

of his experiences in the earlier settlements of the Southwest. Colonel Bliss had been General Taylor's adjutant in the Mexican War, and was universally regarded as one of the most finished and accomplished scholars in the army, and his wife was a most agreeable and accomplished lady."

SHERMAN AS A CALIFORNIA BANKER.

At New Orleans Sherman was offered a partnership by his personal friend, Major Turner, in a banking house in San Francisco, with a tempting income and an interest that would accumulate and grow. Six months' leave was obtained to go to San Francisco to prospect. On the way he suffered shipwreck in the steamer *Lewis*, which ran ashore April 2, 1853, on "Duchworth Reef," Baulinuss Bay, about eighteen miles above the entrance to San Francisco. A second shipwreck was suffered in Sherman's attempt to reach San Francisco in a schooner which he joined on reaching the shore. In San Francisco he took quarters with Major Turner and General E. A. Hitchcock, commanding the Department of California; Captain Mason and Lieutenant Whiting, of the Engineers, being also of the mess. Deciding to go into business, Sherman returned East, sent in his resignation and embarked for California with his family, where he entered upon his career as banker as partner in a house with \$200,000 capital and a credit in New York of \$50,000. Though they could loan money at three per cent. a month, the expenses were so heavy that there was no profit, and the risk was great. The firm's average deposits went up to half a million, and the sales of exchange and shipment of bullion \$200,000 a steamer. But losses came by bad loans and steady depreciation of real estate. The present South American contractor, Meiggs, left one day, Sherman tells us, in his debt \$10,000, which was not included in the other San Francisco debts, subsequently paid by Meiggs. Perhaps it is not too late for him to send his check for the amount with interest.

Sherman remained in California until 1857, during which time he was appointed Major-General of the Second Division of Militia, embracing San Francisco, a command which he held during the days of the famous vigilance committee, which he would and could have broken up, he tells us, if General Wool had not deliberately violated his pledge to furnish him with arms from the Benicia Arsenal. Farragut, who was in command at Mare Island, when applied to for assistance, replied more frankly that he had no authority, without orders from his department, to take any part in civil broils. During this period Mrs. Sherman, while on her way East, was run ashore in the *Golden Age*, April 29, 1855. In her company was "a young fellow named Eagan, now a captain in the Commissary Department."

"I have often heard Mrs. Sherman tell of the boy Eagan, then about fourteen years old, coming to her state room, and calling to her not to be afraid, as he was a good swimmer; but on coming out into the cabin, partially dressed, she felt more confidence in the cool manner, bearing, and greater strength of Mr. Winters. There must have been nearly a thousand souls on board at the time, few of whom could have been saved had the steamer gone down in mid channel, which surely would have resulted, had not Commodore Watkins been on deck, or had he been less prompt in his determination to beach his ship."

LAWYER—PROFESSOR—RAILROAD PRESIDENT.

In April, 1857, Sherman closed his unprofitable career as a San Francisco banker, hav-

ing met all his responsibilities and passed through a severe panic, which brought down other houses, without suspending payment, but with an increase of credit and reputation. Going to New York, he made preparation to resume business there, taking an office at No. 12 Wall street, and establishing himself at 100 Prince street, with Barnard and McPherson, (of the Engineers), "both of whom afterwards obtained great fame in the Civil War." In New York, he struck another panic, occasioned by the failure of the Ohio Life and Trust Company, and the St. Louis firm of James H. Lucas and Company, of which the Wall street house was the New York branch, suspended payment. "I transferred the funds," says Sherman, "belonging to all our correspondents, with lists of outstanding checks, to one or other of our bankers, and with the cash balance of the St. Louis house and their available assets, started for St. Louis. I may say, with confidence, that no man lost a cent by either of the banking firms of Lucas, Turner and Company, of San Francisco or New York; but, as usual, those who owed us, were not always as just."

In St. Louis Sherman continued until December 7th, 1857, and then went to California for a fourth time, to close up the remaining business there. Returning to St. Louis in September, 1851, "the firm of Sherman and Ewing was duly announced, and our services to the public offered as Attorneys at Law." "I did not presume," he tells us, "to be a lawyer; but our agreements was that Thos. Ewing, Jr., a good and thorough lawyer, should manage all business in the courts, while I gave attention to collections, agencies for houses and lands, and such business as my experience in banking had qualified me for. Yet, as my name was embraced in a law firm, it seemed to be proper to take out a license. Accordingly, one day when United States Judge Lecompte was in our office, I mentioned the matter to him; he told me to go down to the clerk of his court, and he would give me the license. I inquired what examination I would have to submit to, and he replied, 'None at all; he would admit me on the ground of general intelligence.'"

Our lawyer did argue one case, however, for a fee of five dollars and lost it. The business grew, but was not sufficient for support, and something else had to be looked for, "and on the 11th of June, 1859, I wrote to Major D. C. Buell, Assistant Adjutant General, on duty in the War Department with Secretary of War Floyd, inquiring if there was a vacancy among the Army Paymasters, or anything in his line that I could obtain. He replied promptly, and sent me the printed programme for a military college about to be organized in Louisiana, and advised me to apply for the Superintendent's place." This appointment was granted and for this honorable position, we are told, "I was indebted to Major D. C. Buell and General G. Mason Graham, to whom I have made full and due acknowledgment. During the Civil War, it was reported and charged that I owed my position to the personal friendship of Generals Bragg and Beauregard, and, that, in taking up arms against the South, I had been guilty of a breach of hospitality and friendship. I was not indebted to General Bragg, because he, himself, told me that he was not even aware that I was an applicant, and had favored the selection of Major Jenkins, another West Point graduate. General Beauregard had nothing whatever to do with the matter."

In Louisiana Sherman continued until the approach of war compelled him to decide

with which section he would cast his lot, a decision which was promptly made, and in spite of the remonstrances of friends on all sides, in January, 1861, Sherman resigned his position as Superintendent of the "Louisiana Seminary of Learning and Military Academy." His resignation was received with the most complimentary expression of regret, and the passage of resolutions of the same character. On this matter General Sherman dwells at some length, "because," as he says, "during the Civil War, it was in Southern circles asserted that I was guilty of a breach of hospitality in taking up arms against the South." Of the officers of the Army then in Louisiana, that he can recall, he tells us, as being there at the time, who was faithful, was Col. C. L. Kilburn, of the Commissary Department, and he was preparing to escape North.

The conscientious feeling which prompted this withdrawal from Louisiana, had no calculation of personal advantage. To Sherman at that day, it seemed to be the closing of his career. Civil War, with its call for ninety day volunteers, offered no prospect of employment to a soldier. He "thought, and may have said, that national crisis had been brought about by the politicians, and, as it was upon us, they 'might fight it out.' " Therefore, when he turned North from New Orleans, he felt more disposed to look to St. Louis for a home, and to Major Turner to find him employment, than to the public service. This his friend the Major, soon did, and by the end of March, we find him once more installed in St. Louis, this time as President of a city railroad with a salary of \$2,500. Meanwhile, he had visited, at Washington, his brother John, who had just been chosen Senator, and to whom his brother's "opinions, thoughts and feelings, wrought up by the events in Louisiana, must have seemed extravagant." Few signs of preparation for the conflict which he knew was impending, were to be seen at Washington; the Southern Senators still vapored on the floor of Congress, and even in the War Department, and about the public offices, there was open, unconcealed talk, amounting to high treason. The nonchalance of Mr. Lincoln, to whom John Sherman presented him, disappointed him, and on leaving the White House, I remember, he tells us, "that I broke out on John, denouncing politicians generally, saying, 'You have got things in a hell of a fix, and you may get them out as you best can,' adding that the country was sleeping on a volcano that might burst forth at any minute, but that I was going to St. Louis to take care of my family, and would have no more to do with it. John begged me to be more patient, but I said I would not; that I had no time to wait, that I was off for St. Louis; and off I went." At St. Louis he found General William S. Harney, in command of the Department of Missouri, and there were five or six companies of United States troops in the arsenal, commanded by Captain N. Lyon; throughout the city, there had been organized, almost exclusively out of the German part of the population, four or five regiments of "Home Guards," with which movement Frank Blair, B. Gratz Brown, John M. Schofield, Clinton B. Fisk, and others, were most active on the part of the national authorities. April 6th came a despatch from Postmaster General Blair, offering him the position of Chief Clerk of the War Department, with that of Assistant Secretary of War to follow when Congress met. This he declined, saying:

"I thank you for the compliment contained in your offer, and assure you that I wish the Administration all success in its aims."