

CHAPTER XXXIII.

JOHN ALEXANDER LOGAN.

Remarkable Exception—Birth and Nativity—Early Education—
In the Mexican War—Views upon being a candidate in 1860—
Fighting at Bull Run—Colonel Logan—Bravery at Belmont—
Desperately Wounded—Career at Vicksburg—Battle of Raymond—
—Sent North as Political Speaker—On the Battle-field again—
Meeting Hood at Atlanta—Commanding the Army of Tennessee—
—Close of the Struggle—For Grant at Chicago Convention—
United States Senator—Subsequent Life.

JOHAN ALEXANDER LOGAN was born in Jackson county, Illinois, February 9, 1826. His father, Dr. John Logan, had emigrated from Ireland three years before, and settled in what was then considered a very new and rough country. Meeting with fair success as a physician, he established himself there, and married Miss Elizabeth Jenkins, of Tennessee. In that section and at that period, educational advantages were unattainable, excepting such as were afforded by the winter schools, where the instruction was not of a very high order. Dr. Logan, however, took much interest in the education of his son, and gave him lessons when his practice permitted. The boy was ambitious and energetic, and these qualities enabled him to achieve a signal victory over disadvantageous circumstances.

When the war with Mexico broke out, Logan volunteered, and was appointed lieutenant of the First

Not until the assault was over and the fort taken did he allow himself to be carried to the rear. The wounds proved more severe than he supposed, and he was forced to remain inactive for some months.

On the 5th of March, 1862, he was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers, and ordered to join General Grant at Pittsburg Landing. In the movement by Halleck against Corinth his brigade did very effective service. He was then ordered to take charge of the lines of railroad at Jackson, Tennessee, connecting with Columbus. In defending this line of road several severe skirmishes took place, in which Logan showed remarkable military ability. He was appointed commander of the forces in Columbus by General Grant, who had a very high opinion of Logan as a general. On one occasion Grant visited Logan in his headquarters; rode with him through his camp and outposts, and admired the wonderful order and discipline which the volunteer general had established. Logan then proceeded to explain to the general-in-chief his plans for the approaching campaign. "I have absolute confidence in you, general," interrupted Grant; "all I ask of you is to go in."

During the summer of 1862 Logan was urged to resume his seat in Congress, but he replied: "I have entered the field, to die if need be for this government, and I never expect to return to peaceful pursuits until the object of this war of preservation has become a fact established." He was so conspicuous for bravery and skill during Grant's campaign in northern Mississippi, where he commanded the Third Division of the Seventeenth Army Corps, under General McPherson, that he was promoted to the rank of major-general, November 26, 1862.

In the campaign against Vicksburg Logan distinguished himself. At Port Gibson, after several hours of severe fighting, the Union troops were about giving way when Logan arrived with his division. His appearance rallied the tired and dispirited troops, and turned the tide of battle. In the battle of Raymond he led the advance, and forced the enemy to fall back to a position in the rear of the creek. Determined to carry this position he ordered his men to charge, and a desperate contest ensued. Finally the post was carried and the enemy driven back.

At the battle of Champion's Hill the Union troops, led by General Hovey, were forced back by the rebels half a mile. Again Logan appeared on the field at a critical moment. The retreating force turned back, and Logan's troops were soon in possession of the ground over which the Confederates had swept victoriously an hour before. Shortly afterwards an aide from General Grant came to ask Logan whether he believed he could hold his position there. "Tell General Grant," was the reply, "that my division cannot be beaten by all the rebels this side of h—l."

During the siege of Vicksburg McPherson held the centre of the line; Logan was in command of the centre of the corps, which was placed near Grant's headquarters. After the explosion of the great mine under the city an assault was ordered. Logan's column headed this attack, and was the first to enter the city. In acknowledgment of his services in this assault he was appointed military governor of the city; and the officers and soldiers of McPherson's corps presented him with a medal.

In November, 1863, Logan succeeded General Sher-

man in command of the Fifteenth Army Corps. He led the advance of the Army of the Tennessee at Resaca, and repulsed the Confederate army under Hardee at Dallas. At the battle of Kenesaw Mountain he drove the enemy from his works with heavy loss.

In the summer of 1864 Sherman ordered the closing in of his entire line in a semicircular form around Atlanta, at a distance of about two miles from that city. Hood had made preparations for a heavy battle, and on the 22d of July he sallied out from his lines, striking the left flank, which was under McPherson. Logan's division of McPherson's corps had been ordered to hold the railroad at East Point, and on his troops Hood ordered an attack in force, "hoping," as Sherman said, "to catch Logan's troops in air." Logan massed his men beside the railroad, and there ensued one of the most terrific struggles of the war. The Federal lines frequently fought on both sides of their rifle-pits. The battle assumed a hand-to-hand character; the troops formed no less than six times in one spot. In four hours 6,000 Confederates fell in the column opposed to Logan's force alone, and after a long and desperate contest the Confederates were repulsed. The loss on the Union side was also heavy, and among the killed was McPherson, one of the youngest but ablest of Sherman's generals. When McPherson was struck down Logan assumed his command for the day, and Sherman testifies in his official report of the battle: "General Logan commanded the Army of the Tennessee through this desperate battle with the same success and ability that had characterized him in the command of a corps or division."

General Sherman was now called on to decide the

difficult and delicate question as to who was to succeed McPherson. After some deliberation, he decided on appointing General Howard. This assignment gave much dissatisfaction; General Logan's friends in the army and government considered that he was entitled to the vacant command both by seniority and services. Sherman himself gave high praise to Logan's ability, but adhered to his selection of Howard.

Logan acquiesced in the choice and fought bravely under Howard to the close of the campaign, which ended in the fall of Atlanta. He was then urged to return to Illinois, in order that the weight of his influence might be thrown into the Republican scale in the important presidential election then impending. His action in this matter offended many of his Democratic supporters. In defending himself from the charge of inconsistency, he said: "I am now a soldier of the republic, and my desire is, forgetting all party lines and distinctions, to preserve the unity of our country. I believe the present administration is taking the right course to secure this unity, and therefore I support this administration."

When Mr. Lincoln's re-election was certain, Logan returned to the field, and joined General Sherman in that march to the sea of which so much has been said and sung. Sherman's disposition as a commander exactly suited Logan. Eager, intense, untiring, never satisfied unless when in motion, both generals enjoyed the rapid sweep of the troops through Georgia and the Carolinas. Logan was with Sherman when General Joseph Johnston surrendered in April, 1865.

When General Howard was appointed to take charge of the Freedmen's Bureau Logan was appointed com-

mander of the Army of the Tennessee. This position he resigned immediately after the cessation of active hostilities, saying "that he did not wish to draw pay when he was not on duty."

He returned with his soldiers to Washington in time to take part in that grand review in which 200,000 soldiers marched through the avenues of the capital, while the delight of deliverance from the horrors of warfare was felt throughout the length and breadth of our land.

President Johnson offered him the appointment of Minister to Mexico, which he declined. It was not long afterwards when he was called on to take an active part in the impeachment of the same president.

Since the close of the war General Logan has been actively engaged in political life. He served in the Fortieth and Forty-first Congress, and in 1871 was chosen United States Senator from Illinois. He succeeded Vice-President Wilson as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. At the close of the term, in 1877, he went to Chicago and took up the practice of his profession. But his constituents would not permit his retirement from political life, and he was re-elected to the senate in March, 1879. He was a zealous adherent of his former commander, General Grant, in political life, and was one of the 306 who endeavored to re-elect the general for a third term as president. Logan is considered to possess remarkable power as an orator and debater, and carries into the political arena much of the dash and energy which made him conspicuous on the battle-field. Yet he is of a kindly and generous disposition; a warm friend, and by no means an implacable enemy. He was greatly beloved by his soldiers, having many of the traits that

distinguish General Sheridan, and being held in much the same affection by his men. "Black Jack," as Logan was called from his swarthy complexion, rode as furiously and talked as recklessly as "Little Phil." Both, of that northern Irish race which has given so many great soldiers to the world, were distinguished for good fortune as well as courage. Neither name has ever been associated with defeat. When courts-martial and censure fell thick and fast on unsuccessful generals, Logan escaped both. He is a remarkable example of what native talent and self-directed study can do for the soldier, for notwithstanding the lack of regular military education, his achievements compare favorably with those of the most highly trained and experienced generals who were engaged in the civil war.

In 1884 John A. Logan was nominated at Chicago for the Vice-Presidency. His nomination gave to the Republican ticket much strength and integrity of the most unquestionable character. He accepted his defeat with a manliness that evoked praise from friend and foe alike.

In 1885 he was again elected to the U. S. Senate, where he continued a brilliant career to the end of his honorable life. He died at his home in Washington, D. C., December 26, 1886.

A beautiful monument at Jackson Park, Chicago, will mark the last resting-place of the soldier, statesman, orator.

Illinois Infantry. He was shortly afterwards made adjutant of his regiment, and continued to serve in that capacity until the close of the war. As he was then but twenty years of age, it seems evident that the young soldier must have already displayed some military talent. He returned to Jackson county in 1848, and entered the law office of his uncle, Alexander M. Jenkins, as a student. In 1849 he was elected clerk of the county.

He afterwards entered Louisville University to complete his legal studies, and in 1852 was admitted to the Bar. So successful was he as a lawyer, and so great was his popularity that he was elected to the State Legislature in the same year. In the following year he held the office of Prosecuting Attorney of the Third Judicial District of Illinois, and retained that position until 1857.

He married in 1855 Miss Mary S. Cunningham, daughter of Captain Cunningham, Register of the Illinois Land Office.

In political life he became an active supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and was an earnest advocate for the election of Stephen A. Douglas. But when the war opened, Logan was one of the very first men who took up arms in defense of the Union. While in his seat during the extra session of Congress in July, 1861, news came that hostilities had actually commenced in Virginia. He immediately started for the front, and joined the first regiment he met, which happened to be Colonel Richardson's; took a musket from a sick soldier, and marched on in the ranks. He took part in the unfortunate affair of Bull Run, and was one of the last to leave the field on that day.

On returning to Washington he resigned his seat in Congress, and declared his resolution to become a soldier "for the war," however long a period that might be. He went back to his own county and rapidly organized a regiment, known as the 31st Illinois Infantry, of which he was appointed colonel. The first severe engagement in which he took part was at Belmont. Here he led a brilliantly successful bayonet charge, and had a narrow escape from capture. His horse was shot under him while he was some distance in advance of his men in the charge. After the Confederate camp was captured, the garrison on the other side of the river in Columbus sent a strong force across in our rear to cut the army off from its boats up the stream. Logan asked General McClelland what he would advise him to do. McClelland replied, "Cut your way out; order your flag to the front." Logan was delighted at an order so much in consonance with his own wishes. He rode back to his men and said, "We are to cut our way out, boys!" and wheeling his horse round he rode straight through the enemy's lines, capturing on his way a number of prisoners, several flags, and some thousands of small arms.

From this time to the close of the war he fought continually, at first under Grant, and afterwards with Sherman. After Fort Henry was evacuated he pursued the retreating forces with 200 cavalymen and drove them for miles. At Fort Donelson he fought heroically. While leading the charge in the assault on the latter fortress a bullet entered his arm near the shoulder. He was urged to attend to it, but declined, and, with the blood pouring from the wound, rode on. Later a bullet struck his thigh, inflicting a flesh wound.