

Chapter V

Last days of the Confederacy - Fatal explosion of the steamer Sultana - And lights out.

In the following Chapter there is involved the undertaking of recording a portion of history that was virtually lost sight of as a part of the cost of the war for the Union, occurring as it did in the triumph of victory for the Federal Army, amid so many events of National interest that were transpiring in such rapid succession.

The Confederacy was struggling in the last stage of annihilation, the bright beacon light of American Justice had just gone out and the Great Emancipator who had finished American Freedom lay cold in death, the curtain had dropped on the last act of his assassin John Wilkes Booth.

The North was bathing her victory in tears, flags of victory waved at half mast on the ramparts of surrendered heights, and the peoples love and affection were being offered on the shrine of a nations sorrow.

While these memorable events were holding the American people spell bound, over fifteen hundred lives went out in the morning of victory from the fatal steamer Sultana, to escape into oblivion and untold history. The explosion of the steamer Sultana in the early morning of