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### **DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE. THE MILITARY SITUATION.**

The popular interest in General Sherman's new campaign is of the most absorbing kind. An ordinary victory, or even a considerable reverse, is not sufficient to divert the attention even for a moment from the grand topic. Plymouth is recaptured, one of the most formidable of the rebel iron-clads is blown up by a torpedo, and the waters of an entire Sound made in consequence an undisputed Federal possession; another vessel, more to be feared than any other which has threatened our commerce, is taken directly under the guns of a friendly Power; General Gillem gains a victory and suffers a reverse ten thousand of our suffering soldiers are released from the well known barbarities of Southern prisons: yet these events form but episodes, or interludes, in the great military drama, which, though only just beginning to be developed, maintains, in spite of all these incidents, favorable or unfavorable, its hold on the popular expectation. Even the Armies of the Potomac and the James would be able by nothing short of the capture of Petersburg or Richmond to alienate, even for a single day, that interest which has been fixed upon the Armies of the Cumberland and the Tennessee.

The Richmond correspondent of the London Times, a short time since declared that Lee was utterly powerless by assuming the aggressive to turn the tide, which was setting in against the Confederacy. He is shut out from the possibility of making even a military experiment: he "can not afford to hazard even twenty lives in a tentative operation." While Grant may rest his army for any number of days fearless of attack, Lee must keep his in the trenches along an extended line, forever expecting attack at every point, and therefore, by this perpetual watch forever kept from relaxation. To Hood, therefore, he said, must be confided the salvation of the Confederacy. He, the master of experiments, must inaugurate an experiment of such vastness and audacity as to unseat Sherman at Atlanta and reverse the line of conquest in the West.

And just this was what the rebels attempted to accomplish. Mr. Davis made a tour through Georgia to awaken that State to a sense of the situation; and as an evidence that he did not lack spirit for this task he ventured at Macon to call the Georgian Governor a "miserable scoundrel" under his very nose; and as proof of his confidence in Confederate resources he cited with becoming commendation the examples of mothers who had devoted their infant sons prospectively to the great struggle. Just upon his heels came Beauregard, whose motto is "Forward," to assume the command of Hood's already advancing army. The Confederate army cavalry and infantry pushed northward. One campaign had been ended when Atlanta was taken now another campaign was begun for the purpose of disturbing Sherman's communications with Atlanta. This new campaign issued unfavorably to the Confederates: Forrest was compelled to recross the Tennessee, and Hood, failing in his attempt on Allatoona, was pushed westward toward the Mississippi; and Sherman's railroad communications, a few slight damages having been repaired, were as intact as they ever had been. These communications were of importance to Sherman, and it was only because these had been threatened that Sherman had marched northward at all. He wanted the railroad between Chattanooga and Atlanta for a specific object; that object was accomplished so soon as he had had forwarded to Atlanta supplies sufficient for an advance southward which he had planned weeks before. So long he held his army covering the railroad. In spite of Hood and Beauregard he accomplished his object and got his supplies. Then he no longer cared either for the railroad or for Atlanta; indeed, he proceeded forthwith to destroy the one and burn the other. The campaign, which Hood had forced upon him, was now at an end, and it had for him ended successfully. Hood's longer stay in the North was now a matter of as little concern to him as was Price's invasion of Missouri, or any other daring project which Beauregard might have undertaken. As a matter of course there must be a force to take care of Beauregard, just as there must have been to take care of Price. This led him to detach the Army of the Ohio from his own. He then began his third campaign. His first had been for Atlanta; his second for supplies; his third was the continuation southward and eastward of the line of conquest, which he had extended so far in the months of May; June, and July. He had hardly hoped that the only army, which could possibly contest his advance, would be so punctiliously considerate in his behalf as to assume and remain in a position hundreds of miles in his rear. But so it happened. And thus we have now two separate campaigns going on in the West and South one that contested between Thomas and Beauregard, the other that of General Sherman against the railroads, arsenals, and strongholds of those Southern States which have hitherto enjoyed a privileged immunity from the horrors of war.

By Hood's mistake in sending Wheeler north Sherman was helped into Atlanta; when Hood's entire army marched into Northern Alabama he made a similar mistake on a much grander scale. Already do the Richmond journals begin to complain that Wheeler was not kept close enough on Sherman's line.

The facts of Sherman's march, so far as known, are these:

On the 9th of November Slocum's Corps, with a division of Kilpatrick's cavalry, started from Atlanta, it is supposed toward Macon, to be followed by Jefferson C. Davis with the Fourteenth Corps. On the same day the Army of the Tennessee the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth corps under General Howard, left Kingston, destroying the railroad on its way.

On the 11th the bridge over the Etowah was destroyed. On the arrival of this column at Atlanta all the property that could be of use to the enemy in that city was burned, and the Army of the Tennessee, on the 12th, abandoned Atlanta, following the Army of the Cumberland. Before Slocum had entirely evacuated the city on the 9th he was attacked by rebel cavalry under Iverson, who was severely punished. General Corse burned Rome on the 10th, commanding the Fourth Division of the Fifteenth Corps. Nearly a million of dollars' worth of property was destroyed by Corse on account of the lack of transportation. This included nine rebel guns, 1000 bales of cotton, two flour and two rolling mills, an extensive foundry, and the railroad depots and storehouses.

**Sherman's entire force is probably not less than 50,000, of which 9000 are picked cavalry under Kilpatrick. According to one report Sherman has provision for 30, according to another for 60, days. His army was paid before starting, and each soldier, it is reported, was supplied with two pairs of shoes. The rebels appear to think that Mobile is his destination. Sherman takes his Signal Corps with him. He has remarked that the service due by this corps at the battle of Allatoona more than paid its expense for the year.**

Beauregard at last advises still remained in the vicinity of Corinth, holding the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. The Washington correspondent of the New York Times says that in one week's time Thomas will have an army 55,000 strong. In that case we shall also have a spirited Western campaign. In a dispatch from Tuscumbia, November 8, Beauregard states that Forrest, at Johnsonville on the 5th, had destroyed four gun boats 8 guns each fourteen steamers, and twenty barges, besides a large quantity of quarter master and commissary stores on the landing.

General Gillem suffered a considerable reverse, November 14, as he was falling back from Bull's Gap, which Breckinridge had turned with a force of 10,000 men. He lost four hundred in killed, wounded, and missing, and, according to General Lee's official dispatch, six pieces of artillery.

From General Grant's army there is nothing important; The Lieutenant-General was in this city on the 19th, 20th and 21st. The rebels recently tried to force back Egan's line, on the right of the Second Corps, by damming a stream in his front. General Egan, in superintending some works to prevent the operation of this scheme, was wounded in the arm.

About 8 P.M., November 17, a desperate attack was made on Butler's picket line, between the James and Appomattox Rivers, by two rebel brigades, who succeeded in capturing 60 pickets. General Butler had arrived at the front.

General Sheridan, November 9, broke camp at Cedar Creek. His advanced pickets, November 12, were near Newtown. On that day Early, his main body being north of Cedar Creek, made a reconnaissance with Lomax's brigade of cavalry; he was repulsed, and General Powell pursued him through and beyond Front Royal, capturing two guns and 150 men.