

His own decease was somewhat unexpected. He had been for some days very slightly indisposed, but complained suddenly of severe pain in the region of the heart. He died the next morning of heart neuralgia. This occurred September 13th, 1881. His obsequies were celebrated with all the honors the State could give; and in the Senate several eloquent tributes were paid to his memory, of which perhaps the most interesting was that of Wade Hampton, the Confederate cavalry leader, who closed his remarks as follows:

"Others have worthily bedecked his tomb with wreaths of immortelles; I bring a spray of Southern cypress, to lay it tenderly and reverently on his grave. Peace to his ashes; for of him it may with truth be said, that throughout his long, varied, and honorable career,

"He bore without abuse  
The grand old name of gentleman."

## CHAPTER XXXI.

### GEORGE BRINTON M'CLELLAN.

Birth and Ancestry—Boyhood and Cadet Life—Rank and Experience at West Point—War with Mexico—In Civil Life—War of Secession—McClellan called to Washington—In Command—Battle of Bull Run—Scott Resigns and McClellan Becomes Commander-in-Chief—Battle of Manassas—Congress and McClellan—President assumes Command of the Army—Peninsular Campaign—Seven Days' Battle—McClellan's Departure from the Peninsula—Nominated for President—Civil Life—Governor of New Jersey—Tribute of Honor.

GEORGE BRINTON McCLELLAN was born in Philadelphia, December 3, 1826. His ancestors were distinguished in the medical profession, of gentle breeding, distinctly traceable to nobility, in the person of Lord Kirkcudbright, of Scotland. His boyhood was passed at school, where he was a good scholar and held high rank in his class, though he was by no means brilliant.

In June, 1842, he entered the military academy at West Point, being then fifteen years and six months old. His conduct here was unexceptionable. He was not quick in the acquisition of knowledge, but what he learned remained fixed in his mind. He exhibited perseverance, a strong will and resolute habits of application. It was matter of surprise to himself, at the close of his first year's examinations, to find he was

action. He had always been politically opposed to the party then in power, and partisan politicians began at once to take initial steps toward interfering with his plans. The house of representatives appointed a committee on the conduct of the war. Several prominent generals were called before it, who refused to express opinions in regard to the policy of their commander, as indeed by the Articles of War they were bound to do.

In obedience to the cry of "On to Richmond!" President Lincoln issued positive orders that a forward movement be made on February 22d, and that all disposable forces except what was needful to protect the capital should be sent to seize a point on the railroad southeast of Manassas Junction, thus taking the campaign out of the hands of the general, who had intended to attack Richmond by way of the lower Chesapeake, and announcing our plans to the enemy. The president, however, gave the general an opportunity to explain the advantages of his designs, which he did at great length, and in the most convincing terms. On March 8th the president issued an order dividing the army into five corps, assigning the commander to each. A council of thirteen generals was called, at which all but four favored General McClellan's methods of procedure.

A more accurate judgment regarding the merits of McClellan can be reached by showing the orders by which he was hampered than by a detail of his movements and battles.

As a result of the council mentioned above, on March 9th the enemy retired from Manassas and Centreville, and on the 11th McClellan was relieved of the

supreme command, and left simply in command of the Army of the Potomac, notice of which he first received through the columns of the newspapers on the 12th of March, 1862.

Whatever General McClellan may have felt at this time, he wrote to the president in language distinguished for good taste and the most patriotic feeling:

"I said to you some weeks since that no feeling of self-interest should ever prevent me from devoting myself to the service. I am glad to have an opportunity to prove this, and you will find that under present circumstances I shall work just as cheerfully as before." In accordance with the president's direction, General Banks' command was ordered to remain at Manassas. General McClellan had asked that the whole available force of the navy should be thrown against Yorktown to assist in his contemplated attack on that place.

Notwithstanding assurances which the president had given General McClellan that he would not withdraw any of his troops, by the 3d of April no less than sixty thousand men had been removed from his command, reducing the general's force more than one-third after his task had been assigned, its operations planned, and the fighting begun. By way of excuse for his course, the president said, "If you could know the full pressure of the case, I am confident you would justify it." Of course, nothing could be said. It remained for General McClellan to do the best possible under the circumstances. He decided not to assault Yorktown, as he had intended, but to carry it by a general siege. But it fell without a battle, and a large amount of warlike stores were either abandoned or destroyed. About ten miles from Yorktown lies the city of Williamsburg.

To this point McClellan pushed on his forces, and after a severe contest, the next day Williamsburg was taken. On May 10th, from a camp near Williamsburg, McClellan sent a brief telegram to the secretary of war urging his need of reinforcements without delay. On the 14th he made a similar appeal to the president, but fears for the safety of Washington prevented his receiving the desired succor, though he was assured that he should soon be reinforced by fifty thousand men, thus rendering him strong enough to attack the large army before him. But his disappointment amounted almost to agony when he received a telegram informing him that the troops under General McDowell, which had been promised to him, were sent to reinforce General Banks, then in a critical position near Harper's Ferry.

By June 25th, McClellan, becoming convinced that he should receive no reinforcements, resolved to do the best he could with the force at his command. His troops were now on the right bank of the Chickahominy, disposed in a semicircle, three miles in length; on the left bank of the river were two divisions, and an advanced post was on the heights overlooking Mechanicsville. McClellan, having previously thrown out pickets, intended an attack on the 26th, but this design was thwarted by the enemy's forces themselves attacking, and convincing McClellan that a change of base was needful for him. He immediately transferred his ground of operations to the James river, a distance of seventeen miles. To transport ninety thousand men, including cavalry and artillery, and the boundless procession of wagons, was not an easy task, but it must be done, and as privately as possible. It was needful to engage the enemy on the left bank of the Chickahom-

iny as long as possible to give time for removal of siege-guns and trains, and on the 28th was fought the battle of Gaines' Mills, which was a victory for the Confederates. This was the second of those seven days' fighting which closed with the battle of Malvern Hills; but the James river was reached after conflicts and difficulties of which we cannot even imagine, and General McClellan looked with a just pride upon his army now sheltered and safe. During their retreat to the James, the men had conducted themselves in a way to win the admiration of their commander. Although he had been compelled to abandon his position before Richmond, and had failed to accomplish what he had hoped and intended, it was not his fault, and in the lapse of time his country will do him justice.

The history of the Army of the Potomac during the succeeding months may be quickly told. At that season of the year it could not remain in its present position. That would be certain death in that malarial country. It was the wish of General McClellan that his army should be reinforced, and at once thrown upon Richmond, but the president did not agree to this plan, and not until August 3d was the general informed that it had been decided to turn over the troops in his charge to other commanders, principally to General Pope, which was done, leaving him with only his staff and a few hundred soldiers. On the 26th of August he was ordered to Alexandria, and on September 1st was sent to Washington, and placed in charge of the defense of that city.

During this period of trial it is only just to say that McClellan retained, in the highest degree, the respect of the officers and soldiers under his command. To

this day not a man can be found who ever served under him who does not speak of him with enthusiasm, and the record shows that no army acting under his orders was ever defeated, unless the retiring of 35,000 men at Gaines' Mills, without disorder, from before an army of double their number may be called a defeat.

On September 2d, after the disastrous campaign of General Pope, and the Second Bull Run disaster, President Lincoln sent for McClellan, and asked him again to take command of the army. Not quite readily did he consent, actuated not by personal and petty spite in view of the past, but by honest doubt if it were wise and best for the country that he should do so. With a nobleness above all praise, he yielded to the wish of the president, and having accepted the trust, set about the discharge of his duties with energy. The soldiers of the Potomac, on learning that the beloved general was again at their head, took heart; "hope elevated, and joy brightened their crests." Many wept with joy at again having a commander in whom they could place implicit confidence. As the busy days rolled on, McClellan was forced to the conclusion that he no more enjoyed the confidence of the administration than during the Virginia campaign, and that his appointment to his present position was due to the sentiment of the army.

In the meantime the Confederate forces, under General Lee, had taken a position along the crest of South Mountain, and a strong detachment were intrenched at Harper's Ferry. On the morning of the 14th a battle begun. The right line of McClellan's forces, commanded by General Hooker, steadily pressed up the slope. "Bravely they rode and well," the woods and

ledges blazing with sheets of flame, and the Confederate forces wavered and gave way as before the sweeping force of a mighty flood. They were followed, and driven quite to the top of the mountain and down the other side. By six o'clock, McClellan had undisputed possession of the heights.

Following the battle of South Mountain, on the 17th of September the battle of Antietam engaged the hostile forces, at which not a gun or color was lost by our army, though the contest was a desperate one.

In view of the expulsion of Confederate troops from the State of Maryland, and of the value of the services of General McClellan, an executive order of the governor of Maryland, in which the thanks of the State were tendered him, was placed in his hands.

It was a serious question for the decision of the commander whether or not it were wise to pursue the retreating enemy into Virginia. His army was exhausted. They had insufficient supplies, and many were without shoes, clothing, blankets, knapsacks, and winter-tents.

The inactivity of the army at this time was severely criticised by the country, but it is much more easy to find fault than to move a large army without subsistence or supplies. On October 7th a definite order from the president came to General McClellan to cross the Potomac and give battle to the enemy, but the movement did not begin till the 26th. He could not move until supplies reached him. At length all the corps were in motion, and after crossing the river marched south on a line east of the Blue Ridge, selected in view of its being a point near the Manassas Gap railroad, where he could easily get supplies. On November 7th,

General McClellan reported his army in "admirable condition and spirits," ready for the battle which was impending, and at which he confidently anticipated victory, when, late on the same evening, he was relieved of his command and ordered to Trenton, New Jersey.

The reasons for this remarkable and abrupt change have never been given, either to General McClellan or to the people. The limits of this sketch forbid the further consideration of the facts, which speak for themselves. The general's first act was to draw up a farewell address to his troops, which was read to them at dress-parade on the 10th. On the evening of Sunday, the 9th, he took leave of the officers of his staff. The demonstrations of affection on the part of the soldiers as he rode through their ranks for the last time were touching in the extreme.

He established his residence at Orange, New Jersey, and has been engaged in literary pursuits, publishing a valuable work on the cavalry of Europe, and a report on the organization and conduct of the Army of the Potomac.

In 1864 he received 1,800,000 votes for President of the United States, and in 1877 was elected Governor of New Jersey, after which service he again retired to private life.

On the 29th of October, 1885, at Orange Mountain, N. J., George B. McClellan breathed his last.

It is a memorable year, in which are recorded the deaths of a number of such great men.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

PHILIP HENRY SHERIDAN,

**Birth and Childhood—The Runaway Horse—Career as West Point Cadet—Lieutenant Sheridan at Fort Duncan—Dispersing the quarrelsome Yokimas—His defeat of Chalmers—Heroic conduct at the Battle of Perrysville—Joining Grant—Raids around Lee—"Sheridan's Ride"—His Administration at New Orleans—Grant's Opinion of him—Subsequent Life.**

**T**HE subject of this sketch was born in Massachusetts in 1831, of Irish parents. While he was yet a child, the family moved to Ohio, and settled in Perry county. Philip was employed to drive a water-cart while still a mere boy, in the town of Zanesville. Here he had the good fortune to attract the attention of the member of Congress for the district. Through the influence of this gentleman he was admitted as a cadet at the Military Academy in 1848.

At the age of twenty-two he graduated, and as brevet second lieutenant, joined his regiment, the First Infantry, at Fort Duncan, on the Texas frontier. At this time the Indians were engaged in active hostilities against the United States. Sheridan showed so much efficiency as an officer that he was promoted and exchanged into another regiment, to which was intrusted the defence of the Pacific coast from San Francisco to Oregon. That line of country was then being surveyed for the construction of a branch of the Pacific

one of the best scholars in his class. He graduated in 1846, standing second in the largest class that had ever left the academy. He was of middle height, with broad shoulders and deep chest, capable of enduring great fatigue and exposure. Always of strictly temperate habits, his body has ever been the willing servant of his mind.

He entered at once into active service as brevet second lieutenant of engineers, and was assigned duty in a company of sappers and miners, at that time an entirely new branch of the service. A letter to his brother, written at this period, states that every minute in the day was occupied in preparing the men to organize the first corps of engineer troops which had ever been in the country. He expressed himself as "perfectly delighted" with his duties.

In September, 1846, he sailed with his company of seventy-one men from New York for Brazos Santiago, and arrived just after the battle of Monterey; they were engaged in the capture of Vera Cruz, at Cerro Gordo and Puebla. Early one morning Lieutenant McClellan was in a house, on the side of the town of Puebla nearest the enemy, when his ear caught the sound of the long roll, calling to arms the troops. He was at once in the saddle, and, as he rode toward town, he met a Mexican cavalry captain. Each was alone, armed with sabres and pistols. The Mexican turned and fled, but McClellan pursued, overtook him and compelled him to surrender. As they rode on together the Mexican suddenly put spurs to his horse and attempted to draw his pistol, but the young officer made him understand that if he renewed the attempt at escape he would put a bullet through him.

After this the two rode quietly on until McClellan surrendered his prisoner.

In no less than three engagements he received honorable mention in the despatches of his commander. On the fall of Chapultepec the sappers and miners were ordered to the front, and took the lead of General Worth's division in one of the most difficult and dangerous movements of the assault on Mexico, viz., the attack on the garita (or gate). It had been decided, instead of moving up heavy guns to assault the gate, that the sappers and miners should advance through the houses, breaking their way successively through the walls of one house into the next, which they did successfully until they reached the public square. This service was very dangerous, as every house had Mexican soldiers in it. These having been driven away or shot, on the 14th of September, 1847, General Scott, with six thousand five hundred men, entered into the heart of the city of Mexico, and the war was virtually ended. McClellan remained in Mexico till May, 1848, when he, with his company, returned to West Point. Here he employed his leisure in study, and in the winter of 1849 he prepared for the use of the army a "Manual of Bayonet-Exercise," which, upon the recommendation of General Scott, was adopted as a part of the system of instruction for the army.

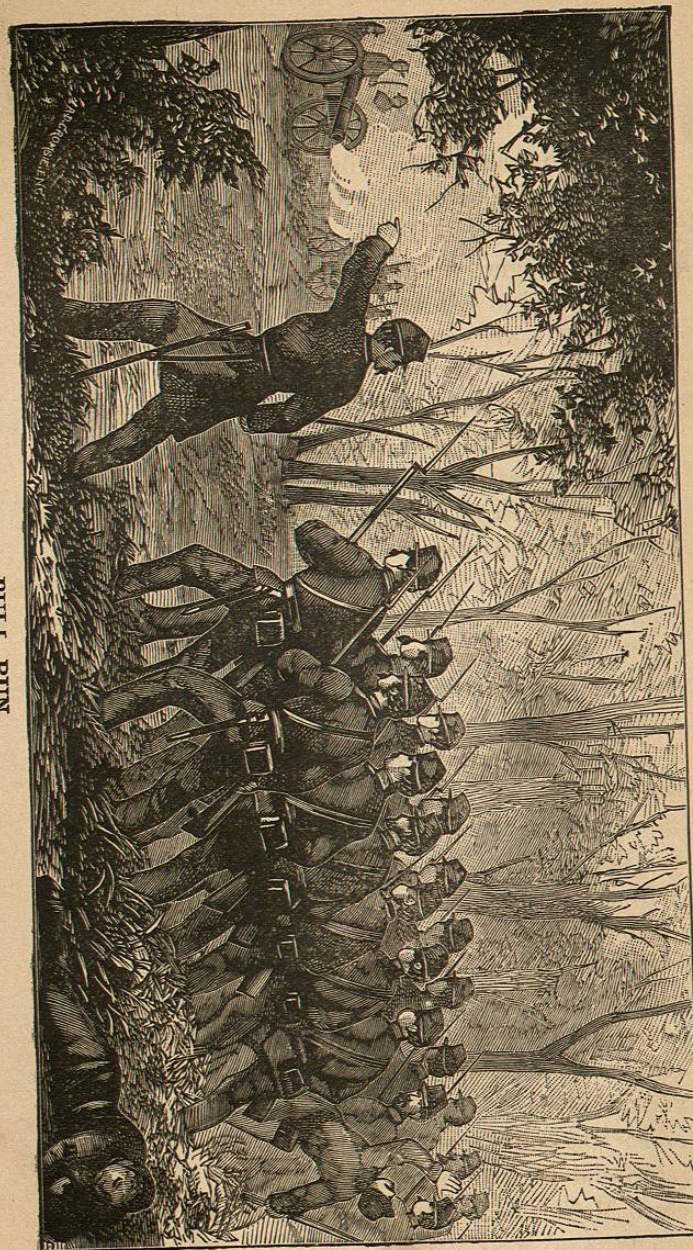
He was subsequently employed in the construction of Fort Delaware, and remained there until the close of the winter of 1851. He was then assigned duty in exploring the country at the head of Red river, and later was ordered to Texas as chief-engineer on the staff of General P. F. Smith. He made several tours of military inspection, and early in 1853 he was given a survey of a portion of the Pacific railroad.

In the spring of 1855, Captain McClellan was selected, with two others, to serve on a commission to Europe to examine the military systems of the great powers, and report plans which might be beneficial to our own country. Having faithfully performed this duty, he resigned his commission and retired from the army. He had seen fifteen years' constant service, and the life of a soldier in time of peace had little attraction for him.

Captain McClellan was immediately appointed chief engineer of the Illinois Central Railroad, and went to Chicago to reside. In 1860 he was married to Miss Ellen, daughter of General R. B. Marcy, and removed to Cincinnati as vice-president of the Ohio and Mississippi railroad.

The guns of Sumter, which woke the nation to arms, found Ohio no better prepared for war than any other of our peaceful States. Governor Dennison at once turned to Captain McClellan for assistance, appointing him major-general of volunteers. In six weeks from the time he was first called on he sent his forces to the field in West Virginia, and on June 3d the first battle of the war was fought at Philippi, resulting in victory to the Union forces. Without waiting for authority from Washington, General McClellan threw all the troops at his command into West Virginia, and on the 22d of June took the field in person.

General Rosecrans drove the Confederate forces from Rich's mountain, where they were strongly intrenched, and at Carrick's Ford, in accordance with McClellan's orders, the entire column of the enemy were forced to retire, and its commander slain. No one has ever accused McClellan of tardiness or want of energy in the campaign of West Virginia.



BULL RUN.

Called to Washington on July 22d, after the disaster at Bull Run, he was placed in command of the Army of the Potomac. He found it a military rabble of 50,000 men, without even organization into brigades, and, necessarily, without discipline. To reduce order from this chaos, and form this tumultuous assemblage into an army, with its brigades and divisions, to create an adequate artillery establishment, to organize a medical, commissary, quartermaster's, ordnance, provost-marshal's, and signal corps departments was indeed a herculean task.

But to the work, assisted by an able and willing staff, he applied himself with diligence. The troops were divided into twelve brigades, each under the command of an officer educated at West Point. Defensive works were thrown up, fresh troops arriving were formed into provisional brigades, and placed in camps for instruction and discipline. On August 4th, General McClellan submitted to the president a general plan for the conduct of the war.

On November 1st, General Scott having retired, General McClellan was directed to assume command of the entire armies of the United States. On the 2d he was presented with a sword voted him by the city council of Philadelphia.

The people of the country, entirely ignorant of the length of time required to equip, drill, and provide supplies for so large a body of men, began to chafe at delay, and early the cry of "On to Richmond!" began to resound over the length and breadth of the land.

On the other hand, injudicious friends of the commander heaped upon him praises for what he was about to do. Extravagant approval is sure to produce re-