

"The terrible grumble and rumble and roar,
Telling the battle was on once more,"

put spurs to his horse and galloped toward his army. As he dashed along, he met some of his men running from the enemy. To the fugitives he cried out: "Never mind, boys, we are all right! We will whip them yet!" These words of encouragement caused the soldiers to turn and follow their leader, who renewed the battle against Early and defeated him.

After Sheridan had finished his work in the Shenandoah valley he returned to Petersburg to assist Grant. The siege of the stronghold continued for several months. Grant drew his lines ever tighter and tighter, and at last (April 3, 1865) Petersburg fell, and with it fell Richmond.



"Sheridan's ride."

The fall of Richmond marked the end of the war and the downfall of the Confederacy. Lee, after leaving the city he had defended so bravely for nearly four years, attempted to break through the Union lines, but he was checked at every step by a greatly superior force, and there was nothing for him to do but lay down his arms. On April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court-House, he surrendered to Grant his army of 28,000 men.¹ As he took leave of his soldiers, he said: "Men, we have fought through the war together. I have done the best I could for you." Grant in his hour of triumph was courteous and kind. He did not require Lee to give up his sword. He allowed his soldiers to keep their horses, saying they would need them to work their little farms. He gave the conquered army enough food to last five days.

¹ Johnston, on April 26, surrendered to Sherman near Raleigh, North Carolina.