

Chickamauga.

By Captain F. A. MITCHEL.

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CHAPTER XXII.

There was something in the silent movement—too far for him to hear the tramp of the men advancing over the intervening space, still wearing their summer robes of green—to remind him of a thundercloud rising in a clear sky. There were compact columns of infantry steadily marching, while on either flank cavalry trotted forward, head up, like a troop of lions over jungle. Occasionally there came a confusion of distant sounds—orders—mere murmurs preceding the storm. The advancing host seemed rather a troop of specters, moving with the wind, an army of malicious spirits coming to scatter a plague from their still silent weapons.

Now there is imminent danger. Will the little force on the east bank get over, or will it be cut off and captured by these overwhelming Confederates? It can only be saved by one portion charging the enemy while the others are moving by two (the bridge will stand no more) across the structure.

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