

paign. According to this plan, Grant was to fight Lee in Virginia, while Sherman was to attack Johnston<sup>1</sup> at Dalton, conquer Georgia, and move northward with the purpose of joining the Union army in Virginia and assisting in the capture of Richmond. Both generals were to begin their movements on the same day, and both were to keep on fighting continuously, regardless of the season or weather.

Accordingly, on the appointed day (May 5, 1864) Sherman marched against Joseph E. Johnston at Dalton and drove him from his position. He then pushed on to Atlanta, a great railway center and a city which furnished to the Confederate armies large supplies of ammunition and clothing. The road to Atlanta was rough and mountainous and Sherman was compelled to march slowly. And he was also compelled to do much hard fighting on the way, for Johnston was a skilful general, and he gave battle to Sherman wherever he could do so to advantage. Between Dalton and Atlanta four sharp battles—Resaca, Dallas, Lost Mountain, and Kenesaw Mountain—were fought. While Johnston was thus stubbornly opposing the advance of the Union army he was relieved of his command and General J. B. Hood was appointed in his place. Hood made a brave attempt to check Sherman and save Atlanta, but failed. On September 2, 1864, Sherman took possession of the city and Hood was forced to retire.

After withdrawing from Atlanta Hood marched toward Nashville, hoping that Sherman would follow. But, since Thomas was at Nashville, Sherman did not follow. He believed Thomas could take care of himself, and in this he was right, for, when Hood attacked Nashville, Thomas sallied forth (December 15-16, 1864) and utterly routed Hood's army.

With Hood's army out of the way, Sherman had no foe of any strength to oppose him. On November 16 he started with 60,000 men on his famous march from Atlanta to the sea. His army moved in four columns by four parallel roads. On the march it cut telegraph wires, tore up railroad tracks, and burned bridges. The soldiers helped themselves freely along the route

<sup>1</sup> Bragg had by this time been removed.