

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.

through his reserve of manner. The popularity which he enjoyed with his soldiers is well known. The attachment of his students to him was no less marked. In the second year of his residence at West Point he married Miss Frances L. Kellogg, of Troy, New York. She was a young lady of rare accomplishments, of fine appearance and pleasing manners. Their union was a very happy one, and their home was a rarely hospitable resort for his friends and comrades. Mrs. Thomas survived her husband, and is still a resident of her native city.

In 1854 Thomas was appointed to the command of a battalion in the Third artillery, and ordered to Benicia, California, but no sooner had he arrived there than he was sent to Fort Yuma, Arizona, which is generally considered by army men the most disagreeable post in the United States. The heat is intense, and the extreme dryness of the climate and sterility of the soil render it a most uninviting spot. Thomas was not much of an anecdote-monger in general, but he was rather fond of telling the now well-known story of the reprobate trooper who died at Fort Yuma, and returned to camp the following night for his blankets, complaining that he was freezing to death, hell being so much colder than Fort Yuma.

After a year spent in garrison in Arizona, Thomas was appointed major of the Second cavalry, of which the colonel was Albert Sydney Johnston, and the lieutenant-colonel Robert E. Lee. For the next three years he served in Texas, with the interruption of some months in Utah. In 1860 there was some severe Indian fighting, in which Thomas took an active part. He joined in what was known as the Kiowa expedition,

and in a fight on the Brazos received an arrow wound in the face.

In 1861 Thomas's regiment was almost dismembered, owing to the number of officers and men who decided to cast in their lot with the South. The three senior field officers having resigned, Thomas was promoted to be colonel. In May, having mustered together four of the ten companies which composed the regiment, Thomas reported to General Robert Patterson at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The other six companies had preceded him, for it had taken a considerable time to re-form the regiment and fit it for service. The veterans had to be re-uniformed, the recruits to be drilled, and horses and equipments purchased for all. One body of men attached to the regiment deserves special mention. This was known as the Philadelphia City Troop. This was composed of young men of high character and education, who offered their services at the beginning of the war, and were accepted for three months. At the expiration of this term, most of the members became officers of volunteer regiments from their native State. After a brief term of service under General Patterson, Thomas was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers, and was ordered to place himself under the orders of General Robert Anderson, then stationed at Louisville, Kentucky. He reported there on September 6th, 1861. Anderson thought highly of Thomas, and placed him at once in command of Camp Dick Robinson, then the most important position in the department. The secessionist element was strong in the State of Kentucky, and Thomas encountered innumerable difficulties. The State government was loyal, but bands of guerillas and freebooters

infested the country. Army supplies and arms had been removed in great quantities by disloyal officers, and it was with great difficulty that Thomas managed to raise and equip six regiments, the nucleus of that splendid organization which became known afterwards as the Army of the Cumberland.

These troops were quite undisciplined, but under Thomas's able training they became efficient soldiers in an incredibly short space of time. Additional regiments were forwarded to him, but being a very cautious general, he waited until he could muster a considerable force before making the movement which he desired on Knoxville, with the purpose of destroying the East Tennessee and Virginia railroad, and then capturing or dispersing the Southern forces in that section. General Sherman had replaced Anderson in command of the department, and Buell was at the head of the Army of the Cumberland, the name of which was afterwards changed to that of the Army of the Ohio. Thomas was assigned to the command of the First division. He now felt strong enough to move on the enemy, and on the 21st of October, 1861, he sent forward a part of his brigade to meet a considerable body of rebels under Zollicoffer. The engagement ended in the defeat of the Confederates, with but slight loss on either side. He pushed his advance, but slowly, owing to very heavy rains which rendered the roads almost impassable. Thus it was the 17th of November before he reached the place designated as Logan's Cross-Roads, where he encamped for some weeks. Here a severe engagement took place January 18th, 1862, between Thomas's troops and those of General George B. Crittenden. The battle began at five in the afternoon, with

a heavy fire of artillery. Night fell on the combatants, and in the morning it was found that Crittenden's whole force had retreated, abandoning its guns, wagons and supplies. Thomas's army pursued the retreating troops as far as Monticello. This being the first victory of the year, was a great encouragement to Unionists through the country. The loss of life (about two hundred and fifty on the Northern side, and three hundred and fifty on the Southern) was small compared with the terrible slaughter in subsequent battles, but the effect of the victory was valuable in relieving a considerable section of country from occupation by the rebels.

Thomas next moved his command to Louisville, and thence to Nashville, which was evacuated by the forces of Generals Pillow and Floyd immediately before his arrival. Floyd had cut the wires of the suspension bridge, and that great structure had been precipitated to the bottom of the river. The Union troops under Buell had just arrived at Edgefield, opposite Nashville. Seeing the destruction of the bridge, they procured boats, and the work of crossing the river was begun. Buell and Thomas found the bitterest feeling prevalent in Nashville against the Union army. The people had been stirred up against them from pulpit and press. It was not long until a revolution of opinion among them was manifest. The mild and gentlemanlike manner of General Thomas impressed them particularly, and they realized that Northern officers were not the inhuman creatures they had been represented.

The army occupied Nashville until about the middle of March, when the generals received information that

the Confederates were collecting in great force near Pittsburg Landing. They accordingly moved forward, Buell's forces in advance, and meeting the enemy, the great battle of Shiloh took place. Thomas's troops did not arrive in time to take part in this memorable conflict, but the knowledge that he was in the rear, and prepared to support them, acted strongly on the Union troops. The soldiers had a very steadfast belief in Thomas's generalship, and the government also recognized his ability. After the battle of Shiloh, Thomas was placed in command of the right wing of the army, a position which he retained until after the capture of Corinth.

The advance of the army from the Tennessee river to Corinth was one of the most remarkable achievements of the war. Owing to the heavy spring rains, the roads were in such condition that artillery and wagons sank into the ground up to the hubs of the wheels, and it was impossible to move them until corduroy roads were made. Many miles of these roads had to be constructed, but at length Corinth was reached. Thomas was now convinced that the rebel general Bragg was preparing to invade Kentucky; Buell believed that Nashville was Bragg's objective point. Events proved that Thomas had judged correctly. Bragg, after a slight demonstration against Nashville, crossed the river above that city and pushed on to Louisville. Both Buell and Thomas moved to prevent this occupation. After some heavy skirmishing, which, however, failed to become actual battle, with Bragg's forces, the Union army marched to Louisville, and took possession of that city.

The excitement in and around the town was intense.

The streets were filled with the exulting loyalists, rejoicing at the narrow escape from Southern occupation. But the war department considered that Buell was to blame for having permitted the rebel army to invade Kentucky at all, and overlooking his great skill and energy which had saved Louisville to the Union, an order was sent to General Thomas, assigning him to the command of the Army of the Ohio, and relieving General Buell. Thomas saw that this order cast an undeserved censure on a meritorious officer, and was too magnanimous to accept an advantage to himself founded upon the unmerited misfortune of another. He therefore asked that the order should be suspended. While the matter was still undecided, the army moved to meet Bragg, and a great battle ensued, which was fought on the 8th of October at Perryville. The disasters of the day were heavy, and the advantages doubtful. Buell was censured, and he in turn cast blame on others, for the partial failure of the battle. The order relieving Buell was carried into execution, but his command was transferred to General W. S. Rosecrans. The latter divided the army into three grand divisions, the centre under General Thomas, and the right and left wings under McCook and Crittenden. At the same time the old name of the Army of the Cumberland was resumed.

Then followed several conflicts, of which the most severe occurred at Murfreesboro', where the whole army was engaged. After the battle, Bragg's forces fell back, and the Union troops took possession of the town. Here they remained six months, a delay which caused extreme dissatisfaction at Washington. Rosecrans occupied the time in fortifying the place so

He was not a very boyish boy. Although he submitted with much courage to the system of hazing when it was applied to himself, he steadfastly refused to take part in it when he had become a classman, and was invited to assist in hazing others. Not only did he decline participation in this course of licensed outrage, but he became the friend and adviser of the newly arrived plebes. He was exceedingly truthful, and declined to stoop to the many artifices and white lies common among cadets to excuse their breaches of duty or discipline. From a certain sedate dignity of manner and this unswerving truthfulness, his companions attributed to him a likeness to George Washington, and, as time passed on, this distinguished name became Thomas' sobriquet.

He entered West Point in 1836, and graduated in 1840, twelfth in a class of forty-two members. Among his classmates were Generals W. T. Sherman, Johnson, and Ewell.

Thomas was appointed second lieutenant of the Third Artillery immediately on his graduation, and was ordered to report at Fort Columbus, New York, which was then, as now, a rendezvous for recruits. Here he spent but a few months, when he received orders to proceed with his regiment to Florida, where active hostilities against the Indians were in progress. The Seminole war, as it was called, had all the usual characteristics of Indian fighting; long and difficult marches over unknown roads, sudden encounters with wily and desperate foes, and severe hardships of various kinds. Thomas gave evidence in Florida of the steadfast endurance which was so marked a trait of his character. No amount of hardship induced him to

utter a complaint. At the close of the war he was warmly recommended for promotion by his commanding officer, and was appointed first lieutenant "for gallantry and good conduct in the war against the Florida Indians."

In the following year, 1842, he was stationed at New Orleans, where, however, he remained but a few months, when he was transferred to Fort Moultrie, and thence to Fort McHenry, near Baltimore. This was the gala period of Thomas's life. Young, handsome, polite and well-read, he was considered an acquisition in society, and for a time he entered very heartily into its enjoyments. But a life of gayety soon wearied him, and he expressed pleasure when he received orders to report to his company, which was about to join the army of occupation in Texas. He distinguished himself at the defence of Fort Brown in 1846, and still more at the battle of Monterey, where he served as lieutenant in a battery commanded by Bragg. He was brevetted captain for his services at Monterey, and major "for gallant and meritorious conduct at the battle of Buena Vista." The close of the war brought him little rest, for after a few months passed in camp at the mouth of the Rio Grande, he was again ordered to Florida, where the Seminole war was still in progress. In this tedious campaigning another year passed, and he was then stationed at Fort Independence, in Boston harbor. In 1851 he received an appointment as instructor at West Point. But few men better suited to the position could have been found. Dignified and conscientious as he was in the discharge of his duties, he was yet a great favorite with the cadets, his genuine kindness of heart being very visible