

the closest cavalry force. Besides, for some time there had been trade in cotton between Confederates and Federals, even though it was illegal for the former and on some occasions illegal as well for the latter. But in February, 1864, the Confederacy rescinded its embargo on cotton by authorizing its sale under proper regulation.

At first Adelia and her cousin thought they could sell the cotton in six weeks, but the effort proved to be much more difficult, and their stay lengthened to eight months. Not long after their arrival, they were faced with an order from a Confederate commander to destroy all cotton. Adelia did not feel physically able to travel behind the Confederate lines to countermand this decision. But the cousin with a friend, after seven, or possibly eight difficult trips, gained permission from the Confederate authorities to sell the cotton by promising to ship it to Liverpool, England. The two ladies were now able to engage Confederates, without permission from their commander, to guard the cotton. Because of her loss of horses and wagons to the Confederate forces, Adelia, however, had no means to haul the cotton to the river. But she found a way. Officers of the Federal navy often stopped at the plantation where they were charmingly received by Adelia and her cousin. Adelia gained permission from Rear-Admiral David D. Porter to hire teams and wagons from a Northern firm in New Orleans, or possibly even wagons from the U.S. Army, for loading the cotton on a boat which would take it to New Orleans for transport to Europe. Because of ties with both sides, the official documents indicate that the two ladies were evidently playing a double game.

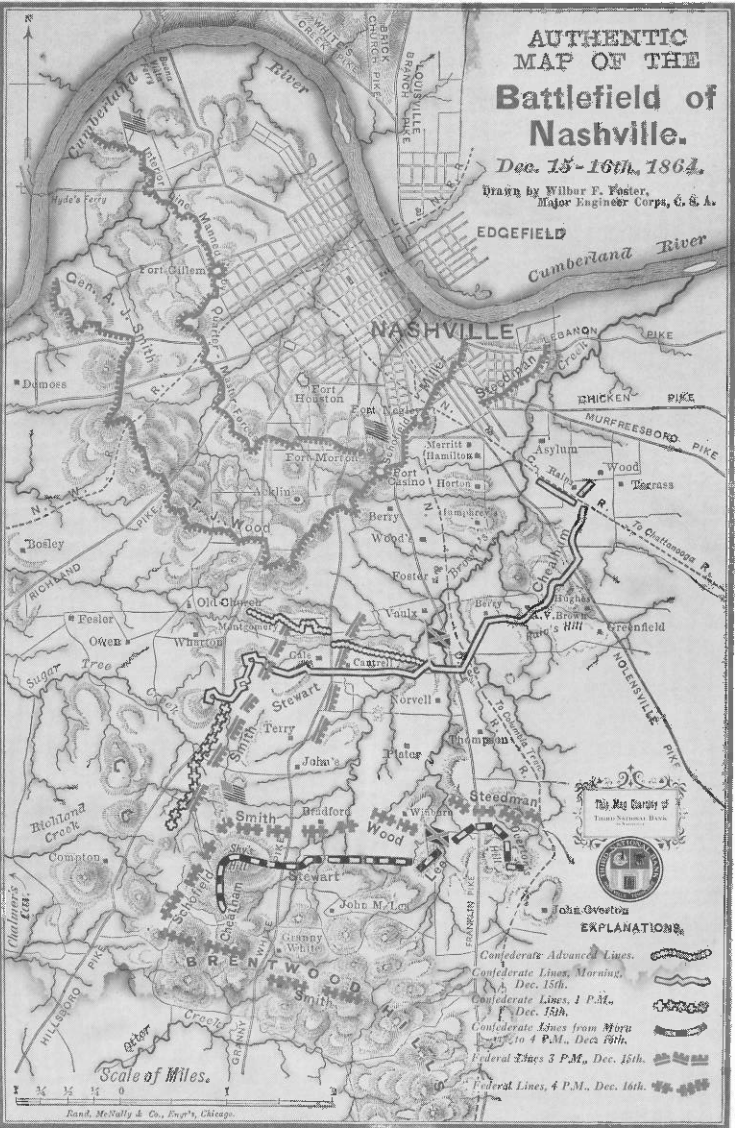
Although the efforts were almost thwarted by a Confederate officer, Colonel Frank Powers, Adelia was able to get 2,000 bales to Liverpool where she sold it for \$.75 a pound, receiving \$960,000, probably in gold. Maggie Lindsley, a friend of the family in Nashville, wrote in her journal in 1865 that the cotton, acquired finally by the Rothschilds of London, brought about \$2,000,000. A correspondent of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, who knew Adelia personally, claimed the cotton was sold for \$2.00 a pound, thereby confirming Maggie's figure. The larger sum was probably stated in greenbacks, the currency then prevailing in the Union which in 1864 dropped to less than half the value of gold. It was necessary for Adelia to pay commissions and transport costs from the proceeds. Whatever benefit the Confederates or Federals felt they would receive from the sale of the cotton, it at least benefitted Adelia's purse. After a trip of eight days by sea, Adelia and her cousin arrived in New York in August, 1864, and then journeyed to Tennessee.

Soon after her arrival in Nashville, Adelia faced one final test of her Civil War experience—the occupa-

tion of Belmont Mansion by Federal troops and the possible destruction of the home by fighting between the opposing forces. In their fortification of the city, the Federals had erected a defensive perimeter from Fort Negley to Fort Casino (the present city reservoir) to the hill behind the present campus of Belmont College and then westward at about the intersection of Belmont and Blair Boulevards today. Belmont and Hillside, the adjoining home of the Lawrences, were thus within the Federal defense system but were now also on the front line. Lawrence recorded in his diary that General Beatty and his staff, making Hillside their headquarters, took over every room of his house and that "The Federal lines of works ran transversely across my place & just by my front door." Belmont Mansion became the headquarters of Major General David Sloane Stanley but, with his illness, Thomas Jefferson Wood replaced him. Even Rokeby, the home of Adelia's mother not far to the north, was affected by the Federal occupation with the erection on the premises of buildings for what was called Wilson General Hospital.

Adelia and her mother, distressed with the felling of trees for firewood near Belmont Mansion, appealed to the military governor, Andrew Johnson, to stop the cutting but were met only with a curt refusal. On the other hand, upon the advice of Federal officers and with their assistance in transport, Adelia removed many of her paintings, silver, and jewelry to the home of her friend, Mrs. James K. Polk. As wife of the former president and conducting herself with great dignity, Mrs. Polk was held with highest respect by the Federal officials. No better home could be found.

In early December the Confederate Army under John B. Hood began to take up positions along the present Woodmont Boulevard, a short distance from Belmont. Federal soldiers watched the Confederates from the water tower. For safety Adelia moved with her children to the home of Mrs. Polk, leaving her husband's niece, Sallie Acklen, with the governess, Miss Heloise Cevas, at Belmont. One Yankee observer, hoping the mansion would not be destroyed, overheard some soldiers say that the house could fire easily. On the 15th the Federals took the initiative in throwing back the Confederates, which placed the mansion in immediate danger. An observer, later correspondent of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, stated years later, "... while I watched the battle of Nashville, I was certain that the Acklen House would be demolished by the bursting shells. It stood nearly right between the lines of the contending forces and I could have almost sworn that I saw bombs bursting directly over the house." In talking to Adelia's third husband, William A. Cheatham, this gentleman found that he had been a bit in error since only a comparatively few shells burst near the house but nevertheless made the observation, "the escape of the



house from destruction was truly miraculous." Hillside also escaped but, with the destruction of all outside buildings, fencing, trees, stock, and furniture which had not been removed, the Lawrences were left with only an empty house.

The return to normal conditions was rapid. According to Benson John Lossing who in May, 1866, sketched the mansion, whatever damage might have occurred to the grounds was soon largely repaired. In April, 1865, at the conclusion of the war, Sallie appealed to her friend, Maggie Lindsley, to attend at Belmont a lavish ball with no limit on expense. In spite of her Rebel sympathies, Sallie, beautiful and coquettish, willing to fraternize with Federal soldiers, fell in love with a Yankee officer, Southard Hoffman from New York. Despite concern

from her family, they were married in 1866 in New York City. Adelia attended the wedding. Adelia's son, Joseph, as a lone Southerner, attended in 1864-1865 Burlington Military College in New Jersey. On one occasion a group of students threatened to hang him as a Rebel, but now he would be able to return home without threat of reprisal. The war was truly over.

Although there was peace, some would never return. Randal McGavock, who attended a dinner at Belmont for Walker, and Adolphus Heiman, the architect, had died as soldiers. Adelia recorded in a letter that a relative, Willis Acklen, had died near Richmond. And Adelia's own husband, Joseph, would also not be back—in some way possibly another casualty.