over the Chickahominy on Richmond, had come to a standstill after the battle of Seven Pines (or Fair Oaks), and General Robert Lee, who succeeded Joseph Johnston in command of the Confederates, initiated the series of counter attacks upon it which constitute the “ Seven Days.”

McClellan had at his disposal 32 brigades and 67 batteries organized in five corps each of two or three divisions. His cavalry consisted of 10 regiments and 22 companies. Lee’s army consisted of 40 brigades and 59 batteries organized in eleven divisions and an independent brigade: four divisions were grouped under Jackson and

three under Magruder. The

reserve artillery consisted of

23 batteries and Stuart’s

cavalry corps of 3000 sabres.

McClellan lingered north of

Richmond, despite President

Lincoln’s constant demand

that he should “ strike a

blow ” with the force he had

organized and taken to the

Yorktown peninsula in April,

until General Lee had con-

centrated 73,000 infantry in

his front; then the Federal

commander, fearing to await

the issue of a decisive battle,

ended his campaign of in­

vasion in the endeavour to

“save his army”; and he

so far succeeded that on July

3 he had established himself

on the north bank of the

James in a position to which

reinforcements and supplies

could be brought from the

north by water without fear

of molestation by the enemy.

But he lost 15,000 men in

the course of his seven days’

retreat, and 20% of the remainder became ineffective

from disease contracted in

the swamps of the Chickahominy, while enormous

quantities of valuable stores

at White House on the

Pamunkey had been burnt to

avoid seizure by the enemy.

McClellan described this flight

to the James as a change of

base, but his resolve to

abandon the attitude of an

invader was formed when

General Lee in the middle of

June had caused Stuart’s

cavalry to reconnoitre the

flanks and rear of McClellan’s

army, and had summoned

Jackson’s corps from the

Shenandoah Valley (*q.v.*)*.* The news soon reached McClellan, who thereupon prepared to evacuate White House on June 25 and moved his trains southward to the James covered by his army. Jackson had preceded his troops in order personally to confer with Lee, and had then appointed the morning of June 26 for his appearance north of the Chickahominy to lead the march and attack McClellan’s right wing under General FitzJohn Porter. Jackson was to be supported by the divisions of A. P. Hill, Longstreet and D. H. Hill. Lee’s other divisions under Magruder, Huger and Holmes were to defend the lines which covered Rich­mond from the east, and so prevent McClellan effecting a counter- stroke. Huger had demonstrated on the Williamsburg Road on

June 25 in order to draw McClellan’s attention to his left wing, and though on June 26 Jackson had failed to appear, General A. P. Hill at 3 p.m. crossed the Chickahominy and attacked the enemy’s right wing at Beaver Dam Creek assisted by D. H. Hill, while Longstreet crossed at Mechanicsville. General Lee and President Davis were present and witnessed the loss of 2000 men in a frontal attack which continued till 9 p.m. Meanwhile General Jackson, with Stuart’s cavalry corps, “ marched by the fight without giving attention, and went into camp at Hundley’s Comer half a mile in rear of the enemy’s position.”

The Federal detachment retreated during the night to a stronger position in rear at Gaines’s Mill near Cold Harbor, and on June 27 the Confederates again attacked Porter’s corps. Lee’s six divisions formed an echelon. D. H. Hill moving towards the enemy’s right was followed by Jackson’s corps (three divisions), while A. P. Hill engaged the enemy in front and Longstreet in reserve moved along the left bank of the Chicka­hominy. The resistance of the Federate was stubborn; at 5 p.m. General Lee required Longstreet to attack the enemy’s left, and at this moment he procured the assistance of some part of Jackson’s corps which had become separated from the remainder. About sunset the Federate under Porter (three