

At Chancellorsville his escape from death was still narrower. In charge of Hancock's skirmish line, consisting of three regiments and of detachments from three more, he held that line successfully against all the attacks of Lee's veterans. But on the second day he was struck on the belt-plate by a rifle bullet that glanced into the groin, crushed through the hip bone, and imbedded itself in the muscles of his left leg. It was feared that the wound was mortal, and there was a dubious *if* in General Hancock's letter urging his promotion—"If Colonel Miles lives he will be one of the most distinguished officers in the service." After prolonged probing through deep cross-cuts in the path of the bullet, it was found and removed. This was Miles's third wound, his first being at Fair Oaks, where he had been shot in the foot; and, to close the score here, it may be added that his fourth and last wound was at Petersburg, where he was struck in the shoulder by a bullet that had split on his uplifted sword.

IV.

To Petersburg, however, the road was still long, and it led through the bloody thickets of the Wilderness. At Spottsylvania, Miles's brigade formed, with Brooks's, the first line of Barlow's division of the Second Corps, in the memorable "assault on the salient" that captured Johnson's division, about four thousand strong, with twenty guns and thirty colors. Lee's effort to recover the lost ground made the fighting of that day as fierce as any of the war; and at Washington may still be seen the stump of an oak, twenty-two inches through, that was cut down by musket bullets in that fight, one of Miles's staff officers barely escaping the tree as it fell. For his services there and in the Wilderness, Miles was made a brigadier-general.

When, after North Anna and the deadly grapple at Cold Harbor, Grant put his army south of the James, and invested Petersburg, Miles rose to the command of the first division of the Second Corps, a division of exceptional size, comprising twenty-seven regiments and two batteries, which he led thenceforth to the end of the war. For a fortnight, during the temporary absence of General Humphreys, he commanded the corps, about twenty-five thousand strong. And when the long struggle was over, and peace came to the land, Miles was commissioned a major-general of volunteers, and received the brevets of brigadier and major-general in the regular army, for Chancellors-

ville and Spottsylvania (the former battle yielding him afterwards, also, a medal of honor), and of major-general of volunteers for the final campaign as a whole, with a specific mention of his services at Reams's Station. He was also made colonel of the Fortieth Infantry. "I believe I was then the youngest colonel, except Pennypacker," said the General, "in the regular army."

The portraiture of General Miles that we find in the records of the civil war is that of an officer eager to take responsibility, one "who never waits to be told how to do a thing, but does it." His superiors mention his gift of seeing at a glance the points of vantage in a battlefield—his "quickness of perception and skill in taking up positions." He had clearly what Hare calls "the geographical eye;" and it was to serve him well in the strategy of his frontier campaigns, as it had in the field tactics of the civil war.

In 1868 General Miles married Mary, the daughter of Judge Charles Sherman, and niece of General W. T. and Senator John Sherman.

V.

WE now come to a second stage in General Miles's career. Indian warfare in our generation is no matching of spears and arrows against modern rifles and machine guns; for, as has well been pointed out, the dusky warriors of the West have often had breech-loaders when the regulars did not.

In the six campaigns of General Miles against Indians he cut loose from methods that had only custom to recommend them, and turned to account his experience in the civil war. He believed in giving hostile forces no rest until they were subdued. If the winter made campaigning hard for the troops, it must, he held, be worse for the Indians, with villages to care for and a dearth of supplies.

In 1874 raids were made upon the borders of Kansas and Colorado by bands of Southern Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, and Comanches from the Indian Territory; and General Miles, then colonel of the Fifth Infantry, was ordered to fit out an expedition to punish them. He left Fort Dodge in August, and marched rapidly until, about a dozen miles north of the Red River, among the "breaks," as the deep gypsum ravines there are called, the hostiles, about six hundred strong, suddenly sprang from ambush upon his advance, whooping and firing. They held a line of rugged bluffs; but, "confident that they would not stand a charge," General Miles sent in his cavalry,