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THE CIVIL WAR: FROM FORT DONELSON TO  
CHANCELLORSVILLE

My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union. If I could save the Union without freeing any slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it.

*Abraham Lincoln.*



Bridge across the Chickahominy.

**236. The Plan of Campaign of the**

**Union Forces.**—For several months after the outbreak of the war the Union forces followed no definite plan of campaign. By the close of 1861, however, it was clear to the minds of Lincoln and his advisers that the Union forces must do three things: first, they must capture Richmond; second, they must gain full

possession of the Mississippi River and thus cut the Confederacy into two parts; third, they must make the blockade effective and not let the South get any supplies from abroad. This meant war in Virginia and the neighboring States, war in the West, and war along the coast and on the ocean. To carry forward its plans the national government by the beginning of 1862 had at its command an army of 500,000 men. The Confederates had about 350,000 men.

THE WAR IN THE WEST, 1862

**237. Fort Donelson and Fort Henry.**—The first fighting in 1862 was in the West, where the Confederates held a series of fortified posts at Columbus, in Kentucky—Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Bowling Green, and Cumberland Gap (map, p. 332). Of these strongholds Fort Henry, on the Tennessee River,