

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



line of battle, and faced round on the foe. Sheridan rode along the lines, infusing his own courage into his followers. "Boys," he repeated, "if I had been here this never should have happened. We are going back to our camps, and we are going to lick them out of their boots." The troops, although exhausted by five hours' fighting, cheered enthusiastically, and turning round on the enemy, drove them back with heavy loss. The rebels then threw up breastworks, intending to hold their ground without further fighting. But Sheridan was determined that the defeat of the morning should be wiped out by a victory, so that the news of one should not go forth without the other to compensate for it. At half-past three in the afternoon, his army advanced against the breast-works. The enemy's artillery rent the line as it moved up, and for a few moments it fell back, but the brave leader galloped up, and inspiring the troops with his own reckless courage, they rushed forward and carried the works. The bugles sounded the cavalry charge, and the Union troops swept over the field, chasing the rebels through the Federal camp which they had occupied in the morning. The rebels were compelled to abandon the cannon which they had captured, and also many of their own. This victory led to the abandonment by the enemy of the whole Shenandoah valley.

Sheridan's ride from Winchester became famous, and was the subject of Mr. Thomas Buchanan Read's spirited poem, which we introduce here:

"Up from the South at break of day  
Bringing from Winchester fresh dismay,  
The affrighted air with a shudder bore,  
Like a herald in haste, to the chieftain's door,

The terrible grumble, and rumble, and roar,  
Telling the battle was on once more,  
And Sheridan twenty miles away.

"And wider still those billows of war  
Thundered along the horizon's bar;  
And louder yet into Winchester rolled  
The roar of that red sea uncontrolled  
Making the blood of the listener cold,  
As he thought of the stake in that fiery fray,  
And Sheridan twenty miles away.

"But there is a road from Winchester town,  
A good broad highway leading down;  
And there, through the flush of the morning light,  
A steed as black as the steeds of night  
Was seen to pass, as with eagle flight,  
As if he knew the terrible need;  
He stretched away with his utmost speed;  
Hills rose and fell, but his heart was gay,  
With Sheridan fifteen miles away.

"Still sprung from those swift hoofs, thundering South,  
The dust, like the smoke from the cannon's mouth;  
Or the trail of a comet, sweeping faster and faster  
Foreboding to traitors the doom of disaster.  
The heart of the steed and the heart of its master  
Were beating like prisoners assaulting their walls,  
Impatient to be where the battle-field calls;  
Every nerve of the charger was strained to full play  
With Sheridan only ten miles away.

"Under his spurning feet, the road,  
Like an arrowy Alpine river flowed,  
And the landscape sped away behind  
Like an ocean flying before the wind;  
And the steed, like a bark fed with furnace ire,  
Swept on with his wild eyes full of fire,  
But lo! he is nearing his heart's desire—  
He is snuffing the smoke of the roaring fray  
With Sheridan only five miles away.



"The first that the general saw were the groups  
 Of stragglers, and then the retreating troops.  
 What was done—what to do—a glance told him both;  
 Then striking his spurs with a terrible oath,  
 He dashed down the line 'mid a storm of huzzas,  
 And the wave of retreat checked its course there, because  
 The sight of its master compelled it to pause.  
 With foam and with dust the black charger was gray;  
 By the flash of his eye and his red nostril's play,  
 He seemed to the whole great army to say:  
 'I have brought you Sheridan all the way  
 From Winchester down to save the day.'

"Hurrah! hurrah! for Sheridan;  
 Hurrah! hurrah! for horse and man.  
 And when their statues are placed on high  
 Under the dome of the Union sky,  
 The American soldiers' temple of fame,  
 There with the glorious general's name,  
 Be it said, in letters both bold and bright,  
 'Here is the steed that saved the day,  
 By carrying Sheridan into the fight  
 From Winchester, twenty miles away!'"

When this campaign was over, Sheridan was ordered by General Grant to advance on Lynchburg as soon as the state of the roads would permit, and after the destruction of the railroad and canal near it, to unite his forces with those of General Sherman, whose cavalry force was outnumbered by that of the enemy.

On the 27th of February Sheridan left Winchester with ten thousand cavalry, and entered Staunton on the 30th. General Early's forces were at Staunton, but fell back on Sheridan's approach, and intrenched themselves at Waynesboro'. When Sheridan arrived there, without even waiting to make a reconnoissance, he rushed upon the enemy. His troops swept like a tornado over the works. Sixteen hundred prisoners

were taken, eleven pieces of artillery, and two hundred wagon-loads of supplies. The prisoners were sent back to Winchester, and Sheridan's troops moved on, their special object now being to destroy the two lines of railroad which were the only avenues of supply for Lee's army. This was effectually done, and was an important step towards the final surrender of the Army of Virginia. General Grant paid a high tribute to the achievements of his great cavalry officer. Military authorities in Europe have declared it as their opinion that Sheridan displayed more of the qualities of a born leader of men than almost any other American general; and the soldiers at large have shown that the fighting qualities of the dashing Sheridan were highly appreciated by them. The *Army and Navy Journal* speaks thus of his exploits: "General Sheridan seems inclined to emulate, in his Shenandoah campaign, the reputation of General Grant as the great gun-taker of the war. Before the present campaign, the lieutenant-general had got well into the hundreds in the number of his captured cannon—exactly how far we forget, but the figure approached half a thousand. Official reports from the cavalry corps of the Shenandoah army have lately set forth the number of cannon captured from the unhappy Early. . . . At all events, it is clear that Sheridan now counts his captured artillery with three figures, and is, like Grant, among the hundreds. What singular magnet he possesses for attracting Early's ordnance must be a perpetual mystery to the Tredegar workmen, whose main occupation, of late, seems to be turning out guns for him to lose. A press correspondent from the valley humorously relates that new batteries have lately been



sent to Early from Richmond, and that they came marked 'Lieutenant-General Early;' whereupon some malicious wag wrote over this direction the words, 'Major-General Philip Sheridan, care of Uncle Sam.'

In the summer of 1865 General Sheridan was placed in command of the important Department of Texas, with headquarters in New Orleans; and he has shown very superior administrative ability in dealing with the various disturbances and difficulties which followed the war in all that turbulent section of country.

On March 4th, 1869, upon the accession of General Sherman to the chief command of the army, made vacant by the inauguration of General Grant as president, he was made lieutenant-general and assigned to the division of the Missouri; which position he has held for the last fourteen years. Now at the age of fifty-two he is about to take command of the Army of the United States, the position having been made vacant by the retiring of General Sherman. To see at the head of the army one who rendered his country such brilliant service in time of need, cannot fail to give widespread satisfaction, and we hail with confidence the accession of Lieutenant-General Philip H. Sheridan to the highest place open to the soldier's profession in America.



Yours truly  
John A. Sargent



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Yours Truly  
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railroad, and Sheridan's regiment was detailed to escort the party occupied in this survey. In this way he acquired a thorough acquaintance with the country and with its Indian inhabitants, and in 1856 he was made commander of the department containing the Yokima reservation. This was a position requiring peculiar qualities, and the young officer showed that he possessed them in an eminent degree. His success in dealing with the troublesome and turbulent Yokimas was marked. Although naturally of a warlike disposition—it was said of him that he was born a belligerent—he managed to control the tribes along the whole line of country of which he had charge, without the loss of life which took place in all the other districts of which hostile tribes were inhabitants. In one serious engagement with the Indians, his conduct was so distinguished as to be especially commended in general orders. In 1861 he was promoted to the captaincy of the United States Infantry, and was appointed president of a special military commission appointed to audit claims growing out of the occupation of a portion of Missouri by the United States army. In this position he exhibited so much ability that he was appointed chief quartermaster and commissary for the whole army of the southwest. When the war broke out, he still occupied this position. But although he was extremely efficient in its duties, his disposition was that of an active fighter, and he received with great delight the news of his appointment as Colonel of the Second Michigan cavalry. Up to that time, the balance of advantage had been wholly on the side of the Southern cavalry. It was more numerous and better trained than the Northern.

The Southern men, as a rule, almost lived in the saddle; and their leaders boasted that in that branch of the service their superiority could never be contested. It was reserved for Sheridan to show how much one man could do to revolutionize that whole branch of the service. Principally owing to him, the time came when the boasts of the Southern leaders as to their cavalry were annulled, and it was admitted that, for daring and skill, the Union horsemen were fully a match for those of the South. Sheridan was himself the beau ideal of a cavalry officer. A certain dash and recklessness of character and demeanor fitted him for the role. Although short in stature, his soldierly bearing, alertness of motion, quick dark eyes, and earnest manner were extremely impressive. His presence had an electric effect on his men. However tired or discouraged, the sight of "Fighting Phil" seemed to arouse their energies.

When stationed at Booneville, his first important engagement with the rebel forces took place. He encountered General Chalmers at the head of five thousand men, his own force consisting of less than two thousand. They rushed on the enemy with such force and impetuosity, that Chalmers believed that Sheridan must have had a large reserve force somewhere near, and ordered his troops to fall back. Sheridan's troops followed up the advantage so closely that the enemy broke into a confused retreat, riding as fast as their horses would carry them, a distance of twenty miles, leaving arms, equipments, clothing, and supplies scattered all along the route.

At Perryville he was assigned to a very important position. He met a large body of Southern cavalry



under the rebel general, Hardee, supported by artillery and infantry. Sheridan drove them back at all points, and with such heavy loss that great numbers of dead and wounded were left on the field. The losses on our side were also very heavy. Sheridan was, after this campaign, placed in command of a division of the Army of the Cumberland.

But his highest distinction was won in the campaign in the peninsula. He was especially successful in a series of "raids," an irregular style of fighting for a regular-army officer, but of which Sheridan was very fond.

His division rendered important service at the battle of Cold Harbor, but it was in the valley of the Shenandoah that he specially distinguished himself. At Berryville there was a severe engagement with the division commanded by the rebel general, Early, who was assisted by the guerilla leader, Mosby. Grant's official report is as follows:

"Sheridan's operations during the month of August and the first of September were both of an offensive and defensive character, resulting in many severe skirmishes, principally by the cavalry, in which we were generally successful. The two armies lay in such a position that either could bring on a battle at any time. Defeat to us would lay open to the enemy the States of Maryland and Pennsylvania, for long distances, before another army could be interposed to check him. Under these circumstances, I hesitated about allowing the initiative to be taken. Finally the use of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, which were both obstructed by the enemy, became so indispensably necessary to us, and the impor-

tance of relieving Pennsylvania and Maryland from continually threatened invasion so great, that I determined the risk should be taken. But fearing to telegraph for an attack without knowing more than I did of General Sheridan's feelings as to what would be the probable result, I left City Point on the 15th of September, to visit him at his headquarters to decide, after conference with him, what should be done. I met him at Charlestown, and he pointed out so distinctly how each army lay, and what he could do the moment he was authorized, and expressed such confidence of success that I saw there were but two words necessary, 'Go in!'"

Sheridan was delighted to "go in," and from the 18th September to the 7th of October, engaged in a series of battles which did much toward deciding the final issue of the conflict. On the 18th of October General Early resolved on an attack in force on Sheridan. He had twenty thousand men under his command. Sheridan's army was divided into three parts, and he himself being absent, the rebel general had chosen well the time for his attempt. Sheridan was returning from a visit to Washington, and was at Winchester, twenty miles distant from his troops, when the roll of artillery apprised him that his force must be in action. The contest had lasted four hours, and his army was falling back. Startled by this idea, he put spurs to his horse, and pressed forward at a furious pace. As he rode on, he met his troops retreating before the enemy. Swinging his cap over his head, the general shouted, "Face the other way, boys; we are going back to our camps. We are going to lick them out of their boots." The fugitives stopped, formed in