

Memoirs of General W. T. Sherman.

Memoirs of General William T. Sherman. By Himself. In two volumes. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 510 and 551 Broadway (Chicago: Jansen, McClurg and Company, 1875).

The future historian of the War of the Rebellion can scarcely complain of the want of adequate material out of which to construct his narrative. We are a nation of writers. The newspaper correspondents thought themselves as much a part of our Army establishment as the commissaries and quartermasters. Their crude, partial, though, at times, instructive reports are scattered through our four thousand "organs of public opinion," to be some day brought together to correct one another and to fill out the picture of the now familiar incidents of campaign life. One day there will be eager search, too, among the yellow and dusty accumulations of the farm house garrets, in which are stored away the personal contributions of affection of friend and ship, written by the light of the camp fires while the incidents of the march or the battle field were still fresh in recollection. Of the more ponderous official records there will be no lack; the reports of our Congressional committees, with their sharp scent for army scandal; our regimental, brigade and division reports, now in process of publication, will lay bare to the investigator the most secret springs of action, and present what, if it be an exaggerated image of truth, will still, taken together, be reasonably correct in its proportions. Our great war, it is true, present no single Caesar, Jomini or Napier to claim the honors of its historian, but this is because its vast proportions required more than one participant to compass its extent. Accepting Bideau as the representative of the chief under whom he served, and so whose records and recollections he had full access, we have thus far two personal narratives from the chiefs, one on each side—Grant and Johnston. And now the General of our Army one of the foremost of its leaders during the most brilliant period of its history, follows with a personal narrative which bears as abundantly the impress of his well known mental peculiarities as the campaigns in which he was the chief actor, and of which he now has the right to claim the chief place as historian. Sherman's work differs on the whole from that of Johnston, which preceded it, in value, quite as much as it does in bulk; and though not without its story of personal grievance, this is a much less striking feature, and is the incident rather than the object. There is not the occasion for explanation or apology in Sherman's successful career that Johnston may be reasonably excused for finding, and if he had, as the volumes show he had, similar cause to complain of unjust treatment from the civilian intermediaries with purely military affairs, this complaint is not tinged with that bitterness which the remembrance of future following their interference would have given it. Johnston, in his account of his campaign, labored under the embarrassment that always attends the attempt to explain why one did not rather than how one did, and in this respect, General Sherman has every way the advantage. The world will always worship success. It is much more interested to know what insures results desired, than what was the cause of failure. There is something too of that unconscious, and thus proper egotism, in Sherman's work which feels assured of the public interest in all that concerns its hero, and thus gives his narrative the charm of autobiography, less noticeable in what may be

called Johnston's apology, rather than his history.

In these two volumes we are introduced to the author as the junior First Lieutenant of Company G, Third Artillery, stationed at Fort Moultrie, S. C., in the spring of 1846 with Robert Anderson Captain; Henry B. Judd, senior First Lieutenant, and George B. Ayres, Second Lieutenant. Col. William Gates commanded the post and regiment, with First Lieutenant William Austine as his adjutant. Two other companies were at the post, viz, Martin Burke's and E. D. Keyes, and among the officers were T. W. Sherman, Morris, Miller, H. B. Field, William Churchill, Joseph Stewart, and Surgeon McLaren, Tex. s has just been acquired and war with Mexico threatened. On the 1st of May, Sherman reported to Colonel R. B. Mason, First Dragoon, New York, for recruiting service, and was assigned to the Pittsburg rendezvous, with a sub rendezvous at Zionsville, O.—the threatened war making recruiting lively. In the latter part of May came the news of the actual outbreak and the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma on the 8th and 9th May. That month brought too a letter from Ord, then a First Lieutenant in Company F, Third Artillery, at Fort McHenry, asking Sherman to apply for his Company, which had just received orders for California. In answer to this the latter wrote to Washington, applying for active service without specifying any regiment. Then, with more zeal than discretion, he gathered together his recruits and transported them to Cincinnati, reporting, after turning them over, to Colonel Fanning, a one armed veteran, who damned the young lieutenant up and down for leaving his post without orders, and sent him back to Pittsburg.

LIFE IN CALIFORNIA.

At 5 P. M. one day in the June following, Sherman received orders to join Ord's Company, and the next morning was on his way to New York having set up all the night to get his accounts in order, and in a great heat lest the ship which was to bear him with Company F to California, should sail without him. It was not, however, until the 14th of July that they got away in the U. S. store ship, *Lexington*, of which Lieutenant Commander Theodore Bailey was in command. Lieutenant William H. M. Comb executive officer, Passed Midshipmen Mace, Spotts, and J. W. A. Nicholson, the watch officers, Wilson surser, and Abernethy surgeon and caterer of the mess. Among the passengers was Lieutenant H. W. Halleck of the Engineers. At Rio when the vessel touched, the officers went ashore, visited the theatre and then ordered an elegant supper; anticipating when the bill of 25,000 reis was presented Mark Twain's experience on a similar occasion in Portugal. After buffetting about off Cape Horn nearly a month, and stopping ten days en route at Valparaiso, the *Lexington* finally dropped her anchor January 20, 1847, in Monterey Bay, after a voyage of 198 days from New York, and Sherman entered upon his experience of California life, to which the first two chapters of the first volume—83 pages—are devoted.

At that time California was in a state of anarchy, and Kearney Fremont and Stockton, were engaged in a triangular dispute as to the right to control affairs. "Commodore Shubrick had orders also from the Navy Department to control matters afloat; General Kearney, by virtue of his rank, had the right to control all the land forces in the service of the United States; and Fremont claimed the same right by virtue of a letter he had received from Colonel Benton, then

a Senator, and a man of great influence with Polk's Administration. So great among the younger officers the query was very natural, "Who the devil is Governor of California?" "One day," says Sherman, "I was on board the *Independence*, frigate, dining with the wardroom officers, when a war vessel was reported in the offing, which in due time was made out to be the *Cyane*, Captain Dupont. After dinner, we were all on deck, to watch the new arrival, the ships, meanwhile, exchanging signals, which were interpreted that General Kearney was on board. As the *Cyane* approached, a boat was sent to meet her, with Commodore Shubrick's flag officer, Lieutenant Lewis, to carry the usual messages, and to invite General Kearney to come on board the *Independence* as the guest of Commodore Shubrick. Quite a number of officers were on deck, among them Lieutenants Wise, Montgomery, Lewis, William Chapman, and others, noted wits and wags of the Navy. In due time, the *Cyane* anchored close by, and our boat was seen returning with a stranger in the stern sheets, clothed in army blue. As the boat came nearer, we saw that it was General Kearney with an old dragoon coat on, and an army cap, to which the general had added the broad visor, cut from a full dress hat, to shade his face and eyes against the glaring sun of the Gila region. Chapman exclaimed: "Fellows, the problem is solved; there is the grand vizier (visor) by God! He is Governor of California."

All the troops and the Navy regarded Kearney as the rightful Commander, though Fremont still remained at Los Angeles, styling himself as Governor, issued orders, and holding his battalion of California Volunteers in apparent defiance of General Kearney. Moved by curiosity, Sherman called on the young explorer, "took some tea with him, and left, without being much impressed with him." But this California acquaintance stood him in good stead, as he tells us, when later on, it served to secure him access to Fremont, in command at St. Louis, where he had surrounded himself with all the dignity and inaccessibility of a military entrap.

The narrative of Sherman's early California experience will be found full of interest, especially by the older officers of our Army and Navy. Among those whose names are mentioned in this connection are, besides those above given, Colonel Stovall, Quartermaster; Captain H. S. Turner, 1st Dragoons; Captains Emory and Warner, Topographical Engineers; Lieutenant J. W. Davidson, Colonel Mason, P. St. George Cooke, A. J. Smith, Geo. Stoneman, Captain W. G. Marcy, Major Jas. A. Hardie, Colonel Stevenson, Lieutenant Colonel Burton, Major Hunt, Jos. Hooker, Colonel K. B. Mason, Harry Naglee, Brackett, Folsom, Lippitt, Sumner, L. P. Graham, Rucker, Coutts, Campbell, Colonel B. Riley, Persifer F. Smith, Canby, Gibbs and Ogden of the Army and of the Navy. Wier, Bartlett, Maddox, Baldwin, Wilson, Major Gillespie, Bidulo, Radford, T. Ap. Gates by Jones Lanman, Sloat, Louis McLane, Lewis, Montgomery, Bailey.

Biddle is described as "a small sized man but vivacious in the extreme," and with "a perfect contempt for humbug." Of Bailey this anecdote is told: "I remember the proclamation made by Burton and Capt. Bailey, in taking possession of Lower California, which was in the usual florid style. Bailey signed his name as the senior naval officer at the station, but, as it was necessary to put it into Spanish to reach the inhabitants of the newly acquired country, it was interpreted, 'El mas antiguo de todos los of-