

28th of March, 1870, he was suddenly prostrated by illness. In a few hours he became insensible, and before evening fell, the brave and gifted soldier breathed his last. His death was attributed to the rupture of a blood-vessel in the brain. His body was conveyed to Troy, New York, escorted by his staff and a suitable guard, and was interred there April 8th, 1870. Eight major-generals acted as pall-bearers, among whom were Meade, Rosecrans, and Hooker.

A monument to the memory of Thomas was erected at Washington, and at the unveiling of the statue which forms the monument, tributes were paid to the dead general by many of the commanders with whom he had served. A splendid eulogy on his character and services is contained in a memorial oration delivered at Cleveland in 1870 by the lamented President Garfield, who held Thomas in the highest honor.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN.

Parentage—Birthplace—His Friend, Hon. Thomas Ewing—Cadet—Graduated—In Florida War—In California—President of Louisiana Military Academy—Resignation—In Federal Army—At Fort Corcoran—Pittsburg Landing—Grant's Opinion—Major-General at Corinth—Pursuing Johnston after capture of Vicksburg—Brigadier-General—Chattanooga—Missionary Ridge—Expedition through Mississippi—Captures Atlanta—March to the Sea—To Washington via Richmond—Sherman and Stanton—Commander at St. Louis—Character of Sherman.

**I**N the war of the rebellion Ohio seems to have furnished more than her quota of distinguished and successful officers. It was her fortune to give to the country the five military men who hold the first rank, viz., Stanton, Grant, Sherman, McPherson, and Sheridan, to say nothing of the long list of minor heroes.

The subject of this sketch was born in Lancaster, Fairfield county, Ohio, February 8, 1820. His father, being an admirer of the great Indian chief, gave him that name. His mother, being left a widow in 1829 with eleven children, relinquished William, then nine years old, to the care of his father's friend, Hon. Thomas Ewing, who legally adopted him, sending him to good schools until he was sixteen, then entering him as a cadet at West Point, where he graduated in 1840, in rank the sixth in his class. He entered the service as second lieutenant of the Third Artillery, and served

ing son, who bore his name and who was an especial favorite of the Thirteenth infantry, which had made the child a sergeant, sickened and died from exposure to the malarious atmosphere of the Big Black river.

It will be impossible for us to follow General Sherman through his march of more than three hundred miles, across the country to Chattanooga. On the 15th of November he was gladly welcomed by General Grant and his beleaguered forces. Owing to heavy rains, the roads were almost impassable; the troops, many without shoes, needed rest after their long and hurried march.

Sherman planted three divisions behind the hills, opposite Chickamauga creek, on which he had concealed over one hundred pontoons. One dark night these were quietly floated into the Tennessee, full of soldiers, and before the dawn of the next day eight thousand men were on the opposite shore, and had thrown up a little intrenchment to protect the pontoon-bridge of thirteen hundred feet in length, so rapidly constructed that by one o'clock of the same day it was quivering under the tread of marching columns, while a heavy rain, dropping from the low-hung clouds, quite concealed the manœuver. By three o'clock the astonished Confederate army found a formidable force on their extreme left, along the sides of Missionary ridge. A feeble attempt was vainly made to repel the advance; but before night Sherman's artillery was securely planted on the summit.

In the meantime General Hooker had carried Look-out mountain and opened communication with Chattanooga. In the dim light preceding morning Sherman discovered the enemy doubly intrenched behind two

hills, the second overlooking the first and commanding a plunging fire on the valley below. We must pause a moment to view this scene, remarkable in the world's history.

The sky above had the intensely deep blue of autumn, which the atmosphere of that high region made still deeper. The morning sun flooded the scene with dazzling brightness. The radiance reflected from tens of thousands of bayonets was sent flashing back from the long rows of cannon; the city of Chattanooga lay below in its amphitheatre of hills; banners waved in the clear mountain air, the notes of the bugle call echoed from the answering rocks, the roll of the drum was heard, the blue and gray uniforms were seen in the valley and on the heights around. The beauty of the mountain-scene will never be forgotten by those who beheld it. But how soon was all changed! Grief and anguish, blood and horror, wounded horses and dying men, took the place of the stillness and beauty of the sun-rising. The white line of smoke steadily advancing, showed the progress of the Union forces, and by night the enemy's centre was broken, and the day was won. We will not dwell upon the desolation of the following morning; suffice it to say that the rout of the enemy was complete. On the 30th, as General Sherman entered Charleston, he received a letter from General Grant containing the information that General Burnside was in danger at Knoxville, not only from the foe, but that he was short of rations. Sherman's tired troops were directed to move at once to the relief of Burnside. It was felt by all, from the commanding general to the youngest soldier, to be a fearful order; but it must be obeyed.

Cheerfully marched the Fifteenth army corps, and on reaching Loudon, twenty-six miles distant, the first day, found that the bridge was gone and they were compelled to delay the main body; but Sherman sent forward an aide to the cavalry commander, with orders for him to pick out his best horses and troops, and ride at the top of their speed till he should reach Knoxville. The brave company were "off and away" pressing on, and in twenty-four hours reached Burnside with the most welcome tidings that Sherman was hastening to his relief.

But Longstreet, getting news also that the indomitable Sherman was on the way, thought best to exercise that discretion which belongeth to valor, and, withdrawing his forces, turned his course toward Virginia. And now the war-worn troops of the Fifteenth corps could take the rest so sorely needed, and so nobly earned.

After a short leave of absence, General Sherman established his headquarters at Memphis. Congress gave him a vote of thanks for his services, and General Grant sent him a kindly appreciative letter, in replying to which, Sherman concluded in these words, which wholly clear from shadow the march to the sea: "I now exhort you to come West. Here lies the seat of the coming empire, and from the West, when our task is done, we will make sure work of Charleston, Richmond, and the impoverished shores of the Atlantic."

At the close of the month he organized the expedition into central Mississippi, which caused great excitement in all parts of the country. Placed in command of the Department of the Mississippi, composed of the former Department of the Ohio, Cumberland,

and Tennessee, he asked for one hundred thousand men and two hundred and fifty pieces of artillery.

The Confederate army, as well as the Union forces, at this time felt, most disastrously, the influence of politics, and Johnston, their ablest general next to Lee, was at this crisis removed. Desperate fighting by both armies occurred during the succeeding month; there lacked not, on either side, men of prowess and wisdom; fearful carnage resulted from the engagements. The names of many generals might well have honorable mention during the weeks preceding the evacuation of Atlanta.

On the first day of September the Confederate forces left Atlanta, and that brilliant campaign was brought to a close. It would be well-nigh impossible to laud, too highly, the skill and foresight exhibited in the conception and execution of the designs of these few weeks. As the centuries shall roll on, and men of genius study the country itself, as well as her history, note its mountains, gullies, and water-courses, the masterly mind that grasped all contingencies and provided for all emergencies will be more and more appreciated, and General Sherman will receive his just meed of praise.

Having removed all non-combatants from Atlanta, he burned that city, and gathering his forces to a central point, on the night of November 10th, he caused another conflagration in Rome; store-houses, shops, railroad station-houses, and bridges were all blazing, lighting up the marching columns that here began the famous march to the sea, and amid the scorching flames the strains of the military bands, mingled with thousand voices, were heard playing "His soul is marching on." Yes! brave old Ossa-

wattomie Brown! Thy soul was indeed marching at the head of every troop during the months and years of the war, until the proclamation of the president gave liberty to the captive, and the opening prison to them that were bound.

There was no general train of supplies for the large force, but each of the four corps had its own. A general order to "forage liberally during the march" was construed in its broadest sense, and "Sherman's bummers" will long be remembered in the country through which they passed.

Nothing could exceed the astonishment of North and South as well as all Europe, when this daring movement became known. We caught a glimpse of Sherman's army as they passed along—jolly, rollicking, riding elegant velvet side-saddles, foraged from some lady's dainty establishment, on the horn of which might be seen perhaps a canteen and a leg of bacon, gorgeous family coaches, drawn by mules driven by soldiers, and filled with every imaginable article, the whole followed by a motley crowd of blacks, that in defiance of orders marched in the rear of the army. Having touched the sea at Savannah, near the close of the year, he gave his army rest for a few days, and started anew on his final march to Goldsboro', where he made a junction with General Slocum, and gave his army till the 10th of April to recruit; and the march-worn soldiers took a holiday in the lovely spring-time of the South, where the woods were fragrant with the yellow jasmine, and the swamps glorious with the brilliant nodding blooms of the pitcher plant and the white bells of the yucca.

Very soon came news of the surrender of General

Lee. The war was over, and General Sherman went to Washington by way of Richmond.

His feelings were deeply wounded, at this time, by an attack made upon him by Stanton, then secretary of war; but he can afford to wait for history to right the matter. A brilliant military review at Washington followed, and General Sherman was placed in command of the Division of the Mississippi.

He is of a nervous temperament, a trifle rough in manner, but with a heart full of kindness and with a quiet appreciation of fun; courageous and full of energy, with a mind which, while capable of grasping the most comprehensive designs, never overlooks the minor details necessary to success.

a year in Florida. In 1846 he was sent to California, where he was on duty during the Mexican war, and rose to the rank of captain. In 1850 he was married to Miss Ellen Ewing, daughter of his second father, to whom he had been attached since the days of his childhood. In 1853 he resigned his commission to become president of the banking-house of Lucas, Turner & Co., San Francisco. In 1860 he was urged to take the position of president of the Louisiana State Military Academy at Alexandria, where he remained but a short time. Foreseeing the approach of that war which shook these States from foundation to their topmost stone, in January previous to the attack on Sumter he resigned his position in words which evinced a wonderful insight of coming events. He wished to be relieved "the moment this State determines to secede, for on no account will I do any act or think any thought hostile to, or in defiance of, the old government of the United States."

Soon after, and before the attack on Sumter, he went to Washington, and in an interview with the President and Secretary of War, placed before them his views regarding impending events in the near future; but he was put aside with the evident feeling that he was an imaginative, excitable person, upon whom it would not be safe to depend, the President assuring him that "the little affair would soon blow over."

Sherman was completely astonished at the incredulity of the government, and later, after the call for seventy-five thousand men, when he was asked to assist in their organization, he said: "Why, you might as well undertake to extinguish the flames of a building with a squirt-gun as to put down this rebellion with

these three months troops." Being asked what should be done he replied, "Organize for a gigantic war at once; call out the whole military force of the country, and strangle the rebellion in its very birth, with an overwhelming, irresistible force." He seems to have been, at that time, the only one to realize the magnitude of the occasion, or the force which would be required, before the wheels of the government should move quietly on their track.

McDowell, desiring Sherman's assistance in front of Washington, secured his appointment as colonel in the regular army, and he was placed in command of a brigade near Fort Corcoran. Soon after, he received his commission of brigadier-general of volunteers, and was second in command in the department south of the Ohio. The health of his superior officer failing, Sherman was placed in command of the department. Just at this time, owing to some slight unpleasantness with a newspaper correspondent, the story was circulated throughout the country that General Sherman was insane. He was deeply chagrined, and gave utterance to his indignation in no delicate terms.

In fact, so utterly disgusted was he, that he asked to be relieved, which request was readily granted, and he was sent to Jefferson barracks, where he could do no harm. But when, in the spring of 1862, General Grant was put in command of a portion of the army, he felt that he had use for just such a crazy general as Sherman, and put him in command of the fifth division of the Army of the Tennessee. In the bloody battle at Pittsburg Landing Sherman showed his peculiar type of lunacy. His division, lying at the front base, bore the brunt of the first attack, and many

of his men were taken prisoners. But, clinging to his position till the last moment, fighting as he retired, rallying his men for action, galloping incessantly through the hottest fire, he seemed almost omnipotent. Three horses sunk under him, and he was several times wounded. But nothing daunted or checked his wonderful courage. He actually *blazed* over all the field of carnage, with his hand in a sling, giving directions everywhere—the moving spirit of the forces. General Nelson said of him, “During eight hours, the fate of our army depended upon one man. If General Sherman had fallen, the army would have been captured or destroyed.” General Grant’s opinion was, “To the individual efforts of General Sherman, I owe the success of that battle on April 6th.” On the 7th, with the remains of his division, he repeated his efforts of the day before, with equal success. “He was a strong man, in the high places of the field, and hope shone in him like a pillar of fire, when it had gone out in all other men.” Untiring to the last, he pushed out the third day, and vanquished the cavalry of the foe, taking a large supply of ammunition. He was at once promoted major-general of volunteers, and on June 20th advanced on Holly Springs, breaking up the Mississippi Central railroad. Memphis at this time falling into the hands of the Union forces, General Sherman made that post his headquarters, and by his untiring energy he entirely stopped the contraband trade with the South.

After Grant’s first attempt on Vicksburg, in which Sherman made an unsuccessful assault, Sherman’s army remained in comparative idleness until February, when, in pursuance of Grant’s plan for a second attack,

he proceeded to put his force in battle array near the point of his former assault, but on the fall of Grand Gulf, he was ordered by Grant to join him at that place. By the most wonderful marching, over bad roads, he met Grant May 6th, and on the 16th was ordered to move his troops at once toward Jackson, to the relief of his chief. Before night his entire corps were twenty miles on their way, and his unparalleled swiftness filled even Grant with admiration; on the 19th he lay with his right resting on the Mississippi, in sight of Vicksburg. He continued to hold this position during the long siege that followed, making gradual advances toward the city.

In the meantime the Confederate general, Johnston, had concentrated a large force in Grant’s rear, near the city of Jackson, and Sherman had been directed, in case of the surrender of Vicksburg, to move at once on Johnston. By a rapid march of sixty-five miles he suddenly confronted the forces in Jackson, and was not long in achieving a complete victory, encamping his troops within the city. General Grant said of him, in his report, “The siege of Vicksburg, last capture of Jackson, and dispersing of Johnston’s army, entitle General Sherman to more credit than usually falls to the lot of one man.”

His army now rested until September 22d, when the defeat of General Rosecrans, near Chattanooga, rendered it needful to move forces to that point. His whole division was in motion before four o’clock of the day on which he received his despatch; though he was unable to reach Memphis until the beginning of October. But while he was so promptly fulfilling his orders, a private grief rested heavily upon him: a lov-