

exertions. The presidency of the College of Virginia was finally offered to and accepted by him.

He entered on his new duties in October, and devoted all his energies to retrieving the college from the ruin brought on it by the war, and to cultivating in the students the feeling that the war being over, the spirit of revenge should be set aside, and all their powers devoted to building up a new and prosperous country on the ruins of the old. His influence on the turbulent spirit then prevalent was very great. To a lady, whose sons were entering the college as students, and who expressed bitter hatred for the North, he said, "Do not bring up your sons to detest the United States Government. Remember we are one country now. Let us abandon these local animosities, and make your sons Americans."

General Lee was a consistent and devoted Christian. During the war, this side of his character was not displayed so strongly as in the case of "Stonewall Jackson," but in the college he threw all his influence on the side of Christian belief and conduct. He once remarked that that was his principal aim in accepting the presidency of the college. In September, 1870, on returning from a meeting of the parochial committee of his church, he complained of chill. A few minutes later he fell back in his chair paralyzed. He remained in a state of insensibility until the 12th of October, when he passed from unconsciousness to death.

The grief in the South was universal, and everywhere it was recognized that a great soldier, a truly brave and noble soul, had passed away. He lies buried in the college chapel; and friend and foe cannot but unite in admiration of his character.

CHAPTER XXIX.

WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK.

Parentage—Birthplace—Boyhood—"How he became Cadet"—Career at the Academy—Graduation—First Campaign—Promoted—In Florida—First Battle for the Union—Married—Yorktown—"Gentlemen, Charge!"—Promotion at Antietam on the Battle-Field—Incident Illustrating Character—Gettysburg—Wounded—"Attend to your Command: I'll take Care of Myself"—First Public Testimonial—With Grant—Nominated for President—Subsequent Life.

THE ancestors of General Hancock on both sides belonged to families of Revolutionary fame, and were engaged in the successive wars from the French and Indian, through the Revolution, down to 1812. The subject of this sketch was born February 14, 1824, near Lansdale, Montgomery county, Penna. Nature cast him in a rare mould of comeliness. He is physically fashioned for a soldier. His height is two inches above six feet, with a corresponding breadth, which, combined with his erect military bearing, renders him a man everywhere to be noticed.

As a boy he was slender though tall, and when only twelve years old was recognized as a leader among his fellows. Gray-headed men in Montgomery county to-day tell stories of boyish disputes which were usually settled by agreeing to "leave it out to Winfield."

A little military company among the boys chose him

proaching enemy. Hancock was sitting on his horse close behind the centre of his line, steadfast, and apparently unmoved, until Early's men were within thirty yards of them—hurrying up the hill, flushed and eager to grasp the colors of which they were now sure. Every bayonet was fixed, when suddenly Hancock, hat in hand, dashed forward in front of his men, shouting, "Charge, gentlemen! Charge!" and led the way down the hill!

It seemed like madness, but it was a daring onslaught for victory! It is in official record that Hancock's men were obliged to bayonet the foremost of their assailants before the line broke. They fought like heroes—Early's men were not cowards, and were not disposed to relinquish what appeared so sure. Down the hill went Hancock, his martial, graceful figure marking the point where hostile forces joined in combat. What wonder that, inspired by such a leader, the Confederate lines wavered and broke! Many held up white handkerchiefs and surrendered. Then it was that reinforcements arrived. They were not needed. "Hancock was superb," was General McClellan's telegraphed report of the battle. This brilliant achievement won for General Hancock a world-wide reputation, promotion to the rank of major-general of volunteers, and brevetted him in the regular army as major, lieutenant-colonel and colonel.

We must not forget that this was the very beginning of our civil conflict; the troops were volunteers taken from every position in life, and yet such a test as General Hancock gave his men at Williamsburg was worthy of veteran soldiers in a trained army. Such a charge would have been impossible to men who had

not the most implicit faith in their commander, and to him belongs the laurel wreath which he so well earned. The secret of gaining and holding confidence was possessed by Hancock. He was always ready to share the peril of his troops, and be seen by them. His commanding carriage, knightly figure and chivalrous bearing infected his command with an implicit faith in their leader. It is said of him that on the field at Antietam one of his subordinate officers rode up to him, saying:

"General, my men are all being killed; may I not withdraw them a little out of fire?"

"No," replied Hancock, "I hope we shall soon be able to advance."

"Then we shall all be killed," was the desponding reply.

"Very well," said the general, "return to your troops, and if you fall, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have died for your country."

We can only glance at General Hancock's successes at South mountain, and in McClellan's Maryland campaign against Lee, and at Fredericksburg and other fields of slaughter. At Gettysburg he received his first wound, but not until the third of those days of fearful carnage. It was at the moment of supreme triumph to our forces that this gallant chieftain fell from his saddle. He was instantly surrounded by anxious comrades. "Shall we not carry you to the rear?" was the first inquiry.

"Return to your commands, gentlemen; I can take care of myself," was his brave reply.

During the Gettysburg battle Hancock was everywhere, was General Meade's report, and he received

on every hand the highest praises for his valor and skill. But the cruel ball which tore through his saddle and lodged in his thigh remained there, and he was borne home to Norristown in a condition which excited the gloomiest forebodings among his friends. On arriving at the station he was met by a detachment of veteran guards, who, tenderly placing him on their shoulders, bore him through the streets. For many weeks the strictest repose was needful. Early in 1864 his schoolmates presented him with a service of gold and silver plate, elaborately embossed. A public testimonial was offered him in Philadelphia.

We next find General Hancock in the field with General Grant in March, 1864. When the order was issued that the Army of the Potomac should cross the Rapidan, Hancock led the advance. On May 5th the long fight began which has gone into history as the Battle of the Wilderness, in which for two days the fighting was kept up. At Spotsylvania Court-House he again distinguished himself, and when General Grant determined to force the passage of the Chickahominy at Cold Harbor, Hancock was given the place on the left of the line. In August of this year Hancock was again promoted a long step in the regular army, receiving his commission as brigadier-general.

He was soon detailed to the responsible work of increasing the ranks of the army by his personal exertions. His head-quarters were established at Harrisburg, and success, beyond all expectations, crowned his efforts. At Philadelphia, on the ensuing 22d of February, he was accorded a public reception at Independence Hall, and he reviewed the volunteer troops of Philadelphia and vicinity. At the close of the review,

after the general had dismounted and was about passing up the steps of his hotel, he caught sight of one of his former teachers when he was a lad in Norristown. In the midst of his triumph he could not forget this friend of his boyhood, and, cordially extending his hand, he expressed his delight at the meeting, and introduced him to the distinguished gentlemen who were with him. He urged Mr. Roberts to call upon him when he might be at leisure; he did so, finding the general lying down, as he yet suffered from his wound. Mr. Roberts begged him not to rise, saying, "By doing so you will lay me under too much obligation."

"No, sir," was the courteous reply, "I shall always feel under obligations to you," and calling to his son, he introduced the lad to his old teacher, saying, "Remember always to respect the teacher of your youth, as I do this gentleman who taught me when I was a boy."

The recruits of General Hancock never were called to active service, as Lee's surrender in the spring virtually closed the war of the rebellion.

General Hancock was essentially and thoroughly a Democrat. It was his creed by inheritance, by education, and by the convictions of his life. He believed in an "indestructible union of indestructible States." On the assassination of President Lincoln he was summoned at once to Washington. He was military commander of the district during the trial, and until after the execution of the conspirators.

In August, 1866, General Hancock was transferred to the Department of Missouri. In March, 1867, he commanded an expedition against hostile Indians in Kansas and Colorado, and was then appointed by

President Johnson to the command of the Fifth Military District. His first act was to proclaim the rule of LAW. The dwellers in Louisiana and Texas had been somewhat restive under the severe military rule of General Sheridan, and General Hancock let them know at once that he had come to be their governor under the reconstruction act. His celebrated "General Order No. 40," in which he informed the people that "the right of trial by jury, the habeas corpus, the natural rights of persons, and the rights of property must be preserved," so different from anything in the history of military government, flashed all over the land during the night, and was the topic of discussion at thousands of breakfast-tables the next morning.

The joy of the people in the Fifth District can be imagined. They looked for a Cæsar, and found in his stead the expounder and defender of the constitutional laws of the fathers, and the exponent of the rights of freemen. The effect was electric. The blessings of peace and prosperity immediately followed, as Hancock's designs became understood, and could he have remained at the head of affairs, the period of misrule in these States would have long since ceased. He prohibited military interference in the elections; restored the officers of civil courts, and conscientiously helped to "reconstruct" the dismembered States. Never was a nobler sacrifice of ambition to patriotism. But he found himself hampered on every hand by unscrupulous politicians, who, so far as was possible, interfered with affairs and crippled his authority. In February, 1868, he applied to be relieved, and the Fifth District was given over to misrule. But the record of General Hancock's six months of wise legisla-

tion has written his name high on the roll of Democratic statesmen.

At the National Democratic Convention at Cincinnati, in June, 1880, Daniel Dougherty made a thrilling speech nominating General Hancock as the candidate for President of the United States. It is needless to recall the events of that campaign, so fresh in the minds of all.

At the time of his death, February 9, 1886, he was in command of the Division of the Atlantic, with head-quarters on Governor's Island, New York Bay.

His honorable and upright life, spent entirely in military service, stands to-day as a model to his countrymen.

In the annals of American history, the fame of Winfield Scott Hancock is safe. He was a man whom everybody honored—whom all trusted.

for its captain, and when difficulties arose which caused perplexity to the commander, he was wont to order the disputants to "report to his mother for duty," a summary method, which soon taught the boys that it was best not to quarrel.

Winfield's parents had more than an average education themselves, and were desirous that their sons should receive all possible advantages. They were sent to the academy at Norristown, and when the public school system was inaugurated in Pennsylvania they attended the free schools till the age of fifteen.

A very curious incident connected with his appointment as cadet to the military academy at West Point may not be without its useful lesson if related here. Some forty years ago a Philadelphian took up his abode in Norristown for the sole purpose of making a residence preparatory to application in behalf of his son for a vacant cadetship in that district.

An old gentleman, who had aforetime been a leader in politics in that region, presented to the Philadelphian an old horse, which had done him faithful service, and which was a great pet in his family, on condition that he should never be sold, but used in his own premises.

The old politician was very fond of animals, and his indignation was greatly aroused one morning in the city by the outrageous conduct of an angry drayman, who was lashing his horse with brutal ferocity. His anger became no less, though mingled with grief, on discovering his favorite old trotter harnessed to the dray. In a short time the abused animal changed owners, and was enjoying the best care in the Continental stables. But vengeance, though not executed speed-

ily on the friend false to his promise, was none the less sure. The politician kept his eye upon the movements of the man to whom he had presented the horse, and being quite aware of the reason for his change of residence, said to himself, grimly, "You sold my horse, you fine fellow; I will remember your kindness." He lost no time in making known to the member from that district, Hon. Joseph Farnace, the bad faith of the other applicant for the vacancy, and himself proposed the son of his old friend, W. S. Hancock, who, at the age of sixteen, was an entered cadet at West Point. His career during the years which he spent at the military academy was highly creditable, and he graduated, with a standing of average excellence, on the 30th of June, 1844. It was not until June of 1846 that he secured his commission as second lieutenant in the 6th United States Infantry.

The young officer had not long to wait before he was summoned to join the command of his honored namesake, who had just entered Vera Cruz, and was already co-operating with General Taylor. Who that lived in those days can ever forget the eagerness with which the whole nation watched the grand movements between the gulf and the City of Mexico? "One victory trod upon another's heels," so fast they followed. Our young lieutenant fought gallantly at Churubusco, Molino del Rey (the King's Mills), and the hill of Chapultepec, and with such bravery that he was called up and brevetted on the field, and received the honor of the public thanks of his native State, expressed to himself and others by the legislature of Pennsylvania.

The close of the Mexican war was most happy in its

effects upon our country, not only securing Texas to the United States, but forcing the acquisition of California, thus opening the way for the occupation of the Pacific coast, and for the construction of the continental railroad across the Rocky mountains.

At the close of the war in 1848 Hancock, still connected with the 6th Regiment, was stationed at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where he remained till 1849. In January, 1850, he married Miss Almira Russell, a daughter of a prominent merchant of St. Louis. In 1856, now a full captain, he was stationed near Fort Augustine, Florida, and afterwards to Los Angeles, where he remained till 1861, when he solicited employment in the Union army, and reported for duty at Washington, being then thirty-eight years of age. He was first assigned to duty as chief-quartermaster of the staff of General Robert Anderson, the hero of Fort Sumter, and was commissioned by President Lincoln as brigadier-general.

Until March, 1862, General Hancock was engaged in the defences of Washington. His career was henceforth in the field.

Near the last of the month the Army of the Potomac was transported to Fortress Monroe. The field for operations was the tract of land lying between the York and James rivers. The army had been carefully feeling its way through woods, and from April 7th to May 3d (the day when the Confederate forces evacuated Yorktown) Hancock's brigade had been in the trenches or skirmishing with the enemy's pickets. When it was found that the Confederate works were deserted, our forces rushed, with what speed was consistent with prudence, after the flying enemy. They were over-

taken at Williamsburg, where a line of fortifications had been built, extending quite across from one river to the other. Toward noon of May 5th General Hancock obtained permission to reconnoitre the Confederate left. Taking two additional regiments, and two light batteries, he moved carefully onward, until approaching a deep ravine with a dam across it, he saw at a glance that the fortification on the opposite bluff was not strongly manned. The word was given, and Hancock's troops poured across the old dam and bridge, and, rushing up the bluff, soon captured the redoubt. A road was speedily constructed for the artillery, which was dragged across the ravine. About 1,200 yards in advance was another small fortification, which was taken in the same manner.

Hancock now formed his line actually within the enemy's fortifications which he had seized, but found that there were two more redoubts between him and Fort MacGruder. The situation was a dangerous one; he sent back for reinforcements, which did not arrive. It was not until five o'clock that he gave command to fall back, as he saw that the Confederates were in motion, and that they occupied the last redoubt from which they had been driven; hardly had he called his advanced batteries back when General Early's men poured out of the woods on his right, and, rapidly forming in line, advanced upon him. Hancock consolidated his lines, as Early, with shouts, marched on. His two batteries played upon the advancing foes, but without checking them. Backward he slowly retreated, firing as if in drill practice, while the impetuous, taunting shouts of "Bull Run!" "Bull Run!" "Your flag is ours!" fell on their ears from the ap-