



CHAPTER XXXIII
Ulysses S. Grant

1822-1885

THE Civil War brought to the front on both sides many great men, who only needed an opportunity to show to the world the strength of their minds or the brilliancy of their talents. General Grant is a conspicuous example. A man's surroundings and opportunities have much to do with the reputation which he is enabled to make.

When the war broke out Grant was in the full strength of his manhood, being then thirty-nine years old. He was a native of Ohio, and his father was a farmer and a tanner. He had the good fortune therefore to be brought up on a farm, which is the best place in the world for a boy. He graduated at West Point Military Academy when he was twenty-one years of age.

Previous to the Civil War, Grant's career was varied. In the Mexican War he commanded a company, acted as quartermaster, as adjutant of the regiment; and under General Scott performed a variety of daring services. In 1853 he was made captain, and the next year resigned his command.

and with his family settled on a small farm at St. Louis. One year before the war began, he removed to Illinois and acted as clerk in his father's store, where he sold hardware and leather.

As soon as he heard that Fort Sumter had been captured, he took a strong stand for the Union and at once raised a company of volunteers, drilled them, and took them to Springfield, the capital of the State. He was appointed colonel of an Illinois regiment and entered the field of active service in Missouri. In August he was made brigadier-general, and in September he seized Paducah, in Kentucky, and fortified it. Early the next year, 1862, he captured Fort Henry, and besieged Fort Donelson. General Buckner, who was then in command of the fort, sent a flag of truce to Grant, asking what terms he would give if he would surrender. Grant immediately returned this brief and historic reply:

"No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works."

Buckner surrendered with fifteen thousand men, and the Confederate line of defence was broken. After a little the Confederates fell back to Corinth, where in April Grant fought the great battle of Shiloh. The Confederates retreated, and



A FEDERAL SOLDIER.

the Union army held the country from Memphis to Chattanooga.

Then came the siege of Vicksburg, where Grant showed great generalship. Finally, on the 4th of July, 1863, General Pemberton surrendered Vicksburg to Grant, with his entire force of more than thirty thousand troops, sixty thousand muskets, and a large amount of military stores. The surrender of Vicksburg and the repulse of Lee at Gettysburg, coming as they did at the same time, may be considered the turning-point of the war. Grant was now made a major-general and received from Congress a gold medal.

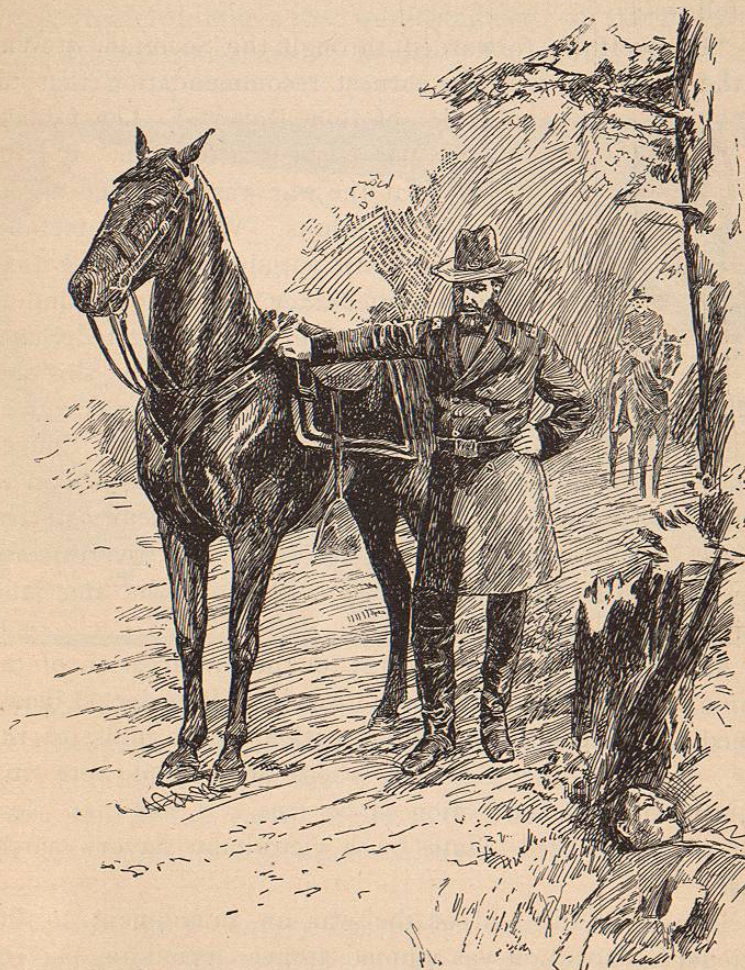
Grant had clearly proved his superior ability as a general, and in March, 1864, he was made lieutenant-general and given command of all the armies of the Union. He now undertook to march his army through the Wilderness toward Richmond.

What a terrible campaign that was! In a single month the two armies lost perhaps ten thousand killed, fifty thousand wounded, and ten thousand missing. Grant transferred his army to the James River and from that time until the following spring, for nearly a year, the contest was desperate. At length in April, 1865, Lee and his forces left Richmond, and Grant's army entered the Confederate capital. Lee now attempted a forced march toward the South, but, being hemmed in by Grant's army and Sheridan's cavalry, he surrendered his army to Grant (April 9th, 1865), at Appomattox Court House.

Meantime General Sherman had made his famous march through Georgia. General Johnston yielded to Sherman, and Gen. Kirby Smith surrendered his forces west of the Mississippi River. The war was ended.

The President issued a proclamation of amnesty, and Lee

applied by letter, asking to be included in this amnesty. Grant had shown his noble nature by the very liberal terms which he had given to Lee's army at the surrender. He had allowed them to retain their horses, side-arms, and baggage,



GRANT IN THE CAMPAIGN OF THE WILDERNESS.

and had simply taken from them a promise that they would no longer contend against the United States government. He also furnished them with a large amount of rations and supplies. Grant indorsed Lee's letter applying for amnesty, as follows:

"Respectfully forwarded, through the Secretary of War, to the President, with the earnest recommendation that the application of Gen. Robert E. Lee for amnesty and pardon be granted him."



GENERAL SHERMAN.

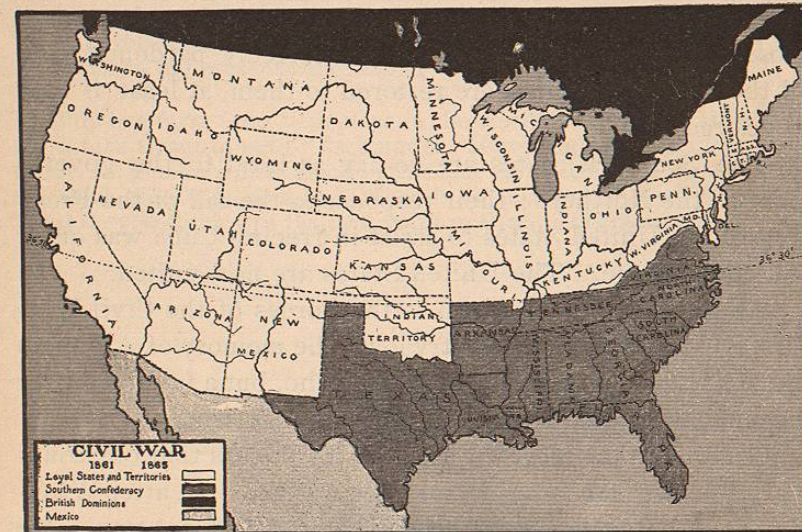
Now that the war was over, let us see what were its results. We must remember that eleven States withdrew from the Union, formed a Confederacy of their own, and attacked Fort Sumter. The United States government refused to recognize this separation, and considered the armed attack as a rebellion to be put down by arms. President Lincoln called for volunteers to enforce the laws of the Union in those States. When the war ended in the victory of the United States, the theory of secession was overthrown; henceforth the United States is a Nation, one and indivisible.

Although the war was fought for the preservation of the Union, another result followed from it. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, in the midst of the war, declaring the slaves in those States that were still in arms against the Union to be free. It was then clear that if the United States was victorious, slavery would cease.

Soon after the end of the war, an amendment to the national Constitution was adopted, forever forbidding slavery in any part of the United States. Lincoln was right when he

said, long before: "This government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free." It is now all free.

These results came from the war; but at what terrible cost! We cannot tell of the great numbers that were killed; of the greater numbers that were wounded; of the suffering and sorrow in thousands of homes. We cannot tell of the



enormous expense; the heavy taxes, both then and now, for we still spend vast sums in pensions to our soldiers, and to pay the interest on the debt which grew out of the war. We cannot tell of the fearful injury to the States which seceded; for they bore the full brunt of the war and it left them in poverty.

A third of a century has passed since the surrender at Appomattox. The wounds of the great war have now well healed. The United States has had a prosperous history.

North, East, West, and South have grown with wonderful rapidity.

Not the least remarkable has been the history of the Southern States. They have risen from their defeat. They lost their all; but they began again and have regained prosperity. The United States government treated the vanquished with great mildness. No one was put to death at the end of the war; but few were imprisoned, and most of those only for a brief time; all were freely pardoned, and all their former rights were restored to them, at least if they so desired.

The Southern States are to-day as loyal to the government as the Northern; their response to the call of the President of the United States to assist in freeing Cuba was quick and enthusiastic. The United States are now united.

All honor has been given to the heroes of the Civil War. First and foremost, the country loves the memory of Abraham Lincoln, "Our Martyred President," who, but a few days after the surrender, died from the shot of an assassin.

General Grant received the highest honors that our country has ever given to any man. He was the first, after Washington, to be made general of the United States Army. He was twice elected President. He made a tour around the world as a private citizen, and he was everywhere received as one of the great men of the world. He was honored by kings and emperors, by the Czar and the Mikado, by queens and presidents.

Yet, when he returned to the United States, he had not been made proud by his honors; he remained what he had always been, a modest, humble, quiet, plain American citizen. After a long illness, during which the entire country read with bated breath, day by day, the news from his bed-

side, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant died, at Mount McGregor, New York, July 23d, 1885.

Twelve years after his death, when his magnificent tomb in New York was completed, the whole nation took part in the ceremonies of laying his body in its final resting-place.

Tell the story of Grant as a boy and a young man; at the opening of the war; at Fort Donelson; at Vicksburg; in Virginia; on his tour around the world.

State the results of the war.

Describe the present condition of the country.

Why is a farm "the best place in the world for a boy"? How long did it take Grant to get to Richmond? How long was the Civil War? Name ten generals mentioned in this and the preceding chapter; state on which side each fought. What is a "proclamation of amnesty"? What do you think was the best point in Grant's character?

