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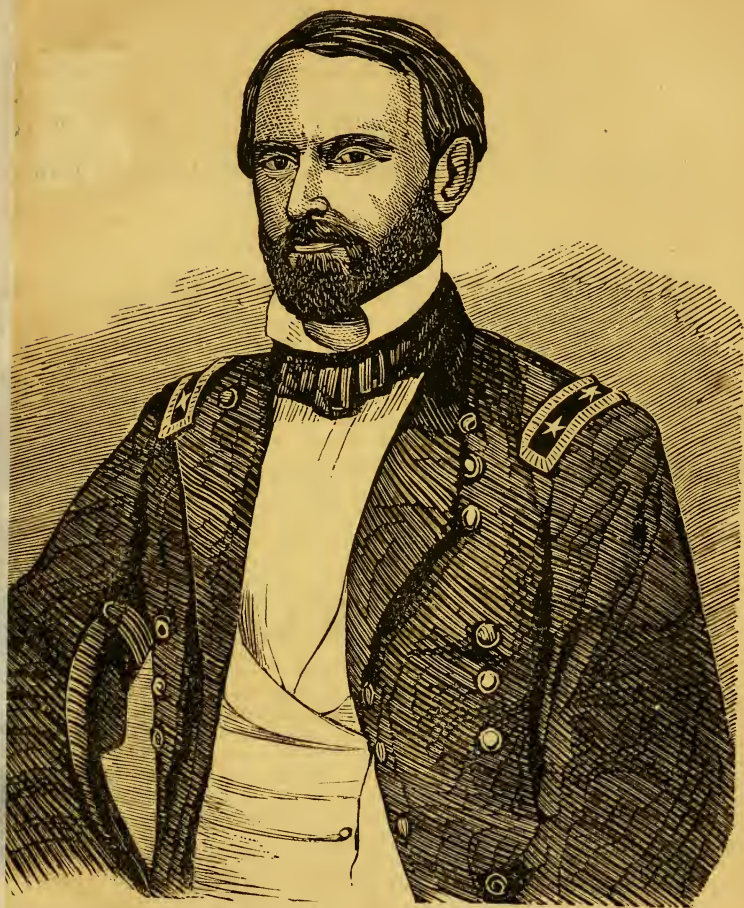


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THE LIFE  
OF



GEN. WM. T. SHERMAN.

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NEW YORK:

R. DAWLEY, PUBLISHER,  
13 & 15 Park Row.

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# THE LIFE

OF

# WM. T. SHERMAN,

BY

*Thomas ✓*  
**T. R. DAWLEY.**



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NEW YORK:

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## INTRODUCTION.

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General Grant having expressed himself strongly in favor of General Sherman, and having officially given token of the high appreciation with which he has viewed the military career of that officer, but little can be said in the way of introduction to this sketch of his life. When all the North, from the President to the peasant, were looking upon General Sherman as a madman, Grant saw in him an officer of merit, and one that could not help proving himself to be in time a great General. It is said that genius in spite of all obstacles must one day rise if the slightest opportunity be given it; therefore, when it is considered that General Sherman began his career in the war of the rebellion and fought for over two years with the opposition of nearly every one North and South, and with the denunciations of the Press of the country; it is plain that the possession of a great genius only could have enabled him to rise to the high position which he has obtained in the military service of his native land.

Without further remark the Author places this brief history of the "Hero of the Southwest" before the American public.

T. R. D.

NEW YORK, 1864.



# THE LIFE

OF

## WM. TECUMSEH SHERMAN.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### SHERMAN'S EARLY DAYS.

*His birthplace—His parents and relations—Where he received his early education—His boyhood's sweetheart—Incidents, &c.*

Major General William Tecumseh Sherman of the regular army of the United States was born on Tuesday, the eighth day of February, 1820. He first saw the light in Lancaster, Ohio, and of that state he has ever since retained his citizenship.

The "hero of the Southwest" is the son of the late Hon. Charles R. Sherman, Judge of the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio; and brother of the Hon. John Sherman, United States Senator from Ohio, and chairman of the Senatorial standing committee on Agriculture.

The father of General Sherman died when he was but nine years old, and the son had received a moderately good education up to the time of his death, when that event occurred he was somewhat thrown upon his own resources in order to continue his studies. Judge Sherman, had during his lifetime secured a friend in the Hon. Thomas Ewing, and that gentleman, taking a fancy to young William, had him brought up in his own family.

The Hon. Thomas Ewing then devoted himself to the education of his young protegee, and during the remainder of his boyhood days, young Sherman is said to have passed a very happy time.

His kind protector—for so Mr. Ewing may justly be called—had a little daughter, whom young Sherman used to delight in calling his sweetheart without ever having any idea that the future might, as it did, make that little lady his wife.

Young Sherman betrayed while very young rather a pugnacious disposition, which added to a somewhat hasty temper brought him continually into quarrels with the boys who lived in his vicinity. Sherman, however, possessed a great amount of decided pluck, and he never hesitated to fight boys much larger and far heavier than himself. He also possessed the merit of never giving in until he found himself completely beaten.

It is stated that one of young Sherman's boyhood quarrels arose about the qualities of General Andrew Jackson as a soldier and a statesman. The opponent contended that Jackson, then President, had neither brains nor determination enough to endeavor to suppress the attempt of South Carolina to breed a revolution; and Sherman asserted that he not only could, but would do it if necessary. This led to some personal assertions and accusations on both sides until the opponent told Sherman that he was a liar and a fool. The hot blood of the boy soon rose to boiling heat, and in a very short time the two were engaged in a pretty serious contest. The boy opposed to Sherman was somewhat larger, much older, and far stronger than he; and at first sight it appeared evident that the

former by mere brute force alone must soon conquer his adversary.

Notwithstanding this disparity of size and age, Sherman stood up to his antagonist with great boldness. During the contest the smaller boy manœuvred about from left to right with such rapidity and skill, that the larger had to move very quickly to escape some rather serious blows about the ribs. At last, having made a number of these manœuvres, Sherman rushed without wavering, straight forward upon his adversary, taking him quite by surprise, and by a dexterous blow in the stomach, "doubled him up." While in this condition he administered several sharp blows about the larger boy's head and face, that when he resumed the upright position he gave evidence of a sad beating.

The larger boy then made a rush at Sherman, but the latter stepping on one side, and putting out his foot, threw his antagonist with great force to the ground. Sherman then took a seat on his prostrate body, and made his adversary own he was beaten, and that Andrew Jackson was a great man, before he would allow him to get up.

The honorable gentleman in whose family the boy was staying, having noticed Sherman's tactics during the fight, thought he would be likely to make a good soldier; and when he gave evidence of a desire to become a student of the military art, he rather more encouraged than opposed it.

Long before he began his military studies at West Point young Sherman exhibited a taste for drawing and engineering, as well as other things appertaining to the military art.

## CHAPTER II.

## SHERMAN AT WEST POINT.

*Sherman's entry into West Point—What he learned at that institution—His classmates—At the Academy with General Grant—Incidents, &c.*

Young Sherman was just turned sixteen years of age, when he was, during 1836, admitted into the Military Academy of the United States at West Point as a cadet, appointed from the State of Ohio.

At the time Sherman entered West Point, Colonel Rene E. De Russy was Commandant of Cadets and Superintendent of the Academy; but after he had been at the institution about two years, Colonel Delafield, since Chief Engineer of the United States Army, assumed the principal command thereof.

When Cadet Sherman entered the Military School, the following officers of the rebellion were in the first Class: General H. W. Benham, U. S. Volunteers; General Braxton Bragg, General-in-chief of the Rebel Army; General W. W. Mackall of the Rebel Army; General Scammon, U. S. Volunteers; General Lewis G. Arnold, U. S. Volunteers; General Israel Vodges, U. S. Volunteers; General Thomas Williams of Vicksburg Canal fame; Adjutant-General Townsend, U. S. Army; General Jubal A. Early, of the Rebel Army, and of Shenandoah Valley fame, if defeat can be famous; General W. H. French, U. S. Volunteers; General Sedgwick, U. S. Volunteers, who fell at Spottsylvania; General Pemberton, of the Rebel Army, and of Vicksburg fame; General Joe Hooker, U. S. Volunteers; General W. H. T. Walker, of the Rebel Army, and others.



In the second class, at that time were General P. G. T. Beauregard, of the Rebel Army; General W. T. Barry, Chief of Artillery, Sherman's Army; General McDowell, U. S. Army, and of Bull Run fame; General W. J. Hardee, of the Rebel Army, the author of a work on Tactics; General R. S. Granger, U. S. Volunteers; General H. H. Sibley, of the rebel Army; General Andrew Jackson Smith, U. S. Volunteers, and of Mississippi River fame; and others.

In the third class, were General I. I. Stevens, U. S. Volunteers, and who fell at Chantilly, September, 1862; General H. W. Halleck, formerly General-in-chief of the U. S. Army, and at the time of writing, Chief of Staff to the President; General J. B. Ricketts, U. S. Volunteers, and who fell in the Shenandoah Valley, October, 1864; General Ord, U. S. Volunteers; General H. J. Hunt, Chief of Artillery, under General McClellan, &c.; General E. Paine, U. S. Volunteers; General Canby, U. S. Volunteers, and of Western Mississippi fame; and others.

Cadet Sherman entered the fourth class, and among his companions were General Stewart Van Vliet, U. S. Volunteers; General J. P. McCown, of the Rebel Army; General G. H. Thomas, U. S. Army, and of Chickamagua fame; General Ewell, of the Rebel Army; General W. Hays, U. S. Volunteers; General Bushrod R. Johnston, of the Rebel Army; and others.

During the first year of his cadetship, the studies of young Sherman consisted of Mathematics; English Grammar, including etymological and rhetorical exercises, composition and declamation; Geography of the United States; French, &c. He was also taught the use of small

arms, and the drill of an infantry soldier ; and during the summer months, performed the part of a private of the infantry battalion, in the military camp of the Academy.

During the summer months of 1837, Cadet Sherman advanced one grade in the Academy, and was transferred to the third class in which he began the study of the higher Mathematics under Lieutenant A. E. Church, Professor, and Lieutenant W. W. S. Bliss, Assistant Professor ; the French language, under M. Claudius Berard, First Teacher of the language, and Julian Molinard, Second Teacher ; and Drawing under Robert W. Weir, Teacher of the art. He also began to drill in the preliminary duties of a private of cavalry under Lieutenant Miner Knowlton, and spent sixteen weeks in the school of horsemanship or riding school of the Academy. He studied the sword exercise under M. Ferdinand Dupare, then Sword Master of the Academy. He also continued to study infantry tactics, and while serving with the infantry battalion, during the classical year, 1837-8, he obtained the promotion to corporal of cadets.

On the 30th day of June 1838, he passed his examination with some amount of credit and entered into the second class. The studies of Sherman increased as he advanced in the institution, and this year, viz : from July 1st, 1838, to June 30th, 1839, he was very busily employed. From September, 1838, to June, 1839, he had to cultivate his mind in the study of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, under Professor W. H. C. Bartlett, and Assistant Professor B. Alvord ; Chemistry under Professor J. W. Bailey, and Drawing under the same teacher, as in the third class. He had also to train his body and develop his frame by daily exercise in the school of gymnasium, and also to re-

ceive practical instruction in the more difficult and dangerous branches of horsemanship, such as being able to keep his seat when his horse became restive from the effect of a sudden report of artillery or musketry, and other similar exercises. While encamped during the summer months, Cadet Sherman was well drilled in infantry and artillery tactics, and while away with the battalion acted as company serjeant.

During the summer of 1839, Cadet Sherman passed into the first class. During this same summer General Grant, now Lieutenant-General of the United States Armies, entered West Point as a cadet, and it was during this year that Sherman made his acquaintance. In this connection it may be interesting to record the names of prominent officers of the rebellion who entered West Point during the interval that Sherman was studying at the Academy.

During 1837, the following officers entered the institution: Generals H. G. Wright, of the U. S. Volunteers; A. W. Whipple, of the U. S. Volunteers; Major T. J. Rodman, of 20-inch ordnance fame; Generals A. P. Howe, U. S. Volunteers; N. Lyon, U. S. Volunteers, and who was killed at Wilson's Creek; Lieut.-Colonel Garesche, who was killed while chief of staff to General Rosecrans at Stone River, December, 1862; Generals S. S. Anderson, and Samuel Jones, both of the Rebel Army; J. M. Plummer, U. S. Volunteers, who died in Missouri, in 1862; J. M. Brannan, U. S. Volunteers; S. Hamilton, U. S. Volunteers; James Totten, U. S. Volunteers; John F. Reynolds, U. S. Volunteers, and who was killed at Gettysburg, July 1st, 1863; R. Garnett, of the Rebel Army; Don Carlos Buell, U. S. Volunteers, since resigned the service; A. Sully, U. S. Volunteers, and of Indian War

fame of 1863-4; I. B. Richardson, U. S. Volunteers, and who died of wounds received at Antietam, in 1862; W. T. H. Brooks, U. S. Volunteers; A. Buford, of the Rebel Army; and others.

During 1838, Generals John Newton, U. S. Volunteers; W. S. Rosecrans, U. S. Army; G. W. Smith, of the Rebel Army; Mansfield Lovell, of the Rebel Army; John Pope, of the U. S. Army, Joseph Stewart, of the Rebel Army; Seth Williams, Assistant Adjutant General of the Army of Potomac; Abner Doubleday, of U. S. Volunteers; D. H. Hill, of the Rebel Army; N. J. T. Dana, U. S. Volunteers; A. T. M. Rust, of the Rebel Army; George Sykes, of the U. S. Volunteers; L. McLaws, of the Rebel Army; S. P. Hayman, U. S. Volunteers; Earl Van Dorn, of the Rebel Army; James Longstreet, of the Rebel Army; and others.

During 1839, Generals W. B. Franklin, U. S. Volunteers; Joseph J. Reynolds; U. S. Volunteers, Samuel G. French, of the Rebel Army; C. C. Augur, of the U. S. Volunteers; L. B. Wood, of the Rebel Army; U. S. Grant, U. S. Army; Chas. S. Hamilton, U. S. Volunteers; F. Steele, U. S. Volunteers, and of Arkansas fame; H. M. Judah, U. S. Volunteers, and others.

When entering the first class, the cadet generally is selected as one of the Commissioned officers of the battalion, and either proves capable or incapable of commanding his fellow-men. His studies are also heavier. From July 1st, to September 1st, 1839, Cadet Sherman received practical lessons in the science of civil and military engineering, under Professor Mahaw, and his assistants, and during the fall and winter months entered into the theoretical part of that study. In this branch, Cadet Sherman

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carried high honors. His horsemanship was also carefully practiced until he was considered perfect. His other studies consisted of Ethics, Geography and History, under the Rev. Jasper Adams; Mineralogy and Geology under Professor Bailey; and constitutional, international and military law under proper tutors. His more warlike instruction consisted of gunnery, ordnance, and cavalry tactics, and in these Sherman excelled.

On the 30th of June, 1840, Cadet Sherman graduated, sixth in his class, which consisted of forty-two members. By his position in his class he was declared to have excelled in the following studies: Fortification, Military Science and Art, Law and Literature, Mineralogy and Geology, Ordnance and Science of Gunnery, Infantry Tactics, Artillery Tactics, Cavalry Tactics, Equitation, Civil Engineering, Ethics, Literature, Logic, Electricity and Chemistry, Drawing, Natural and Experimental Philosophy, Mathematics, Rhetoric, History, Geography, &c. He was also supposed to have a thorough practical knowledge in the use of the musket, fieldpiece, light and heavy artillery, mortars, siege and sea-coast guns, small sword, sabre and bayonet. He was also declared proficient in the construction of field works and in the fabrication of munitions and material of war.

Such were the qualifications of Cadet Sherman when he graduated in 1840.

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## CHAPTER III.

## SHERMAN IN THE REGULAR ARMY.

*Enters the army—Second Lieutenant—First Lieutenant—Florida—In California during Mexican War—Brevet—Marriage—Captain—Commissary of subsistence—Resignation, &c.*

On Wednesday, July 1st, 1840, Cadet Sherman commenced his career as a soldier and on that day entered the regular service of the United States. He was appointed to the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant of artillery, and entered the Third Regiment without passing through the usual probation of a brevet.

The regiment to which young Sherman was attached was considered one of the best of that arm in the service and such officers as Generals Thomas, Van Vliet, J. F. Reynolds, Ord, A. P. Stewart, Doubleday, S. G. French, Jubal Early, Andrews and others, began in it their military career.

The talents of Lieutenant Sherman did not allow him long to remain in the lower ranks, and on the 30th of November, 1841, less than seventeen months after he entered the regiment, he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant.

It was at about this time that the Indian troubles in Florida were at their height, and the young Lieutenant and his company were engaged in suppressing these hostilities. In this campaign Sherman first displayed that amount of courage which has since so distinguished him during the war of the rebellion.

It was while Sherman was serving in Florida that he met with an adventure with the famous Billy Bowlegs, the

Indian chief. The semi-civilized aboriginee had sworn vengeance upon any of the American soldiers that he could get in his power, and Sherman's command happened to fall into such a position that but for his strategical skill and rapid marching of his men, must have resulted disastrously.

During 1841, Lieutenant Sherman was ordered to Fort Moultrie, Charleston harbor, South Carolina, and remained at that post for some time, nothing important occurring during the interval.

Lieutenant Sherman did not take any very prominent part in the Mexican War—his scene of active duty lying in another field. During the year 1846 he was ordered to California, where he was selected and assigned to the position of an acting assistant adjutant general. He performed the duties of that office in the Tenth Military district of the United States during the latter portion of the Mexican war, entering upon the office during the year 1847.

As adjutant general, Sherman was a great stickler for military etiquette, and required from every one a due observance of all the rules and regulations of the service. Sometimes he would carry this to extremes as will be seen by the following anecdote, which is related by one of the officers of the war of the rebellion, who served under him in California in a subordinate position :

The subordinate had gathered some information about the enemy that he thought would be of value, and being desirous to communicate it quietly to Sherman, he entered his office for that purpose. After saluting he advanced to communicate the intelligence in a whisper.

“Stand back, sir,” said Sherman.

“But I have important information,” said the subordinate, still attempting to approach nearer.

“Stand back, sir,” replied Sherman, in a peremptory tone, “stand back, sir. Now for your information. Speak out.

“It might be dangerous—”

“I know nothing about danger, sir. Speak out or leave my presence.”

In spite, therefore, of the subordinate's reluctance, he was compelled to give his information in such a tone of voice that could be heard; and after Sherman had made a note of the matter he thus addressed him:

“In future when you have any communication to make to me, you will know how to address me. I allow no one in your position to attempt any familiar whispering to me on matters appertaining to the business of the service. You will remember that, and never again attempt such a liberty. You can go.”

The last words were uttered in such a tone that would admit of no remark on the part of the subordinate, and he at once left.

Notwithstanding this austerity of manner Sherman was much liked by his men. He made the soldiers respect themselves, by demanding proper respect from them on all official matters.

Lieutenant Sherman so administered the affairs of his district that Congress during March 1851, conferred upon him a brevet of captain of the regular army, to date from May 30th, 1848, “for meritorious services in California during the war with Mexico.”

During the year 1850, when thirty years of age, Sherman entered into matrimonial partnership with his boy-



hood's sweetheart—the daughter of the Hon. Mr. Ewing. With that lady he is said to have lived very happily, and has a very interesting family.

Sherman was during the same year appointed a commissary of subsistence, with the rank of captain, and was assigned to the staff of the commander of the Department of the West. He then had his headquarters at St. Louis. He was subsequently transferred to the military post at New Orleans, where he became acquainted with many of the personages who have taken so prominent a position in the vain endeavor to destroy the government of the United States

The country being once more at peace with all the world, and Sherman fancying he could do better in civil pursuits than by remaining in the service, he on the 6th day of September, 1853, resigned his position in the army and removed into California.

It must not be supposed that having left the military service, he did not continue to watch it with interest. He knew that a gigantic struggle would one day come, and he prepared himself, during his leisure, to meet it when it broke out, no matter whether the issue was either of a domestic or foreign character. The subsequent career of the General has proved that the time of the citizen was not idly spent.

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## CHAPTER IV.

## SHERMAN AS A CITIZEN.

*Banker—President of Military Academy of Louisiana—The Secession troubles—Resisting the rebel influences—Passage of the ordinance of secession—Resignation of the Presidency—Return North, &c.*

Sherman as soon as he resigned his connection with the Regular Army removed, as before stated, to California. Taking up his residence in the city of San Francisco, he became acquainted with certain monetary men, who being made aware of the financial abilities of the retired officer, requested him to take a position at the head of the important banking house of Lucas, Turner & Co., of that city.

For four years Sherman occupied this position, giving great satisfaction to those persons with whom he was brought in business connection, as also to the directors of the institution.

Notwithstanding the fact that he was no longer attached to the military service of the country, he could not help feeling an interest in its prosperity; and he connected himself with the primitive military organizations of the State, taking a very active part in the suppression of the lawless vagabonds who at one time made San Francisco a hell upon earth.

9. During the year 1857, Mr. Sherman became acquainted with certain important personages, from the State of Louisiana, who having observed his military capacity, thought it would be a very good plan to secure his services for the instruction of the youth of that vicinity in the knowledge of arms. The arguments used by the Southerners were

so plausible—such as, to enable them to suppress an uprising of the slaves; to fit them for the resistance of a foreign enemy; to prepare the citizens to act as soldiers in the rooting out of the savage Indian races of the back part of the territory; to make the basis of an organization for the extension of the United States through Mexico, &c.—that Sherman willingly accepted the position without suspicion of any treasonable object in the movement.

Mr. Sherman was therefore appointed the President of the Military Academy of the State of Louisiana during the year 1858. Under his tuition some of the principal officers of the so-called Louisiana Confederate Volunteers received their military education, which doubtless accounts for the fact that many of them rose to some distinction in the military service during the war of the rebellion.

The excitement of the Presidential election of 1860 soon betrayed to Mr. Sherman the feelings which animated the South; and the Southern disorganizers tried their utmost to induce him to join the cause of the Secessionists.

On one occasion a party of “fire-eaters,” as they were termed, called on Mr. Sherman to sound him on the subject of joining the Southern States in the event of their separating themselves from the Union.

“Gentlemen,” said Sherman, “while I am in the South I shall do nothing and say nothing in opposition to the Southern interests; but I will never join in any movement that may lead to an armed resistance to the authority of the United States. I have fought under the ‘Stars and Stripes’ too long to easily raise my hand to cause its downfall.

“Mr. Sherman,” said one of the renegades, “We have no intention to go to war with the United States. We have so divided the North that if the Abolitionists should even elect the next President we can so cripple his power that he can do nothing to resist a secession of the Gulf States and the establishment of a separate Government.”

“If you suppose, gentlemen,” said Sherman, “that the North will allow any portion of this glorious Union to be severed from the remainder, you will find yourselves mistaken. I tell you it will lead to war, and a cruel war; but the Union must be kept intact.”

“But our slaves?”

“When it is a question of preserving the Unity of the Country, slavery and all other abstract principles will have to succumb. Your very supporters in the North will turn against you, and be ready to fly to arms to preserve the honor of their flag, and the integrity of the Union. Gentlemen, you have my answer.”

As the fire-eaters left the place where they had held the consultation with Mr. Sherman, one said to another:

“I do not like to trust that man. I do not believe he is true to the cause of the South.

“There,” remarked the other, “I think you are mistaken. He speaks plainly and fearlessly, which shows he is not afraid of us. I would rather trust an open-spoken man like that, than all the oily, sneaking fellows whose remarks are fair to our face, yet who, for a few dollars, would betray our very wives to our enemies. When the time comes, and he sees we are likely to separate from the North in reality, he will readily join us. Besides,” continued the speaker, “he is too good an officer for us to part with, if we can only retain him with us.”

From the foregoing conversation, and from a letter written to the Governor of the State of Louisiana, on January 18th, 1861, it will be seen that Sherman's feelings were with the South, although not with the rebellion; and that he was willing to protect the Southern interests, but would not join any rebellious movement against the United States. "If," said he, "Louisiana withdraws from the Federal Union, I prefer to maintain my allegiance to the old Constitution, as long as a fragment of it survives, and my longer stay in Louisiana would be wrong in every sense of the word."

On the 26th of January, 1861, the Convention of the State of Louisiana passed the Ordinance of Secession. Sherman speedily saw that the extreme Southern States was no place for him to remain in, while he held the feelings he did; he therefore, tendered to the State of Louisiana his resignation of the Presidency of the Military Institute, and made his way North, via the Mississippi River, taking up his residence at St. Louis, Mo.

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## CHAPTER V.

### REAPPOINTED TO THE ARMY.

*Colonel of the Regular Army—Army of Virginia—Appointed Commander of a Brigade—Bull Run—Brigadier General of Volunteers—Assigned to Kentucky—Commander of the Department of the Cumberland—Opinion regarding the strength of the Rebellion—Reported insane—Relieved and ordered into Missouri—Sedalia, &c.*

For a brief space of time after Mr. Sherman had removed to St. Louis he remained in comparative quiet; but shortly before the attack on Fort Sumter he repaired to Washington to call upon the President of the United

States and to offer his services to the Government. He was surprised there to find the apparent ignorance of the government officials as to the actual condition of the South, and the danger which threatened the national existence. To his energetic appeals the President replied that he hoped to dispense with a military force. Sherman knew better, but he had received his answer and did not press his suit. The President was far from being harsh or hasty in urging on hostilities. His fault was too much forbearance—too much hope of conciliation and peace. Even Secretary Seward, with all his knowledge of their violent leaders in the Senate, and afterward of the strength of their organization, declared repeatedly that ninety days would end the conflict, until the battle of Bull Run put an end to the delusion.

The President, after the fall of Sumter, called for three months volunteers, and about the same time he by virtue of an old act of Congress relating to the army of the United States, issued a proclamation calling for an increase of the Regular Army from nineteen to thirty regiments. Under this call the retired Captain was during June 1861 appointed the Colonel of the Thirteenth Regiment of United States Infantry—one of the new regiments—with a commission dating from May 14th, 1861.

To resist the advance of the armed forces of the secessionists—a body of which having been raised in Virginia with the intention of invading or threatening the National Capitol—General Scott organized the “Army of Virginia,” which was composed of five divisions, made up of regular troops and the volunteer uniformed militia of the different states. Each division was composed of about three brigades; and of the third brigade of General Daniel

Tyler's division, the first division of that army, Colonel Sherman was appointed the commander. The main army was placed under the leadership of Gen. Arvin McDowell, and, about the middle of July 1861, began to advance upon the rebel position at Manasses.

A reconnoissance took place on July 18th; but in this movement Colonel Sherman did not participate. On the 21st, however, Colonel Sherman's brigade took a very active part in the engagement at Stone Bridge, over Bull Run, and under his leadership was advancing well over the battle field of Bull Run, or Manasses, when the fatal panic broke out which turned the morning of success into an afternoon of disaster and rout. It however was acknowledged by the senior commander that Colonel Sherman's conduct did much to save the army.

When the army returned to the defences of Washington Colonel Sherman expressed himself very strongly and very indignantly with regard to the disgraceful conduct of the militia troops—especially the regimental officers under his command. His remarks were certainly severe, and the militia, who at that time considered themselves equal to any troops in the world, became very much annoyed, and spread many disparaging reports concerning the skill of the brigade commander.

At this time the press of the North was open to the correspondence of every private of the army, and the natural consequence was that Colonel Sherman's military capacity was canvassed and commented upon by a number of persons who had no power to judge, even if they had been made fully acquainted with all the facts of the campaign.

The subsequent reorganization of the army, and the enlargement of the force raised for the suppression of the e-

bellion, and the acts of the extra session of Congress approved July 22d and July 25th, 1861, led to a complete change in the rank and position of commanding officers of the troops in the United States service. A number of general officers were appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and among others Colonel Sherman was appointed, at the urgent request of the Ohio delegation, a Brigadier General of volunteers; his name being placed sixth on the lineal roll of Brigadier Generals, and his commission dating from May 17th, 1861. At this time he even outranked General Grant by reason of priority; but the animosity raised against him by the Press prevented him, for some time, from displaying those fine talents which have since rendered him so conspicuous in the military history of the country.

General Sherman during the latter part of July 1861 was selected to assist in retaining Kentucky within the Union, and was assigned to act as second in command to General Robert Anderson, then Commander of the Department of the Cumberland—which at that time embraced the states of Kentucky and Tennessee—with headquarters in the field. For a brief period these officers acted in unison; but the failing health of General Anderson compelled him to relinquish active service, and on October 8th, 1861, General Sherman assumed the chief command of the Department.

The sad ending of the campaign in Missouri during 1861 led to an investigation of the military affairs in the West; and the Adjutant General of the United States army visited the different departments to ascertain the opinions of the various commanders as to the probable result of the efforts being made by the United States Gov-



ernment for the suppression of the rebellion, as well as to consider the best means to be adopted to re-open the Mississippi river to the commerce of the world. On this latter question there was a great diversity of opinion manifested by the different generals, and General Sherman asserted that if the United States authorities intended to open that highway it would require the assignment of at least two hundred thousand men to make any impression on the rebel forces in Tennessee and Mississippi.

It having been contended by the Cabinet officials that the rebellion could be suppressed in ninety days, such a proposition as General Sherman's was deemed preposterous, and the proposer was declared insane. The correspondents of the press, who had been excluded from his camp, revived the statements of the routed troops from Bull Run, and called for the removal of "such a maniac" from command. [The reason why the correspondents were excluded from the camps was in consequence of their publication of army movements long before they should have been known.]

But time has since proved that General Sherman knew what he was saying when he made the assertion above alluded to, as it has certainly required a far larger number than two hundred thousand men to re-open that water course to the Gulf.

The policy which directed military matters in the fall of 1861, has always been a cause of surprise, especially that part which related to the Western campaigns.

Sherman was then in command in Kentucky, stationed at Louisville, with less than fifteen thousand men under his control, and with seven important points to guard; and he was confronted by Buckner and Johnson with upward of

seventy-five thousand men. He telegraphed to General McClellan, explaining his situation, and his utter inability to defend the posts in question with his limited means, and received the following reply—not a hint at re-enforcements, but simply this :

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5, 1861.—10 p. m.

*To Brig-Gen. W. T. SHERMAN, Louisville :* How near to Louisville is Buckner? Is he moving on Louisville? Has he crossed Green River? Is the bridge over Green River repaired? Can he cross Green River in the face of McCook? If he was on the North side of Green River, how long could McCook hold him out of Louisville, holding the railroad, with power to destroy it, inch by inch? How many guns has McCook?

G. B. MCCLELLAN, Maj-Gen.

The dispatch, in effect, gave up Kentucky, and all the small forces there, their arms and munitions of war. It contemplated that McCook, with his five thousand men, should defend the passage of Green River against a force of ten to one; that he should defend the railroad and destroy it, inch by inch, in the presence of such an overwhelming force; and when the last inch was captured, nothing remained but to surrender the little army under his command, and also to surrender Louisville, making the Ohio river the boundary.

The persistency with which Sherman urged upon the War department the necessity of largely reinforcing the troops in the West, preparatory to a forward movement, called forth some rather strong censures from Washington; therefore, disheartened by the neglect with which his advice was treated, and fully convinced of the inutility of an advance without sufficient forces for the purpose, he asked to be relieved from the command of the Department and

assigned to a less responsible position. His request was at once complied with, and his department was, on the 10th of November, 1861, incorporated with the Department of the Ohio.

General Sherman was next ordered to report to General Halleck, the new commander of the Department of the West, and by him was assigned to a command in the extreme west of the State of Missouri, with his headquarters at Sedalia. He was, however, shortly after transferred to Benton Barracks, near St. Louis, where he was placed in command of a Camp of Instruction. He therefore became engaged during the winter of 1861-2, in preparing troops for an active campaign in the following spring; and the manner with which the men of the Northwest have since fought, has given a good and lasting evidence of the value of the lessons they received, at the hands of General Sherman, at the commencement of the war in the Mississippi River region of territory.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### GENERAL SHERMAN IN THE FIELD.

*Ordered into active field service—Participation in the West Tennessee Campaign under General Grant—Shiloh—Major-General of Volunteers—Grant's approval of him—Corinth, &c.*

General Halleck, as soon as active operations had been begun in his Department, ordered General Sherman to a more important position; and when General Grant moved upon Fort Donelson, Sherman was intrusted with the command of the base of operations and supplies at Pa-

cucuh. He sent forward to the troops in the field both supplies and re-inforcements; and so ably did he administer the duties of his position that General Grant officially acknowledged that to "General Sherman's promptness" he was more than indebted for the success of his operations.

The troops under General Grant were subsequently forwarded up the Tennessee River to Pittsburg Landing, and at the request of that officer General Sherman was assigned to him as a Division commander. He was placed at the head of the Fifth Division, and held the advance of the army at Shiloh Church, the headquarters being located at Savannah.

Generals A. Sidney Johnston and Beauregard had control of the rebel army in the Southwest at the time when Grant made his advance, and those officers, knowing that General Buell was marching through Tennessee to join Grant's Army, at once took the initiative and attacked Grant before Buell could arrive. Sherman's command, however, was in a strong position; and by fine tactical manœuvres he enabled to hold it for some time, meanwhile punishing the enemy severely.

Sherman's command, on April 6th, was partially composed of green "men"—men unused to being under fire—and they, finding the enemy approaching with overwhelming numbers, broke and fled in disorder. With the remnant of his force he held his ground and saved the day, as was acknowledged by all the generals of that field. General Halleck in his report stated that "Sherman saved the fortunes of the day," and General Grant thus speaks of him in his official report of April 9th, 1862: "I feel it a duty, however, to a gallant and able officer, Brigadier-

General W. T. Sherman to make a special mention. He not only was with his command during the entire two days of the action, but displayed great judgment and skill in the management of his men. Although severely wounded in the hand on the first day, his place was never vacant. He was again wounded, and had three horses killed under him."

During that battle nearly every officer looked, next after Grant, to Sherman as the saving genius of the moment. He was everywhere on the field, riding from place to place, selecting positions for his artillery, disposing of his men, sending directions to his subordinates and suggestions to his equals, and inspiring every one by his indomitable spirit. And yet, notwithstanding the important part he took on that field, there was no ostentation, no overbearing conduct, no display of superiority in his words or manners.

When recommending him for promotion after the success of Vicksburg, General Grant wrote of Sherman as follows: "At the battle of Shiloh, on the first day, he held with raw troops the key-point of the landing. It is no disparagement to any other officer to say that I do not believe there was another division commander on the field who had the skill and experience to have done it. To his individual efforts I am indebted for the success of that battle."

Notwithstanding the exertions of the first day, and the consequent fatigue arising therefrom, General Sherman was ready on the second day, April 7th, when others had given out, to join the reinforcements under General Buell and to push on to victory. The rebels fought with desperate valor, but had to give way; and Sherman, by

a brilliant artillery operation on the right pushed back a body of rebel cavalry and infantry who were about to rush headlong over his forces, and caused them to retreat in disorder over their own dead and wounded.

General Sherman, on the morning of April 8th, even after two days' hard fighting, made a reconnoissance, at the head of a cavalry force and two brigades of infantry, along the Corinth road, where he found the abandoned camps of the rebels lining the roads, with hospital flags for their protection. He met a force of rebel Cavalry and drove them from their position, after which he destroyed their camp, with its stores of ammunition, &c. Sherman during this reconnoissance found the line of rebel retreat almost blocked up with abandoned wagons, ambulances, and limber boxes, showing plainly the haste and disorder with which the rebels had fallen back to Corinth.

At the earnest request of Generals Halleck and Grant, Sherman was promoted to the rank of Major-General of Volunteers to date from May 1st, 1862, and took a very important part in the operations which subsequently resulted in the evacuation of Corinth.

From the time Sherman's division broke camp at Shiloh until Corinth was occupied, it held the right flank and most exposed position of the whole army. Being always in danger of an attack, the officers and men were ready at any moment to spring from the spade to the musket or *vice versa* as the case required.

The rebels while in Corinth held two railroads, extending north and south, east and west across the country, with a vast number of locomotives and cars to bring to them speedily and certainly their reinforcements and supplies. They called to their aid all their armies from every quar-

ter of the south-west in order to overwhelm the Union army before Corinth.

The general consultation of officers took place on the 11th of May, and shortly after the advance was ordered. On May 17th Sherman engaged the enemy at Russell's House on the road to the city of Corinth, and the rebels were forced to give way, falling back upon their defences, while the Unionists occupied their former positions. Sherman entrenched himself and remained at this point until May 27th, when he again advanced. A sharp fight took place between Sherman's division and the rebels, on that day, but before a severe engagement could be brought on, although Sherman made every preparation for it, the rebels retired. The Union forces pushed on for the works, and Sherman's command—which had between the intervals of leaving Shiloh and the taking of the works, occupied and entrenched several district camps in a manner to excite the admiration and high commendation of the commanding generals—was the first to occupy the rebel defences.

By eight o'clock on May 30th 1862, Sherman's troops had entered the city of Corinth and got beyond it, where they rested for a short time from their labors, while one brigade continued to pursue the flying rebels as far as Tuscumbia Creek—the cavalry continuing the chase to a much greater distance.

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## CHAPTER VII.

## SHERMAN, THE RULER OF MEMPHIS--THE WINTER CAMPAIGN

*Clears the roads leading to Corinth—Ordered to Memphis—Operations against Guerillas and rebel sympathizers—Prepares for active service—The Vicksburg campaign of 1862—Arkansas post, &c.*

General Sherman with his division next pushed on to Holly Springs, which he occupied on June 20th. This position was important inasmuch as it was the key to Corinth from the south; and to prevent the rebels from surprising the latter city the bridge and trestle work of the Mississippi railroad at that point were destroyed in such a manner that it would take a long time to repair them.

Shortly after this operation General Grant was placed in chief command of the district,\* and General Sherman was by him selected to act as military ruler over the city of Memphis, which had surrendered on June 6th 1862 to the naval forces operating on the Mississippi River, in conjunction with General Grant's movement by land. General Sherman assumed command on July 21st 1862.

While occupying the city of Memphis and surrounding vicinity General Sherman devoted his whole energies to the task of suppressing the guerrillas of that region, and rooting out the system of aiding the rebels by contraband traffic. He found the city disposed to resist his jurisdiction, but by the use of judicious and yet stringent measures he restored the rebellious citizens to order. All unoccupied buildings were taken possession of by the military

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\* See Stansfield's Life of Grant, price 25 cents, T. R. Dawley Publisher.



authorities, and all "registered enemies"—to use the phrase—were ordered to take the oath of allegiance or leave the lines of the Union armies.

During the fall of 1862 General Sherman began to prepare for more active service, and when the grand army under General Grant was organized for the Vicksburg campaign, General Sherman was placed in command of the Fifteenth Army Corps. The order organizing this army bore date from December 22d, 1862; but the constitution of the forces was commenced at a much earlier period.

The advance of Grant's main army by way of the Jackson and Grand Junction Railroad commenced November 28th 1862, and progressed steadily until the surrender of Holly Springs on December 20th, 1862, when Grant was compelled to fall back to that point to preserve his line of communications. The movement of Grant's column was intended as a co-operative one with an expedition by way of the Mississippi River from Memphis to Vicksburg—Grant to threaten an attack by way of Jackson, while Sherman assaulted the defences of Walnut Hills by way of the Yazoo River.\*

As General Sherman started from Friar's Point on the "Forest Queen" on December 21st, it was impossible for him to hear of the surrender of Holly Springs on the previous day, nor the consequent falling back of Grant's army. He therefore pushed on to the Yazoo River with the full confidence of a co-operation of the left wing of the main army in the attack.

On December 27th 1862, the main forces under Sherman, consisting of four divisions, having successfully disembarked at Johnston's Landing, near the mouth of the Ya-

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\* See Life of Grant.

zoo River, the command next prepared for an assault upon the northern works that defended the city of Vicksburg. By early mording the advance had moved some distance inland.

Vicksburg, from this point of landing, was peculiarly situated, being on a hill with a line of hills surrounding it at a distance of several miles and extending from Haines' Bluff on the Yazoo River, to Warrenton, ten miles below the city, on the Mississippi River. The low country in the vicinity is swampy, filled with sloughs, bayous and lagoons, and to approach Vicksburg by this route with a large force, even in times of peace, would be almost an impossibility; therefore, with an enemy in front the chances were still more against success.

On Saturday morning, December 27th 1862, Sherman's troops were in line of battle, and by dark the enemy was driven at least a quarter of a mile from his first position. Thus Sherman had so far successfully carried out his part of the plan of battle, and was in expectation of hearing the thunder of Grant's cannon on his left, but the disgraceful surrender of Holly Springs ruined the whole campaign.

Next day the Union troops fought with great bravery and spirit; but the non-arrival of the left wing disarranged the order set down for the attack. The enemy that had been employed in retarding Grant's movements were now able to reinforce the garrison at Vicksburg, and by rapid concentration were enabled to mass upon Sherman's small body of troops—refusing, however, to leave their defensive works, but instead employing the night in constructing others of earth.

During December 29th several brilliant charges were made by the Union troops upon the rebel works on Chick-

asaw Bluffs; but all was in vain, for the rebels even without the defences were much stronger than the assaulting columns. Therefore after the burial of the dead the command was withdrawn, and re-embarked in the transports which were lying on the Yazoo River.

On the 1st of January, 1863, General McClernand arrived, and by virtue of seniority on the lineal roll of the army register, assumed command of the whole of the right wing of Grant's army, General Sherman resuming command of the Fifteenth Army Corps.

General Grant in speaking of this operation, after the capture of Vicksburg, stated as follows: "General Sherman's arrangement as commander of troops in the attack upon Chickasaw Bluffs last December was admirable; seeing the ground from the opposite side from the attack, I saw the impossibility of making it successful."

General Sherman, on January 4th 1863, issued a congratulatory order to his troops in which he praised their prowess in the attack upon Chickasaw Bluffs, and also announced his relinquishment of the chief command and assumption of that of his own corps.

As General Sherman had refused to allow the newspaper correspondents to accompany his expedition, the whole Press of the North took the opportunity arising from his repulse to abuse him, to cast doubts upon his military capacity, and to call for his removal. General Grant, however, maintained his high opinion of him, and retained him in command, whereupon the Press called for the removal of both unless Sherman was dismissed. Much however of this abuse arose from the fact that neither Grant nor Sherman would, like the political generals, truckle to the correspondents, but preferred to allow time and their

own actions to carve for them a name and create a feeling of gratitude and appreciation in the hearts of the people of the country. Time has proved how little the Press knew of either of the men who now lead the two mightiest armies ever organized in the world.

The rebels had established at this period of the war, a fortified position known as Fort Hindman, at Arkansas Post on the Arkansas River, and General Sherman had devised a plan with Admiral Porter for the capture of the post, with its garrison and armaments entire. The arrival of General McClelland, however, prevented Sherman from assuming the chief command of the military portion of the expedition; but although the former held the nominal command the latter planned the attack and carried out its details. Grant knew who was entitled to the credit and gave it to the right man.

The Union forces, consisting of the Thirteenth and Fifteenth corps, after leaving the Yazoo River, made their way up the Mississippi River to Montgomery Point, opposite the mouth of the White River. On Friday, January 9th, 1863, three iron-clads, with all the light draft gunboats moved up the White River, followed by a fleet of transports. After ascending the White River about fifteen miles the fleet passed through a cut-off to the left, eight miles in length, into the Arkansas River, reaching the latter stream at about eleven o'clock in the morning. At about half past four o'clock in the afternoon, the fleet moved to the shore, and preparations were made to land three miles below the fort. The artillery and wagons were brought on shore during the evening and night, and in the morning of January 10th, the troops were landed

and marshalled in the fields bordering on the north bank. The attack, however, was begun by the gunboats.

The guns of the rebel fort commanded the river as it stretched to the east and even after the turn to the South. The advance of the troops had therefore to be along the outside bank of this curve of the river, and it was expected by the men that the attack upon the fort would be made during that day; but at sun-down they were not in position. Orders were therefore issued for the troops to get into position during the night so as to make an early attack the next morning.

The force of General Sherman worked its way through forest and marsh round to the right so as to invest the fort, while a brigade was thrown across the river to prevent the arrival down of re-inforcements to the rebels.

The fort was a regular square bastioned work one hundred yards each exterior side, with a deep ditch about fifteen feet wide, and a parapet eighteen feet high. It was armed with twelve guns—two of which were eight-inch, and one nine-inch. The number of rebel troops which it contained was about five thousand, with an additional force on the outside of the walls, all under the command of General Churchill.

During the evening of January 10th, the fort was bombarded by the iron-clads. The engagement was a brisk one and lasted for half-an-hour.

About noon, on January 11th, signals were made for a joint military and naval attack on the work. The gunboats approached and the fort opened fire, being replied to by the guns of the fleet. At the same time a battery under General Sherman's command began to fire, and the troops were advanced to attack. The heavy guns of the

fort were soon silenced; but the military contest still continued and became very hot during the afternoon. At four o'clock the enemy raised the white flag, and the troops rushed into the fort and occupied it.

The Union loss was about six hundred, while the rebels lost besides the killed, fifteen thousand prisoners, eight thousand stand of arms, twenty cannon and a large amount of ordnance and commissary stores. The rebel rifle pits were leveled and the fort blown up, after which the troops returned to join General Grant.

General Grant during July 1863 stated that "the conception of the attack upon Arkansas Post was General Sherman's; and his part of the execution, no one denies was as good as it possibly could have been."

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### SHERMAN DURING THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN.

*The Steele's Bayou Expedition—The feint on the North—Rapid marching to Grand Gulf—Participation in the Advance—Attack upon and first occupation of Jackson—Advance to and passage of the Black River—Capture of the Walnut Hills—Attack on Vicksburg—The Siege—Sherman's expedition to the Rear—The pursuit of Johnston's rebel forces—Second capture of Jackson—Brigadier-General of the Regular Army, &c.*

During the early part of 1863, the forces under General Grant made a number of side expeditions around Vicksburg for the purpose of drawing off the enemy's attention from the main operations of the Union troops, and in one of these Sherman took a very important part.

Admiral Porter had made a reconnoissance down Steele's Bayou, and through Black Bayou to Duck Creek,

and on March 14th, 1862, reported to General Grant that the route was navigable for small vessels of light draft. The object to be gained was an entrance into the Yazoo River above Haine's Bluff. A number of vessels were sent by this route, and during the early part of the expedition was accompanied by the General commanding, who however returned to Young's Point to send forward a pioneer force, to clear away the wild overhanging trees which obstructed the progress of the vessels.

Soon after General Grant reached Young's Point, a message was received from Admiral Porter, who had proceeded along the bayou, requesting the co-operation of a good military force. General Grant promptly sent him a division of the Fifteenth Army Corps with General Sherman at its head. The major part of this military force had to pass overland to the point of the bayous, as the channel of the tortuous water courses was too shallow to admit of transports. General Sherman, marched himself at the head of a single pioneer regiment to clear away the trees and snags; and Admiral Porter, on March 21st, finding the obstruction of the water course to be formidable, a large force of the enemy armed with powerful batteries in his front and on his flanks, and the stream too narrow for manœuvres, sent back to Sherman, then several miles distant, to hasten on his way, or his vessels would be lost. The rebels began also to press on the rear of the gunboats and to fell trees into the water behind them, until the vessels were in a kind of a trap, and all hope of saving them seemed to be lost.

On the morning of March 22d, Sherman received Admiral Porter's message, Delay would have been destruction, and this the General well knew. He ordered an in-

stant start, and with a large sized brigade he commenced a forced march of great rapidity over roads, mirey and swampy, until the rebel pickets were met. These were driven in, and Sherman pushed for the boats, the rebel troops moving at the same time by the flank in order to reach and seize the vessels before he could relieve those who manned them.

As the rebels approached the boats, Admiral Porter opened a heavy fire upon them with his guns, and so kept off the enemy, until Sherman's forces, which had marched rapidly to the sound of the artillery, arrived at the scene of strife. Sherman threw his whole available strength on the rebel troops and they, surprised and astonished at his arrival, retreated in hot haste, the gunboats being saved not a moment too soon. Had not Sherman performed one of the most arduous forced marches of the war, through forests and swamps of cypress and willow, the vessels must have been lost beyond redemption.

The advance on Vicksburg via the Louisiana shore commenced soon after this, and the three corps marched from Milliken's Bend. In order to deceive the enemy in Vicksburg Grant planned a feint movement on the north, which, however, he feared to carry out lest the people should think he had made another failure in his attempts to take Vicksburg. Sherman requested that he might be allowed to conduct this operation, and General Grant consented "providing it could be done without the ill effect on the army and the country of an appearance of a repulse."

Sherman in his report of the operations says; "Knowing full well that the army could distinguish a feint from a real attack, by succeeding events, I made the necessary



orders, embarked the Second Division on ten steam transports and sailed for the Yazoo River."

Early on the morning of April 29th, 1863, General Sherman, with this force proceeded to the mouth of the Yazoo River, where he found several vessels of the fleet ready to co-operate with the feigned movement. The united military and naval forces then proceeded up the Yazoo River, in proper order, and lay for that night at the mouth of the Chickasaw Bayou. The next morning, at an early hour, the fleet passed up within easy range of the enemy's batteries. The gunboats made an attack upon the works, and for four hours a very pretty demonstration was kept up, after which the vessels withdrew out of range. Towards evening, General Sherman, in full view of the enemy, disembarked his troops, and made a great show of preparation for an attack and assault. As the works were heavily armed, such a course of action, if real, would have been nothing less than madness, and was only justified by the fact that show and not work was intended.

The gunboats again opened fire, and by the activity of the enemy it was very plain that he was deceived by the demonstration, and was making every preparation, by calling for reinforcements, &c., to resist the movement. This was all that was wanted, and Sherman re-embarked his troops during the night.

Next day, a number of other demonstrations were made along the Yazoo River, until the rebels became greatly confused as to the object of Sherman, and the point where he meant to strike. While thus engaged Sherman received orders to re-join General Grant at Grand Gulf. He therefore ordered the two divisions left behind at Miliken's Bend to march via Richmond, La., to Hard Times, a landing

nearly opposite Grand Gulf, while he kept up the feint along the Yazoo; then dropping quietly down the river with the remainder of his force to Young's Point, he speedily followed his advanced troops and soon caught up to them; and on May 6th, after a hasty forced march of about sixty miles, arrived at Grand Gulf. During that night and the next morning, the troops were transported across the Mississippi, and pushed forward to the rear of Vicksburg.

On May 12th, Sherman's forces participated in the skirmishing operations at Fourteen Mile Creek; after which, in conjunction with General McPherson, started for Jackson, the Mississippi State Capital. The rain fell in torrents during this march, and the troops had to travel over mirey roads, made still more disagreeable by the wheels of the artillery and wagons cutting up the ground. Notwithstanding this fact the troops pushed on for fourteen miles without straggling, and in the best of spirits, "for Sherman led the way."

Arriving before Jackson, Sherman found that the rebel General Johnston had opposed to him a force of infantry and artillery; but after a brief contest the Union commander by a reconnoissance soon discovered this defence to be very weak, and that the main force of the rebels had gone along the Vicksburg railroad to attack McPherson's column. Johnston's army was beaten, and Sherman occupied the city of Jackson, where he destroyed the railroads, bridges, and all Government and other property that could be made of use by the enemy in a military point of view.

Early on the morning of May 16th, General Grant sent to Sherman an order to move with all possible despatch and join the main army via Bolton. In one hour from

the time he received the order Sherman and the advance of his command were on the road. The whole column after a forced march of twenty miles reached Bolton that night.

The order now came to keep on to Bridgeport, and by noon the next day Sherman was at that place, on the banks of the Big Black River. Pontoon bridges had already been sent by General Grant, and the troops crossed the stream and early next morning continued the advance towards Vicksburg.

Sherman now held the right of Grant's line, and to him was assigned the duty of opening the communication to the new water base on the Yazoo River. By a quick detour to the right he took possession of Walnut Hill, and thus enabled the fleet and army again to co-operate.

With regard to the foregoing operation General Grant wrote to the War Department as follows: "His rapid march to join the army" after the feint in the Yazoo River, "his management at Jackson, Miss., in the first attack; his almost unequalled march from Jackson to Bridgeport and passage of Black River; his securing Walnut Hills on the 18th of May, attest his (Sherman) great merit as a soldier."

Sherman had from the first held the right of Grant's army; and now, strange as it may appear, he by the disposition of that army occupied the very ground he had sought to take the previous December by way of the Yazoo, having the following May seized it from the rear.

The order now came to attack the defences of Vicksburg, and promptly the men rushed to their work. The ground over which the advance was made was very rugged and broken, covered with abatis, and defended by artil-

lery. Sherman's troops, always in time, ever ready at the proper moment, was enabled to make a vigorous assault, although in consequence of the nature of the ground the line was slow and irregular in reaching the trenches. The advance stormed the rebel defences with somewhat severe loss, and even gained position; but found it impossible to enter the works in consequence of their strength. The fight was continued till night; but the men were still outside the defences, and the assaulting column was withdrawn to a more sheltered position, to rest. Sherman held his line of skirmishers well up to the rebel forts on his front, and his artillerists were engaged in an unavailing attempt to destroy the works of the enemy.

On May 22d, another assault, still more severe, was made on the rebel works, and Sherman's men pushed through all sorts of obstructions, including tangled wire, cane, wild vines, tree-boughs, &c., up to the base of some of the works. The rebels showered upon the assaulting column shells and hand grenades; and yet, in spite of these deadly and destructive missiles, the gallant men of his corps lay under the very guns of the fort, for Sherman had inspired every private of his command with his own indomitable spirit and courage. The loss was terrific, and the works were too strong to be taken by assault; therefore, repulsed, but not defeated, the men retired from the unequal contest. The spade now took the place of the bayonet; and the fortifications were approached by counter-works.

While the miners and engineers were busy with their operations a report reached General Grant that Johnston with a rebel force was about to cross the Black River to

attack him in the rear. He therefore, knowing he could trust General Sherman with that duty, ordered him to take a certain number of troops, and find out where Johnston's forces were. About this time a rebel courier was captured, en route from Vicksburg to Johnston, and on him was found a letter from a soldier to his wife, in which it was stated that the defenders of that city were resigned to their fate, and had put their trust in the Lord for their deliverance. They however, still lived in the hope of Johnson coming to their assistance. Grant therefore in his despatches to Sherman stated that "the enemy appeared to put a great deal of faith in the Lord and Joe Johnston, but," continued he, "you must whip Johnston at least fifteen miles from here." Had Johnston appeared, Sherman would certainly have done so; but although threatening a great attack, the rebel leader never attempted to make it. The expedition therefore returned to the Black River.

Vicksburg was surrounded on July 3d, 1863, and in accordance with a previous arrangement, Sherman at the head of all the forces except the column of occupation, started once more in the direction of Jackson. It had been agreed between Generals Grant and Sherman for the final assault on Vicksburg to take place of July 6th; and in the meantime the latter was instructed to get up his supplies so that he might be able to move at a moment's notice. Sherman at once made his preparations, and (adds Grant) "when the place surrendered on the 4th, too days earlier than I had fixed for the attack, General Sherman was found ready, and moved at once."

The army under this leader advanced steadily, until on July 12th, he had invested the city of Jackson, from Pearl

River on the north to the same stream south of that place—the river passing through the heart of the city. By this manœuvre, he succeeded in cutting off a large quantity of rolling stock from the Confederacy. He also succeeded while foraging, in capturing Jeff Davis's library, consisting of several thousand volumes and a quantity of private papers, &c., which had been secreted in a house some distance outside of Jackson. Some of the papers bore evidence of the deep-laid plot of the rebellion, and showed how long the scheme had been in maturing.

On July 12th, Sherman sent out a cavalry force to break the railroad east of Jackson, and to destroy all the bridges, culverts, rolling stock, &c., in order to cut off the retreat of the rebels.

The next day under cover of a fog, the rebels made a sortie from Jackson upon the investing forces under Sherman; but the enemy was met by great resistance and repulsed. Shortly after this Joe Johnston's command began evacuating the city, and on the night of July 16th, the rebel leader left with the remnant of his forces. Had he not done so, the next day would have found him enclosed within a wall of Union bayonets.

Sherman at once occupied the city, and sent expeditions in all directions destroying bridges, water-tanks, railroads and every kind of property of military use to the enemy. "The last capture of Jackson," said Grant, "and dispersion of Johnston's army, entitle General Sherman to more credit than usually falls to the lot of one man to earn."

For the gallant part he had taken in this campaign General Grant recommended Sherman for the vacant Brigadier-Generalship caused by the retirement of General

Harney; and the President appointed him to the position, with a commission dating from July 4th, 1863. The Senate unanimously confirmed the appointment.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### SHERMAN AT CHATTANOOGA.

*The march across the country from Memphis to Chattanooga—The Chattanooga Campaign—Chase of Bragg to Ringgold—Relief of Knoxville—Return to Chattanooga—Dinner at Memphis, &c.*

After a brief rest Sherman's troops returned towards Vicksburg, and during the month of September lay in camp along the Big Black River guarding the region east of that fortified city. After the disaster of Chickamaug the General-in-chief telegraphed to him to send a division at once to reinforce Rosecrans, and at four o'clock on that same afternoon, September 22d, the selected division marched into Vicksburg, and embarked for Memphis. The next day he received peremptory orders to follow with his whole corps, and started instantly for Vicksburg—his troops being always ready for active operations at the shortest notice. On September 27th, he was on the River en route for Memphis, all his troops being in transports within call. In consequence of the low stage of the water, and the scarcity of fuel, his main army did not arrive at Memphis before October 4th; but the advance forces had already reached Corinth en route for Chattanooga.

General Halleck next ordered Sherman to move his corps and all other available troops to Athens, Alabama, following and repairing the railroad, and supplying him-

self en route. At once the work was commenced along the railroad, and continued night and day. In order, however, to move his trains the faster, he sent them by the ordinary road under escort—marching one whole division overland.

The rebels took the alarm at this movement eastward, and a force was sent by them to Salem and Tuscumbia, with the intention of preventing a junction between Rosecrans and Sherman. Hearing of this Sherman, on October 11th, ordered forward his whole force towards Corinth, and started himself on a special train on the 13th, attended by his own regiment of regulars, the Thirteenth U. S. Infantry, as an escort.

A pretty little incident occurred while Sherman was en route. Chalmers' rebel forces had invested a small force of Union troops in a stackade at Colliersville, and as Sherman's train approached it was fired upon. The General saw the position of affairs, and soon changed the aspect; for leading his own escort he ordered a charge upon the rebels, and beat off a superior force, scattering the foe in every direction.

Reaching Corinth that night, Sherman ordered one division to push speedily on to and through Iuka to Bear Creek—several miles beyond---and after making certain dispositions of his troops he again directed his attention to the railroad. A severe fight took place at Cane Creek, after which Tuscumbia was occupied on October 27th.

At this time General Grant was in full command of the "Military Division of the Mississippi," and Sherman was placed at the head of the "Army and Department of the Tennessee" On October 27th an order was received from General Grant for Sherman "to drop all work on the rail-



road east of Bear Creek," and to march instantly for Bridgeport near Chattanooga. Instantly the troops were set in motion, and by the 1st of November Sherman crossed the Tennessee River at Eastport at the head of his column. The state of the river prevented the army from crossing, and the troops had to march via Fayetteville to Bridgeport.

Having telegraphed to General Grant from Bridgeport the exact position of each division of his forces, Sherman pushed on to Chattanooga, where he arrived on November 15th, and reported in person. Grant received him cordially, and ordered him to make certain demonstrations on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge preparatory to future operations. Notwithstanding this long march from Memphis to Bridgeport, Sherman "saw enough of the condition of the men and animals in Chattanooga to inspire him with new energy," and he at once began moving certain portions of his forces, while he himself in a small row boat started for Bridgeport to arrange the movements of his remaining columns. At this stage of the proceedings the roads were in a horrible condition, and army movements caused considerable labor to both men and commanders.

On the 23d of November, Sherman had three divisions behind the heights which faced the mouth of the Chickamauga River, while the fourth operated against Lookout Mountain. During that night he moved a force quietly across the river and captured the enemy's pickets, thus keeping his movements a secret for the time. To the surprise of the rebels, the next morning showed to them a foe of eight thousand men on the east bank of the Tennessee, protected by a *tete du pont*, and by dawn a pontoon bridge, nearly a quarter of a mile long was begun. Shortly after

noon the bridge was complete and the troops marching across.

The following incident is related of this event: "General Howard with his division was ordered to join General Sherman, and when the former came up the latter was standing on the unfinished pontoon bridge which he was building. The last boat of the bridge was being put in the centre of the stream as General Howard arrived and introduced himself across the slight gulf between the two. At the moment of its occurrence the meeting was one of considerable interest—the representative of the army of the east and the leader of one of the armies of the west, meeting thus, for the first time, on the same field. Sherman stood on the north end of the bridge, dressed loosely, with a warm gum overcoat thrown around him, directing the completion of the bridge; and as soon as the boat was put in he sprang over and shook the hand of the princely Howard."

During the whole morning the weather had been overhanging and drizzly, and concealed Sherman's manœuvres. Between three and four o'clock in the afternoon the position at the foot of Missionary Ridge was gained, and quickly pushing up the hill the enemy was thoroughly surprised and the height was taken. Sherman gave his orders in a very quiet tone of voice; and directed how to form for the assault, remarking that the enemy was reported very heavy in his front. The formation as ordered, was echelon on the left, which was to keep well towards Chickamauga Creek;

"And" added Sherman "I want you to keep up the formation, four hundred yards distance, until you get to the foot of the hill."

“And shall we keep it after that?” inquired one of his division generals.

“You may go up the hill,” was Sherman’s reply “if you like, and can.”

Shortly after Sherman saw that the advance had got into position, and he therefore gave orders for the assault in the following words:—

“I see Davis is up. I guess you may as well go on and take the hill.”

The hill was taken; but the enemy vexed and annoyed at being caught in such a manner, and seriously threatened on the flank, fought with some amount of desperation. Sherman’s artillery which had been dragged up the steep hill sides soon silenced him, and the position was gained.

The chief objective point, however, was now seen to be the second spur on the ridge, still beyond; a gap being between the position gained and the one desired. To prevent mishap, Sherman fortified what he had thus secured, and prepared for further operations.

To Sherman was thus again given the vital position where as it would appear to the country, he was sure to sustain defeat; but in reality it was one on which the success of the whole campaign would depend. Sherman was to attack Missionary Ridge with great vigor and determination, and it would be necessary for the enemy to mass their forces on that point to resist the movement. The rebels in order to make any sort of resistance would have to weaken another portion of their line, and to cause them to do this was the main object of Sherman’s movement. The frowning heights to be assaulted were of such a character that the attempt to scale them appeared to be little short

of madness, yet Sherman undertook the task ; and by half past three o'clock in the the afternoon of November 24th, the whole of the northern extremity of Missionary Ridge to near the tunnel was in Sherman's possession. During the night he fortified the position thus secured, making it equal, if not superior, in strength to that held by the enemy.

Next morning before sunrise, Sherman personally inspected the whole position. Between him and the enemy was a valley—the sides and crest of the opposite hill being wooded, with the farther point held by the enemy's armed breastworks supported by infantry. At a more distant point of the same ridge the rebels were in force, and their artillery commanded the disputed ground. The enemy's position was almost impregnable ; but still it was to be assaulted. As the sun rose, the bugles of the Union advance sounded "Forward" and the men moved rapidly down and across the valley, and up the hill beyond, carrying everything before them. The artillery and breastworks commanding the position swept the crest, and for an hour a deadly conflict ensued on the right, while the left of Sherman's line became hotly engaged abreast of the tunnel. About ten o'clock in the morning the fight raged furiously, and reinforcements were sent up ; but the crest was so crowded that the Union troops had to fall away to the west of the hill. The enemy had massed heavily, under cover of the brush, and moved out in great strength upon the small forces of Sherman's men. This sudden movement of the rebels caused some confusion among the attacking troops who fell back, but re-formed in good order at the other end of the field. The assaulting column, however, advanced to the very rifle-pits of the enemy and

held their position firmly and without wavering. It is true that when the two brigades fell back, the rebels made a show of pursuit; but they were so ably caught in flank, by the well directed fire of one brigade on the wooded crest, that they hastily sought cover behind the hill.

Sherman obstinately held the position thus gained; and as the rebels could not afford to lose it, their leaders sent during the afternoon column after column of troops to its support, and concentrated their artillery fire from every hill and spur that gave a view of any part of the ground: Sherman's men had at last to give way before this pressure. The enemy in his desperation to defeat or resist the progress of Sherman, weakened his centre on Missionary Ridge; which fact was no sooner ascertained than Grant ordered an advance at once. The heavy masses that were fighting Sherman now found Thomas on the left flank and their centre broken in. They turned, but it was too late, for they had committed the fatal error which it had been Sherman's duty to endeavor to make them do, and the victory of Chattanooga was won, although Sherman's forces were beaten back.

Now came the pursuit. Sherman pushed after the retreat in forces along the left, and every step he advanced he met the unmistakable signs of the retreat of a defeated, dispirited foe. The roads were literally lined with *debris*. At night on the 26th, the rear guard was overtaken and engaged, and next day three columns were pursuing the rebels; all moving upon one point of concentration. Sherman, however, detached Howard from his immediate command, and sent him to destroy the roads into East Tennessee, to prevent Longstreet, who was in the vicinity of Knoxville, from again marching towards Chatta-

nooga. Sherman continued the chase to Ringgold where he found General Grant. The pursuit was then given up and the troops ordered back to Chattanooga. Tennessee was redeemed.\*

Sherman's task, however, was not finished. Although his troops were tired and weary, still while there was work to be done they were ready to perform it. General Grant had ordered certain forces forward to the relief of Knoxville; but when that officer returned to Chattanooga on the 28th, the troops were still there. "I therefore determined," says Grant, in his official report, "notwithstanding the fact that two divisions of Sherman's forces had marched from Memphis, and had gone into battle immediately on their arrival at Chattanooga, to send him with his command." Accordingly Sherman was placed in command of the relieving columns. The troops, which seven days before had left their camps on the other side of the Tennessee river with but two days' rations, without a change of clothing and stripped for the fight, with but a single coat or blanket per man from the General to the humblest private were again on the march. The only provisions they had received had been what they had gathered by the way, and consequently they were badly supplied for such an expedition. "But," says Sherman, "we had learned that twelve thousand men, our fellow soldiers, were beleaguered in the mountain town of Knoxville, eighty-four miles distant, that they needed relief and must have it in three days. This was enough; and it had to be done."

It is needless here to say that the march was accomplished in time to relieve the garrison at Knoxville—for that

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\*For the Chattanooga campaign, complete, see *Life of Grant*, price 25 cents.

fact is too well known to those who have watched the proceedings of this war. The roads over which Sherman had to march his troops were in the most horrible condition ; but in spite of every obstacle, broken bridges and bad roads, the advance of Sherman's troops arrived at Knoxville, on Decembem 4th, and Longstreet finding he was in danger raised the siege. Then, and not till then, Sherman allowed his troops to rest—his work was done.

General Burnside on December 7th, 1863, officially acknowledged to General Sherman the obligation he was under to him for his promptness in coming to his relief during the siege ; and expressed his full conviction that his approach served to raise the siege. Shortly after this, General Sherman and his command returned to Chattanooga, after one of the most arduous campaigns of the war.

During the early part of 1864, General Sherman wrote a very lengthy and complete letter on the proper treatment of disloyal people in a conquered region of country—a document of value unequalled in completeness of any issued during the war, and proving that Sherman is not only a man of the sword but also a master of the pen.

General Sherman, on January 25th, 1864, was honored with a magnificent dinner at Memphis, where he delivered the speech in which he said : “ I was at West Point with General Grant. The General is not a man of remarkable learning, but he is one of the bravest I ever saw. He smokes his cigar with coolness in the midst of flying shot. He has no fear, because he is an honest man. I like Grant. I do not say he is a hero ; I do not believe in heroes ; but I know he is a gentleman, and a good man.” Such was Sherman's expressed opinion of General Grant.\*

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\*Larke's Life of Grant, page 456.

Soon after this dinner, Sherman started on his famous Central Mississippi expedition of 1864.

An incident is related of Sherman's men during the Chattanooga campaign that is very interesting :

After "the boys" returned to Chattanooga, one of the sentinels challenged one of Sherman's men and received the reply that he "belonged to the Fiftcenth Corps."

"Where's your badge?" inquired the sentinel.

"What badge?" was the interrogatory reply.

"The badge of your corps. We wear a crescent to designate us." The querist belonged to the Eleventh Corps.

"Badge?" smartly replied the man. "Forty rounds of ammunition in our cartridge boxes; sixty rounds in our pockets; a march from Memphis to Chattanooga; a battle and pursuit; another march to Knoxville; and victory everywhere. That is badge enough for us."

He passed the sentinel without further question.

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## CHAPTER X.

### SHERMAN'S CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI EXPEDITION.

*The Cavalry party—Sherman's moveable column—No base of supplies—Destruction and Desolation to the rebels, &c.*

About the time the citizens of Memphis were getting up the dinner in Sherman's honor, he was preparing for his Central Mississippi expedition; and immediately after the dinner he left that city for Vicksburg, having first ordered General W. Sooy Smith to start at the head of a force of Cavalry, 8,000 strong, to march from Memphis on



February 1st, move down to Meridian, and, destroying the enemy's railroads, to join him at that point. This force, however, did not commence its movement at the proper time.

On the 3d of February, 1864, General Sherman, at the head of a force of twenty thousand infantry and twelve hundred cavalry, and a wagon train containing twenty days' rations moved out from Vicksburg. As he did not want to be interfered with in his rear, he held no line of communications; but cut himself loose from his base, and constituted his force into a strictly "mobile column." The perils attending such a column in an enemy's country, none can appreciate but those who have participated in such an expedition; and yet nothing is stronger if it only accomplish its mission within the time set down for the work.

It is true Sherman expected fighting, and was ready for it; but the rebels retreated before him, delaying him by slight skirmishes, destroying roads and bridges, and placing impediments in the way.

The line of Sherman's own march was in an easterly direction, following the same route taken by him, from Vicksburg to the Mississippi State Capital, during the previous July. He first crossed the Big Black River, thence passed to the old battle-field of Champions' Hill; thence to Clinton and Jackson. The three columns which had taken different routes were there united, and Sherman assumed command of the whole force. The march was now continued; and with but little opposition the expedition arrived at Quitman which was captured. Shortly after the village of Enterprize was taken, and still the column moved on. So rapid and bold a movement, and carried out as it was with a master hand, appeared completely to

paralyze the energies of the rebels, so much so that they could offer no serious opposition to his passage across the country.

On February 13th, Sherman's expeditionary column was at the Big Chunkey River, which it crossed and then pushed forward for Meridian. Vicksburg was at the extreme West of the State of Mississippi and Meridian at the East. Sheridan had traveled a distance of about one hundred miles across the whole State—the Garden of the Confederacy—and was now in possession of the main point of the railroad lines, the centre of which was at Meridian. On his march he had captured an immense amount of stores, and had destroyed thousands of dollar's worth of property belonging to the rebel Government including railroads, mills, &c.,

General Sherman now halted his own column to wait for General Smith's Cavalry Column, which should as before stated, have left Memphis on February 1st. Smith, however, did not arrive; he had started after the time appointed, was met en route by the rebels, and driven back defeated and disgraced. Sherman needed the eight thousand cavalry to prosecute his onward movement, and without them he did not choose to proceed further. After waiting a reasonable time, in the meanwhile destroying all he could in the vicinity, he returned to Vicksburg by the same route he had pursued in his advance. There is but little doubt, had Smith joined him at the proper time, Sherman would have pushed through Alabama and either struck at Mobile or Montgomery; but the failure of the Cavalry to join him turned the grand expedition into a mere raid—one of the most damaging and destructive, however, that had visited that part of the country, causing great alarm and consternation.

During the retrograde movement the rebels kept at a very respectful distance, never daring to attack; and the expedition returned to Vicksburg intact, after a very important three weeks' campaign.

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## CHAPTER XI.

### SHERMAN A MILITARY DIVISION COMMANDER—THE NORTHERN GEORGIA CAMPAIGN.

*The Military Division of the Mississippi—Sherman in Command—A thoroughly organized Grand Campaign—Concentration of Supplies—The Start from Chattanooga—Etowah and destruction of iron works—Dallas—Allatoona Pass—Big Shanty—Culp Farm—Kenesaw—Marietta—Roseau's Raid—A. J. Smith's Expedition—Atlanta—Death of McPherson—Evacuation of Atlanta—Major-General of Regulars, &c.*

On the 12th of March, 1863, General Sherman succeeded General Grant in the command of the military division of the Mississippi, the latter officer being placed at the head of the armies of the United States. The military division embraced the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, and all the troops therein; and having water bases on the Mississippi River, with its eastern affluents, including the Ohio. General Grant paid General Sherman a visit shortly before the general campaign of 1864, and arranged with him for a co-operative campaign in the centre military zone, while he (Grant) personally superintended the one in the eastern zone. After this interview, General Grant returned to Washington, feeling perfectly certain that Sherman was fully competent to carry out his part of the proposed plan of operations. !

The first thing Sherman began to see about, was to improve the transportation between Nashville and Chattanooga. A very large amount of supplies was consumed each day by the army, therefore Sherman determined to make the railroad carry double the amount over the road than was wanted. Thus at the end of one month, thirty days' extra supplies were stored at Chattanooga. This plan of transporting stores to the depots was carried on throughout the whole of his Georgia campaign; for no sooner was a place taken possession of, than the railroad and transportation corps was set to work to open communication, and instantly the supplies were sent along—not merely the amount needed for present operations, but a duplicate or triplicate quantity for storage.

The stores being in depot at Chattanooga, Sherman sent out, about the latter part of April, a cavalry expedition under General Kilpatrick for the double purpose of reconnoitering the enemy's position, and also to mislead the rebels as to plans of movement.

On the 1st of May, 1864, Sherman began his movement from Chattanooga, and by the 5th his army was concentrated at Ringgold for a general advance. On the 7th the advance occupied Tunnel Hill, the remainder of the army moving by the flank. Next day a portion of the main army was in front of Rocky Faced Ridge threatening the rebel position.

Meanwhile the right of the army was moving by the flank, and on May 9th, that wing passed through Snake Creek Gap after a sharp fight. The left and centre of the line were engaged in skirmishing; on the 10th the main army was in front of Buzzard Roost, while the right was within one mile of Resacca, in a southerly direction.

General Sherman had made a disposition to capture the rebel force at Resacca, but some mistake in the conception of the orders, or other cause, prevented the proper co-operation.

Some slight skirmishing took place on May 11th, while the main army was making flank movements, and next day the greater part of Sherman's army had moved by the right flank in the direction of Snake Creek Gap. On May 13th, Sherman's army deployed in Sugar Valley, before Resacca, and cavalry reconnoissances were made, during which General Kilpatrick was wounded in the foot.

While this movement was being made, one corps of Sherman's army was making a demonstration upon Dalton on the left to hold the garrison at that point; but Sherman's flank movement compelled the evacuation of the place, and the rebels fell back to Resacca to reinforce the troops there threatened.

On May 14th commenced the battle of Resacca. Skirmishing commenced as early as daylight, and the battle continued the whole day. The corps that had been threatening Dalton the previous day joined Sherman on the left, and during the contest the rebels attempted to turn the Union right. Sherman, however, soon understood the design of the enemy, and by transferring a corps from the left to the right, the rebel movement was completely frustrated. The battle continued throughout the whole of the next day, and a portion of the army charged upon the rebel works, but was unable to hold them. A general advance was then made along the whole line, and the first series of entrenchments were carried and occupied.

The rebels, finding that the next day would bring the capture of not only Resacca but the whole force, evacuated

their works and fell back upon the Allatoona range of mountains, with a splendid defensive position in their front. Part of Sherman's forces started in pursuit while the remainder occupied Resacca, opened up communications, and commenced transporting supplies to that place, which was garrisoned as a depot for future operations.

On the 17th the army was again in motion, and the advance the next morning occupied Kingston and Rome. With the capture of Rome General Sherman secured seven fine iron works, a quantity of machinery, and a large supply of stores. Another portion of the army on the same day, May 18th, defeated the rebels at Adairsville, their main army meantime retreating across the Etowah River. A portion of the cavalry forces of Sherman's army captured the bridge across the Etowah River, and held it against the rebel cavalry, who tried to drive them from the position.

General Sherman's advance on the 19th, skirmished with the enemy from a point two miles beyond Kingston, to a point beyond Cassville, the rebels being on the retreat during the time. The enemy made a sortie after dark from Cassville, but were handsomely repulsed, and shortly after evacuated the place. Before daylight Cassville was occupied.

During the next two days there was no serious engagement, but skirmishing took place along the line of advance. On the 22d of May, General Johnston established his rebel lines along the Allatoona mountains, and part of General Sherman's forces were in his front. The rebel headquarters at this time were at Marietta, several miles further south.

A portion of General Sherman's forces on the same day, May 22d, entered the town of Etowah and destroyed the

large government iron works of the rebels. These works had been for a very long time in operation, under the direction of General Gustavus W. Smith, and was employed in casting shot, shell and ordnance for the use of the rebel army.

General Sherman's army on the 23d of May, commenced a flank movement to the right of Allatoona Range, and next day a cavalry fight took place at Taylorsville without any apparent result.

On the 24th of May, General Wheeler's rebel cavalry made a dash upon a position of General Sherman's army, and destroyed a part of the wagon trains. The Union leader had however so managed his mode of supply, that the loss of the train only caused a temporary disadvantage, and had no influence on the campaign.

A slight contest took place, on May 25th, at Pumpkinvine Creek, and the next day was employed in getting the army into position, preparatory to a severe battle, which took place on the 27th near New Hope Church and was fought between two large bodies of Generals Sherman and Johnston's forces. After three separate attacks the rebel commander ordered his forces back to their entrenchments, while the Union troops maintained their ground. \*

The next three days were employed in reorganizing the army after the recent battles; and in making flank movements and dispositions for future operations. The rebels skirmished with the advance during the whole time. On the 31st the rebels made an attack in force upon Sherman, but after an engagement of some two hours duration the enemy was driven, and Sherman's left reached the railroad near Marietta.

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[\* In so small a volume as this, it is impossible to do more than make a passing remark on each of the many contests of the Georgia campaign— Author.]

It was intended by General Sherman that an expedition should start from Memphis to engage the attention of the rebel Cavalry forces, and prevent them from interfering with the line of communication, and one started on the first of June for that purpose; but owing to some mismanagement of the commander failed entirely in its object.

Meanwhile a portion of Sherman's army moved towards Marietta, and part of his cavalry captured Allatoona Pass. The main portion of the army was making a flank movement for the purpose of avoiding the rebel position at Ackworth, and the rebels discovering the movement evacuated the place, abandoning their works &c. Sherman occupied Ackworth Station on June 6th.

Another expedition was about this time got up by the rebels and placed under the cavalry raider, General J. H. Morgan, for offensive operations in Kentucky. After committing some severe depredations, the command was finally dispersed and a large portion of it captured.

The rebel line was found to be, on June 9th, 1864, extended from Kenesaw mountain to Lost mountain, and Sherman began making his dispositions accordingly. On June 11th, General Sherman's headquarters was at Big Shanty, with his advance lines within five hundred yards of the enemy, and in position around Kenesaw mountain. Some slight skirmishing ensued during the next few days, and during one of the artillery contests the rebel Lieutenant General Polk was killed by a cannon ball.

On June 15th, a skirmish arising from a change of front commenced in the morning, but gradually developed itself into a severe contest known as the battle of Pine mountain or Golgotha. During the movement a body of rebel



troops, consisting of eighteen officers and four hundred enlisted men were captured by General Harrow. The contest continued through the next day, during which four rebel officers and sixty men surrendered to General McPherson at Andersonville.

The main army now commenced a steady advance, with heavy skirmishing along the line. The right, on the 18th, forced its way to a position threatening the enemy's left, while the centre advanced close to their entrenchments. Heavy skirmishing took place during the whole day and the rebels fell back during the night. The rear of the retreating rebel army was engaged during the principal part of the second day, and on the 20th a general engagement took place along the whole of Sherman's and Johnston's opposing lines without definite results.

After certain demonstrations on the 21st, the battle of Culp's Farm broke out on the 22d of June. General Sherman's forces had been heavily engaged with Johnston's rebel army during the passage of a creek; but the main contest commenced at four o'clock in the morning. The rebels resolutely advanced, but were driven back in disorder after a hard fight. An attempt was made by the rebels to flank the Union troops; but the movement was repulsed with great slaughter.

Steadily Sherman's lines advanced amid very heavy skirmishing; the rebels by severe attacks trying vainly to prevent the onward movement. By changing front at different periods, the Union leader was enabled to present a strong force to the rebels at all points, and flanking operations were constant. On the 27th of June, a general assault was ordered upon Kenesaw mountain in the front; but was repulsed with great slaughter. The main object

of the assault was to cover the flank movements and to engage the enemy's attention. For the next two days these movements continued, until the rebels found that by remaining on the mountain they would certainly be invested and captured, whereupon the position was evacuated, and they fell back to the line of the Chattahoochee River in order to protect the position at Marietta.

It will thus be seen that notwithstanding all the rebel defensive strategy the onward march of Sherman could not be prevented and was only, in reality, faintly resisted, notwithstanding the rebels put forth all their strength.

The following incident is told of Sherman during this part of the campaign: On one occasion while a regiment was moving by Sherman's headquarters—a tent, fly and a fence corner, near Kenesaw Mountains—one of the soldiers observed a Major-General lying asleep by the roadside. He spoke very loudly to his comrades, saying:

“There's the way we are commanded—officered by Major-Generals who get drunk and lie in fence corners.”

Sherman (it was him) heard the remark, and sprang to his feet.

“Not drunk, boys,” he said, quietly, “but I've been up all night, and I'm very tired and sleepy.”

He got on his horse, and, followed by his staff, rode away.

Such is the stuff of which the commander of the Armies of the Southwest is made.

The next day was employed in changing front, and on July 2d, one wing of Sherman's army struck the Chattahoochee. At daylight on the 3d, a garrison occupied Kenesaw mountain, and at half-past eight in the morning the troops entered Marietta; the whole army advancing

towards the river. During these three days' operations General Sherman captured over two thousand prisoners.

On the anniversary of the day of National Independence the position of the armies were as follows :

The Union line extended from the mouth of the Nickajack Creek across the railroad to Rottenwood Creek, both streams emptying into the Chattahoochee River. The rebels held the positions between the Union troops and the river.

The next day the rebels began their retreat across the Chattahoochee River, and on the night of the 6th of July were in position on the opposite side to prevent Sherman from crossing the stream. That officer made a feint to cross the stream in the rebel front, and also a heavy demonstration on the rebel works with artillery, as if to cover the movement of his infantry ; but the real crossing was made some distance off on the flanks. Finding this to be the case the rebel army on July 8th, fell back to Atlanta.

Meanwhile a special cavalry expedition was organized to start from Decatur under General Rosseau, and on the 10th of July started on the raid. During the twelve days he was absent he destroyed a large amount of moveable property and buildings used for military purposes, broke the Montgomery, West Point and Atlantic Railroads, and arrived at Marietta on the 22d.

In the meantime Sherman began changing front on his line, to get into a proper position preparatory to a general advance upon Atlanta. On July 17th, the army reached within five miles of Atlanta with its left resting on Decatur, Ga.

On that same day July 17th, the rebel General Joseph E. Johnston was relieved of command and General Hood appointed in his stead. This rebel leader commenced a new policy of campaigning, and instead of falling back before Sherman's forces, as Johnston had been compelled to do, determined to attack him in force. On July 20th the rebel army moved out from Atlanta and attacked the left wing of Sherman's army at Decatur. The assault was made with great vigor and desperation; but was met with a bloody repulse, and four thousand wounded and prisoners. The Union troops held the field, and next day the rebels were driven into their works at Atlanta with but small loss.

On July 22d, part of Sherman's forces occupied a position within the corporation limits of Atlanta. During the day, the rebels again attacked the Union lines, and a severe battle was the result. During the contest the enemy flung his troops with great desperation upon Sherman's works, and the strife resulted in severe loss to the rebels.

During the day, however, the Union General McPherson was killed, and as he had been the principal adviser to General Sherman, as well as being his ablest general, his loss was greatly felt not only in the army but throughout the country.

Another change of front was made by General Sherman, and the troops on his extreme left was transferred to his extreme right. During the movement the troops were attacked while on the march; but so well did the men change their flank to the front, that after a day's hard fighting the rebels had to retire and leave the field in the hands of the very men who had so long fought under General Sherman as division, corps, and Army com-

mander and now as General-in-chief of the "Armies of the South West."

Cavalry parties were next sent off, in all directions, destroying communications with Atlanta; meanwhile Sherman extended his right flank to a point facing East Point, and even going below it. Demonstrations were made at different times upon the enemy's works, and occasionally severe assaults would take place at different parts of the line. Batteries were planted and the city was shelled at different times giving the enemy but little rest.

About the middle of August, the rebel General sent a large cavalry expedition to interfere with Sherman's communications, and to attack his depots. As this was the movement Sherman was most anxious the enemy should make, he ordered certain outside forces to attend to the cavalry raiders, while he attended to the main object of the campaign.

Sherman organized a counter raiding Cavalry party under General Kilpatrick, which force started on its expedition on August 19th. It first pushed on to Fairburn on the West Point Railroad where it met the enemy and drove him from the ground; it next crossed Flint River, pushed on to Jonesboro, and destroyed the place, and rested for the night near Lovejoy's. About three miles of the Macon Railroad and a train of loaded cars were destroyed during the first day. The next morning the rebels attempted to surround this Cavalry party; but the gallant troopers cut their way through the enemy's ranks, and pushed onward. They crossed the Cotton River on the morning of the 21st, and reached Lithonia on the Georgia Railroad, east of Atlanta, in the evening. After

resting for the night the troops next morning joined the main army.

General Kilpatrick having made his report Sherman decided as to his course of action.

The rebel leader, finding by the facility with which Kilpatrick had destroyed Jonesboro' that he was weak at that point, at once despatched part of his army to fortify and hold that place, thus preserving a line of communication with the South. The movement was fatal as it divided the rebel strength.

On the 25th of August, pursuant to a plan, of which the War Department had been fully advised, Sherman left the Twentieth Corps at the Chattahoochee bridge, and with the balance of the army drew off from the siege, and using some considerable artifice to mislead the enemy, moved rapidly south, and reaching the West Point railroad, near Fairborn, on the 27th broke up twelve miles of it. When moving east, his right approached the Macon railroad, near Jonesboro', and his left near Rough and Ready. The enemy attacked the right wing of the Army of the Tennessee, and was completely beaten.

On the 31st, and during the combat, Sherman pushed the left of the centre rapidly to the railroad above, between Rough and Ready and Jonesboro'. On the 1st of September, he broke up about eight miles of the Macon road, and turned on the enemy at Jonesboro', assaulted him and his lines, and carried them, capturing Brigadier-General Gorman and about two thousand prisoners, with eight guns and much plunder. Night alone prevented the capturing of all Hardec's corps, which escaped south that night.

On the night of September 1st, the rebel General Hood in Atlanta, finding all his railroads broken and in Sherman's possession, blew up his ammunition, seven locomotives, and eighty cars, and evacuated Atlanta, which on the next day, September 2d, was occupied by the corps left for that purpose, Major-General Slocum commanding. Sherman following the retreating rebel army to near Lovejoy's station, thirty miles south of Atlanta, where finding him strongly entrenched, he concluded it would not "pay" to assault, as the great object of the campaign had been gained, viz:—Atlanta. Accordingly the army gradually and leisurely returned to Atlanta, and encamped eight miles south of the city.

The result of this quick and well executed movement was twenty-seven guns and over three thousand rebel prisoners. Sherman's troops buried over four hundred rebel dead, and left as many more wounded. They could not be removed.

The rebels lost, besides the important city of Atlanta, and stores, at least five hundred dead, two thousand five hundred wounded and three thousand prisoners; whereas Sherman's aggregate loss during this last movement was not over one thousand five hundred.

Before General Sherman started on this last and successful movement, the President appointed him a Major-General in the regular army in the place of General Fremont, resigned. When notified of this appointment, General Sherman requested the President to withhold the honor until the end of the Atlanta campaign, and then see whether he was worthy of the rank. President Lincoln replied that he was fully convinced that success must result from the

plans he had laid down for his operations, and insisted upon conferring the rank upon him immediately.

Under such circumstances, Sherman could not refuse the appointment which invested him with a rank second only in grade to the General-in-Chief, Lieutenant-General Grant.

General Sherman, as soon as he occupied Atlanta, began opening communications with Chattanooga and the North, fortifying the position, removing all non-combatants either to the North or South, as they might prefer, and establishing at that place another valuable depot of supplies.

Some idea of the work Sherman had to perform in reducing Atlanta, and the way the citizens protected themselves during the bombardment, may be gathered from the following remarks of an eye witness within the city at the time of the siege, who thus speaks of the city defences:—

“The trenches, as they are technically and familiarly dubbed, are impregnable. It might be possible for a heavy massed column to penetrate them, but not without immense loss, and then not to be held. The works, which were admirably located at first, have been materially strengthened, and the assaults of the enemy have only developed our most commanding positions, and demonstrated where the engineer’s skill and the miner’s labor could be employed to the best advantage.

“In front of the great circular line of intrenchments for many rods the fields are broken and irregular, dotted with stumps, and strewn with a complete tangle of tree tops and branches forming a barrier against approach. In front of the batteries, blind pitfalls, miniature stockades, and palisades and chevaux-de-friese work in all directions make a network out of whose entanglement a wild fox



would barely escape. By the time a charging line could pass these barriers under a tornado of grape-shot, shell and Minie, the line would be so broken and reduced as to be totally ineffective.

“The works are almost invulnerable, and every day adds something to their strength, and the soil is unfavorable to mining operations.”

The same writer also thus describes the “bomb-proof,” in which the inhabitants took refuge during the bombardment of that city:—

“These are excavations in the soil and roofed with heavy logs, over which is heaped the loose earth to the height of a young Ararat. These little mounds may be seen all over the city. The garden to almost every house which does not boast a cellar is now supplied with its artificial ‘bomb-proof.’ They are perfectly secure against the metal storm, and many of them are quite comfortably furnished with beds and chairs and other furniture. Women and children are huddled together in them for hours at a time, and when the city is furiously shelled at night, the whole community may be said to be under ground. Especially is this the case when the moon is unusually bright and the approach of the shells cannot be marked by their fiery trail.”

Such descriptions show plainly that Atlanta could not have been taken in any other way than by strategy, and Sherman having secured it proved he was master of that as well as the other arts of war.

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## CHAPTER XII.

## SHERMAN'S FALL CAMPAIGN OF 1864.

*Occupation of Atlanta in force—Hood's flanking Operations—What he did and what he Gained—Sherman in Pursuit—Hood's Escape—Sherman changes his plan of Campaign—His emphatic Adieu, &c.*

General Sherman, as before stated, occupied Atlanta in force on Sept. 2d, 1864. He was hardly well located in the "Gate City" before he began to plan his fall campaign. It was generally understood that his intention was to move against Columbus, Ga., and open the Chattahoochee river from that point to the Gulf of Mexico. The occupation of this city and possession of this river would practically sever the country west of the river from communication with the eastern part of the confederacy. By the river he could draw his supplies from the Gulf, and thus establish a base from which to operate against Mobile or Macon. The distance of Atlanta from the supply depots of his army precluded the idea of depending upon it as a base, and, with a view to further movements into the interior, a new base of operations became indispensable.

The rebel General Hood, about September 24th, suddenly transferred his army by a flank movement from Lovejoy's station on the Macon railroad, to near Newnan, on the West Point road. It was then supposed that Hood had divined the purpose of Sherman and was preparing to oppose the execution of the plan. His first movement attracted, therefore but little attention.

The incautious language, however, of Jeff. Davis at Macon, first led the country to suppose that this movement

was preliminary to something more extensive, and General Sherman's suspicions also were apparently aroused by it; for, about this time, he began sending his spare forces to the rear, under General Thomas, and distributing strong detachments, under other commanders, at different points immediately in the rear of Atlanta.

General Sherman also ordered frequent reconnoissances of the enemy in his position near Newnan, and his cavalry reported, on September 27th, further movements of Hood towards the Chattahoochee.

On October 1st, responsible officers at the head of a large force made a reconnoissance towards Newnan and discovered that the enemy had crossed the Chattahoochee river on September 29th and 30th, and had concentrated in the vicinity of Powder Springs, Ga. On the 3d of October, General Sherman with the bulk of his army, moved in pursuit, vowing his intention to destroy Hood before beginning his movement against Columbus.

It will thus appear that Hood had the start fairly, and his forces struck the railroad north of Kenesaw Mountain on October 4th. On the 5th General S. G. French, commanding the advance division of Stewart's corps, made an assault upon Allatoona and was repulsed with heavy loss.

General Sherman was at this time at Kenesaw mountain, from the summit of which he signalled to the commander at Allatoona, over the heads of Hood's men, to hold out until he relieved him. He pressed Hood's rear so heavily that the rebels, finding the Union position in their front too strong to be taken by assault, moved around the gap, and crossed the Etowah and Oostonaula rivers, making his appearance, with the greater part of his army, in front of Dalton on October 12th. The rebel General Hood im-

mediately invested Dalton with one of his corps, while the two others were engaged in tearing up the railroad and in obstructing Snake Creek Gap. The Colonel in command at Dalton at once, and somewhat disgracefully, surrendered the former on Hood's demand.

After obstructing Snake Creek Gap as much as possible, in order to delay Sherman, who continued to press him, Hood moved west, passing through the gap of Pigeon mountain, and entered Lafayette on the 15th of October. He had now advanced as far north as it was possible to do without fighting, and a battle appeared to be imminent in the vicinity of the old battle field of Chickamauga.

Hood, however, did not appear to be particularly anxious for a regular field engagement, for he had already tested the fighting qualities of Sherman's men; therefore, after holding the gaps of Pigeon Mountain as long as possible, he suddenly moved south from Lafayette to Gadsden, Alabama, closely followed as far as Gaylesville by General Sherman. This movement was looked upon as a retreat and as the end of the great raid of which Hood, Davis, and Beauregard had promised and boasted so much.

But it soon became apparent that Hood was not yet at the end of his rope, that the campaign was only about to begin in earnest. At Gadsden, Hood halted and intrenched his position, taking possession of the Gap of Mill's Creek, in Lookout Mountain, at that point, and presenting a strong front to Sherman.

On October 23d Hood moved from Gadsden, through Lookout Mountain, towards Gunter's landing and Decatur, on the Tennessee river, near the last of which places he formed a junction with General Dick Taylor's army, another portion of the rebel forces which had meantime

quietly moved up the Mobile and Ohio railroad from Eastern Louisiana to Corinth and thence to Tusculmbia, the new base of supplies.

The united rebel forces were now under the direction of General Beauregard, who thus placed himself far in General Sherman's rear before that officer could take steps to transfer his army to the new front of the rebels on the Tennessee. Hood's advance had probably reached the Tennessee before General Sherman positively knew that he had abandoned Gadsden, although he doubtless suspected, for, on October 25th, he tried the gap and found it abandoned by Hood. It was impossible to transfer his entire army to Hood's front in time to meet him and thus hold his communications intact. The position demanded resolution and action; and Sherman was not slow either to resolve and act.

"Let him go North," he exclaimed to his council; "our business is down South."

General Sherman represented to his officers that the situation of affairs justified him in considering his column an independent one, without a foe to confront. There was a large force in Tennessee which in numbers more than equalled Beauregard's troops, while he remained with the flower of his army—with the corps that stood at Chickamauga with Thomas and the corps of Grant's old army that besieged Vicksburg and relieved Chattanooga, lying in what Governor Brown calls the "heart and railroad centre of the South," with only the Georgia militia—the mere shadow of an army—to oppose him. He determined at this important juncture to resume his original intention, and, ignoring the very existence of Hood, carry out his offensive campaign from Atlanta. He determined

to follow Hood no longer, but bade him "speed" on his journey North.

"If he will go to the river," he said, "I will give him his rations," but failed to intimate that he considered them rations to prisoners.

The resolutions were promptly formed and the preliminary movements as rapidly executed. By November 1st the Army of the Tennessee had left Rome and was en route to Atlanta. On November 4th his operating force had been concentrated at the last named city, and rapid preparations were made to begin the march. Sherman felt in the highest spirits, and telegraphed his intentions in the following remarkable words:—

"Hood has crossed the Tennessee. Thomas will take care of him and Nashville, while Schofield will not let him into Chattanooga or Knoxville. Georgia and South Carolina are at my mercy and I shall strike. Do not be anxious about me. I am all right."

These were Sherman's words as he started off on his campaign, which for some time was a complete mystery to the people both north and south.

The rebels who had been waiting over the border to take their own again, as soon as Sherman's men were gone, entered Atlanta on November 10th, with a grand flourish of trumpets. Their march was along the Decatur road to the Howard House, about three miles from the City Hall, when they were halted by Union pickets, who retired to the reserve. The enemy planted a section of six pounders and threw eight shells at the main Union lines; but before it got fairly in position to punish them, the enemy limbered up and vanished as suddenly as they appeared. Ten minutes later the balance of the six-pounder battery, sup-

ported by a long line of cavalry, appeared on the Jonesboro and Macon road, and took up position within thirty rods of the Union main line, after driving in the pickets. Then came the advance, the unexpected meeting with a strong line of Yankees, a rapid fire from a couple of heavy pieces in one of the impregnable forts, and a hurried, undignified "get back" by rebel cavalry, artillery and all. The whole affair lasted not more than half an hour, yet the firing was quite brisk, and excited no little apprehension in the minds of late risers. The enemy left three dead, one mortally wounded, and one beardless youth a prisoner.

On the afternoon of November 12th the city of Atlanta having been destroyed was finally evacuated. It had been rendered entirely useless for military purposes to the enemy, and by the movement of Sherman was of but little strategic value to him.

Atlanta was abandoned and everything between that point and Chattanooga, all property of value being removed to the latter place, including the iron of the railroad, thus making Chattanooga the outpost of our armies. The local command of the Division of the Mississippi was placed in the hands of General Thomas, with an army sufficient to cope with Hood or all the forces he and Beauregard could bring into the field. General Sherman's independent and separate command consisted of a force of veterans large enough to furnish three columns of sufficient strength to march through the cotton States in any direction. His outfit was of the simplest kind, and he took sixty days' rations, intending to live partially off the enemy's country. Officers and men were allowed to take no baggage but such as could be carried on pack mules. No tents of any kind were to be taken except sufficient for the writing of

the Adjutant General, Commissioner and Quartermaster Departments. Officers and men were limited to their overcoats, blankets, &c., for protection. Even General Sherman in this respect fared with his humblest soldier. In fact the army became a body of light troops going on a grand raid. Each man was supplied with two pairs of shoes, and every preparation was made for a long march.

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## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE MARCH THROUGH GEORGIA.

*Sherman's letter to Captain Pennock—The line of march—Sherman's order—Steady movement in two columns with cavalry advance and flankers—Jonesboro, Macon and Milledgeville reached—Millen—Approaching Savannah—Death of his son, &c.*

Sherman was determined when he started from northern Georgia to reach the Atlantic Ocean, and he calculated the operation would take him about forty days, allowing for all serious opposition. He knew the rebellion to be a shell, that once penetrated would be found hollow and empty; but still he supposed there would be some amount of resistance offered to his march. That such was his opinion may be gathered from the following letter written before he started, to his friend Captain Pennock:—

KINGSTON, GA., 9 P.M., Nov. 3d, 1864,

*Capt. Pennock U. S. N., Mound City :*

In a few days I will be off for salt water, and hope to meet my old friend O. D. Porter again. Will you be kind enough to write him and tell him to look out for me *about Christmas* from Hilton Head to Savannah?

W. T. SHERMAN, Major-Gen.



While at Kingston, Sherman issued on November 9th his order for the march, in which he threatened the greatest severity upon any of his command that should be found guilty of straggling or plundering without proper authority. The army was, however, to forage liberally on the country during the march; but the foraging parties were to be under proper officers and strict military discipline. In the order, Sherman, however, stated that, "In districts and neighborhoods where the army is unmolested no destruction of mills, houses, cotton gins, &c., should be permitted; but should guerrillas or bushwhackers molest the march, or should the inhabitants burn bridges, obstruct roads or otherwise manifest local hostility, then army corps commanders should order and enforce a devastation more or less relentless, according to the measure of each hostility." Horses, mules and wagons were to be appropriated freely and without limit. The soldiers were ordered to refrain from abusive or threatening language while executing their work. In the operations, negroes were to be taken along when found able bodied and servicable, but not otherwise; as such unavailable accessions would be injurious to the army by causing a diminution of the supplies. A pioneer column of negroes was to be formed, and accompany the advance guard for the purpose of repairing roads, &c., and a full and complete pontoon train was to be attached to each wing.

Thus equipped, the army started for its general movement through Georgia; an expedition as remarkable for its daring as it was for its absence of all military precedence.

Some days for final preparation were required after reaching Atlanta, before the concentrated forces were

ready to evacuate that city, and it was not until November 16th that the march began in earnest. While Atlanta was yet in flames, the two wings of the army began to move simultaneously—the right under General Howard, and consisting of two corps, moving directly south, and the left under General Slocum, also consisting of two corps, moving due east from that city.

General Howard's wing with a large cavalry force in advance, moved through Eastpoint, and at Rough and Ready encountered a cavalry force under General Iverson, and a brisk but brief engagement followed, in which the rebels were driven. The rebel cavalry commander could not hope with his small force to do more than delay the advance of the Union troops, as the main rebel army under General Hood was engaged in an invasion of the State of Tennessee, and could not be brought to his assistance. As it was, he did very little in the way of delaying the right wing, for Howard's column accomplished the specified distance set down in the general orders for a day's march—viz., fifteen miles. It encamped that night in Jonesboro.

The left wing under General Slocum moved out to Decatur, where the two corps divided, one going direct by the Covington road, parallel with the Georgia railroad—a line of travel running from Atlanta to Augusta—while the other moved north of the railroad by way of Rockbridge. The two corps again concentrated at Covington.

Next morning, November 17th, the right wing advanced upon Jonesboro, and later in the day upon McDonough, which place was occupied by the Union cavalry after driving out Wheeler's rebel cavalry and Cobb's militia. While in Jonesboro the troops destroyed the railroad

buildings, and the cavalry burnt the court house and other public buildings at McDonough.

Meanwhile Slocum's column on the left pushed eastward from Covington after destroying such buildings in the town as could be made useful by the enemy. The cavalry advance pressed onward as far as Social Circle, a station on the Georgia railroad.

On the 18th General Howard pushed forward his infantry column to Griffin on the Atlanta and Macon railroad, and his cavalry having passed along from McDonough in a south easterly direction struck the same railroad at Forsythe thereby cutting off all communications between Macon and Atlanta by rail—Forsythe being about twenty miles from the former place. The rebel forces then fell back to that city for the purpose of defending it to the last.

The operation of the cavalry, besides cutting the railroad, had the effect of misleading the rebels as to the actual intention of the right wing—they naturally supposing that it was Howard's intention to attack Macon by a direct movement upon it. That officer, however, changed the direction of his march, and instead of following the line of the railroad turned due, east his advance cavalry reaching Hillsboro. Monticello was also occupied, and everything of value to the rebel cause was destroyed at both places. The infantry column encamped on the night of the 18th at Indian Spring near Jackson.

General Slocum with the left wing pushed on this day along the Georgia railroad, and encamped near Madison, a station of that line. Meeting with no material opposition he still pushed onward the next day, November 19th.

his cavalry advance destroying the track, stations, &c., as it marched along.

The right wing was occupied during the greater part of November 19th in bridging the Ocmulgee river, and on the 20th effected the passage of the stream. The column then moved upon Milledgeville, the State capital of Georgia, and his advance entered that place after dark.

The arrival of the "Yankee troops" caused some commotion in the Georgian capital. The State legislature had been in session and had hastily been conducting business; but when the troops entered the city they broke up their meeting and began to move very rapidly from the vicinity. During the next day the remainder of Howard's wing arrived at Milledgeville, and by that time every able-bodied man had left the capital in the care of the women.

General Sherman made Milledgeville his headquarters for several days, in the meantime allowing his command to forage around the immediate country for several miles. Although freely taking of the stock and grain of the surrounding farmers, but little damage was done to property; and in the city itself, although a large body of troops were so near, not a single private dwelling was destroyed. Some few public buildings, including the Penitentiary, were more or less injured to prevent them from being made use of by the enemy, and the railroad bridge across Fishing Creek was burned.

Meanwhile the advance cavalry of Howard's wing began operating along the Georgia railroad—the line running from Macon to Savannah—and struck first at Griswold, a village and station north east of Macon. Here they captured a lumber train, which they destroyed, and broke up the track, cut the telegraph wire, and severed all

communication between Macon and Savannah. At the former place the rebel forces had made strong efforts to defend the city against the Union army; but as Sherman had other and more important objects in view he could not spare the time to attack Macon, and therefore passed it by, leaving it and the troops that held it far in his rear. Pushing on to Gordon the Union cavalry then met Wheeler's rebel cavalry and engaged it. This was the first real effort of resistance offered by the enemy.

General Slocum continued his march with part of his forces along the Georgia railroad, tearing up the track, and destroying the stations, &c., along the line of rout.

Up to the 20th of November the movement had been made without any very serious opposition, and it appeared plainly that Georgia and South Carolina were really, as Sherman had said, at his mercy.

By this time the rebel Generals Beauregard, Hardee and Dick Taylor, had assembled at Macon, whither Governor Brown of Georgia had removed his capital. Great excitement also existed in that city and every man, even to the members of the Legislature, who had fled from Milledgeville, were pressed into the ranks for the purpose of defending that city.

In order to disguise his main movement, a feint assault was made on the defences of Macon on November 20th; but after the capture of one of the works the Union army was withdrawn from the immediate attack of this place, although a show of such an intent was kept up for a few days longer.

The advance of General Slocum's army caused a great amount of excitement in the city of Augusta, and every one capable was placed under arms. As a number of re-

constructionists lived in that city a cry of treachery was raised, and a strict surveillance was placed upon those persons. The President of the Senate, Hon. A. C. Wright, assumed command of all State Military Government east of the advancing forces of General Sherman, on the ground that Governor Brown, being in Macon, was cut off from exercising such control by the operations of the Union army. General Bragg also removed to that city from Wilmington, taking with him a portion of the military forces ; and a military order was issued for the concentration of the local reserves of South Carolina and Georgia for a united general State defence.

General Slocum's main army, after having destroyed the railroad stations at Buckhead and Greensboro' pushed on to the Oconee River, and part of it crossed that stream near the railroad leading to Augusta while a cavalry force pushed southward to Eatonton, there to cross the same water-course with the intention of attacking Sparta. Another portion joined General Howard's column at or near Milledgeville.

Meanwhile General Kilpatrick's cavalry engaged the enemy at Oconee bridge of the Georgia Central. After a sharp fight he passed along the river and pushed towards Sandersville, where he again engaged the enemy in a severe fight on November 25th. Sandersville is the seat of justice of Washington county, Georgia. It is situated twenty-two miles east of Milledgeville and the Oconee river, and five miles north of the Georgia Central (Macon and Savannah) Railroad. General Wayne, with his rebel forces retired to Davisboro' after burning Oconee bridge. The movement from Sandersville to Milledgeville doubt-

less forced Wayne to retire, as the Union troops flanked Oconee bridge.

A grand concentration of rebel Generals now began to assemble in the eastern part of Georgia, and energetic calls were made upon the people to rally and resist the advance of Sherman's columns, but apparently without much effect, as his troops still steadily marched towards the Gulf coast.

The portion of General Slocum's command that had crossed the Oconee River near the Georgia (Atlanta and Augusta) Railroad, made steady progress along their line of march; and on November 26th, were at Warrenton, where a slight resistance was offered them. Warrenton is the seat of justice of Warren county, Georgia. It is thirty-five miles northeast of Milledgeville and forty southwest of Augusta. The presence of this force at Warrenton explained why Slocum had left the Georgia State Railroad at Madison for Etonton. Slocum only moved south to Etonton, far enough to get upon the main road leading east, and the passage of the Oconee was doubtless effected by him at a point due east of Etonton.

The rebel cavalry were now better concentrated under the command of one General, and operated somewhat severely on the front, rear and flanks of the Union Army: inflicting damage and causing a number of cavalry skirmishes, but no general engagement. They, however, only harassed the Union troops; but did not effect much in delaying the advance of the main army, which left Milledgeville and its vicinity on November 25th, pushing on to and through Sandersville on the 27th.

General Kilpatrick's cavalry next pushed on to Waynesboro, a station of the Augusta and Millen railroad, and

about midway between those cities. Here he was met by a force of the enemy on November 28th, and by dint of direct charges and flanking operations, succeeded in dislodging them and destroying the railroad connection between those two places. Next day his troops crossed the Savannah River in that vicinity.

The main army moved forward from Sandersville to Louisville where it arrived on November 30th. The two wings of the army united at Louisville, Georgia, on the 1st of December, and by nightfall on the 2d had passed through Millen. The Union prisoners at that point had been removed to Charleston, and none were rescued by our army. Leaving Millen and vicinity, our army pushed forward vigorously, engaging the enemy at different points, and meeting with slight resistance until Tuesday, December 6th, at station Two and a Half—variously known by that name, and as Greyton and Cuyton—the latter being the proper name. This station is on the Georgia Central Railroad, twenty-five miles from Savannah. The peninsula between the Savannah and Ogechee rivers at this point is not more than fifteen miles wide. Cuyton station was reached on the 6th, after a march of eighteen miles. It was reported by the *Richmond Dispatch* that Sherman had moved from Millen, on the other side of Ogechee river; but this doubtless referred to the Little Ogechee river, a branch of the principal stream, and the passage of which was disputed with all the strength which the Georgia militia defending Savannah was capable.

At the same time Kilpatrick's cavalry were making such demonstrations far in the rear as to induce the belief that Sherman was moving towards Augusta. The fight with



Wheeler on December 5th took place over fifty miles in Sherman's rear, and the one at Walker's bridge, over Brier Creek, on the previous day, was still nearer to the fortified city of Augusta.

By the 9th of December the advance of the main army had reached the Savannah canal, and General Howard detached Captain Duncan and two scouts to open up communication with General Foster and Admiral Dahlgren. Captain Duncan reached the fleet and General Foster by the 12th, having descended the Ogechee river in a small boat. He left the army on the evening of the 9th, at which time General Sherman's whole army was then within ten miles of Savannah, advancing to attack it.

The following is a copy of the despatch brought by Captain Duncan:—

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,  
NEAR SAVANNAH CANAL, Dec. 9, 1864.

TO THE COMMANDER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES IN THE VICINITY OF SAVANNAH, GA.:—

SIR—*We have met with perfect success thus far.* The troops are in fine spirits and near by.

Respectfully,

O. O. HOWARD, Major General,  
Commanding Right Wing of the Army.

Another despatch brought by Captain Duncan, directed to the signal officer of the fleet, from General Howard's chief signal officer, requested a good lookout to be kept for signals.

General Bragg had been appointed to the command of all the rebel forces along the coast line; but by the rapid movement of General Sherman he had been left far behind in the rear at Augusta, and cut off from all communication with the forces defending Savannah.

As General Sherman advanced towards the Gulf coast he began using his heavy artillery by day, and signal rockets by night in order to give information to the fleet and the co-operating columns of his steady and near approach. These rockets were seen early in December, and a fifteen-gun Monitor vessel ascended the Savannah river and replied to his artillery signals by loud discharges from its immense mouth; while from the fleet at Hilton Head and along the coast signal rockets were sent up every night to inform General Sherman that he was anxiously expected and constantly looked for.

The march through Georgia was a complete success, very little opposition having being met with on the way, as by General Sherman's strategy it was impossible for the enemy to tell one day from another what routes were to be taken, or what places were likely to be threatened. The army lived the whole time off the country, thereby impoverishing it for the use of a rebel army, and making the active rebellious State of Georgia know the evil of war which it had heretofore escaped. General Sherman accumulated a considerable number of horses and cattle and was well supplied when it neared tide water.

On Wednesday, December 14th, General Sherman carried Fort McAllister by storm. The garrison consisted of one hundred and fifty men. The Fort is on the Ogeechee River, fifteen miles southwest of Savannah, at the point where the river is crossed by the Savannah, Albany and Gulf Railroad, and about six miles from Ossabaw Sound. This capture enabled Sherman to communicate with the fleet.

General Sherman was met by sad domestic news when he reached the ocean on his victorious march through

Georgia. His youngest child, a fine boy about six months old, died during the first week in December at South Bend, Ind., at the residence of Speaker Colfax, which was then occupied by Mrs. Sherman and family for the winter, the General's eldest children attending the Catholic college in the vicinity of that town, and Mrs. Sherman desiring to be near them. Many will remember a very touching letter written by the General on the death of his son, in October, 1863, and while he was in the field, so bravely fighting the enemies of his country, death robbed him of another of his home circle, and caused the old wound to bleed afresh. He will have the sympathies, in this new affliction, of all who honor him for his heroic patriotism.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

### CO-OPERATING COLUMNS.

*General Thomas' Strategy in Tennessee—General Canby on the Mississippi—General Foster's movements in South Carolina—Admiral Dahlgren's naval co-operation.*

As soon as it was discovered that General Hood's rebel army had broken loose from before the front of General Sherman, General Thomas was placed in command of all the forces in the southwest not immediately under the command of Sherman. With these troops he fell back gradually—as if driven by the weight of the forces against him by Hood—until he had drawn Hood so far from the line of Sherman's movement as to render it impossible for him to interfere with him in any way.

As soon as General Thomas was apprised of the success of the expedition through Georgia he immediately turned

upon the rebels who were threatening him with a winter's siege in the city of Nashville, and on the 15th of December attacked Hood's army in his front. Thomas's line advanced on the right five miles. The enemy were driven from the river, from their intrenchments, from the range of hills on which their left rested, and forced back upon his right and centre; and the centre was pushed back from one to three miles, with the loss of sixteen guns, about fifteen hundred prisoners, and his whole line of earthworks, except about a mile of his extreme right, where no serious attempt was made to dislodge him. Hood's whole army, except the cavalry and a small force near Murfreesboro, were engaged.

During the latter part of November, co-operative movements were made by General Canby, from Vicksburg and Baton Rouge, for the purpose of cutting Hood's communications with Mobile and assisting General Sherman in his operations. After an admirably executed flank movement on Jackson, on November 24th, the expedition started for the Big Black bridge on the Mississippi Central Railroad, which was reached on November 27th, and after a stubborn resistance captured. This cut Hood's army off from the large quantities of supplies and stores accumulated at Jackson, Miss., and made that railroad, which was his main reliance, unavailing to him for months.

Besides this important bridge and trestlework, the following property was completely destroyed:—Thirty miles of track including culverts; the wagon bridge over the Big Black; Vaughn, Pickett and Goodman stations, with all the railroad depots and buildings; twenty-six hundred bales of cotton, two locomotives, four cars, four stage coaches, twenty barrels of salt and nearly two hundred

thousand dollars' worth of stores at Vaughn's Station.

Another co-operative united service movement was made by water from the North under General Butler and Admiral D. D. Porter.

The main movement, however, for this purpose was made from the vicinity of Charleston Harbor and Port Royal, and was more in direct co-operation than any other of the expeditions. It was as follows:—

When it was expected that General Sherman would be nearing the Gulf coast, Admiral Dahlgren, the commander of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, and General Foster, the commander of the Department of the South, began making important movements against the Charleston and Savannah Railroad to aid the march of General Sherman, and distract the enemy's attention from his operations.

On Wednesday, November 30th, the advance was made directly upon and towards the railroad above Grahamsville. The assault upon the work which barred the progress of the advancing columns was attended with very fair success. A brigade of sailors and marines from the fleet co-operated in this advance, and rendered good service with its boat howitzers as well as its musketry.

On Sunday, December 4th, General Foster, with a few tugs and two or three hundred men, went into Wash branch, ascended nearly to Port Royal ferry, captured a small work of two or three light pieces, the guard running away, evidently surprised.

While the troops were thus engaged Admiral Dahlgren passed to the head of Broad river, and into the Coosahatchie, with the Pawnee and Sonoma, where a small work, with a couple of small guns, was placed so as to bar the passage. The stream here was too winding and

narrow to get nearer than a couple of thousand yards, and the rebels, after firing a few shots, retired to the woods and left them to continue the assault unmolested.

At the same time another column was pushed out by General Hatch from his right, and the Pontiac sent her boats up from Boyd's landing. The whole affair, however, was merely a reconnoissance, made to appear like a demonstration, for the purpose of misleading the rebels and dividing their forces.

The firing was renewed the next day, while a reconnoissance was made of another stream, the Tulifinny, going in another direction, and, with the Coosahatchie, forming a peninsula or island, over which the railroad passed by two bridges, at so great distance from each other, where the ground was very favorable for cutting the railroad.

On Tuesday, the 6th inst., gunboats and transports moved very easily on Broad river, and reached the entrance of Tulifinny about eight o'clock A. M., and in consequence of the low tide the force was obliged to land in boats. In the lead was a launch of the boat division, under Acting Master E. G. Furber.

After landing, the sailors dragged the howitzers through the swampy ground, and hurried them forward with the marine battalion. The sailor infantry landed above with the army, and advanced with it. As they hurried on they heard sharp fighting and musketry in the advance, and hastened to reach the field just as the rebels had been driven from it with loss. Our sailor infantry fought well, and had thirteen or fifteen wounded out of one hundred and ten.

As soon the howitzers came up one was placed in the road and scattered an attacking column, while the other

piece shelled the woods to the left. The marines skirmished through the woods, and there was more or less firing until night. The rebels had a battery on the left, and they played upon the naval forces down the cross roads, and another on the right of the same road. A regiment of infantry was sent by General Potter to the right, which destroyed a bridge and prevented the rebels flanking the gallant fellows. The rebels appeared to be in good force, and to receive continual reinforcements; but the Union forces drove the enemy, and encamped on the field of battle.

The next morning the firing was renewed by the enemy from the woods in front and on the right. The howitzers shelled the woods to the right, and prevented the enemy from closing in that direction. Sharpshooters were in the trees in front, when the firing had ceased in a measure, and four pieces were withdrawn as a reserve to the rear, to occupy the position that was being intrenched.

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## CHAPTER XIII.

### SHERMAN'S PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

General Sherman is a man with a frame of the class better understood by the term "wire," and as far as the toughness of his constitution is concerned, might be styled "steel wiry." He is tall and slim, and to a casual observer might be designated delicate, although he is in reality far from being so. He has a large and well formed head, which is covered with a good crop of straight hair, somewhat sandy in its color, approaching to auburn. His eyes are of a hazel brown color, sharp and quick, and deeply set into his head. His face bears the evidence of anxious care and earnestness; and he appears to be much older than he really is.

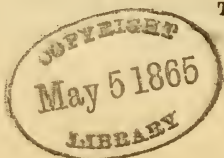
General Sherman is far from luxurious in his tastes and habits. He is careless about his dress and his food, and entirely trusts to others in these matters. But in the concerns of his command and military position, he allows no one to do those duties which he considers should be attended to by the commander. He prefers the report of his own eyes and ears to the written document of his best officers; and although he never refuses the councils of others, he follows his own plans if he feels convinced they are the best. He is well read in history and other solid studies, and he turns them to practical use whenever the opportunity serves. In conversation he is clear and comprehensive; and as a writer he is pointed and pertinent. His documents, letters and orders all bear witness to this last remark.

When the duties of the field make it necessary, General Sherman is willing to share the same couch—the hard ground—with the commonest soldier in his command, to cover himself with the single soldier's blanket, and to partake of the ordinary ration.

Being a keen observer and quick in his judgment of men and officers, he rarely makes a mistake in his selections; and when he is determined upon the fact, that an officer is not fitted for the position he occupies, he soon orders his removal, so that he endeavors to get the right men in the right place. When a man is really worthy, General Sherman is certain to find him out, and reward and promotion is sure to follow.

As before stated, General Sherman is a married man, and a father. During October, 1863, he lost his little son William, a fine little blue-eyed boy, then about nine years of age, who died at Memphis, from a fever engendered in the camp, on the Big Black River, where he had been on a visit to his father in the field. The child's loss was much lamented, although other children still remained to the General.

THE END.





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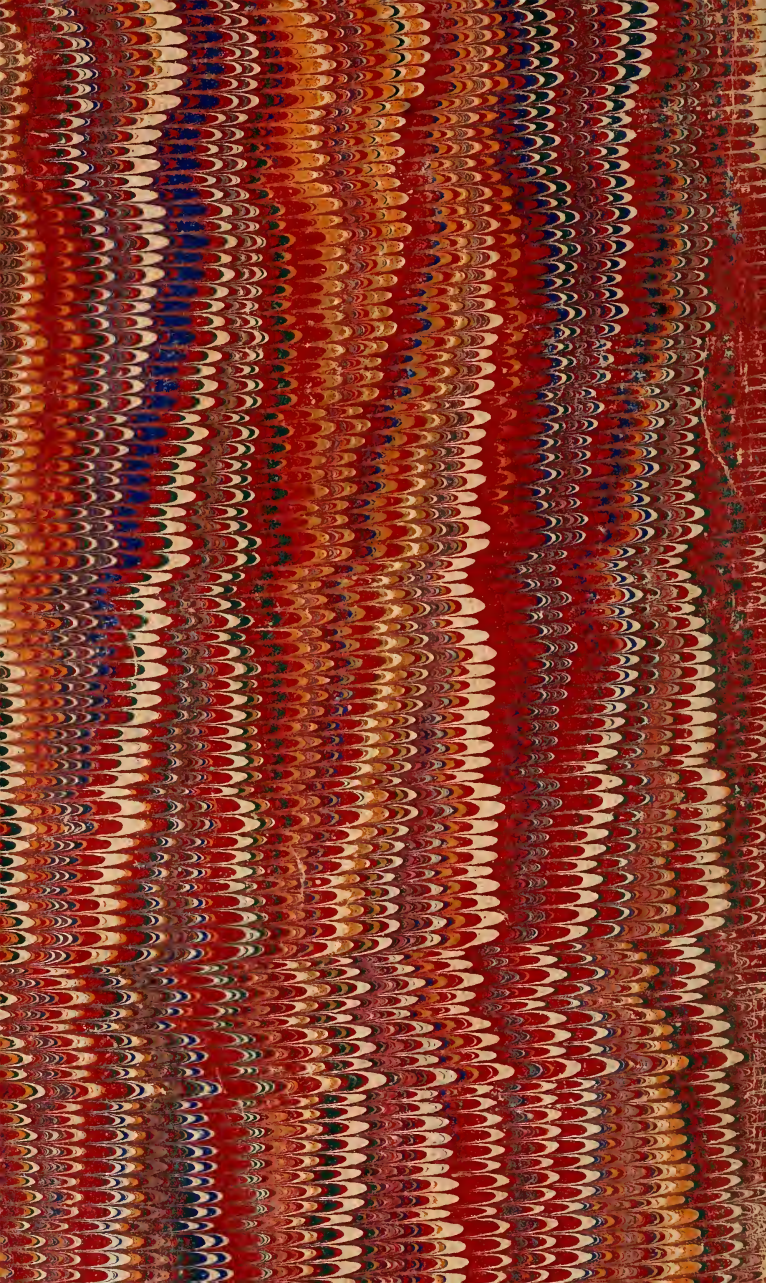
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