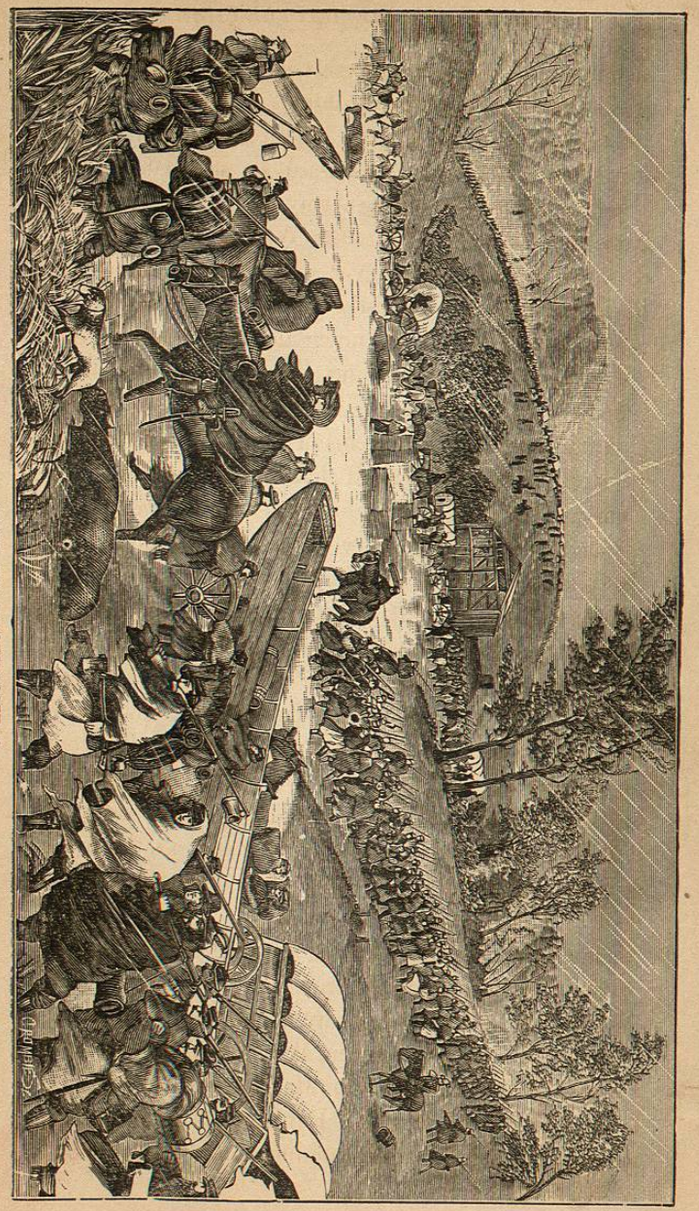
sentatives of the people, were voted, and a gold medal was struck and presented to him. Proofs of the gratitude of the people poured in on every hand. On March 1, 1864, Congress passed an act making him Lieutenant-General of the Army of the United States. General Grant was ordered to Washington to receive this, the highest honor ever given in this country to living man, and so modestly did he approach the city, that his arrival was not known until he was seen and recognized, as he was taking breakfast, and the hotel register was found to bear this record, "U. S. Grant, Chattanooga!" In the history of this country the rank of lieutenant-general had been given only to General Washington, and by brevet to General Scott.

General Grant had now exclusive command of all the United States armies, and in accepting the distinguished honor he said, in writing: "Mr. President, I accept the commission with gratitude for the honor conferred. With the aid of the noble armies that have fought in so many fields for our common country, it will be my earnest endeavor not to disappoint your expectations. I feel the full weight of the responsibilities resting upon me, and I know if they are met it will be due to those armies, and, above all, the favor of that Providence which leads both nations and men."

Having, preparatory to an advance on Richmond, in the face of a general probably no less competent than himself, purged the army of incompetent officers, he called Sheridan from the West and placed him in command of the cavalry. On March 3, 1864, he ordered General Meade to cross the Rapidan. It required the mind of a general to safely conduct an army train which



"ON TO RICHMOND."

all points was encouraging. In North Carolina General Schofield had pushed up the Neuse to Kinston; Sherman's columns were well up from the sea toward the Carolina border; Sheridan with 15,000 troops was on his march down the James, and the time had come which was to decide the fate of Lee's forces. On April 1st Grant moved with overwhelming force upon Five Points, and having completely surrounded General Lee, sent to him a flag of truce asking his surrender. After much military correspondence, the two generals met April 9, 1865, on a shady knoll, each attended by five officers, and arranged the terms which were demanded by General Grant—"unconditional surrender," to which General Lee agreed, and presented his sword to Grant, who returned it, saying, "It cannot be worn by a braver man." With admirable magnanimity, General Grant accepted only the munitions of war; "Keep," said he, "your horses, saddles and blankets; you will need them all in rebuilding the South." With a delicacy worthy of remark, when Grant marched his forces into the Confederate capital, he would have no bands of music to make the air vocal with the conquest, but quietly entered Richmond with as little display as possible.

The Confederate troops were enthusiastic in his praise; his generosity and consideration of their position endeared him to every man of his foes.

The fighting having ended, Grant quickly entered upon the important work remaining to be accomplished before this dismembered republic should again be united and reconstructed.

He proved himself equal to his share of the duty. The South as well as the North had confidence in

him, as in the midst of his victories he had always treated the vanquished with the kindest consideration. In reviewing his course one may well ask, Is there one admirable trait attributed to the Father of his Country that is not found in the character of its Preserver?

In 1868, when the time for choosing a successor to our martyred President Lincoln had arrived, General Grant, on the first ballot, received the unanimous vote of the Republican convention, and was triumphantly elected.

Such satisfaction did he give in the discharge of his duties, such wisdom, economy, skill and diplomacy in steering the ship of state through the dangerous reefs and shoals of the angry billows which at that period surged around the capitol, that in 1872 he was, with accord, re-elected to the same position. Declining to be a candidate for a third term of office, he retired to private life.

In 1877 he embarked at Philadelphia for a journey around the world, accompanied by his wife and son, Jesse R. It is reasonable to state that there was never a man, much less an American, who received from foreign nations such courteous attentions. His tour was one long ovation, not only from commoners, gentry and noblemen, but Queen Victoria gave him and his family a dinner at Windsor Castle, where they passed the night. Crowned heads in every nation which he visited did him honor, and in so doing felt that they were themselves honored. In 1879 he reached California, having circumnavigated the globe.

Returning from this trip strengthened in body and mind, enriched by practical examination of other gov-

ernments, he settled quietly in New York. He was not a man to remain long idle, and when offered the Presidency of the Mexican National Railroad, he accepted it.

Anxious that his family should enjoy the comforts of wealth as well as that of fame, he commenced business on Wall street. As a business man, his name was sullied by the rascality of those whom he blindly trusted. Declining health and recent losses made the future most uncertain, while the tardiness of Congress in placing him upon the retired list as General added to his already great depression. Having already begun work upon his "Memoirs," he made haste toward its completion, fully realizing that the task was little less than a race between him and the great Destroyer.

On the 16th of June he was removed from his city residence to Mount MacGregor. The steady decline in health continued, notwithstanding which his literary labor went regularly forward to completion. Every item of strength that could be spared from other sources was devoted to the cherished and gratified wish of completing a history, the income from which might help to comfort the declining years of a faithful, devoted wife.

Having completed his loving task, silently and grimly, without a word of complaint, on the 23d of July, 1885, he surrendered to his only conqueror—Death.

At his funeral, one of the greatest of pageants, America exhibited a nation's gratitude, honor and grief, while the whole world mourned the loss of a man.

CHAPTER XXV.

GEORGE HENRY THOMAS.

Birth and Early Education—Resemblance to Washington—Cadet—In the United States Army—At New Orleans—Fort Moultrie—Mexican War—Marriage—Instructor at West Point—Civil War—Brigadier-General—At Louisville—Battle at Logan's Cross-Roads—Major-General—Thomas refuses Buell's place—"Slow Trot"—At Chickamauga—Rescued by Granger—"Rock of Chickamauga"—Battle of Nashville—Character—Death.

GEORGE HENRY THOMAS was born on the 31st of July, 1816, in Southampton county, Virginia. His parents belonged to the wealthy and cultured class of the period, but at that time in the slave States, where white families were comparatively few, residing on large plantations, there were not many educational advantages. Schools were rare and of a low grade, for there was not a sufficient number of white children at any given point to render teaching a profitable occupation. The studies of young Thomas were, therefore, of a very desultory character in boyhood; and it is a remarkable evidence of his intellect and application that he became one of the most successful students of his class at West Point. He was especially distinguished for his proficiency in mathematics, a study for which he retained a taste through all his subsequent life. But Thomas, during his career at the Military Academy, was noticeable in many ways.

consisted of 4,000 wagons. General Grant established his own head-quarters in the field near Culpepper Court-House. His movements were made with all the precision of a chess-board; he communicated by telegraph with the West and South, and the entire campaign throughout the country was clearly in his mind and ordered by him.

The archives of the Confederate government were in Richmond, and if that city could be held by General Grant the war would be ended. The advance on Richmond was cautious, marked by the masterly strategy of the commander and the quiet firmness which he ever displayed. Never since the time of Napoleon I. had such vast military resources been placed in the hand of one man as were now intrusted to General Grant. The solemn bell of destiny began to toll the knell of the Confederacy, and the echoes were heard daily until that Confederacy had perished.

Grant did not confine himself to one line of operations. With every point of country and every position of his vast army clearly defined in his comprehensive brain, he carried on his projects. On May 5, 1864, the first engagement of the Richmond campaign took place, followed by the three days' battle in the Wilderness and Lee's retreat to Spottsylvania, where another battle occurred. Later followed the engagement of Cold Harbor, from where Grant, having crossed the James, marched to Petersburg, and attacking that city, met with a pronounced repulse. Grant had made up his mind "to fight it out on this line," and during the summer he met with varying successes.

The great event of the winter was the capture of Fort Fisher, and as spring approached the situation at