in the directions of Atlanta and Lovejoy's Station, for the purpose of affording the citizens of Atlanta a safe means of removal south. Facilities were ordered to be supplied that the removal might be safe and comfortable, both to the people and to their effects.

Union officers and enlisted men of high character were chosen to see this order properly executed, they to appear in their best uniforms, and with their best soldierly bearing.⁷⁹

This removal of the citizens of Atlanta, and the exchange of 2,000 prisoners with Hood for a like number of his Union prisoners, cleared the situation for the future operations in Georgia. Grant had been urging Sherman to keep the enemy busy. He wrote September 10th, 'if we give him no peace while the war lasts, the end cannot be distant.'

The effective force of General Slocum's XXth Corps September 19th, was: officers, 774; enlisted men in infantry and cavalry, 12,112. The aggregate present, and absent sick, on detachment service, and on furlough August 31st, was 28,991 men, with 36 pieces of artillery.

Political questions, and the presidential election, did not interfere with General Slocum's duties in the field. A number of generals, subordinate and others, returned to their homes to participate in the important political campaign in progress, but Slocum remained at his post of duty.

The summary of the report of John W. Foye, Surgeon of U. S. Volunteers, and Medical Director of the XXth Army Corps, from July 22nd to September 30th inclusive, demonstrated the advantage of retaining the sick and wounded with the corps wherever the marches and engagements with the enemy would permit. For instance his report shows: Admitted to field hospitals, 2,935 sick, and 430 wounded. Returned to duty 1,010; transferred to other hospitals, 1,419; discharged, 4; died, 173; furloughed, 1; deserted, 2; remaining in field hospital, sick 755, wounded 51. The data kept by Surgeon Foye's predecessor of surgical operations immediate and following the several battles and engagements with the enemy during the early part of the Atlanta Campaign, were so deficient in system and detail as to render the notes valueless for statistical purposes.⁸⁰ Colonel George A. Cobham of the 111th Pennsylvania Infantry was killed in the Battle of New Hope Church, and Colonel David Ireland of the 137th New York Infantry, Volunteers, died of disease September 10th. The loss of these brave and efficient officers was much lamented in their brigades, and by all of their commanders.

In General Sherman's special field orders issued October 3rd,

the first paragraph reads, that Major-General Slocum with the XXth Corps would hold Atlanta and the Chattahoochee bridge, and all detachments of other troops or corps would report to General Slocum and be assigned by him to posts looking to the security of the Atlanta depot of supplies. The next day General Jacob D. Cox, a very capable and efficient officer, formerly in the East and now the the headquarters of the Army of the Ohio at Decatur, Georgia, was directed to report to General Slocum for orders. General Cox was destined after the close of the war to rise in civil service to the office of Governor of Ohio and, also high in judicial service. His ranking officer, General John M. Schofield, was at this time in Tennessee as Commander of the Ohio, aiding General Thomas's Army of the Cumberland against the Confederate General Forrest and detachments of the enemy.

General Sherman apprised Slocum October 4th of the positions of the enemy embracing Wheeler and Hood's main forces which he was about to attack near Allatoona to the northward, and he requested Slocum to work night and day on the inner fortifications of Atlanta. He feared that Slocum would be violently attacked before the new defenses were serviceable. The bridge would receive the first attack, but wrote the anxious and doughty Sherman 'If I live you may count on my coming to your rescue. Please answer.' Slocum's immediately reply was: 'We are hard at work, and I think you need have no anxiety about us. The bridge is perfectly safe.' This day Slocum issued a circular to his different commands notifying them of the nearness of at least one infantry corps of the enemy with Major-General Joseph Wheeler's large force of cavalry. Slocum placed each division and detachment of his infantry and artillery at the point of greatest vantage at the bridge and around Atlanta. All details he had carefully studied, and his officers and men acted upon his orders with alacrity and precision. Everything, and everybody, was soon in readiness for the enemy's approach from every quarter. Yet anxious, Sherman wrote October 6th with several suggestions, to which Slocum was able to reply: "It is perfectly quiet here; new line finished; our position very strong. Can I do anything to help you? I can safely send out a brigade to destroy bridges."

Sherman sent Slocum October 7th a long communication reporting the repulse of the enemy by his forces near Allatoona, and the retreat of the enemy's detachments before Sherman's immediate command, thus surrendering to him Kenesaw, Pine Hill, and Lost Mountain. The railway had been much broken by the enemy. Forage was good. Slocum was able to reply favorably, even to the sending out of a strong foraging party to the southeast with good results. Sherman wrote to Slocum again this day regarding the safety of Allatoona with its 8,000 Union beef cattle and other supplies. The enemy's loss in the recent engagement was large, including 450 prisoners. Hood had retreated southward, and Slocum was warned against his probable attack. In his letter of congratulation and expression of confidence in General John M. Corse for his brave and successful defense of Allatoona, Sherman requested him to send to Generals Thomas and Webster in Tennessee, the information that Slocum had completed the defenses of Atlanta, making it so safe 'that Slocum could hold it against Hood's whole army.'

General Slocum reported to Sherman October 9th, that all was quiet at Atlanta, and that the Chattahoochee bridge that had recently been injured by the flood of water, had been repaired, and a steam train had been sent across it. He further reported that more forage for his horses was necessary, and that he would forage in the country again.

Communication was open October 9th between Sherman at Allatoona, Georgia, Thomas at Nashville, Tennessee, and Grant at City Point, Virginia. The former reported Atlanta safe, and again proposed that he break up the railroad southward from Chattanooga (it being impossible to keep it from being broken frequently in places by the enemy) and that he (Sherman) 'strike out with wagons for Milledgeville, Millen, and Savannah.' By continuing to hold the railroad south of Chattanooga Sherman estimated that he would lose 1,000 men every month and gain but little toward conquering the enemy. That with his 8,000 beef cattle and about 3,000,000 rations of bread, they could start from Atlanta and forage through Georgia.⁸² To this Grant replied the 11th with forebodings regarding the damage that might be done to the Union forces by Hood north of the Tennessee River; and to Sherman in Georgia by his being 'bush-

whacked by all the old men, little boys, and such railroad guards as are still left at home.' Sherman replied immediately that he would infinitely prefer to make wreck of the road after sending to Chattanooga or further north his sick, wounded, and worthless, and take an independent course through Georgia. He thought that Hood would be forced to follow him, but if he did go north Thomas would compete with him. At all events Sherman preferred to act on the offensive; to have the enemy guessing at what movement he would make next, rather than on the defensive when he would be obliged to do the guessing regarding the enemy's next move—the difference being twenty-five per cent. in favor of the former. The last sentence of this dispatch read, 'answer quick, as I know we will not have the telegraph long.' This dispatch was sent at 10 A. M., and Grant replied at 11.30 P. M. 'Make it as you think best,' as Sherman read it.⁸³ Some writers have said that it was Grant's idea that led Sherman to the sea; but here we note authority that Grant, as superior officer, was loath to give his sanction to Sherman's suggestion.

Sherman, and his carefully selected supporting officers, now had a definite and alluring object for which to work—an object and work that he had not been able to dismiss from his mind for some length of time.

General Slocum ordered October 10, all those in charge of the available wagons in his command to be in readiness to start with General Geary's division on a foraging expedition to South River to the southeast of Atlanta. Slocum reported to Sherman the 13th that Hood had found his (Slocum's) advance line very strong and had taken all of his (Hood's) troops from the neighborhood of Atlanta except a small cavalry force near Sandtown. Slocum's five or six hundred well guarded forage wagons returned the evening of this day well laden, and the army beef cattle in Atlanta found nourishment therein. The next day Hood's army was reported as being near Resaca.

As proof that Sherman was not desiring to leave his Armies of the Cumberland, of the Ohio, and of the Tennessee in destitute condition, the report of the commissary of subsistence showed the supplies in store at Chattanooga at this date as, 3,000,000 rations of meat; 3,500,000 of bread-stuffs; 3,500,000

of coffee; 7,000,000 of sugar; 500,000 each of beans and rice; 5,000,000 each of candles, soap, and salt; 1,000,000 of whisky; also vegetables of different kinds.

A new medical director, Surgeon H. E. Goodman, U. S. Volunteers, reported October 15th according to orders to General Slocum who made the announcement to all of his command in his general orders of this date, closing with the sentence 'He will be obeyed and respected accordingly.'

Another foraging expedition of wagons strongly guarded by infantry and eight pieces of artillery, was started at 6 A. M. October 16th by Slocum. Not having received any report about the enemy for some days, he inquired of Resaca by telegraph. General Raum replied that the enemy was to the northward where he had done some harm to two weak garrisons and to the railroad. A dispatch soon followed from Sherman then at Ship's Gap, informing that he had driven the enemy from that place this morning, and from the country around, and that the enemy was likely to go south. In characteristic vein Sherman continued: "I think I will leave you at Atlanta and will swing around in the country for forage and adventure. Look out for yourself and hold Atlanta. You have plenty of grub, and I will turn up somewhere." In other words Sherman, while shaping conditions favorable to the 'March to the Sea' he was seeking a little preliminary experience in foraging while seeking the enemy in his own chosen field. But Hood 'would not fight, though offered battle repeatedly.'

On the 18th of October, Slocum wrote to Sherman who was then at Chattanooga Creek, that he had received Montgomery, Alabama, newspapers of the 12th to 15th inclusive, the copy of the 14th containing a paragraph reading as follows: "We suspect Hood will make Blue Mountains his base for the fall and winter and hold himself in a position to harass Sherman's rear and keep his railroad communications disabled." Slocum quoted much more from the enemy's papers, and then wrote for himself, that "If Hood goes to Blue Mountain I would like to take two divisions of troops and strike out for Macon and Milledgeville. One division in our new works, with all of our surplus artillery, can hold Atlanta, and I believe I can go through the State with two good divisions. I can there get a

new outfit of horses and mules and damage the enemy seriously by destroying the railroad, etc., even if I fail in capturing either Macon or Milledgeville. I am positive they have no force in this section of the State other than Iverson's Cavalry. Let me try it. I will return if I become satisfied I am hazarding too much."⁸⁴

General Slocum at this time was not informed of the Sherman-Grant arrangement, nor had Sherman at any time informed him of his desires, he having been distant with much else to communicate. It will, therefore, be but proper to give to General Slocum the honor, with General Sherman of having conceived the same desirability of striking the enemy where it would do the most good to the Union cause. To this sincere and confident appeal of Slocum, Sherman replied the 20th from Gaylesville, Alabama, evading the question. He requested Slocum to use all his energies in sending northward everything not needed at Atlanta, adding tersely 'I will take your corps along.' In this writing Slocum was further asked to send northward all sick and wounded soldiers as soon as the railroad, then about repaired, was open; to keep out strong foraging parties; to retain 1,500,000 rations of breadstuffs, coffee, sugar and salt; 500,000 rations of salt meat, and to send all other foodstuffs northward. He was also to have all the lightest pontoon bridges and trains ready, all else to be sent to the rear or destroyed.

General Sherman was planning to be near Atlanta, and ready to take up the grand march by November 1st. The enemy had again refused to accept battle, and had retreated down the Coosa River toward Gadsden. General Slocum was gaining momentum in the foraging business by experience. October 20th at 6 A. M. he started an expedition with 500 or more wagons out the Decatur road with infantry, cavalry, and artillery guards; and with even stricter detail in parking the empty and loaded wagons while detachments of soldiers and wagons were sent in different directions from the main guard. The average prescribed task was to load 150 wagons per day, if not molested by the enemy.

Sherman outlined his plans for preparation and for the March to the Sea October 20th to Thomas, commander of the Department of the Cumberland, that he might be prepared to spare two corps from his army to accompany Sherman on this

proposed campaign; the XIVth Corps under General Jefferson C. Davis, and the XXth Corps under General Slocum. The desire as then expressed was to capture Macon, Augusta, and probably Savannah and Charleston; but he "would keep in mind the alternatives of the mouth of the Appalachian River and Mobile. By this I propose to demonstrate the vulnerability of the South, and make its inhabitants feel that war and individual ruin are synonymous terms."⁸⁵

General A. S. Williams commanding the 1st Division of Slocum's XXth Corps, was directed October 22nd to have one of the brigades of his division in readiness to march at once with three day's rations; that he call in the fatigue details; and that the commanding officer of the brigade detailed would report at once to General Slocum's headquarters. Such unpremeditated reconnoissances were not infrequent.

General Sherman wrote in high spirits from Gaylesville, Alabama, October 23rd, congratulating Slocum on his success in foraging, and he requested its continuance; and that the foragers be imbued with the sentiment 'if Georgia can afford to break our railroads, she can afford to feed us.' Slocum kept increasing the number of his wagons sent for forage until they numbered as high as 700 in each expedition. The policy yet was to gather all the supplies possible in every direction, to recall all convalescent and furloughed men, with new recruits, to strengthen the Armies of the Tennessee, the Cumberland and of the Ohio, as well as of Sherman's detachments, that the latter could be spared for Georgia and other parts of the South. The remaining convalescents and other men at Atlanta not able to withstand active duty in the field, were sent northward by Slocum October 29th.

The cavalry of both friend and foe occasionally captured a few prisoners, from whom the position and trend of each army were quite accurately learned. The enemy thus learned of Sherman's intended march through Georgia from prisoners captured from his immediate command, as early as October 28th, when Wheeler so reported to Hood.⁸⁶

All recruits, volunteers and drafted men, to fill the desired quota of the four infantry corps for the special march through Georgia, were hurried forward October 29th, that their drillings

and discipline in their new surroundings might be begun as early as practicable.

General Slocum's effective force in and immediately around Atlanta October 31st was as follows: Headquarters 21 officers and 219 enlisted men; Provost Guard 33 officers 711 men; 1st Division 279 officers 4,681 men; 2nd Division 231 officers 4,538 men; 3rd Division, 244 officers 4,507 men. Total 13,340. The number present and absent was 28,443.

The effective force of the XIVth Corps October 31st, was: Headquarters' officers 92; enlisted men 883; infantry officers, 535, enlisted men, 10,620. The recruits, however, soon added materially to the numbers in the several ranks.

General Slocum sent out a strong foraging force November 1st accompanied by a force prepared to wreck the Augusta railroad eastward from Lithonia. This wrecking force was instructed to burn every tie and thereby heat the rails in their middles so they could be readily bent and twisted around nearby trees.

About this time Slocum was directed by Sherman to prepare for 'the absolute destruction of Atlanta' railroad tracks, depots, shops, houses, cars not wanted for sending to Chattanooga men, stores, artillery, and whatever else there that was of use to the Union troops in Tennessee. It was the desire to have everything shipped within five days. This day, November 1st, from 5,000 to 8,000 of the enemy were reported to Slocum as being at Stone Mountain, but they were not attracted nearer Atlanta. Special field orders were published the 4th regarding supplies to be retained, reducing everything to the necessary limitation, and the sending northward of all camp and garrison equipment, boxes, chests, trunks, and all other articles that would encumber the wagons on the long march. The railroad between Resaca and Etowah bridge was to be left undisturbed. The bridge at Resaca and the iron north of it were to be taken to Chattanooga. The road from Etowah bridge to Atlanta was to be destroyed. Slocum's XIVth Corps was to do this work between Etowah and Big Shanty, and his XXth Corps from the Chattahoochee into and including Atlanta.

All army commanders were enjoined to observe as much caution and secrecy as possible, and to see that their com-

mands acted with the utmost energy, inasmuch as from the moment of beginning the severing of the connection with their comrades to the northward, every hour of time must be devoted to the success of their isolated forward movement.

CHAPTER XXXVI

PREPARES TO SEVER ALL UNION COMMUNICATIONS

General Slocum moved his loaded wagon train and the XXth Corps November 5th, out along the McDonough road about three miles from Atlanta, in which was left only his Provost Guard and a division of cavalry under General Kenner Garrard. After Slocum's infantry had taken position in the country, as the first step of all toward Savannah, General Kilpatrick, commander of the Cavalry Corps, ordered Garrard to take his command to Marietta. Slocum interposed and telegraphed to Sherman, who must needs have at all times knowledge of the position of all his forces that if the cavalry was called away he should take his infantry back within the city to guard against dashes of the enemy's cavalry. Reply was soon received that the cavalry would remain, and be reorganized there. Slocum then ordered the cavalry to send scouting parties November 6th on all the roads leading south and east of his troops and around the city.

The XXIIIrd Army Corps, of the Army of the Ohio, was at this time in need of a worthy division commander, and General Slocum was asked if he could supply the want. General Thomas H. Ruger a brigade commander in Slocum's XXth Corps, an officer worthy of this preferment, was reluctantly sent by Slocum to be transferred to General Schofield's headquarters at Nashville November 6th. This day General Slocum ordered his XXth Corps to move back within the fortifications of Atlanta. The facility and orderly way with which this movement was made was very pleasing to the commander of the corps. Each division general was ordered to keep his wagons loaded, and to carefully examine all loads, that they might be kept free from all prohibited baggage and stores. The 700 effective cavalrymen were continued in reconnaissance duty, and their number was increased by new arrivals.

The enemy was kept well informed by General Wheeler's cavalry of every movement of the Union forces. Hood's orders were to concentrate the Confederate forces to oppose in every possible manner any southward movement, by damaging the Union forces in every possible way.⁸⁷

General Sherman had been very busy every day, and much of the nights, in choosing the officers and planning the organization of two armies from his several commands to accompany him through Georgia; and also to strengthen his other armies northward that they might hold Mississippi and the other conquered States north and west. He telegraphed to Slocum November 7th, inquiring about the railroad east of Lithonia, and regarding his condition for the march. Slocum's reply was terse and satisfactory, namely: 'Taken up. I am ready.' Another dispatch from Sherman the same day, read that he had directed Captain Orlando M. Poe, Chief Engineer, to destroy Atlanta; and to be ready to start on the march the 10th.⁸⁸ Sherman also made effort this day "to get about a dozen bold men, soldiers or citizens, either for pay or for adventure, to start south from Rome and break up the telegraph wire between Montgomery and Columbus, and then overtake us somewhere about Macon."

General Slocum wrote to his wife at their home in Syracuse, New York, November 7th, in part as follows:

The last train for the North leaves here to-morrow morning. Our soldiers are scattered along the railroad a hundred miles north, and as soon as that train passes the work of destruction will commence. The railroad will be completely destroyed and every bridge burned. Then both armies (the Armies of the Tennessee and of Georgia) will assemble here, and after destroying this city will commence the march. I fear their track will be one of desolation.

I have been to the railroad depot for the past three days several times, and have witnessed many sad and some ludicrous scenes. All citizens (white and black) begin to apprehend that something is about to happen. The few white people remaining after their families were sent away, are alarmed, and many are leaving the city, giving up houses, lands, furniture, negroes, and all. The black want to go North, and the Car House is surrounded by them. Hundreds of cars are literally packed with them and their dirty bundles, inside and outside. Old toothless hags, little pickaninnies, fat wenches of all shades, from light brown to jet black, are piled up together with their old bags, bundles, broken chairs, etc. Some are gnawing old bones, some squatted by the cars making hoe-cakes,

some crying for food which we cannot supply. Many of the white people are as anxious to get North as are the darks, and gladly accept a place in a car reeking with the odor peculiar to 'the American of African descent.' It is a sad sight, but I anticipate seeing many such before spring.

I wish for humanity's sake that this sad war could be brought to a close. While laboring to make it successful, I shall do all in my power to mitigate its horrors.

Rain fell November 8th, which was considered favorable as likely to improve the roads for marching. Four telegraph and signal cipher operators were distributed this day to the headquarters of Sherman, Slocum, Howard, and Kilpatrick. The following announcement was issued the next day:

Headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi,

In the Field, Kingston, Georgia, November 8, 1864.

Special Field Orders No. 119.

I. The general commanding deems it proper at this time to inform the officers and men of the XIVth, XVth, XVIIth, and XXth Corps, that he has organized them into an army for a special purpose, well known to the War Department and to General Grant. It is sufficient for you to know that it involves a departure from our present base, and a long and difficult march to a new one. All the chances of war have been considered and provided for, as far as human sagacity can. All he asks of you is to maintain that discipline, patience, and courage which have characterized you in the past, and he hopes, through you, to strike a blow at our enemy that will have a natural effect in producing what we all so much desire—his complete overthrow. Of all things the most important is that the men, during marches and in camp, keep their places and not scatter about as stragglers or foragers, to be picked up by a hostile people in detail. It is also of the utmost importance that our wagons should not be loaded with anything but provisions and ammunition. All surplus servants, non-combatants, and refugees should now go to the rear, and none should be encouraged to encumber us on the march. At some future time we will be enabled to provide for the poor whites and blacks who seek to escape the bondage under which they are now suffering. With these few simple cautions in your minds, he hopes to lead you to achievements equal in importance to those of the past.

By order of

MAJ. GEN. W. T. SHERMAN.

L. M. DAYTON, Aide-de-Camp.

These orders were issued at this date only to the three principal commanders, Slocum, Howard, and Kilpatrick, the two first named, at least, having been personally and freely consulted fre-

quently of late regarding the great undertaking, and had been in full and hearty sympathy with it and with the details of the plans. November 10th these orders were published to the other officers down to brigade commanders.

In such great undertaking, involving many different subordinate commands in different places, with the sick, wounded, and partly convalescent, and with irregular train service, some were sure to be behind in their preparations for the great change. To avoid such delays, Sherman had given definite orders early, and had repeated them from time to time that there might be no stress or confusion at the last moment. He wrote November 9th, "If the rain clears away I will not delay for any cause, but you can use cars that come to the best advantage. If we have cars we will ship the arms; if not we will destroy them; but I will delay for nothing when the time comes; same with the sick. The doctors have had plenty of notice."

Special Field Orders No. 120, were issued November 9th, reading as follows:

I. For the purpose of military operations, this army is divided into two wings: The Right Wing, Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard commanding the XVth and XVIIth Corps; the Left Wing, Maj. Gen. H. W. Slocum commanding the XIVth and XXth Corps.

II. The habitual order of march will be, wherever practicable, by four roads, as near parallel as possible and converging at points hereafter to be indicated in orders. The cavalry, Brig. Gen. Kilpatrick commanding, will receive special orders from the commander-in-chief.

III. There will be no general train of supplies, but each corps will have its ammunition train and provision train distributed habitually as follows: Behind each regiment should follow one wagon and one ambulance; behind each brigade should follow a due proportion of ammunition wagons, provision wagons, and ambulances. In case of danger each army corps commander should change this order of march by having his advance and rear brigade unincumbered by wheels. The separate columns will start habitually at 7 A. M., and make about fifteen miles per day, unless otherwise fixed in orders.

IV. The army will forage liberally on the country during the march. To this end each brigade commander will organize a good and sufficient foraging party, under the command of one or more discreet officers, who will gather, near the route traveled, corn or forage of any kind, meat of any kind, vegetables, corn-meal, or whatever is needed by the command, aiming at all times to keep in the wagons at least ten days' provisions for the command and three days' forage. Soldiers must not enter the dwell-

ings of the inhabitants, or commit any trespass, but during a halt or encampment they may be permitted to gather turnips, potatoes, and other vegetables, and to drive in stock in sight of their camp. To regular foraging parties must be intrusted the gathering of provisions and forage at any distance from the road traveled.

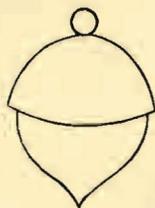
V. To army corps commanders alone is intrusted the power to destroy mills, houses, cotton-gins, etc., and for them this general principle is laid down: In districts and neighborhoods where the army is unmolested no destruction of such property should be permitted; but should guerrillas or bushwhackers molest our march, or should the inhabitants burn bridges, obstruct roads, or otherwise manifest local hostility, then army commanders should order and enforce a devastation more or less relentless according to the measure of such hostility.

VI. As for horses, mules, wagons, etc., belonging to the inhabitants, the cavalry and artillery may appropriate freely and without limit, discriminating, however, between the rich, who are usually hostile, and the poor or industrious, usually neutral or friendly. Foraging parties may also take mules or horses to replace the jaded animals of their trains, or to serve as pack mules for the regiments or brigades. In all foraging, of whatever kind, the parties engaged will refrain from abusive or threatening language, and may, where the officer in command thinks proper, give written certificates of the facts, but no receipts, and they will endeavor to leave with each family a reasonable portion for their maintenance.

VII. Negroes who are able-bodied and can be of service to the several columns may be taken along, but each army commander will bear in mind that the question of supplies is a very important one and that his first duty is to see to them who bear arms.

VIII. The organization at once of a good pioneer battalion for each army corps, composed if possible of negroes, should be attended to. This battalion should follow the advance guard, should repair roads, and double them if possible, so that the columns will not be delayed after reaching bad places. Also, army commanders should study the habit of giving the artillery and wagons the road, and marching their troops on one side, and also instruct their men to assist wagons at steep hills or bad crossing of streams.

IX. Captain O. M. Poe, chief engineer, will assign to each wing of the army a pontoon train, fully equipped and organized, and the commanders thereof will see to its being properly protected at all times.⁸⁹



Badge of the XIVth Army Corps

CHAPTER XXXVII

ANNOYANCES. ARMY OF GEORGIA BY REGIMENTS

General Slocum reported to General Sherman November 9th that detachments of the enemy's cavalry passed rapidly in front of his line, at long distance, and nearly to the Eastport road. He captured some prisoners who reported that the enemy consisted of Iverson's brigade of cavalry 800 strong, Young's cavalry from Athens 800 strong, and six pieces of artillery. They were surprised, having been informed that the Union forces had gone north, leaving but a small rear guard at Atlanta.

General Sherman was much annoyed by the slow progress made by the railway operatives, and those to whom were intrusted the removal to Chattanooga of munitions that he could not take with him but that should be conserved. He again gave notice to Slocum, Howard, and Kilpatrick, to hold every one of their commands in readiness 'to move on an hour's notice.'

Copious rains again caused floods which swept away pontoon bridges, and stopped the progress toward Atlanta of 1,500 beef cattle. This caused a change of the course of the cattle to the northward for the Army of the Cumberland; Sherman being at this time convinced that beef cattle could not keep pace with the armies through Georgia. The thought occurred to him, that his army could get a share of meat in a country where a million of people lived.

The 10th of November Sherman wrote to Slocum to publish Special Field Orders Number 119 to his soldiers generally, and to furnish copies of those of Number 120 to all of his officers down to and including the commanders of brigades, but to have it withheld from the troops for a few days.

At this date Slocum's command, the XIVth and XXth Corps, the former with the badge of the Acorn, and the latter of the Star, was designated The Left Wing of the Army of Georgia. Later its official name was The Army of Georgia. Recruits to enlarge The Army of Georgia had arrived at Chattanooga, and General James B. Steedman in charge there was directed to organize them into four battalions and report them to General Thomas.

General Grant wrote to the Secretary of War November 11th regarding full reports of Sherman's proposed march through Georgia being published the previous day in the newspapers of the North, which he styled the most contraband news he had seen during the war. He was fearful that such publication would lead to the gathering of a force by the South that might be disastrous to Sherman's army. Secretary Stanton laid the blame of the publication largely to Sherman and to his detached and furloughed officers who had retailed it through the North. Grant replied to Stanton that the publication was first made in Indianapolis on authority of army officers direct from Chattanooga. He sent a staff officer to ascertain the names of these divulging officers whom, he declared, he would send to the Dry Tortugas, Florida, for duty without commands for awhile as a warning to others. They were not caught.

General Slocum issued his first general orders under the caption, Headquarters Left Wing, Army of Georgia, Atlanta November 11th. They announced his assuming command of the XIVth and XXth Corps for special service; and that his staff officers would be: Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Rodgers, Assistant Adjutant-General; Major E. W. Guindon, Captain W. W. Moseley, and Captain W. G. Tracy, Aides-de-Camp.

The last railway train having departed from Atlanta November 13th, General Slocum directed General Williams commanding his XXth Corps to begin at once the destruction of the road between Atlanta and the Chattahoochee Bridge, and to bend the rails. The wagon and railway bridges were to be left for the on coming of Colonel Buell of the Pontoniers. By the proper placing of different brigades, the work progressed rapidly, without fear of thus shutting themselves off from their friends and in with their enemies.

The organization of the Left Wing of the Army of Georgia for the march, was as follows:

Major-General Henry W. Slocum commander, with Escort of the 1st Alabama Cavalry, Colonel George E. Spencer, and the 9th Illinois Mounted Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel T. Hughes. Pontoniers, the 58th Indiana, Colonel George B. Buell. Engineers, 1st Michigan (detachment) Major John B. Yates.

XIVth Corps, Bvt. Maj. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis. 1st Division, Brig. Gen. William P. Carlin. 1st Brigade, Col. Harrison C. Hobart; with the 104th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Douglas Hapeman; 42nd Indiana, Capt. Gideon R. Kellams; 88th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Cyrus E. Briant; 33rd Ohio, Capt. Joseph Hinson; 94th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Rue P. Hutchins; and the 21st Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. Michael H. Fitch. IIInd Brigade, Lieut. Col. Joseph H. Brigham; with the 13th Michigan, Lieut. Col. Theodorice R. Palmer; 21st Michigan, Maj. Benton D. Fox; and the 69th Ohio, Capt. Lewis E. Hicks. IIIrd Brigade, Col. Henry A. Hambright and Lieut. Col. David Miles; with the 38th Indiana, Capt. James H. Low; 21st Ohio, Lieut. Col. Arnold McMahan; 74th Ohio, Maj. Joseph Fisher and Maj. Robert P. Findley; 79th Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. David Miles and Maj. Michael H. Locher.

IIInd Division, Brig. Gen. James D. Morgan. 1st Brigade, Col. Robert F. Smith; with the 16th Illinois, Lieut. Col. James B. Cahill; 60th Illinois, Col. William B. Anderson; 10th Michigan, Col. James M. Lumm; 14th Michigan, Maj. Thomas C. Fitzgibbon; and the 17th New York, Lieut. Col. Joel O. Martin. IIInd Brigade, Lieut. Col. John S. Pearce; with the 34th Illinois, Capt. Page Ege; 78th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Maris R. Vernon; 98th Ohio, Capt. James R. McLaughlin; 108th Ohio, Maj. Frederick Beck; 113th Ohio, Capt. Toland Jones, and the 121st Ohio, Maj. Aaron B. Robinson. IIIrd Brigade, Lieut. Col. James W. Langley; with the 85th Illinois, Maj. Robert G. Rider; 86th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Allen L. Fahnestock; 110th Illinois (four companies), Lieut. Col. E. Hibbard Topping; 125th Illinois, Capt. George W. Cook; 22nd Indiana, Capt. William H. Snodgrass; and the 52nd Ohio, Lieut. Col. Charles W. Clancy.

IIIrd Division, Brig. Gen. Absalom Baird. 1st Brigade, Col. Morton C. Hunter; with the 82nd Indiana, Lieut. Col. John M. Matheny; 23rd Missouri, Lieut. Col. Quin Morton; 17th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Benjamin H. Showers; 31st Ohio, Capt. Michael Stone; 89th Ohio, Lieut. Col. William H. Glenn; and the 92nd Ohio (with Company A, 24th Illinois attached), Col. Benjamin D. Fearing. IIInd Brigade, Col. Newell Gleason; with the 75th Indiana, Maj. Cyrus J. McCole; 87th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Edwin P. Hammond; 101st Indiana, Lieut. Col. Thomas Doan; 2nd Minnesota, Lieut. Col. Judson W. Bishop; and the 105th Ohio, Lieut. Col. George T. Perkins. IIIrd Brigade, Col. George P. Este; with the 74th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Thomas Morgan; 18th Kentucky, Lieut. Col. Hubbard K. Milward; 14th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Albert Moore; and the 38th Ohio, Capt. Charles M. Gilbert.

Artillery, Maj. Charles Houghtaling; with the 1st Illinois Light, Battery C (with detachment of 11th Ohio Infantry attached), Lieut. Joseph R. Channel; 2nd Illinois Light, Battery I, Lieut. Alonzo W. Coe; Indiana Light, 19th Battery, Capt. William P. Stackhouse; and the Wisconsin Light, 5th Battery, Lieut. Joseph McKnight.

XXth Army Corps, Brig. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams. 1st Division, Brig. Gen. Nathaniel J. Jackson. 1st Brigade, Col. James L. Selfridge; with the 5th Connecticut, Lieut. Col. Henry W. Daboll; 123rd New York,

Lieut. Col. James C. Rogers; 141st New York, Capt. William Merrell; and the 46th Pennsylvania, Maj. Patrick Griffith. IInd Brigade, Col. Ezra A. Carman; with the 2nd Massachusetts, Col. William Cogswell; 13th New Jersey, Maj. Frederick H. Harris; 107th New York, Capt. Charles J. Fox and Lieut. Col. Allen N. Sill; 150th New York, Maj. Alfred B. Smith and Col. John H. Ketcham; and the 3rd Wisconsin, Col. William Hawley. IIIrd Brigade, Col. James S. Robinson; with the 82nd Illinois, Maj. Ferdinand H. Rolshausen; 101st Illinois, Lieut. Col. John B. LeSage; 143rd New York, Lieut. Col. Hezekiah Watkins; 61st Ohio, Capt. John Garrett; 82nd Ohio, Lieut. Col. David Thomson; and 31st Wisconsin, Col. Francis H. West.

IInd Division, Brig. Gen. John W. Geary. Ist Brigade, Col. Ario Pardee, Jr.; with the 5th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Robert Kirkup; 29th Ohio, Maj. Myron T. Wright, and Capt. Jonas Schoonover; 66th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Eugene Powell; 28th Pennsylvania, Col. John Flynn; and 147th Pennsylvania (with detachment of Battery E, Pennsylvania Artillery, attached), Lieut. Col. John Craig. IInd Brigade, Col. Patrick H. Jones; with the 33rd New Jersey, Col. George W. Mindil; 119th New York, Col. John T. Lockman; 134th New York, Lieut. Col. Allan H. Jackson; 154th New York, Maj. Lewis D. Warner; 73rd Pennsylvania, Maj. Charles C. Cresson; and the 109th Pennsylvania, Capt. Walter G. Dunn. IIIrd Brigade, Col. Henry A. Barnum; with the 60th New York, Maj. Thomas Elliott; 102nd New York, Lieut. Col. Harvey S. Chatfield; 137th New York, Lieut. Col. Koert S. Van Voorhis; 149th New York, Maj. Nicholas Grumbach; 29th Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. Samuel M. Zulich, and the 111th Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. Thomas M. Walker.

IIIrd Division, Brig. Gen. William T. Ward. Ist Brigade, Col. Franklin C. Smith; with the 102nd Illinois, Capt. Hiland H. Clay; 105th Illinois, Maj. Henry D. Brown; 129th Illinois, Col. Henry Case; 70th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Samuel Merrill; and 79th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Azariah W. Doan. IInd Brigade, Col. Daniel Dustin; with the 33rd Indiana, Capt. James E. Burton; 85th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Alexander B. Crane; 19th Michigan, Lieut. Col. John J. Baker, and the 22nd Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. Edward Bloodgood. IIIrd Brigade, Col. Samuel Ross; with the 20th Connecticut, Lieut. Col. Philo B. Buckingham; 33rd Massachusetts, Col. Elisha Doane; 136th New York, Col. Lester B. Faulkner; 55th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Edwin H. Powers; 73rd Ohio, Lieut. Col. Samuel H. Hurst; and the 26th Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. Frederick C. Winkler.

Artillery Brigade, Maj. John A. Reynolds; with the 1st New York Light, Battery I, Capt. Charles E. Winegar; 1st New York Light, Battery M, Lieut. Edward P. Newkirk; 1st Ohio Light, Battery C, Capt. Marco B. Gary, and Lieut. Jerome B. Stephens; and the Pennsylvania Light, Battery E, Capt. Thomas S. Sloan.⁹⁰

The numbers of Slocum's XIVth Corps November 10th, were: Officers, 556; enlisted Volunteer Infantry, 12,397; Artillery officers, 11; men, 388. Those of the XXth Corps

were: Officers, 602; enlisted Volunteer Infantry, 12,862; Artillery, officers, 25; men, 607. Total, 27,448 carefully chosen men of great efficiency. Additions to these numbers soon increased the aggregate to about 30,000. General Howard's Right Wing, of the Army of the Tennessee, was about the same strength. The artillery was reduced to four batteries for each corps, each battery consisting of four light cannon for ready handling, two batteries of 3-inch Rodman cannon, and the other two of 12-pounder Napoleons.

General Judson Kilpatrick's two brigades of cavalry numbered about 5,500 men.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

THE MARCH TO THE CAPITOL OF GEORGIA

General Slocum's XXth Corps, the 'Star-badge Corps,' had been supplied with new clothing, and the men had been partially paid. It was started from Atlanta on the great march the morning of November 15th, with only local objective points and temporary plans, going eastward on the road leading through Decatur, northward from Howard's Right Wing of the Army. The IIIrd Brigade of the Ist Division destroyed several miles of the Augusta railroad during the day. Encampment for the night was made near the Georgia railway, south of Stone Mountain. The distance traveled was fifteen miles, which was done with great effort and frequent restings on account of the poor condition of the wagon and artillery teams from their scant and not altogether proper food, the only kind and quantity that had been available. The next evening the camp was near Rock Bridge Postoffice and the evening of the 17th it was near Cornish Creek; and the next evening the stop was three miles west of Madison. The country passed over these three days' march was hilly, and the crossing of Yellow, and Little Haynes, rivers, and of other streams, was attended with difficulty; and numerous other delays made the progress slow and laborious. This corps was accompanied by 220 Pontoniers with their train of 41 wagons and teamsters hauling 440 feet of bridge, and boats, in addition to the corps' regular supply train of wagons.

They did not seek to divide from the poor. They were generally of good parentage, these Union volunteers, and very respectable citizens at home, and as soldiers there were none better. There was no lack of amusement among themselves, for they generated it even in the most trying times of the march. The negroes, while pitied, were at all times full of amusement for them. The buglers sounded the call to get up each morning, and the nights' camping places were chosen as early in the waning days as practicable, good water, fuel for cooking, a sloping dry place in wet weather, and some sheltering trees, being the chief desire. Not infrequently, however, most of these favoring conditions were wanting, even after a long and late march. Different kinds of domestic animals were caught and carried along as pets. Fighting cocks were highly prized and, altogether, none suffered from nostalgia or ennui.

On November 22nd, the XXth Corps crossed Little River over its own Pontoon bridge and encamped in the suburbs of Milledgeville, the Ist and IInd Divisions on the east side of the Oconee and the IIIrd Division on the west side near the bridge. General Slocum appointed Colonel William Hawley as commandant of the Post of Milledgeville, and with two regiments he took command of the town, established a provost guard, and in a few minutes the United States Flag was raised above the dome of the Georgia State House.

General Slocum chose the leading hotel for his headquarters. General Sherman arrived a day or two later, and literally moved his camp equipage into Governor Brown's Executive Mansion from which the governor had fled carrying with him the furniture, carpets, and all foodstuffs including his cabbages, but he had left the State Archives.⁹¹

The utmost preparations had been made by the governor and the legislature to protect the town. The cadets of the military college were armed and placed on guard to give the Union troops a violent reception. The prisons, including the State Penitentiary, had been opened and the prisoners armed. But all fled precipitately upon Slocum's approach. It was supposed by unbiased people that the pillaging, other than the ordinary foraging for food, was done by these convicts and then attributed to 'Sherman's bummers.'

The United States military officers were much amused upon reading the principal newspapers of the South found numerous in Milledgeville. They contained much war advice 'to the people of Georgia' from General G. T. Beauregard, Senator B. H. Hill, the Confederate Secretary of War, and members of the Confederate Congress assembled in Richmond, and other distant persons, all advising the people to 'rally around their patriotic governor' who had fled leaving the good citizens behind to suffer all the kindly impositions of good will which the Union army was disposed to display. Appeals were made by the newspaper terrorists for the people to block every road, burn or destroy all food that could not be carried away, as the patriotic governor carried away his cabbages, and thus 'the invading army will soon starve in your midst.' The best advice given in these newspapers was to 'trust in an overruling Providence.'

The next day, November 23rd, Slocum's XXth Corps marched through Milledgeville with all of its flags unfurled and its bands playing the then favorite Sunday School piece 'Marching Along.' By this time the numerous citizens who had anxiously petitioned for protection, and had found it in Slocum's excellent Provost Guard, were in good spirits to enjoy the inspiring parade. The best of discipline was maintained everywhere. Later in the day a goodly number of officers occupied the seats in the capitol building vacated the day before by the Georgia Legislature. They appointed a chairman, and a committee on Federal Relations which soon reported a bill declaring that 'the ordinance of secession from the United States was injudicious, indiscreet, and it should be repealed.' A vote being ordered, this report was accepted; and the repeal was adopted by a rising vote. Much other 'business' for the good of the people was transacted in a short time; and the 'session' precipitately 'adjourned' when the cry 'the Yankees are coming' resounded through the hall.

General Slocum's XIVth Corps encamped near the Eaton factories for the night of November 20th, after a march of 15 miles. The advance of the XXth Corps from Madisonville on the main Milledgeville road, required that the XIVth Corps deflect to the right in order that both corps might move on separate roads. General Slocum, who was at this time with the

XIVth, directed that this corps move for Milledgeville by way of Farrar's Mill or Murder Creek. Heavy rains had fallen during the night and morning, and the progress through the mud was slow and difficult. The night of the 21st was passed in the mud and water in crossing the creek after a march of but six miles. The weather was somewhat better the 22nd, and the march was continued to the vicinity of Cedar Creek where the night was passed. The distance marched this day was twelve miles. Everything was yet more clear the 23rd and the XIVth Corps arrived in the vicinity of Milledgeville in the afternoon after a march of 11 miles. The next day Carlin and Morgan's divisions, with their wagon trains, crossed the Oconee River and went into camp a few miles beyond the bridge preparatory to advancing on Sandersville.

Colonel Hawley, commander of the Post of Milledgeville, reported the destruction of ordnance and stores found there as follows: Muskets, caliber .69, 2,300; accouterments, 300 sets; lances, 5,000; cutlasses, 1,500; ammunition, caliber .69, 10,000 rounds; ammunition, fixed artillery, 170 boxes; powder, 200 kegs. Major John A. Reynolds, Slocum's Chief of Artillery, reported the following fixed ammunition destroyed, in addition to that of the foregoing report: Artillery, 3,500 rounds; infantry, 20,000 rounds; Sharp's primers, 2 boxes; powder, 2,000 pounds. The railway station, two arsenals, a powder magazine, and other public buildings including shops, and about seventeen hundred bales of cotton, were burned.

The railway track for five miles toward Gordon was burned, bent and twisted so as to be of no further use for track. The soldiers on this march developed this railroad destruction as an art, in dry weather, as follows: Where several miles of track were to be destroyed, 3,000 men were detached and divided into three equal sections. Section one advanced along the ends of the ties to be raised, one man to each tie and, at the officer's order, each man raised his tie in unison with the others until it was on end and, at another order, the entire thousand ties were pushed over on top of the rails. The ties were then loosened from the rails, and this section moved along to repeat this work. Section two then placed the ties in cob-house form, thirty in each pile, and put the middle of the rails over the middle of the

piles of ties, conveniently distributing them. Then this section passed after No. 1 again, and it was succeeded by Section three, which set the ties afire and, when the rails were properly heated each one was grasped at its ends by tongs, carried to the nearest tree around which it was bent and then twisted less or more into cruller-doughnut form which permanently destroyed the rails for further track use. The tongs used for this work were devised by Chief Engineer O. M. Poe.²² The reader should bear in mind the fact that these iron rails were much shorter, smaller and, therefore, much lighter than the steel rails of the present time.

CHAPTER XXXIX

MARCH TO THE SEA AT SAVANNAH CONCLUDED

The 1st and 2nd Divisions of General Slocum's XXth Corps resumed the march from Milledgeville November 24th, toward the Ogeechee River and in the direction of Augusta as though this city was his next objective point. This led the enemy to gather and retain their forces there for its protection. Encampment for the night was made near Gum Creek. The next day Slocum was delayed in building a bridge over Buffalo Creek and swamp, and the head column encamped about seven miles from Sandersville after a sharp skirmish with the enemy's cavalry and its dispersion by Colonel James S. Robinson's brigade. The next morning two regiments of Colonel Ezra A. Carman's brigade drove away the enemy's cavalry again, and the corps, turned to the right more in the direction of Charleston, and moved with quickened pace into Sandersville.

Strong efforts had been, and were constantly being, made by the enemy's military and by many people remaining at or near their homes, to stop the progress of the Union army by interposing Confederate cavalry, other military forces that could be gathered, and by starvation, instance the governor running away with his cabbages. Many had skirted ahead along Slocum's left flank to protect Milledgeville and Augusta. Upon leaving the capitol city Slocum's forces were rather more beset by all these forces than before, many having come from their skirmish with Howard at Macon. General Hardee, now directed by

Beauregard, appeared upon the scene, in report, with an army between Milledgeville and Augusta for the protection of the last named place. It was part of the plan of the Union forces, however, to feint toward a prominent place for the purpose of having the enemy concentrate there, and by the time the concentration was effected, the Union forces would be miles in another direction.

A Confederate order had been published for the planters to destroy all corn (maize) and fodder that the horses and mules of the 'invaders' might be starved. Sherman checkmated this move by widely circulating among the planters by means of the numerous negroes, that wherever they destroyed the food for his animals, his army would make the devastation complete. This was a practical lesson for everyone that a United States Army had full right to gather food for soldiers and its dumb helpers, and any other supply that could be found, in any part of the United States' domain.

The head of the column of the XIVth Corps arrived at Sandersville the 26th of November, just as the XXth Corps's skirmishers were rapidly driving a detachment of the enemy's cavalry under General Wheeler from the town. The next day the XIVth Corps's trains, under escort of Carlin's division, moved by the way of Davisborough, to Louisville, while Baird and Morgan's divisions, thus unhampered, moved on the Fenn's Bridge Road, thus protecting the left flank of the trains from the enemy's cavalry, such protection from the ever watchful cavalry being a constant feature of every day's march, and night's encampment, in addition to the constant work of the Union cavalry under General Kilpatrick who managed to keep most of the detachments of Wheeler's cavalry busy elsewhere. Baird and Morgan's divisions arrived at Louisville early in the afternoon of the 28th and at once began laying their pontoon bridge. Carlin's division arrived at the Ogeechee at 3 P. M. and in the evening joined their comrades around Louisville. The roadway through the extensive Cypress Swamp hereabouts was difficult and laborious to keep in even passable condition after each succeeding wagon. Early in the morning of November 29th Kilpatrick applied for help against the enemy's cavalry, and General Slocum directed his General Davis to dispatch a brigade

of infantry to his assistance. Together they soon scattered the enemy with a vigor that made him more wary of approach; and that night Kilpatrick with his men returned to the corps's encampment on the east side of Big Creek. The next day there was skirmishing again with the enemy, who made several attempts to drive in the corps's pickets. This day General Slocum directed Carlin's division to march to Sabastopol with a view to keeping away the enemy, and thus uncovering the crossing of the Ogeechee at that point. The IIIrd Division of the XXth Corps which was left at Milledgeville to protect the wagon trains, met the other two divisions at Sandersville and it remained there while the others marched to Tennille Station. The 1st Michigan engineers had reported to this corps on the 27th for duty, and the next two days the Central Georgia Railway, and all wagon bridges over the Williamson Swamp Creek were destroyed; also those from Tennille to and including the Ogeechee River. The 30th, these divisions marched up this river to Coward's Bridge, which they repaired. The IIIrd Division moved with the trains by way of Davisborough, across the Ogeechee and Rocky Comfort Rivers, and encamped with their comrades about three miles south of Louisville. The roads were generally good excepting at the river and swamp crossings. The country very level, and the weather was pleasant. The foraging parties were generally successful, and the teams rapidly improved in condition, as did the soldiers in spirit as well as physically. Turkeys abounded, and a general observation of Thanksgiving day resulted, although the march continued. The prison pen at Millen for the enemy's Union prisoners was visited and found vacated. This notorious place of imprisonment is situated near the railway about five miles north of Millen, Georgia. The 'pen' was nearly square and was surrounded by a stockade of heavy upright pine logs cut in the neighborhood. They extended above the ground from twelve to fifteen feet. The inclosure embraced about fifteen acres of cleared land, through the eastern part of which extended a ravine which had been made by a small stream of drainage water. Running around the inside and about thirty feet from the stockade was a continuous railing of light scantling supported by short posts. This was known as the dead line, outside of which no one could go with-

out being shot by the guards stationed on top of the stockade with sentry boxes about eighty yards apart. About one-third of the western portion of the pen was occupied by a crowd of irregular earthen huts which were evidently made by the prisoners. Three dead Union soldiers were found in these huts; and they were buried by their visiting compatriots. A short distance outside the stockade was a long trench at the head of which had been placed a board on which was written 650 buried here. About 3,000 Union soldiers who had been captured by the Confederate armies in varying numbers at different times and places, were imprisoned here. The death rate was very large from insufficient and not altogether wholesome food and diseases. The enlisted men remaining were taken southward shortly before the arrival of General Slocum's men. The principal officers who were here imprisoned, were taken northward. The air of the inclosure and neighborhood was yet very unwholesome. On rising ground a short distance southeast of this inclosure two forts were in advanced stage of construction, to command the region in all directions.¹¹⁸ Crossing the now destroyed railroad three miles north of Millen, General Geary now became involved in an almost impassable swamp between Buckhead Creek and the Ogeechee River, and his command could travel but ten miles that day with great difficulty.

From the 1st to the 8th of December the line of march of the XXth Corps was down the peninsula between the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers, generally along the Louisville and Savannah wagon road. Encampment for the night of the 1st was at Baker's Creek; for the 2nd, at Buck Head Church; the 3rd at Horse Creek; the 4th at Little Ogeechee; the 5th at Sylvania Cross Roads; the 6th near Cowpen's Creek; the 7th by Jack's Branch near Springfield, and the 8th near Elm Cross Roads. The surface of the country continued flat and became swampy. Large ponds of water were passed about every mile, and the creeks were frequently spread into several branches. The roads had a sandy surface which was firm for light vehicles, but through which the heavy wagon trains cut, and then settled into deep quicksand. It was necessary to corduroy stretches of miles of this road. The fog was here dense particularly during the

nights. Torches were of little use in it. By several of the swamps through which the Union army had to pass, the enemy had cut down trees across the road which generally delayed the march but little; but occasionally the enemy's troops were here met who delayed the progress on account of their advantageous positions. Supplies continued ample in the open country, and the weather favorable.

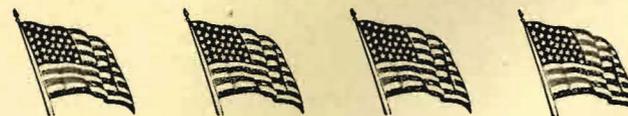
The direction of the march was changed December 9th, more to the eastward and along the road from Edon to Montieth Postoffice on the Charleston Railway. In the large Montieth Swamp the enemy had cut trees to fall across the road, and had built two small earthworks beyond, which were manned by about 400 infantrymen with a cannon. Plans were at once made for capturing all of the enemy at this place but, before the obstructing trees could be cut and moved away, all of the at first pretentious opposing force escaped, and hurriedly, before the Union small arms at long range. They left a considerable quantity of new clothing and accouterments. They killed one and wounded four of Slocum's men. They carried away their killed and wounded comrades.

In the early morning of December 10th, the march was continued to Montieth Station on the Charleston Railway. After destroying several miles of this road, advance was made to near the Five-Mile Post from Savannah, on the Augusta Railroad. Here the enemy's strong line of the out defenses of Savannah were determined in their front aspect, as fronting on swamps and artificial ponds. It being late in the day, preparations were made for encampment. A party of foragers, including cavalrymen and artillerymen, succeeding in capturing the enemy's dispatch boat *Ida*, near the lower part of Argyle Island, Savannah River (see map). This boat bore dispatches for gunboats above, with Colonel Clinch of Confederate General Hardee's staff. Unfortunately the boat caught fire and was destroyed.

On the 11th, when Slocum was extending his line to the left, he was attacked by the enemy whom he drove back into the fortifications; and Slocum placed his men as he desired, from the Savannah River with his left, to the Central Railway on his right, his line being in advance of Pipemaker's Creek.

General Baird's IIIrd Division of Slocum's XIVth Corps, with Kilpatrick and his cavalry, had marched in the direction of Waynesborough and Birdville, the objective points of their comrades of the XXth Corps. General Morgan, with his IInd Division, was directed to move on the direct road to Buck Head Bridge in full charge of the XIVth Corps wagon trains, and to encamp ten miles from Louisville. December 2nd General Carlin, with his Ist Division, joined his comrades from his flank movement in the direction of Sabastopol, and the corps encamped at the crossing of the Birdville and Waynesborough roads about two miles from the bridge. Keeping informed of all details regarding roads, the position of General Howard's Right Wing men, and directing from day to day the order and lines of march, General Slocum, December 3d, changed the previously suggested route of the XXth Corps, and ordered deflection of the XIVth Corps to cross the Buck Head by pontoons about five miles further up the stream. Jacksonborough was designated by Slocum as the place of the next meeting of his two corps. Baird and Kilpatrick were ordered to move from Reynolds toward Waynesborough that the enemy's watchful cavalry might infer that Augusta was yet their objective point. December 4th Carlin and Morgan's divisions destroyed three miles of railroad and, with the corps's wagon trains, marched through Habersham in the direction of Jacksonborough and encamped on the farm of Mrs. Smith, thirteen miles from Lumpkin's Station. In the meanwhile Baird and Kilpatrick attacked the larger force of Wheeler's cavalry and drove them through Waynesborough and across Brier Creek. Baird also destroyed three miles of railroad near Thomas's Station. The evening of the next day, after laborious repairing and marching over poor roads, the entire XIVth Corps, with Kilpatrick's cavalry, encamped in the neighborhood of Jacksonborough, the advance line being at Buck Creek Postoffice. The enemy had destroyed the bridge across Beaver Dam Creek near Jacksonborough. A bridge was here built in the night by the engineers and, in the early morning of the 6th, the XIVth Corps and cavalry crossed and passed on to the river, encamping at Hudson's Ferry, after an average march of twenty miles. December 7th the march was continued in the same order, Baird and Kilpatrick pro-

tecting the rear, unincumbered by the wagon trains. Morgan's second division, with the pontoon train, arrived at Ebenezer Creek late in the evening, and they at once began to clear the road of the trees that had been felled across it by the enemy. This proved a serious work as it extended through the extensive swamp on both sides of the creek. The pontoniers also began work on the bridge. At midday the 8th the first column began to cross this 'formidable defile.' Constant work was required, however, with each wagon and cannon all the way; and it required all the day and night, and until daylight of the morning of the 9th, to get all parts of the corps and cavalry across. This, however, was but one of the many days, and nights, of serious difficulties encountered on this great march by this veteran army; and these difficulties were all manfully met, and overcome. While this strenuous work was in progress, the enemy's cavalry made repeated charges on the rear picket guards, but they received each time more harm than they caused. The morning of the 9th of December, the march of the XIVth Corps was continued from Ebenezer's Church to Cuyler's Plantation, the second division leading. Here the enemy was found behind a strong earthwork for the purpose of opposing the onward march of the Unionists. Two field guns were immediately placed in position for work against the enemy's fortifications, and they did good execution. Some infantry officers desired to deploy for an assault; but the night was near, and an impassable swamp in the enemy's front made a front attack at this time impracticable, and preparations were made for some rest during the night. The enemy abandoned his position in the night. The 10th, the Ist and IInd Divisions, with the trains, marched to the 10-Mile (from Savannah) House and encamped, thus giving the onward road to the XXth Corps which was now arriving by the Monteith Road. The IIIrd Division was ordered to guard the rear of parts of the XIVth Corps while they were breaking the railroad to the Savannah River crossing.



CHAPTER XL

THE ENEMY ESCAPES. SLOCUM OCCUPIES SAVANNAH

On the 11th day of December, General Slocum's XIVth Corps marched down the Augusta Road and took position on the right of his XXth Corps in front of the strong defenses of Savannah. This relieved the XVIIth Corps of General Howard's command on the Louisville Road and the neighborhood of the Ogeechee Canal to the right of which the XVIIth was repositioned.

During the ten days' investment of Savannah that now followed, General Slocum, with his two corps, Army of Georgia, was actively engaged in skirmishing with the enemy, reconnoitering his lines in detail, and in making preparations for a general attack. Many points in the enemy's extended line were found accessible for assault.

Slocum reported to Sherman the 11th that he had sent a regiment across the Savannah River into South Carolina (he being the first of Sherman's command to enter this State) to reconnoiter the country. He also reported that the left of his line was in very close proximity to the enemy in his intrenchments, and that he, Slocum, was constructing two earth redoubts on the right bank of the Savannah River. The next day Slocum's batteries intercepted two more of the enemy's gun-boats that were convoying a naval transport from above to Savannah. The gun-boats were obliged to retire out of range of Slocum's artillery leaving the transport with 27 or more Confederate naval men, officers and crew, to fall into Slocum's possession.

On the 13th, Slocum issued to his troops a circular announcing that regularly organized foraging parties from both corps could explore both sides of the river, and that all guards would respect their passes.

General Sherman continued very communicative, and when he could not visit Slocum he wrote to him often, freely and familiarly; in fact, Sherman's ever-ready pen was his constant companion. He was pleased with the capture of the boats, but he cautioned Slocum against attempting too much. December 15th Slocum received a long communication from Sherman who had just returned from a visit down the Ogeechee River to Ossa-

baw and Wassaw Sounds, where he opened communication with the United States Atlantic fleet, and by it with Grant and Washington. Arrangements were made to receive the supplies brought down the coast by the fleet that had been expecting the arrival of Sherman and his men for several days. These supplies embraced 600,000 rations for the men, and ten days' forage for 40,000 horses and mules. The fleet was to deliver, also, six 20-pounder Parrott guns and six 30-pounder Parrotts with 300 rounds of ammunition for each gun. General Slocum replied at once with the following important historical letter:

Headquarters Left Wing, Army of Georgia,

Major-General Sherman.

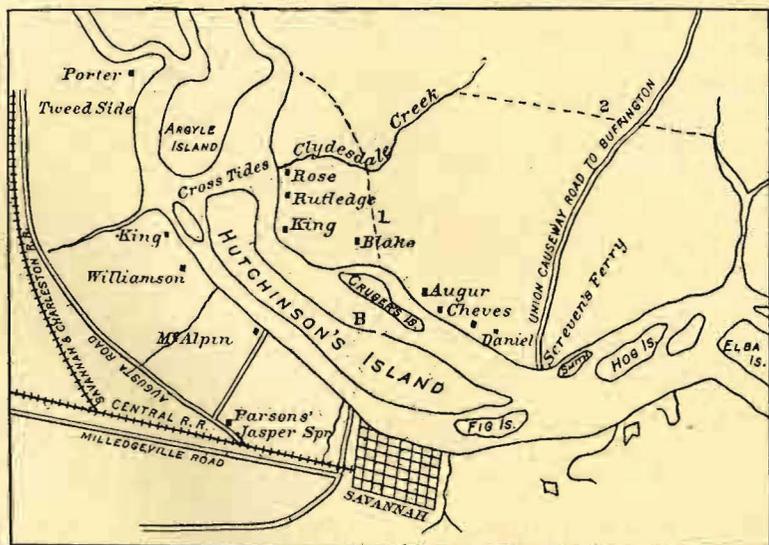
December 15, 1864, 9 P. M.

GENERAL: I have two regiments on the Carolina shore north of Clydesdale Creek. To-morrow morning the remainder of the brigade, three additional regiments, will endeavor to take the line from Clydesdale Creek to a point by the Savannah River opposite to Cruger's Island, with orders to intrench on that line and feel forward toward the causeway road. With your consent I will try to place a division on the line marked 2 on the inclosed diagram [shown opposite]. It will be necessary to move with some caution on that side; and, to render the position entirely safe, it may be necessary to throw an entire corps over, with instructions to intrench strongly. There are many points in front of our present position that can be guarded by a good picket line. If a portion of the line now held by Davis can be held by General Howard, or by the troops under General Foster, the XXth Corps can be spared, and I will seal up that side of the city and be in position to shell every portion of it. I shall go no further than to send a brigade over to take the line marked 1 until I hear from you; but I have no fear of placing a corps on that side; and this done the fate of the city is sealed. I think Foster's command might be of use in the swamps on this side if placed behind the line already established. I think there are points on the left of my line from which the city can be shelled with those heavy guns to more advantage than on the right of the line. The point held by Carlin, where Mower was, is within three miles and a half of the city, but there are points nearer the river quite as close, and from which the city can be seen. Please give me your views as to the propriety of attempting to throw one entire corps over. We can send supplies via Argyle Island, which is held by us. The enemy hold the lower part of Hutchinson's Island, and command the whole island with their batteries on this side. They also send a small gun-boat up to a point between Cruger's and Hutchinson's, at a point marked B [see sketch]. She has one heavy gun and gives us some annoyance. She is just out of range of our field guns.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. SLOCUM. Major-General.⁹²

This letter is a good illustration of Slocum's watchfulness, correct observing powers, and earnest desire to promote the best interest of the service. Had his suggestions here noted been accepted by Sherman, it is very evident to every careful reader, that the Confederate General Hardee's army then in Savannah would have soon capitulated to the Union forces without much of a showing for battle, but Sherman's peculiarity was here again exhibited in the following note which he at once dictated:



Showing the Union Causeway, the Route of General Hardee's Escape from Savannah. The Dotted Line 2 is where General Slocum wanted to Capture Hardee and his Army. Line 1 is where Sherman insisted upon Slocum's staying

In the Field near Savannah, Ga.

Major-General Howard's Hdqrs., Dec. 15, 1864, 11.30 P. M.

Maj. Gen. H. W. SLOCUM, Comdg. Left Wing, Army of Georgia:

GENERAL: The general-in-chief directs me to write you as follows: "Your note of 9 P. M. is just received. For the present do not send more than one brigade, and instead of threatening south toward the Union Causeway, rather let it threaten eastward toward the road marked as running up toward Augusta on the east side of the Savannah River, seemingly threatening in flank the movement of troops attempting to escape from Savannah. There are some points which I will explain in person as soon as I can ride over to see you. A messenger is just arrived from General Grant with dispatches of importance. Prepare for the

rifled guns and get them into position as soon as possible. Let the engineer regiment continue to destroy the railroad, and cover their work up as far as the bridge, including it if possible. After making some letters to-morrow I will come over to see you. Also get from the island in the river all the rice you can as forage for your horses.'⁹³

The Confederate Generals Hardee, Hood, Johnston, and others had escaped from Sherman's grasp in northwestern Georgia, and Hardee was to escape again from Sherman not heeding Slocum's practicable suggestion, and desire, to 'seal up' the avenue of his escape.⁹⁴

General Sherman, while at Slocum's headquarters December 17th, sent a flag with letter to General Hardee in Savannah, reading that he, Sherman, held and controlled every avenue by which the garrison in Savannah could be supplied, and stating the fact that sea-going vessels were passing through Ossabaw Sound and thence up the Ogeechee River to the rear of the Union Army, delivering various supplies including heavy ordnance by which the city could be reduced; and he asked Hardee for the surrender of the city and its dependent forts. Hardee replied by the same flag, informing Sherman that he "was incorrect that he had for some days held and controlled every avenue by which the people and garrison could be supplied," and adding "I am in free and constant communication with my department. Your demand for the surrender of Savannah and its dependent forts is refused."⁹⁴

Notwithstanding this confirmation of Slocum's letter informing Sherman that Savannah was not an unsealed city, Sherman gave no attention to its proper sealing as Slocum desired to do; and he gave orders that the preparations for bombardment, and assault, be rapidly completed, which, if carried out, would have cost hundreds if not thousands of lives, many of them innocent citizens. Slocum, the true soldier that he was, acted promptly upon these orders of his ranking general, and he soon reported his command in readiness for further orders. He further informed Sherman that he felt confident that he could reduce the central part of the city with his own artillery, and make successful assault in several places of the enemy's line in his front. All of this and much more Sherman wrote to General Grant on the 18th in a very long letter.

Slocum continued active meanwhile. He called the attention of his corps commanders to the making of fascines from straw and canebrakes; and the practicing with pontoon bridge materials which he had been investigating, that all might be readily available for use in swampy places. He also requested frequent reviews of the situation that no feature of the whole, or in detail, of the important work before them be overlooked or neglected.

On the 19th of December General Sherman again went down the Ogeechee to the bay, to get the cooperation of Rear Admiral Dahlgren and his ironclad ships for the reduction of Savannah. He sent word to Slocum to be ready. The next morning at 8 o'clock Slocum notified Sherman's headquarters that he was fully prepared to execute any orders that the general-in-chief might issue. Regarding the cannon that Sherman promised to send, nothing could be learned by Slocum's teamsters who had been long waiting their arrival at the designated place. Reply from general headquarters, dated 12 M., read that nothing could be learned about the guns. Another reply from Sherman's assistant adjutant-general dated 5 P. M., read that "The general-in-chief has not returned, and has not authorized any orders. We are, therefore, in a respectable condition to remain quiet until he gives orders of execution."

All parts of General Slocum's army continued most vigilant and alert. The faithful and brave Colonel Barnum of Slocum's XXth Corps was in command of his brigade which was stationed on the extreme left of the Union forces adjoining the Savannah River. About midnight of December 20th, hearing no sounds from the enemy's front, General Slocum started Barnum to reconnoiter the enemy's line about three hundred yards in front of his own front. Barnum passed through his own picket line with ten well chosen men, giving notice to his pickets to the right and left of his errand. From a good point of observation they discussed the situation. Now and then what they thought to be a gun-discharge sounded in the distance, but not a man could be seen on picket duty although the enemy's fires were burning along his outer line. Barnum led the way to the outside intrenchment and found everything quiet. Report was sent to General Slocum who at once reinforced the party to the extent

of General Geary's entire division. They marched to and over the several lines of the enemy's intrenchments and not a man could be seen. General Slocum advanced for the purpose of occupying the city and maintaining order. This was accomplished before daybreak, and report was forwarded accordingly to General Hooker's headquarters.

General Hardee had made good his escape over the Union Causeway that Slocum had desired to occupy for his capture. Again Hardee was indebted to Sherman for his second escape from capture by Union troops; and yet a third escape from the same source awaited him in North Carolina, as will be shown in due time.

At daybreak General Slocum notified Admiral Dahlgren in his flagship off the bay of his possession of the city, and that the river contained many torpedoes and other obstructions for the injury of ships endeavoring to navigate it.

The Mayor of Savannah sent a flag late in the night to Sherman's headquarters informing of the evacuation by Hardee, that the city was entirely defenseless, and he requested protection of the lives and property of the citizens 'and of our women and children.' This request was called forth by the rioting and plundering, begun by some of the lower class people of Savannah's own population as soon as the rear column of Hardee's fleeing troops crossed the river. All of this was stopped as soon as Slocum's men entered the city at four A. M., led by General Geary's IInd Division of the XXth Corps; and Geary was directed by Slocum to assume the office of commander of the post. Colonel William B. Woods of the 76th Ohio Volunteer Infantry was appointed provost marshal of that part of the city east of Bull Street, and the others of Geary's division took possession of all to the westward. Geary soon reported to General Slocum that a detachment of his men had occupied Fort Jackson. Just before the retreat of the enemy he set fire to the officers' quarters, which fire had extended and exploded one of the powder magazines. The fire was extinguished by Slocum's men. Later in the day Colonel John Flynn reported an inventory of the ordnance and stores found in and around this fort, showing its importance, as follows: Of cannon, 4 64-pounders; 44 32-pounders; 2 10-inch Columbiads; 20 8-inch Columbiads; 2 Rifled 32-

pounders; 12 24-pound howitzers; 3 10-inch mortars; 1 8-inch mortar; 3 3-inch rifled pieces. Of ammunition there were: 400 10-inch solid shot; 587 8-inch solid shot; 149 of 7-inch, and 2,272 of 6-inch solid shot; 411 10-inch shells; 320 8-inch, and 120 6-inch; 15 8-inch grape; 27 7-inch, and 13 6-inch; 32 8-inch canister, 41 7-inch, 60 6-inch, and 32 6½-inch; 224 6½-inch shells fixed, 130 8-inch, and 48 6½-inch conical shells fixed; and 50 pounds rifled musket powder, much other had been exploded, and more thrown into the water. Many of the gun carriages had been designedly injured, and 14 of the 91 guns were spiked and shotted. There were no lanterns at hand at the time of this report, consequently but little had been done in examining the unexploded magazines.

Sherman's adjutant-general made continued inquiry for his chief among the vessels of the fleet about the bay and its tributaries and, at last, it was determined that he had gone to Hilton Head, South Carolina. Late in the day of the 22nd Sherman learned of the escape of the enemy, and he then made haste to telegraph to President Lincoln that "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition and, also about 25,000 bales of cotton." The number of large guns mentioned by Sherman included those of the several fortifications in and around the city; but he made no reference to the enemy whose escape he had shielded and let escape, to vigorously oppose the Union forces in their further march through the mud!

CHAPTER XLI

CLEARING FOR ADVANCE. REPORTS OF SAVANNAH CAMPAIGN

The offices of General Slocum, and of his adjutant-general, and inspector's departments, occupied the Central Railroad Bank Building, adjoining the United States Custom House. The Exchange Building was occupied as the offices of the other staff departments. The United States Government at once provided for the re-establishment of the post-office, and of its other departments, supplies for which were brought by the coast fleet.

The Savannah Campaign being at an end, preparations at once began for another campaign. Sherman began correspond-

ence with Lieutenant-General Grant, and the Department of War, regarding the best course for his armies to pursue.

Confederate General Wheeler and his cavalry continued to hover around as near as practicable. December 24th Sherman replied to Wheeler's flag with note, that "I will let that lady land, but no more. No provision has been made for the families in Savannah, and many of them will suffer from want—and I will not undertake to feed them. I will give notice that all families who wish to leave can do so, and I will provide the means of getting them to General Hardee's headquarters. You need not send in for small parties, and I will not permit any more flags of truce by subordinate commanders. P. S. If your pickets fire on our boats, I will clear Savannah and the river of all unfriendly parties."⁹⁵

The thoroughly disciplined veterans of Slocum's command made good and efficient municipal governors. The city fire department was reported in good condition, and it was continued in service, and held responsible. It was so with the water works, and gas works. Captain Silas Spicer was appointed harbor master of the port. An early hour for closing the streets to all others than the guards, were strictly enforced to all persons without proper passes.

All persons within the city who had been in any way connected with the enemy's army, were required to report to Captain Ira B. Seymour, and there to register their names with all particulars. It is but just in this connection to write a good word regarding General O. O. Howard, commander of the Right Wing of these combined armies. Christmas day he wrote to Rev. Mr. Wynn, Methodist clergyman, namely: "Have the kindness to receive and aid your Christian brother George W. Pepper, Chaplain Eightieth Ohio Infantry, giving him such facilities for serving your church as will not materially interrupt your own work." This regiment was thus enabled to enjoy an unique experience in army life, of listening to its Chaplain without standing, or sitting on the ground. Citizens did not attend these services numerously.

Christmas day General Slocum issued his General Orders, Number three, for his corps commanders to make strict preparations for another military campaign. As a beginning of such

preparation, "all officers who, by intemperance, inefficiency, or ignorance of their duties, have shown themselves unqualified for the positions they hold, should at once be reported for dismissal." The next day Sherman requested Slocum to detail a competent engineer from his command to report to Brigadier-General Langdon C. Easton with a party for the purpose of examining the Savannah River and removing obstacles found in it. This day Slocum ordered announced the following additions to his staff: Lieut. Col. S. H. Sturdevant, chief commissary of subsistence, and 1st Lieutenant William Ludlow, chief engineer.

Special field orders were issued December 26th announcing the United States Post of Savannah and vicinity; the duties of the municipal authorities as subservient to the military; protection for all worthy persons and to their business, including not more than two newspapers whose editors would be held to the strictest accountability.

General Slocum's soldiers found lumber with which they built neat houses in the ample public parks to shield them from the high winds during the cool nights; and the children played around them during the days. The citizens remained quietly and closely in their homes.

There was much heard from day to day, however, from numerous citizens more pronounst inveighing, than had been muttered from Atlanta to Savannah, against South Carolina with expressed hopes that the army would inflict a greater punishment on that State as the chief instigator of the war; and that as far as Georgia was concerned the war was at an end. Many of Hardee's troops had deserted him, and the Confederacy.

General Sherman gave audience to twenty or more of the negro preachers of good address and, upon their request for his advice, he told them that, while they and their congregations were free men and women, they should not do any violence to their former masters; that whenever reasonable agreements could be made with them or others they would best remain, do good work, and save the money received for it. The Secretary of War, Stanton, was present with Sherman at one meeting with the colored clergymen of every denomination in the city. He made notes of their expressions, and, later, he expressed surprise at

their comprehension of the real causes of the war; that they understood and stated the principles of the question as well as anyone could. Adjutant-general Townsend of the United States Army was also present at this meeting, which lasted until late in the night.¹¹⁵

Would-be speculators in cotton, and in all other openings for gain, began to appear in Savannah, even those who had virtually kidnapped negroes and held them confined until they could sell them to recruiting officers for the army, and all, being threatened by Sherman with arrest, took the next ship for New York.

After the settlement of the course of the next campaign through the Carolinas, the general opinion was that it would be attended with far more danger to the armies than was the March to the Sea. Savannah citizens were free with their belief that it would be 'a march into the jaws of destruction.' Hardee would confront them with an army of 30,000 men, and R. E. Lee could send an army by rail to meet them at a point advantageous to himself—they not thinking that Lee could be taken care of by General Grant. Neither Slocum nor his men were unduly apprehensive, each feeling assured by past experience that vigilance and their other characteristic soldierly virtues would well withstand the Carolinas, as well as they had withstood Georgia.

General Sherman yet persisted in 'carrying with him' The Headquarters of the Military Division of the Mississippi, which act, with many of his other acts, has been criticised as savoring of pedantry, or worse, on his part, and as detracting from the merits of the worthy commanders in the fields of operation.⁹⁶ By order of Sherman, December 27th, the general business headquarters of this Military Division of the Mississippi was formally transferred from Nashville, Tennessee, to Savannah, Georgia, with the six officers in charge of the clerical work.⁹⁷

The success of the United States armies in Georgia, as well as elsewhere, brought into the open many men of strong and worthy character and sincere love for the Union, who had been suppressed by circumstances beyond their control. A number of such men in Liberty and Tattnall Counties, Georgia, made themselves known to General Sherman and elicited from him a patriotic and otherwise commendable letter full of sympathy, and with proffer of support.⁹⁸

The chief engineer of the armies, Captain O. M. Poe, was directed to present plans for a line of defenses for the city of Savannah, and commanders of the troops were called upon to assist as much as possible. Plans were produced that proved practicable and efficient.

Every effort was made to stimulate a just pride and self respect among the troops. They were refitted with clothing and arms, and every incitement given to the various drillings for good soldierly bearing at all times and in all ways. The systematic discipline embraced all phases of garrison, field, and encampment duties, particularly for those received from General Foster. Gambling was prohibited, and the soldiers' time in camp was quite fully occupied in recitation courses of various kinds, to which the lower rank officers were also subjected by those of higher rank. Foraging was here restricted to food for horses and mules, as the Christmastide supplies from the coast fleet were ample for the men. Dress parades were of frequent occurrence, with reviews within the city by corps and other army officers, including General Sherman. Necessary fatigue work was carried forward both in and around the city, including the erection of new fortifications.

The latter part of December General Slocum moved his XXth Corps across the Savannah River for the purpose of destroying the railroad running northward. Other parts of the armies were moved further outside the city. December 31st Sherman wrote to Halleck that he had been reviewing the troops of his armies, and that he felt a just pride in their fine soldierly condition and their perfect equipment. He asked to be reinforced at Wilmington or Fayetteville, North Carolina, by the detachments from them that were left in Tennessee.

The abstract of the return of the Union forces at Savannah, Georgia, December 31st, showed the Left Wing, The Army of Georgia, composed as follows:

General Headquarters, Major-General Henry W. Slocum commanding, with staff of 7 officers.

XIVth Army Corps, General J. C. Davis, commanding: 598 officers, and 13,722 Volunteer Veteran Infantry present for duty, with 16 cannon.

XXth Army Corps, General A. S. Williams, commanding:

654 officers, with 13,464 Veteran Volunteer Infantry present for duty, with 16 cannon. Aggregate present and absent, 28,788.

In his report of the Savannah Campaign, under date of January 1, 1865, General Sherman expressed the following compliment to the commanders of his armies, namely: "In the body of my army I feel a just pride. Generals Howard and Slocum are gentlemen of singular capacity and intelligence, thorough soldiers and patriots, working day and night, not for themselves but for their country and their men."

General Slocum's report of the Savannah Campaign reads as follows:

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, Army of Georgia.
Savannah, Ga., January 9, 1865.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor of submitting the following report of operations of the Fourteenth and Twentieth Corps during the recent campaign:

By virtue of Special Field Orders No. 120, headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi, November 9, 1864, the army, then in the field near Kingston and Atlanta, was divided into wings, the Fourteenth and Twentieth Corps constituting the Left Wing of the army. Prior to this organization these corps had formed a part of the Army of the Cumberland, under Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, the Fourteenth under command of Bvt. Maj. Gen. J. C. Davis, and the Twentieth Corps under my command. After the capture of Atlanta the Twentieth Corps occupied the city and the line of works constructed by the enemy, and was engaged in the construction of a new line of works designed to enable a small garrison to hold the place. Heavy details were constantly employed in this work from October 5 to November 1. On the 29th of September General Morgan's division of the Fourteenth Corps moved by railroad to Chattanooga and Huntsville, to protect our communications which were then threatened by the enemy under General Forrest. The other two divisions moved with the main army in its operations against the enemy under General Hood.

On the 24th of October General Morgan's division rejoined the corps at Gaylesville, Alabama. On the 2nd of November this corps was concentrated at Kingston, Georgia, where preparations were made for the campaign just closed. On the 13th of November it was engaged in the destruction of the railroad from Etowah River to Big Shanty, and on the 14th moved to Atlanta. During this movement the Twentieth Corps was left for the defense of Atlanta. The hospitals of every corps of the army, containing many of our sick and wounded, were located within the line of works constructed by the enemy; and the nature of the movement of our forces operating against General Hood had also compelled the commanders of every corps to leave at this point a portion

of their artillery, together with all surplus transportation and stores. In addition to the troops and stores belonging strictly to the Twentieth Corps, there remained at the post [Atlanta] 12,700 wounded, sick, and convalescent soldiers, eighty pieces of artillery, and over 5,000 horses and mules, together with much other valuable property. The duty of protecting this property and securing supplies for the garrison and forage for the animals devolved upon the Twentieth Corps. At the time our railroad communication was destroyed at Kingston and Big Shanty, the amount of subsistence stores on hand was deemed amply sufficient to sustain the garrison until communication could be re-established; but it was subsequently found necessary to send a portion of the supplies to the main army at Rome. The supply of forage on hand was not sufficient for the animals for over three days. I was therefore compelled not only to reduce the issue of meat to a half ration, but to resort to the country for supplies of subsistence as well as forage. From the 10th of October to the 4th of November foraging expeditions were sent into the country, all of which were completely successful, and conducted with but small loss of life. About 2,000,000 pounds of corn and a large quantity of fodder were collected on these expeditions, together with subsistence for the foraging parties. Great credit is due General Geary, Colonels Robinson, Dustin, and Carman, the officers commanding the several expeditions; also to Colonel Garrard and the brigade of cavalry under his command.

The Twentieth Corps left Atlanta on the morning of November 15, marching by Stone Mountain and Social Circle to Madison, arriving at the latter place on the evening of the 18th. At that point General Geary's division moved to the Oconee and destroyed the railroad bridge over that river, the other divisions moving direct to Milledgeville via Eatonton, Geary's division rejoining the corps at Little River. The corps arrived at Milledgeville on the 22nd of November. Two regiments were sent forward to take possession of the city and established the necessary guards.

The Fourteenth Corps left Atlanta on the morning of November 16 and moved, via Decatur, Covington, and Shady Dale, to Milledgeville, arriving at the latter place November 23rd.

The Georgia railroad was destroyed by the Fourteenth Corps from Lithonia to Yellow River, and from Social Circle to Madison by the Twentieth Corps. It was also broken at several points between Madison and the Oconee River, and the bridge at that river was burned by Geary's division of the Twentieth Corps.

On the 24th of November both corps moved from near Milledgeville to Sandersville, the Fourteenth via Black Spring, and the Twentieth via Hebron. The two corps reached Sandersville almost simultaneously on the morning of November 26, driving the enemy's cavalry very rapidly through the town. On the 27th both corps moved toward Louisville, two divisions of the Fourteenth, unencumbered by wagons, going via Fenn's Bridge for the purpose of protecting our left flank and to uncover the

crossing of Ogeechee River and Rocky Comfort Creek at a point near Louisville. Two divisions of the Twentieth Corps moved along the Georgia Central Railroad, from Tennille to Ogeechee River, destroying the road and bridges. The remaining division of each corps, with all the trains, moved on an interior road direct to Louisville. The bridges over the Ogeechee River and Rocky Comfort Creek had been destroyed by the enemy, but a pontoon bridge was soon constructed by Colonel Buell, and on the 29th both corps were encamped near Louisville, Georgia.

Two divisions of the Fourteenth Corps left Louisville December 1st, crossing Buck Head Creek five miles above the church, and passing through Habersham, reached Jacksonborough on the 5th. Baird's division moved from Louisville in support of the cavalry, and made a demonstration in the direction of Waynesborough, rejoining the corps at Jacksonborough. The Twentieth corps left Louisville December 1st, crossing Buck Head Creek at the church, and passing through Birdville struck the railroad leading from Millen to Augusta, five miles from Millen, and encamped on the 5th, near Hunter's Mills. From Jacksonborough the Fourteenth Corps moved toward Savannah on the Augusta and Savannah road, the Twentieth Corps taking the road through Springfield. On the 10th of December my command reached the main line of the enemy's works in front of Savannah and took position, the Twentieth Corps on the left, with its left resting on the Savannah River, the Fourteenth on the right and connecting with the Seventeenth Corps beyond the canal near Lawson's plantation. Our line was established as close as possible to that of the enemy, and the time spent in preparation for an assault upon his works. Batteries were established by the river in such positions as prevented any boats from passing. The steamer *Ida*, while attempting to pass up from Savannah, on the 10th of December, was captured and burned. On the 12th two gun-boats and the steamer *Resolute* attempted to pass our batteries from above, but both gun-boats were driven back by Winegar's battery, and the steamer was so disabled that she fell into our hands. She was soon repaired, and has since been transferred to the quartermaster's department. On the 18th a brigade of the First Division, Twentieth Corps, was thrown across the river, and established near IZARD'S plantation, on the South Carolina shore in a position which threatened the only line of communication still held by the enemy. A bridge in the meantime had been constructed by the enemy from the city to the South Carolina shore, and on the evening of December 20 he commenced the evacuation of the city. The movement was discovered at 3 A. M. on the 21st, and my command was at once moved forward and occupied the city.

For a more detailed account of each day's operations, I respectfully refer you to the reports of Maj. Gen. J. C. Davis, commanding Fourteenth Corps, and Brig. Gen. A. S. Williams, commanding Twentieth Corps, together with the reports of the subordinate commanders, all of which are

herewith inclosed. So far as active opposition on the part of the enemy was concerned, there was hardly an event worthy of mention in a report of this nature. The only real annoyance we experienced was from the destruction of bridges, and the obstruction of roads by fallen timber, and these obstacles were very readily overcome.

The conduct of the officers and men on the march is worthy of the highest praise. They endured the fatigues of the march with cheerfulness, and were ever ready, even at the close of a long day's march to use the ax and spade in removing obstructions and repairing roads and bridges.

The result of the campaign proves conclusively the practicability of subsisting large bodies of troops upon the enemy's country. After leaving the section of country near Atlanta, which had already been foraged upon by both armies, we experienced no difficulty in obtaining supplies for both men and animals. Even the most unproductive sections along our line of march yielded enough for our support so long as the march could be continued from day to day. It was thirty-four days from the date my command left Atlanta to the day supplies were received from the fleet. The total number of rations required during this period was 1,360,000. Of this amount there was issued by the subsistence department 440,900 rations of bread, 142,473 rations of meat, 876,800 of coffee and tea, 778,466 of sugar, 213,500 of soap, and 1,123,000 of salt.

As the troops were well supplied at all times, if we deduct the above issues from the amount actually due the soldiers, we have the approximate quantities taken from the country, viz.: rations of bread, 919,000; meat, 1,217,527; coffee, 483,000; sugar, 581,534; soap, 146,500; salt, 137,000. The above is the actual saving to the Government in issue of rations during the campaign and it is probable that even more than the equivalent of the above supplies was obtained by the soldiers from the country.

Four thousand and ninety valuable horses and mules were captured during the march and turned over to the quartermaster's department. Our transportation was in far better condition on our arrival at Savannah than it was at the commencement of the campaign. The average number of horses and mules with my command, including those of the pontoon train and a part of the Michigan Engineers, was 14,500. We started from Atlanta with four days' grain in wagons. Estimating the amount fed the animals at the regulation allowance, and deducting the amount on hand on leaving Atlanta, I estimate the amount of grain taken from the country at 5,000,000 pounds; fodder, 6,000,000 pounds; besides the forage consumed by the immense herds of cattle that were driven with the different columns.

It is very difficult to estimate the amount of damage done the enemy by the operations of the troops under my command during the campaign; 119 miles of railroad were thoroughly and effectually destroyed, scarcely a tie or rail, a bridge or culvert, on the entire line being left in con-

dition to be of use again. At Rutledge, Madison, Eatonton, Milledgeville, Tennille, and Davisborough, machine shops, turn-tables, depots, water-tanks, and much other valuable property were destroyed. The quantity of cotton destroyed is estimated by my subordinate commanders at 17,000 bales. A very large number of cotton gins and presses were also destroyed. Negro men, women, and children joined the column at every mile of our march; many of them bringing horses and mules, which they cheerfully turned over to the officers of the quartermaster's department. I think at least 14,000 of these people joined the two columns at different points on the march, but many of them were too old and infirm, and others too young, to endure the fatigues of the march, and were therefore left in the rear. More than one-half of the above number, however, reached the coast with us. Many of the able-bodied men were transferred to the officers of the quartermaster and subsistence departments and others were employed in the two corps as teamsters, cooks, and servants.

Twenty-three hundred stand of small arms, and a large quantity of powder, were captured at Milledgeville. Fifty-one pieces of artillery were abandoned by the enemy, on his evacuation of Savannah, on the line in front of my command. Thirty-eight pieces in addition to the above were also found in works first entered by the Twentieth Corps. A very large amount of ordnance stores was also found in and about the city.

Bvt. Maj. Gen. J. E. Davis, commanding Fourteenth Corps, and Brig. Gen. A. S. Williams, commanding Twentieth Corps, were during the entire campaign constantly with their troops, and were energetic and zealous in discharge of every duty.

The Fifty-eighth Indiana Volunteers, under command of Col. George P. Buell, organized as pontoniers, and a portion of the First Michigan Engineers, under Maj. J. B. Yates, accompanied my command, and were at all times most efficient in the discharge of the arduous duties imposed upon them.

I append herewith a statement of casualties, and also a statement of prisoners captured.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. SLOCUM,

Major-General, Commanding Left Wing, Army of Georgia.
Capt. L. M. DAYTON, Aide-de-Camp.

The casualties on this campaign were: in XIVth Corps, killed, one officer and 12 men; wounded, one officer and 29 men; missing, 94 men. In XXth Corps, killed, one officer and 11 men; wounded, 5 officers and 83 men; missing 1 officer and 164 men. Total losses 402.

Prisoners captured by XVIth Corps 115 men; by XXth Corps, 30 officers and 294 men; total 439. The enemy's killed and wounded were probably relatively greater than his loss in prisoners.

General Sherman gave his losses in both armies in killed and

wounded as 1,338, and that those of the enemy could not be ascertained. The Union gains were, the great military vantage; 65,000 men fed and 32,000 horses and mules foraged for forty days.

The United States Congress 'expressed thanks to Sherman and his army for their triumphant march from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and through Georgia to Savannah.'

CHAPTER XLII

BEGINNING OF THE CAMPAIGN OF THE CAROLINAS

The question of the marching of Sherman's armies through the Carolinas, or of their being transported by ocean and rivers more directly to the aid of the Army of the Potomac, was discussed at the War Department and between Generals Grant and Sherman; and the decision was in favor of the former course.

At the beginning of the Campaign of the Carolinas, the IIIrd Division of Slocum's XXth Corps under General Ward broke camp at Savannah January 1st, and crossing the Savannah River it moved northward along the Union Causeway, the avenue of escape of the Confederate army under General Hardee. A detachment of the enemy's cavalry was driven before the division, and Ward's command went into camp in advance of Cheve's plantation near Hardeeville, South Carolina. January 17th the Ist Division of the XXth Corps followed the IIIrd and encamped near Purysburg, and the IIIrd Division then occupied Hardeeville. The IInd Division remained in charge of Savannah.

About the middle of January, most of Howard's Right Wing was sent by ships from near Savannah to Beaufort, South Carolina, then in possession of United States troops. This Wing was thus placed beyond much mud and water, thus having the advantage of Slocum's Left Wing without effort to them.

Rains continued to fall so copiously that a great flood resulted, submerging all the rice plantations and the other low country, also many of the dikes upon which the corduroy roads were made. Slocum's two divisions were thus isolated widely from their comrades and source of supplies, and even a part of the Ist Division's wagon train was separated from its part of the division by water.

General Geary, with his IInd Division of the XXth Corps was relieved of the command of Savannah January 19th by Major-General John G. Foster, and the 27th, after the rains had somewhat subsided, he followed General Slocum's XIVth Corps up the Augusta Turnpike on the southwest side of the Savannah River. This course led the enemy to again think that Augusta was their objective point, and they made preparations to leave the city after making some preparations for its defense. The weather became clear, and so cold that the troops suffered. Before leaving Savannah there had been a general 'weeding out' of inefficient men and surplus baggage, including large tents, blankets, chairs, camp-cots, and all other unnecessary baggage. Officers as well as the enlisted men now occupied the small fly-tent, and used boughs of trees as additional protection, to his single blanket and small tent, from the biting wind at night as well as to help shed some of the rain. Many days of this wet, muddy march they saw reason for thankfulness that they had so little unnecessary baggage. The effective strength of General Geary's IInd Division of Slocum's XXth Corps at this time was: 1st Brigade, 68 officers and 1,777 enlisted men; 2nd Brigade, 72 officers, 1,145 men; and the 3rd Brigade, 92 officers and 1,654 men. Total, 261 officers, and 5,061 enlisted men. The mule train for this division was composed of 159 army wagons and 33 ambulances. There were, also, 13 pack mules for each regiment, and 13 at Geary's headquarters, making a total of 234 pack mules. This wagon train carried two weeks' rations for the men including what each soldier carried in his haversack, and one week's forage for the horses and mules. The ammunition part of the train carried 504,000 rounds of infantry ammunition, it being an allowance of 100 rounds per man. In addition to this each man carried 40 rounds in his cartridge box. Each brigade had its pioneer company of about 30 men to lead the advance when there was no enemy near. This pioneer company kept within ready access a tool wagon well loaded with axes, spades, picks, and bars. General Geary's quartermaster also had with his trains a pioneer company of 75 negroes.

As large as General Geary's division, as above mentioned, may appear to the general reader, it was less than one-sixth part of General Slocum's command of infantry, and the pontoniers,

engineers, and artillery were additional. The Right Wing of Sherman's armies under General O. O. Howard ranked about the same as Slocum's Left Wing. Frequently it became desirable, if not necessary, for one division, or brigade, to take charge of much of the equipment of other brigade, division, or corps. At the time that General Geary left Savannah, he had in charge, in addition to his own equipment as before mentioned, the headquarters and corps trains of General Slocum's command, including the corps supply, and the artillery ammunition trains, making in all 300 vehicles. Sloan's battery, and two regiments of the 1st Division of the XXth Corps, the 13th New Jersey and the 61st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which had been left at Savannah, also reported according to orders to General Geary, and followed his division.

The ground was frozen hard at the start but, as the day advanced, the heavy wagons broke up the surface more and more thus making the way more rough and the progress more difficult and slow. The advance line prepared for encamping about 3 o'clock P. M. at a distance of 12 miles from Savannah; and the trains arrived at this point about dark. The march was taken up next morning at six o'clock. After advancing about four miles a turn was made to the left, and about two P. M. a halt was called for encampment and 3 1-2 miles short of Springfield. Notwithstanding the bad condition of the road, and the frequent necessity for corduroying, 14 miles were traveled this day. January 29th the march was resumed at 6.30 A. M. The line this day led through Springfield, across the ford of Jack's Creek, then turned to the right on the Sister's Ferry road, across a bad swamp at Ebenezer Creek where the road required much corduroying, and encampment was made at two P. M. on the plantation of Judge Mallette three miles from Sister's Ferry, the distance traveled this day being 12 miles. A pontoon bridge was laid the 30th across the Savannah River at Sister's Ferry. The Carolina side was yet under water which was, however, rapidly subsiding. All of the pioneers, and those who could well handle an axe, were detailed to corduroy the road through the swampy part. The 1st day of February a number of torpedoes, planted by the enemy in the road, were found and most of them were removed with safety. A few under water and drift debris were

exploded with some damage in addition to several deaths notwithstanding the care exercised for their removal. The weather became warm. As the road work progressed, the depth of the water that had been declining, again increased. There was more rain, but Kilpatrick's cavalry crossed the bridge the evening of February 3rd, and the next day Slocum's men began to cross. Boats arrived here from Savannah and formed a depot of supplies, from which the soldiers filled their haversacks, and the supply train wagons were replenished. Three brigades of Geary's division moved forward to Robertsville through roads nearly impassable by soldiers, and wholly so by wagons. One brigade was left to guard the trains, which yet included the wagons of Kilpatrick's cavalry. February 5th, 1,500 men were employed in putting the road in condition through this Black Swamp for the wagon train to pass. The latter part of the day was occupied in advancing the trains to the night encampment at a cross road eight miles from Robertsville. Near a Mr. Trowell's house in this neighborhood the bodies of three Union soldiers were found and buried. They had been shot in 'cold blood' by Wheeler's Confederate cavalrymen. After getting across the Black Swamp, the roads were such that only nine miles could be traveled the next day, the weather being clear and warm. The march was taken up at six o'clock the next morning along the road to Lawtonville, beyond which town another road, to Beech Branch, was followed and encampment was made for the night near Mear's store. The country here about was fertile, but it was now deserted by the farmers and what little of food supplies they had left, if any, had been taken by Confederate soldiers and the part of Slocum's men who had preceded those of Geary's division. Rain again fell in great quantity, but at 8 A. M. the march continued, though slowly on account of much necessary corduroying. At noon the head column arrived at Coosawatchie Swamp through which the road was covered by 3 1-2 feet depth of water for a distance of 300 yards, and the surface of the road was uncertain. There were marshalled 600 axmen and pioneers who bravely began the work of building a foot bridge, and corduroying the wagon road surface. At 4 P. M. Geary's division began to cross. Three brigades, the artillery, and a good part of the trains crossed during the night. The bottom of the stream was



Major-General Slocum and his Army of Georgia in the Flood and Mud of South Carolina. They often Worked Day and Night. Nothing Could Long Stop their Progress

often worked into holes of a quicksand nature, and it was frequently necessary to halt the wagons and send the pioneers with corduroying material into the waist-deep water to place the timbers at the bottom and pin them down that the wagons could be taken over them. Selfridge's brigade encamped on the south side to guard the trains that could not get across until morning.

General Slocum was now with this part of his army, and he constantly inspired his men by his presence and his words of cheer. No complaints were heard from these veteran volunteer soldiers who had marched 6 and 1-2 miles in the sultry day through deep mud and rain, and worked hard all the night in the water and mud. General Slocum's cheering words as he passed back and forth along the workmen, were here as well as ever before fully accorded with; and their efforts succeeded better than their own and their subordinate officers' expectations. The weather again cleared and the temperature became chilly accordingly. The roads now showed improvements made by Slocum's preceding columns, yet the constant pounding on the corduroy timbers by the long train of heavy wagons necessitated constant attention and repair of the water-soaked earth beneath the timbers. The trains moved 6 and 1-2 miles after crossing the stream and swamp and February 8th the head columns marched 14 miles, across Jackson's Branch to and across the Big Salkehatchie at Buford's Bridge. This last crossing included a succession of twenty-three bridges with intervening raised roadways, all within a comparatively short distance. The river was wide, deep and miry. On the distal (northern) side of it was a strong line of Confederate military defenses, with four embrasures which commanded the bridges and causeways so fully that a good garrison would make any approach impossible for a contending force. These defensive works were now, fortunately, without garrison of the enemy, and three brigades and most of the trains were crossed and encamped on that side of the river. Before all the teams could cross the roadway became so deeply cut, and dangerous, that Selfridge's brigade remained for the night on the south side with about fifty of the wagons. Fourteen miles were averaged this day. At early daylight of February 9th Geary's division was reunited on the north side of the river, the road having been repaired and, at six o'clock

A. M., all marched forward along the road to the left leading toward Blackville. The road was now comparatively good, the country not so level, and well cultivated. Here for the first time on the Campaign of the Carolinas, the foragers found enough of products to compensate for their efforts in the search. Some extended their search as far as Barnwell and returned well laden. At 3 o'clock P. M. encampment was made within one mile of Blackville, near the other divisions of the XXth Corps which they had not seen since the latter crossed the river at Savannah to begin this campaign January 1st. These divisions, the 1st and 3rd, of this corps had remained to the northeast of the Savannah River surrounded by the flood until January 26th when they started northward, and arrived at Robertsville the 29th, where they were obliged to remain until February 2nd when they marched to Lawtonville, skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry by the way. The next day they advanced to Duck Branch Post-office, and the next to Allendale Postoffice. The 5th they moved to Buford's Bridge, and the 6th they crossed the Salkehatchie River and passed to the Little Salkehatchie. This stream was crossed the next day and the march was extended to near Graham's Station on the South Carolina Railway. The 8th they destroyed this road west from this Station and returned to the encampment for the night. The 9th of February they marched to Blackville, destroying the railroad by the way; and there they joined Geary's 2nd Division from which they had been separated as before described.

The reader may have noticed that part of Slocum's men marched from Savannah practically toward Augusta, Georgia, which caused much uneasiness in that important city, and not a little preparation again among the inhabitants to escape with their valuables. After Slocum turned to the right and crossed the Savannah River the citizens of Charleston were the ones to become anxious, and their anxiety did not wane until it became evident that Columbia was to be the next important objective place. The Georgia protectors, Generals Wheeler, Hardee, Hood, Beauregard, Hampton, and others flurried around but did not get seriously in Slocum's way until his arrival at Fayetteville, Aversborough, and at Bentonville where they saw their finish.

CHAPTER XLIII

SOUTH CAROLINA. CAPTURES FAYETTEVILLE

That part of General Howard's Right Wing that went by sea to Beaufort, used boats up the river as far as practicable, then followed a prescribed course to the right of that planned for General Slocum's army. The part of Howard's XVth Corps that could not be embarked for Beaufort, followed General Slocum's last contingent up the southwest side of the Savannah River, crossed after them at Sister's Ferry, and rejoined their XVth Corps near Blackville February 9th or 10th.

The 1st Division of Slocum's XXth Corps marched February 11th to Duncan's Bridge, joining the 2nd Division on the north side of the river. The 3rd Division moved to Wiliston Station, destroying the railroad along the way. It encamped for the night across the south tributary of the Edisto River. The 12th the 1st and 2nd Divisions moved to Jeffcoat's Bridge, where the 3rd Division met them. The 13th this XXth Corps marched to Jones' Cross Roads; the 14th to Columbia Cross Roads, and the 15th to near Lexington. There was skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry each day; the enemy now thinking that Charleston was the objective point of the Unionists.

The 1st and 3rd Divisions of General Slocum's XIVth Corps destroyed twelve miles of the Augusta and Charleston Railroad above Barnwell February 12th. The 14th they moved across the south and north tributaries of the Edisto River; the 15th they pressed forward to near the Congaree, and to the Beaver Dam Creek, the advance columns entering Lexington. The entire XIVth Corps was here reunited. The 16th of February it crossed the Congaree, marched to within sight of Columbia, the capitol of South Carolina and, on the opposite side of the river, it prepared for battle. Considerable skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry occurred during the day. The 17th the XIVth Corps crossed the Saluda River by pontoon bridge near Mount Zion Church, and passed on to Freshly's Mills by the Broad River. This river was crossed two miles above Columbia the 19th, and a long stretch of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad was destroyed along the river bank to Larkin's Station.

Here Slocum's officers of the XIVth Corps learned of the capture of Columbia by General Howard's Right Wing, also of the retreat of the enemy in the direction of Cheraw, and that the Confederate General Cheatham's command was near the XIVth Corps on its left. This corps then marched forward through Winnsborough, and it went into camp for the night near White Oak. General Slocum's headquarters were at Winnsborough at this time, and detachments of his different commands had completed the destruction of railroads in different directions.

Inasmuch as General Slocum was the first to enter and occupy Atlanta the stronghold, Milledgeville the capitol, and Savannah the metropolis of Georgia, General Sherman managed to have Howard, commander of his Right Wing, the first to enter and occupy Columbia the capitol of South Carolina with himself for a day or two. Slocum and his Army of Georgia did not enter the city, but passed it on the west. The disastrous fire this city suffered at this time is attributed to the firing of the cotton by the Confederates at the time of their retreat to keep it from being confiscated by the Unionists; and the high winds scattered the ignited cotton to the inflammable residences. It is doubtless true, however, that the Right Wing of Sherman's Army left more of a trail of ashes through South Carolina generally than did Slocum's Left Wing. To help the distressed citizens of Columbia Sherman gave the mayor 500 of his beef cattle; also 100 muskets with ammunition to guard them.¹¹⁶

The XXth Corps marched well toward Columbia February 16th when, hearing heavy guns there, two divisions were sent yet nearer where they were informed that the city was well under control by Howard's forces, and that Slocum's XIVth Corps was opposite Columbia. The XXth then encamped for the night, and the next morning it moved to the Saluda River. Crossing this river the 18th it marched to Oakville Postoffice. The 19th it arrived near the Broad River and encamped on Freshly's farm near his Mills. The march was extended the 20th to, and across, the Broad and Little Rivers and to encampment on Owen's farm. The march was resumed the 21st and it continued to Winnsborough. Here some citizens had set fire to some buildings, and the soldiers joined other citizens in preventing the fire from spreading. Here, as elsewhere when practicable, the citi-

zens were treated with excellent renditions of patriotic music by the well-trained bands. The track of the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad was here destroyed toward White Oak. Rabbits abounded hereabouts and some were caught alive for pets. The 1st and 3rd Divisions moved forward and encamped by Beaver Dam Creek.

Several Union foragers were found hanging and dead by the roadside with papers attached to their clothing on which was written 'Death to all foragers.' Toward Chesterfield twenty-one infantry soldiers were found dead in a ravine with their throats cut. Possibly these soldiers were stragglers from foraging parties who had been some days away from their company 'taking it easy and having a good time on their own responsibility.'

It being reported that a strong column of Confederate cavalry was on their front, the 3rd Division was sent rapidly forward to intercept it. No part of the enemy could be found, however, although a sharp hunt was made through the country to and across the Catawba or Wateree River at Rocky Mount Ferry February 22nd. The enemy, led by Beauregard, had gone toward Charlotte to protect this town from the Unionists, who now turned to the eastward as they had planned to do. The trains of the XXth Corps, with 250 wagons of Kilpatrick's cavalry which had been part of Slocum's charge constantly since the start upon the Carolinas' Campaign, were much delayed by steep ascents and bad roads. Even the pontoon wagons could not be brought along until late the 23rd, when the bridge was laid across the Catawba River and the rough, rocky, and steep approaches were smoothed; but the rain, slipperiness, and dense darkness made the crossing at night impracticable.

A rumor this day went around the commands that the enemy had evacuated Charleston; and this rumor was fully confirmed the next day or two. The different generals could well explain the cause of this retreat of the Confederates, as they had destroyed two of the principal railroads which had been supplying that city and were about to destroy another. The city was soon supplied with food carried thither by United States ships.

The forward movement began early February 23rd in the severe rain, and only five miles could be traveled that day over

the steep and muddy hillsides. The 24th of February only three miles could be traveled, and it became necessary to make encampment for the night near the XVIIth Corps of the Right Wing. Early the next morning detachments were sent to repair and corduroy the roads ahead; and February 26th the XXth Corps and its numerous wagon trains were moved through the mud to Hanging Rock Postoffice where all were employed the 27th in crossing Hanging Rock Creek. During the next day the road was termed 'very heavy and spongy making a corduroy necessary for every rod.' A very rare thing, a whole bridge, was found over Little Lynch Creek, and here General Ward's IIIrd Division of the XXth Corps was stopped for the night for its protection, while Jackson's Ist and Geary's IInd Divisions moved across and forward two and a half miles; and the 82nd Illinois Volunteers was sent onward to the Big Lynch Creek and, fortunately, this regiment found and secured the bridge at this crossing.

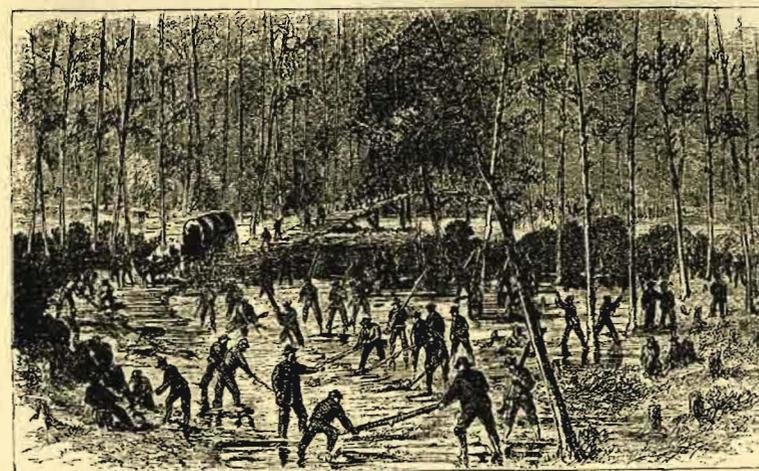
In the meanwhile General Slocum's XIVth Corps destroyed the Columbia and Charlotte Railroad between White Oak and Cornwall the morning of February 22nd, and the next day it was massed at Rocky Mount Postoffice by the Catawba River, Baird and Carlin's divisions having destroyed twelve miles of railroad and marched thirty-eight miles within as many hours. Morgan's division, meanwhile, marched direct with the wagon trains by way of Gladden's Grove. February 24th this division began to move the wagons across the Catawba River on their pontoon bridge, the river rising rapidly from continued rains. The night of the 25th the anchors and ropes which had held the pontoons in place, gave way and they were mostly lost in the surging flood. Only two wagons were on the bridge at the time of its breaking loose, and again fortunately they were near the distal shore to which the teams escaped. The continued rise of the river, and the want of material, prevented the completion of a new bridge until about midnight of the 27th when Baird's division began to cross. At the close of the next day the last column crossed, and the bridge was taken up during the night for future use. The difficulties here encountered were the most exciting and troublesome of all the very many bad conditions that had been encountered, on account of the rapidity of the great flood due

to the hilly country. The XIVth Corps was now far behind the other parts of General Slocum's Army of Georgia, and a longer route more northward had been assigned to it. Forced marches and long hours were undertaken in good cheer that the continued downpour of rain could not suppress. The Confederate General Johnston was at Charlotte to welcome this corps if it visited that city, toward which some citizens thought it was marching. The course was now, however, more to the eastward, by way of Hanging Rock, Horton's Tavern, Taxihaw, McManus's Bridge over Big Lynch River, Blakeny's Cross Roads, and Mount Crog-han. At daylight of March 1st, the XIVth Corps continued its march, Morgan's division leading, Baird's division closely following, and Carlin's division with the pontoon train in the rear, each division now being in charge of its own supply trains. This order of march continued for several days. The roads continued so miry that a large part of the command was required to work constantly on them, using timbers and corduroy material to help the teams that the wagons should not remain fast in the mud. The handiness, patience, and endurance of the soldiers during these most trying days, won the admiration and high esteem of the officers. The Pedee River was crossed at Pegue's Ferry ten miles above Cheraw and three miles below Sneedsborough, near the southern line of the State of North Carolina. A 920 feet bridge was here required. Considerable of the necessary lumber for it had to be found, and it was late in the evening of March 6th before the bridge could be completed. It was occupied most of the night by the crossing of Kilpatrick's cavalry. Early the next morning the infantry began to cross, and the bridge soon became so much broken that several hours were required for its repair. From here the course of the XIVth Corps led by the way of Rockingham, Blue's or Love's Bridge over the Lumber River, and thence along the plank road toward Fayetteville. The divisions separated, Morgan's marching nearly thirty miles one day. The bridge across Lumber River was saved from being burned by its Confederate guard by a brave dash of Lieutenant Dewey's foraging party of the 38th Indiana Infantry. The evening of March 9th the entire XIVth Corps went into camp between the 15th and 20th Mile Posts from Fayetteville by the plank road. Heavy rains con-

tinued to fall and the road was soft and much cut from the plank being worn through and displaced which greatly delayed progress. Several Confederate soldiers from Hardee's army were taken prisoners during the day, and they told of the efforts being made for a stand at Fayetteville against the advancement of the Unionists. March 10th the corps moved forward and massed at the 9th Mile Post. A brigade of General Baird's IIIrd Division was sent forward and, at the 6th Mile Post a strong force of Hardee's infantry was discovered. Early the next morning the corps resumed its march and, after some skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry, Baird's division entered Fayetteville about 10.30 A. M. close upon the heels of the rear guard of the enemy. General Baird was directed by General Slocum to assume the duties of commander of the city, and the other divisions encamped on the plank road two miles west of the city. The arsenal buildings, machine shops, and foundries at Fayetteville, United States property, were destroyed, and a large quantity of supplies found there were appropriated by the Union troops.

The XXth Corps crossed Lynch River at Miller's Ferry March 1st. Generals Geary and Ward's divisions advanced and encamped early in the afternoon at Brewer's Cross Roads, and Jackson's division marched three miles further and went into camp at Johnson's place on the Chesterfield road. This division moved forward at 6 A. M. without wagons that it might save the two bridges over Thompson's Creek near Chesterfield. After crossing Big Black, Little Black, and Smith's Mill Creek and when within two miles of Chesterfield the advance guard was fired upon by a strong line of Confederate skirmishers. Two regiments of Selfridge's brigade were promptly deployed, and they, with two other regiments as support, chased the enemy double-quick to and through the town. General Hawley of the second brigade was sent to the left and he secured the upper bridge but little damaged. Selfridge turned to the right, and at the lower bridge he was confronted by the enemy's sharpshooters and artillery on the north bank. Major Reynolds, chief of the Union artillery, soon had two sections of battery in position, and they soon silenced and routed the enemy. The Union sharpshooters had, meanwhile, protected the bridge from being set on fire. Prisoners here captured reported that the enemy

there engaged was composed of one brigade of infantry and several regiments of cavalry in addition to his artillery. March 3rd Robinson's brigade was sent across the upper bridge to get in the rear of the enemy who might oppose the crossing of the lower bridge; but all of the enemy had escaped. Jackson's division advanced toward Sneedsborough, and he was followed by the XXth Corps over very bad roads so saturated with water that the wagons were constantly cutting through the thin surface into the deep quicksand below. Little and Big Westfield Creeks, and others nearly as bad, were crossed with great difficulty.



Bridging Over Swollen Stream and Corduroying Under Overflowing Swamp, in North Carolina

Slocum's XIVth Corps was now on the roads to the right, and it was about to build a bridge across the Great Pedee River near the North Carolina State line. March 6th permission was obtained for the XXth Corps to cross this bridge and, following the XVth Corps of Howard's Right Wing, the XXth Corps here crossed during the night, and it encamped four miles northward. This corps marched fifteen miles on the 7th, crossing Mark's Creek, and it encamped at Mark's Station on the Wilmington, Charleston, and Rutherford Railroad, one of Geary's brigades destroying about two miles of the track of this road. On the 8th of March, after moving five miles the XXth Corps came to the

road occupied by its comrades of Slocum's XIVth Corps. The policy and orders of the march was to spread into and to move along as many roads as practicable for the purpose of making greater impression on the residents of the enemy's country as far as possible, also on account of forage, better sanitation, and the better condition of the roads generally. The XXth Corps, therefore, made a new road two miles, bridging and corduroying Gum Creek and its contiguous swamp. The heavy rains continued. Reconnoitering parties reported, and Jackson's entire division was brought forward to make and repair roads. All of the smaller creeks were smollen into large streams, and Lumber Creek with its overflow was a formidable river requiring a substantial bridge 150 feet long. By 3 P. M. the bridges and long stretches of corduroy were completed, and Jackson's division with its trains crossed. At 5 P. M. the rain again poured in torrents and soon the road was submerged, the corduroy timbers were floated away by the current, also much of the earth below them. The fields were so covered and saturated with water that the wagon trains could not be parked. With great effort the corps moved forward early on March 10. It was detained several hours in building a crossing of Buffalo Creek which was ordinarily a mere rivulet but was now a torrent that exacted great attention. The entire corps engaged in corduroying the road forward to Rockfish Creek ten miles distant, where the head column arrived at 3.30 P. M. to find the stream overflowing its banks and requiring a bridge 330 feet long. The pontoon train was brought forward and by adding to the material it contained the lumber in the walls and floor of an unoccupied building within view, the bridge was completed in the night. On March 11th, Ward's third division was started at early daylight to corduroy the road. At 10 A. M. General A. S. Williams commanding the XXth Corps, received orders from General Slocum to bring forward two divisions and a pontoon train. He started at once with Jackson's and Ward's divisions, leaving the other trains with General Geary. They crossed Nicholson and Puppy Creeks, then moved across to the Albemarle plank road, a mile or more west of Little Rockfish Creek and encamped the two divisions within two miles of Fayetteville, North Carolina, about 6 P. M., General Slocum's XIVth Corps having already occupied the city without serious

opposition. Geary arrived at the encampment of his companion divisions, with the trains, a little before midnight. On March 13th the entire XXth Corps was marched through Fayetteville in review order before General Slocum and his staff officers and, then crossing the Cape Fear River over the pontoon bridge, it passed four miles along the Kyle's Landing Road where it remained during the 14th.

CHAPTER XLIV

AGAIN THE SEA. CAPTURES AVERYSBOROUGH

Late in the afternoon of March 12th, General Morgan's division (the second) of the XIVth Corps moved across the Cape Fear River near Fayetteville, and encamped. It was followed the next morning by the 1st Division under General Carlin with the wagon trains. Union forces had captured Wilmington, and had been informed by two couriers with dispatches in cipher to expect their comrades of the Campaign of the Carolinas at Fayetteville and were requested to meet them there with supplies. Consequently smaller steamboats were loaded with supplies from the Atlantic fleet, and they steamed up the Cape Fear River into Fayetteville in good time. From these boats Slocum's wagon trains were replenished, the foraging having been inadequate and the rations short on account of the bad condition of the roads, and the generally stripped condition of the country. Here, also, it was more desirable to rid the army of the refugees both white and black who had persistently flocked around and followed the army to the number of 20,000 or more. All wagons heretofore hauled for their feeding, were now placed on the boats for Wilmington, with the teams and accouterments.

The IIIrd Brigade of General Ward's IIIrd Division of General Slocum's XXth Corps, was sent March 15th under command of Bvt. Brig. Gen. William Cogswell to reconnoiter toward Averysborough and Black Creek in the direction of Raleigh. This brigade met the enemy's cavalry on both roads, and short skirmishes resulted in which the Union loss was one killed and two wounded. The same day General Williams marched toward Averysborough with Ward's and Jackson's divisions having, from General Slocum's orders, sent all his trains, excepting part

of the ordnance wagons, with his IInd Division under Geary along another road toward Cox's Bridge over the Neuse River. Williams made encampment for the night between Silver Run and Taylor's Hole Creek in a pouring rain, and Kilpatrick's cavalry passed further on. Report was soon returned from the cavalry that a strong infantry line of the enemy confronted the cavalry's advance. Williams at once sent forward Hawley's brigade of Jackson's Ist Division, though it was now dark, to support the cavalry. The next morning (the 16th) General Ward with his IIIrd Division was sent out at 6 o'clock to corduroy the road which was otherwise impassable for the wagons. Message came from Kilpatrick at 7.30 A. M. that the enemy was intrenched at his front whereupon Williams ordered Ward's division forward, and he also ordered Jackson to send another brigade, thus leaving the trains with his only remaining brigade. The head of Ward's division arrived at 9.30 A. M. at the rear of Hawley's position after a march of five miles. Hawley's brigade, which had been on duty all the night with frequent skirmishing, was now relieved and Ward's division was formed in line of battle across and to the left of the main road. Jackson's two brigades prolonged the Union line to the right, relieving the cavalry which was then massed at the extreme right. Selfridge's first brigade of Jackson's division was severely attacked by a large force of the enemy while the brigade was moving into the designated position, the enemy's desire being to defeat and turn the Union right. Selfridge met the attack thoughtfully and vigorously, and the enemy was repulsed. The cavalry also made a charge on the enemy but the swampy ground was not favorable for its full success. Ward advanced a detachment on the enemy's right meanwhile, and Major Reynolds had placed three batteries of artillery in good position on a slight eminence within 500 yards of the enemy's intrenchments. The work of these cannon was fully up to their good standard, the enemy's embankments were pierced and much havoc there resulted. At the same time Colonel Case of Ward's advancing brigade, charged the enemy's right on double-quick pace routing and following the retreating foe who did not stop to be captured in entirety. The Union lines at once advanced rapidly, capturing one 12-pounder cannon and one 12-pounder howitzer with their ammunition, horses,

and many of their men. One of these large guns was turned upon the retreating foe to prevent his stopping and to quicken his pace. His attempt to halt at his second line of defense was frustrated; but he was found more strongly intrenched behind swampy and overflowed land about a mile distant with flanks by swamps, of Black River, and a marshy creek tributary to Cape Fear River, his main position covering the Bentonville Road. This part of the XXth Corps of Slocum's Army of Georgia advanced boldly, however, rapidly drove in the enemy's skirmishers, and pushed up to within a few hundred yards of the strong force of the strongly intrenched enemy. Upon reconnoitering the situation, General Slocum ordered a rest for the already fatigued men, while awaiting the arrival of his XIVth Corps. Owing to the very bad condition of the road, this corps did not arrive and get into position on the left of the XXth Corps until late in the afternoon and in a heavy rainfall; and the desired attack on the enemy's defenses was deferred for the night now closing in upon them. But the large force of the alert enemy, equal to if not outnumbering the Union force, chose not to await the morning. They fled during the pitch darkness that early enveloped the swamp, its water, and its muddy depths. Ward's division was sent in pursuit early in the morning, with orders to halt at Averysborough. It was soon discovered that the enemy had destroyed several of his wagons, and left one caisson, and several ambulances with wounded men. General Ward found 30 other wounded enemy at Averysborough. In this engagement, a battle in fact of over one full day's duration, the XXth Corps took 175 prisoners, including 60 wounded, all of whom were paroled and liberated, the wounded in hospital. The provost-marshal of the corps buried 128 of the Confederate dead, including 7 officers, making his loss in the hands of the victors 303. All of those more lightly wounded escaped with their comrades. At such engagements, in the enemy's country particularly, there were, also, numbers 'missing' from the enemy's ranks who took the opportunity to escape and be 'lost' among their distant friends or elsewhere. The foregoing list of killed does not include those of the charge of General Selfridge's brigade. Many were left there, and it was observed that many were buried by their friends in the intrenchments of their last

stand. General Williams estimated the enemy's loss in the engagement of Averysborough at 800 men at least.⁹⁹ The losses sustained by Slocum's army were: killed 10 officers and 66 enlisted men; wounded 33 officers and 441 men. One officer and 50 men were missing from the XXth Corps. The loss in Kilpatrick's cavalry was: killed two officers and 17 men; wounded one officer and 58 men; missing three men.

It was the general policy in the Atlanta-Savannah and the Carolinas' Campaigns, to keep as free from general engagements with the enemy as practicable, and thus avoid being delayed on the march by wounded men so far in the enemy's country without a constant base of supplies.

Morgan and Carlin's divisions were directed to make ready for advancing from Fayetteville toward Averysborough, the trains to follow with Baird's division which was about to turn over the government of the city to the citizens. The advance division started in the early morning of March 15th, following the XXth Corps, and encampment for the night was made at Taylor's Hole Creek. It is impossible for the reader without experience with the worst of thoroughly wet and stirred mud roads to fully comprehend the difficulties which embarrassed and delayed the progress of the armies through the Carolinas during this particularly wet season. It was late in the morning of March 16th before the XIV Corps, General J. C. Davis commanding, could get started behind the XXth Corps. They had not advanced far before the guns were heard in the first engagement at Averysborough. At 10 A. M. General Slocum ordered Davis to send forward a brigade. It was at once started, but the road was so fully blocked with wagons, pack mules, and other parts of the great trains, that the soldiers were obliged to march irregularly around trees, bushes, mudholes, and other obstructions of the woods which were thickly set with trees, some fallen, and all surrounded with water. General Mitchell's brigade of Morgan's division was cheerily led forward, however, and it arrived in time to do good service as noted in the foregoing account of the engagement. The other two brigades of Morgan's division were ordered forward. The IIIrd Brigade, Fearing's, was at once deployed and it promptly drove the enemy's skirmishers and then formed on the left of Mitchell's brigade within

musket range of the enemy's intrenchments. From further orders, Morgan placed his Ist Brigade under General Vandevere between Fearing's left and the river and, after much skirmishing, they drove the outpost guards into their main intrenchments which were now found to extend to the river bank. Skirmishing continued until nightfall which was near, the Unionists, meanwhile, having much of their force employed in preparing breastworks; and the entire line bivouacked in line of battle therein during the night. The 1st Division of the XIVth Corps under General Carlin was held in reserve and took no active part in the engagements. The IIIrd Division under General Baird marched from Fayetteville as guard of the supply train by way of Troublefield's Store with Cox's Bridge as the objective point.

It was discovered early in the morning of March 17th that the enemy had retreated on the Raleigh Road. The casualties of the XIV Corps at Averysborough were: killed one officer and 18 enlisted men; wounded 9 officers and 87 men, all of which are included in the list of casualties on a previous page. The enemy of Averysborough was led by General Hardee, who now joined Johnston at Bentonville.

After caring for its wounded, and burying its dead from the engagement at Averysborough, in the early morning of March 17th, the XIV Corps led the march according to the rule of alternation between the corps, in the direction of Bentonville. Three hours time was necessary to build a bridge across Black River, and the corps further marched eight miles and encamped by Mingo Creek in the evening twilight. Morgan's IIInd Division led the march early the next morning. The enemy's cavalry was repeatedly in Morgan's front, and it as often hastened beyond the range of his small arms. At Mill Creek this cavalry had placed its artillery from which it fired on Morgan's advancing column, but a brigade was deployed which soon sent them and their guns scurrying in the distance. General Slocum came to the front at this time, and he directed Morgan to halt his front column until the others could come up. This required the greater part of the afternoon, and the troops were ordered into encampment for rest from their great fatigue. Late in the evening the XVth Corps of General Howard's Army of the

Tennessee arrived along the road near to the right of General Slocum's XIVth Corps of the Army of Georgia, and it there encamped. Slocum's XXth Corps encamped many miles in the rear.

It was a very unusual occurrence that a corps each of the two wings of Sherman's army came so near together in their great march as were Slocum's XIVth and Howard's XVth Corps the night of March 18th. General Sherman was greatly elated in the opening of communication with the Union fleet at Wilmington, and with the receipt of his mail and of supplies at Fayetteville as well as with the easy capture of the last named city. He saw nothing in the skirmishes following it and in the strong opposition of the enemy at Averysborough to lead him to surmise further opposition. In fact his mind was to the contrary. He had been riding with General Slocum from Fayetteville, and was constantly endeavoring to imbue his mind with the belief that all real opposition was over. The keen insight of affairs and the cautious judgment of General Slocum could not be led far astray, however, and he acted wisely in halting the advance column of his XIVth Corps, as he did. It would have been far better for Sherman's reputation had he deferred to Slocum's intuition and better judgment here as well as in several previous instances where Slocum saw clearer and safer than he.

CHAPTER XLV

SLOCUM HARD BESET AT BENTONVILLE

On the morning of March 19th there were two notable small groups of ragged wall-tents on a sloping hill-side about twenty-five miles east of Fayetteville and about the same distance from Goldsborough, North Carolina, toward which last named place the union armies were to move. Those tents formed the headquarters of General Slocum, who was host that night to General Sherman, and the other group was the headquarters of General J. C. Davis commanding Slocum's XIVth Corps.

The early spring morning was soft and balmy, and the shrubbery and some trees were covered with such delicate verdure as the soldiers were wont to see in May in their north-

ern homes. Fruit trees were in full bloom around Mr. Underhill's farm-house nearby and in other places by the roads. The reveille had sounded in the camps of the various regiments in the woods and fields around before 5 o'clock A. M. and the yet fatigued soldiers were enjoying their scant breakfast of hardtack and coffee with here and there a small morsel of choicer food the remains of a chance forage by the roadside or that had been conserved from the last supply at Fayetteville. It was Sunday morning, and a brigade band that had encamped in the little valley of Mill Creek below now played the familiar hymn of Old Hundred. Probably never before had the sweet notes of this grand old music sounded more sweetly than they did in the stillness of that bright spring morning to the weary soldiers whose thoughts they wafted to homes and the dearest of friends to the northward. Everything seemed to happily forebode a Sunday of peace to the ragged, many coatless, hatless and shoeless, but undismayed and strong hearted patriots. While the pride of glorious war was yet in full glow in their breasts, the 'pomp and circumstance' had temporarily fled. A hardier army of soldiers never carried a gun or helped a supply wagon out of the mire. Years of such experiences had resulted in retaining in the ranks only the most hardy and self-reliant. "The deeper the mud and the harder the march, the jollier they were; and a heavier rain pouring down on them as they went into camp, or a wetter swamp than usual to lie down in, only brought out a louder volley of jokes. An army of military Mark Tapleys, they strode onward, uncomplaining and jolly under the most difficult circumstances possible."¹⁰⁰

General Sherman's 'supposing that all danger was over'⁹¹ had infused buoyancy of spirit in all those of his officers who had been hearing him say, nearly as he wrote, "all signs induced me to believe that the enemy would make no further opposition to our progress, and would not attempt to strike us in the flank while in motion"—just what the enemy did do at once! Sherman expected to ride with the main officers of his Right Wing this day, March 19th. About 7 A. M. General Carlin's division of Slocum's XIVth Corps started on the forward march, and General John A. Logan's XVth Corps of Howard's Right Wing turned to the right and marched away about the same time.