FREDERICKSBURG.

Gen. Burnside's Campaign on the Rappahannock

A QUARTER CENTURY AGONE

Fatal Stone Wall.

Portraits of Leading Generals on Both Sides-Burnside Arranges His Army In Three Grand Divisions Commanded by Sumper, Franklin and Hooker. Marye's Heights-"A Chicken Could Not Live Upon That Field"-Waves of Men in Blue Fight and Fall.

[Copyrighted by the American Press Association.] Those who have followed somewhat closely the career of Gen. McClellan cannot fail to be impressed that there was a fate which more than once deprived him of victory at the moment it seemed surely in his grasp, Just before the beginning of Prope's campaign in Virginia, while the Army of the Potomac was still on the James below Richmond, Mc-Clellan announced himself ready to strike the Confederate capital. Even he seemed to be satisfied that his army was ready and suf-Sciently large. If he had attacked Richmond just at that time, early in August, 1862, t could have been taken, most likely, for Lee had well nigh stripped it of defenders to send men against Pope in Northern Virginia.

But at the very time McCiellan was giving orders to advance on Richmond, Halleck sent him a peremptory command to quit the peninsula with his army and prepare to cooperate with Pops. Nothing was left but to obey, and McCiellan's opportunity was lest.

After the battle of Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862, there was an interval of doing nothing. McClellan distributed his army along the Maryland side of the Potomac, watching its fords. He evidently thought the used up army of Lee might attempt another invasion of Maryland. He called vigorously for reenforcements, supplies of all kinds. By the last of September he had an army of 100,000 men, still on the Maryland side of the Potomae. Oct. 6 President Lincoln directed the general to "cross the Potomac and give battle to the enemy, or drive him south."

But McClellan was not yet ready to do so, While he was waiting, that dashing Confederate cavalry leader, J. E. B. Stuart, made one of his characteristic raids, and, figuratively speaking, tweaked the nose of the whole Army of the Potomac under the eyes of its commander. Oct. 10 he crossed the Potomac into Maryland with 1,800 cavalry, near Williamsport, galnorthward into Chambersburg, destroyed the public property there, turned southward,

circled around Mc-Ciellan's army lying on the Po tomae, hurried down the mouth of the Monocacy, in Maryland, and then recrossed into Virginia and joined Lee. Thus a second time this bold raider rode around McClel-lan's whole army. GEN. BURNSIDE.

The weeks went Daily, as of old, the newspaper head announced, "All quiet on the Potomac," Then the old impatience and dissatisfaction croke out anew, and the country began to wonder why it was so quiet along the Po-

More weeks went on till it was six weeks after the battle of Antietam, and nothing done. By that time Lee's army was thor oughly rested and re-enforced, and amounted to 70,000. To the president's orders to move against him early in October McClellan had answered that he must have new cavalry horses. By the last of October he concluded that he was ready to cross the Potomac. The

erossing was actually made Nov. 2.

McClellan ordered his main army to concentrate at Warrenton, Va. On this Lee, his army in good trim, his communications with Richmond perfect, resolved to retreat southward. The main portion of the Confederate army marched up the Shenandoah valley, turned off to the Rappahannock and took poaition at Culpepper. Stonewall Jackson's command, with the cavalry under J. E. B. Stuart, remained behind to bang upon the Union army and amoy and delay it as far as possible till the main Confederate body should be secure.

If one could have stood upon a peak of the Blir- I'll go mountains of a bright morning in t assertated days of November, 1802, he would be version a sight to thrill gods and men. On the cast side of the ridge McClellan's mighty comy of over 105,000 men marched with wavbenners and

gl aming guis La Gen, Alfred Preasonton led the alvance with the Cavalry. On the west side of the Bine Ridge

be who looked could; have seen at the other great host moving southward. It was Lee's Army of Northern Vir-

ginia. The two GEN. PLEASONTON. hostile forces were sometimes only a few miles apart in this race southward, but with the between them. But Lee moved more rapidly. His advance, under Longstreet, hurried forward, crossed the mountains and took position at Culpepper Nov. 3.

This rapid marching, however, separated Loc's army more than was safe. Jackson and the cavalry were three days behind him. Perceiving this, McClellan at length detered, of his own free will, to give battle. He mined, of his own free will, to give battle. He believed that he could now strike a fatal blow. His army was at Warrenton, Lee's advance at Culpepper, some ten miles south. He said afterward of the situation: "I did expect I could either separate them and beat them in detail, or else force them to concentrate as far back as Gordonsville, and thus place the Army of the Potomac in position either to adopt the Fredericksburg line of advance upon Richmond or to be removed to the peninsula."

The good weather of the autumn had by

the peninsula."

The good weather of the autumn had by that time passed away. McClelian now, however, seemed to be thoroughly alive and in full vigor of determination. The night of Nov. 7 there was a heavy rain over the camp of the Army of the Potomac. Gen. McClelian ant in his tent concluding plans and giving directions for the great heatile movement to be made the next two days. A messenger brought him a dispatch from Washington.

It was an order relieving him from command of the Army of the Potomac, and appointing Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside in his place. With that the name of Gen. McClelian disappears from American military bistory. He resigned his commission in the

army; however, not until the day of the presidential election in 1864, when he was the candidate against Lincoln.

Thus apparently again in the moment of success, McClellan's adverse fate interposed and snatched it from him.

BURNSIDE'S CAMPAIGN. Gen. Burnside was a man of fine, soldierly presence, and highly esteemed. He was born in Liberty, Ind., in 1824, and was graduated at West Point in 1847, just in time to be sent to Mexico. He afterwards resigned from the army and established a factory for making a breech leading rifls of his own invention Story of the Sunken Road and the in Rhode Island. His career was a varied one, and when the war began, in 1861, he was an officer of the Illinois Central railroad. He immediately joined the Union army as colonel of a Rhode Island regiment, and rose to be a major general of volunteers immedistely after the first Bull Run. He was put to duty along the Atlantic coast, and Newbern, Beaufort and Roanoke Island were trophies of his milita y ability.

At the beginning of Pope's campaign he was called to Virginia. He performed active and distinguished service through that and the Maryland campaign. So well was be thought of that the command of the Army of the Potomac had been offered to him twice before he necepted it, and each time he had refused it. His modesty seems to have been

inequaled in the history of army officers. Army of the Potomac had already been the grave of the military reputations of McClellan and Pope. Burnside's name was to add the third to the hapless list. After his Fredericksburg campaign he was sent west and performed distinguished service in the department of the Ohio, freeing east Tennessee at length from the Confederates. During the final campaign against Richmond be was in the east again and commanded his old Ninth corps, contributing not a little to the closing victory.

After the war he was three terms governor of Rhode Island. He was in Europe during the Franco-German war, and was ad-

mitted within the belligerent lines, He returned and represented Rhode Island in the United States Senate, While serving in this capacity in 1881 he died, respected and la-mented. At the time the order came placing him at the head of the Army of the Potomac, doubtful

CL. PARKE. still of his capacity for great command, he would have declined the responsibility if possible. But the peremptory order from Lincoln left him no

He decided that the Union army should march on Richmond by way of Fredericks-burg, Va. Richmond was to be the object nimed at, and Acquia Creek was to be his base of supplies.

Once more the battleground is changed to the cris crossed field of Virginia. Fredericksburg is nearly 100 miles south of the field of Antietam. It is on the right bank of the Rappahannock river, a little inland from the Potomae, and the railroad leads directly south from it to Richmond, fifty miles

distant. Acquia Creek is a town on the Potomac at the mouth of the creek of the same name. A railroad leads from it to Fredericksburg. On the 15th of November, 1862, Burnside begau his grand march to Fredericksburg. He had organized h's army into three "grand divisions," right, center and left, commanded, respectively, by Sumner, Hooker and Frank-lin. They left Warrenton, Va., as their starting point. By Nov. 19 the three grand divisions were in the vicinity of Fredericksburg, on the east side of the Rappahannock.

Sumner's grand division reached Fal-Nov. 17. He was not permitted by Buruside to cross, however, and that very day Lee sent a large body of troops to re-enforce the

Confederate garrison there. Burnside began at once to put in order the railroad from Acquia Creek to Fredericksburg, to make sure of receiving his supplies, Gen. H. J. Hunt was Burnside's chief of ar-

tillery. He posted all the guns on the Federal side of the Rapsuperintended their transportation from Acquia Creek. He decided that it was necessary to plant guns upon the heights above the left bank of the Rappahannock in & sufficient number to cover the entire length of the oppo-GEN. HUNT.

right bank. Henry Jackson Hunt was born in 1821 in Ohio, like his commander a western man, also a West Point graduate. He finished the course of instruction there when only 18 years old. During the Mexican war he became major of ar-tillery, and was afterward; especially identi-

tillery, and was afterward: especially identified with that arm of the service. He was McClellan's chief of staff during the peninsular campaign. During the whole war he served in the Army of the Potomac, and was one of its most faithful and useful officers.

Burnside's chief cavalry commander continued to be Gen. Alfred Pleasonton. Pleasonton was born at Washington city, in 1824, and was the same age as Burnside. He entered the cavalry service when he left West Point, in 1844, and was sent to Mexico. He remained in the west and southwest on duty most of the time till the outbreak of the civil war. At Fredericksburg he held the rank of brigadier general of volunteers. He saw severe fighting there and subsequently at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Afterwards he was ordered west, and his troopers helped clear Missouri of Sterling Price's men in 1868.

In 1868 Gen, Pleasonton resigned from the

In 1868 Gen. Pleasonton resigned from the army and engaged in mining and other business. His advocacy of the blue glass theory is

army and engaged in mining and other business. His advocacy of the blue glass theory is well known.

Burnside's chief of staff was Brig. Gen. John G. Parke, said to be one of the handsomest of the accomplished officers grouped about the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac. Parke was a Pennsylvanian, born in 1827, and a West Pointer of 1849. He entered the engineer corps. He had been a brigadier general on the North Carolina coast under Burnside, and, with his old commander, joined the Army of the Potomac. He afterwards was ordered south and west. He took active part in the siege of Vicksburg, also of Knoxyille, He foll wed the fortunes of Burnside. At the final battles before Richmond, and previous to that, in 1864, Gen. Parke, under Burnside, commanded the old Ninth corps. Gen. Parke is now superintendent at West Point.

Military critics declare that Burnside

Gen. Parke is now superintendent at West Point.

Military critics declare that Burnside should have aimed at Lee's army rather than at Richmoad. At all events, he determined to occupy Fredericksburg immediately. Public sentiment and the newspapers demanded that something should be done at once.

While Burnside was making a way for the transportation of supplies the Confederates were fortifying Fredericksburg and the heights behind it. At the end of November Lee's whole army lay in a crescent around Fredericksburg. Its right was at Port Royal, below the town; the left a little distance above. The Confederate fortifications were truly formidable, so as to render crossing directly in front of the city hopeless. But pon-

toon bridges were prepared by Burnside, and he arranged to cross the Rampahannock at Skenker's Neck, twelve mies below. Lee dissociated this move in time to frustrate it, There seem to have been ways whereby Burnside's plans were constantly discovered

to Lee, and that almost immediately.

With a large portion of Lee's army at
Skenker's Neck, Burnside next thought be could force the passage of the Rappahannock and take Fredericksburg under the gons of these who were left. The Union artillery was planted upon Stafford Heights, above Falmouth. It commanded the whole plain of

Frederi ksburg.

Lee was so well informed of all that went on in the Union army that within twenty-four hours after McCiellau had been superseded by Burnside he was informed of it.

LEE'S GENERALS.

Around Lee in that deadly creatent upon the heights of Fredericksburg were grouped the tried generals whose stubborn fighting qualities had enabled him to carry dismay to the Army of the Potomac more than once. Longstreet, Stonewall Jackson, the Hills, Jubal Early and Stuart, with his cavalrymen, were waiting for the deadly grapple with Burnside's men.

Nov. 17, the day that Summer reached Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg, Lee sent two divisions, under Me-Laws and Ransom, accompanied by cavalry and artillery, to occupy Frederick sburg. Ransom took conspicuous part in he bloody fighting that afterwards occurred there. It may be mentioned

GEN. RANSOM. in passing that this Gen. Ransom is now United States Senator Matt, W. Ransom, from North Carolina, Gen. Ransom, was a native of North Caro

lina, bern in 1823. He was educated in his own state, became a lawyer, and held various local offices previous to the civil war. Then he entered the Confederate army and passed up through various promotions to the rank of major general. He continued in the Army of Northern Virginia till the end, and surrendered with Lee at Appointation. He is now serving his third consecutive term in the United States senate,

Another Confederate general who has entered Washington by a different route from the one he proposed twenty five years ago is Wade Hampton, United States senator from South Carolina. He too was at Fredericksburg and commanded a brigade of cavalry, W. H. F. Lee commanding another. J. E. B. Stuart was the division cavalry commander.

Wade Hampton distinguished himself in the Confederate cavalry service. Lee placed him on guard above Fredericksburg to preventBurnside from crossing, while W

H. F. Lee guarded the fords below the town. Hampton was born in South Carolina in 1818, and was graduated at South Carolina college. He entered political life at the beginning of his career, and was elected to various state offices. Dur-

WADE HAMPTON. ing the v v be reached the rank of major general. F ace then he has served two terms as governor of South Carolina, previous to his election to the United States normte. Senator Hampton's grandfather, also

called Wade Hampton, was likewise a soldier and politician. He was an officer in the revolution and a member of congress in 1795. The old man died at Columbia, S. C., in 1834, the richest planter and slave owner in the United Bitates. The name of Lee was numerously repre-

sented in the officers grouped around the Confederate commander. Brig. Gen. W. H. F. Lee, the cavalry commander, was Robert E.'s second son. Robert E.'s nephew, Fitz Hugh, also a cavalryman, beld a prominent command in the Army of Northern Virginia. All of Lee's sons-three of them-served in

the Confederate army. The eldest, G.W. C., was an aid to Jeff Davis and afterward a general. On the death of his father G. W. C. succeeded bim as president of Wash ington and Lee university in Virginia. His third son, Robert E., Jr., was a staff officer of cavalry. These Lees continued with the 5= Confederate army 0 up to the final sur-

GEN. W. H. P. LEE. render at Appomattex. They took part in the heaviest fighting of the Army of Northern Virginia throughout, several times distinguished themselves, yet none of them was killed. They survived to be estimable, and in some Some cases distinguished, the Customary United States. "Fitz," as it was customary cases distinguished, citizens of the to call Fitz Hugh Lee, is now the governor of Virginia.

Another veteran among Lee's officers was Gen. W. B. Taliaferro. He also was a former United States

Taliaferro was a native of Virginia. He had been one of Lee's stanchest fighters, and was severely wounded at Groveton during the Pope campaign. His brigade belonged to Stonewall Jackson's famous "Foot Cavalry,"

GEN, TALIAFERRO. and had done less hard marching than fighting. Gen. Richard H. Anderson, division commander in Longstreet's corps, had, like all the others, passed through the ordeal of fighting. He had aided in the capture of Harper's Ferry, had been sharply engaged at Antietam, and now with the rest awaited the shock

of battle at Fredericksburg.
Gen. Richard H. Anderson was a South Gen. Richard H. Anderson was a South Carolinian, a graduate of the United States Military neademy in 1842. He served in Mexico. When the first probabilities of war began to be talked of he resigned from the United States army in March, 1861. He entered the Confederate service as soon as it came into existence and shortly became a brigadier general. He was wounded at Antietam, though not mortally like his name-sake, Gen. G. T. Anderson.

The Confederates always spoke of their

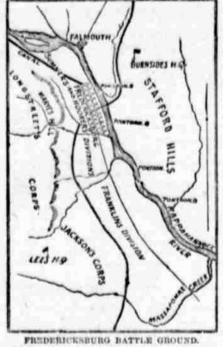
The Confederates always spoke of their army under Lee's immediate command as the Army of Northern Virginia, just as the force opposed to them was designated throughout the war as the Army of the Potomac.

TOPOGRAPHY.

Lee's plan for the battle of Fredericksburg was at once simple and admirable. Long-street's corps had been the first to arrive on the ground, and it occupied the left, with Gen. Richard H. Anderson on the extreme Stonewall Jackson was on the right

and the forces of the two joined in the center

and encircled Fredericksburg. To understand the fight fully, glance at the accompanying map. Five miles below Fredericksburg the little Massaponax river flowed into the Rappahannock from the west, A ridge of hills sloped down to the Rappahannock above the Massaponax, running from the northwest. Five miles above the Massaponax the ridge retreats from the river far enough to leave a plain, and upon this plain the town of Fredericksburg was built.



Below the town the ridge again approaches close to the river. Behind the first range of hills another rose, as if both were built by nature for the planting of batteries for the protection of Fredericksburg. Burnside could not have selected a worse point for attack or Lee a better one for defense. The railroad from Richmond to the Potomac river passed through the town. Lee had 78,000 men after Jackson joined

him. These began to throw up earthworks in a crescent six miles long, from the Massaponax to above Fredericksburg. worked with a will and soon had built those formidable fortifications against which Burnside's hapless hosts were to dash themselves like waves against a granite rock.

Nearest the Rappahannock, on the north of the Confederate left, was Taylor's hill, about which R. H. Anderson's men lay, Next came Marye's hill, which gained fatal renown in the battle. Here were others of Longstreet's men, Hill, Ransom and McLaws. Across Marye's hill ran a stone wall, terracing the hill. Next came Telegraph hill, the highest of all. Here Lee stood and directed operations in person. For this reason the crest is now called Lee's hill, and as such is pointed out to the visitor. Next after McLaws came Hood's division on the right. Still farther to the right lay Jackson's men, A. P. Hill, Early and Taliaferro. D. H. Hill's command was upon the extreme right as a reserve.

So, on the morning of Dec. 10, 1862, lay the Confederate army awaiting the Federal advance. Stafford heights, occupied by Burnside's artillery on the opposite side of the Rappahannock, were higher than the hills on the Confederate side, but these, again, were so far distant as to be practically out of range of the Union guns,

Longstreet says Lee's army had twenty days to prepare for the battle, and they made good use of the time. Marye's hill was the best point of lookout, and to the Confederates stationed there was assigned the the opposite shore, ? and announcing to Lee's army when the first crossing R. H. ANDERSON.

should be attempt- Burnside had prepared pontoon bridges. Dec. 11 was the day he fixed for the crossing. That morning, before daylight, the bridges were brought down to the shore and the engineers set to work to construct them. As the dawn broke, boom! boom! went an unshotted cannon from Marye's heights, tell ing Lee and his men that the time was coma. Barksdale's sharpshooters within the town of Fredericksburg began firing on the bridge builders. They prevented the completion of the bridges. The batteries from Stafford beights were then trained upon Fredericks-burg. They battered it down, yet the sharp-shooters were not dislodged. Then Union volunteers to cross the river in open boats and drive out the sharpshooters were called for. This was done with the loss of 300 men, and the Federals took possession of the river front of Fredericksburg, Dec. 11. That even-ing and the next day Sumner's and Franklin's grand divisions crossed, leaving part of Hooker's center grand division on the Fal-

FREDERICKSBURG.

The battle of Fredericksburg took place Dec. 13. It was a disastrous day to the Union arms. Burnside's plan of attack was for Sumner and Franklin to storm the fortified Confederate heights above the town, all along the line, and carry them by assault, In the midst of a dense fog, Dec. 12, Sum-

ner's grand division had crossed at the upper pontoon on the right, Franklin's below on the left. The First, Second, Sixth and Ninth corps were the troops that had crossed. They were commanded respectively by Gens. Reynolds, Couch, W. F. Smith and Willeox. formed their lines parallel to the river, except Gen. Meade's division of the First corps, which was at right angles to it. Gen. Doubleday's division was stationed as a reserve in the rear of Meade on the left.

The fogs of Dec. 12 continued to the 13th. Added to this, the weather, for Virginia, was bitterly cold. It was the first experience of some of Lee's soldiers with a northern winter, and the night of the 12th some Confederate

entinels froze at their posts.

Fredericksburg is another of the battles of the civil war about which there has been much dispute. It is said on the one hand that Burnside's order to Franklin as to the beginning of the fight was ambiguous in meaning. On the other, Gen. Franklin has been blamed for not pushing the fight solidly on the Federal left, at Hamilton's crossing. After crossing the Rappahannock, Franklin was directed by Burnside's order to keep his whole command in position for a rapid movement down the old Richmond road. Burnside was by no means so well informed of the strength of the force opposed to him as Lee sems to have been about Burnside's army.

Franklin's corps began the fight early in morning, Dec. 13, with Gen. George G. Meade in the advance. There were two lines of Confederate fortifications along the heights. Franklin's attack was on the Confederate right, against Stonewall Jackson. A fearful storm of shot and shell met the Federals. A. P. Hill's advance Confederate line was driven back, however, but Gregg, Early and Stuart closed in and repelled charge after charge. More than 40 per cent. of Meade's command fell. Reynolds came to his aid with re-enforcements, and Reynolds lost 4,000. they finally drove the Confederates

somewhat to Massaponax creek. The fight between the Federal left and Confederate

right continued two hours. Summer's grand division formed the Federal right. To it fell the task of storming Marye's hill, the most formidable of the Confederate works. Lee's officers say that when their general discovered that Burnside was about to attack his works on Fredericksburg heights he was greatly rejoiced. He felt that he could hold them well nigh against the world. Longstreet's chief of artillery said to him the morning of Dec. 13, as they looked over the ground in front of Marve's hills

"General, we cover that ground now so well that we will comb it as with a fine tooth comb. A chicken could not live on that field when we open on it."

There is one fact, connected with this time which renders it exceedingly difficult to get at the exact truth in its history. The reports and accounts given by army officers and contemporary correspondents are manifestly tinged with the pro or anti-McClellan partisanship. The position of neither Pope nor

Burnside as commander of the Army of the

Potomac was a pleasant one, and that fact

needs to be borne in mind constantly. Brig. Gen. J. F. Reynolds commanded the First corps in Franklin's left grand division. Franklin considered that three divisions of Reynolds' corps were sufficient to carry out Burnside's order, which he understood to mean that he should make a reconnoissance rather than a serious attack. To Reynolds was deputed this task, and to his corps belonged Meade's division.

Gen. O. O. Howard commanded the Second division in Sumner's right grand

division, and led one of the awful charges against Marve's hill. Oliver Otis Howard was born in Maine in 1830, and was graduated at West Point in 2 1854. He was instructor in mathe matics at the Mili-

tary academy for GEN. HOWARD. some time after his graduation. He was actively engaged in fighting from the be-ginning of the civil war. He co-manded a brigade at Bull Run, and was made a briga-dier general in September, 1861. The "empty sleeve" familiar in his portraits has been car-ried since 1862 at the battle of Fair Oaks, where he lost the right way that filled it. At ried since 1862 at the battle of Fair Oaks, where he lost the right arm that filled it. At Antietam he was in command of Sumner's corps. In 1863 he had command of the

corps, In 1863 he had command of the Eleventh corps.

Gen. Howard distinguished himself at Gettysburg. Afterward he was ordered west, participated in the fights of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge and helped relieve Know-like Druce Silver States. relieve Kuoxville. During Sherman's march to the sea and up to the time of Johnston's surrender Howard commanded the right wing of the army. After the war he was United States commissioner of the freedmen's bureau. He was president of Howard University for Freedmen for a time, and also served as spe-cial commissioner to the Indians. He has been especially employed in government educational and benevolent enterprises. In 1886 he was promoted to be one of the three major generals permitted by law in the United States army. He is at present in command of the department of the Pacific.

Stoneman's corps of Hooker's grand divis-ion was pushed up behind the divisions of Franklin on the Federal left at Fredericks-Franklin on the Federal left at Fredericas-burg in time to aid in the repulse of the Con-federates there. His advantage was not pushed by Franklin. He considered that his orders from Burnside did not justify him in doing so. Burnside, in the course of the day, sent an order for him to attack on the front, but by the time it reached Franklin it was too near dark for it to be obeyed, the latter general considered. So the fighting of the left grand division at Fredericksburg was

MARYE'S HILL.

Sumner's right grand division was to do the fighting on Franklin's right. Sumner's task was to assault and carry the frown ing crest of Marye's hill. To begin the fight he sent W. H. Gen. French's command, immediateof Hancock, "two divisions that had never turned their backs to the enemy," as he said GEN. FRENCH

afterward. It is rather a strange whim of fate that the name of so brave and accomplished a general as William Henry French should be so little known to his countrymen. Some of the bloodiest fighting of this or any war was done by his and Hancock's divi any war was done by his and Hancock's divi-sions that day at Fredericksburg. They lost fully two-diths of their men.

W. H. French was born in Maryland in 1815. He was a graduate of West Point, and

fought in the Indian war in Florida in 1837; also in the Mexican war. He was first in command at Key West during the civil war, but was transferred to the Army of the Poto-mac. He became a major general of volunteers in 1862. After the war he was in the artillery service on the Pacific coast. Gen. French died in 1881.

As the fog lifted in the course of the fore-moon Longstreet beheld from the heights of Marye's hill French and Hancock advancing in two columns to the assault. They came by two parallel roads, the Orange plank road Telegraph road. The Telegraph road led to Richmond.

A deep ravine separated the advancing troops from the foot of Marye's hill. The Telegraph road skirted along the foot of Marye's hill. The road, indeed, had been cut out of the hill's side and was twenty-five feet wide. On one side of it was the hill, upon the other a high stone wall had been built. This wall was as high as a man's shoulders.

THE TERRIBLE STONE WALL.

In every great battle there is some point about which the slaughter is thickest. At Fredericksburg it was the stone wall upon the outer edge of Telegraph road. Behind this wall the road was practically a sunken one. It was quite invisible to the advancing Federals.



THE STONE WALL

Longstreet perceived at once the advantage of this position. Belind the high wall he stationed some 2,500 soldiers, under command of Gens. Kershaw and T. R. R. Cobb. Thus, like Antietam, Fredericksburg, too, had its sunken road.

Up toward the fatal stone wall and the sunken road came the columns of the Union army. They massed upon the narrow plain at the foot of Marye's hill. Above them, the moment they came within range, the Confederate artillery upon the heights poured hot fire into them. It cut great holes in their ranks—gaps which could be seen a mile,

Longstreet says. In a moment the gaps were closed again, however, and the devoted men marched on.

Half the narrow plain at the foot of Marye's hill was crossed, when, lo! it seemed. as if all the thunders and lightnings of heaven burst upon them. A living sheet of fire blinded their eyes, an infernal din roared in their ears, and when it passed hundreds of brave men lay upon that plain, never more to see or hear aught with earthly eyes or ears

The deadly lightnings shot forth from Longstreet's hidden guns behind the stone wall in the sunken road.

Against that fire no living thing could stand. French's soldiers fell back. Han-cock's came on gallantly. Another sheet of living fire, another infernal rear, and hundreds of other bodies were piled upon those that already lay upon the ghastly plain. One brigade after ano her came on, each in its turn to be mown down and hurled back, Those who saw the assault of Marye's hill at the sunken road one and all speak of it as a succession of waves of living human beings in turn dashed and broken against the stene

After French's and Lancock's divisions were repulsed, Howard's threw itself against the wall. It, too, was driven back, broken and bleeding. That finished the available strength of the Second corps, Gen. Couch's. Then Sturgis' division of the Ninth corps was ordered forward. The charge at Balaklava is famed in history. More than swenty charges like Balaklava would not have compassed the destruction wrought before the stone wall at Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, 1862. Six distinct waves of troops assaulted the

works and fell back. At one moment Lee, watching the fight from Lee's hill, expressed apprehension to Longstreet that the position might be taken, so never ending seemed to be the lines of blue that advanced against it. Longstreet replied:

"General, if you put every man now on the other side of the Potomac on that field to approach me over the same line, and give me plenty of ammunition, I will kill them all before they reach my line."

Samuel Davis Sturgis was born in Pennsylvania in 1822. Graduated at West Point,

was in the Mexican war and was captured at Buena Vista, but was exchanged. He won the rank of captain fighting Indians on the frontier. At the beginning of the war of '61 he was in command of Fort Smith, Ark. Here every one of his 15 subordinate officers abandoned him and entered the Confed-

GEN. STURGIS.

erate service. Sturgis remained in the Union service, and took an active part in the war from the first. Beginning with Lyons in Missouri, he at length came east and had charge of the fortifications at Washington, then commanded a division in the Potomao army. He was afterward chief of cavalry in the department of Onio. His rank at Fredericksburg was that of brigadier general of volunteers. Sturgis' division furnished its quota of dead men to the fatal stone wall, 1,028 out of two brigades, and fell back.

Griffin's division of the Fifth corps followed Sturgis, advancing gallantly. It lost 818 men and retreated behind a knoll. Sixth and last, Humphreys' division of Hooker's corps was ordered to the assault. Hooker, seeing the uselessness of this slaughter, begged Burnside to countermand the order, but Burnside replied: "The crest must be carried to night," and ordered Hooker across with two divisions, Humphreys' and Sykes'. Humphreys is said to have been the ablest officer on the field of Fredericksburg. By the time he advanced on Marye's hill the ammunition of the Confederate artillery upon the heights was exhausted, and thus one galling five to which his predecessors had been exposed was stopped. His men gained a point some 'yards in advance of

those who had gone before. Perceiving the uselessness of firing at the wall, Humphreys ordered his men to charge bayonets. They prepared to do so, though it was hopeless, when the same sheet of flame flashed into their faces, and spite of all efforts to rally them they turned backward. Nearly half of their 4,000 fell in fifteen minutes.

Then night closed. Andrew A. Humphreys was a Pennsylva nian, a graduate of West Point, and a famous fighting

He was man. Meade's chief of staff when that general commanded the Potomac army. Thus French Hancock, Howard, Sturgis, Griffin and Humphreys charged successively upon Marye's Heights, and successively their men GEN. HUMPHREYS. were mown down like blades of grass before a reaper. Night

down over that smoking, bleeding field there were 15,000 fewer effective soldiers of the Army of the Potomac than there had been in. the morning. Burnside wished to renew the contest next day, Dec. 14, but his officers dissuaded him from it. That night he crossed back to Fal-

only closed the slaughter. When it settled

mouth, withdrew his whole army to Stafford heights and left Lee to possess Fredericks-burg, what there was left of it. He himself passed the night in a state of mental agony hard to describe.

The battle of Fredericksburg was fought on a Saturday. Burnside had 100,000 effective

men in his army, Lee 78,000 in his fortified heights. The Union loss was about 15,000; the Confederate, 5,400. On the Confederate side Gens. Gregg and T. R. R. Cobb were killed; on the Union side, Gens. George Bayard and C. Feger Jackson. Burnside had resolved to cross the Rappahannock again below Fredericksburg. The move-ment was to commence Dec. 30, when sud-denly Burnside received an order from President Lincoln to make no general movement without first informing him of it. While Burnside had been preparing to cross the Rappahannock, several of his generals had been to the president and represented to him that they the ruinous folly. thought Burnside's plans

So nothing was done till Jan. 20, 1863. Burnside had decided to make another attempt to cross the Rappahannock, six miles above Fredericksburg. But it seemed that not only his own officers, but the fates, were against him. His army had no sooner started up the river than a great storm set in. Snow, rain and sleet came down all together and rendered the march impossible. The soldiers said it seemed as if the bottom had fallen out.

of the roads.
The troops could not go forward. A few indeed reached the river after long delay, only to find the Confederates ready for them

at the crossing.

The expedition was a failure. Officers of the Army of the Potomac speke of it derisively as the Mud March. Burnside was next relieved from command of the army "at his own request," the government records say. Whatever his military capacity or the lack of it, he was one of the most unselfish and patrio ic of all the Union generals.

