

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

SHERIDAN AS A GENERAL.

Grant's Estimate of Sheridan — His First Impressions of the Great Cavalryman — His Qualities as a Commander — His Second Meeting with Grant — Sheridan's Place in History — Closing Scenes of the Rebellion, Pages 17-21

CHAPTER II.

SHERIDAN'S BOYHOOD DAYS.

The Humble Home in Ohio — His Family and Early Life — Traditions of the Country-Side Concerning Him — A Clerk in the Country Store — Appointment to West Point — Anecdotes of Sheridan's Youth — His Early Education and Opportunities, Pages 22-28

CHAPTER III.

WEST POINT AND THE ARMY.

His Life at the Military Academy on the Hudson — Early Experiences in the Army after Graduation — Interesting Stories of Frontier Life — Outbreak of the Rebellion — His First Service in War — Not a Very Brilliant Beginning, Pages 29-44

CHAPTER IV.

AN UNEXPECTED PROMOTION.

How Sheridan was Made a Colonel — Captain Alger's Ride and Its Results — Corinth and Pittsburg Landing — Governor Blair's Hesitancy — The Appointment — Notified of His Advancement — Satisfied with the Rank of Colonel — Takes Command of His Regiment — Its First Impression of Him, Pages 45-49

CHAPTER V.

THE BATTLE OF BOONEVILLE.

Sheridan's First Battle — It was at Booneville, Mississippi — Strength of His Command — Its Perilous Position — How He Managed His Troops — Sending for Reinforcements — The Scout and the Negro — Fooling the Enemy — Captain Alger and the "Forlorn Hope" — The Last Charge, and a Complete Victory, Pages 51-61

CHAPTER VI.

A NEW COMMAND.

Transferred to the Infantry — Higher Command but Less Congenial Service — Battles of Corinth and Iuka — Making the Most of Small Opportunity —

CONTENTS.

Transfer to General Buell's Army — Commanding a Division at Perryville — Saving Loomis' Battery — Victory out of Defeat, . . . Pages 63-74

CHAPTER VII.

FROM PERRYVILLE TO STONE RIVER.

Sheridan's Place in the Army of the Cumberland — Preparing for Murfreesboro' — Sheridan Leads the Way — Battle of Stone River — Deadly Wrestle with Cheatham — Commended for Distinguished Services, . . . Pages 75-92

CHAPTER VIII.

MOVING TOWARDS CHICKAMAUGA.

The Tullahoma Campaign — Sheridan's Part in Rosecrans' Movements — Always on Time and in the Right Place — Incidents of His Life on the March and in Camp — Estimated by His Men — A Popular General — A Hard Fighter and Good Tactician, . . . Pages 94-109

CHAPTER IX.

THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA.

The Field in which Sheridan was Trained — Rosecrans' Movements — How the Commander of Cavalry was Made — The Deadly Chickamauga — Sheridan and Davis Save the Right Wing — Holding the Gap at Dry Valley — Longstreet's Veterans — Fighting Cheatham Again — Always a Power on March and Field, . . . Pages 110-121

CHAPTER X.

AT CHATTANOOGA.

A Desperate Situation — Helping a Starving Army — Taking Part in the Battle of Missionary Ridge — Leading a Desperate Charge up the Heights — A Singular Story of War — With Grant on Orchard Knob — Looking at Hooker's Fight — A Great Day's Work — Commended for Gallantry and Ability, . . . Pages 123-136

CHAPTER XI.

A BATTLE IN THE SNOW.

Cole's Cavalry Have a Fight — Moseby Attacks and is Beaten Off — A Battle to the Death — "Fire the Tents and Shoot by the Light" — Suffering of the Men — The Death of Young Paxton, . . . Pages 137-144

CHAPTER XII.

SUMMONED TO WASHINGTON.

Hard Service After Chattanooga — Grant Puts Him in Command of All the Cavalry in the Army of the Potomac — Disgusted at Being Ordered East — The Confidence He Inspired — Roster of the Cavalry Corps — Dispute with Meade — Changing Sheridan's Orders and its Results, . . . Pages 145-153

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XIII.

FROM THE WILDERNESS TO JAMES RIVER.

Howard's Review of the Field — From Virginia to Louisiana — The Cavalry and its Temper — Moving to the Wilderness — Guarding Roads and Supplies — Losses in the May Fighting — Sheridan's First Great Raid Round Richmond — The Yellow Tavern Fight — Rejoining the Army, . . . Pages 155-165

CHAPTER XIV.

BREAKING THE CONFEDERATE COMMUNICATIONS.

Sheridan's Second Great Virginia Raid — Intended to Connect with Hunter — Operations in the Shenandoah Valley — The Rebel Cavalry Leaders — Destroying the Virginia Central Railroad — Fight at Trevilian Station — Consternation in Richmond — Return to City Point — Operations About Petersburg — Wilson and Kautz South of Richmond — The Battle of Reams Station, . . . Pages 167-174

CHAPTER XV.

FROM CORPS TO DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.

The Shenandoah Valley — Hunter and Early — The Valley's Importance to the Confederates — Cavalry Raids on Railroads — Washington in Danger — The Mine Explosion — How Sheridan Became a Department Commander — Maker of His Own Career — Likeness to Napoleon, . . . Pages 175-183

CHAPTER XVI.

IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

Sheridan as Department Commander — His First Chance to Demonstrate His Ability to Command — Early is Reinforced by Gordon and Lomax — The Appearance of the Rebel Commander — The Army Roster — Sheridan's Preparations — Attack and Pursuit — The Story of the Loyal Quakeress — How He Got Intelligence — The Battle of Winchester — Cavalry Charge at Opequan — Victories of Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, . . . Pages 185-204

CHAPTER XVII.

SNATCHING VICTORY FROM THE JAWS OF DEFEAT.

Lincoln's Little Story About General Cass — Change of the Troops — Meddling at Washington with Grant's Orders — Wright Surprised at Cedar Creek — Rout of the Nineteenth Corps — Sheridan's Ride "to Save the Day" — Defeats Early and Gordon — What He Said of His Victory — Thanks of President and Congress — Promotion in the Regular Army — The Horse He Rode, . . . Pages 205-215

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XVIII.

GORDON'S MORNING SURPRISE AT CEDAR CREEK.

Gordon Under Early—A Distinguished Confederate Soldier—An Interview About Cedar Creek—Commanding Ewell's Old Corps—How He Planned the Attack on Wright—Turning Our Flank Successfully—Rout of the Eighth Corps—Early's Folly—Done Enough for One Day—Sheridan's Arrival—A Union Victory, Pages 217-227

CHAPTER XIX.

SHERIDAN'S RIDE.

The Dash to Cedar Creek—How the Ride was Made—Sheridan's War-Horse—A Desperate Situation—The Tide of Battle Running Against the Union Troops—A Fresh Inspiration for the Army—How the Story of it Came to be Written—How T. Buchanan Read Got His Inspiration, Pages 229-236

CHAPTER XX.

THE UNION CAVALRY AND ITS COMMANDERS.

How Our Cavalry Became Effective—Mounted Infantry and its Uses—Sheridan and Cavalry Reorganization—How the Commanders were Bred—The Battle of Tom's Run, and the "Woodstock Races"—A Graphic Description of Battle—Custer, the Embodiment of War—Stories of the Yellow-Haired Cavalryman—Sketches of Other Commanders—The Value of Cavalry—Destroying Railroads, Pages 237-255

CHAPTER XXI.

FROM THE VALLEY TO CITY POINT.

How Sheridan Went Back to Grant—Clearing the Loudoun and Luray Valleys—Great Importance of Sheridan's New Orders—Grant Preparing for the Last Fights—The Upper Shenandoah Left Free of a Foe—Custer's Bold Fight for Rockford Gap—Early's Rout and Disappearance—Surrender of Charlottesville—Destruction of the James River Canal—Burning Bridges—Blowing up Locks—Destroying Railroads—Panic in Richmond—Confederate Government Ready to take Horseback—At City Point—Grant's Orders—Sheridan's Desire to "End the Business Right Here"—The Way to Five Forks, Pages 257-267

CHAPTER XXII.

SHERIDAN'S PURSUIT OF LEE.

A. Masterly Military Achievement—The Battle of Five Forks—How General Lee was Out-Maneuvered—The Battle-Field as a Strategetical Point—The Corps and Soldiers Engaged—Young Chamberlain's Splendid Fight—For "the Honor of the Fifth Corps"—Sheridan's Grand Tactics—Using His Cavalry as a Screen—A Battle of Giants—Savage Fighting all Day—

CONTENTS.

Sheridan Seldom Out of Fire—Custer's Yellow Locks at the Front—The "Barn Door" Movement and How it Worked—Galloping Down the Lines—Mounting the Confederate Breastworks—General Winthrop's Death—"Straighten that Line"—Victory—Captures—Surrender—The Solemn Night Scene at Gravelly Run, Pages 269-280

CHAPTER XXIII.

SHERIDAN AT THE SURRENDER.

The Five Forks Environment—Striking at Appomattox—Fighting Before Day-break—Standing to Horse all Night—Rapid Cavalry Movements—Overriding Meade—Surrounding Lee—Sheridan's Distrust—The Truce—Gordon and the Sharpshooter—Grant and Sheridan Meet—The Surrender of Lee—"Carrying the World" on Their Shoulders, Pages 281-303

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE CONFEDERATE CAVALRYMEN.

The Southern Advantage at First—Cavalry Officers Making Fine Commanders—Planter and Farmer Finding Their Horses as Troopers—Wade Hampton and Ashby Legions—"Jeb" Stuart Their Best Commander—Southwestern Leaders Also—How General Lee left the Union Service—The Lees—Rosser—Moseby—What Grant Said of the Virginian Partisan—Services to the Confederacy—What Lee Said of His Usefulness—The "Boys" are Marching Home Again—Not All of Them, Pages 304-316

CHAPTER XXV.

A WARNING ON THE RIO GRANDE.

Sheridan is Sent to Texas—Grant's Love for "Little Phil"—After the Grand Review—Logan, Reynolds, Blunt, Pope, and Weitzel, Organizing—What was Designed for Mexico—Escabedo and Cortinas on the Lower Grande—How the Imperialist Mejia Felt Their Power—Abandoned United States Material Obtained by Mexico—Jaurez at Paso Del Norte—The Old Church—Our California Cavalrymen—How the Mexican Republicans were Aided by the Union—Difficult Task to Maintain Order in Texas, Pages 317-329

CHAPTER XXVI.

SHERIDAN IN RECONSTRUCTION DAYS.

Conditions Preceding and Attending Reconstruction—Commanding in the Gulf States—New Orleans—Andrew Johnson's Interference—Mechanics Hall Massacre—Reconstruction Legislation—Sheridan's Service Under It—Shows Excellent Executive Ability—Ejecting a Governor—His Bandit Deliverance—He Gives the President the "Lie Direct"—Able but Thankless Service—Appointment of General Hancock, Pages 330-341

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XXVII.

IN COMMAND AT FORT LEAVENWORTH AND CHICAGO.

Commanding the Department of Missouri—Indian Wars and Disturbances—
Serious Military Operations Necessitated—Removing Tribes from the Great
Plains—Campaign Against the Kiowas, Comanches, and Cheyennes—
Made a Lieutenant-General—Where and How the News was Received—
Headquarters in Chicago—Visit to Europe—Sheridan at Sedan—Hob-
nobbing with Bismarck—The Great Fire—Marriage and Removal to
Washington, Pages 343-360

CHAPTER XXVIII.

SHERIDAN'S HOME AND FAMILY LIFE.

The General's Washington Residence—Mrs. Sheridan and the Children—
Domestic Character of Husband and Father—Home Interiors—Parlor and
Library—The General's Office in the War Department—His Staff Officers
—Incidents and Associations—His Health—The Fatal Sickness—Nonquit
—Life Closes Amid Nature's Beauty, Pages 361-378

CHAPTER XXIX.

HIS DEATH-BED AND THE RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

Sad Scenes at Nonquit—The General's Death—Grief of the Family—What
the Doctors Said—A Simple Military Funeral Decided Upon—Sheridan in
His Casket—Removal to Washington—Passage from New Bedford to New
York—The Veterans of the Pennsylvania Road—In Silent Respect Along
the Route—Arrival at Washington, Pages 379-397

CHAPTER XXX.

SHERIDAN'S LAST RIDE.

Lying in State—Quaint and Quiet St. Matthew's—The Widow's Last Fare-
well—The Decorations and Catafalque—Chanting the Requiem—Scenes
in the Church—The Distinguished Congregation—Altar Boys and
Dominican Monks—Cardinal Gibbon's Sermon—The Funeral Pageant—
Bugler Kimball Sounds "Tap-Taps"—"Put Out the Lights"—"Good-
Night"—Historic Arlington and Sheridan's Grave, Pages 400-421

CHAPTER XXXI.

GENERAL SHERIDAN'S LIFE AND CAREER—A REVIEW.

Sheridan's Services—Opinions of Contemporaries—Character and Position as
a Soldier—As a Citizen and Man—A Wonderful Story of Great Deeds—A
Romance of War—An Honorable and Upright Personality—His Graphic
Powers as a Writer—Badeau's Testimony—Brief Speeches at Army
Reunions, Pages 422-437