The recall of McClellan's army from the Peninsula enabled Lee to leave Richmond, and direct his whole force against General Pope. The latter, with about 42,000 men, was occupying a very advanced position, the main part of his force being in the vicinity of Cedar Mountain, while detachments guarded the fords of the Rapidan. He was confronted by Jackson with about 22,500 men. That enterprising commander had recently beaten Banks, in the battle of Cedar Mountain, and was eager to obtain reinforcements so that he might resume the offensive. Before the retrograde movement of the Army of the Potomac actually began, Lee dispatched troops to the support of Jackson, and prepared to surprise Pope in his dangerous position. Pope learned of this intention, prudently retired behind the Rappahannock, and held the line of that river from Kelly's Ford to the neighborhood of Freeman's Ford. On the 21st of August, 1862, Lee, with a total force of about 55,000 men, now fully released by the actual withdrawal of...